

Welcome Address

Good morning, distinguished Dr. Andreas Schiller, Ms. Kirsten Wilmer-Becker, GODAE OceanView Scientist Team members, and our guests. On behalf of State Oceanic Administration (SOA), it is my great honor to welcome all of you to Beijing for this annual meeting of GOVST. Thank you for coming.

SOA is the “manager” of the ocean around China and Chinese oceanic activities. Our duty reaches almost every aspect of the ocean, including oceanic policy/law making and enforcement, ocean economic development and integrated management, marine public services, science and technology development, marine scientific expedition and resource exploration. We are also in charge of Chinese ocean international cooperation and put much focus on this duty, because we know only with the collaboration of the world, can each nation benefit from the ocean.

Most of the world’s population reside in coastal area and their life and activities are directly linked to the ocean. The ocean provides great food and energy resources to human beings, but it can also brings numerous disasters. Thus precise understanding and forecasting of the ocean is of great importance to the economic development and well being of the society. I have long been admiring the work of you, members of GOVST, in providing coordination and leadership in consolidating and improving global & regional ocean analysis and forecasting systems on an international level. You provide the opportunity for international collaboration to address problems in operational oceanography. It is your effort that made it possible for the world to have an enhanced existing ocean forecasting system, and work jointly on the next generation systems. So I am more than glad to see the annual meeting of GOVST can be held in China this year, because it will be a great chance for China to boost capacity in this field.

Since the foundation of NMEFC, Chinese operational oceanography has made substantial progress during the past half century, but Confucius once said: In a party of three there must be one whom I can learn from. I am sure for us there is still much experience and expertise to be learned from you. To build up world class ocean forecasting capacity, we are eager for more collaboration & cooperation with different groups of you and we will do our best to support the development of this

organization.

I believe during the next few days in this meeting, great ideas will be generated, ambitious plans will be made for the next few years of work in GOVST. Have a good time in Beijing.

Thanks.