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Congratulatory Remarks by George Ariyoshi, Former Governor of Hawaii and Honorary Conference Chairman

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this Fourteenth Meeting of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum, as the Chairman of the Board of the Hawaii Asia-Pacific Institute, which is the legal entity in Hawaii of the Forum. I would like to extend my thanks to our hosts, the Shenyang Municipal Government, and to all the participating organizations for their excellent arrangements in bringing together experts from government, the business sector, research institutes and the educational sector from throughout the Northeast Asian region, to make this important meeting possible.

The speech delivered on behalf of former President Roh Tae Woo by former Prime Minister Won Shik Chung, highlights the importance of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China in 1992. This was the outcome of efforts initiated by Dr. Lee-Jay at the request of President Rho, for developing political and economic relationships. As Professor Chung has stressed, both Dr. Cho, the founding chairman of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum, and Dr. Song Jian, former Vice-Premier of China, played historic roles in establishing this channel of high-level communication, which was so important to the history of the formal relationship between the two countries.

The Northeast Asia Economic Forum, in its long 15-year history, has contributed to the increased interchange and contacts at the policy and functional levels, between the governments of the region, and has also promoted and facilitated cross-national cooperation on a variety of regional projects. China's strategy for revitalizing Northeast China, to be discussed in Session 3 of the conference, will further contribute to the future dynamic growth of this region. The session on the future regional energy community is likewise a vital component for ensuring stable and continuous growth, which will be mutually beneficial to all of the economies concerned.