

Final Report

The Honourable Thomas A. Lukaszuk, Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training, and Labour
Mission to China (Harbin, Shanghai, Hangzhou)
January 4-8, 2014

Executive Summary:

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships in Asia, this mission advanced strategic partnerships in the areas of market access, industrial research and development, and science and technology.

As the world's second largest economy, China continues to be an important market for Alberta. China's next Five Year Plan focuses on health care, energy, and technology - all areas where Alberta has made strong investments in innovation. This presents a significant opportunity for Alberta's public and private research organizations, technology-focused companies and industry to partner with China. This mission strengthened key relationships, explored opportunities and contributed to a sustained Alberta presence in China.

Mission initiatives were focused on strategic relationship development in support of the key objectives outlined below. The mission was designed to advance the Cabinet Mandate priority initiatives of education and entrepreneurship, expanded market access, and advancing world leading resource stewardship.

Key Objectives:

- Strengthen key relationships with our partners in China;
- Promote business opportunities and industrial research and development co-operation as part of the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) signed with the municipality of Shanghai and the province of Zhejiang;
- Pursue investment opportunities and advance Alberta's higher education and science and technology partnerships; and,
- Represent the Government of Alberta at the Harbin International Ice & Snow Festival in Heilongjiang as part of Alberta's strategic and historical partnership with this region of China.

Significant Accomplishments:

- Met with the Vice Governor, Government of Heilongjiang and participated in the Harbin International Ice & Snow Festival. Discussed areas of mutual interest including exploring cultural possibilities.

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality to promote industrial research and development co-operation between Alberta and the municipality of Shanghai. Discussed areas of mutual interest in energy, agriculture, high technology manufacturing, and commercialization of advanced technologies. Also discussed was the opportunity for joint pharmaceutical related projects between Shanghai and Alberta.
- Met with Shanghai Electric, discussed their close working relationship with Siemens, and the opportunity to leverage the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of Alberta and Siemens for mutual benefit. Other areas for future collaboration that were discussed included research in energy storage as it relates to alternative energy and wind power specifically, and waste-to-energy and water technologies.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Zhejiang Department of Science and Technology focused on industrial research and development cooperation between Alberta and Zhejiang. Areas of mutual interest in diabetes research, environmental technologies, health-related sensors, homecare-enabling medical devices and water technologies were discussed. The possibility of a workshop between the two jurisdictions, regarding medical devices, to be hosted by Zhejiang in fall 2014 was also discussed.

Delegation:

Honourable Thomas A. Lukaszuk
Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour

Mr. Warren Singh
Chief of Staff to Minister