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Dear Participants:

I am pleased to extend my greetings to the organizers and participants of the first *International Conference of China City Planning and Development* / third annual *Conference of the China Planning Network* — a three-day event sponsored jointly by the Chinese Ministry of Construction and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Since the 1980s, China has experienced an unprecedented process of urbanization and has faced issues similar to those encountered during the history of urban development in the West, including urban transportation, housing, sustainable development, and regional cooperation. In the coming decades, China is expected to jump from 40- to 60-percent urbanized and to grow in population from 1.3 billion to 1.6 billion, with nearly 400 million people flooding into its cities.

Most urban and regional planning education in the United States has remained domestically oriented, but in contrast to this trend, MIT is engaged on every continent. In particular, the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning has devoted substantial resources to the study of urban planning and development in China and has come to the realization that the impact of rapid urbanization in China penetrates every corner of its social life and transforms urban planning both in its practice as a profession and in its discourse as an intellectual discipline.

The China Planning Network has become a significant way for students, faculty, and practitioners in the West to engage in the rapidly changing development scene in China. Through the efforts of the China Planning Network, MIT and its Department of Urban Studies and Planning continues to bring advanced knowledge in urban planning and development to bear on China's urbanization challenges.

I wish you great success with this conference and in your efforts to build stronger bridges between planning practices in China and planning research and education communities in the West.

Sincerely,

Susan Hockfield

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