

Welcoming Dinner of 3rd 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. 女士們、先生們：讓我用普通話跟內地的朋友問好。歡迎大家蒞臨第三屆中國旅遊論壇和這個晚宴。我謹代表香港特區政府衷心感謝大家的支持，也感謝香港理工大學和世界旅遊組織為旅遊業界作出努力，共同主辦了這次的論壇。

7. 隨着國家經濟的高速發展，國家的旅遊事業發展一日千里，為全球旅遊市場帶來了嶄新的挑戰和龐大的動力。這股市場新動力是我們共同關注的，也是這兩天的論壇讓大家聚首一堂的主要焦點。毫無疑問，如何加大力度尋求和推動香港和內地的合作，擴大兩地的旅遊業發展，達致雙贏，極為重要。我期望在座各位繼續熱烈參與論壇，為推動旅遊發展提供真知卓見。

8. 我謹代表特區政府，祝願論壇得到豐碩的成果，也希望各位盡情享受今天的晚宴，在我們這個多采多姿的城市有一個愉快的體驗，謝謝各位。

Tourism Commission
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