



PRIME MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

Norway-Hainan Economic Cooperation, 11 November 1995

The similarities between Norway and Hainan are obvious. Oil and gas, fisheries management, forestry, comparable sizes of population. Why should we not take advantage of these this potential for cooperation?

Indeed we should. Let us launch a new beginning today.

The Governor has already underlined the potential in the field of fisheries. We are competent in the whole field of fisheries research and management, catch techniques, processing and marketing as well as ship-building.

Effective fishing requires knowledge about the resources, about long-term sustainable yield, protection of spawning stocks. In brief, it is obvious that we can benefit from working together.

Today's fishing technology is fully capable of emptying the world's oceans. We have made experiences with overfishing , and it has cost us dearly. Today, we aim at maintaining a sustainable balance through strict regulations and scientifically based quota systems. We must never catch more than the natural system can yield.

In the subsequent discussions, our experts will be able to elucidate these issues further, and will be able to define the sectors where we our cooperation has much to offer both sides.

We must all remember that, today, 50 per cent of the world's population live within 5 miles of the sea. By the year 2030, 70 per cent of a nearly doubled world population will live within that distance of the sea.

Here in Asia alone, one billion people rely on fish as their main source of protein. But even the vast oceans are vulnerable to our conflicting uses, such as pollution, overfishing and petroleum production.

We must reconcile these conflicting interests in the uses of the oceans., and Norway has considerable experience in this field.

Our companies can offer expertise in all oil and gas related activities, production, engineering, seismic testing, drilling, supply services, environmental services and shipping services.

Det norske Veritas, represented here by it's President, Mr. Ullring, is world leading in the classification of industrial quality. It's business is to save lives and assets by promoting state-of-the art technology in various industrial fields. DNV's quality stamp helps China's industry on its way to the first division.

The Norwegian Minister of the Environment is here today, which illustrates that we see the economy and ecology as linked. My hope for Hainan is that you will succeed in by-passing the most polluting stages of

development, and leap past those polluting practices that we experienced in the West.

The future of China and the province of Hainan will be strongly influenced by how well it manages to foresee the risks which, if unchecked, might undermine the gains of the past forty years. Investments in water development, means of communication, energy, sanitation, - they can be made in time. Success will largely depend on the political and administrative ability to find the right balance between opening up for the market forces and sufficient forward-looking public management and direction.

Norwegian companies representing state-of-the-art environmental technology. Clean and safe water, clean and safe energy, clean and safe production processes. These are their lines of trade. There have not come to reap a quick profit, but to stay, working on a long-term basis, investing in the Chinese people, sharing their technology.

If you work with us, use our technology and resources, it will mean a modest, but still significant step forward, as Hainan proceeds on its way towards a sustainable future.

Today is a beginning. We thank the Governor of Hainan for his reception. A return visit from Hainan as part of our continued discussions.