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Welcome Remarks on US-China Business Networking Reception

Washington D.C. USA, 11th May 2025

Distinguished guests and dear friends, good evening!

Welcome to the US-China Business Networking Reception!

I'm Zhao Jianying, Deputy General Representative of CCPIT Representative Office in USA. Today I feel encouraged and excited to see so many faces, old and new, joining us. To be honest, we had planned to organize a 30-40 persons event initially, but it turned out that we had more than 110 registrations. It's not easy, especially it's a Sunday and it's a Mother's Day! We also have participants not only from DMV area, but entrepreneurs who traveled from Texas, Georgia, New York and New Jersey, which gives me good reason to believe that we are here not only as representatives of business and commerce but also as ambassadors of goodwill, committed to deepening mutual understanding, fostering stronger ties, and unlocking the full potential of our shared economic future, especially in this challenging environment. You all know what I mean.

First, I'd like to extend my warm welcome to each and every one of you as we gather here today for this US-China Business networking reception, especially the delegation led by Mr. Deng

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Luoxing, Vice Chairman of CCPIT Huban, who have traveled a long distance to DC and only arrived this afternoon! Welcome Mr. Deng and your delegation!

Now, without further ado, please allow me to introduce the distinguished guests who grace us with their presence today. They are:

Madam. Susan Lee, Secretary of State of Maryland,

Mr. Lyu Jiang, Minister for Economic and Commercial Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the USA

Mr. Everett Wakai, 王勇安，Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs of U.S. Embassy in Beijing and his team,

Mr. Brandon Soloski, Senior Director Center for Corporate Diplomacy, Meridian International Center, 白龙。

Mr. Deng Luoxing, Vice Chairman of CCPIT Hunan,

Mr. Mayank Kapur, Assistant Secretary of Maryland Department of Commerce,

Mr. Marc Elrich, County Executive of Montgomery County of Maryland,

Please give them a warm round of applause.

First of all, I'd like to welcome Mr. Lyu Jiang, Minister for Economic and Commercial Affairs，吕江公使.

Thanks for your inspiring words. Now, let's welcome his

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counterpart Mr. Everett Wakai, 王勇安公使衔参赞， to say a few words. He had just arrived DC this weekend!

Thanks Everett, I know that the Commercial Affairs Office has done an excellent job in inviting Chinese entrepreneurs to attend the SelectUSA for many consecutive years. Great job! People say that the speech before the dinner should the shorter, the better, and I think he has set a good example!

Now, let's move forward, and welcome Mr. Brandon Soloski, 白龙， Senior Director Center for Corporate Diplomacy, Meridian International Center!

Meridian International Center is an important organization under the guidance of the Department of State. Now I would like to invite Mr. Deng Luoxing, Vice Chairman of CCPIT Hunan to deliver remarks. He will be the only speaker who will have a real interpreter, for the other English speakers, we have used AI interpretation, and please compare whether we will lose our job in the future!

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Thanks Vice Chairman Deng. Now, I would like to invite Mr. Marc Elrich, County Executive, Montgomery County of Maryland to say a few words.

Mongomery County is the richest county in Maryland, with quite diversified industries. If Chinese companies or especially Hunan companies wish to invest in US, they can consider Maryland as their top priority.

Now let's welcome Mayank Kapur, Assistant Secretary of Maryland Department of Commerce, to share his thoughts with us.

Thanks for the great support of the Department. Now let's warmly welcome Madam. Susan Lee, the first Asian-American secretary of State in Maryland history, who has been a political trailblazer for more than 20 years! Please welcome Madam. Lee with a round of applause.

Thank you for those warm welcomes from both sides.

Thank you! Last year, 29 Hunan companies and Maryland China Center have participated in the 2nd China International Supply Chain Expo. And we hope to see more Hunan and Maryland companies to get involved in the 3rd CISCE. Now I'd like to invite the Hunan companies to go on stage and make a briefly introduction so that you may later find them to have more discussions:

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Please remain on stage. This afternoon, a Hunan and Maryland networking has been organized, I'd like to invite Hunan and Maryland representatives to join the photo session.

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Now I would like to invite all our speakers on stage to have a group photo.

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Thank you for all your insightful remarks. Now let's proceed with open discussions and networking. Enjoy the next hour of the delightful dishes and free-flowing conversation.

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