



China-Britain
Business Council
英中贸易协会

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China-Britain Business Council hosts banquet for Li Keqiang, Vice-Premier of the State Council, People's Republic of China, and signs 2 MoUs

On 11 January 2011 the **China-Britain Business Council** (CBBC) will host a banquet in honour of Vice-Premier Li Keqiang.

Sir David Brewer, CBBC Chairman, will host the Vice-Premier and his accompanying delegation of 8 Ministers (including Deputy Secretary General You Quan of the State Council, Yi Gang, Vice Governor of the People's Bank of China, Vice Minister Gao Hucheng of the Ministry of Commerce and Vice-Minister Mme Fu Ying of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), along with 50 officials and 100 business people from China.

The Foreign Secretary William Hague will attend the banquet along with the Business Secretary Vince Cable and members of the China-Britain Business Council including senior executives from BP, Diageo, Standard Chartered, Rio Tinto, Jaguar Land Rover, Pearson, Rolls Royce and Tesco.

Speeches addressing the audience of 500 will be made by Vice Premier Li, Foreign Secretary William Hague, Vice Minister Gao Hucheng, Business Secretary Vince Cable and Sir David Brewer, CBBC Chairman.

Today during Vice Premier Li's 4 day visit to the UK and in the presence of the Vice Premier, CBBC will sign a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Chinese. These are:

1) CBBC and The China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products (CCCME) are signing an MoU to increase the cooperation and exchanges between Chinese and British SMEs, including sharing of information and joint activities. The agreement will be signed by Sir David Brewer, Chairman of CBBC and Wang Guiqing, Vice President of CCCME.

"This is a great opportunity to encourage SMEs from both countries to work together. China offers UK SMEs some really exciting opportunities and we have worked with many who are doing good business in China already. So many

more could and I would encourage British SMEs to contact their local CBBC office to learn more” said Sir David Brewer, Chairman CBBC

2) CBBC, Beijing International Brand Management Center and Beijing Chaoyang District are also signing a MoU to explore the establishment of a British Trade Centre in Beijing to help to promote and enhance the trade of British brands, goods and services in China. Signing the agreement will be Stephen Phillips, Chief Executive of CBBC, Xu Jing, Director of the Beijing International Brand Management Center and Zhang Lixin, Deputy Director of Beijing Chaoyang District.

“This is an exciting initiative with great potential. We look forward to working with our partners to develop a model that will potentially help hundreds of UK businesses in China” said Stephen Phillips.

On Tuesday 11 January, the business delegation accompanying Vice-Premier Li will also attend the UK-China Trade & Economic Forum: Partners for Growth where Lord Green, Minister of State for Trade & Investment, Vice Minister Gao Hucheng, from Ministry of Commerce and Sir David Brewer, CBBC Chairman, will speak. The Forum is co-organised by CBBC and CCCME and sponsored by MOFCOM, BIS and UKTI.

Senior representatives of 400 British and Chinese companies will attend the forum which offers a great opportunity to deepen understanding and explore partnerships with each other. Four breakout sessions will cover

1. Investment Opportunities in UK
2. Advanced Engineering and Sustainable Manufacturing
3. SME to SME cooperation
4. Developing Low Carbon Economies

“Over the last 12 months we have seen strong growth in UK exports to China and the potential for UK business to do even more is tremendous. China’s economy is changing rapidly and new opportunities are emerging in fast growing and vibrant cities across the country. At CBBC we can help British businesses succeed in this exciting, but equally challenging marketplace’ said Stephen Phillips

Background notes for editors:

The China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) is the largest membership organisation for UK companies doing business in China and offers a comprehensive range of services and advice for all businesses at all stages of market entry. CBBC works closely with the UK government. Through a unique arrangement, CBBC delivers a number of business support services and China business advice to British companies on behalf of UK Trade & Investment.

CBBC has 900 members including Alliance Boots, Associated British Foods, Arup, Barclays, Clyde Bowers, Diageo, DLA Piper, GKN, HSBC, Marks and Spencer, Peel Holdings, Pearson, Rolls-Royce, Synergy Health, Tesco, University of Nottingham, Virgin, Vodafone, although two-thirds of its members are SME's including 4 Energy, Benoy, Berry Brothers, Communicarta, ICTS Software, Jetion Solar, Lotus Engineering and Penhaligon's. In the last year 130 new corporate members joined including Huawei, ICBC, Zaha Hadid, Sainsbury's and Nokia. 80% of new members are SMEs.

The top three areas of expertise of CBBC's members are financial and professional services, engineering and education although companies range from life sciences to creative and media. Chinese companies such as Bank of China, Air China, China Merchants Bank, China Construction Bank, Chengdu Hi-Tech Zone, Agricultural Bank of China, Huawei, ICBC and China Netcom are also members.

"We are proud of the fact that we have such a diverse membership base as it means we genuinely offer added-value to all sizes of companies at all stages of their development" says Stephen Phillips, Chief Executive of CBBC.

CBBC, with a track record of developing British trade in China dating back to the 1950's has unrivalled government contacts in both UK and China and is the first port of call for companies looking to trade with China. It handles over 6,000 enquiries from companies a year and offers a range of services.

The CBBC network of 11 offices in China (Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Qingdao, Wuhan, Chengdu, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Shenyang, Chongqing and Guangzhou) and nine in the UK employ a team of 110 including commercial and sector specialists with direct experience of working in China. All CBBC staff in China are bilingual and 70% of the non-Chinese staff have either studied, worked or run their own business in China.

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