

International Conference on Bioenergy Utilization and Environment Protection  
6<sup>th</sup> LAMNET Workshop – Dalian, China 2003

**Conference Closing Address**

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Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Auditorium,

As you might see I changed my dress to a more formal one in order to underline the high value which I account to this LAMNET Conference and Workshop.

It was a pleasure for WIP as the coordinator of the project and the local organizers to welcome 54 Chinese delegates and 19 colleagues from abroad, 6 coming from the Latin America, 1 from South Africa and another 12 coming from Europe.

Today the value of the conference was supported by three presentations of high-level politicians and decision makers. President Prof. Hong, who is Member of the Standing Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Vice-Chairman of Central Committee of September 3<sup>rd</sup> Society, Vice-Director Mr. Tang of the Dalian Municipal Rural Economy Development Bureau and Director Mr. Zhao, Head of the China Social Economic Investigation and Research Center.

During the two-day sessions we heard many very interesting inputs on economical, political and technical issues for biomass for energy. It was pointed out and underlined by the discussion contributions that biomass is not only for food but also for energy and chemicals.

Which area of arable land was formerly utilized for transportation can be shown by some data which were published some weeks ago in a speech of the States Minister Mr. Miller for the Free State of Bavaria.

In statistics of 1914, just 100 years ago, in Southern Germany animal husbandry of farmers included 261 thousand oxen and 675 thousand cows. All of them were used for transportation – oxen and cows for example – to pull ploughs and carriages. Each of these animals was fed on approximately 1.5 ha of arable land. Accounting only half of this area to transportation with oxen and cows – because of their double utilization for meat and milk – approximately 25% of the total arable land in Bavaria was used to produce fuel for transportation. And the EU is discussing to attribute approximately 15% to this issue.

It was also pointed out that biomass is a renewable energy which is sustainable and environmentally friendly when handled correctly with regards to production, provision and transformation and that it is a storable energy source. That is to say that biomass is the best means to support the other renewable energy sources such as hydropower, photovoltaic and wind.

In order to summarize we can state that biomass for energy will help:

- to increase farmers income and living standard,
- to create new employment,
- to keep investments in the country,
- to compete against export of money for the import of oil,
- to reduce desertification as well as soil erosion,
- and last but not least to protect the environment of this single globe for the future coming generations.

Finally, I thank very much Prof. Wang MengJie, Ms. Yao XiangJun and all those who supported in organizing this Conference and also all the translators as I can imagine which efforts they have made.

Big hands and many thanks