

Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the “1958 Agreement”

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The “1958 Agreement” created by UN/ECE 50 years ago, has been proven to have played a significant role in the whole world. As the origin and foundation of world vehicle regulation harmonization, it not only benefits the 48 countries who have signed the agreement, but also causes a positive impact to many other countries including China.

As a member and an expert of Chinese delegation participating in the UN world vehicle regulation harmonization, I come from China Automotive Technology and Research Center (CATARC). I’m in charge of China motor vehicle technical standard and regulation research and international affairs. I myself have attended 17 WP29 meetings. So, I have the pleasure to have witnessed the process of GTR making progress step by step under the “1998 Agreement”. At the 50th anniversary of the “1958 Agreement”, I feel greatly honored to celebrate and commemorate this significant event together with my colleagues from different countries.

China is a new member who started to participate in WP29 activities in 2000. And just in that same year, Chinese motor vehicle sales exceeded 2 million for the first time and it has been growing rapidly year by year since then. This year, the total motor vehicle production of China will reach or even surpass 10 million units. At the same time, China has been taking the first place in world motorcycle production since 1993. While actively setting up vehicle technical regulation and

standard system in China, Chinese government and Chinese automotive industry attach great importance to international harmonization and cooperation in this regard.

Though China only signed the “1998 Agreement” in 2000 and has still not signed the “1958 Agreement” until today, China recognized the significance and future international influence of the “1958 Agreement” dated back to the end of 1980s. In-depth studies on various UN/ECE technical regulations have been conducted. And based on that, we determined the technical road map of setting up China motor vehicle mandatory standards system. According to the “Standardization Law” implemented in 1989, we have developed 99 national motor vehicle and motorcycle mandatory standards (GB). In these standards, 70 items at least are as the same as or similar to those counterparts in ECE regulations. All these efforts have laid a foundation of internationalization for China motor vehicle industry and its technical development and cooperation. This also demonstrates that the regulations made by WP29 under “1958 Agreement” have good applicability in China.

In the past 50 years, the “1958 Agreement” has a broader and a broader influence in the whole world. China is very glad to see such a positive achievement. We will continue to learn from and adopt new ECE regulations and keep close attention to the harmonization and mutual promotion between GTR and ECE regulation. Look into the future, the technical regulations with a broader international harmonization foundation, will benefit the development and cooperation of all countries in the

world. China will play a more active role in WP29 from now on and promote the long term development of “1958 Agreement”.

Of course, “is China going to sign and when will China sign the 1958 Agreement? ” is still not a question that you can get a clear answer now, though many Chinese governmental departments and companies think that we should expedite the process and make active preparation for it. I think it is not the technical factors that affect this process. In fact, many Chinese products can meet the requirements. To a developing country like China who is experiencing rapid development, both the international responsibility and national interest are very important. It will take certain period of time to reform and coordinate national legislation and administration systems in China. The new round of reform in government organization has started already this year. We are expecting new progresses are going to be made.

We feel happy to welcome more and more countries to have exchanges with China in the field of motor vehicle technical regulation and standard. By doing that, we can deepen the understanding and cooperation with other countries and at the same time we can promote international harmonization activities of WP29 together. I believe this will also benefit the future development and progress of China.

Thank you for your attention.