



Opening Statement

Ms. Jiang Xiaohong
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Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources of China, as the co-organizer of this UNGGIM International Seminar on Effective Land Administration, to extend our warm welcome to all the participants from home and abroad. My appreciation goes to the United Nations Statistics Division, China Land Science Society, and the People’s Government of Deqing County for your great and joint efforts to make this event take place here today. I would also like to thank all of you in this room for your coming to participate in the discussions on the topic of land administration and management, which is no doubt a critical issue for sustainable development of all countries and the world.

With the rapid land use change taking place almost everywhere and caused by economic development, climate change, urbanization, growth in the demand for raw materials, and the need to feed the growing population, we have come to recognize the importance of effective land administration. In many countries, poorly managed processes of urban expansion, concentration of poverty in slums, lack of clarity on land rights, and resulting conflicts over land, reveal serious problems in how land is managed. The improper land uses under ineffective land administration and management may lead to irreversible and disastrous consequences, such as urban sprawl, environment pollution, ecological degradation, and even social inequality and injustice. Effective land administration is essential for any country in the world. That is why sharing experience and lessons is particularly helpful. And that is why this seminar makes sense.

As the country with the biggest population, scarce land resource, as well as drastic urbanization and industrialization, China has been faced with severe pressure in dealing with the people-to-land relationships. Over the past 30 years or so, land administration has been developing well in China with an increasingly strong position in the government. In 1986 the National Land Administration was established. In 1998 it became the Ministry of Land and Resources. And this year we have the Ministry of Natural Resources, with more integrated and comprehensive functions, expanding from land and mineral resources to all natural resources and from land data to all geospatial data. The land administration in China has formed a broad range of missions, including land cover and land use survey, cadastral survey, unified property registration, spatial planning, urban planning, land valuation and land market, farmland conservation and ecological restoration, which are aimed to fulfill the goal of effective and efficient use of all kinds of natural resources for harmonious development of the economy, society and environment.

With the restructuring of the central government of China from early this year, the functions of different ministries have been adjusted according to the vision of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development. The Ministry of Natural Resources has launched a series of new reform initiatives.

- The Third National Land Survey is now under implementation with a more comprehensive scheme.
- The unified property registration system has been put in place institutionally from the central to local government levels.



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- The unified spatial planning system is set to be established, aiming to integrate the various plans with spatial attributes into one. These various plans used to be scattered in different ministries, such as the major function zone plan, the urban and rural development plan, and the overall land use plan. The control lines for urban development, prime farmland, and ecological conservation areas will be clearly defined on the spatial plan to address the issues of urban sprawl, food security and environment protection.
- The pilot projects for policy reforms on rural residential land, land expropriation, and rural-urban land market unification have been implemented in 31 provinces and municipalities in China with a view to increasing farmers’ income, improving rural livelihood, and eliminating rural poverty.

The Chinese government has been making unremitting efforts to improve its land administration and management system. To share the experience gained and lessons learned, we have invited some Chinese experts from the central and local government agencies as well as academia to join us in this seminar. I encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity to exchange concepts, ideas and practices.

In conclusion, I wish the UN-GGIM Seminar on effective land administration a great success. And I wish all of you have a pleasant stay in Deqing. In less than two months, the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress is going to be held here from November 19-21. As the host, I look forward to welcoming you back to Deqing then.

Thank you.