

**Welcome Remarks by Shri Sudhir T. Devare**

Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs

on the occasion of the visit of

**Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China**

**at Sapru House, New Delhi**

**Thursday, 16 December, 2010**

Your Excellency Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China,

Your Excellency Shri S.M.Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, Govt. of India,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honour and privilege for the Indian Council of World Affairs to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Wen Jiabao, the Hon'ble Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, to Sapru House this afternoon. This institution, which was established under the inspiration of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru even before India's independence, has been a symbol of our resolve and policy to have friendly and cooperative relations with the world. Over the past six decades the Indian Council of World Affairs was privileged to receive highest-level leaders to address it. In 2006, it had the honour to host the Address by His Excellency Mr. Hu Jintao, Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of China.

India and China enjoy civilisational contacts. They have continued down the ages. Rabindranath Tagore, India's leading poet and philosopher, whose 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary

is being celebrated this year, said during his visit to China in 1924 and I quote “I am rather reminded of the day when India claimed you as brothers and sent you her love. That relationship is, I hope, still there, hidden in the heart of all of us”. Today, our relationship is multi-dimensional and marked by a rapidly expanding engagement and a growing trade volume. As we celebrate sixty years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, we cordially welcome this landmark visit by our honoured guest, His Excellency, Premier of the People’s Republic of China. May I now kindly request our External Affairs Minister, Hon’ble Shri S.M. Krishna to preside over this function.

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