

**Mr Harlan Watson, the Chairmen and co-chairs of the Task Forces, and our Colleagues from the Member Countries of the APP,**

At the outset, I and my delegation would like to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Harlan Watson and his team for inviting us here and extending the hospitality of the Government of United States. Our thanks are also due to the Administrative Support Group and the City of Seattle for giving us a generous welcome and making our stay comfortable here. Mr Chairman, I share your grief over the tragic earthquake and the damage caused by it in China. Our deepest condolences go to the kins of the families affected by this terrible tragedy.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me introduce my colleagues. As you know the APP secretariat in India is housed in the Ministry of Environment & Forest. [Introduction follows...]

We consider APP as an excellent model of collaborative action between the Governments and the industry. We had last met in Delhi in October 2007 wherein we had welcomed Canada into this Partnership. In Delhi we approved 18 Flagship Projects besides endorsing 110 other projects under the eight task forces. In a short span of twenty eight months since our adoption of the Charter and the Vision Statement in January 2006, this is indeed a remarkable achievement.

Over the past few months since the Delhi meeting of the APP, representatives of our task forces have participated in many of the meetings organized by the Chairmen and Co-chairs. We, in India, have also been fairly active and have organized various meetings and workshops. We had organized a training workshop on 'Overburden Slope Stability' in the Coal Mining Sector at Ranchi in

April 2008. Experts from USA participated in that workshop. In November 2007 the Aluminium Task Force meeting was organized at Hyderabad, which was held in conjunction with INCAL 2007. Around the same time in November 2007, a workshop was also organized in Bangaluru to advance the work of the Task Force on Renewable Energy & Distributed Generation Technologies in course of implementing the project for 'pursuing clean business'. A 'Peer Review for Power Generation' was organized in February 2008 which included visits to few Indian Coal Power Plants by delegates from USA, Japan, China, Australia and Korea. Also, a workshop on 'rehabilitation, closure and completion' was organized by the Coal India Ltd from April 17-20 in Kolkata on 'leading practice for sustainable development for mining industry' initiated by the Task Force on Coal Mining.

Two Projects from the Coal Mining Task Force on 'Coal Beneficiation Economic Modeling' and 'Fine Coal Beneficiation' have been approved by the Government of India for a value of Rs 53 and 272 million respectively.

With regard to the Steel sector, Rourkela Steel Plant was diagnosed by Experts and some energy conservation projects have been identified. However it is felt that this should be followed up further to establish retrofit-ability/ feasibility and funds needed to be tied up for at least 1-2 projects, including Rourkela, so that these can be show cased as model projects in India. We need to act urgently on these issues.

The Power Generation and Transmission Task Force executives were quite satisfied with the plant visits they had undertaken in US and the interaction they had on sharing best practices. This sector had already improved a lot due to power sector reforms undertaken by the Government and technical support provided by USAID in improving energy efficiency.

I would like to express our appreciation to the eight Task Forces, especially to the Chairs and the Co-Chairs, for their excellent and very comprehensive work

that they have been doing so far. I am particularly happy that India was able to co-chair the Coal and Steel Task Forces.

From an overall review of the various task forces, we conclude that some of the task forces namely, those on Power Generation and Transmission, Coal Mining and Steel have done substantial work and the progress made is quite satisfactory. In some Task Forces, like Building and Appliances, the work is just beginning to pick up and, in a few other sectors, the progress has been slow due to various reasons including, the non-availability of funding. This issue is crucial because various projects are not taking off simply due to the non-availability of adequate funding. We hope that this issue is addressed comprehensively at the earliest and that we tie up funding for the various projects under consideration.

Indeed, now is the time for introspection. We should see whether we are on the right track. Also, we have to explore ways and means to strengthen the Partnership to enable it to deliver quick and tangible results. In the next two days, we will be happy to discuss all such issues and cooperate fully with the member Governments in making the APP a success.

Thank You.