

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME,  
H.E. RUNALDO RONALD VENETIAAN  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONFERMENT OF A DECORATION TO THE  
AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, H.E. SU GE  
ON 26 JUNE 2009**

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Mr. Ambassador,  
Mr. Speaker of the National Assembly,  
Mr. Vice President of the Republic of Suriname,  
Members of the Council of Ministers  
Members of the National Assembly,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Dignitaries,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ambassador Su Ge,

The Republic of Suriname and the People's Republic of China enjoy longstanding relations of friendship and cooperation based on mutual understanding and respect, notwithstanding the very relevant differences in the development conditions and strategies of our two countries and peoples.

Indeed, the relations between our two countries have over the years developed into a serious bond of friendship, mutual benefit and mutual support for our respective national principles and aspirations, among which we mention the One China Principle of the People's Republic of China and the Principles of Freedom and Democracy of the Republic of Suriname.

The diplomatic mission of China in Suriname has significantly contributed to the further development and the deepening of the bilateral relations between the Republic of Suriname and the People's Republic of China.

You Ambassador, you have truly carried out your responsibility to maintain and enhance the level and quality of our bilateral relations, in an honourable way.

In this regard I would like to mention some of the achievements realised during your tenure in Suriname:

- The continuation of the programme for scholarships, training courses and seminars as well as the military programme offered by your government.
- Various infrastructural projects, such as the construction of the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dalian III rehabilitation and construction of asphalt roads project and the realisation of the Low Cost Housing Project at Tout Lui Faut.
- The high level visits of Mr. Li Chanchun, prominent member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and of the Director General of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs, Mr. Zeng Gang.
- The visit of a high level Surinamese delegation led by the Vice President of the Republic of Suriname and the working visit of the Chairman of the National Assembly of Suriname, to their colleagues in the People's Republic of China.
- The loans and grants within the framework of economic and technical cooperation between our two countries.

The achievements which I have just mentioned are only some of the many projects and activities you have managed to realize during these years that you have been appointed Ambassador to Suriname.

These achievements have been made possible by your Government and through your intervention, notwithstanding a number of dramatic setbacks your country suffered, such as unprecedented low temperatures, a very heavy earthquake and floodings, notwithstanding also the high responsibility to host the 2008 Olympic Games, including the Special Olympics and the Para Olympics, in China.

Mr. Ambassador,

You succeeded in opening your own heart and the heart of your Government to grant the Government and People of Suriname the opportunity, to express their solidarity with the Chinese People in the days of adversity and to participate in the joy of the Celebration of the 2008 Olympics Games in Beijing and the Special Olympics in Sjangghai.

On behalf of the Government and People of Suriname I wish to express our deep appreciation for your valuable contribution. May I also include your spouse, Mrs. Li Jing, in this expression of appreciation.

Ambassador Su Ge,

On the basis of your merits as Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Suriname and for your devotion to the strengthening of the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, I appoint you **Bearer of the Grand Sash of the Honorary Order of the Palm.**