



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 27, 2013

Participants in the US/China Transportation Forum

Safety and Disaster Assistance Working Group

Fifth Annual Workshop on Disaster Preparedness

WELCOME TO THE WORKSHOP!

On behalf of the Secretary, Anthony Foxx, US Transportation, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this Fifth Annual US/China Workshop on Safety and Disaster Preparedness. The workshop this year has a special focus on preparedness for and recovery from hurricanes and typhoons.

The US/China Transportation Forum was created in Beijing in November, 2008. Much of the work of the Forum is accomplished through Working Groups, one of which is this working group on Safety and Disaster Assistance. Our Working Group has been very active. This year we conducted a seminar and expo on Oil Spill Preparedness and Emergency Response in Qingdao, China and one on Highway Safety and Accident Investigation in the US. This workshop has been planned for months, with great participation from both the US and China. I think you will find it interesting and educational.

Although our countries and government systems have different characteristics, we share common goals and perspectives: When disasters occur, we must do everything possible to minimize deaths and injuries and help our communities regain their services and support for the citizens as soon as possible.

I look forward to participating in the discussions of this workshop and I encourage all participants to fully engage and learn from each other.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Lowder".

MICHAEL LOWDER, Director

Office of Intelligence, Security and Emergency Response

US Department of Transportation

Washington, DC USA