

**Welcoming Dinner of 3<sup>rd</sup> China Tourism Forum on**  
**15 December 2006**  
**Welcoming address by Commissioner for Tourism**

Prof. Lee, Prof. Ko, Dr. Rifai, ladies and gentlemen:

I am delighted to be here this evening to host the Welcoming Dinner of the Third China Tourism Forum. On behalf of the Hong Kong Government, I would like to express my warmest welcome to all participants.

2. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the World Tourism Organisation for bringing the China Tourism Forum to Hong Kong for the third time. We are grateful to the World Tourism Organisation for their support for the Forum, in particular to Dr Rifai for his very enlightening keynote speech at the Forum this afternoon.

3. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University has been committed to enhancing cooperation and exchanges with the Mainland in areas of research and development, training the trainers and broadening students' exposure. We appreciate their tireless efforts in contributing to the long term and sustainable development of the tourism industry by providing a pool of trained talent and promoting professionalism for the industry.

4. Last but not least, allow me to do some advertising here. Do take your time to experience Hong Kong, and explore our wonderful dining and shopping facilities. We are in the midst of the winter sale season and there is a full range of merchandise for you to choose. Also try delicious dim-sums in a Chinese tea house, or a traditional egg-tart in a local bistro. I am sure there must be something exciting and enjoyable here waiting for you.

5. Ladies and gentlemen, the Forum today has served well in providing a platform for sharing experience and views between scholars, professions and trade practitioners in the tourism industry. I wish you all more fruitful outcome in the sessions tomorrow and a delightful stay in Hong Kong. Thank you.

6. 女士们、先生们：让我用普通话跟内地的朋友问好。欢迎大家莅临第三届中国旅游论坛和这个晚宴。我谨代表香港特区政府衷心感谢大家的支持，也感谢香港理工大学和世界旅游组织为旅游业界作出努力，共同主办了这次的论坛。

7. 随着国家经济的高速发展，国家的旅游事业发展一日千里，为全球旅游市场带来了崭新的挑战和庞大的动力。这股市场新动力是我们共同关注的，也是这两天的论坛让大家聚首一堂的主要焦点。毫无疑问，如何加大力度寻求和推动香港和内地的合作，扩大两地的旅游业发展，达致双赢，极为重要。我期望在座各位继续热烈参与论坛，为推动旅游发展提供真知卓见。

8. 我谨代表特区政府，祝愿论坛得到丰硕的成果，也希望各位尽情享受今天的晚宴，在我们这个多采多姿的城市有一个愉快的体验，谢谢各位。

Tourism Commission  
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