



Forum Chairs

The "Working Groups" area of www.amcham-china.org.cn has more about AmCham's forums and committees

Table listing Forum Chairs across various industries including Aerospace, Agriculture, Automotive, Aviation Cooperation Program, Beijing, Chaoyang, Clean Technology, Cosmetics, Energy and Power, Environmental Industry, Export Compliance Working Group, Financial Services, Food, Healthcare Industry, Human Resources, Insurance, Intellectual Property Rights, IT and Telecom, Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations, Manufacturing, Media and Entertainment, National/Regional Structure TF, NE Working Group, Olympics Forum, Provincial & Regional Development, Real Estate and Development Industry, Retail and Distribution Industry, SME, Sourcing, Standards, Tax, Tourism Industry, Training and Development, and Transportation and Logistics.

Committee Chairs

Table listing Committee Chairs for various committees including Appreciation Dinner, Charity Ball, Chinese Government Affairs, Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility, Golf Programs, Membership, Public Policy Development, Security and OSAC Liaison, US Government Relations, and Visas.

Support Staff:

- List of support staff members with their names and email addresses, such as Naomi Sun (naomi@amcham-china.org.cn), Jessie Jiang (jessiej@amcham-china.org.cn), and Julie Leng (CSR@amcham-china.org.cn).

Know Your Working Groups

AmCham-China's working groups (forums and committees) are an invaluable component of what the chamber offers to its members. Each is an industry or area-focused group that meets to discuss critical developments, draft policy recommendations for the annual White Paper, and plan chamber workshops and events.

Beijing Forum

For much of the last couple of years, the Olympics Forum has been the focal point of a lot of Beijing city-related activity. As the Games come and go, the Beijing Forum will pick up much of the slack left by the end of the Olympics Forum.



Beijing Forum Chair John Holden during a recent trip to Sichuan

The Beijing Forum examines the quality of the city of Beijing as a working and living environment for American corporations, and makes recommendations to the Beijing municipal authorities on what the city government can do to enhance the city's attractiveness as a place for corporations from the US and other foreign countries to locate their businesses.

There are three primary areas of focus that the working group deals with:

- 1. Governance and regulation.
2. Infrastructure and environment.
3. Historical context, culture and dynamic creativity.

All of these factors directly impact the

business environment for American corporations. Specifically, they all contribute to the desirability of Beijing as a place to live and work for American corporations and their employees. Toward the goal of improving the overall business climate in Beijing, the forum contributes to the White Paper and works with the local government.

John Holden chairs the Beijing Forum.

To become a member, please send an e-mail to forum coordinator **Naomi Sun** at: naomi@amcham-china.org.cn

Retail and Distribution Forum



Retail and Distribution Forum Chair Matthew Estes with Sichuan Vice Governor Huang Xiaoxiang

The AmCham Retail & Distribution Forum focuses on advocacy initiatives related to market access, transparency and national treatment for retail and direct sales industries in China. Recent efforts have centered on three initiatives:

1. Two industry sections of the 2008 White Paper: one each for retail and direct sales.
2. Comments on the draft Regulation on Urban Commercial Outlets ("Big Box Law").
3. Meetings with MOFCOM, SAIC and provincial governments to discuss the issues and recommendations listed in the White Paper. Forum members' companies have similarly been active participants in AmCham's provincial trips.

The retail and direct sale sections of the 2008 White Paper, including the recommendations made in these two chapters, are available for free on the AmCham-China website.

Matthew Estes chairs the Retail and Distribution Forum.

To become a member, please send an e-mail to forum coordinator **Naomi Sun** at:

naomi@amcham-china.org.cn

Young Professionals Brown Bag Luncheon Gathering

The Young Professionals group had its monthly brown bag meeting in AmCham's conference room. This edition of the extremely popular luncheon featured **Gregory Gilligan**, head of government relations of McDonald's (China) Co., Ltd and AmCham board member.

As the planners have come to expect, the event attracted a young audience from a wide variety of backgrounds eager to learn about developing careers in China. Since Greg has mainly worked in governmental affairs, he started the discussion by explaining the special role his department plays in the operations of his company. He went on to tell the group about the balancing act a top manager faces when integrating an international business into local markets. Greg also shared his experiences on developing a career in China as a foreigner. As a large multinational corporation that attracts its fair share of societal attention, McDonald's has a refined set of CSR efforts and approaches, and Greg discussed these.

During the lively question and answer session that followed his presentation, Greg discussed topics ranging from McDonald's general operations and marketing strategies to the corporation's experience working with Chinese NGOs. He also explained McDonald's positions regarding the health-

fulness of its food and listened to audience suggestions for additions to the McDonald's menu. Attendees were also appreciative of the lunch that Greg's company provided free to the group.

For more information about the Young Professionals group, please contact **Julie Leng** by e-mailing julie@amcham-china.org.cn

Young Professionals Happy Hour Networking Event

Over 40 people, both locals and expats, attended the young professional happy hour event at Block 8 for a bit of drinking and socializing. The event attracts young people with backgrounds in law, consulting, social services, international relations, journalism, educational training and business.

Xu Min of MAN Truck and Bus won the lucky draw and walked away with a RMB 200 voucher for Hatsune restaurant.

Every month the chamber's Young Professionals host a happy hour. Be sure to watch the events area of the AmCham site for details about the next networking event.

For more information about the Young Professionals group, please contact **Julie Leng** by e-mailing julie@amcham-china.org.cn



Young Professionals get happy at the monthly happy hour networking party

Corporate Social Responsibility for SMEs



APCO's Erin Harper talks to SMEs about CSR

The chamber's SME Forum held the third event in a new series of informal conversations at the office of member company APCO Worldwide Strategic Communications practice in Beijing. **Erin Harper**, senior consultant at APCO, led a discussion focusing on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and strategies for SMEs in China looking to institute their own CSR programs.

Erin gave an overview of the evolution of CSR in China and spoke about related opportunities and challenges faced by SMEs in the country. She pointed out that SMEs often lack the finances and HR infrastructure to identify and follow up on CSR opportunities. Furthermore, small donations made by SMEs are likely to be overshadowed in the media by large MNCs contributions, even if they account for much greater percentages of their annual revenues. Additionally, it can be harder for small firms to convince government and/or NGO partners to be flexible when creating specialized programs.

To address some of these problems, Erin

suggested that SMEs consider alternative programs such as employee volunteerism, production donation/pro bono services and joint projects with key business partners, supporters and regulators. She stressed that the key to success is making sure that any CSR project starts off with clear expectations and goals.

Erin also discussed some recent SME programs undertaken by large companies and compared them to projects organized by their smaller counterparts. During the talk she spotlighted a few SME's CSR efforts aimed at assisting the Wenchuan earthquake survivors.

Stacey Berlow (Project Balance LLC.) and **Robin Adams** (Yi Ming Consulting), co-chairs of the SME Forum, moderated this event.

Please contact **Jessie Jiang** by e-mailing jessiej@amcham-china.org.cn for more information about the chamber's SME Committee.

Safeguarding and Protecting Reputation

AmCham-China members and guests gathered at the Kerry Centre Hotel recently to hear a presentation by **Dr. Leslie Gaines-Ross**, the chief reputation strategist for Weber Shandwick, and a widely recognized expert on corporate and CEO reputation management. She discussed strategies for managing a company's reputation. As the author of "Corporate Reputation: 12 Steps to Safeguarding and Recovering Reputation

and CEO Capital: A Guide to Building CEO Reputation and Company Success," Dr. Gaines-Ross is well qualified to present these sensitive issues to the sophisticated audience that attended the event.

Dr. Gaines-Ross spoke about the factors that go into building good company reputations including leadership, responsibility, financial metrics, products and services and communications. She also described the increasing threats that jeopardize reputations, pointing out that no company is bulletproof from criticism, regardless of how well respected it may be.



Dr. Leslie Gaines-Ross is a chief reputation strategist for Weber Shandwick

Companies should always be aware of the environment that may affect their reputations, she said. She stressed that reputation recovery is an on-going process and there are no shortcuts or days off. One of the points she emphasized is that it is important for leaders to take responsibility and even apologize if something occurs that puts a firm's reputation in a negative light. Dr. Gaines-Ross outlined a practical roadmap for safeguarding and recovering corporate images. She concluded that one can forgive

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a company manager for losing money after making bad decisions, but no one can be forgiven when they fail to protect a company's reputation.

At the talk by Dr. Gaines-Ross, AmCham China Vice President **Judy Karp** moderated.

Aviation Cooperation Program receives \$1M Grant from USTDA

The AmCham-China Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP) was recently awarded a US \$1M grant by the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). The funds will cover costs for an executive management development training program, a study promoting the development of general aviation in China, and special training for Chinese air traffic control supervisors. In addition to USTDA funds, the ACP member companies are providing in-kind contributions, making the overall donation worth US \$2.8M.

The new director of the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), **Larry Walther**, and members of ACP including Executive Director **Joe Tymczyszyn** attended the signing ceremony at the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) headquarters with the administrator of CAAC, **Li Jiaxiang**.

Administrator Li and his team of three Director Generals engaged in a very friendly and frank discussion of many topics related to the cooperation. CAAC members shared

their top priorities for future cooperation and brought up general problem areas with ACP representatives, such as difficulties in getting US visas and export control issues.

Natural Disaster Preparedness Workshop

AmCham-China, in partnership with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Asia Foundation, held a workshop on natural disaster management for the private sector. Given the occurrence of recent disasters in southern and western China, the topic attracted a number of managers and CSR practitioners, from industries such as insurance, logistics, retail and high-technology.

A few major corporate representatives including IBM, Lenovo and FedEx, were present at the sold-out event at the China World Hotel and talked about their own disaster management strategies. They discussed working together with other multinationals to aid the recent earthquake survivors and they used past natural disasters, such as this winter's snow storms, as examples of how corporations can work together to make a difference.

The audience asked panel members questions about the legislation governing donations, the division of responsibilities among the various government sectors and the status of involvement by corporations and NGOs. The workshop closed with a report on how the disaster preparedness program was carried out in two pilot cities

during the last twelve months. This event also saw the launch of a "Disaster Management Manual for Private Sector," the first of its kind published to prepare businesses in the event of a natural disaster. Also in attendance were **Dr. Jonathan Stromseth**, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation; **Ms. C. Sherry Hong**, Second Secretary, Environment, Science, Technology and Health Section from the US Embassy; and **Dr. Wang Zhenyao**, Director General, Department of Disaster and Social Relief, Ministry of Civil Affairs.

2010 Shanghai World Expo Luncheon



AmCham hosted a special luncheon at the China World Hotel recently highlighting the 2010 Shanghai World Expo. Both business leaders and government officials attended the event. According to the World Expo website, the event, now two years off, "aims to promote the exchange of ideas and development of the world economy, culture, science and technology, to allow exhibitors to publicize and display their achievements and improve international relationships."

More than 70 members and guests showed up to take part in the event that included a panel discussion, networking opportunities and a Q&A session. The guest speakers included **Dan Piccuta**, US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission; **Mr. Wang Jinzhen**, vice chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT); **Nicholas Winslow** and **Ellen Eliasoph**, co-chairs of the 2010 US Pavilion Expo. The panelists reviewed the current status of preparation for the 2010 Expo, in addition to creative concepts for the Pavilion and special opportunities for private-sector supporters.

Mr. Wang Jinzhen detailed the general progress of the preparation for the 2010



Members of ACP, US TDA and CAAC pose for a photo

World Expo in Shanghai, as well as mentioning the importance of the Shanghai World Expo theme "Better City, Better Life."

AmCham-China Vice-Chair **John Watkins** (Cummins) moderated the event.

Breakfast Discussion with USITC's Dr. Robert Koopman

A large group gathered at the AmCham-China office to discuss recent findings from the US International Trade Commission's (USITC) China research program. **Dr. Robert Koopman**, who directs the USITC Office of Economics, was in attendance to go over the findings with the attendees. His office provides analysis for ITC investigations and reports and supports the commission in its role as adviser to Congress and the President on international trade matters. Dr. Koopman's latest research in China has focused on recent estimates of the domestic content in Chinese exports.

Dr. Koopman gave an overview of his work on US-China trade relations, highlighting his research on China's economic progress and development and he also addressed some of the factors behind the US-China trade deficit. Specifically, he discussed the reorientation of Asian trade and the ways that Chinese trade policies successfully attract direct foreign investment through incentives. He also mentioned that even though the US economy has slowed down, it has still grown much faster than other developed countries in recent years.



Dr. Robert Koopman discusses Chinese exports

He reminded everyone that China is not the United States' primary trading partner. NAFTA countries do more trade with the US than China, and Canada is the biggest US trading partner. He went on to say that China and the EU are almost equal trading partners with the US; China ranks just slightly higher than the EU.

His presentation was followed by a Q&A session during which people shared their concerns and observations about the current state of US-China trade. Dr. Koopman's presentation, biography and other related material from the discussion are available on the AmCham website for members.

Tax Planning for Entrepreneurs and SMEs



Nick Cham (left) and Gus Kang (right) explain the ins and outs of tax planning

AmCham-China's SME Forum held the fourth event in a new series of informal conversations at the office of member company Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. **Nick Cham** and **Gus Kang** are partners in the Tax and Business Advisory Services group at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. The two discussed strategies for SME tax planning.

Nick gave an overview of China's tax system and then kicked off the discussion by explaining value added tax and direct tax, which includes employment income tax and individual income tax. Nick used real-life examples to demonstrate tax calculation. He gave suggestions about how legally to minimize tax payments and briefed attendees about the fines and penalties businesses can incur when taxes are not paid in a timely manner. Nick completed his presentation by giving the SME owners and operators information about responding to unfair tax treatment. Gus closed the meeting with a discussion of the process for filing individual taxes and the mechanisms for paying these taxes.

Stacey Berlow (Project Balance LLC) and **Robin Adams** (Yi Ming Consulting), co-chairs of the SME Forum, moderated this event.

Please contact **Jessie Jiang** for more information about the chamber's SME Committee by e-mailing

jessiej@amcham-china.org.cn

Beijing Intellectual Property Office Meeting

About 30 AmCham-China members gathered at the Silk Street Market, the iconic Beijing shopping landmark, to participate in a formal meeting introducing the government bureaus and organizations responsible for the protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Beijing. Participants had the opportunity to hold a dialogue with leaders from 18 Beijing organizations focusing on strengthening IPR enforcement.

Liu Zhengang, head of the Beijing Intellectual Property Office (BIPO), discussed his organization's near-term goals as the 2008 Olympics approach. He emphasized to participants that in the last year, BIPO had doubled its efforts to curb IPR infringement and create a dynamic innovation-based environment for companies in Beijing. Mr. Liu also elaborated on the reform of Xiangyang Market in Shanghai and the recent rectification of the Beijing's Silk Street Market.

Speaking on his organization's conviction, Mr. Liu added that he "chose the Silk Market as the place to hold this meeting to show that we are not afraid to deal with these large problems."

Committee of 100 Survey Results

The non-profit organization Committee of 100 recently released a survey, "Hope & Fear: American and Chinese Attitudes Toward Each Other." The report provides the latest in-depth look at the opinions of politicians, business executives and the general public on a wide-range of issues in both countries. Some of the hot-button topics covered include the status of Taiwan, product safety, intellectual property rights protection and global warming.



The Committee of 100's Frank H. Wu talks about the group's recent survey

Frank H. Wu, one of the survey's co-chairs, presented the results to more than 50 AmCham members. Mr. Wu gave an overview of the survey and compared the results with the Committee's past reports surveying American and Chinese attitudes toward each other.

The theme of the recent survey is "A Paradox of Hope and Fear." In his presentation, Mr. Wu said he and his co-chairs found that in both China and America, the populations have tremendous hope about what is becoming the most important bilateral relationship in the world. However, at the same time many also harbor significant concerns about the consequences of such integration.

Mr. Wu also suggested ways to improve US-China relations. Increasing travel and visits, expanding communication between Chinese Americans and the US Congress and striving to achieve objective news coverage of each other all will go far in warming relations between the countries, he noted.

Members can read Mr. Wu's power point presentation on the "What's New" section of the AmCham-China website.

AmCham Vice President **Judy Karp** moderated the event.

Lunch Meeting with Vice Governor of Heilongjiang Province



Sun Yao, vice governor of Heilongjiang Province, addresses AmCham members

Nearly 100 people participated in a members-only meeting with **Sun Yao**, vice governor of Heilongjiang Province, at the China World Hotel.

The vice governor's presentation focused on the development of agricultural-based industries related to environmental protection, energy, manufacturing, animal husbandry and medicine/pharmaceuticals in Heilongjiang Province. He also detailed the advantages of local industry and enterprises,

as well as measures the local government is taking to accelerate growth in the Province. He talked about the economic relationship between the area and the US, which is an important trading partner in the region with trade growing to US \$780 million by 2007.

AmCham-China Chairman **James Zimmerman** moderated the meeting. Also in attendance were Board of Governors member **Emory Williams** (SureBlock) and Vice President of Government Affairs **Kippy Ye**.

AmCham meets ACFTU Vice Chairman Xu

AmCham-China Chairman **James Zimmerman** and AmCham-China Vice President of Government Affairs **Kippy Ye** met with Vice-chairman **Xu Deming** of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) recently. The objective of the meeting was to follow up on AmCham's White Paper discussions including the recommendations outlined in the chapters concerning HR issues and labor-related CSR.

Mr. Zimmerman emphasized AmCham's support of China's effort to protect worker rights and stated that the Labor Contract Law (LCL) provides additional legal framework to achieve the objectives of protecting workers rights. He also stressed that the implementation and enforcement of the LCL should be conducted in a consistent and uniform manner nation-wide.

Vice-chairman Xu thanked AmCham and its members for their White Paper recommendations and emphasized that the establishment of trade unions in foreign invested enterprises and business growth are not contradictory. Xu stressed that the trade unions are supportive of economic and enterprise growth.

ACFTU expressed an interest to establish an ongoing dialogue with AmCham-China.



AmCham leaders meet with heads of the ACFTU

New AmCham-China Business Visa Service Center



AmCham's new visa service center

In the past year, AmCham-China has processed more than 13,000 visa applications through its Business Visa Program, an increase of more than 1,000 applications over the prior year. AmCham-China anticipates that the needs of our members for this service will continue to grow during the next several years.

To meet the growing demands of its members, AmCham-China has opened its new Business Visa Service Center which is conveniently located in a larger space in the same building as the AmCham-China office. This new center is located in Suite 1808 (18th floor) in the China Resources Building. Applications for business visas will continue to be accepted at the service center from 9:00 – 11:00 AM daily. The new hours to pick-up processed passports of fingerscan applicants only are 9:00- 11:00 AM and 1:00 – 4:00 PM.



AmCham's Qian Chao assists a visa applicant

The cheery service center space has plenty of seating for applicants visiting to either review their applications with our professional staff or submit completed visa application forms.

Please note that the service fee for business visa applications is now RMB 250 per application.

Please tell your colleagues, messengers and employees about the new location. The Business Visa Service Center staff looks forward to seeing you in the new office.

AmCham-China Delegation Visits Earthquake Site

Resilience and strength of survivors impresses members

By Josh Gartner



Josh GARTNER

“I’m struck by the resilience of the people and ... by the commitment of the government to address what is an unbelievable event.” - GE China President and CEO Mark Norbom

AmCham Chairman James Zimmerman (left) with Sichuan Vice Governor Huang Xiaoxiang and AmCham Vice Chair Matthew Estes

At the invitation of the Sichuan Government, representatives from 38 AmCham-China companies visited some of the areas worst hit by the May 12 earthquake. Sichuan officials took the delegation to the Mianyang section of Deyang City, a district that was nearly completely leveled. In the central area of the city, entire buildings sat in heaps of rubble on the ground. The amount of devastation hit members hard, even though they were prepared for a difficult day.

Most of the members found the experience sobering, but uplifting at the same time. There were moments of incredible sadness, but there were also many signs of the resilience of the Sichuan people. AmCham-China Board Member John Holden (Shaklee) commented that before seeing the different sites he had not fully appreciated the Sichuan people's ability “to rebuild lives with quiet courage and determination” that was so clearly on display in the area.

Indeed, the mood of the visit quickly turned from sorrow to hope. Following the viewing of the Mianyang section, AmCham members went to a local elementary school in which no children were seriously injured

during the quake. Local officials worked quickly to set up high-quality make-shift classrooms, allowing the children to return to life as normal as possible given the difficult circumstances. These youngsters were far luckier than some of the other children in the surrounding areas who tragically did not survive the disaster.

The children at the school were in good spirits and were thrilled by the attention and gifts that the delegation brought. Giving the kids a chance to take their minds off of all of the difficulties surrounding them was a welcomed opportunity for the members. AmCham-China Chairman James Zimmerman, Vice Chair Matthew Estes (BabyCare), Zhao Dadong (Emerson) and President and CEO of GE China Mark Norbom were among those handing gifts to the happy children. Mr. Norbom noted an uplifting strain running through all of the heartache saying, “I’m

struck by the resilience of the people and I am struck by the commitment of the government to address what is an unbelievable event.”

Several members echoed Mr. Norbom's sentiments. Barry Friedman of Wal-Mart was deeply impressed with the strength of the people he saw, saying, “The courage of the survivors is very inspiring.” Matthew Estes stressed that many of his firm's employees and factories are located in the region, and that they are doing everything they can to meet their needs. He added that BabyCare



Lisa Robins, managing director JP Morgan Beijing Branch, at camp for displaced survivors

Josh GARTNER

was extremely lucky because, out of their “600 employees, everyone was fine,” despite so many living in affected areas.

The local government invited the AmCham delegation to give member companies a chance to view the sites and also see how donated money is being used. To date, AmCham-China and its member companies have given more than US \$97 million in cash, goods and services toward relief efforts.

The delegation also went to a temporary camp set up in Deyang where displaced residents from as far away as Wenchuan (the earthquake’s epicenter) are being housed and fed free of charge. Anne Zhao (Dow Chemical China) was impressed with the upbeat feel at the site saying, “I am very happy to see the local residents here get back to their normal lives.” She added that she was proud of the significant “support [from] the government and multinational companies” that have contributed to this recovery process.

Sichuan officials thanked the delegation for its support of the community during difficult circumstances and emphasized that the province is still a good place for investment. They stressed that at this critical moment it is not the time for the business community to leave, but rather companies should redouble their commitment to the region. The AmCham-China members also toured an area of Chengdu that is being cultivated for corporate headquarters.

Later in the day, members attended a press conference during which the international business community showed its solidarity with the people of Sichuan. Several government officials spoke talking about the close bonds that had been reinforced between the local people and multinational corporations. Vice Governor of Sichuan Huang Xiaoxiang thanked the foreign community for its generous contributions, and urged it to continue to stand by the people of his province.

James Zimmerman and several other AmCham members, including Barry Friedman, AmCham Board Member Gregory Gilligan (McDonald’s) and others gave speeches discussing their companies’ solidarity in rebuilding Sichuan. They all stressed their companies’ commitments to the province and their steadfastness in standing by the people who were so adversely impacted. The trip gave AmCham members the opportunity to understand fully the magnitude of the disaster, see how their donations are being used and to connect with the survivors.



AmCham delegation surveying Deyang earthquake site



Emerson China President Zhao Dadong (right) with a Deyang elementary school principal



President and CEO of GE China Mark Norbom gives out gifts in a Deyang elementary school

JOSH GARTNER

JOSH GARTNER

JOSH GARTNER

Independence Day Celebration

Sun, rain and fun for everyone involved

By China Brief

Another Independence Day celebration, another torrential rainstorm. AmCham members and guests gathered for this year's July 4 BBQ party at the International School of Beijing (ISB) as the mercury was rising. Just like last year, soon after the temperature peaked, the rain came down and the wind picked up. By the time most celebrants left the event, their shoes and clothes were soaked, but their spirits were high thanks to the wonderful refreshments, delicious food and mood-lifting entertainment generously provided by the party's numerous sponsors.

AmCham-China Vice President Judy Karp kicked off the event with a welcome message, which was followed by a choral arrangement leading the crowd in a sing-along version of the US National Anthem. Several local groups then hit the stage and sang familiar Broadway show tunes to celebrate the traveling performance of the hit musical

"Aida," scheduled to come to Beijing in the fall.

One of the biggest attractions of the day was the five official Olympic Fuwa mascots, who made several appearances before the rain began. They greeted guests and handed out American flags to kids of all ages to boost the already-high July 4th patriotic spirit.

Fortunately, the spacious grounds of ISB include indoor seating areas large enough to accommodate the nearly 800 attendees who sought shelter from the driving rain and

wind. The fun continued inside with musical performances, dancing and lucky draw giveaways, which included a roundtrip vacation to Washington, DC. Goodie bags chock full of fun prizes were handed out as guests headed home.

AmCham expresses its sincere gratitude to the Independence Day party sponsors.



WANG HAO



WANG HAO

Families and Fuwa enjoying the festivities



WANG HAO

Kids of AmCham members taking part in the activities

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AmCham, US Wuhan Consulate Celebrate July 4th in Hubei

AmCham and Embassy both extend reach into Central China in 2008

By China Brief

An AmCham-China delegation went to Wuhan to celebrate American Independence Day at the US Embassy/Wuhan Consulate's July 4th Reception. More than 300 members from the business and government communities took part in the event at the Holiday Inn. Over 100 of the guests were invited by AmCham-China, which cooperated with the Embassy to put the evening together. The reception marked the first official event of the new US Consulate in Wuhan since its opening earlier this year. In addition, July 4th gave the chamber an opportunity to discuss with the local business community its plans for a Central China office in Wuhan. The office is expected to open later this year.

Representatives from all six Central China provinces (Hubei, Jiangxi, Hunan, Henan, Shanxi and Anhui) attended the party as guests of honor. Representing AmCham-China at the event were Chairman James Zimmerman, Managing Editor of Publications Josh Gartner, Government Relations Associate Ema Alvarez and Special Assistant Grace Gao.

Following a speech by Wuhan Consulate General Wendy Lyle, Mr. Zimmerman addressed the crowd, which included French Consulate General Michel Freymuth, among other distinguished guests. The AmCham chairman congratulated Ms. Lyle on the achievement and commended the State Department's push into Central China, stressing that, combined with AmCham's move into the area, the Consulate's opening demonstrates the interest of Americans in more than just China's coastal regions. He told the audience, "We are here to celebrate a solid foundation for building stronger ties and bridges between the American people and the people of Central China. We are here to celebrate our friendship and cooperation."



(Left to right) Josh Gartner, US Wuhan Consulate General Wendy Lyle and James Zimmerman

The AmCham team held private discussions with various government authorities from the provinces of Hubei, Hunan, and Jiangxi, and city officials from Wuhan, Changsha, Yichang, Erzhou, Xiangtan, Nancheng and other cities and agencies from Central China. The chamber has been expanding its reach beyond Beijing for several years through provincial trips and collaboration with local governments throughout the country. The opening of the AmCham-China, Central China Chapter later this year will mark a more formal expansion into this area of increasing interest for the American business community.

By having a physical presence in Central China, the chamber will be able to continue increasing the services it offers to its members in the interior of the country. AmCham-China will increase its capacity to process visas for its member companies, something that has already started with the opening of the new, dedicated visa processing office on

the 18th floor of the China Resources Building in Beijing. Furthermore, AmCham will look to hold more events in Central China specifically designed to meet the needs of the members in the area.

One of the important things that AmCham-China is keeping in mind with the opening of the Central China Chapter is that not all members have the same needs. This is particularly true as the chamber expands into new geographical areas. As a member-driven organization, AmCham is looking toward the business community in Wuhan, and the wider central region of the country, to drive the agenda of activities.

The July 4th party was an opportunity for AmCham-China, the US Embassy and newly opened Wuhan Consulate, to enjoy an evening of fun with the local business and government community. All look forward to a long and successful run in Central China. The event marked merely the beginning of many more exciting things to come.



New AmCham Members 商会新成员

Corporate Members

Kiril Sokoloff, 13D Research, Inc.

Richard Ren, UL Electrical & Mechanical Technology (Shanghai) Limited

D. Bruce Montgomery, IM Magplane Pipeline Technology, LLC.

Norman B. Champ III, Chilton Investment Consulting (Beijing) Company Limited.

John Wang, Asian American Business Development Center

Ji Guo, Dao Cheng Fu Ji Shu Fa Zhan (Beijing) Company Ltd.

Yuan Lu, United Solar Ovonic Jineng Limited

Qun Wang Jamieson, YUM! Restaurants (China) Investment

Additional Corporate Members

Lei Yang, 13D Research, Inc.

Lawrence Allen, Heidrick & Struggles

Rene Guan, Manpower China

Helen Ye, AES China Generating Co., Ltd.

Debra Duzinkas, Caterpillar (China) Investment Co., Ltd.

Garry Wang, Mercer Consulting (Shanghai) Ltd

Rona Ma, AMO (Shanghai) Medical Devices Trading Co., Ltd.

Angel Yang, AMO (Shanghai) Medical Devices Trading Co., Ltd.

Fiona Zheng, Tianjin Danaher Motion Co., Ltd.

Ted Wan, Tianjin Danaher Motion Co., Ltd.

Philip Partnow, UBS AG Beijing Branch

Xinhong Yang, Tang Energy Group, Ltd. Beijing Representative Office

Maggie Sun, Ernst & Young Hua Ming

Jane Zhang, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Tim Martin, AMD (China) Co., Ltd.

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