

Monthly Roundup: U.K.-China announcements by government, partners, and other stakeholders

CBI Beijing • October 2014

Highlights

- [7th E.U. Film Festival in China to open in Beijing and online in November 2014](#)
- [Britain becomes first western country to issue sovereign bond in China's currency](#)
- [British and Chinese governments launch biggest ever celebration of U.K.-Shenyang links](#)
- [British and Chinese women's cricket teams take to pitch for match in Shenyang](#)
- [CBBC launches 'China Outbound' website](#)
- [CBBC marks opening of new British Centres around China and celebrates 60th anniversary](#)
- [CBBC publishes practical guide to Shanghai Free Trade Zone for U.K. companies](#)
- [E.U. eases Schengen visa procedures for Chinese travellers](#)
- [U.K. and Ireland sign historic visa deal](#)
- [UKTI South West and CBBC organise delegation for 'new to China' companies](#)
- [U.K. Visas and Immigration launches 'Select Business Scheme U.K.'](#)
- [Voting re-opened for British Business Awards 2014](#)

7th E.U. Film Festival in China to open in Beijing and online in November 2014

The 7th E.U. Film Festival in China will bring the finest and freshest European cinema to China once again, beginning on 02 November. Organised by the E.U. Delegation to China, this year's selection boasts nearly 20 titles from over 15 E.U. Member States. The line-up ranges from features to shorts and from documentary to animation. Films will be screened at the Cervantes Institute (02-07 November), the Institut Français (08-15 November), the Italian Cultural Institute, the Embassy of Poland, and other venues (16-23 November). For those unable to make the screenings in Beijing, the films can be viewed as part of the E.U. Online Film Festival, organised in cooperation with LeTV, on the website www.euoff.org (02 November 2014 through 02 February 2015). Read more [here](#).



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Guy Dru Drury – Chief Representative – Beijing Office
DL: 00 86 10 85253100 DF: 00 86 10 85253116 E: guydd@cbi.org.uk

1006B, 10F, China Life Tower, 16 Chaoyangmenwai Ave.
Beijing 100020 CHINA
www.cbi.org.uk

Director-General: John Cridland President: Sir Mike Rake

Britain becomes first western country to issue sovereign bond in RMB

The U.K. government successfully issued a sovereign bond in China's currency, the Renminbi (RMB), becoming the first western country to do so and issuing the largest ever non-Chinese RMB bond. The RMB 3 billion bond, which is the equivalent to approximately £300 million, has a maturity of three years and delivers on the Chancellor's announcement at the recent annual U.K.-China economic summit in London that the government intended to issue an RMB bond. It is the world's first non-Chinese issuance of sovereign RMB debt and will be used to finance Britain's reserves. Currently, Britain only holds reserves in U.S. dollars, euros, yen, and Canadian dollars, so the new issuance signals the RMB's potential as a future reserve currency. (October) Read more [here](#).

British and Chinese governments launch celebration of U.K.-Shenyang links

The British and Chinese governments officially opened the 'U.K. in Shenyang Week', which was a celebration of the best the U.K. has to offer. The week consisted of a number of events for the public, including an exhibition of award-winning photos, a British music night, and a Brands Festival showcasing some of the U.K.'s finest labels. The week aimed to raise the profile of the U.K.'s unique characteristics in one of China's fastest-growing and most dynamic cities. For the business community, a series of industry-specific events focused on particular sectors, such as trade, manufacturing, and scientific innovation, and promoted collaboration between the two countries. Urbanisation was a special focus of the week. (October) Read more [here](#).



British and Chinese women's cricket teams take to pitch for match in Shenyang

Leading British and Chinese women's cricket teams and sporting stars took to the pitch for a friendly match at the Shenyang Sports University in China. The match, played by the top women's team from Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in Britain and by the Chinese national women's team, was the first of a series of special events that make up the 2014 'U.K. in Shenyang Week'. The MCC, the world's most famous cricket club, is touring China to promote the game and bring a larger Chinese audience to this most traditional of British sports. The tour is part of an ongoing partnership between MCC, the Chinese Cricket Association (CCA), and the Hong Kong Cricket Association (HKCA). Known as the 'cricketing capital of China', Shenyang is a must-visit destination for British players thanks to its burgeoning cricket culture. China's men's and women's national teams train in Shenyang, and both the Shenyang Sports University and the Shenyang Aerospace University have a large number of enthusiastic cricketers. (October) Read more [here](#).



CBBC launches 'China Outbound' website

The China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) launched its brand-new website designed specifically to help Chinese investors identify investment opportunities in the U.K. or third markets around the globe. The

Chinese-language site (www.chinaoutbound.org) will help Chinese companies to ‘go global’ by providing a directory of U.K. projects for which investors are sought. These investment opportunities are classified according to region and industrial sector to assist Chinese users. (October) Read more [here](#).

CBBC marks opening of new British Centres around China

Lord Sassoon, Chairman of the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC), marked the opening of new British Centres around China at special receptions in Shanghai, Beijing, and Chengdu. CBBC also opened new or renovated British Centres in Guangzhou and Hangzhou this year. The reception in Shanghai, which also celebrated CBBC’s 60th anniversary, was attended by over 120 guests, including members of the CBBC board, senior British and Chinese business representatives, and local government officials. (October) Read more [here](#).



CBBC publishes practical guide to Shanghai Free Trade Zone for U.K. companies

The China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) published a practical guide to the Shanghai Free Trade Zone (FTZ), which describes opportunities for U.K. companies in the FTZ in sectors such as e-commerce, retail, fast-moving consumer goods, shipping management, banking and professional services, healthcare, and telecommunications. (October) Read more [here](#).

E.U. eases Schengen visa procedures for Chinese travellers

The E.U. announced that applying for a Schengen visa in China will be easier, as certain categories of Chinese travellers will be exempted from producing proof of hotel reservations and flight tickets when submitting their application. This facilitation will apply to applicants travelling for business visits or short professional training, to attend cultural or sports events, or to visit family or friends. For the time being, it will not apply to those travelling for the purpose of tourism. China is the first country for which such simplification is introduced. Given that it is a deviation from usual practice, the decision will be implemented as a ‘pilot project’ for a trial period of six months. (October) Read more [here](#).

U.K. and Ireland sign historic visa deal

The U.K. Home Secretary signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Republic of Ireland to strengthen the Common Travel Area. The MOU will allow the U.K. and Ireland to share data and exchange information which will be used to inform and determine immigration decisions and allow visitors from India and China to travel more easily between the two countries. The British-Irish Visit Scheme is just one part of a joint programme of work aimed at strengthening both countries’ borders. Other projects include closer working on visa policies and processes, facilitating greater pre-entry and entry checks, and sharing



watch-list information and passenger data. The first project to benefit from this new agreement is the British-Irish Visa Scheme, announced over the summer, which will allow Chinese and Indian visitors to travel to the U.K. and Ireland on a single visit visa. The scheme will start in China by the end of October and in India soon afterwards. China and India are both key markets for U.K. and Irish tourism, and it is hoped that more than 10,000 visitors will use the scheme. (October) Read more [here](#).

UKTI South West and CBBC organise delegation for ‘new to China’ companies

The GREAT British Brands Festival took place over 18 days from 25 September to 13 October 2014. Having premiered in Beijing in 2013, the Festival has now moved to explore opportunities in Guangzhou. A delegation for ‘new to China’ companies was organised by U.K. Trade and Investment (UKTI) South West and the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC). Thousands of Chinese consumers were introduced to some of the South West’s finest products at one of China’s biggest British fairs. (October) Read more [here](#).



U.K. Visas and Immigration launches ‘Select Business Scheme U.K.’

U.K. Visas and Immigration announced a new scheme which will simplify the process of inviting colleagues from Chinese companies to the U.K. The ‘Select Business Scheme U.K.’ will be available to members of the CBI, the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC), and the British Chamber of Commerce in China, as well as companies referred by U.K. Trade and Investment (UKTI). Under the scheme, representatives of Chinese businesses will only need to provide an application form, an invitation letter, and a letter of employment to support their visa application. (October) Read more [here](#).

Voting re-opened for British Business Awards 2014

Voting is open for the British Business Awards 2014 online at www.britishbusinessawards.cn until midnight on Monday, 03 November. The winners of the eight categories will be revealed on the night of the Gala Dinner, which will take place on Thursday, 20 November at the Crowne Plaza Beijing Lido. (October) Read more [here](#).

CBI Beijing
October 2014

For inputs or comments, please contact our Beijing office:

Guy Dru Drury (Chief Representative): Guy.DruDrury@cbi.org.uk

Ben Cooper (Policy Analyst): Ben.Cooper@cbi.org.uk