

## Yunnan Provincial Government Environmental Study Tour

Tuesday 22 June 2004, MFAT Conference Room 13.16  
9.00 am to 12.30 pm

(Visitors to come to MFAT Reception, Floor 12, 195 Lambton Quay, to be escorted to Room 13.16)

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**Madame MA** Xiaojia (pron: MA SEEOW ZIA) and colleagues from Yunnan Province,

**Dr Golombok** from the UK,

**Mr Duan Zhixiong** (pron: DWAN JER SEUNG), First Secretary Science and Technology of the Chinese Embassy in Wellington [newly arrived from China],

**Ms Beaumont** from the New Zealand Parliamentary Commission for the Environment,

- *Ki a koutou te ropu o Yunnan. Ka nui te mihi kia koutou. Tena koutou.* ("Welcome to the Yunnan delegation. Many greetings to you all.")
- I am **Alan Cook**, Director of the Environment Division. We warmly welcome visits from the Chinese Government such as yours today. The visit of President Hu last year was a significant step in the good relations between our two countries. The healthy exchange of visits at all levels, and in many areas of common interest, strengthens our bilateral relationship.
- Introduce **Michelle Wanwimolruk** - North Asia Division, which looks after bilateral relations between New Zealand and China.
- **Roger Cornforth** - New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID). NZAID has on-going links to Yunnan Province through its inclusion in the Greater Mekong Subregion and participation in the work of the Mekong Institute.
- **Wen Powles** from my division.
- Yesterday you started examining our policy and legal frameworks for sustainable development. Two more presenters this morning: **Helen Beaumont** and, later, **Helen Stott**, Chief Analyst of the Department of Statistics.
- New Zealand's participation in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 gave us, above all, the opportunity to exchange experiences with other countries. Although you are here to study our experiences, we have the opportunity to learn about your challenges in sustainable development in China.
- This Ministry is involved in New Zealand's international engagement on issues affecting the global environment. We pursue a range of environment objectives in addition to sustainable development - climate change, renewable energy,

terrestrial and marine biodiversity, chemicals and wastes, to name a few key areas.

- Partnerships with other countries, including Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, are a priority for New Zealand. We work with China in many forums including the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.
- New Zealand is currently playing a lead role in meetings on the “Barbados Plan of Action”. Where we are in the Pacific, New Zealand is acutely aware that small islands are especially vulnerable in the modern world to climate change and natural disasters.
- This vulnerability was clearly evident in the devastating effects of a recent cyclone, **Heta**, which destroyed large parts of a couple of Pacific island countries. New Zealand’s development assistance is very much focussed on the small islands in our region.
- I believe all of us recognise that any improvement in the global environment must begin at home. Everyone has a role to play. Partnership and collaboration are at the heart of all successful sustainable development approaches.
- In that spirit, may I again warmly welcome our guests to New Zealand and wish you a successful study tour. (Introduce **Helen Beaumont**.)
- *No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou. Tena tatou katoa.* (“Greetings to everyone.”)

Environment Division, MFAT

June 2004.