

**Address by the President of the Republic of Suriname,
His Excellency Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan,
on the occasion of the Presentation of Credentials by
the Ambassador of China, His Excellency Yuan Nansheng
on 8 September 2009.**

Mr. Ambassador,

I am very pleased to welcome you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Suriname.

I thank you for the personal greetings and good wishes you have conveyed to me on behalf of His Excellency Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China.

Suriname and China have gradually enhanced the level of their bilateral cooperation. Over the years, various bilateral activities were carried out, among which the Anthony Nesty Sports Complex and the new Headquarter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Your Government also provided assistance to the implementation of infrastructural projects, the purchase of equipment for the Customs in the Port of Paramaribo and to the Low Cost Housing Project.

At regional level, Suriname and China are partners in the China – Caribbean Mechanism and the China – Caribbean Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum.

These mechanisms have proved to be an excellent opportunity to broaden and deepen the scope of technical, financial and other forms of cooperation between China and the Caribbean region.

This cooperation becomes even more relevant, considering the effects on small states like Suriname, of the current trends in the global economy, the ongoing process of climate change and the emerging new political landscape in our World.

No country is immune to these developments and it is of vital importance for Suriname and China to intensify their cooperation in order to improve their position at international level.

The Government of Suriname wishes to express its consistent support to the “One China” principle in its policy at national, regional and international level.

Mr. Ambassador,

Your Government has assigned you with the challenging task to further enhance the relations between our countries. I am convinced that your professional experience, insights and dedication will facilitate you in meeting this challenge. I wish you success during your tenure. You may rest assured of the full support of the Government of Suriname in carrying out your assignment.

In conclusion, I avail myself of this opportunity to send my regards and best wishes to President, H.E. Hu Jintao, the Government and People of the People's Republic of China.