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## Welcome by the Governor of Jilin Province

Hong Hu

The Tenth Northeast Asia Economic Forum is solemnly inaugurated today in the hopeful and vigorous spring of the new century. On behalf of the People's Government of Jilin Province and 27 million hospitable and friendly Jilin people, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the conference and a warm welcome to Vice Chairman Jiang Zhenghua of the National People's Congress and to the representatives from different countries and different walks of life, who have come to participate in this conference.

Peace and development are the themes of the times. In today's world, the trend of economic globalization is being strengthened, and regional economic cooperation is developing in depth. Northeast Asian regional economic cooperation is attracting wide attention from the international community, with its unique geographic location and great development potential. It has been ten years since we held the first conference of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum in Changchun in 1990. We are very pleased to note that important progress and achievements have been made in the exchanges and cooperation in the Northeast Asian region, thanks to the joint efforts of concerned countries and regions. In particular, international cooperation and development in the Tumen River area have continuously led to new improvements, which have facilitated the development of the Northeast Asian economy. At the beginning of this new century, the Jilin people feel especially happy to be the hosts of the Tenth Forum, which brings us together again. I am confident that the conference will further promote the trend of exchanges and cooperation in this region.

Jilin Province is in the central part of Northeast China. It has rich natural resources, a sound ecological environment, a long history and culture, and a solid economic foundation. During the twenty years since we adopted the policy of reform and opening up the economy, Jilin Province has made great achievements in building up its economy and in its social development. We achieved the strategic goal of the second step of the modernization drive ahead of schedule and primarily marched into a comfortably well-off society. We will continue to work hard toward the strategic goal of the third step of the modernization drive. In accordance with the overall requirement of promoting and realizing accelerated development, we will focus on the strategic readjustment of the economic structure, making reforms, opening up the economy, and making scientific and technological progress. We will improve people's living standards as the basic starting point; and stick to the guiding principle of "high efficiency,

high employment, and sustainable development.” We will thus fully implement the strategy of “revitalizing the province through science and technology, leading the provincial economy forward through the policy of opening up the economy and making breakthroughs by developing the economy.” These measures will promote the informationization of the national economy and society, speed up the process of industrialization and urbanization, emphasize the coordinated development of the economy, society, human resources, and the environment, and facilitate the overall progress of society.

To achieve the goals stated above, we will actively participate in exchanges and cooperation at the international economy and technology levels, make efforts to improve the investment environment, continue to promote international cooperative development in the Tumen River area, and promote common prosperity in Northeast Asia’s regional economy. We sincerely welcome friends from all over the world to invest in Jilin Province, to carry out economic and trade cooperation, and to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the province.

I hope that economic cooperation in Northeast Asia will take on a new look and achieve good results through our common efforts and sincere cooperation. I wish the Tenth Northeast Asia Economic Forum in Changchun complete success.