

Celebration of China's 65th National Day
Meydenbauer Theater
Bellevue
September 18, 2014 (as prepared)

Thank you. First I would like to express a warm welcome to two old friends from the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco: Consul General Gao and Consul General Peng. It is wonderful to see you both again. During your respective times in post you each served with excellence, style and poise. We welcomed you many times as you visited the state of Washington as part of your official duties. I am most happy that you are both here at tonight's celebration of China's 65th National Day.

Washington state has been one of the main beneficiaries since the normalization of U.S.-China relations in 1979. This is due both to our close proximity to China and the fact that we have a lot to offer each other in trade, education and culture. Over the next two to three decades since normalization our economies became much more closely connected.

By the time I made my first trip to China as lieutenant governor in 1997, China was well on its way to becoming a modernized, industrialized nation. Quite frankly my perceptions of China were shattered on that first mission, just as they have been each time I've been back. China is not a stereotype of water buffalo in rice fields, it is one of tall skyscrapers, industrious cities, state-of-the-art transportation systems and bustling factories. China is now an economic power house with a commanding presence throughout the world economy.

Washington state-China ties in the aerospace industry have been especially beneficial. Over the years the Boeing company has sold a lot of airplanes to China, most of which were manufactured in Washington. More than half of China's fleet of aircrafts were made by Boeing.

Boeing now forecasts that China will need 5,580 new airplanes worth more than \$780 billion over the next 20 years, making China the company's largest airplane customer. But it is not one-way trade with Boeing at all. The company has invested heavily in China, and now more than 7,000 Boeing airplanes fly around the world with parts and assemblies built in China.

Our trade relationship goes beyond airplanes. It reaches from electronics, software and technology; real estate, automobile exports, engineering and architectural services, energy, agriculture, advanced manufacturing and the common exchange of general goods and services. In 2013, China accounted for 20 percent of all of our exports. Adding it all up, China is now our state's leading trading partner.

China is an important source for educational exchanges too. More than 100,000 American students study in China now, and thousands of Chinese students are studying here in America, including several thousand in Washington state. As a small example, my office has been involved in helping to bring dozens of students from the Sichuan Province to Green River Community College and Clover Park Technical College to study air traffic control and aircraft maintenance.

There have been many cultural exchanges through the years, particularly in the arts. The outstanding performance today by the Quanzhou art and dance troupe is just the latest. A few years ago we were amazed by an incredible performance of the Chinese Disabled People's

Performing Arts Troupe in Seattle. There have been many exchanges of art, photography and theater too.

Over the years we have developed many friendships and government to government relationships within China. On October 11 we will mark the 32nd anniversary of our formal friendship agreement with the Sichuan Province signed in 1982.

In 1983 the City of Seattle established a sister city relationship with Chongqing, one of eight we have with cities in China. This Seattle to Chongqing relationship has flourished, in fact it was just named “best overall” for 2014 by Sister Cities International. These exchanges facilitate business, friendship and greater understanding between our people.

So it is today that we celebrate an important anniversary for China, but as we reflect back we must also look ahead. If the past 65 years is any reflection on our future with China, we will have a future that will be very bright, mutually prosperous and beneficial.

Congratulations to China on this happy celebration of its National Day. And thanks to everyone here for your part in making the story of Washington and China relationships a successful one.