



7th U. S. - CHINA TRANSPORTATION FORUM

Suzhou, China November 4th – November 6th, 2015

JOINT STATEMENT

Promoting Collaborative Solutions: Deployment of Innovative Technology and Practices

At the 7th U.S. - China Transportation Forum (the Forum) in Suzhou, China from November 4th to 6th 2015, delegates from both sides, focusing on the theme of "Promoting Collaborative Solutions: Deployment of Innovative Technology and Practices", held in-depth discussions to expand and deepen exchanges and cooperation at the central/federal and provincial/state levels including research institutes and enterprises, thus injecting new momentum and offering new opportunities to the common sustainable development of the transport sector of both countries.

We acknowledged that innovative technology and practices are of special significance to enhancing safety, improving efficiency, promoting environmental protection and creating jobs. As such, they enable sound and sustainable development of the transport sector and promote socio-economic prosperity, which is in line with the common interests of both countries.

As in the past Fora, we continue to encourage and welcome industry and research institutes to engage with the Working Group's activities so that they can share their ideas and suggestions on transport innovation and potential future cooperation in sustainable development between the U.S. and China.

Review of the progress under the Forum

We noted with satisfaction the progress that each Working Group has made since the last Forum, and we acknowledged the efforts accomplished by our transportation professionals.

Safety and Disaster Assistance Coordination (SDAC) Working Group

We echoed the commitments of the SDAC Working Group's common goal - "helping our citizens during the times of greatest challenge."

We noted the continuous progress in joint safety and disaster assistance cooperation, such as the two SDAC events that took place since the last Transportation Forum - the Seminar and Expo on Transportation Preparedness for Earthquakes, held in Chengdu last year, and the 6th Annual

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Safety and Disaster Assistance Coordination Workshop that took place in Fuzhou in 2015.

We value the SDAC WG's successful practice of utilizing external resources and professional exchanges and welcome continued close collaboration with the U.S. Trade Development Agency, the National Academy of Sciences, and universities and research institutes in both the U.S. and China.

Urban Congestion Working Group (UCWG)

We welcomed the UCWG's technical exchanges on current urban congestion management and the evolution of urban planning. We applaud the UCWG organization of the "Smart Urban Transportation Conference" that took place in Shanghai on April 21-22, 2015, which was attended by more than 200 participants from both countries and relevant international organizations. This event served to facilitate in-depth discussions on urban transport development strategies, urban transport planning, public transport financing and air quality control. We encouraged the UCWG to continue acting as a platform to convene exchanges between transport researchers of both countries on how to improve urban transport management and mitigating urban congestion.

We support the UCWG's efforts to contribute to the "Race to Zero Emissions" initiative under the U.S. - China Climate Change Working Group with the aim to promote greater zero emission buses deployment in cities across the U.S. and China. We encourage the UCWG to work with other U.S. and Chinese agencies in this effort.

Ports and Inland Waterways Initiative (PIWI)

We noted with satisfaction that the PIWI had launched relevant policy and technical exchanges during this Forum on energy conservation and pollution reduction in the following areas: water transport industry; green port policy and projects; information technology applied in green ports; and air pollution monitoring.

We endorsed the PIWI's efforts to continue to have technical exchanges and best practices sharing on the following subjects: ship emissions management, application of LNG as the power for ships in inland shipping, and the safe and effective water transportation of dangerous goods.

We reaffirmed the importance of ports and inland waterways in promoting bilateral and international trade, and the application of green technologies for pollution reduction and information management methods in water transportation industry will help to improve the environment, promote economic growth, and raise the competitiveness of the industry.

We encourage the **SDAC WG** to play an important role in improving transportation and disaster response management in the two countries. We welcome the Working Group's efforts to strengthen their exchanges on transportation safety regulations and policies, while facilitating technical cooperation in safety, quality and disaster response between the U.S. and China transportation institutions, industry partners, government and research groups in both countries. As we approach the end of the SDAC WG's Five Year Memorandum of Agreement, we look forward to the renewal of the Agreement in 2016.

We instruct the **UCWG** to facilitate broader cooperation in Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and urban transport planning and design between the Transportation and Development Policy Institute and China's Academy of Transport Science under their Cooperation Memorandum. We look forward to the formal implementation of the "Race to Zero Emissions" initiative, and instruct the UCWG to actively promote the initiative with transit agencies in the U.S. and China.

We support the **PIWI's** efforts to carry out their work according to their 2016 Work Plan and their efforts to actively promote friendly cooperation between ports in both countries. We encourage the PIWI to share successful experiences in the promotion of green port management, including the involvement of the private sector in implementing the 2016 Work Plan.

We encourage the **New Technologies (Rail) Working Group** to continue to enhance exchanges on accident investigation methods and analysis, safety oversight processes and analysis, and the establishment of rail operations equipment certification process. We support the Working Group to strengthen the cooperation in rail safety supervision, service quality supervision, market access and equipment certification.

We direct the **HazMat WG** to continue to bridge cooperation between relevant government agencies, and to expand their work programme to encompass safety and enforcement collaboration. We further encourage the involvement of interested industry stakeholders to identify issues most relevant to the safe transportation of hazardous materials, and ways to reduce transportation impediments while encouraging regulatory compliance and maintaining an appropriate level of safety.

Conclusion

We acknowledged the importance of deploying innovative technology and practices in transportation to promoting economic development. We will continue to encourage representatives of businesses and research institutes to

New Technologies (Rail) Working Group

We applauded the progress that the New Technologies (Rail) Working Group has achieved over the past two years, including the successful conclusion of five rail research topics: 1. Track Inspection and Maintenance Standards; 2. Track Structure for High Speed and Higher Speed Rail; 3. Risk Analysis for Safety Assurance; 4. Transportation Capacity of HSR Railways – Analysis and Simulation; and 5. Vehicle Qualification (Dynamic Performance Safety Assurance – Testing and Analysis).

We noted that close collaboration amongst our rail experts had been conducted by holding three Working Group meetings in Washington D.C. in July 2014, and in Beijing in November 2014 and November 2015. In addition, two workshops on the topics of heavy haul railways and life cycle costs took place in Beijing in May 2014 and September 2015 .

Hazardous Materials Working Group (HazMat WG)

We commended the HazMat WG's continued work and progress to engage with relevant U.S. and Chinese government agencies and industry stakeholders to promote the safe transportation of hazardous materials by all modes of transportation.

We applauded our experts collaborating under the relevant international organizations and fora and the commitments of both sides to work closely to align their respective domestic regulations, where applicable, with international standards relating to the safe transport of hazardous materials.

We encourage the HazMat WG to increase collaboration with other governmental agencies in the U.S. and China so that they can share best practices and exchange technical information to promote the safe transportation of hazardous materials. We applaud the WG's discussions with China's International Fireworks Association (IFA) on issues of the approval and transportation of fireworks; with the State Post Bureau (SPB) on how the U.S. regulates the transportation of hazardous materials by express delivery carriers; and with the Ministry of Public Security on the safe management of hazardous materials transported by highway.

Prospects of the Forum

The Working Groups under the Forum are strong cornerstones and supporting pillars of U.S. - China transport cooperation. We instruct the Working Groups to break new ground in an innovative manner, and to share experience and best practices through joint research, demonstration projects and/or seminars in the year ahead.

carry out technical exchanges and cooperation that will boost comprehensive, smart, green and safe transportation, build more effective Public-Private Partnership and contribute to the common development of the transport industry in both the U.S. and China. We agreed to hold a special session on PPP best practice at the next Forum.

It is planned that the 8th U.S.-China Transportation Forum will be held in the U.S. in 2016.

Signed in Suzhou on November 6, 2015 in duplicate in the English and Chinese languages.

For the Department of Transportation of
The United States of America
Victor Mendez,
Deputy Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victor Mendez", written over a horizontal line.

For the Ministry of Transport of
The People's Republic of China
Weng Mengyong
Vice Minister

A handwritten signature in Chinese characters, appearing to read "翁孟勇", written over a horizontal line.