

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

May 2014

Highlights

(*Access full updates: [British Business Awards 2014](#), [BritCham South West China merges with BritCham in China and CBBC](#), [British green construction standards in China](#), [CBBC seeking sponsorship for new and enhanced offices](#), [China-U.K. Connections through Culture](#), [Chinese Ambassador to U.K. addresses second China-U.K. CEO Dialogue](#), [European Chamber's Business Confidence Survey 2014](#), [European Chamber elects new leadership](#), [First China-U.K. Business Leaders Summit](#), [Generation U.K.](#), [Global Digital Media and Entertainment Alliance between China and U.K.](#), [making China's organic market accessible to U.K. exporters](#), [new U.K. visa application centres in Chengdu and Hong Kong](#), [second U.K.-China Intellectual Property Symposium](#), [surging Chinese investment and merger activity in U.K.](#), [third U.K.-China Leadership Forum](#), [U.K.-China Joint Workshop on Space Science and Technology](#), [U.K.-China Partnership in Creativity and Innovation](#), and [War Horse comes to China](#))

- **U.K. Business Secretary urges business leaders to support Generation U.K.'s drive to double number of U.K. exchange students who travel to China:** U.K. Business Secretary Vince Cable urged business leaders to support a drive to double the number of U.K. exchange students who travel to China as part of plans to boost trade links. In a letter to FTSE 100 U.K. CEOs, the Secretary of State called upon businesses to support Generation U.K., the British Council's flagship programme, which aims to see 80,000 U.K. students participate in academic study or work experience programmes in China by 2020. Dr. Cable made the announcement on a visit to Sun Yat Sen University in Guangzhou, where he also announced that the Chinese university had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Glasgow University and **CBI member [Warwick University](#)** to offer student exchanges. (May) Read more [here](#).

Commenting on the British Council's Generation U.K. programme and its new CEO Initiative, CBI Director-General John Cridland said, "I was delighted to have been involved in the British Council's 'Generation U.K.' programme during the Prime Minister's China visit last December (2013), and the CBI is pleased to support the British Council's exciting new 'CEO Initiative', which is aimed at building the next generation of British talent through U.K.-China business partnerships. I hope that our member companies



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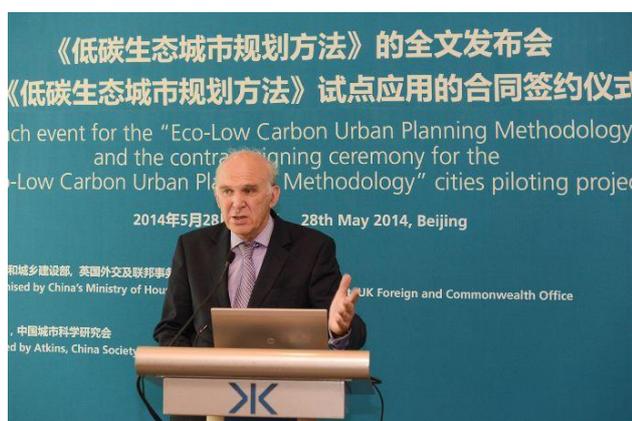


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will also get involved in this worthy initiative.”

- **Global Digital Media and Entertainment Alliance between U.K. and China:** U.K. Business Secretary Vince Cable launched the Global Digital Media and Entertainment Alliance between the U.K. and China in Qingdao. The Alliance was agreed during the summit between Premier Li Keqiang and Prime Minister David Cameron during his visit to China in December 2013 and will promote long-term relationships in the digital media and entertainment sectors. Dr. Cable launched the Alliance at the Technology Innovators Forum (TIF-IN), which encourages collaboration on delivering the next generation of products in music, film, digital, and video games. The U.K.’s creative industries, which includes the film, television, and music industries, are now worth £71.4 billion to the U.K. economy. (May) Read more [here](#).

- **U.K. Business Secretary supports ‘Eco-Low Carbon Urban Planning Methodology’ in China:** CBI member [Atkins](#) was appointed by the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to support the



application of its recently launched 'Eco-Low Carbon (ELC) Urban Planning Methodology' in a number of pilot projects as part of a one year follow-on project from April 2013. The methodology is aimed at providing a blueprint for ELC urban planning in China. China's emerging ELC urbanisation initiative forms a key component of the government's 12th Five-Year Plan, which places strong emphasis on energy and resource efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and environmental protection. Funded by the FCO Prosperity Fund, development of the

methodology was led by Atkins supported by the China Society for Urban Studies (CSUS), working closely with China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MOHURD) and the FCO. The new project will build on the success of the Atkins-led FCO SPF (Strategic Programme Fund) work, providing the support required to develop the methodology for nationwide rollout. The work will focus on customising the methodology for specific local contexts and its implementation as well as its application in pilot cities. Pilot projects will be identified over the coming months in collaboration with MOHURD and local governments. On 28 May 2014 in Beijing, the 'Eco-Low Carbon Urban Planning Methodology' full content launch event and contract signing ceremony for the 'Eco-Low Carbon Urban Planning Methodology' cities piloting project was hosted by MOHURD, FCO, Atkins, and CSUS to celebrate the successful completion of the one year project and mark the start of the next stage project. Dr. Cable delivered a keynote address at the event, commenting on the U.K.’s world-class expertise in urban planning and opportunities for the U.K. to export its know-how to fast-growing countries like China. Read more [here](#).

- **Largest ever U.K.-China Joint Workshop on Space Science and Technology:** British and Chinese scientists, business, and government met in Shanghai for their biggest yet Joint Workshop on Space Science and Technology. The event followed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in December 2013 between the U.K. and Chinese national space agencies on the exploration and use of outer space. This is the ninth in a series of annual workshops organised by Beijing’s Beihang University and the U.K.’s Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL)—both parties to the Secretariat of the U.K.-China Virtual Joint Space Laboratory. This year’s event, arranged with the assistance of the Shanghai Academy of Space Technology, will be the biggest yet—a reflection of the warm relationship between the two countries’ space authorities and the growing volume of research and commercial collaborations. The programme focused on topics of bilateral interest and global concern, including climate change

monitoring, planetary exploration, and space science experiments. There were sessions looking at the commercial opportunities in the field and the possibilities for bilateral people exchange and training. (May) Read more [here](#).

- **U.K. Business Secretary visits Huawei and addresses third U.K.-China Leadership Forum:** U.K.



Business Secretary Vince Cable met with Ms. Sun Yafang, Chairwoman of the Board, at **CBI member Huawei's** headquarters in Shenzhen. Dr. Cable toured Huawei's Exhibition Hall and R&D facilities before delivering a keynote address as part of the third U.K.-China Leadership Forum, which was organised collectively by U.K. Trade and Investment (UKTI), the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC), and Huawei Technologies. Supported by delegates from government, business, and academia, the Forum explored the theme of Smart Cities, the impact of

technology in urban environments, and how effective analysis of Big Data created by a city's inhabitants can be used to improve the quality of city life. Huawei hosted a delegation of U.K. high-tech companies, facilitating a series of meetings between Huawei and local partners to discuss potential future collaboration and business opportunities. During Dr. Cable's visit to Huawei headquarters, Huawei also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with fellow **CBI member BT** covering the potential supply of data-centre services by BT to Huawei. Read more [here](#).

- **War Horse comes to China:** U.K. Business Secretary Vince Cable attended a skills exchange session



featuring War Horse at Beijing's Bird's Nest Stadium. During the session, U.K. puppeteers trained their Chinese counterparts in how to operate the life-sized horse puppet and star of the London stage. The exchange followed an agreement between the National Theatre of Great Britain and the National Theatre of China, which will see a Chinese language production of War Horse on the Beijing stage in autumn 2015 and then a tour across China, beginning in Shanghai. The partnership will see an

exchange of skills and expertise between the two theatres in areas including technical production, marketing, fundraising, and education, as well as the possibility of creative collaboration on future productions. (May) Read more [here](#).

- **Promoting British green construction standards in China:** U.K. Business Secretary Vince Cable announced that buildings in China could be built to British green construction standards, boosting the U.K. supply chain by £200 million. U.K. construction firm Building Research Establishment (BRE) signed an agreement with the Shenzhen Municipal Government to set up a training and R&D centre in Shenzhen. The centre will deliver training on a national scale to other cities and promote its services, including certifying buildings to green construction standards. BRE China aims to certify over 1,000 buildings across China to its standards, which will generate over £10 million income and could create up to £200 million of work for U.K. supply chain companies. (May) Read more [here](#).

- **U.K.-China Partnership in Creativity and Innovation at CIFTIS 2014:** The U.K.-China Partnership in Creativity and Innovation at CIFTIS 2014 opened on 18 May with the most comprehensive demonstration yet of U.K.-China cooperation in creativity and innovation. The China-Britain Business

Council (CBBC), together with U.K. Trade and Investment (UKTI) and Propeller TV, are cooperating on the U.K.-China Partnership in Creativity and Innovation to showcase the British companies and organisations that provide services of various kinds in China. The U.K.-China Partnership in Creativity and Innovation is running for the duration of CIFTIS 2014, until 01 June, at the National Convention Centre in Beijing. (May) Read more [here](#).

- **British Business Awards 2014 open for entry:** The British Business Awards 2014 officially opened for entries. Organised by the British Chamber of Commerce in China (BritCham in China) and the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC), the awards



recognise and promote excellence in innovation, enterprise, and endeavour in the British business community. There are eight award categories, the winners of which will be revealed at the Gala Dinner on 20 November. The award categories include British Company of the Year Award,

Alumnus of the Year Award, Best Service Award, Chinese Investor of the Year Award, Entrepreneur of the Year Award, GREAT British Product Award, and CSR Award. (May) Read more [here](#).

*BritCham in China and the CBBC are now taking applications for sponsorship of the Gala Dinner at the British Business Awards 2014, which will be attended by around 400 senior figures from British and Chinese industry and government. (May) Read more [here](#).

**BritCham China and the CBBC are also taking applications for sponsorship of the Corporate Social Responsibility Award at the British Business Awards 2014. This award recognises companies that are helping to forge a culture of corporate responsibility in China as well as those that make a difference in the community by devoting time and resources to local projects or activities. (May) Read more [here](#).

- **European Union Chamber of Commerce in China's Business Confidence Survey 2014:** The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) launched its European Business in China Business Confidence Survey 2014 (BCS 2014) in Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin. The BCS 2014—the 10th anniversary edition of the survey—was compiled with input from 550 member companies and was put together in cooperation with the EUCCC's partner, Roland Berger Strategy Consultants. (May) Read more [here](#).

- **Surging Chinese investment and merger activity in Britain:** Zhou Xiaoming, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Britain, told the China-Britain Investment and Partnership Forum that the value of Chinese investment and merger activity in Britain reached US\$4 billion in the first four months of 2014. (May) Read more [here](#).

- **China-U.K. Connections through Culture:** The British Council announced the launch of the 17th round of the China-U.K. Connections Development Grant, which is an initiative that builds long-lasting

relationships and develops exciting cultural collaborations between organisations in the two countries. The initiative offers support, information, advice, networking opportunities, and development grants to cultural organisations in China and the U.K. China-U.K. Connections through Culture is a joint initiative between the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport and the British Council, with support from the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly. (May) Read more [here](#).



- **BritCham South West China merges with BritCham in China and CBBC:** The British Chamber of Commerce South West China agreed to a historic merger with the British Chamber of Commerce in China and the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC), which will unify the three organisations and their membership into a stronger, more streamlined structure. (May) Read more [here](#).
- **Chinese Ambassador to U.K. addresses Second China-U.K. CEO Dialogue:** Liu Xiaoming, Chinese Ambassador to the U.K., addressed the Second China-U.K. CEO Dialogue, where he commented on the growing role of private businesses in China and their investments in overseas markets, the U.K.'s status as a highly favoured destination of Chinese investment in Europe, prominent Chinese investors in the U.K., etc. Read more [here](#).
- **Second U.K.-China Intellectual Property (IP) Symposium to take place in September 2014:** The U.K. government announced that the second U.K.-China IP Symposium will take place on 01 September 2014, the latest in a series of high-level international events to promote and protect IP across borders to foster growth. Hosted by the U.K. Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and the Chinese State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), the symposium will be held in Beijing and provide an opportunity for businesses from both countries to engage directly with government officials to make it easier for them to navigate the Chinese and U.K. IP systems. (May) Read more [here](#).

- **New U.K. visa application centre in Chengdu:** The U.K. unveiled its new and improved visa application centre in Chengdu. All 12 of the U.K.'s visa centres have been refurbished, expanded, and upgraded in preparation for another record year of visa applications expected in 2014 and beyond. The centre in Chengdu has doubled in size and increased in capacity. Last year, the U.K. processed more than 380,000 applications from Chinese nationals, and 96% of applications were successful. In addition to Chengdu, the U.K. has application centres in Beijing, Chongqing, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Jinan, Nanjing, Shanghai, Shenyang, and Wuhan. (May) Read more [here](#).



- **New U.K. visa application centre in Hong Kong:** The U.K.'s new visa application centre in Hong Kong was officially opened following the outsourcing of the U.K. visa application service in Hong Kong to VFS Global. The new visa application centre in Hong Kong will provide greater convenience and choice to customers through extended opening hours and a range of premium services. In addition, the U.K. also presented the first tranche of Youth Mobility Scheme visas to eight successful local applicants, together with a special certificate. (May) Read more [here](#).



- **U.K. and China work on agreements to make China's £4.6 billion organic market accessible to U.K. exporters:** The British Embassy in China's Regional Cities team worked with the U.K. Department for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (Defra), the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC), and the government of Heilongjiang Province to organise a seminar and bilateral talks on organic certification in Harbin. The talks resulted in an agreement between two organic certifying bodies, Soil Association Certification and China's Organic Food Development Centre (OFDC), to cooperate on conducting Chinese organic inspections in the U.K. This should make it much cheaper for U.K. organic

producers to export to China, effectively opening a market expected to be worth £4.6 billion by 2015 for the first time. Defra and the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China also intend to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to support this agreement and to help boost bilateral trade in organic produce. (May) Read more [here](#).

- **China-Britain Business Council seeking sponsorship for new and enhanced CBBC offices:** The China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) is seeking sponsorship for its new and enhanced offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu, and Hangzhou as it continues to grow in the year of its 60th anniversary. (April) Read more [here](#).

- **European Union Chamber of Commerce in China elects new leadership:** The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) announced that member company representatives elected



Jörg Wuttke as the new President. The voting was held on 24 April at the EUCCC's Annual General Meeting in Beijing, during which three Vice Presidents—Bertrand de La Noue, Mats Harborn, and Sara Marchetta—and a Treasurer, Francois Bernard, were also elected to the EUCCC's Executive Committee. In their respective capacities as the elected chairpersons of the Shanghai and Pearl River Delta Chapters, Stefan Sack and Alberto Vettoretti were also appointed as Vice Presidents of the Executive Committee. (April) Read more [here](#).

- **First China-U.K. Business Leaders Summit:** The First China-U.K. Business Leaders Summit, hosted by the U.K. Chinese Business Association (UKCBA) and the All-China Federation of Industry & Commerce (ACFIC), will be held in central London on 02 June 2014. The summit will provide an important platform for British businesses to engage with over 60 of the most prominent Chinese private sector business leaders. Read more [here](#).

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