



Compact2025 Launch

November 18, 2015

Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC

Speaker Remarks

Keynote Speaker: Gao Min
Olympic Gold Medalist in Diving
People's Republic of China

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Good Evening!

I am honored to be here to give my support for Compact 2025. I was born and raised in China during 1970s - a period of time when there was not enough food to eat. I believe in the goal of ending hunger and under-nutrition. I have served as an ambassador for China's National Poverty Reduction Foundation. I have also served as a Director of Board for Song Qing Ling Foundation and founded the Champions Fund. The goals are to end poverty and to promote healthy living. To meet these goals, I believe that we must end hunger and under-nutrition first.

I was an Olympic diver for many years. To achieve high performance, one has to have a healthy mind and body. This is also true for all other people. For children, for parents, for farmers, for teachers, for scientists. The list can go on.

Competing in the Olympic game also taught me something else. Hard work and commitment can lead to things that seem impossible. I started to dive at age 9. I was not that great for a while. I finished last in China diving championship. What changed me was a tiny black and white TV in 1984. I watched an opening ceremony of Los Angeles Olympic game with a big watermelon in my hand. I never saw something that grand before. Suddenly, I had a mission. I wanted to represent China and I wanted to be the best. I started to work hard. No vacations. No fooling around. Four years later, I won the gold medal at Seoul Olympics. When I stood at the podium, an image of a young girl sitting in front of a tiny TV appeared in my mind. In 1992 I won my second Olympic gold in Barcelona.

Many factors helped my success in diving. But two factors are most critical. First, I had a clear goal. Then, I did the work to make it happen. Compact2025 is a big idea that can help millions of people. But success will have the same two parts. Set the goal. Make it happen.

To end hunger and undernutrition by 2025, we will need more than the people in this room. This is not just an issue for experts. We all have a role to play. Bringing people together, especially young people. I look forward as an ambassador of Compact2025 – to help bring attention to this critical issue and to help bring people together.

Millions of people in China have been inspired by my achievements in sports. Now with “Compact2025”, I can do my part to inspire them about an EVEN bigger achievement—ending hunger and under-nutrition.

Each of us has the power to inspire others. I call on everyone to do the same. We can end hunger and undernutrition by 2025 if we all work together.

Thank you very much for your attention!