



CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

From

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I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the United Nations Environmental Programme, and Your Excellency, Mr. Achim Steiner in particular, for this great honor! I feel incredibly humbled and privileged in receiving this award. I share this recognition with the countless outstanding individuals throughout China who serve the frontlines of environmental protection and who are the true champions of our planet. As the only female recipient standing here today, I take great pride in receiving this honor on behalf of all women in China who have done their part for environmental protection. And a special thank you to my team, without their collective support I wouldn't be standing before you today.

At this moment, I would like to take this opportunity to thank three people, who are all, coincidentally, also laureates of this award. First is Ms. Helen Clark, the Administrator of United Nations Development Programme, laureate of 2008--the same year I was appointed UNDP China's National Goodwill Ambassador. It is an honor to follow in her distinguished footsteps as a fellow recipient.

Next, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Al Gore. I was so touched by his documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, that the film inspired me to dedicate myself to the fight against global warming. The third individual is Mr. Yann Arthus-Bertrand. His documentary *HOME* reaffirmed my faith in the green cause. It was a delight to record the voiceover for the Chinese version of the film and to present his work to Chinese audiences throughout the country.

And just as these films reveal, climate change is an undisputable fact. The question before us is not what to do, but how to do it. Together with UNDP, I set up an environmental awareness campaign *OUR PART*. It is an open platform enlisting all environmental enthusiasts to promote a low carbon lifestyle through simple, actionable, and fashionable green tips. Over the last two years, this

initiative has brought tremendous zeal and progress while challenging society to step out of their comfort zone in the name of environmental protection.

The campaign has garnered enthusiasm and motivation by building bonds between people from all walks of life: from the private sector, to the media, to the entertainment industry and to individual volunteers. No longer is environmental protection merely a government concern.

If I can take this opportunity to send one message to our youth all around the world, it would be: change begins with faith. All of us can be champions of the earth. If you passionately believe in a cause, you can affect and motivate people around you. If we all do OUR PART in adapting our daily habits, together, we can make a difference in saving our planet!

A few days ago, a major earthquake struck China's Qinghai province, over 2000 people perished and thousands more were affected. I would like to donate this prize to recovery and reconstruction efforts in these affected areas. The United Nations promotes the concept of "Building Back Better and Greener". I hope this small fund can help local communities build a greener and more prosperous future.

Thank you.