

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

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Biometric Residence Permits launched in China

From 15 April 2015, Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) for non-European Economic Area (EEA)



nationals travelling to the U.K. for more than six months began to be issued to visa applicants in China. The changes will also affect those applying to join family in the U.K. as well as students and workers applying for a longer stay visa. From this date, applicants will receive a 30-day sticker in their passport instead of a 'vignette' with the full grant of leave. Applicants will be required to collect their BRP from a post office within 10 days of arrival in the U.K.

The BRP card can then be used as proof of the right to work, study, and access public services in the U.K. (April) 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 Gridland President: Sir Mike Rake

British Council's Social Enterprise Programme Social Investment Platform

On 27 March 2015, the awards ceremony for the final round of the British Council's Social Enterprise Programme Social Investment Platform took place in Beijing.



During the awards ceremony, the winners of the Social Investment Platform prizes were announced, with 18 social enterprises being awarded a total of RMB 10 million in interest-free loans, equity investment opportunities, or consulting services from nine different investment partners. Ms. Carma Elliot, Minister (Culture and Education) and Director of the British Council China, gave a short speech on the importance of

social enterprise as an agent of positive social change, as well as the role of U.K.-China relations in the development of social enterprise in China. Furthermore, with 2015 being the first ever U.K.-China Year of Cultural Exchange formally agreed by the governments of both countries, Ms. Elliot announced a new Creative Social Enterprise Award to be launched in September this year. This new award, she said, will “both recognise existing enterprise and encourage more creative and innovative solutions to social and environmental issues.” Throughout the evening, the representatives of each of the nine investment partners announced the enterprises they would be supporting through investment and training opportunities. (March) Read more [here](#).

British Council releases list of programmes for Year of Cultural Exchange



The British Council released the list of programmes for the first ever U.K.-China Year of Cultural Exchange in 2015. A few brief examples include:

- The Royal Shakespeare Company's ambitious programme of activity with Chinese partners to bring fresh translations of Shakespeare to Chinese audiences and introduce U.K. audiences to more classical Chinese drama

- Paying tribute to the best of British filmmaking through a series of premiere screenings, talks, and live events
- Showcasing the broad spectrum of contemporary art practices in Scotland
- A series of new and innovative digital art projects
- Showcasing the best of British animation through a programme of screenings and industry networking
- London's Royal Court Theatre collaborating with emerging Chinese playwrights to stimulate new writing

Click [here](#) to access the full programme list, which includes the details on 30 projects.

British Nationals in Beijing invited to watch results from U.K. General Elections

British Nationals in Beijing are invited to the Ambassador's Residence Gardens to watch the BBC broadcast of the results from the U.K. General Elections as they come through on Friday, 08 May from 08:00-11:00am. Email registration is obligatory: please email your full name to Election.RSVPBeijing@fco.gov.uk. You will then receive a confirmation email with full details of the event. (April) Read more [here](#).

CBBC Great British Brands Festival 2015

The China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) Great British Brands Festival series of events focuses



exclusively on selling U.K. products in China. It provides an important opportunity for companies to showcase and sell their products to Chinese consumers in eight cities. Following its success in Beijing, Chengdu, and Guangzhou in 2014, the festival is expanding across China, with eight events provisionally planned for 2015 in Chongqing (April), Changchun (May), Beijing (June), Changsha (July), Urumqi (August), Shenzhen (September), Chengdu (October), and Guangzhou (November). There will also be opportunities to take part in associated events in

Hangzhou, Qingdao, Shanghai, Wuhan, and other cities as part of CBBC's retail-focused China Consumer programme. Read more [here](#).

China IPR SME Helpdesk's new website goes live



The China IPR SME Helpdesk's [new website](#) went live in April. The website, as well as providing a fresh look, has improved functionality and content, including regular live chat sessions and updated FAQs. The

Helpdesk is keen to use the website to promote its partners as well.

E.U.-China Research and Innovation Partnership Programme launched

In 2015, the E.U.-China Research and Innovation Partnership Programme (ECRIP) sees the start of its implementation. Funded under the ICI+ of DG for International Cooperation and Development, ECRIP aims to create, strengthen, and intensify the E.U.-China research and innovation partnerships by supporting the mobility of E.U. researchers into China and strengthening people-to-people contacts from both the public and private sectors. Five projects have been funded in the framework of ECRIP, gathering 26 European and Chinese research entities from nine E.U. member states and eight Chinese regions and cities, dedicated to researchers mobility in various sectors, including renewable energy, sustainable urban development, life sciences, and food security and water. From 2015 to 2019, the five projects will carry out targeted mobility schemes within the partnership and provide supporting actions to complement the mobility, such as networking, language training, and short visits of supervisors and managerial staff. (April) Read more [here](#).

E.U. embassies in Beijing celebrate 40th anniversary of E.U.-China relations

As part of the celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the E.U. and the People's Republic of China, the E.U. Delegation to China and participating embassies of E.U. Member States in Beijing will hold a special 5th edition of the "E.U. Open Days for Young People". Young Chinese and Europeans will be invited to E.U. embassies for information sessions, lectures, discussions, cultural events, as well as fun and games over a three-month period from April to June. Read more [here](#).

London Book Fair launch of Xi Jinping: The Governance of China



Chinese Ambassador to the U.K. Liu Xiaoming spoke at the book launch of Xi Jinping: The Governance of China, a compilation of the works of President Xi that embody his governance philosophy, during the

London Book Fair that was held on 14-16 April. Ambassador Liu highlighted how President Xi expounds on the Chinese Dream, explores China's celebrated cultural tradition, unique historical mission, and complex national condition, lays out his views and propositions on regional and international affairs, etc. throughout the book. (April) Read more [here](#).

Sponsorship opportunity to support Shaun the Sheep in China

There is an opportunity for British companies to get their brand involved in the 2015 U.K.-China Year of



Cultural Exchange with the Shaun the Sheep Art Trail. The Art Trail—consisting of 50 sculptures painted by celebrities, designers, athletes, and famous artists—was launched by the Duke of Cambridge during his visit to China in early March. It will now go nationwide, and Uyoung, Aardman Animation's partner in China, is inviting British brands to join the trail. There is an opportunity for companies to take their brand to five Chinese cities and be part of this high-level cultural exchange, with anticipated media coverage of over 100 million people. Later this year, all 50 sculptures will be auctioned or subscribed, and part of the money will be raised for art education

projects for disadvantaged children. Altogether, 25 sponsorship packages are on offer for companies to be part of this initiative. For further details, please contact Uyoung by 31 May 2015. Read more [here](#).

U.K. supports first science book about local wildlife for students in Guizhou

The British Consulate-General in Chongqing and the Guizhou Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve co-



launched a new book called Xingda's Wildlife Explorations in Fanjingshan at Guiyang's No. 1 Experimental Primary School. This is the first 'science storybook' about wildlife in Guizhou for children aged from 9 to 15. Xingda's Wildlife Explorations in Fanjingshan is a key outcome of the Guizhou Wildlife Preservation Project, which is co-funded by the British Consulate-General in Chongqing and the Guizhou Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve Administration. The book was written by wildlife experts in China, Britain, America, and Italy,

including the Guizhou Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve Administration, Beijing Zoo, the Zoology Society of London, San Diego Zoo, and the University of Torino. The book garnered support from Dr. Jane Goodall, who is a British conservationist and well-known for her ongoing study of chimpanzees in East Africa. She kindly wrote an introduction to the book. The book also gained the appreciation of the Duke of Cambridge during his visit to China in early March 2015 and the Guizhou Provincial Education Department and Guizhou Provincial Forestry Department. 5,000 copies of the book will be printed, and these will be donated to primary schools in Guiyang via 10 district-level education bureaus and to schools around the Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve. (March) Read more [here](#).

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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