

Opening remarks for CFCFA Annual Meeting and Business Forum

Lin Zhong, CFCFA Chairman

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

During this golden fall of Urumqi, mountain flowers are in full bloom and trees are growing greener. As the geological center of the Asian continent, Urumqi is an important portal for the opening up of China's western regions, and the bridgehead of the new Eurasian Continental Bridge. Today, we gather here in the right place and at the right time.

We Chinese people value "right people, right place and right time". We will always pick the "right time" for any major event so as to let all good things start at the best time. Carec Federation Of Carrier And Forwarder Associations (CFCFA) hold the fourth annual meeting and business forum, amid the joyful atmosphere of the opening of the Forth CAE Expo. On behalf of the CFCFA, I would like to extend warm welcome and sincere greetings to all the guests and friends from the trade logistics industry. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Association for Development of Business Logistics (ADBL) for their preparation work for this forum. My thank also goes to Mr. Qian Ying for his efforts and achievements made for the establishment and growth of CFCFA.

This event is at the right time not only because it falls on the golden autumn and China-European Expo, but also on a time when China and Central Asia make joint efforts to develop an “economic belt along the Silk Road” across Asia and Europe. During his visit to four Central Asian countries in September 2013, China’s president Xi Jinping, for the first time, proposed that China and Central Asia join hands to build a Silk Road economic belt to restore the glory of the ancient Silk Road. At present, China is vigorously “facilitating both internal and external open up based on channel construction, and building the core area along Silk Road economic belt by strengthening railway and other infrastructure construction, developing modern logistics and making full use of regional advantages”. The Silk Road economic belt will also facilitate the development of the new Euro-Asian transportation corridor and make it an important part of the belt.

As an active participant during the construction of the new Euro-Asian transportation corridor, CFCFA is standing at a new starting point, facing new opportunities, growth potential as well as challenges and difficulties. But are we ready? Shall we rise to those difficulties or cease to advance? I believe through this forum, we will not only give ourselves, but also the whole industry and the international society that have been watching and supporting us a satisfactory answer.

A Chinese saying goes that: “achievements can only be made with the right people, right time and right place”. However, right time is not as good as right place and right place is not as good as right people. Therefore, the key lies in the right people, which require a team united by common goals. CFCFA has the unique advantage of right people, as it joins the resources, geological advantages, talents and technologies of dozens of industry associations in 10 Central Asian countries. However, we have to admit that our capacity building does not catch up with our advantages, and our growth pace does not match our pursuit. During this temporary difficult time, we haven’t made full use of our advantage of “right people” and haven’t got rid of the pattern of traditional development model of industry associations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Autumn is the harvest season for all and for CFCFA. We invited six delegates from PICC, Sinosure, FarEastern Leasing, Xi'an International University, **Xinjiang Tomur Freight Forwarder**, and Yiwu Freight Forwarders Association to attend this forum to discuss liability insurance, credit insurance and financing lease of transportation facilities of international road carriers, to introduce the practice and application of internal trade terms, and to explore effective connection of international railway transportation and intermodal transport. I believe that we will reap good fruits through this event. With our wisdom and capability, we

will find a suitable development route that both transcends the traditional model, and coordinate well with member associations. We will identify our ultimate goals to gather strengthens of our people; we will handle the situation of separate locations of place of registry, secretariat, website and chairman. In the end, we will promote development with our wisdom and solve problems with our heart. I sincerely hope that our distinguished guests will offer your suggestions and opinions on CFCFA capacity building and the facilitation of trade logistics.

When we key in the letters of “CFCFA”, the Chinese word “chufa” will pop up, meaning “start”. The CFCFA has started its journey. There is no turning back once the arrow is shot. With the support of CAREC countries, Asian Development Bank, friends in this room, and the business sector, CFCFA will continue to work with its members to serve for the economic cooperation among Central Asian regions. We also sincerely hope that our distinguished guests, friends in this room, and all sectors of society especially ADB, will continue to care for and support the development of CFCFA.

At last, I wish this forum a complete success and all of you a pleasant stay in Urumqi and good health.

Thank you all!