

## **Part One: Leaders' Addresses**

# **ENHANCING HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING AND PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

Address by President Jiang Zemin  
People's Republic of China

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Your Majesty,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the APEC Leadership Meeting in Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam last November, His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei and I jointly proposed to hold an APEC high-level meeting with the focus on promoting human capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region in the new century.

Today, officials, entrepreneurs, and experts in academic and education communities of the APEC members are gathering here in Beijing to discuss ways to respond to and cooperate on this important issue. This is of great significance to promoting human capacity building in the region. I wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people and in my own name, warm congratulations on the convocation of this meeting and sincere welcome to all the delegates.

Mankind has already ushered in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The world is undergoing profound changes. The trend towards multi-polarization is developing along a tortuous course. Economic globalization is gaining momentum. Science and technology are advancing by leaps and bounds. The development of knowledge economy and global industrial restructuring are picking up speed. Knowledge and technological innovations are playing an increasingly important role in economic and social development. Mankind now faces new challenges, and also new development opportunities.

How should the cause of human development advance in the new century? This is a major subject facing the people of all countries.

For centuries, mankind has been exploring resources on earth for its survival and development. Economic and social development and the growth of material wealth rely, to a large extent, on the direct possession of material resources. The development and utilization of such resources provide the foundation for the progress of human society, while the development of human wisdom and capacity determines the depth and width of the exploitation of material resources. As society progresses, the human capacity grows and demonstrates its increasing strength. Economic development and social progress need material resources to base on and even more, human knowledge and capacity to sustain it. In today's world, personnel training and human capacity building are of increasingly decisive significance in the competition of overall national strength. The unlimited wisdom and creativity of mankind serve as an inexhaustible source of motive force behind civilization and progress. To develop human resources and strengthen human capacity building has become a vital issue bearing on the development of all countries.

The continuous social development has opened up broad vista for tapping fully human

capability. Mankind keeps creating new achievements of civilization, whereas the progress in civilization, particularly major breakthroughs in science and technology, in turn, go on providing new conditions and setting new requirements for human development. Each technological innovation and application, while improving social productivity, speeds up the upgrading of human capability. The dynamic revolution of new science and technology is exerting a far more profound and extensive impact on the development of mankind itself. The development of information technology has broken down the barriers in time and space which used to hinder learning and communication, and has created new space for upgrading and giving full play to human capability. The continuous knowledge uplift, breakthroughs in science and technology and the economic development call for increasingly better-qualified labor force. To strengthen human resources development and human capacity building never looked so important and so urgent as it does today.

At the same time, it must be noted that human resources are not automatically generated as population increases to a certain number. Rather, they need to be developed and nurtured. In recent years, many countries have taken positive steps to boost human resources development and capacity building and have achieved tangible results. However, human capacity building, on the whole, lags far behind the requirement of development. Scarcity in professionals is quite common. Irrational and unjust phenomena exist extensively in international competition for talents. The gap in human capacity building continues to widen between developing and developed countries. Brain drain remains serious in developing countries. Failure to address these problems effectively is bound to hinder the development of countries, the developing countries in particular.

Advancing human capacity building calls for not only hard work in each country, but also the joint efforts of the international community. In this context, I would like to propose the following five points on APEC human capacity building:

1. To adopt a new concept of development and step up human capacity building. We must understand full well the fundamental, strategic and decisive significance of human capacity building to economic and social development and give priority to it in such development. Human resources building should be taken as an important field in APEC exchanges and cooperation and an important measure to assist developing members in their economic growth, narrow North-South gap and stimulate coordinated development. We should seize the opportunities brought by the new scientific and technological revolution, identify our objectives and make careful planning and organization. We should mobilize resources from all quarters, improve the quality of human resources development and intensify the work on human capacity building, so as to provide a solid foundation and strong guarantee for the economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific in the new century.
2. To set up a life-long education system and create a learning society. Education is the foundation for human capacity building, and learning is the basic means by which to improve people's capability. We should create, through policy guidance and media influence, a social environment in which teachers are respected, education is valued, knowledge sought and learning stressed. Efforts should be made to speed up the establishment of a society-wise life-long education system, vigorously develop vocational education and set up an extensive and multi-tiered education and training network. People should be encouraged to participate in

life-long learning in diversified forms to expand and update their knowledge, improve qualities and enhance capabilities.

3. To popularize information network and optimize methods of learning and self-improvement. Information and network technology is of great significance to improving learning and work and upgrading labor qualities. It is essential to take the development and utilization of information and network technology as an important means of human capacity building. Plans should be worked out and implemented. Effective measures should be adopted to create conditions to popularize information network and develop long-distance education. More people should be encouraged to log onto the Internet, and the disadvantaged groups should be assisted in acquiring better capabilities for development, so that more people will benefit from information and network technology. The developed members of the international community should provide assistance to the developing ones to narrow the “digital divide” and make efforts to speed up the IT infrastructure construction of the latter, carry out related training programs for them, share knowledge resources with them and help improve their labor quality.
4. To carry forward the spirit of innovation and cultivate young talents. It is an important task in human capacity building to foster the capability of innovation. In light of the need of economic development and social and scientific and technical progress, we should actively promote, as major tasks in human capacity building, the endeavor to foster the spirit of innovation and tap innovation potentials. Special attention should be paid to cultivating young professionals and creating conditions for them to come to the fore. We should encourage them to exchange experience in learning and to blaze new trails and make headway and support them in making innovations and starting new undertakings. We should put in place an effective incentive mechanism and a just and fair competition order so as to create a favorable climate for their growth and for continued economic, scientific and technological development.
5. To intensify exchanges and cooperation under the principle of mutual benefit and reciprocity. Countries and regions in the Asia-Pacific are faced with the extremely arduous task of strengthening human capacity building in the new century. Within the framework of APEC, to increase personnel exchanges, enhance information flow and foster a multi-level, multi-form cooperation mechanism to the benefit of all sides should become part of the organization’s substantive cooperation. The developing members should play their part. But at the same time, it is highly necessary for them to carry out cooperation under the principle of mutual benefit, reciprocity and common development. We hope that the developed members will render financial, material and technological support to the developing ones to speed up their human capacity building. This will contribute not only to the economic and social development of the developing members, but also to the early attainment of common prosperity in the region.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the training of talented people. It has initiated and is energetically implementing the strategy of rejuvenating the nation through science and education. It advocates respect for knowledge and talents and takes the development of human resources as an important means to boost sustained economic and

social development. We are persistent in giving priority to developing science and education, facilitating the integral development of human resources, reforming the personnel system and labor and employment system. We are working hard to create conditions and environment for all kinds of talented people to play their role, continuously improve the ethical, scientific and cultural qualities of the whole nation, and upgrade the knowledge and the technical skills of the laborers. Since the beginning of the reform and opening-up, China has scored tremendous success in economic and social development. But given its large population, weak foundation and uneven development, China is still a developing country. In terms of human resources development, China has yet to meet the requirement of its economic and social development and still trails far behind members at advanced level. China is doing much to implement its talents strategy, develop its human resources, improve the all-round quality of the laborers and gain an edge in respect of human resources so as to give forceful support to the reform and opening-up endeavor and modernization drive. We stand ready to have closer exchanges and cooperation with other APEC members and work hard to contribute our share to human capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the dawn of the new century, as we take a distant view at a height and discuss the human capacity building, which is a major subject bearing on future development, we all have a shared feeling, that is, we shoulder a common responsibility for the world's future. Although different in the road to and model of development, countries and regions in the Asia-Pacific region share the same aspiration for the development of human resources and the promotion of growth and prosperity. As long as we all act in a spirit of mutual respect and common development, seek common ground while shelving differences, and increase cooperation, we will be able to build a splendid future.

May the current meeting be a complete success!

Thank you.

**NEW ECONOMY, NEW STRATEGY: CO-OPERATION AND  
INNOVATION TO BUILD HUMAN CAPACITY FOR  
COMMON PROSPERITY**

**Address by**

**His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan  
Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah  
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**ASSALAMU'ALAIKUM  
WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH**

**BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM**

**ALHAMDULILLAHI RABBIL  
'AALAMEEN, WABIHEE NASTA'EENU  
'ALAA UMUURIDDUNYA WADDEEN  
WASSALAATU WASSALAAMU 'ALAA  
ASYRAFIL MURSALEEN SAYYIDINAA  
MUHAMMADIN WA'ALAA AALIHIE  
WASAHHIHEE AJMA'EEN WABA'DU.**

Mr. President,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Excellency,

May I start on a brief personal note.

I would like to thank you and your Government and the people of Beijing for your warm welcome and most generous hospitality.

It is now nearly 10 years since our two countries established diplomatic relations.

This is also my third visit to China.

I would therefore like to say how delighted I am with the friendship and cooperation our countries now enjoy.

For this, Mr. President, I thank you and your government and offer my very best wishes to your people for their continued success, happiness and prosperity.

I would also like to express my great appreciation for the support you gave us last year when we hosted the APEC Leaders' meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan.

I am here today in this same spirit of regional purpose and cooperation.

I also assure you of our full support and assistance when you host this year's gathering in Shanghai.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have all come to this great capital city to address a crucial challenge to our region.

How can our people benefit from the opportunities now opening up for them in the New Economy?

It is a very demanding question.

But I would first like to make the point that there is nothing new about technological change.

Nor about the need for human creativity and innovation.

The new century, however, puts them in a new dimension.

This is, of course, because of the rapid developments taking place in technology.

These mean that we have to acquire skills and knowledge continually and quickly.

This, in essence, is the challenge we face.

Each economy in the Asia-Pacific must face it in its own way.

Each one will respond, of course, at its own pace.

It is not an easy task.

But success is vital.

In practical terms, it means that we have to maximise the benefits to be gained from opening our markets for trade and investment.

To do this, we must equip our people with skills that are constantly updated.

Such skills, in turn, have to be brought to an international level of competitiveness.

Above all, if our people are to prosper in the New Economy, they must feel they have a personal stake in its success.

In other words, they need to be more than mere consumers.

We have to make sure that knowledge and the means to disseminate it are not kept in the hands of a few.

As well as this, we need to do all we can to encourage creativity and innovation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

APEC leaders last year urged all members to meet these challenges.

I know the People's Republic of China is undertaking this task with determination.

In Brunei Darussalam, we are also committed to helping our people take advantage of the new opportunities opening up.

As part of this effort, my Government is working closely with representatives from Business and Education and Training Institutions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all know what we wish to achieve.

A barrier we have to overcome, however, is the fact that APEC members are at varying stages of economic development.

To overcome this obstacle we believe that new technology has much to offer by way of helping the development process.

A great of the work needed to be done is now going on within the region.

It is taking place in education institutions, and through business initiatives and international organisations.

I am therefore sure that this gathering will be extremely valuable.

It should add much to what has already been achieved.

This is why I am delighted to see so many friends and colleagues here.

You are all setting aside precious time to share ideas.

I thank you very much for this and for all you are doing to find ways for our people to be successful citizens of the 21st century.

This is right time to work together and formulate policy.

It is also the right time to press home the advantages new technology presents for ordinary people.

In this spirit, I thank you once again for your dedication and enthusiasm.

I wish you much success in all your deliberations.

Thank you.