

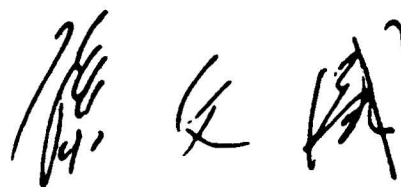
Foreword

The International Geological Congress held every four years is a grand event for displaying the latest achievements in geological science and technology and carrying out academic exchange.

After the 31st IGC, the Chinese geologists, like their counterparts in the rest of the world, started to pay more attention to the issues facing the world today, including the shortage of energy and resources, geological hazards, environmental degradation and sustainable socio-economic development, and have made many new achievements and remarkable progress, particularly in the fields of basic geology, fossil energy resources, mineral resources, disaster geology, environmental geology, urban geology, agricultural geology, marine geology, geological information technology, construction of geoparks and expansion of geological scientific services.

In order to display the above accomplishments, the Chinese geological delegation has made a careful preparation for the 32nd IGC to be held in Florence, Italy, this year. In addition to rich scientific exhibitions, academic papers are published in three special issues of Vol. 78 of *Acta Geologica Sinica* (English edition) for this event, No. 1, basic geology, No. 2, geology of mineral resources and No. 3, energy geology. Other papers are included into the issues according to their research fields. These symposiums reflect the latest achievements in China's geoscientific research over the past four years.

In today's world, scientific and technological advancements are being made day by day and the global economy is getting more integrated. The mankind has entered an era of utilizing natural resources in a more rational way. I hope Chinese geologists and those from other countries can strengthen cooperation, establish and implement the concept of scientific development and through their concerted efforts, play their due role for geoscientific progress and sustainable socio-economic development, thus making contributions to the world peace and prosperity.



Sun Wensheng

Minister of Land and Resources of the People's Republic of China
Acting Chairman of the Geological Society of China
Head of the Chinese Delegation to the 32nd IGC