

Remarks of

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## Speech on the Holy See National Day

Your Excellency Secretary General Paul Tighe, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends:

It's a great pleasure to attend the Holy See National Day at this flourishing and prosperous season. On behalf of the Organizer of the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all the distinguished guests who have come afar and my highest congratulations to the hosting of the Holy See National Day.

In August 2016 The Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations sent out invitation to the Holy See to participate in Beijing Expo. On May 22, 2017, The Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations replied and confirmed the Holy See's participation in Beijing Expo via verbal note. Both Chinese and Holy See sides had good cooperation re Holy See's participation in Beijing Expo since then. The Holy See Commissioner General Cardinal Ravasi, Secretary General Paul Tighe attended the Opening Ceremony of Beijing Expo by invitation. The Holy See Deputy Commissioner General Monsignor Tomasz Trafny visited China many times and held talks with Chinese side re participation and pavilion construction. The Theme of Beijing Expo is Live Green, Live Better. The Holy See Pavilion combines elements of soil, water, fountain and tree to display Vatican's unique architectural style, echoing the main theme of Beijing Expo, and reflecting one of the five sub-themes of Beijing Expo, entitled: "Home of Hearts". Now some participating countries, including the Holy See, proposed to donate their gardens or pavilions to China after closing of Beijing Expo, which we sincerely welcome.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends, Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition is an international event for countries to share the fruits of ecological civilization and strengthen green development

cooperation. In his opening speech, President Xi Jinping issued an initiative to build a beautiful Earth together and a community with a shared future for all mankind, which has received positive responses from the international community.

The theme of the Holy See National Day seminar is *Innovation and Protection: towards environmental challenges*, presenting how to apply technologies to make environment better and how to protect nature. The workshops in the afternoon are aimed to inspire children to be aware about the beauty of nature and to establish the concept that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets and to realize the importance of environmental protection.

Civilization becomes colorful on the basis of communication, turns rich and varied due to mutual learning. Beijing Expo calls on people to respect nature and touch souls with nature, and to pursue a beautiful life. Beijing Expo is not only an exchange bond between China and other countries around the world in horticulture culture, but also a concrete platform to share the latest fruits of green development, promote international exchanges, and enhance understanding and friendship between participating countries. We will take Beijing Expo as an opportunity to spread green development philosophy to every corner of the world and jointly protect the earth which is the sole homeland of mankind.

Finally, I wish the Holy See National Day event a complete success! I wish you all good health!

Thank you!