

**Remarks by U.S. Secretary of Commerce  
Donald L. Evans at the Signing of the Department of Commerce-Chinese  
Ministry of  
Science and Technology Protocol Agreement  
December 11, 2002  
Washington, D.C.**

[As prepared for delivery]

Good morning and thank you all for coming.

This was my first meeting with Minister Xu. And I must say, it was a very productive first meeting.

We talked at some length about China's rapid economic and technological growth, and about how our two countries can continue to work together on these fronts.

China has a very dynamic economy. Its ongoing efforts to implement market opening rules and regulations since joining the World Trade Organization will greatly enhance China's prospects. I was there last spring with a group of American business leaders looking for new opportunities in China. You could not help but see and feel the urgency of the place, a desire to succeed in the global economy.

Everyone I talked to ... government officials ... businessmen ... businesswomen ... students ... even the hotel clerks ... everyone seemed to be in a hurry to get ahead. China is a country on the move. So I am delighted that Minister Xu and I are here to announce a new agreement that will deepen our cooperation on science and technology policy.

The new protocol that we're signing today does two things.

First, it renews the agreement that expired at the end of November between the Department of Commerce and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology.

Second, and more importantly, it goes beyond the old agreement that focused on science and technology information exchanges. The new deal puts greater emphasis on policies that encourage innovation.

These include: public/private partnerships ... effective intellectual property rights protections ... and technology-neutral standards.

We believe this new agreement will support China's efforts to create a business-friendly environment for technology development by encouraging global partnerships and private investment.

As I told Minister Xu earlier, the Department of Commerce is committed to working with China and his ministry to achieve this goal.

As another sign of that commitment, we hope to put a technology standards expert on staff at the U.S. embassy in Beijing. We think this expert would be a valuable resource for both the United States and China.

I am confident that the steps we're announcing today will lead to stronger ties and greater cooperation in the tech world.

And in the process, the economic relationship between the United States and China will grow even stronger and closer.

Finally, I want to thank Under Secretary Phil Bond and his team at the Technology Administration for their hard work and dedication.

Phil began working on the new agreement last April when we were in China. And he has been burning the

midnight oil ever since. I know this level of effort and commitment to these issues will continue in the months ahead.

Thank you very much.