



## PRIME MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

### Opening of the Suzhou Huasu Plastics Company

Shanghai, 9 November 1995

It gives me great pleasure to be present here today at the official inauguration of the Suzhou Huasu Plastics Company.

One important feature of China's policy of modernization is the encouragement sent to foreign investors to engage with Chinese partners in joint ventures.

This has been a successful approach. Thousands of joint ventures are playing a vital role in China's economic life. Today, we can add one more to the list, in which the Norwegian company Norsk Hydro is playing a major role.

Norsk Hydro is the flagship of Norway's industrial development in this century. It has been a front-runner in technological development, industrial entrepreneurship and international talent.

This is the first major venture where Norsk Hydro has an equity share in China. The company's ambition is to take this as an opportunity to learn more about the Chinese market. If the experience is successful, Norsk Hydro is ready to invest further.

That will have an impact, because traditionally, where Norsk Hydro paves the way, more Norwegian companies follow.

Norsk Hydro's contribution to this industrial plant means a technological step forward. Over the years, Norsk Hydro has adapted its activities to stringent environmental requirements in Norway.

That also covers their broad activities in the petrochemical industry. By providing their technological knowhow, Norsk Hydro will considerably shorten China's own transition to sustainable industrial activities.

There are similarities between the Norwegian Government's strategic plan for Asia and that of Norsk Hydro.

We both aim at long term relations. We both aim at encouraging broader contacts between Norway and China, such as in the industrial and cultural field. And we both believe that increased industrial cooperation will bring gains to both sides.

I am convinced that this fine company will set its mark on an important industrial sector in China and follow the encouragement of the Minister of Chemical Industry, Madame Gu, to take a more active role in the development of China's petrochemical industry.

This is the second time in two months that I visit a Norsk Hydro inauguration in Asia. We are ready to come back for a third time. It is a pleasure for me once again to wish Norsk Hydro, the other participants in

this joint venture and all the men and women working at this industrial plant, the best of luck in their future activities.