

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF
THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY**

AND

**THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**ON LAUNCHING FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF CHINA AND THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY**

The Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Kingdom of Norway,

RECALLING the consensus reached by His Excellency Premire WEN Jiabao and His Excellency Prime Minister Jens STOLTENBERG on 26th March of 2007 on launching the Joint Feasibility Study on China-Norway Free Trade Agreement;

RECOGNIZING that the Joint Feasibility Study on China-Norway Free Trade Agreement was concluded successfully on 13th December of 2007, with positive conclusions and thus presenting a solid basis for future negotiations on China-Norway Free Trade Agreement;

WISHING to strengthen the friendly and robust economic and trade relations between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Norway;

Hereby *agree* as follows:

1. Based on the principles of equality and mutual benefits and with a cooperative and pragmatic attitude, the negotiations to reach a Free Trade Agreement between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Norway shall commence during this September of 2008.
2. The Free Trade Agreement will aim at promoting trade in goods and trade in services, while facilitating investment flows between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Norway, contributing to sustainable economic growth as well as enhancing the cooperation between their enterprises, thus improving the welfare and living standard of their people.
3. The present MoU shall enter into force on the date of signature.

Done in duplicate in Oslo on 18th September of 2008, in the Chinese and English languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence, the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry of Trade and Industry,
The Kingdom of Norway

For the Ministry of Commerce,
The People's Republic of China

H.E. Sylvia BRUSTAD
Minister of Trade and Industry

H.E. QIU Hong
Assistant Minister