

Welcome Address on
Opening Ceremony of INTERNATIONAL ROAD SAFETY SEMINAR

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Oct.18th, 2005

Honored Members of the World Road Association, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!

International Road Safety Seminar is opening today! On behalf of M.O.C, China and the seminar committee, I warmly welcome representatives and friends!

Road is the product of modern civilization. Rapid development of road transport supports the national economic and social development, improves people's life quality, and provides necessity for mobility. While at the same time, road crash is becoming a worldwide hazard threatening the public safety. According to the statistics of W.H.O, 1.2 million people die of road crash worldwide annually, about 50 million injured. Road crash not only brings individual deaths or injuries, but also great grief on their relatives. Relative study shows: road crash costs \$518 billion of countries worldwide, which is 1%-2% of their GDP. Road safety problem, as the most serious public health problem besides disease, attracts high attention from governments of many countries.

As a developing country with a big population, China is in a crucial period of economic development. Therewith, road transport is developing in a never-happened high speed. At the end of 2004, road mileage reaches

1.87 million kilometers nationally, among which Highways are 34 thousand kilometers; passenger traffic volume and freight traffic volume reach 17.7 billion persons and 16.6 billion tons respectively. With the rapid increase of vehicle traffic and freight traffic, road safety situation is more and more serious, big number of injuries and fatalities brings negative effect on social development.

In a new era, Chinese government promotes scientific development concept, proposing a grand target of building a harmonious socialistic society. It has been an important task to reduce road crashes, to protect lives and properties of road users in the new economic development period of china.

Improving road safety situation is a complicated systematic project involving national policy adjustment, road infrastructure improvement, traffic management enhancement, improving the quality of road users, etc. In this process, we need to learn advanced technologies and successful experiences from other countries. I wish, through this seminar, experts from china and around the world could have a full technical exchange, jointly discussing the principle of road crashes, to improve the road safety level of china and the whole world.

Wish the seminar a full success!

Wish all the representatives a good health!

Thank you!