

# **The Speech at the UN Special Meeting on REDD**

**By**

**Mr.Jia Zhibang**

**Minister of the State Forestry Administration**

**The people's Republic of China**

**September 23, 2009**

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

First of all, on behalf of the government of the People's Republic of China, I would like to express my congratulation on this special meeting during the UN Summit on Climate Change. This meeting once again indicates governments of countries has further recognized the significant role of forests in mitigating climate change and their strong political will to make progress in the negotiation on forest-related issues. The government of the People's Republic of China highly appreciates these efforts of all countries.

Climate change has posed a severe threat to human being. Forests play dual roles in the process of mitigating climate change as the growth of forest resources can

promote sequestration of carbon and deforestation and forest degradation can cause carbon emission. The Fourth Report of IPCC indicates that carbon emission caused by forest related activities has accounted for 17-24% of the total emission. Tree planting, reducing deforestation and preventing forest degradation has become one of strategies to combating climate change. The proposal made by Mr. Hu Jintao, the President of the People's Republic of China to increase forest sequestration of carbon further elaborates the special functions of forests in mitigating climate change.

The Government of the People's Republic of China has been taking measures to give the full play of forests' role in mitigating climate change. In the past 10 year, the Government invested more than \$70 billion to reduce deforestation and prevent forest degradation and increase forest resources by the following measures: a) promoting tree planting and development of plantations; b) strictly protecting natural forests; c) strengthening prevention and control of forest fires; d) enhancing forest management; e) promoting wise use of forest resources. At present, the plantation area has reaches 53 million hectares, accounting for one third of the world's total. Our goal for 2020 is that the forest area and stock volume will be increased by 40 million hectares and 1.3 billion cubic meters over those in 2005.

To give a full play of the special functions of forests in mitigating climate change, the Government has developed *National Forest Actions for Mitigating Climate Change*, while actively promoting regional and global cooperation in this regard. In 2007, Chinese President, Mr. Hu jintao, put forward in the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Informal Meeting of APEC leaders a proposal to establish Asia-Pacific Network of

Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management(APFnet), which was co-sponsored by the United States of America and Australia, to help to meet the goal to increase the forest area of the region by 20 million hectares by 2020 adopted by the Session. APFnet was launched in 2008 with financial support from China and Australia. China took an active part in the Billion Tree Campaign initiated by UNEP made a great contribution to the achievement of the goal of the campaign of 7 billion trees planted, with 2.6 billion trees planted in the past 8 months, about two trees planted by each of the Chinese people.

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I would like to take this opportunity, if you allow me, to put forward the following proposal in regard of REDD:

- To adhere to the principles adopted by UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol , strictly adhere to the mandate by Bali Road Map, taking REDD and sustainable forest management as well as forest conservation into full account.
- To Adhere to the Principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibility and sustainable development. Developed countries shall make commitment in first to help developing countries with reducing deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing sustainable forest management. Meanwhile, international community shall respect the harmonious development among society, economy and environment, strictly tell between deforestation and

wise harvest, respect the sovereignty of using forest resources and ensure the rights of development of developing countries.

- To take full account of adaption, mitigation, transfer of technology and financial support. Developed countries shall respect the economic, social and cultural reality of developing countries and make their commitment in first to provide transfer of technology and financial support for developing countries to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management.
- To Cooperate and work together to promote forestry development to mitigate climate change. All countries shall respect the reality of deforestation and forest degradation, fully recognize the roles of sustainable forest management in mitigating climate change and give a full play of renewability of forest resources and environmental friendliness of timber products and the potential of timber to substitute other materials in the sectors of building and energy.

The Chinese Government sincerely hope that all countries strengthen cooperation and join efforts together for progress to be made in Copenhagen.

Thank you.