

Speech on the Launch of the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network

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Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great privilege to be invited by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the Oxford Department of International Development. This symposium is a good platform for various countries to exchange the application of the multidimensional poverty measures. We value the symposium as a valuable learning opportunity.

According to the international poverty line of the World Bank – \$1.25 per day at 2005 purchasing power parity (PPP), China lifted 662 million people out of poverty between 1981 and 2008, making outstanding contribution to the global poverty reduction, and taking the lead in realizing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals of halving the poverty population. The task of China's poverty reduction is still arduous and onerous. According to China's current poverty line, and the commuted value of the purchasing power parity issued by the World Bank in 2005, it is equivalent to \$1.8 per day. At present, China has nearly 100 million poverty populations.

In 2011, the Chinese Government promulgated a new 10-year Outline on the Development-oriented Poverty Reduction for China's Rural Areas between 2011 and 2020. Under the general objective of "building overall well-off society", the outline determined the multidimensional poverty reduction objective: "realizing that the poor populations don't worry about clothing and foods, guaranteeing their compulsory education,

basic health care and housing". The outline also focused on 12 tasks of poverty reduction involving economy, society and environment. Now I would like to introduce China's poverty identification, poverty monitoring and poverty reduction work as follows.

1. Poverty Identification

China's poverty identification is divided into two types: the object without labor capacity in need of minimum living guarantee and related poverty relief; and the object with labor capacity in need of development-oriented poverty support. The minimum living guarantee can maintain the subsistence, while the poverty reduction can promote the development. Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China is in charge of the minimum living guarantee. The State Council Leading Group of Poverty Alleviation and Development is in charge of the development-oriented poverty reduction. Now I will focus on the development-oriented poverty reduction.

China's poverty identification is based on the national poverty line set by the central government, which is the minimum standard. The local government can also set the provincial poverty line according to the actual situation, but no less than the national standard. Current national poverty line is the constant price of the year 2010 - the annual per capita net income of the rural resident 2,300 Yuan. Currently, 17 provinces carry out the national poverty line, and 14 relatively-developed provinces higher than the national standard. It is an income-based unidimensional standard.

2. Poverty Monitoring

China's poverty monitoring is a hierarchical multidimensional monitoring system. "Hierarchical" refers to that the monitoring objects include poverty household, poverty village, poverty county, concentrated special poverty region, etc. "Multidimensional" refers to that the monitoring dimensions involve economy, society, environment, etc.

In the economic dimension, it mainly monitors income and expense, industrial development, labor mobility, credit,

living standard and public infrastructure. In the social dimension, it mainly monitors education, health, minimum living allowance, pensions, gender equality, etc. In the environmental dimension, it mainly monitors living fuel, drinking water, sanitation, etc. Besides, the participation of the poverty reduction activity is monitored. The poverty status in the minority areas is monitored specially.

According to national household survey data, National Bureau of Statistics of China compiles *China Rural Poverty Monitoring Report* yearly.

3. Poverty Reduction Work

Since 1986, China has begun to set up the State Council consultation and coordination agency of poverty alleviation and development. The highest leading organ of the poverty alleviation and development is The State Council Leading Group of Poverty Alleviation and Development; the vice premier of the State Council acts as the head, and its members come from 34 related ministries and commissions. The office under the leadership of the Leading Group is in charge of the specific work. All provinces, prefectures and counties also set up the leading groups of poverty alleviation and development and related offices in charge of the development-oriented poverty work. The layout of the organizational framework mainly considers that the poverty relates to multiple dimensions of human development, and needs the participation of various government sectors. For example, Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development is in charge of dilapidated housing renovation of the poverty households. National poverty reduction work is boosted in accordance with the system of "Overall Arrangements of the Central Government, Overall Responsibility of the Province, and Actual Implementation of the County", and also focuses on the joint participation of whole social forces.

In conclusion, although our poverty identification is based on the income, the poverty monitoring and the poverty reduction work are mostly based on multiple dimensions. We are desired to learn the measuring methods of the multidimensional poverty from Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and good experience from other countries, with view to perfecting China's poverty

identification.

Currently, International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) is doing research into "Space Information System for the National Development-oriented Poverty Reduction" based on the measuring methods of multidimensional poverty. The system uses three major dimensions: economy, society and environment, applies 3S technology- satellite remote sensing, geographic information and Global positioning system, and develops GIS system. The system is able to support poverty identification, poverty monitoring and impact assessment accurately.

Thank you all!