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British Council Celebrates International Women's Day

The British Council celebrated this year's International Women's Day with a series of special Inspiring Women China events in schools across China. On 7 March, patrons of the Inspiring Women China programme, British Ambassador to China Dame Barbara Woodward and Ms Yang Lan, one of China's most successful female media entrepreneurs, launched the event series with a talk to students at Beijing ESBNU Huaxia Girls' Middle School about their personal path to building a successful career. Inspiring Women China is a new programme that aims to inspire young students, in particular young women, about the world of work, grow their ambitions, boost their confidence, and enable them to make more informed career choices. At the heart of this programme is a network of successful women from a broad range of backgrounds who volunteer their time to speak to students in schools about their work and the path they took to get there. Read more [here](#).

China Outbound Seminar successfully held in Guangzhou

On 7 March in Guangzhou, CBBC held its latest China Outbound Seminar, part of the Guangzhou Enterprises "Go Global" Series – Invest in the UK. The event was hosted by the Guangzhou Municipal Commission of Commerce and the China-Britain Business Council, and was supported by the British Consulate-General Guangzhou and the Guangdong Chamber of International Commerce. Mr. Cao Zhicong, Counsel at the Guangzhou Municipal Commission of Commerce, Mr. Jeff Astle, Executive Director China at CBBC and Mr. Steve Arrick, Economic Consul at the British Consulate-General Guangzhou attended the event. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Guangzhou Municipal Commission of Commerce and the China-Britain Business Council, and a Strategic Partnership Agreement between Invest Guangzhou and ABP were signed at the event to further promote the trade and investment between Guangzhou and UK. Read more [here](#).

EU SME Centre Advocacy Team Meets with China Centre for Promotion of SME Development

EU SME Centre Senior Policy Advisor Xavier SansPowell and Advocacy Coordinator Davof Xu met with the Division Chief of International Cooperation Division at the China Centre for Promotion of SME Development and China International Cooperation Association of Small and Medium Enterprises. Centre's advocacy team gave an introduction of EU SME Centre, and presented its upcoming activity plan. Both sides have discussed the potential cooperation on supporting each other's events, especially in organising matchmaking and training activities. Read more [here](#).

EU SME Centre Helps to Launch EU Gateway to China Programme

EU Gateway to China Programme was successfully launched in Beijing, a business support project funded by the European Union aimed at fostering cooperation between EU and Chinese companies in various key sectors. EU SME Centre Director Chris Cheung was invited to moderate the launch event. During his opening remark, Chris introduced the Centre and said that "The EU Gateway to China programme is coming to China at just the right time", emphasising "China is currently undergoing a transition in its economic structure moving away from investment and export-led growth to one where new economy sectors are beginning to emerge". Read more [here](#).



European Chamber Report Cautions Against The Negative Aspects Of China Manufacturing 2025

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China has today released a major report examining the effects that the China Manufacturing 2025 (CM2025) industrial policy initiative is having on China's domestic economy and on its international relations. *China Manufacturing 2025: Putting Industrial Policy Ahead of Market Forces* analyses the initiative's goals, which include achieving domestic and international market-share targets in ten industries, attaining self-reliance for key components and turning the concept of 'indigenous innovation' into reality. It also focuses on five of the ten industries covered by CM2025, including new energy vehicles, industrial robotics and semiconductors, and outlines the consequences of government intervention in these sectors. While CM2025's focus on upgrading China's industrial base is a necessary undertaking—both for the sake of China's environment and the long-term sustainability of its economy—the report cautions against stoking tensions with international trade partners through the implementation of a carefully orchestrated industrial strategy. This includes through policy tools such as subsidies, continued support for inefficient SOEs, limiting market access for foreign business, and state-backed acquisitions of companies from the EU and elsewhere. Read the article [here](#). Download the report [here](#).





New international partnerships set to help South West companies win business in high-growth markets

Business West, the largest international trade support organisation in the South West, has signed four major international partnership agreements with business bodies across China, India, Latin America and South East Asia to help local businesses expand their global footprint. Agreements with the China Britain Business Council (CBBC), the UK India Business Council (UKIBC), Latin American Economic Growth Management and the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) will see Business West engage in a spectrum of activity to help boost firms' export sales in these high-growth markets. This will include market entry strategy and planning, and the facilitation of in-country specialist support, all delivered free of charge to eligible businesses. Read more [here](#).

The Daily Telegraph Publishes a Signed Article by Ambassador Liu Xiaoming Entitled "Britain is helping us build a new Silk Road"

On 13 March 2017, the Daily Telegraph and its website published a signed article by Ambassador Liu Xiaoming entitled "Britain is helping us build a new Silk Road". Read the article [here](#).



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