



# **The Fourth Regional Leaders' Conference**

**of Bavaria (Federal Republic of Germany),  
Georgia (United States of America),  
Québec (Canada),  
Shandong (People's Republic of China),  
Upper Austria (Republic of Austria) and  
Western Cape (Republic of South Africa)  
in Jinan, Shandong,  
August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

## **FINAL DECLARATION**

## I Preface

The Fourth Regional Leaders' Conference was held from August 6 to 7, 2008. The Bavarian Minister for Federal and European Affairs representing the Bavarian Minister-President, the Governor of Georgia, the Premier of Québec, the Governor of Shandong Province, the Governor of Upper Austria, and the Western Cape Minister for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning representing the Premier of Western Cape met for the Fourth Regional Leaders' Conference in Jinan, Shandong, China. The Governor of the State of São Paulo could not attend the Conference.

The Conference first approved and welcomed Georgia's membership into the initiative which, with the State of São Paulo included, now represents 170 million people in five continents with a GDP of more than 2,000 bn. US\$. The Regional Leaders noted with satisfaction that their cooperation, which started in Munich in 2002 and was continued in Québec in 2004 and in Linz in 2006, had been further consolidated and deepened.

The purpose of this Conference is to carry forward and give full effect to the concept of comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development for economy, society and environment advocated by the initiative. Drawing on the experiences of each other, learning from each other's strong points to offset weaknesses, realizing equality and mutual benefit, enhancing friendship and promoting cooperation, the Conference focused on issues of common concern, such as resource conservation, consumption reduction, emission reduction, environmental protection, climate and ecology improvement, better medical service, public health, and wellness. The Conference made an effort to promote cooperative multi-dimensional exchanges between the regions and to improve the overall competitiveness of each partner in their respective regions, as well as in the globalized economy.

The Regional Leaders stated that:

- each of the seven partner regions of the initiative is among the most dynamic provinces or states in their respective countries and represent typical characteristics of their countries while enjoying a specific cultural identity;
- the regional governments bear important responsibilities for the economic and social development of their regions and are all confronted with similar opportunities and challenges posed by economic globalization;
- as four of the seven assembled regions are in developed countries and the other three are in developing countries, their cooperation sets a good example for other countries in the world; and
- the exchanges and cooperation among the partner regions help enhance their friendly relationship, facilitate South-North Cooperation and maintain the harmony and development of the world.

The Regional Leaders realized that, the exchanges and cooperation among their regions are timely, well targeted and practical in today's world where the prices of resource products like oil, grain and mineral resources are soaring and issues surrounding global climate change, environmental pollution and infectious disease are becoming increasingly important. They emphasized that, it is necessary to divert more attention of the regional governments and peoples to scientific and sustainable development, resource efficiency, energy conservation and emission reduction, the relationship between environmental

protection and health, better medical care and higher quality of life. The leaders confirmed that they should make efforts to promote the concept of resource conservation and environmental protection among individuals, governments and industries thus contributing to a culture of energy saving, emission reduction and ecological protection in production, transportation and consumption in order to achieve sustainable development worldwide.

Following the suggestion by the host Shandong at the last conference in Linz 2006, the Fourth Regional Leaders' Conference chose "Building A Resource-Efficient Society" and "Health and Medical Care" as the topics.

Based upon the opinions and recommendations by experts of the seven regions to forums of related themes, the Regional Leaders discussed the following topics and agreed to promote close cooperation in these areas.

- conserving limited natural resources and developing renewable energy
- promoting energy saving and emission reduction and improving energy efficiency
- developing a recycling economy, encouraging cleaner production and the utilization of technology and innovation to achieve resource recycling
- raising awareness of conservation, fostering good conservation behavior and combating over-consumption
- protecting the environment and ensuring sustainable ecology
- paying attention to the impact of environment and climate on health
- building a health care system covering the whole society
- strengthening disease prevention and control and improving health level
- encouraging preventative healthcare including nutrition and fitness

The partner regions agreed that the scientific development concept of energy saving, emission reduction and environmental protection and the value that pays attention to quality of life and health level advocated by the Conference would create more opportunities for the regions to communicate with each other, through which their friendship would be deepened.

This Final Declaration contains the results of the discussions on "Building A Resource-Efficient Society" and "Health and Medical Care" in the Fourth Conference and the resolution on conducting exchanges and cooperation in the fields mentioned above.

## **II Summary of Cooperation since the Third Summit**

Dr. Josef Pühringer, the Governor of Upper Austria reported on cooperation programs since the Third Summit in Linz in July 2006 and stated that more than 250 projects - in areas such as economy, science & research, education, environment, youth and culture - were completed or are ongoing between the Partner Regions on multi- as well as bilateral level. For instance:

- Practical and result-oriented cooperation was initiated among the energy sectors of the partner regions. All Partner Regions participated in the World Sustainable Energy Days and the "International Fair for Energy Efficiency and Eco-energy" on February,

28 until March, 2, 2007 in Wels. In March 2008, Québec held the first meeting of the network of experts on energy efficiency.

- In July 2006, students from all the partner regions participated in a workshop on Energy in Munich, including an “energy-free weekend”. This initiative was sponsored by the partner regions.
- In July 2007, the cultural festival "Pflasterspektakel" in Linz attracted 600 participants of 40 nations. Out of the partner regions, artists from Bavaria, Quebec and São Paulo have participated.
- On December 8-9, 2006, experts of the partner regions met for a workshop on federalism in São Paulo.
- Experts on Biomass of the partner regions met on February 27, 2007 in Straubing, Bavaria, visiting demonstration projects and having field exchanges.
- On August 4-11, 2007, a summer academy of the Laboratory of the Technical University at the Deutsche Museum in Munich attracted talented science students from high schools of the partner regions that were guided by scientists through a week of theoretical and practical astronomy ("Hands-on Universe"). A formerly unknown asteroid was discovered.
- The international photo exhibition on the theme of "Renewable Energy – The Power of the Sun" was presented from January to March 2008 in Linz. A photo show of the exhibition's best pictures and projects on December 3, 2007 in Berlin at the G8 Foreign Ministers Conference. In addition to the G8 states, the major emerging countries of Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa participated in this conference on "Impulses of Foreign Policy for a Secure Energy Supply and Climate Protection." The photo show can also be seen at the EXPO 2008 in Zaragoza, Spain.  
~ From February 29 to April 27, 2008, the Open Cultural House in Linz presented a selection of the most interesting and best works – including significant works by Robin Rhode of Cape Town and by Lucia Koch of São Paulo – shown at the most important art biennials throughout the world such as those in Venice, Sydney, Moscow, São Paulo, or Shanghai. It offered an insight into the international art world and the possibility of experiencing contemporary art.  
~ From May 15 -17, 2008, professors of education from the partner regions met in Québec and launched a longer-term exchange on "Best Education" in the school system.  
~ Journalists from Bavaria, Georgia, Québec and Western Cape participated in the "Newsweek" project from May 17-21, 2008 in Upper Austria. In addition to conversations and visits to the ORF broadcasting organization and newspapers, there were encounters and discussions with students and pupils from the partner regions on the role of the media in intercultural dialogue.  
~ The Energy Globe Award – an international environmental prize, was awarded at the European Parliament in Brussels by the former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the Academy of Sciences in Shandong, the Art University of Linz for a project in South Africa and the youth project ESKOM in South Africa, among others.
- The Bavarian Supreme Building Authority in Jinan held a photo exposition "Energy-efficient construction" during the conference on energy-efficient methods of planning and building in the construction industry.

Statistics show that trade between Upper Austria and the countries where the partners are located grew by an average of 39%. This indicates that the partner regions initiative is part

of a larger global economy that contributes to international cooperation and social development.

The multiple cooperation projects involving young people have confirmed the desire of people to engage in international exchanges at a very early stage in life in order to prepare them to be globally competitive.

The Regional Leaders agreed to the report of the Governor of Upper Austria. They expressed their satisfaction that the Third Summit and the joint action programs determined in the Declaration of the Third Summit have led to increasingly concrete cooperation among the individual regions.

They expressed their gratitude for the work done by Upper Austria in coordinating the cooperation among the regions.

### **III Building a Resource-Efficient Society**

The Governor of Shandong explained the concept of a resource-efficient society. A resource-efficient society is one that conserves resources and is friendly to the environment. The purpose of building a resource-efficient society is to create an interaction of economic and social development with ecological protection, and realize the comprehensive, balanced and sustainable development of economy and society. The history of human development shows that civilization is closely connected with resource use and the environment. The Regional Leaders emphasized the importance of a resource-efficient society for the sustainable development of their respective regions and for the global economy. He stressed the importance of adopting, developing and promoting high technology applicable to energy conservation and emission reduction, developing clean and renewable energy, protecting water resources, making effective and efficient utilization of land and improving the efficiency of traditional fossil energy and all kinds of resources in the modernization and industrialization process. The governments shall take responsibility, set appropriate targets and implement effective measures. They also emphasized that energy saving, emission reduction, ecological protection, and resource conservation are not only virtues but also a responsible and future-oriented attitude and scientific awareness, which entails the active efforts of individuals, families, enterprises and the whole society. The government should formulate and improve laws and policies, encourage conservation, oppose waste, and set up a mechanism conducive to the development of a resource-efficient and environmental-friendly society.

The oil and gas price hikes have put a heavy burden on production and consumption, economic development as well as on governmental services. It becomes a common concern of the international community to secure affordable and reliable energy sources. At the same time, rising food prices have put an end to over-optimistic expectations on substituting fossil fuels with food-based bio-fuels.

Based on that, the Regional Leaders exchanged their positions on energy policy, and discussed concrete ways of confronting the issues on the regional level within their own jurisdictions.

The leaders acknowledged that all regions must offer a comprehensive conservation approach that includes water management, improved air quality, land protection and energy efficiency. They also agreed that market based solutions and public-private partnerships were key for successful engagement of energy challenges.

The Regional Leaders stated that regional and local governments bear important responsibilities for seeking solutions to global climate change by taking measures such as energy efficiency, conservation, promotion of renewables and emission reduction.

The Regional Leaders received briefings by the experts of the partner regions who had held a forum about ways of ensuring a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy supply, water management and land conservation in a changing environment and their efforts in environmental education. They presented examples that illustrate the specific approaches of their regions.

The **Governor of Shandong** pointed out that energy saving and emission reduction was a basic national policy of China and an important task for local governments at all levels. Shandong has declared its energy utilization target by 2010. It aims to lower energy consumption per unit of GDP by 22% and the main pollutant emission by more than 16% over the year 2005 while maintaining an annual average GDP growth of about 10%.

To achieve that target, since October 2007, Shandong has organized the "Energy Saving and Emission Reduction, Public Action" campaign, which called on all social communities to participate in the building of a resource-efficient and environmentally-friendly society and contributing to the ecological civilization. Energy consumption was saved by 7.84% in the years of 2006 and 2007 and the SO<sub>2</sub> and COD emission was reduced by 7.12% and 5.04% respectively in 2007. The program has proven to be very successful.

The main target of energy conservation and emission reduction of Shandong in 2008 is to lower the energy consumption per 10,000 Yuan of GDP by 5.41% and the SO<sub>2</sub> and COD emission by 4% respectively. Shandong is now committed to a.) the adjustment of economic structure and industrial structure, b.) the faster and wider application of energy saving and emission reduction technologies, c.) a good job in energy saving and emission reduction in key sectors and backbone companies, d.) the optimization of energy structure and painstaking efforts to develop wind, solar, biomass and nuclear energy, and e.) more policy support to new energy R&D and utilization and recycling economy.

The **Bavarian Minister** reported that the new Bavarian government under the leadership of Minister-President Dr. Beckstein has adopted a comprehensive climate change strategy and key principles of the future energy policy. Bavaria is a leader in renewable energy in Germany and by 2020 it aims to double the share of renewable energy which is 8% of the primary energy consumption. . The Bavarian State Government advocates an extension of the term of nuclear plants against a decision by the former federal government to close them down until 2019. Nuclear power is indispensable to reaching Europe's and Germany's ambitious CO<sub>2</sub>-reduction goals. Bavaria supports strongly research and development in the energy sector. The Technical University of Munich and the German Aerospace Center in Stuttgart are coordinating the countrywide initiative "Power Plants of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" (KW 21), where universities and research centers work with the industry to increase the efficiency of power generators by using new materials and methods.

The **Governor of Georgia** stressed a comprehensive approach to creating a culture of conservation by focusing on energy, land and water stewardship. To that end Governor Perdue recently signed a Statewide Water Management Plan, in 2006 accepted the state's first Energy Strategy Plan (which has saved state taxpayers over \$2 million annually) and in 2005 launched the Georgia Land Conservation Program (which has permanently protected over 94,000 acres of land in only 3 years). In May of 2008 he also ordered

state facilities to reduce their energy use by 15% and water use by 10% and launched a new public relations and education campaign called "Conserve Georgia" to promote a "Culture of Conservation" among both businesses and residents.

Due to Georgia's rapid population and economic growth he also discussed the important role that technology and economic development play in developing a market based sustainable energy, land and water supply strategy. These include prioritizing energy resources available to the state, relying on efficiency, conservation, and renewables, supplemented with advanced clean technologies, including coal and nuclear. The Governor voiced his support of private sector efforts to construct two new nuclear reactors, several natural gas, two new coal as well as a host of renewable energy and fuel production facilities in Georgia.

As the leading forest industry state, Governor Perdue discussed Georgia's focus on cellulosic ethanol and electricity and on leveraging future federal capture-and-trade legislation as an economic development tool that would also support a cleaner environment. Governor Perdue highlighted opportunities to explore technology in these areas on a regional basis, and said that Georgia looks forward to working on joint research and development opportunities as well as economic development programs with the other regions.

The **Premier of Québec** pointed out that Québec is convinced that it is necessary to strengthen the solidarity between governments and populations intent on taking up the great challenge of sustainable development and the fight against climate change. Québec is strongly committed to this issue. The Québec government now has a Sustainable Development Act and Strategy. It has intensified the fight against climate change through an integrated approach consisting of three key mutually complementary policies: an Energy Strategy, a Public Transit Policy, and a Climate Change Action Plan covering the period 2006-2012. Québec feels that the development of new sources of clean, renewable energy and investment in the research and development of clean technologies allowing for the efficient use of resources contribute to creating new parts of the economy of the 21st century. For instance Québec intends to develop its wind energy potential to reach 10% of Hydro-Québec's installed capacity (4000 MW) and is aiming to have cellulosic ethanol account for 5% of gas sales by 2012.

The **Governor of Upper Austria** informed about the State energy strategies with the goal of the gradual energy change away from fossil sources of energy to energy efficiency and renewable energy - these provide up to the year 2030 e.g., to increase the share of renewable energy sources of the complete energy consumption to more than the double, to produce so much renewable energy in Upper Austria as the consumption of room heating and current, as well as to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 65% - and confirmed the renouncement of nuclear power plants in Upper Austria as well as the anti nuclear line. By promoting energy saving as well as energy efficiency the consumption of fossil energy and the greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced. Clusters and networks, like the eco-energy cluster or the network environmental technology, as well as science of the Johannes Kepler University and the universities of applied studies promote the development of new innovative environmental friendly and resources-efficient technologies. Upper Austria meets the challenges and responsibilities the United Nations' Millennium Goals by initiatives within the "Global Marshall Plan", the agenda 21 process of Rio de Janeiro and Johannesburg as well as by supporting resources conserving projects for the sustainable development in developing countries.

The **Minister for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning as the Representative of the Premier of the Western Cape** announced that the policy on Shared Growth and Sustainable Development was adopted in 2007. It has four objectives: to grow and share the economy, to build a more equal and caring society where poverty has been eradicated, to promote ecologically sustainable development and to foster greater spatial integration. The interventions, or 'path breakers' for change, are public transport, sustainable human settlements and skills development.

The Western Cape reiterated its commitment to continue to mitigate climate change through increasing energy efficiency by 10% and the use of renewable energy by 15% by 2014. With particular focus on solar, wind and wave energy, the Western Cape will encourage technology transfer, investment into production and manufacturing of these technologies, and promote energy efficient buildings and modes of transport.

The Western Cape Province is one of South Africa's most vulnerable areas to the global reality of climate change. While policy initiatives have been embarked upon to mitigate climate change, it is clear that stronger cooperation with regional partners as an effective mechanism to draw on best practice and historical experience, is necessary to accelerate practical implementation with respect to adaptation and mitigation.

The Regional Leaders agreed to advance the dialogue on resource-efficient society and sustainable development, continue the exchanges on the political and expert levels after the conference and support the following joint actions in the next two years:

- Energy experts will be invited to Upper Austria to attend "World Sustainable Energy Days" and the "International Fair for Energy Efficiency and Eco Energy in Wels between February 25 and March 1, 2009.
- Shandong invites the partner regions to participate in the annual Jinan Enterprises-University-Research & Energy-Saving New Technology Fair in Jinan, Shandong Province, including energy-saving architecture and new building materials, recycling economy technology and field visits.
- Upper Austria invites the Partner Regions to discuss the situation on world commodity markets and recent price increases at the International Agricultural Fair in Ried, Upper Austria in September 9-13, 2009, strengthening their commitment to sustainable market development as well as good governance with social and environmental standards.
- Shandong invites the partner regions to participate in the one-week Fourth Solar World Congress in Dezhou City in June 2010, watch and discuss about the solar energy utilization technologies.
- Experts from the partner regions will be invited to the BIO 2009 conference in Atlanta, Georgia, to see the developing cellulosic fuel research and resulting industry in Georgia.
- The Department of Geography of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich cooperates with the Consortium Ouranos in Québec about the modeling of consequences of a climate change on water management of the Danube and the Châteauguay River.
- Georgia and Sao Paulo will continue to exchange officials, private sector producers and university researchers to build cooperation on cellulosic ethanol production.

- Georgia and Quebec will share information regarding various carbon capture initiatives involving the forestry industry in each region.
- Québec invites the partner regions to the Second Leaders' Summit on Climate Change in December 2008.
- Québec proposes to meet in Montreal for the World Energy Congress in September 2010.

#### **IV Health and Medical Care**

The Regional Leaders agreed that the questions of health and medical care belong amongst the most complex political issues and highest priorities their governments are facing:

- The demographics of societies tend towards an aging population along with rising standards of living.
- The systems of social security in the regions are very diverse due to historical, cultural and political factors. There are tax-financed as well as contribution-based systems, public and private or both.
- The difference between urban and rural regions induces natural inequalities when accessing public health care facilities, and especially in regions with a large area, the governments have to fight against more serious inequalities.
- Science and research enhance the potential for diagnosis, therapy and prevention. They also contribute to rising costs in the system that the taxpayers have to bear.
- Increasingly open societies in the globalization are more and more vulnerable for the spreading of infectious diseases like bird flu, hepatitis or HIV/AIDS.
- With the changing of traditional family structures, long term care/nursing needs to be reorganized in the society.
- Prevention and a healthy life style are increasingly important factors in society and economy, with rising demands on governments to guarantee opportunities for a secure and sustainable lifestyle.
- The financing and the organization of the health systems require an efficient cooperation between all levels of government in federal states and an equitable system of solidarity inside the different entities.

Against this background, the Regional Leaders based themselves once again on the reports of their experts and focused their discussions on three aspects:

- Primary health care accessible to every individual;
- Disease prevention and control;
- The role of traditional medicine in the prevention and control of diseases in the future.

The Regional Leaders take people's health and accessible medical care service as a common target. They have made it clear that putting people first, care for life and attention to people's wellbeing are the basic governance philosophies of their governments and introduced their respective policies and practices in health and medical care.

The **Governor of Shandong Province** pointed out that the Government of Shandong attached great importance to the public support to health sector. It gives top priority to disease prevention and places equal importance on Chinese and Western medicines, shoulders more responsibility and increases input, constantly improves the national health care policies and tries to provide safe, efficient, convenient and cost-efficient medical services. Shandong has adopted the national policy of family planning for a long time, which enables the stable improvement of people's quality. Under the slogan of "Strengthening Sports Exercise, Improving People's Health", Shandong encourages and facilitates the vigorous development of fitness-keeping exercises, and now many sports activities like Taiji are very popular in the province. Government agencies at different levels of Shandong pay attention to the popularization of nutrition science and have adopted a series of effective policies and measures to better the diet, guarantee nutrient balance and ensure food quality and safety.

The **Bavarian State Minister** reported on the current state of the reform of the German health care system. The particular challenge in Bavaria lies in the danger of over-equalizing the costs and income for patients and health care providers that could lead to a decrease in the quality especially in rural areas. The Bavarian government is currently very active in the interest of the Bavarian population. The health sector in Bavaria as a whole occupies an advantageous position and is an internationally an important economic sector. The government promotes the forming of clusters of the medical and pharmaceutical industry, science and research combined with clinical services accessible to the broad population. After some cases of bird flu and other potentially infectious diseases, the government has evaluated its pandemic plans. As an example, antiviral medicaments have been stockpiled for 20 percent of the population making them available to every seriously ill person according to international guidelines. The initiative Healthy Life in Bavaria has allowed supporting more than 40 projects in the area of nonsmoking and anti-alcohol policy, nutrition, exercises as well as a healthy working environment.

The **Governor of Georgia** stated that while working specifically on preventative care, Georgia's strategy is to increase the number of people who are insured, provide access to healthcare in all areas of the state, and to utilize innovation and technology to make these efforts more transparent, effective and affordable to Georgia's citizens located throughout the state. Specifically, the Governor highlighted a strategy for health that includes the promotion of wellness and healthy behaviours and the incentivizing of preventative care and early medical intervention. The Governor shared about the importance of establishing "medical homes" for vulnerable citizens to ensure coordination of medical care and Georgia's focus on enhancing consumer education and health literacy to reach these ends. The Governor also highlighted Georgia's strategy of providing transparency in health care regarding service quality, costs and access largely through increased utilization health information technology and the encouragement of health innovation. Finally, the Governor mentioned Georgia's goal of fortifying the state wide healthcare safety net and increasing the number of insured Georgian's to ensure that healthcare is accessible for all.

**Premier of Québec** emphasized the importance granted to the public health system as the result of many decades of collective efforts. These efforts continue, as the government is determined to protect this gain deemed highly important by the population. It emphasizes its government's involvement towards improving lifestyles, reducing smoking, and convincing people to exercise more and eat better. It also explains that, for several years now, a new form of service organization has made it possible to give all people living

in Québec, everywhere across the province, improved access to family doctors and the professionals who work with them. Intervention strategies such as immunization to prevent the flu in children and the elderly are integrated into everyday practices. Finally, improved living conditions have enabled life expectancy to lengthen significantly in Québec as elsewhere around the world. Better adapted services should now enable Québec's health system to more effectively respond to meet the needs of the elderly, whose numbers will double over the next thirty years.

The **Governor of Upper Austria** Dr. Pühringer noted, according to the Euro Health Consumer Index 2007, a Europe-wide study, that Austria has the consumer friendliest health system of Europe with a combination of good access and outstanding successes. A full-coverage health network secures the medical state-wide supply of general doctors and specialists as well as the ambulance organizations which are the backbone of the primary and secondary medical supply. Regional and specialised hospitals make the system complete. For the promotion of the individual health, precautions programs are offered in the municipalities in which active employees in an honorary capacity put health beneficial initiatives coordinated with the local needs. Core element of the Austrian health system is the statutory health insurance. For all employed people there is a duty health insurance in Austria. Members of the family, like not employed partners and children, are included in the insurance. Emergency plans for the protection of the population from dangerous situations with far-reaching consequences for the health, as cause of a pandemic flu, were worked out by the authorities in cooperation with experts as well as ambulance organizations. At international catastrophes, first aid is provided by ambulance organizations from Upper Austria, e.g. drinking water processing plants for clean water, and Upper Austrian doctors work as volunteers in developing countries. For the cancer diagnosis, development of new medicine active substances against avian flu and HIV, the equipment for blood sugar control for diabetics or models for the avoidance and supervision of mistakes in medication in hospitals, the Johannes Kepler University in Linz does research in different disciplines on highest standard. With the health cluster and the University of Applied Sciences Linz, Upper Austria has a network for strengthening innovation and international competitiveness of enterprises in the field of the medical engineering and health.

The Western Cape continued with significant strides in providing quality public health care to all its people. To this end, it has embarked on several strategies to make health services more accessible, including providing home-based care.

The implementation of the District Health System has been key to the delivery of primary health and district hospital services. Together with the re-configuration of secondary and tertiary hospital services, it has brought health-care closer to the people who need it most. Furthermore the Province has continued to be a leader in the rollout of anti-retroviral services and the treatment of tuberculosis.

The Western Cape therefore supports bilateral and multilateral cooperation that seeks to strengthen the provision of primary health services, disease prevention, infectious diseases such as HIV & AIDS, and tuberculosis. The Province continues to encourage Research and Development exchanges in these fields.

Cooperation within the traditional health sector through support and mutual sharing of best practices should be explored further with our partner regions.

The Regional Leaders agreed on the following joint activities in the next two years:

- The annual BIO Convention, the world's most important event of the biotechnology sector, takes place in Atlanta, Georgia on May, 17-19, 2009. Delegates of the partner regions will be encouraged to bring companies to attend the event and coordinate joint activities
- Upon invitation by the State of Georgia, the experts will meet for a workshop held in conjunction with the national Center for Disease Control in Atlanta to discuss the topics of prevention and disease control.
- Québec proposes to create an expert group to share best practices on restructuring primary health care.

Further cooperation projects are being agreed upon between the partner regions on a bilateral basis. Examples include:

- The cooperation between the department of nursing theory and social management at the University of Applied Sciences in Ravensburg-Weingarten with Shandong University on concepts of family nursing. This project is being supported by the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Bavarian Ministry for Employment and Social Security. The project partners have participated in the experts group in Jinan.
- The joint research activities between the Montreal Neurological Institute and the Medical School of the technical University in Munich and the University of Munich on dementia and aphasia.
- The life sciences network of the partner regions are invited to participate in the subsequent EU funded project called “Transbio.”
- Bavaria and Upper Austria have agreed upon a close cooperation on the trans-border implementation of the new Bavarian law on rescue services including transborder helicopter services that will take effect on January 1, 2009.

## **V The Fifth Regional Leaders’ Conference**

The Regional Leaders welcomed and accepted the invitation of Western Cape to host the Fifth Regional Leaders’ Conference of the Partner Regions in the Western Cape, South Africa, in July 2010. The Western Cape proposed food security and integrated transportation as the two topics for the next Summit.

Signed in Jinan, Shandong on August 7, 2008 in German, English, Chinese and French, whereby all four texts are in the same way authentic.



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Dr. Markus Söder, Bavarian Minister for Federal and European Affairs



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Mr. Jean Charest, Premier of Québec



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Mr. Sonny Perdue, Governor of the State of Georgia



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Mr. Jiang Daming, Governor of Shandong Province



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Dr. Josef Pühringer, Governor of Upper Austria



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Mr. Pierre Uys, Minister for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, as representative of the Premier of the Western Cape

