



الهيئة العامة للإستثمار
Kuwait Investment Authority

Opening of the Kuwait Representative Office (KIRO) in
Beijing Welcoming Statement

By

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Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to return to Beijing.

This is an important occasion for the Kuwait Investment Authority; the opening of our Representative Office in Beijing. The Kuwait Investment Representative Office, KIRO, is the first ever overseas office since the establishment of the Kuwait Investment Office in London in 1953, nearly 60 years ago.

We are very grateful to all Chinese authorities for their kind support and full cooperation.

10 years ago, KIA's China exposure was only in Hong Kong. 5 years ago, we started investing in the Mainland as well as increased our investments in Greater China. From 2.2 billion US dollars, our investments have grown by nearly 5 times to 10 billion US dollars. Within 5 years, from zero investment in Mainland China, we now have 5.6 billion US dollars.

During this time, we are pleased to have participated as cornerstone investors in ICBC, Agricultural Bank of China and, most recently, in CITIC Securities. It is an honor for the KIA to be associated with such remarkable leading institutions.

Thank you for letting us become your partners.

The opening of KIRO in Beijing reflects the reality of the new world order. Wealth creation and accumulation has shifted from the West to the East; from the North to the South.

We have submitted our application to be considered as a Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor, QFII. Once again, we are extremely grateful for the cooperation and assistance which the KIA has received, and is receiving, from your authorities regarding this application.

The KIA is a stable, reliable and dependable partner with a long term investment horizon. We look at building relationships for the future. We do not exploit short term gains. Our actions during the recent global financial crises are the best proof.

When I was last in Beijing in May of this year, I spoke on a panel regarding the outlook for China's economy. At that time, I gave an informal comparison of Beijing with my country Kuwait.

In the past 4 months since my previous visit, Beijing has grown. Everything in China is large. In Kuwait, we count in millions. Here, you count in billions and trillions. Kuwait's population represents only 18% of Beijing's population. And if I only count the 1.1 million Kuwaitis, we would be only around 6% of Beijing's population. The entire Kuwaiti population could fit into 1 of the 170 Chinese cities which have a population of over 1 million each. Kuwait would fit into metropolitan Beijing. Actually, China could hold more than 540 entire countries of Kuwait. Kuwait's GDP represents only 50% of Beijing's GDP.

Currently, the role of the Beijing Office, KIRO, is to be KIA's on-the-ground presence in China. While KIRO will not manage nor book investments, it will explore opportunities for the home office to review.

Your support and assistance for KIRO would be highly appreciated.

Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for attending KIRO's opening. And thank you for all the support which you and your authorities continue to provide the KIA and Kuwait.

Thank you.