

A Speech at
The Commemoration of 60th Anniversary of the UN Programme on
Public Administration, Finance and Development
UN/DESA, April 16, 2008

The Honorable Chairman, Mr. Jocelyne Bourgon, President Emeritus
Canada School of Public Service;

H. E. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General For Economic and Social Affairs;

H. E. Ambassador Léo Mérorès (Haiti), President of ECOSOC;

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning!

It is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to attend the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the UN Programme on Public Administration, Finance and Development. As an old soldier used to serve this programme for 13 years, this ceremony makes all kinds of feelings well up in my heart.

I remember that my first mission, after I joined in this programme, was to go to Tanzania to review the needs of the Government in the use of IT. Immediately after I return to New York, Dr. J. P. Kipokola, on behalf of the Principal Secretary and Secretary to the Planning Commission of the Government of Tanzania, wrote a letter to the Resident Representative of UNDP Tanzania, and said: “We wish at the outset to thank and congratulate Dr. Zhou and your office for the initiative and for a job well done within such a short time. We are encouraged by the high standard of this report.” In this letter,

he also asked: “Could it be that Dr. Zhou needed to spend more time on Treasury computerization?”

In May 1994, Mr. Onder Yucer, Resident Representative of UNDP Zambia, wrote a letter to Mr. Bertucci, and said that “the Government is very much enthusiast about the findings and advice being provided by Mr. Zhou,, During this mission, I have come to realize the importance of UNDDSMS’s role as a cooperating agency in this process, and I am hereby requesting you to play this role.” Mr. Yucer also asked: “I would like you to consider releasing Mr. Zhou for regular visit to Zambia, we attach very much importance to his future visits.”

In April 1995, Dr. Hisham El Sherif, Director of Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Center (RITSEC), wrote a letter to Mr. Bertucci and said, Dr. Zhou’s “high professional experience, knowledge and dedication have made the mission a great success. His vision, views, and ideas for RITSEC future were very well taken by RITSEC management and the cosponsors UNDP/SFESD. ” In this letter, he also requested Mr. Bertucci to release me for two months every year, one month in Cairo and one month in New York, in order to provide technical advisory service to the project. ”

I think there are too many similar letters or faxes to be mentioned. Obviously, these letters or faxes are not only matters of the advisors serving this programme, but also prove how important and successful of the programme, in terms of meeting the needs and providing timely, substantive technical assistance to the governments.

Today, with the advent of the networked era, we are very happy to see that UN/DESA’s years’ efforts on the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) has been very successful, which has made UNPAN a very

well-known and useful global portal for public administration, and, so far as I know, many governments have benefited tremendously from UNPAN because through this portal they can enter into the public administration world whenever and wherever they want to learn all new development, new progress and new concepts in this significant field.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I believe that you all will agree with me that over the past 60 years, this Programme has been very helpful, useful and successful, and achieved its objectives very well and has become indispensable. And, we have all the reasons to expect that the Programme will be conducted even more successful for the coming 60 years.

Thank you for your attention.