

Address at the Opening Ceremony of 29th Intelligent Transport System World Congress

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Venue: Jinli Lake, Suzhou International Expo Center

Dear Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

Welcome to Suzhou! On behalf of the Ministry of Transport of the People's Republic of China, I welcome friends, entrepreneurs, scholars and officials from all over the world to have in-depth exchanges and discussions on the development of ITS. I would like to congratulate the successful convening of this world congress and expresses gratitude to the People's Government of Jiangsu Province and the Suzhou Municipal People's Government for their efforts in organizing this event. We also welcome all participants to the 29th ITS World Congress.

Transportation is the backbone of the economy and the link of civilization. President Xi Jinping once pointed out that building a sustainable transport system that are safe, convenient, efficient, green, economical, inclusive, and resilient is an important measure to promote high-quality economic and social development and realize the beautiful vision of "people enjoy their travel, goods flow smoothly". ITS is the most innovative and transformative aspect of sustainable transportation, and it is the most important technological force that can change our global production and lifestyle, promoting the development of

ITS is our common responsibility.

Over the past decade, China has entered a new era, and the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) has also entered a new phase of development, achieving remarkable accomplishments that have attracted global attention. Two significant milestones stand out.

First, ITS has transitioned from a concept to a reality, just as mentioned in the promotional video, making incredible ideas a part of our daily lives. Through data-driven technologies, we have enabled 26 million daily trips through ride-hailing services, and 28 million daily trips using shared bicycles. We have actively promoted the development of intelligent transportation by establishing 18 national-level ITS demonstration zones and opening 20,000 kilometers of intelligent lanes across 30 provinces. Cities like Beijing, Wuhan, Guangzhou, and Suzhou have begun practical applications of ITS. We have issued 3,000 licenses of automated vehicles, and they have started trial operations in these cities. Automated ports, represented by Shanghai Port, Qingdao Port, Shenzhen Port, and Tianjin Port, have improved operational efficiency and transformed the existing logistics network, further enhancing the level of automation.

In addition, significant advancements have been made in intelligent transportation systems, including intelligent rail represented by China's high-speed trains, intelligent logistics and smart postal services represented by unmanned delivery, and intelligent maritime transport and navigation represented by electronic waterways. It can be said that after a decade of development, intelligent transportation systems has entered countless households and transformed from an idea into a reality.

Second, we maintain close cooperation with the global community. This includes hosting the 29th ITS World Congress today, which is part of our efforts. We actively participate in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to

establish technical standards for intelligent communication. We collaborate with governments and businesses from countries such as Japan, South Korea, ASEAN, and Germany to promote the development of ITS standards, research and development of products, and exchange of technology. Just last month, the Ministry of Transport signed a government-to-government agreement with Singapore to accelerate the development of intelligent transportation systems. In addition, we successfully hosted the second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference. Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the conference and proposed five points to deepen global transport cooperation. We have established the China International Center for Sustainable Transportation Innovation and Knowledge, with the aim of enhancing global transport cooperation and making new contributions to implementing global development initiatives, achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Innovation is the DNA of ITS industry development, and international cooperation and exchange are indispensable environments for innovation. We hope that this congress will bring together experts and professionals from around the globe to freely discuss the development of ITS and envision its future. We have three proposals:

First and foremost, we must adhere to our development direction. "People enjoying their travel and goods flowing smoothly" is the shared vision of humanity for transportation development, and it is our goal. Constructing a ITS system with features of safe, convenient, efficient, green, economical, inclusive, and resilient is a crucial characteristic of our development. We hope that people from all walks of life, especially around the safety of development, you can contribute idea. As we have entered an era of parallel development between manual driving and autonomous driving, it is essential for us to collaborate in

policies, laws, technologies, and standards to ensure the continued and healthy development of ITS.

Secondly, we must persist in the innovation-driven direction. ITS requires a favorable business environment. The hosting of the 29th ITS World Congress in Suzhou signifies that global efforts towards ITS development have spanned nearly 30 years. Over these three decades, we have achieved strategic visions and frameworks for ITS development. Now, it is crucial to align with these visions and unite in innovation, focusing on emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and 6G communication, as well as new business models. Together, we can drive innovation forward.

Thirdly, we must keep in mind of the principle of "transportation connects the world". Without international cooperation and exchange, nor the collision and sharing of ideas, the future development of ITS would not be possible. We hope for the active participation and collaborative efforts of government officials, industry representatives, experts, and scholars from around the world, including colleagues from ITS associations in the Americas, Asia, and Europe. We also seek to use the China International Sustainable Transportation Innovation Platform for deepening international cooperation. As emphasized by President Xi Jinping, China is willing to work together with other countries, upholding the concepts and principles of joint construction, consultation, and shared benefits. By doing so, we can better utilize the achievements of sustainable transportation development to benefit people worldwide. I believe that hosting this significant event in Suzhou will have a profound impact on the development of ITS.

Suzhou is a city with a rich historical and cultural background. It is also a modern city known for its innovation and openness. By hosting the ITS Congress in Suzhou, Suzhou should combine industry, scientific research,

government, education, industry and research, and coordinate international and domestic resources. We believe that through this ITS World Congress, participants can come together to discuss the future development of ITS, establish global mechanisms for ITS advancement, and share the achievements of ITS development. Let us join hands to create a better life with intelligent transportation systems and write a new chapter in Suzhou. Thank you all !