



THE LEADING AUTHORITY ON TROPICAL TIMBER

In English

Mr. Robert Hunink, President of ATIBT

Mr. Luo Xin Ping, president of the Hardwood Committee of CTWPDA
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
Colleagues,
Friends,

Ni Hǎo

On behalf of our organization ATIBT, the International Technical Tropical Timber Organization, I would like to thank CTWPDA for having invited us to Huzhou to take part in your Global Wood Flooring conference, as well as the Global Sustainable Hardwood Conference. This is a unique opportunity for

the members of both our organizations to meet in order to exchange views of importance for the future of our industry and to better understand your ideas and needs, but also to inform you about our possibilities as regards supply of tropical and temperate timber species to China.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we had an important conference in Shanghai. A conference co-organized between ATIBT, ITTO, GGSC and your organization, CTWPDA. During this two-day meeting we discussed many topics that are of great concern for all of us on this planet, like how to combat climate change, the destruction of tropical rainforests or ways to clean up our supply chains. Supply chains in which there is no place for illegal timber.

Ladies and gentlemen, our organization, ATIBT, stands for a sustainable, ethical and legal tropical wood industry, where we promote wood as a renewable natural resource and an essential commodity for socio-economic development in producer countries.

Even though our organization has existed for more than sixty-five years, we are not pretending to have solutions for all the challenges tropical forests are facing today. However, we are anxious to work towards achieving a global green supply chain for the benefit of all stakeholders. We are also ready to share our know-how when it comes to sustainable forest management and legal supply.

To this end, we are very pleased that in Shanghai two days ago an agreement was signed between two Gabon based federations, one with primarily Chinese forest operators as members and one with the traditional European forest operators. It was agreed that within three years all operators will work according to sustainable forest management practices and have their operations third party certified. Of course, we do hope that this example will be followed in other African Congo Basin countries.

At ATIBT we believe that we can learn much from one another not only in the area of forest management and certification, but also when it comes to manufacturing.

Yesterday we had an opportunity to visit two flooring productions and every participant was immensely impressed not only by the sheer size of the operations, but also by the production processes, efficiency, safety measures, research and development, etc.

I therefore would like to use this opportunity to thank Mr. Zhang of Treessun Flooring and Mr. Xi of Sunyard Flooring for the hospitality that was accorded to us.

The signing this morning of a Memorandum of Understanding between CTWPDA and ATIBT is a great opportunity to start working together, share information and know-how and understand each other's needs when it comes to timber supplies.

As president Liu of CTWPDA mentioned in his speech "let's work together" and by doing so, I am convinced we can achieve that what is so necessary: Global Green Supply Chains.

Thank you - Xiè Xiè