

Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Third International Seabuckthorn Association Conference

Quebec City, province of Quebec, Canada, August 12 – 16, 2008

**Opening remarks by Mr. TAI Yuanlin
President of International Seabuckthorn Association**

Distinguished Chairman, Board Members, Experts, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning! First of all, on behalf of the International Seabuckthorn Association, I would like to express my cordial welcome to all the attendants present at the Third International Seabuckthorn Association Conference. Meanwhile, I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the host organizers, Institute of Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods of Laval University and the Quebec Seabuckthorn Growers Association, for your hospitable and considerate arrangements. In particular, we felt gratitude to Dr. Tom S.C. Li, Chairman of this conference and Mr. Alphonsus Utioh, as well as all the staff members for your hard work. Thanks for your joint efforts which have made the convocation of this conference possible here today. Thank you!

Up to now, this has been the Third International Seabuckthorn Conference and the 10th International Symposium on Seabuckthorn (ISS). In 1989, the 1st International Symposium on Seabuckthorn (ISS) was held in Xi'an , China, and the International Coordinating Committee on Seabuckthorn was created in 1995, then the year 2001 saw the establishment of the International Seabuckthorn Association, which has provided seabuckthorn organizations and workers with a platform for the exchange and development featured as well-organized and international with a clear objective, thus creating a new situation in the fields of academic research, technology and cooperation. We felt greatly honored that the International Seabuckthorn Association sets up its secretariat in China. Furthermore, we have attached great importance to the secretariat, exerted ourselves in related work and given full play to its coordinating role. We have also created a professional English website about Seabuckthorn and a Journal titled "*The Global Seabuckthorn Research and Development*" which has published its 5th Volume, No. 16 Issue. All of them have constituted a window that can reflect the international edge-cutting academic research on seabuckthorn, lead the development of seabuckthorn science and technology, and promote ecological construction and industrial development of seabuckthorn. In addition, we actively recruited more members and provided them with better information and services. Moreover, we paid close attention to this conference through active consultation with the organizing committee over the preparations for the convening of this conference, resulting in organizing almost 40 Chinese delegates' coming to attend this conference. We will as always try our utmost to do the work of the International Seabuckthorn Association and push Chinese seabuckthorn undertakings forward to the international arena.

We are glad to see that the international seabuckthorn organizations are expanding in the number of their staff. The International Seabuckthorn Association has enrolled more than 200 members from more than 40 countries, and researchers on seabuckthorn are working in many universities,

institutions and enterprises in research fields of seabuckthorn breeding, seedling, medicine, healthcare and food. Besides, this conference has drawn active response and participation, with about 120 participants from various countries taking active part in this conference. With the help from all the board members and members of the International Seabuckthorn Association (including the International Seabuckthorn Coordinating Committee), international seabuckthorn cause develops rapidly, especially all the previous symposia which have not only promoted the information exchange between seabuckthorn lovers but also the rapid development of the seabuckthorn undertakings in the host countries. For example, India was successful in holding the 5th Annual Meeting of International Seabuckthorn Coordinating Committee & India International workshop on Seabuckthorn in 2001 which strongly boosted its development of seabuckthorn cause and resulted in the successive establishment of seabuckthorn processing plants on a large scale, thus making great progress in the seabuckthorn R & D. In the 2nd International Seabuckthorn Conference held by China in 2005, India, as a foreign country with the most attendants for that conference, sent 15 representatives and presented 15 papers, all of which have fully demonstrated the strength and development of the research on seabuckthorn in India.

Thanks to the coordination and communication by the International Seabuckthorn Association and the International Seabuckthorn Symposium year by year, we have obtained better knowledge of seabuckthorn. Governments of many countries have also devoted more and more attention to the planting, development and marketing of seabuckthorn, with achievements reflected in the following aspects. Firstly, the investment in seabuckthorn planting has been enlarged with the seabuckthorn planting area doubled and redoubled. China is the top country abundant in seabuckthorn resources. In recent years, it has invested about 100 million Chinese Yuan¹ in the seabuckthorn development. At present, with a yearly increase of 100 thousand hectares in the seabuckthorn planting area, there is a spontaneous emergence of farmer Seabuckthorn Association in charge of planting, management, protection, collecting and purchasing of seabuckthorn, forming a favorable situation featured as increasing farmers' income through seabuckthorn processing and promoting the economic development in rural areas. Secondly, the scale of seabuckthorn R & D is enlarged constantly, the level of processing technology and the quality of products are enhanced unceasingly. Some enterprises engaged in the development, marketing and selling of seabuckthorn products appeared one after another in many countries like Canada, Germany, Finland, India, and Japan. A broad overview of the international market can show you various seabuckthorn products such as beverage, functional food and medicine of high quality and a vast variety satisfying different demands of the consumers. Thirdly, the constant rising seabuckthorn product sales, more frequent international trade activities and the ever-increasing trade volume of seabuckthorn have proved the popularity of the seabuckthorn-related products in the international market.

Seabuckthorn is a kind of plant with great magic. Its unique biological characteristics made it effective in environmental improvement. In addition, rich in more than 200 types of materials fundamental to the health of human bodies and with great value for scientific research as well as tremendous potential for industry development, seabuckthorn has attracted more and more attention from the experts. In the current world, health has become a top priority in people's life, so people show an exceptional passion for functional foods including those are completely natural, green, non-polluted and nutritious with the function of health care. We also begin to accept and obtain a brand-new understanding of the concept of health care. All of the favorable conditions have created new opportunities and broad prospects for the development of

seabuckthorn products, especially for the functional food and health care food. Dear colleagues, we are now faced with unprecedented opportunities as well as great challenges. Cooperation and mutual benefit have become a hot topic and common goal for the harmonious development among countries in the world. Let's cooperate together for the sustainable utilization of global seabuckthorn resources.

Dear deputies, I felt extremely proud of and exciting about the great historical responsibilities shouldered by this tiny plant. Biennial International Seabuckthorn Association Conference has been inaugurated; I hope we can cherish this rare opportunity to make friends, exchange experience, promote common understanding and establish extensive partnership, making seabuckthorn undertakings bigger and stronger. Let's join hands to work hard for improving the environment, alleviating local poverty, promoting human health and achieving economic and social sustainable development goals. Our goal must be attained! Our goal can unquestionably be attained.

I believe all the deputies will surely benefit a lot from this conference in the future days in Quebec, this charming city of the beautiful and richly endowed country Canada. Finally, on behalf of the International Seabuckthorn Association, please allow me again to extend my thanks to the staff members of Canada for all of your unremitting efforts. Wish the conference a complete success!

Thank you!