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

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“Casino Royale” Summer Ball in Chengdu seeks sponsors

Sponsors are now being sought for a range of packages for BritCham/CBBC West’s 2014 Summer Ball in Chengdu, including one title sponsor. This year’s Summer Ball will be held at the Diamond Bay Health and Lifestyle Centre in Longquan National Park on Saturday, 30 August. The theme will be James Bond, one of the most iconic figures to come out of Britain. (July) Read more here.

Chevening Scholarships Programme celebrates 30th anniversary

Over 500 past and present Chevening Scholars representing 118 countries gathered at Chevening House to mark 30 years of the U.K.’s most prestigious scholarship programme and to invite the brightest graduates around the world to apply. Funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and partner organisations, the Chevening Scholarships Programme finances graduates from around the world with potential to be influential leaders and decision makers to study postgraduate courses at...
British universities. The Chancellor announced in Budget this year that the number of scholarships will triple and more than 1,500 will be awarded each year from 2015. A number of Hong Kong Chevening scholars attended the anniversary event. (July) Read more here.

**China Science Festival features British innovation**

Designated this year’s ‘Country of Honour’ at the China Science Festival, the U.K. showcased the best of British innovation in the fields of digital technology, satellites, automotive engineering, and eco-technology. For example, a booth sponsored by BP and Castrol featured a scale model of the Bloodhound Super Sonic Car—a British-led project to build a car that will attempt to reach 1,000 miles per hour and break the land speed record. Surrey Satellites’ booth included the technology from their micro-satellites developed to provide images for the purposes of land monitoring and natural disaster response in China, as part of a wider exhibit showing how the University of Surrey has facilitated the commercialisation of university research. Other participating universities included Hull University and University College London (UCL). UCL showcased digital technology, including a project to provide affordable digital microscopes for high schools and an app for 3D imaging of archaeological finds. (July) Read more here.

**Chinese Ambassador speaks at opening of “Ming: The Golden Empire” exhibition**

Mr. Liu Xiaoming, Chinese Ambassador to the U.K., spoke at the opening of the “Ming: The Golden Empire” exhibition at the National Museums of Scotland. Noting that the exhibition is a highlight in this year’s China-U.K. cultural exchange, Mr. Liu congratulated the National Museums of Scotland and the Nanjing Museum of China for their hard work and close collaboration. A collection of original artefacts from the Nanjing Museum, including Chinese National Treasures, introduce key aspects of the Ming dynasty, focusing on the remarkable cultural, technological, and economic achievements of the period. Held from 27 June until 19 October 2014, this will be the only U.K. showing of this internationally significant exhibition. (June) Read more here and here.

**New British Centre in Beijing hosts first event**

The new British Centre in Beijing hosted its first event on 18 July when the latest meeting of the Infrastructure and Property Forum was held. The Forum, focusing on urban planning and regeneration, was the second organised this year that covered this sector. The British Business Centre is home to staff of the British Chamber of Commerce in China (BritCham in China), the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC), and a number of Launchpads who rent single desks in the office to give their company a base in China. Members are welcome to hire the facilities for their own events or meetings. The British Centre’s new boardroom has been extended to accommodate large events and meetings—together with the other
meeting rooms there is space for up to 60 people. British Business Centres have also been established in Shanghai, where CBBC will co-locate with U.K. Trade and Investment (UKTI), the British Consulate-General, and the British Consulate, as well as in Chengdu, where CBBI sits together with BritCham in Southwest China. (July) Read more here.

**New British Business Centre unveiled in Shanghai**

The China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) unveiled the new British Business Centre in Shanghai, where CBBC will soon be based with the British Consulate-General Shanghai, U.K. Trade and Investment (UKTI), and the British Council. CBBC Shanghai will move permanently to the British Business Centre in mid-August, which will enable the British business community in Shanghai to engage more closely with CBBC, UKTI, and the British Council in one location. Similar centres have also been established in Beijing and Chengdu, where CBBC shares office space with the British Chamber of Commerce (BritCham) North China and BritCham West China. (July) Read more here.

**New publications to facilitate E.U.-China cooperation in research and innovation**

The E.U. Delegation to China and EURAXESS Links China published a series of brochures providing hands-on information on how to deepen E.U.-China cooperation in research and innovation—either through participating in the Framework Programme Horizon 2020 or through mobility schemes of the E.U. Member States, the E.U., and China. The Horizon 2020 – Practical Guide for China is available in both English and Chinese and explains how to participate in Horizon 2020, the E.U.’s €80 billion EUR Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, which is fully open to the world. The Funding Guide on Researchers Mobility introduces the latest funding schemes that exist to support mobility, research collaboration, research exchange, and relations between Europe and China. A third joint publication has been released in order to illustrate the richness of Europe’s ties with China in research and innovation. (July) Read more here.

**Patent Prosecution Highway opens between U.K. and China**

A new pilot Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programme was launched between the U.K. Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO). The launch of the pilot programme follows the signing of a Joint Statement of Intent by the IPO and SIPO as part of Prime Minister David Cameron’s visit to China last December. The PPH allows applicants who have been successful in obtaining a patent at one office to request accelerated processing of a corresponding application at the other. The second office can make use of the work undertaken by the first office to more quickly and efficiently process the application. The U.K.-China PPH pilot started on 01 July 2014 and will run for an initial period of two years, ending on 30 June 2016. (July) Read more here.
Scotland’s First Minister welcomes Chinese delegation to Edinburgh

First Minister Alex Salmond welcomed a cross-strait Chinese delegation to Edinburgh as they explored investment opportunities in Scotland—including a £5 billion Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a Scottish company. This mission was the first time that cross-strait energy sector companies joined together to explore investment opportunities across several Scottish industries, including oil and gas and renewables. Aberdeenshire-based Unmanned Production Buoy Group Ltd. (UPB) and Tong Ze Group of Hong Kong signed a £5 billion MOU (RMB 264.9 billion) to develop and use UPB’s technology, which allows marginal and uneconomic oil fields to be exploited at much lower cost than conventional methods. As part of the visit, an MOU was also signed among Scottish Enterprise, Falkirk Council, and Chinaway Energy Company to develop an action plan to look at reducing the cost of energy generation in the wider Grangemouth industrial complex. (June) Read more here.

Top tips for applying for U.K. student visa in Hong Kong

The British Consulate General in Hong Kong released its top tips on making a Tier 4 student visa application for students heading to the U.K. to study this year. (June) Read more here.

U.K. announces 24-hour Super Priority Visa service in major Chinese cities

The U.K. announced that the 24-hour Super Priority Visa service will be available to customers in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. The 24-hour service, only available for U.K. visas, will be open to customers applying for the majority of visit visa and work visa categories. In addition, the popular mobile biometric service, which allows customers to give their fingerprints and details to visa staff in offices, will be available at all 12 of the regions served by our visa application centres. (July) Read more here.

U.K.-China Architecture Forum held in Guangzhou

Held in Guangzhou on 04 July, the 5th U.K.-China Architecture Forum (UKAF) explored solutions to urbanisation in China, with a theme of ‘Constructing a Greener Future’. More than 200 participants attended, including Chinese government policymakers, representatives from mainstream media, and key industry players from both Chinese and British architecture and construction companies. The UKAF was a joint event, hosted by the British Consulate General in Guangzhou, U.K. Trade & Investment, the China-Britain Business Council, and the British Chamber in Guangdong in response to the significant opportunities for U.K.-China cooperation on the theme of urbanisation. (July) Read more here.
U.K. digital health demonstration centre opens in Zhejiang

The ‘Healthcare is GREAT’ U.K. digital health demonstration centre opened at Ningbo Number 2 Hospital in Zhejiang Province. The centre is a ground-breaking initiative as part of collaboration between the U.K. and Zhejiang governments and demonstrates the U.K.’s expertise in digital healthcare, bringing leading British companies together under one roof. For the next nine months, the demonstration centre will showcase digital health technologies from U.K. companies. Services being demonstrated include video-based telemedicine, telehealth, self-care online platforms for long-term conditions, including dementia diagnosis, electronic records, medicines management, big data analytics, and patient satisfaction analytics.

U.K. organisations taking part in the demonstration centre include BT Health, Cerno Health, Grey Matters, Handle my Health, IXICO Ltd., Keele University, Nine Health, ServMetric, TPP, Total Quality Solutions, and Yecco. The centre will allow visitors to observe, learn, and interact with the participating British companies and their products and services. (June) Read more [here](#).

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