

## **H.E. Luo Yiaoguang, Ambassador of China in the Republic of Yemen**

**Dear Chair,  
Distinguish guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, friends:**

Today, the 9<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers Meeting of IOR-ARC is formally sitting in Yemen. On behalf of the government of the People's Republic of China, I'd like to present the passionate congratulations on the conference and cordial greetings to each distinguish guest and all participants present today.

As one of the dialogue partners of IOR-ARC, China esteems the objective of IOR-ARC, supports the work direction and the keystones on cooperation determined by the Association. We would like to work with all the member states to enhance the cooperation in India Ocean Rim region. Since a long period of time, China enjoys friendly political relationship with the IOR-ARC members and the two sides maintain close economic exchange. In 2008, the trade between China and IOR-ARC members totaled 390.6 billion USDs, 26.9% higher than the previous year. The proportion of the trade between China and IOR to China's total foreign trade is rising year by year, which was 13.4%, 14.2% and 15.2% from year 2006 to 2008 respectively.

The India Ocean Rim is a distinctive region across Asia, Africa and Oceania with diversified and abundant resources and enjoys convenient transportation. China and IOR region share high economic complementarities and common interests in many aspects. Thus, the cooperation potential between both sides should be massive.

Under the background of accelerating development of economic globalization and regional economic integration, China would like to further deepen the economic and trade cooperation with IOR-ARC and its member states to push forward the regional and international economy development. Therefore, China suggests:

First, actively carry out substantial cooperation and cope with the international finance crisis with joint efforts. Currently, the international finance crisis is still expanding and deepening, which makes the real economy be down warding. Many countries are facing great challenges of economy recession.

By making full use of IOR-ARC as an effective platform, we should positively explore substantive cooperation in some critical sectors, such as: human resource development,

Seaport development, transportation, energy, tourism and SMEs, as well as speed up structure adjustment, stabilize market, accelerate growth, create job opportunities, improve people's living-hood, reduce the negative impacts of the international finance crisis by every possible means.

Second, launch dialogue on deepening regional economic cooperation. In recent years, China has proactively participated in regional cooperation with APEC, ASEM, SCO, etc.; steadily promoted the development process on free trade area and conducted negotiation on free trade area with countries and areas including IOR-ARC members. Thus, China has been playing an active role in promoting the mutual development with cooperative partners and pushing forward the international trade liberalization and facilitation. Since its establishment, IOR-ARC has done a vast amount of effective work to boost the economic cooperation in the region. We hope it continue to present its own characteristics and advantages in regional economic cooperation. China is ready to open dialogue and share the experience with IOR-ARC on this aspect.

Third, make effort to improve the trade and investment facilitation in the region. Under the circumstance of tariffs lowing and the non-tariff measures reducing in the world, to improve trade and investment facilitation level becomes more important. Various trade and investment facility measures, for instance: the higher transparence in policies, simplification and coordination in customs procedures, standard conformity and accreditation, investment promotion, encouragement on flowing of business people, E-business, etc., are conducive to raising efficiency, reducing cost, enhancing the predictability and accelerating the trade development. China is willing to strengthen communication, share experience and enhance the cooperation with IOR-ARC members

I'd like to conclude my speech with hearted congratulations on the successful conclusion of the meeting and sincerely wish everybody enjoy your time here in Sana'a.

Thanks.