

## **Speech at the Water Leaders Summit of the 5th International Yellow River Forum**

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Minister of Water Resources, P. R. China

(September 25, 2012)

Dear Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good afternoon!

I feel very pleased to attend the Water Leaders Summit of the 5th International Yellow River Forum to exchange experience, share achievements, and explore possible solutions in depth with everyone here around issues related to integrated water resources management which attract the world's attention. On behalf of Ministry of Water Resources, People's Republic of China, I would like to express my warmest welcome to every distinguished guest present here.

China is a developing country with the largest population in the world. The Chinese government has attached great importance to water issues since 1949. A series of effective measures have been employed and remarkable progress has been achieved in the fields of water resources development, utilization, conservation, protection and management. Currently, the annual water supply capacity of China exceeds 700 billion m<sup>3</sup>, which can basically secure water consumption for daily life, production and ecology purposes. Since the initiation of Reform and Opening-up Policy three decades ago, China has achieved a high

economic growth rate of nearly 10% per annum in spite of a low water use growth rate at 1% per annum on average. The grain output has increased by nearly 78% during the same period with zero growth in total volume of farmland irrigation water consumption. This achievement is an important contribution to economic development and food security in the world. However, we should be soberly aware of the fact that the basic water conditions of China, namely, a large population with limited water availability, uneven temporal and spatial distribution of water resources and the mismatch between water resources distribution and the productivity layout, will exist for a long time. More hard work is required to solve water problems in China. Along with further industrialization and urbanization as well as increasing impacts of global climate change, water resources management in China will see even more severe challenges and tedious tasks in future. In 2011, the Chinese government released an important policy document on accelerating reform and development of water sector and convened a highest-level national conference on water sector. In January 2012, the Chinese government promulgated the *Opinions on Implementing the Strictest Water Resources Management System*, specifying Three Red Lines, namely, control of water development and utilization, control of water use efficiency and control of pollutants load in water function zones and is now carrying out following measures to implement the strictest water resources management system.

*Firstly*, put total water consumption quantity under strict control to promote sustainable utilization of water resources. The Chinese government will commence full scale operation of water resources allocation plans for rivers, establish indicator systems for control of total

water withdrawal and consumption quantities that cover river basins and administrative regions at provincial, municipal and county levels, and strive to keep total water consumption quantities of different regions in a scientific and reasonable range. Efforts will be enhanced to assess project impacts on water resources and implement the permit system for water withdrawal. High water consumption projects in areas of water shortage and/or fragile ecology shall be placed under strict control, so as to fix demand according to water supply, match human activities with availability of water and tailor solutions to corresponding water situations. In addition, we will establish and improve a national water right system, proactively cultivate the water market and encourage trading of water rights so as to rationally allocate water resources with the use of market mechanisms to promote efficient use and saving and protection of water resources.

*Secondly*, strengthen control of water use efficiency to build a water-saving society in an all-round way. Water use quota and planned management will be reinforced, and mandatory standards of water saving will be set and followed. In addition, we will speed up water-saving technology transformation in irrigation areas, promote water-saving irrigation technologies, and develop modern water-saving agriculture. For the industrial sector, we should enhance water-saving technology transformation, eliminate backward technologies, equipments and products, intensify efforts to improve urban water supply network, and enhance water supply and public water consumption management to thoroughly advance urban water conservancy. Additionally, sewage treatment and reuse of treated water should be promoted, sea water desalinization and comprehensive utilization should be adopted, and the

utilization of rainwater, flood water resources and brackish water should be advanced.

*Thirdly*, restrict pollutant discharge in water function zones to reinforce water resources protection. We should divide river and lake water bodies into different function zones in line with the natural condition and the demand of economic and social development, so as to implement different protection and management methods to different zones. Pollutant absorption capacity of water bodies should be defined strictly, the total amount of pollutant discharged should be controlled in accordance with the law, supervision and management of emission outlets along rivers and drinking water supply sources should be strengthened, and the reduction of major pollutant emission should be advanced. Meanwhile, we should strengthen the protection of key ecological reserves, areas for cultivation of water sources, sources of rivers and wetlands. Measures such as control of pollution sources and interception of pollutants, dredging of rivers and lakes and biological restoration will be integrated to comprehensively harness water ecology of rivers and lakes and promote water ecology recovery of ecologically-fragile rivers and areas.

*Fourthly*, promote the connecting of rivers and lakes water systems to improve the capacity of water allocation. The construction of river, lake and reservoir connecting system should be carried out based on key river courses, important controlling reservoirs and major inter-major water transfer projects such as the South-to-North Water Transfer Project. Water systems connecting different rivers, lakes and reservoirs should be developed to facilitate smooth water supply and drainage, proper water diversion and discharging, adjustment of water between flood periods

and dry seasons, multiple complementary sources of water, and smooth control and regulation, in order to set up a strategic allocation pattern of balancing water resources in south and north China, complementing water resources between the eastern and west parts of China, and connecting river systems in key regions.

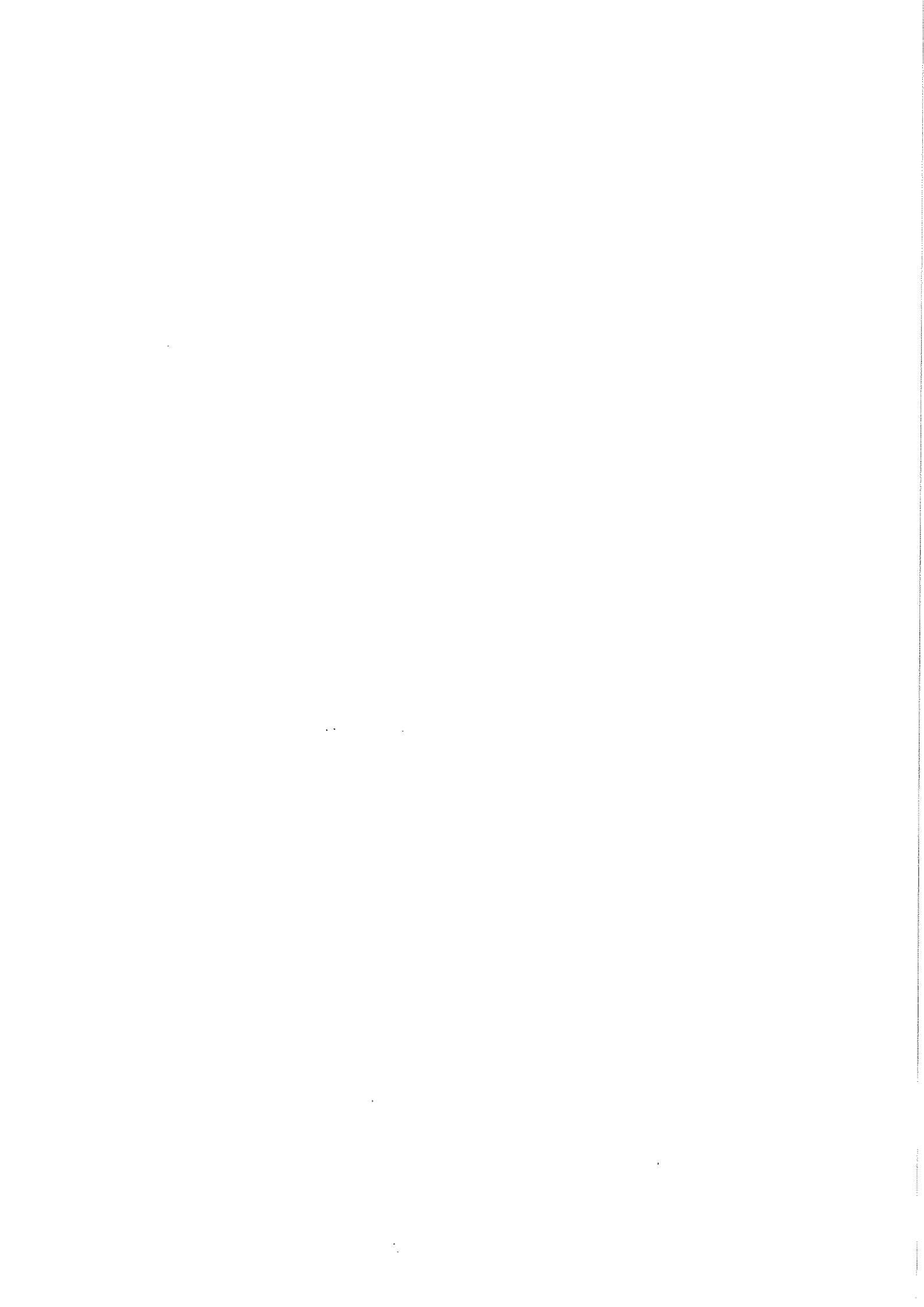
*Fifthly*, reinforce performance assessment and supervision to fulfill the duty of water resources management. Main indicators for development, utilization, conservation and protection of water resources will be incorporated into local integrated performance assessment system for socio-economic development. Local implementation of such requirements shall be assessed and the assessment results shall be used as an important basis for rewarding or disciplining local government officials. The systems of water resources supervision, water consumption measurement and statistics should be improved, capacity building for national water resources management information system and dynamic emergency-responding monitoring system should be enhanced to establish water resources monitoring, controlling and management platforms at national, basin and local levels, so that monitoring, early warning and management capacities will enjoy comprehensive improvement.

*Sixthly*, speed up reform and innovation in water section to consolidate the foundation of water resources management. We should make great efforts to improve policies and laws development in water resources management, intensify water administrative enforcement to protect the system of the strictest water resources management legally. The water planning system should be advanced to strengthen the implementation of plans and supervision and inspection to bring the basic guiding and

rigid restriction functions of plans into full play. We will improve the water resources management mechanism that combines catchment management with administrative regional management, strengthen integrated water resources management, and make efforts to promote urban and rural water integration. In addition, we should adopt a strict system for paid-use of water resources, adjust the standard of water resources fees, and speed up the establishment of a national water right system and cultivation of the water market to promote rational circulation of water rights.

Ladies and gentlemen, China has actively explored new ways in water resources management and obtained prominent achievements, but water resources problem is currently still an outstanding bottleneck for China's sustainable economic and social development. The Chinese government will take the opportunity of comprehensively implementing the strictest water resources management system to further intensify integrated water resources management, and strive to coordinate socio-economic development with the carrying capacity of water resources and the water environment. In the meantime, China is willing to further improve the exchange and cooperation with other countries in the field of water resources management, work together with the international community to address difficulties and challenges, promote reasonable allocation of water resources, water resources conservancy, protection and efficient utilization and make new and greater contribution to global sustainable development.

Thank you.



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# 在第五届黄河国际论坛 水领导人高层论坛上的讲话

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中华人民共和国水利部部长 陈雷

H.E. Mr. Chen Lei, Minister of Water Resources, P. R. China

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# 在第五届黄河国际论坛 水领导人高层论坛上的讲话

中华人民共和国水利部部长 陈雷

(2012年9月25日)

各位来宾，女士们，先生们：

下午好！

非常高兴参加第五届黄河国际论坛水领导人高层论坛，与在座各位同行一道，围绕全世界普遍关心的水资源综合管理问题广泛交流经验，共同分享成果，深入探讨对策。首先，我代表中华人民共和国水利部，对出席今天论坛活动的各位嘉宾朋友表示热烈的欢迎和良好的祝愿！

中国是世界上人口最多的发展中国家，新中国成立以来，中国政府高度重视水资源问题，先后采取一系列强有力举措，推动水资源开发、利用、节约、保护和管理工作取得了显著成效。目前，中国年供水能力超过7000亿立方米，基本保障了生产、生活和生态用水安全；特别是改革开放30多年来，中国以年均1%的用水低增长支撑了年均近10%的经济高速增长，在农业用水基本保持零增长的情况下，粮食产量提高近78%，为世界经济发展

和粮食安全作出了突出贡献。但必须清醒看到，中国人多水少、水资源时空分布不均、与生产力布局不相匹配的基本水情将长期存在，解决中国水资源问题需要付出艰苦努力，特别是随着工业化、城镇化深入发展，全球气候变化影响加大，中国的水资源形势更趋严峻，强化水资源管理的任务更加繁重。2011年，中国政府出台了加快水利改革发展的政策文件，召开了最高规格的水利工作会议，要求实行最严格水资源管理制度。今年1月，中国政府又专门出台实施意见，明确了水资源开发利用控制、用水效率控制、水功能区限制纳污“三条红线”，并抓紧开展以下几项工作：

一是严格用水总量控制，促进水资源永续利用。全面实施江河流域水量分配工作，加快建立覆盖流域和省、市、县三级行政区域的取用水总量控制指标体系，力争将各地用水总量控制在科学合理范围之内。强化水资源论证和取水许可管理，严格控制水资源短缺地区、生态脆弱地区发展高耗水项目，切实做到以水定需、量水而行、因水制宜。建立和完善国家水权制度，积极培育水市场，促进水资源高效利用和节约保护。

二是严格用水效率控制，全面建设节水型社会。强化用水定额和计划管理，制定和推行节水强制性标准。加快灌区节水改造，积极推广节水灌溉技术，大力发展现代高效节水农业。加大

工业领域节水技术改造力度，及时更新淘汰落后工艺、设备和产品，加快城市供水管网改造，加强供水和公共用水管理，全面推行城市节水。大力推进污水处理和中水回用，积极开展海水淡化和综合利用，加强雨洪资源和微咸水利用。

三是严格水功能区限制纳污，强化水资源保护。根据自然状况和经济社会发展需求，将江河湖泊水域划分成不同功能区，实行分类保护和管理。从严核定水域纳污容量，依法限制排污总量，强化入河排污口监督管理和饮用水水源保护，加大主要污染物减排力度。加强重要生态保护区、水源涵养区、江河源头区和湿地的保护，综合运用控源截污、河湖清淤、生物修复等措施，对河湖水生态系统进行综合治理，推进生态脆弱河流和地区水生态修复。

四是推进河湖水系连通，增强水资源配置能力。以重要江河骨干河道为基础，重要控制性水库为中枢，依托南水北调等重大跨流域调水工程，实施江河湖库水系连通工程建设，着力构建引排顺畅、蓄泄得当、丰枯调剂、多源互补、调控自如的现代水网体系，逐步形成南北调配、东西互济、重点区域水系互联互通的水资源战略配置格局。

五是强化考核评估监督，落实水资源管理责任。将水资源开发、利用、节约和保护的主要指标纳入地方经济社会发展综合评

价体系，考核结果作为对地方政府相关领导评价的重要依据。完善水资源监测、用水计量与统计制度，加强取水、排水、入河湖排污口计量监控设施建设，抓好国家水资源管理信息系统和应急机动监测能力建设，建立中央、流域和地方水资源监控管理平台，全面提高监控、预警和管理能力。

六是加快改革创新，夯实水资源管理工作基础。抓好水资源管理政策法规建设，加大水行政执法力度，为严格水资源管理提供法律保障。完善水资源规划体系，强化规划执行和监督检查，充分发挥规划的基础导向和刚性约束作用。完善流域管理与行政区域管理相结合的水资源管理体制，强化水资源统一管理，推进城乡水务一体化，健全水资源保护和水污染防治协调机制。严格水资源有偿使用，合理调整水资源费征收标准，稳步推进水价改革，运用市场机制和经济手段促进水资源节约与保护。

女士们，先生们！虽然中国在水资源综合管理方面进行了积极探索并取得了明显成效，但水资源问题仍然是制约当前中国经济社会可持续发展的突出瓶颈。中国政府将以全面落实最严格水资源管理制度为契机，进一步强化水资源综合管理，努力推动经济社会发展与水资源水环境承载能力相协调。同时，我们也愿与世界各国一道，继续加强在水资源管理领域的交流与合作，携手应对各种困难和挑战，积极促进水资源的合理配置、节约保护和

高效利用，为世界可持续发展作出新的更大贡献。

谢谢大家！