

**Remarks by Ambassador Wang Xiaolong
at the Open Day Event of the *Dayang Hao*
Research Vessel**

Prime Minister Mark Brown,
Vice Minister Sun Shuxian,
Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Kia Orana! It gives me great pleasure to join you onboard the *Dayang Hao* to witness the historic first visit of a Chinese oceanographic research vessel to the beautiful Cook Islands, and to celebrate the first China–Cook Islands joint scientific expedition. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and sincere appreciation to all those who have worked hard to make this visit and voyage happen. A special word of appreciation and thanks to Prime Minister for your vision, your leadership and your support, without which nothing of these would be possible. 在这里，还要特别欢迎远道而来的孙书贤副部长率领的代表团和科考队，感谢科考队的辛勤付出及对中库关系的贡献。

China has long been a trusted partner of Pacific Island countries. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations 28 years ago, China and the Cook

Islands have respected each other, treated each other as equals, and pursued common development. Guided by the principles of “Four Full Respects” proposed by President Xi Jinping, China firmly supports the Cook Islands in choosing a development path suited to its national conditions, and continues to provide assistance to support the country’s long-term and sustainable development. Thanks to our joint efforts, the China–Cook Islands Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has deepened continuously, bringing tangible benefits to our peoples and contributing positively to regional peace and development at the same time.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Brown paid a successful visit to China, during which our two sides signed the Action Plan for the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and several cooperation instruments on the blue economy and blue partnership, injecting strong impetus into our bilateral relations. And this voyage is one of the first major steps to give effect to that partnership. President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to the King’s Representative Sir Masters on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Cook Islands Constitution. I was honored to represent China on that august occasion and to celebrate this historic milestone together with our Cook Islands friends. Vice Minister Sun’s current visit once again demonstrates the importance China attaches to our relations with the Cook Islands and creates favorable conditions for deepening cooperation between us in key areas.

Within the framework of South–South cooperation, China has supported a number of projects in the Cook Islands. Last year, the first China–Cook Islands–New Zealand tripartite cooperation project on water supply, known as “Te Mato Vai”, was handed over. Our two sides are now in close communication regarding several livelihood projects, including an inter-island vessel, e-bikes, and e-buses, which we hope to implement soon to bring more tangible benefits to the Cook Islands people.

Maritime cooperation forms an important part of our bilateral relations. By leveraging our complementary strengths, China and the Cook Islands are deepening cooperation in areas such as seabed resources research and development. This not only represents the concrete implementation of the latest consensus reached by our leaders, but also opens up new opportunities for both sides to jointly protect the marine environment and promote the development of the blue economy.

In addition, our cooperation in multilateral settings continues to expand. Guided by the vision of a maritime community with a shared future, China supports the Cook Islands and other Pacific Island countries in realizing the goals set out in the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*—to build a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity.

Today, the international landscape is marked by turbulence and transformation. Multilateralism and the United Nations system are under

strain, and the global governance deficit continues to widen. Against this backdrop, President Xi Jinping has successively proposed the Global Development, Security, Civilization and Governance Initiatives. At their core lies the principle of upholding multilateralism based on sovereign equality among all countries—large or small—working together to meet common challenges, and building a community with a shared future for mankind where all peoples enjoy development and peace together.

The joint expedition and today's Open Day event mark a new chapter in our efforts to deepen maritime cooperation and enhance people-to-people understanding. China stands ready to take this as a new starting point, to work hand in hand with the Cook Islands, strengthen practical cooperation, support the Cook Islands' long-term development, and elevate our bilateral relations to new heights. Together, we can contribute to the building of a peaceful and prosperous Pacific and a better world.

Finally, I wish today's Open Day event and the voyage as well as the joint research carried out by our scientists every success.

Thank you.