

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Ni Hao and welcome to the **SNEC 14th (2020) International Photovoltaic Power Generation and Smart Energy Exhibition & Conference**.

I am sorry that I cannot physically attend this important event, but I am very happy that many countries are making good progress in their fight against COVID-19, and that large meetings are now becoming possible again in some countries, including China.

As you are well aware, the upstream and downstream segments of the PV industry face severe challenges due to the COVID-19 related global economic downturn, including over-capacity in the cell and module factories and stalled PV power plant projects.

To remain competitive and re-gain profitability, the PV industry must maintain - or even enhance - its **innovativeness** and focus its R&D efforts on reducing the cost of PV electricity.

I am glad that you are participating in this solar conference and - on behalf of the Event Organisers - I thank you for your contributions to the transformation of the global energy system towards sustainability.

Over the last 14 years, this impressive event has evolved into the **world's largest solar energy Exhibition**, where more than 1,500 companies from across the globe showcase their products and services. I am sure that a tour of the exhibition halls will be an amazing experience for everybody.

Another important part of this event is the **14th Global Advanced PV Technology Conference**, which is held here in the Kerry Hotel. This conference is an excellent opportunity for the world's solar technologists & scientists to meet and discuss new developments in solar energy technologies.

The conference programme covers the full spectrum of PV research and development, ranging from materials, solar cells and solar modules to PV systems and smart grid technologies.

The **Global Advanced PV Technology Conference** starts tomorrow morning with a **Plenary session**. It runs until Sunday afternoon and consists of **6 technical sessions**.

Many important innovations will be presented at the PV Technology Conference. These will not only help the solar industry to overcome the current market downturn, but will also provide the foundation for a profitable and market-driven growth of the global PV sector during the next 10 years.

As the Chairman of the **14th Global Advanced PV Technology Conference**, it is my great pleasure to invite you to the Conference and to contribute to further progress in PV.

I wish you a successful conference & exhibition and many interesting discussions.

Thank you.