

**Opening Remarks at the International Workshop on  
Prefabricated Housing from Bamboo Based Panels  
24 November 2005, Beijing**

Dear participants, ladies and gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to open and address the International Workshop on Prefabricated Housing from Bamboo Based Panels. On behalf of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, I would like to take this opportunity to express our warm welcome to all participants from different parts of the world and our sincere thanks to those who have helped INBAR in workshop preparation.

As we all know that bamboo is very fast growing and renewable natural resource, cheap, environmentally friendly and locally available. With stable strength and unique structural properties, bamboo based panels have great potentials in its industrial application as engineered building materials. Prefabricated housing from Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) has been widely used in the developed world, and mobile pack-flat bamboo module houses could make big difference in disaster relief, emergencies as well as in refugee settlement, particularly in the developing world.

For those who are still new to us, INBAR is an intergovernmental international organization currently with 30 member countries and headquartered in Beijing, China. Its mission focuses primarily on environmental conservation, poverty eradication and economic development through international cooperation in sustainable development of the bamboo and rattan sectors. In cooperation with its major donors and other bilateral and multilateral organizations, INBAR has been implementing field projects in our member countries in the above-mentioned 3 focal areas. As far as the issue of housing is concerned, INBAR has been a strong supporter and promoter of the bamboo housing initiative, including development of prefabricated houses. INBAR has built demonstrational model bamboo houses in Asia and Latin America and will do so shortly in Africa. INBAR bamboo

building code was approved by the International Organization for Standardization in mid-2004 and Bamboo Scaffolding Code is currently in the process of approval by the ISO.

Considering the great potentials and increasing importance of prefabricated bamboo housing, INBAR is convening this international workshop firstly to identify the market needs, constraints and end uses for bamboo-based panels, secondly to develop partnership and explore possibilities for a large programme on the mobile pack-flat bamboo module housing for emergency and disaster relief, and thirdly to demonstrate the cost effective and labor and energy efficient module house built from bamboo-based panels.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The stage is now erected. All participants are expected to bring your roles into full play in this multi-culture, participatory technical meeting. Only with your full participation, can the workshop be a total success.

Finally, I wish everyone a pleasant stay in Beijing.

Thank you all.

Zhimin Wu,

Deputy Director of General

International Network for Bamboo and Rattan