Mr. Chairman, dear guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is a great pleasure to be invited to this conference by Secretary General Supachai Panitchpakdi and share with you some of my personal views on technological innovation and sustainable urban development.

Cities are key places of socio-economic development, the cradle for technological innovation and the base for dissemination of innovation achievements. The human society ushered in an era of cities in 2008 when the urban population exceeded 50% of the world's total for the first time in history. Rapid urbanization and industrialization have brought mankind great civilization and progress. However, in the meantime, most cities are experiencing such problems as burgeoning population, environmental pollution, traffic congestion, resource scarcity and urban poverty, which have imposed unprecedented pressure and challenge on man's social development. Discussion on the future of cities has thus become a global issue and attracted high attention of all countries throughout the world.

From early summer to mid-autumn in 2010, the first registered world expo themed on city was successfully staged in Shanghai, China. During the 184 days, 190 countries and 56 international organizations including the United Nations gathered in the expo park, attracting over 70 million spectators, a record high in the expo history. Behind these numbers are the exhibitions, events and forums of the Shanghai Expo which presented to the 1.3 billion Chinese people the success stories and leading theories in urban development from countries throughout the world. They provided valuable references and practices in sustainable development to Shanghai and cities in other developing countries in the areas of transforming the development model, promoting technological innovation, improving social governance, and capacity building in comprehensive urban services. I still recall the visit of Secretary General Supachai to the expo park and his excellent speech at the forum themed on "science and technology innovation and urban future". He contributed a lot to the "successful, wonderful and unforgettable" Shanghai Expo.

Ladies and gentlemen, each and every one of us know that future cities depend on seeking sustainable solutions. Technological innovation is the major driver for this quest. In an era of rapid advancement of science and technology, every round of fast urban development is propelled by major science and technology breakthroughs, and the role of innovation

becomes , increasingly more important. The information and communications technologies (ICT) have fundamentally changed our way of living and interaction. And the new technological revolution featuring alternative energy, new materials, bio-tech and digitized manufacturing may shape new driving forces for urban development in the human history. As city managers, we must make our due contribution to promoting science and technology as well as sustainable urban development.

We should make concerted efforts in the following aspects:

First, promote sustainable urban development through innovation-driven economic transformation.

The price spike of commodities such as oil and minerals, as well as rising challenges in environmental protection and global climate change in recent years have proved that traditional development model at the expense of excessive natural resource consumption and damages to ecological environment cannot be sustained any longer. In the face of global energy crisis, low carbon technologies and green development have become important solutions to sustainable urban development. Experiences of many countries have shown that applying ICT and cutting-edge technologies in energy saving, emission reduction,

alternative energy and environmental protection, improving management and operational efficiency, economic transformation and changing people's lifestyle and behaviors can effectively alleviate energy, resource and environment pressure and realize sustainable socio-economic development.

Over the long-run, the fundamental solution lies in coordinated and integrated efforts in planning, transportation, construction, energy and environment, which coincides with the rise of strategic emerging industries.

Second, promote sustainable urban development through technological innovation and control of irrational urban expansion.

Aristotle once said, "People come to city for life and live in the city for the sake of a better life." Cities offer more job opportunities and choices, as well as better education, public services and healthcare. As a result, more and more people move to cities spontaneously, which serves as an inexhaustible driving force behind urbanization. However, limited space and resources and fragile ecological environment in cities have given rise to urban diseases. It's the indispensable duty of city managers to provide appropriate social benefits and relief, and help new migrants blend into urban life. Meanwhile, it is imperative to develop vigorously science and

technology, cap urban expansion under control and prevent urban sprawl to ease the pressure from urbanization.

For example, developing public transport systems and infrastructure, and promoting industrial upgrading and relocation can help reduce traffic congestions; changing existing energy mix, and boosting clean and renewable energy such as solar and wind can substantially relieve energy pressure; information and communications technologies, which break geographic boundaries, can make remote services in education, communication, conference and medical care a reality, and thus reduce commuting, business travel and traffic congestions.

Third, promote sustainable urban development through strengthened international cooperation and technology transfer.

Technological innovation is the key to cities' future. Innovation capacity is of vital importance to any country, no matter what development stage it is in. Capacity building in technological innovation requires more support in the application and expansion of existing technologies and knowledge as well as an enabling policy environment for the generation and application of new knowledge. In the meantime, entrepreneurship is needed to ensure successful commercialization of research results. Most developing countries are working hard to build their technological innovation capacity. However, in today's world, most of the research

findings and patents are owned by multinationals, and a large number of science and technology professionals also concentrate in labs of a few developed countries.

We should encourage the sharing and transfer of technological research results, especially those related to climate change, energy saving and environmental protection. We should encourage project-based collaboration among cities so as to respond with joint efforts to global crises and promote sustainable urban development.

Fourth, promote sustainable urban development by mitigating risks inherent in technology

Admittedly, in a market economy, science and technology may create new forms of inequality and ethical or even social conflicts should it be overly subjugated to market logic or rules despite the fact that market drives innovation. Therefore, to harness and consolidate technological resources to serve urban living and social progress and ultimately promote comprehensive development of mankind is the direction we should always stick to.

Broad application of modern technologies brings changes to cities almost every day and leads to a higher degree of complexity and detail-orientation in urban management and operation, and a minor misstep may cause catastrophic, systematic crisis. So, we should always have a clear

understanding and attach great importance to the risks in applying new technologies and get fully prepared to them from the very beginning.

A megacity with over twenty million people, Shanghai's future is mostly challenged by resource and environmental constraints and whether its economic transformation is successful. In response, Shanghai must resolutely open up to the outside world and strive for virtuous interaction between technological innovation and industrial upgrading with a focus on independent innovation while participating in global governance. Putting innovation and environment high on its agenda, Shanghai has been exploring the way to sustainable development that is suitable to its characteristics. It capitalized on preparing and hosting the World Expo to implement several three-year plans of action for environmental protection and strengthen cooperation with cities in the Yangtze River Delta as well as those in the rest of the world. As a result, Shanghai has scored meaningful progress in its energy conservation and emission reduction initiatives and markedly improved its environment.

Currently, with reference to international practices and oriented to independent innovation and application, Shanghai has put in place an open, cooperative innovation system featuring all factors of production, a rational framework, high operational efficiency, extensive interaction and

regional dynamics, and strives to become an R&D hub of the Asia-Pacific. In the near future, Shanghai will formulate more targeted policies to spur innovation, improve government service provision and management, build a generic technology service platform and make enterprises the principal player in technological innovation, with a view to turning itself into a vibrant city with an innovative spirit and high respect for science

In response to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, on the closing day of the World Expo 2010 Shanghai China, the UN, the BIE and the Organizing Committee of the Shanghai Expo jointly published the *Shanghai Declaration*, which proposes that October 31 be designated the World Cities Day to invite global attention to sustainable urban development and call for collaboration in building a green, ecological, livable, convenient and harmonious home for the whole humanity. Shanghai has been actively engaged in the application for the setting up of the World Cities Day and looks forward to the support from countries and international organizations of the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My job has taken me to many cities in the world which are beautiful in their own ways, but Geneva is always one of my favorites. Every time I come here, I will take a stroll by the Lac Léman. The snow-capped Mont

Blanc in the distance and the gentle waves clapping the banks make me almost forget I am in the second largest metropolis of Switzerland. I believe Geneva is a fine example of sustainable city that many other cities including Shanghai should learn from. Being here, we are constantly reminded that the ultimate goal of technological innovation is to achieve "Better City, Better Life", bringing to people a green and low-carbon urban life with greater convenience and comfort and translating dreams and visions into reality. To this end, let's join hands to work for a bright future of all cities in our world.

Thank you.