

Dear Mr. Nii Odunton, Ambassador Satya Nandan, Mr. Jia Guide, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

First of all, on behalf of CIMA and Prof. Zhiguo GAO, I'd like to extend my warmest welcome to all distinguished guests, new and old friends.

My sincere thanks go to ISA represented by Mr. Nii Odunton, for your trust in CIMA, inviting CIMA to co-organize this important Workshop.

Last week, CIMA and the Second Institute of Oceanography (SIO) co-organized the Third International Symposium on Scientific and Legal Aspects of The Regimes of the Continental Shelf and the Area. Many distinguished gentlemen seated on the podium and in the room attended the said Symposium. My team and myself are greatly honored to have opportunity to serve you again. Also, we are greatly honored and are ready to provide local Secretariat service to all participants, new and old friends.

Besides, we have made a special arrangement for all participants to pay a one-day visit to Tianjin, the third biggest city of China, for you to relax a little bit in the course of intense discussion at the Workshop.

I wish all distinguished participants a pleasant stay in Beijing, and I also wish this Workshop a great success! Thank you.

Dr. Zhang Haiwen

Deputy Director-General

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State Oceanic Administration (SOA)