

## LI YONG ELECTED AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNIDO

**Li Yong is the former Vice-Minister of Finance of China. Throughout his long career spanning stints at the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, GEF and IFAD, he has been a strong advocate of industrial development to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth.**

“China is one of the world’s largest manufacturing economies and its economic transformation has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty”, explained Li Yong shortly after being confirmed as the Organization’s 7<sup>th</sup> Director General in June. “This experience could be shared with other developing countries fighting to eradicate poverty”.

Li has held numerous high-level positions in the national and international arena. Before becoming Vice-Minister of Finance, a position he held from 2003 until 2013, he was the Executive Director for China in the World Bank Group and the Secretary General at the Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

### **His vision**

“The theme of inclusive and sustainable industrial development provides for enhanced partnerships with all relevant development actors and encompasses consideration of both social equity and environmental sustainability. This is instrumental in addressing the challenges of poverty eradication and job creation”, said Li during his meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in New York in September.

Providing industrial solutions for inclusive and sustainable development has been a priority for Li all throughout his career.

Under Li Yong’s stewardship, China saw the introduction of a wide range of preferential policies to promote microfinance, agricultural insurance and rural finance. One such microfinance programme created job opportunities for five million women. He also supported small and medium size enterprise development and competitiveness, South-South cooperation, energy conservation and environmental protection.

### **Five pillars**

During his [acceptance speech](#), Li outlined his areas of focus as Director General of UNIDO:

“We need to raise UNIDO’s profile in the international development agenda, provide tailored services, build stronger partnerships to mobilize more resources, ensure delivery to maximize the impact, and provide an enabling environment for the staff to achieve their full potential.”

Li, serving an initial four-year term, takes over from Kandeh K. Yumkella of Sierra Leone, who led the organization since 2005, and who is now the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and CEO of the Initiative.

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