

FORUM ON MARINE TECHNOLOGY AND OCEAN ENGINEERING

Chinese Academy of Engineering and Portuguese Academy of Engineering

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Welcome Speech and Opening Remarks by

Sebastião Feyo de Azevedo, President of the Portuguese Academy of Engineering

Good morning, everybody.

First of all, I would like to express my immense satisfaction in addressing these opening words to you.

Special satisfaction in this world that is clearly shrinking, in the face of the immense advances in science and technology, and I am specifically thinking of transport and communications, in which, more than ever in the history of humanity, we have to communicate, understand different cultures, and cooperate, thinking about human development and peace.

This desideratum is part of the Mission of the Academy of Engineering. Therefore, with particular pleasure and enthusiasm we actively engaged in this organization and here we are, with great expectation regarding the scientific and technical debate that will take place, but also with enthusiasm as we place today an important stone in the construction of the future, and I refer to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between our Academies, in this very open session.

It is within this framework of cooperation and in this vision of the future that I express vivid words of welcome to this extraordinary delegation of academic colleagues, scientists, and Industry personalities linked to the Academy of Engineering of the People's Republic of China.

And I do so, allow me, in the person of Vice-President Professor Jianfeng Chen, to thank the entire Delegation for this investment of a working trip of more than 10,000 km, certainly less difficult than the one that Jorge Álvares made in 1513, when he landed on the island of Tamão, as it is known in historical Portuguese, known in English as Tunmen or Tuen Mun, in the Pearl River delta, near Guangzhou. Less difficult a trip, but still demanding. Many thanks for this effort.

So, today, just another milestone on this journey of more than 500 years of relationship between our countries.

But other special words of recognition are needed:

To His Excellency the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Portugal, Yang Yirui, for the way the Embassy has supported this organization, highlighting a special word for Mrs.

Lin Huang, First Secretary and Head of the Science and Technology Group of the Embassy, who has been in all this organization with remarkable professionalism.

To the Ordem dos Engenheiros, whom I thank in the person of its Vice-President and my esteemed friend Engineer Jorge Liça, today representing the President, for all the support provided. I am particularly pleased to see the presence of Vice-President Dina Dimas, a specialist in Naval and Ocean Engineering, and a member of CENTEC, as well as the two members of the Admission and Qualification Council of the Ordem, from the branch of Naval Engineering, Engineers Victor Gonçalves de Brito and Bento Domingues.

To the Board of the Academy, in the person of my Colleague Eng. Luis Machado, from whom I receive all the support in our activity.

Then, of course, to the Scientific Coordinators of this event who set up this excellent Programme, Professor Xinping Yan, from Wuhan University of Technology, distinguished Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) and Professor Carlos Guedes Soares, from Técnico, University of Lisbon and CENTEC, Center for Marine Technology and Ocean Engineering, himself a distinguished Member of the Portuguese Academy of Engineering (PAE).

And, in the person of these colleagues, all my gratitude to the speakers of this Forum, for the investment of time and work and for what they will help us to think the future

Also, to the participants, who, with their comments, will give shine to the debates.

Still, to all the employees of the Academy of Engineering, the Order of Engineers and CENTEC for their precious support to the organization.

Of course, last but not least, we owe a deep thanks to the Huawei Tech Portugal Company, in the person of its CEO, Mr. Hao Wu, who provided us with exclusive sponsorship, fundamental to the success of this event. A sign that Huawei is also betting on this cooperation between China and Portugal.

I can only renew my vote of success for this initiative... at the end of the day, I will make my own assessment, but I tell you in advance that I expect a lot, not only from the scientific and technical contributions, but also from the networking that will take place.

Done. Many Thanks for your attention.