

Part Four: Closing Remarks

CLOSING SPEECH

Address by Vice Premier Qian Qichen State Council of the People's Republic of China

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thanks to the concerted efforts of all, the APEC High Level Meeting on Human Capacity Building, with its set agenda successfully completed, is now holding its closing ceremony.

This meeting is convened at a time when the development of APEC faces new circumstances as mankind enters the new century. It is a grand occasion on which people from the Asia-Pacific region discuss the issue of human capacity building. It is also an important meeting in preparation for this year's APEC Informal Leaders' Meeting. His Excellency President Jiang Zemin of China and His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei have graced the meeting with their presence and delivered speeches. Senior government officials, businessmen and experts from the educational and academic communities from the 21 APEC members have gathered together to have a profound analysis of the current situation, sum up and share experience, study strategic counter-measures and probe into the possibility of innovation and cooperation with the focus on human capacity building under the conditions of the New Economy in the new century. This is the first meeting of its kind in APEC history. Over the past two days, we participants have spoken our minds, conducted warm discussions, put forward many good proposals, and helped to formulate the *Beijing Initiative on APEC Human Capacity Building*. The meeting has been crowned with success. It not only epitomizes the APEC purposes of equality and consensus, but also embodies the spirit of the times characterized by the extensive cooperation and innovative development of APEC members in the new century. Though brief, the meeting is of great and far-reaching significance and will no doubt add an important page to the annals of APEC. Here, I wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese Government, warm congratulations on the success of the meeting and the achievements it has scored.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As economic globalization and the new scientific and technological revolution unfold, the production mode of human society is undergoing profound changes. Knowledge and skills have become the most essential factors in the productive forces. For all the countries and regions in the world, APEC members included, to strengthen human capacity building is an important way to maintain sustained and healthy economic and social development. I am pleased to see that this meeting has produced abundant results.

First, the meeting has explored the new idea about human resources development and cooperation. In response to the new situation and new challenges against the background of the New Economy, the meeting has proposed to formulate and implement a human-centered development strategy, which highlights human capacity building and guides the APEC members to transform the mode of production and explore new avenues for development. While underscoring the need of the efforts made by individual members,

the meeting has called for closer cooperation in APEC and other international organizations. These approaches will play an important inspiring and guiding role in the furtherance of the Asia-Pacific economy.

Second, the meeting has identified the direction and priority for human resources development and cooperation. Upholding the principle of benefiting all the people and pursuing the objective of improving the comprehensive qualities of the people and focusing on enhancing their adaptability, creativity and competitiveness in face of economic globalization and informatization, the meeting has put forward a series of important ideas and strategic options, such as establishing a learning society, training senior professionals, spreading and applying information technology and network knowledge, etc. These initiatives have grasped the key point for human capacity building under the conditions of the New Economy and indicated the common challenges faced by all APEC members, thus playing an important role in guiding and promoting future cooperation in APEC human resources development.

Third, the meeting has set up a new mechanism for APEC cooperation. The meeting is the first high-level dialogue among the governments, businesses and educational and academic circles on the issue of human resources development, with the participation of top leaders of APEC members. In compliance with the principles of mutual benefit and reciprocity, mutual complementarity and win-win cooperation, a tripartite partnership for long-term cooperation has been established. The meeting has given expression to the objective requirements of the three sides in human resources development, met their needs for common development and provided a model for expanded APEC changes and cooperation in other fields.

A sagacious thinker in ancient China once said, "It takes ten years to grow trees, but a hundred to cultivate people." The training of people takes time. The promotion of human resources development of a region takes more than one meeting. It requires us to carry forward the spirit of cooperation and innovation and make long-term unremitting efforts to turn this meeting's consensus on the objectives of human capacity building into reality, the strategic option into strategic action and the tripartite cooperative relationship into a long-term and regular operating mechanism.

In October 2001, China will host the 9th APEC Informal Leaders' Meeting in Shanghai. Its theme will be "Meeting New Challenges in the New Century: Achieving Common Prosperity through Cooperation and Participation". Among other things, strengthening capacity building and developing human resources are an important part of the endeavor to cope with challenges brought by globalization and the New Economy. The proposals and suggestions of the current high level meeting will constitute important reference basis for the discussion on human capacity building at the coming Informal Leaders' Meeting this year and ultimately play a significant guiding role for APEC members in their formulation of human resources development policies. We are convinced that, with this meeting as a starting point, APEC human capacity building will make greater progress, thus making greater contribution to the economic development of Asia and the Pacific in the new century.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Entering into a new period of the modernization drive, China values peace, seeks development and wishes to have more extensive exchanges and cooperation with the international community, especially the Asia-Pacific region. The 9th APEC Informal Leaders' Meeting and other meetings will provide a rare opportunity for us to make friends, step up cooperation and serve the economic development of Asia and the Pacific. The Chinese Government and people from all walks of life in China are working wholeheartedly in preparation for the smooth convocation of the meeting. We hope our friends participating in the meeting will have time to look round in China and get to know more of it so as to enhance our friendship. Let's work together to make even greater contributions to the economic prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region in the new century!

Now I declare the APEC High Level Meeting on Human Capacity Building closed.

Thank you.