

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND AT OPENING CEREMONY FOR GUANGZHOU/NPC ENGINEERING COMPANY'S OFFICE IN GUANGZHOU, 22 JANUARY 1988

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a pleasure and an honour for me to be present here today at the opening of the new office premises of Guangzhou/NPC Engineering Company. I am confident that this most interesting joint venture will further promote the close and increasing economic and technological cooperation between Norway and China.

Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to discuss with Secretary General Zhao Ziyang, Acting Prime Minister Li Peng and Chairman Deng Xiaoping the perspectives for future cooperation between our two countries. A delegation of Norwegian businessmen, eager to explore the potential for cooperation, has as a group and individually discussed what can be done in more concrete terms. This delegation has been attached to my official delegation to China.

My talks with your leaders confirm that the energy sector is a very promising area for cooperation between Norway and China. In fact, during my talks with Acting Prime Minister Li Peng the message came that an agreement had been reached between Statoil and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation on a contract for drilling a wildcat well in the South China Sea. I am very happy for this breakthrough in our cooperation in the petroleum sector.

Today's ceremony marks another achievement of concrete cooperation between Norwegian and Chinese companies. The Guangzhou/NPC Engineering Company is a joint venture opening new doors of mutual interest with regard to project management, construction management and engineering services, primarily in China.

Dear Chinese friends, let me express my hope that this joint venture will benefit local oil companies in the years to come and promote further cooperation in the important field of petroleum activity. With this perspective, also the overall cooperation between Norway and China will be strengthened and bear new fruits.