

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

CBI Beijing • February 2015

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2015 U.K.-China Year of Cultural Exchange

2015 marks a flagship year for U.K.-China relations with the first ever bilaterally agreed U.K.-China Year of Cultural Exchange. Underpinned by a government-to-government agreement set out at the U.K.-China Summit in London last June, the Year of Cultural Exchange will showcase the very best of U.K. culture in China and of Chinese culture in the U.K. The Year was formally announced when Premier Li Keqiang visited the U.K. in June 2014. It comprises two seasons of culture—a U.K. season in China from March until July, led by the Cultural and Education Section of the British Embassy; and a Chinese season in the U.K. in the second half of the year, led by the Chinese Ministry of Culture. The 2015 U.K.-China Year of Cultural Exchange provides a unique platform to strengthen ties between individuals, organizations and governments in the arts and creative industries. Launching in March during HRH The Duke of Cambridge's visit to China, the theme for the U.K. season in



the Cultural and Education Section of the British Embassy; and a Chinese season in the U.K. in the second half of the year, led by the Chinese Ministry of Culture. The 2015 U.K.-China Year of Cultural Exchange provides a unique platform to strengthen ties between individuals, organizations and governments in the arts and creative industries. Launching in March during HRH The Duke of Cambridge's visit to China, the theme for the U.K. season in



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China will be Next Generation. It will see a carefully curated series of contemporary, adventurous, multi-disciplinary, and innovative works, with digital media at the heart. Groundbreaking digital arts will push creative boundaries, whilst the launch of a major online arts portal ‘U.K. NOW’ in early March will enable audiences to engage through a variety of integrated platforms. One highpoint of the U.K. season will be the GREAT Festival of Creativity in Shanghai from 02-04 March, exploring the role of innovation and creativity in commercial success, enabling Chinese and British industries to gain new insights, to network, and to grow. Carma Elliot, Minister, Cultural and Education Section of the British Embassy, said, “The 2015 U.K.-China Year of Cultural Exchange is a unique opportunity to further deepen and strengthen the U.K.’s existing relationship with China across the arts and creative industries, and to build on long-standing foundations of mutual respect and appreciation for our long and rich cultural histories, which continue to inspire innovation and creativity.” Read more [here](#).

Applications open for 2015 Youth Mobility Scheme Certificates of Sponsorship

From 23 February to 06 March 2015, the Hong Kong Labour Department will be accepting applications for Certificates of Sponsorship for the Youth Mobility Scheme. The Youth Mobility Scheme allows young people aged between 18 and 30 to live, work, or study in the U.K. for up to two years. From 2014, up to 1,000 HKSAR passport holders can qualify for the Youth Mobility Scheme each year. HKSAR passport holders need a Certificate of Sponsorship to apply for the Youth Mobility Scheme. (February) Read more [here](#).



British Prime Minister David Cameron speaks at Chinese New Year reception



British Prime Minister David Cameron spoke at a Chinese New Year 2015 reception, where he recognised the rise and success of modern China and the U.K.-China trading relationship. (February) Read more [here](#).

British Wildlife Photography Awards exhibition opens in Beijing

In advance of the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge to China, a photo exhibition from the winners of the 2014 British Wildlife Photography Awards (BWPA) and a selection of China’s wildlife

images opened at Beijing's Natural History Museum. The British Embassy in Beijing, in partnership with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), is hosting the exhibition in support of the Duke of Cambridge's work on wildlife conservation and to combat the illegal wildlife trade. The Duke of Cambridge is due to visit China from 02-04 March, the most senior Royal visit to China since 1986. The photo exhibition is running from 17 February to 06 March. (February) Read more [here](#).

Cathay Pacific China Business Awards 2015 open for entries

U.K. and Irish businesses trading with Hong Kong and mainland China are invited to enter the Cathay Pacific China Business Awards 2015 from 06 February until 25 March. They can submit their entries online at a dedicated awards website, www.telegraph.co.uk/awards. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Cathay Pacific China Business Awards. (February) Read more [here](#).

CBI hosts second annual Chinese New Year Dinner in London

On 05 February, the CBI was proud to host our second annual Chinese New Year Dinner, together with



sponsor and **CBI member Huawei**. The event celebrated China's business relations with the U.K., explored future opportunities, and marked the beginning of the Year of the Sheep. Held at the V&A Museum in London, the dinner was attended by several hundred senior representatives from the British and Chinese business communities and featured keynote speakers including Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport, Gordon Luo, CEO of Huawei for the U.K. and Ireland, and CBI President Sir Mike Rake. (February)

E.U. and China celebrate 40 years of diplomatic relations

In 2015, the E.U. and China are celebrating their 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations, first established on 06 May 1975. (February) Read more [here](#).

First 'Entrepreneurship is GREAT' U.K.-China Forum

Hosted by the British Consulate-General in Guangzhou, the 'Entrepreneurship is GREAT' U.K.-China



Forum provided a platform for five entrepreneurs from both the U.K. and China to talk about their entrepreneurial journeys. The event created a platform for guests from both countries to engage with ideas and to share their thoughts on the challenges and opportunities they had faced setting up and running businesses in a foreign country. Chen Qingzhou, President of **CBI member Hytera Communications Corporation**, spoke very positively about his experience of setting up in the U.K. (February) Read more [here](#).

U.K. further expands 3-5 day priority visa service in China

The U.K. announced that the 3-5 day priority visa application service will be expanded to further applicants in China. Priority service expanded to those with no previous travel and Transit applicants in China. Those who choose this optional service will have their applications put at the front of the queue, and the U.K. government will aim to return a decision to the applicant within five working days. The service is designed to offer maximum flexibility and convenience to customers and is offered in all 12 Visa Applications Centres (VACs) across the country. (February) Read more [here](#).

Wuliangye signs landmark sponsorship deal with Philharmonica Orchestra

The Philharmonica Orchestra announced a major new sponsorship with the premium Chinese baijiu producer Wuliangye. The £500,000 deal will run over five years and brings together one of China's premier brands with one of the U.K.'s cultural leaders. 2015 is a flagship year for the U.K. and China with the first bilaterally agreed U.K.-China Year of Cultural Exchange, and the collaboration between Wuliangye and the Philharmonica Orchestra, the first major partnership between a Chinese company and a U.K. arts organisation, is testament to the early success of this initiative. (February) Read more [here](#).

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