

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

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Aberdeen Asset Management granted business licence to operate in China

Aberdeen Asset Management, one of the U.K.'s largest investment groups, was granted a business licence, which will make it easier to operate in China and significantly strengthen the U.K.'s presence in the country. The licence—issued to a newly created Aberdeen subsidiary by the State Administration of Industry and



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Commerce in Shanghai—will enable the company to set up an office in China under the pilot Free Trade Zone. As a part of negotiations around the 7th U.K.-China Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD), China has agreed to allow qualified, locally-incorporated wholly foreign-owned or joint-venture private fund management institutions to engage in private security management businesses—including secondary market trading of securities—according to domestic regulations. The granting of Aberdeen Asset Management’s business licence is expected to help increase the links between the U.K. and Chinese financial services industries. (September) Read more [here](#).

British Ambassador to China launches Inspiring Women campaign in China



British Ambassador to China Barbara Woodward launched the Inspiring Women campaign in China. Inspiring Women is a campaign that exposes girls and young women across China to a range of professional roles and career options. The campaign aims to inspire the next generation to expand their horizons, realise their ambitions, and fulfill their career potential. (September) Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

British Consul General Shanghai meets leading Chinese pop artist Jay Chou

John Edwards, the British Consul General in Shanghai, met Jay Chou, one of the biggest-selling Chinese language pop artists, to discuss British entertainment. John Edwards was a guest of Jay Chou on the Voice of China’s studio set. This was the first time that a diplomat had been invited to appear on the programme. Commenting after his appearance on the Voice of China-related TV programme, John Edwards said, “This year has been tremendous for U.K.-China exchange on a multitude of levels. We’ve had the U.K.-China Year of Cultural Exchange, a visit by the Duke of Cambridge to Shanghai for the GREAT Festival of Creativity, and just next month President Xi will visit the U.K. for a highly anticipated State visit.” According to the British Phonographic Industry, 13.7% of all music consumed globally in 2014 was made by British artists. The creative industries in general and the music industry in particular is an important part of the U.K. economic growth. The creative industries bring



£76.9 billion to the U.K. economy. (September) Read more [here](#).

China, Canada, and U.S. join E.U.'s Designview IP database

As of 14 September 2015, China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) made their industrial design data available to the Designview tool, a searchable database for IP users set up by the E.U.'s IP office OHIM (Office for the Harmonisation in the Internal Market). The integration of Chinese data through SIPO is a concrete result of the E.U.-China cooperation in the IP field, the 10th anniversary of which is being celebrated this year. With SIPO, CIPO, and USPTO on-board, there are now 35 participating IP offices in Designview. With the addition of more than 3.3 million designs from SIPO, Designview now provides information and access to more than 8.6 million industrial designs in total for IP professionals, companies, and other users worldwide. Since the introduction of Designview in November 2012, about 1.2 million searches from 137 different countries have been carried out using the tool. Now Chinese rights owners and other users can access this service in a Chinese language version. (September) Read more [here](#).

Chinese Ambassador to U.K. interviewed on BBC Newsnight



Chinese Ambassador to the U.K. Liu Xiaoming attended a live interview on BBC Newsnight hosted by Robert Peston. Read the interview's full transcript [here](#).

Chinese Ambassador to U.K. speaks at reception in honour of KPMG Chairman



Chinese Ambassador to the U.K. Liu Xiaoming spoke at a reception held in honour of KPMG Chairman

Richard Reid. The Ambassador highlighted some of Mr. Reid's impressive contributions to strengthening relations between China and the U.K., including:

- Mr. Reid established KPMG's U.K.-China Business to work with Chinese groups as they expand overseas. KPMG has played an important role in facilitating investments between China and the U.K.
- In 2012, KPMG was involved in seven out of the eight major Chinese investments in the U.K., including CIC's investment in Thames Water and Heathrow Airport.
- KPMG has been a leading advisor for China's potential investment in the U.K.'s nuclear power generating market.
- KPMG assisted Jaguar Land Rover to enter the Chinese market and form a joint venture with Chery Auto.

Read the full transcript of the Ambassador's speech [here](#).

E.U. and China launch new co-funding mechanism for research and innovation

The high-level "Joint Conference in Promoting Excellence through Enhanced E.U.-China Researcher's Mobility and Cooperation" promoted a new co-funding mechanism (CFM) for research and innovation. The co-funding mechanism is established by the Ministry of Science and Technology on the Chinese side and the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation on the E.U. side with funding resources on each side. To implement the new CFM, highlighted in the Joint Statement of the 17th E.U.-China Summit, building on Horizon 2020 on the E.U. side and relevant research and innovation programmes on the Chinese side, during the period from 2016 to 2020, the European Commission expects to continue spending over €100 million per year for the benefit of Europe-based entities in joint projects under H2020 with Chinese participants. China will match corresponding resources and expects to spend RMB 200 million per year for the benefit of Chinese-based entities that will participate in joint projects with European ones under Horizon 2020. The CFM aims to support joint research and innovation activities on topics in strategic areas of common interest and mutual benefit, such as food, agriculture, biotechnology, green transport (including aviation), sustainable urbanisation, information and communication technologies, energy, health, and mobility of young researchers. (September) Read more [here](#).

EUCCC releases its European Business in China—Position Paper 2015/2016

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) released its European Business in China—Position Paper 2015/2016. As the EUCCC's primary annual publication, this 15th edition of the Position Paper offers Chinese policymakers detailed recommendations that draw directly from the knowledge and expertise of the European Chamber's nearly 1,800 member companies. These recommendations were formulated over a six-month consultative and drafting process, with 37 separate working groups, covering 27 vertical industry sectors and nine horizontal, cross-industry sectors. The Position Paper contains general and specific recommendations to Chinese policymakers that outline suggested steps for improving the Chinese business environment. These cover recommendations aimed at improving both the administrative system and general



operating conditions as well as those aimed at identifying areas where China could benefit from giving greater market access to foreign-invested enterprises. (September) Read more [here](#).

U.K. and China sign MOUs on sport, libraries, fashion, and tourism

U.K. Culture Secretary John Whittingdale, Ed Vaizey, and Tracey Crouch met with their Chinese counterparts in Greenwich to discuss ways both countries could cooperate on tourism, fashion, sport, and libraries. This set of meetings is called the People-to-People Dialogue (P2P). The P2P was co-chaired by Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong for China and U.K. Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt for the U.K. The first P2P Dialogue was hosted by the U.K. in 2012, and the second took place in Beijing in 2014. MOUs signed during the P2P included:

- **Tourism:** The U.K. will hold an annual dialogue on tourism exchange with the China National Tourism Administration and increase strategic co-operation on tourism through improving travel connections between the U.K. and China and facilitating relationships between the U.K. and Chinese travel trade.
- **Fashion:** The Shanghai International Fashion Centre (SIFC) and the British Fashion Council (BFC) will agree exchange programmes and propose designers to participate in their respective fashion weeks. The SIFC and BFC will also facilitate introduction programmes for both British and Chinese businesses.
- **Libraries:** The National Library of China and the British Library have identified multiple areas of potential future collaboration, including the BL collection of Shang dynasty oracle bones, an exchange programme for young librarians and cataloguers, and the digitisation of rare items such as the Yongle Dadian holdings in the BL Chinese collections.
- **Sport:** The U.K. and China will establish the Tomorrow's Star programme, which will include youth football training camps, exchange programmes for young football players from both countries, and coach and referee training.

Read more [here](#).

U.K. Chancellor announces £3 million funding for grassroots football programme

U.K. Chancellor George Osborne announced a £3 million funding boost for a revolutionary grassroots football programme in China, supporting thousands of young people. Speaking during a visit to the Soong Ching Ling Football School in Urumqi, the Chancellor announced new funding to provide training for over 5,000 new football coaches, significantly increasing Chinese awareness of the thriving football sector in the U.K. The extension of the highly successful Premier Skills football coaching programme, run by the British Council and the Premier League, will also see it reach Xinjiang for the very first time. The initiative,



which started in 2008, focuses on creating new coaches and referees across the world and inspiring young people to get involved in football. So far the programme has trained 1,100 coaches and reached nearly 500,000 young people in China. The announcement follows a new agreement between the British and Chinese governments to work together in developing sports education, including new collaborations on sports policy, the training of coaches and referees, and a new joint accreditation in football coaches for PE teachers. The Chancellor said, “Grassroots football plays an instrumental role in U.K. life, and it is brilliant to be able to spread that to China. This fantastic scheme which will bring new opportunities to young people across China will also help bring increased awareness and investment into the U.K. football sector.” (September) Read more [here](#).

U.K. Chancellor announces £10 million funding boost to Mandarin teaching

U.K. Chancellor George Osborne announced that a £10 million investment would be made to allow even more children to learn Mandarin at school, with the ambition of having an additional 5,000 students learning Mandarin by 2020. Last year, only about 2% of state-funded primary schools and 5% of state-funded secondary schools offered pupils the opportunity to learn Chinese as a curriculum subject. This new funding will increase the quality and quantity of Mandarin teaching in schools, giving even more young people the chance to study this important language. The £10 million of funding will include recruiting and training more teachers in state schools across the U.K. U.K. Chancellor George Osborne said, “This investment means we can give more young people the opportunity to learn a language that will help them succeed in our increasingly global economy. I’m here in China to help forge closer economic and cultural relationships between our nations, and this announcement is another great example of things we are doing to help grow both of our economies.” (September) Read more [here](#).

U.K. Chancellor announces major progress in U.K.-China civil nuclear partnership

At the 7th U.K.-China Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD), U.K. Chancellor George Osborne and



Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai announced major progress in enhancing the U.K.-China civil nuclear partnership. The new announcements represented a major milestone in the partnership between the U.K. and China’s burgeoning civil nuclear industries, worth tens of billions of pounds. In addition to a landmark announcement on a new government guarantee of up to £2 billion for Hinkley Point, the Chancellor established further ties between the U.K.’s Northern Powerhouse and China’s growing nuclear industry by

announcing that the two countries will work together to co-fund a £50 million cutting-edge nuclear research centre, to be headquartered in the U.K. The Chancellor also announced a regional collaboration agreement between Cumbria and Sichuan province, deepening commercial ties between the province and the North West’s world-leading expertise in nuclear decommissioning and waste management. Together, these announcements will pave the way for deepening collaboration in nuclear sectors in the U.K. and China, including for U.K. companies accessing China’s rapidly growing nuclear market. (September) Read more [here](#).

U.K. Chancellor announces support measures to showcase British culture

U.K. Chancellor announced a raft of support measures to open up some of the country's best arts and culture to Chinese audiences. Examples include:

- **British Library to display some of its most iconic literary treasures in China for first time ever:** Ten handwritten manuscripts and early editions by some of the best-known British authors of all time, from William Shakespeare to the Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, will star in pop-up exhibitions across China between 2016 and 2019. The British Library will also begin creating related online resources in Mandarin. This follows the opening of a new display at the British Library in London showcasing 3,000 years of Chinese writing, from ancient engraved animal bones to a vast 15th century encyclopaedia.
- **Shakespeare's Globe to tour China with revival of *The Merchant of Venice*:** To commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death next year, Shakespeare's Globe will tour China with a revival of *The Merchant of Venice*, which premiered at the Globe in April this year to full houses for over 6 weeks. £500,000 of government funding will also develop a training programme for Chinese arts organisations to develop their learning and community projects. This complements the £1.5 million investment announced at the [2014 UK-China Economic Financial Dialogue](#) in support of the Royal Shakespeare Company for the translation of Shakespeare into Mandarin and the translation of seminal Chinese plays into English.
- **£500,000 to support Royal Opera House training programme for Chinese students:** The Royal Opera House currently provides training to Chinese delegations on an ad hoc basis, so this Sino-U.K. funding will offer Chinese students the opportunity to travel to London for intensive training courses with world-leading arts institutions.
- **New Love China Festival at Southbank Centre:** This will celebrate the U.K.'s cultural links with China through workshops, exhibitions and performances showcasing the best of music, theatre, fashion, design, dance, comedy, and literature from the U.K. and China. It builds on the success of the Southbank Centre's annual Alchemy Festival celebrating the U.K.'s links with the Indian subcontinent.
- **£250,000 for National Theatre of Great Britain, working in collaboration with National Theatre of China to develop tour of *War Horse* across China:** The tour will follow its recent performances in Beijing and Shanghai. The show will be produced, operated, and performed by 90 Chinese artists and technicians who have been trained as part of the strategic skills exchange between the two national theatres.
- **£1.3 million to support presentation in China of Tate's exhibition of British art, *Landscapes of the Mind: British Landscape Painting (1700 – 2007)*:** The exhibition comprises over one hundred celebrated works drawn from Tate's unrivalled collection of British art, including David Hockney's 'Bigger Trees near Water'. Most of these will be presented in China for the first time. This exhibition, which has travelled to Mexico City and São Paulo, will forge a new museum partnership

for Tate in China and follows the successful presentation of a landmark Turner exhibition at the National Art Museum of China, in Beijing in 2009.

- **Victoria & Albert Museum to create new system for interpreting Chinese images:** £300,000 of funding will support the initial stages of creating a bilingual English-Mandarin database of pre-1900 Chinese cultural and literary sources.
- **£700,000 to showcase tourism in North of England as part of Northern Powerhouse:** The Chancellor's visit to China was a key opportunity to highlight the economic and cultural impetus of the U.K.'s Northern Powerhouse, and the campaign will encourage Chinese visitors to explore the Yorkshire moors, Beatrix Potter, and Wordsworth countryside in the Lake District, and historical sites such as Hadrian's Wall.
- **£1.3 million for VisitBritain 'culture is GREAT' campaign in China:** This will highlight Britain's cultural capital. Sally Balcombe, VisitBritain's CEO, also joined the Chancellor during his tour of China.
- **New Eden Project in Qingdao:** The Eden Project has signed a deal, worth up to £5 million, for a new Eden Project in Qingdao—the company's first development outside of the U.K.

Read more [here](#).

U.K. Chancellor attends 'Business is GREAT' reception in Beijing



U.K. Chancellor George Osborne and members of his delegation attended a 'Business is GREAT' reception organised by the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) and the British Embassy. A number of leading British brands took part in a product exhibition during the event at the Opposite House in Beijing.

(September) Read more [here](#).

U.K. Chancellor makes historic first visit to Xinjiang in northwestern China

U.K. Chancellor George Osborne became the first serving government minister to visit Urumqi in Xinjiang in northwestern China as he welcomed a major new investment in the Northern Powerhouse by a Xinjiang-based firm and announced a new aim to make China the U.K.'s second-largest trading partner. The Chancellor visited Hualing Industry and Trade Group, which announced its intention to provide the investment needed to unlock three major property projects in Manchester, Leeds, and Sheffield with a gross value of £1.2 billion. The three projects, which are being led by the U.K.'s Scarborough Group, are expected to create 18,000 jobs and enable the delivery of 10,000 much-needed new homes, helping to build the Northern Powerhouse. The Chancellor's historic visit came as he announced a new ambition to make China the U.K.'s second-largest trading partner by 2025, potentially adding billions to Britain's economy, as part of the government's wider efforts to increase U.K. exports to £1 trillion a year and to get 100,000 more U.K. companies exporting. According to the latest available trade figures from the Office of National Statistics, China is currently the U.K.'s sixth-largest trading partner, with British exports to the country totalling £25 billion in 2013. A key part of raising the level of the U.K.'s trade relationship with China to this next level is helping British firms take advantage of the huge potential benefits from China's investment in new trade routes to the west. In support of this, the Chancellor also launched a new study by the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) and the U.K. Foreign Office, which sets out the opportunities available to British companies alongside practical advice for U.K. firms on where the opportunities will be and how to start benefiting from them. Entitled 'One Belt, One Road' after the massive new One Belt, One Road Initiative (OBOR) to create new trading routes between China and Europe, the study includes advice for U.K. firms on the funding streams open to them to grow and develop in the region—including those created by the new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which the U.K. joined as a prospective founding member earlier this year. (September) Read more [here](#).

U.K. Chancellor opens £11.8 billion HS2 bidding process

U.K. Chancellor George Osborne announced a major new milestone for the government's High Speed 2 rail project (HS2), kick-starting the bidding process for phase one of the



mega construction project. At least seven new contracts will be opened up to companies, with a total combined value of £11.8 billion. The Chancellor made the announcement at an event in Chengdu, aimed at wooing some of China's biggest investors to be part of the project as well as a raft of other major U.K. infrastructure projects. Mr. Osborne also announced a new 'HS2 partnering day' between British and

Chinese firms to explore joining up on bids for contracts, as well as launching the Northern Powerhouse pitchbook. HS2 forms a major part of the government's plan to rebalance the U.K. economy and build a Northern Powerhouse by providing high speed rail services from London to the Midlands and the North. Construction of phase 1 is due to start in 2017 and, when opened, will slash the travel time between London and Birmingham from one hour and 21 minutes to 49 minutes. The government is organising an 'HS2 partnering day' to give Chinese companies an opportunity to meet U.K. firms and establish potential partnerships to join up on bids. The Chancellor is also inviting Chinese participation in the HS2 skills college, which is due to open in 2017. A skills-swap programme would allow the U.K. to benefit from China's expertise as a world leader on High Speed Rail and help Chinese investors better understand the

U.K. market. The Chancellor is also encouraging Chinese companies to take part in an HS2 ‘regeneration tour’, which would involve visiting areas of huge commercial opportunity in London, the Midlands, and the North. Investors would have the chance to meet with relevant local authorities and visit station sites. (September) Read more [here](#).

U.K. Chancellor showcases Northern Powerhouse investment opportunities

U.K. Chancellor George Osborne showcased a selection of £24 billion worth of investment opportunities in the North of England at an event in Chengdu with senior Chinese investors. The Chancellor said there are unprecedented opportunities for Chinese investment into the Northern Powerhouse as the U.K. and China enter a golden era of economic cooperation. Infrastructure and regeneration investment projects such as the Atlantic Gateway, a series of projects connecting the Port of Liverpool to the City of Manchester, and Science Central, a cutting-edge development in the heart of Newcastle, are set out in a new Northern Pitchbook that was presented in Chengdu. At the same time, Britain’s Northern leaders said a new wave of transformational Chinese investment can revolutionise Northern infrastructure. Key projects for which investment is sought include:

- Manchester Place—an opportunity to deliver three new zones of more than 10,000 homes with a combined value of over £3 billion
- Sheffield Retail Quarter—working with Sheffield City Council to create new city centre homes and centrally located offices
- South Bank, Leeds—a new regeneration scheme covering more than 130 hectares in the city centre

Alongside the Pitchbook, the Chancellor also announced:

- potentially doubling Enterprise Zones across the North
- commissioning a new government report looking at existing links between U.K. and Chinese cities to help the U.K. better understand how it can attract more trade with China
- a commitment to reinvigorate partnerships between Northern and Chinese cities, including Sheffield’s Sister City agreement with Chengdu, which has fostered significant business, civic, and cultural links since 2010
- the secondment of staff from the China Rail Construction Corporation, the world’s largest railway company, to Mott MacDonald, the U.K.-based management, engineering, and development consultancy, in Manchester
- the findings of a city-clusters research project based on the Chongqing-Chengdu cluster and the Northern Powerhouse
- a new service, established by Lancaster University, to bring together U.K. and Chinese universities, researchers and businesses to take research to commercialisation
- a new joint PhD programme to teach the next generation of Chinese Radio Astronomers at the Square Kilometre Array headquarters at Jodrell Bank
- a new offer on the Chevening Scholarship Programme to those in the Northern Powerhouse who wish to strengthen ties with Chinese students. Durham, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield, and York universities (the ‘N8’) have all expressed an interest so far

Read more [here](#).

U.K.-Belgian Visitor Service receives 1,000th application

Barbara Woodward, the British Ambassador to China, and Michel Malherbe, the Belgian Ambassador to



China, met applicants using the new U.K.-Belgian Visitor Service—in the week it was expected to receive its 1,000th application. They were given a tour of the centre to find out more about the service, which was launched on 01 July. The U.K.-Belgian Visitor Service was introduced in response to customer demand, creating a one-stop shop for Chinese visitors to the U.K., Belgium, and the rest of Europe. It allows Chinese customers to submit their visa applications for both countries during a single visit to a U.K. visa application centre in either

Beijing, Guangzhou, and Shanghai. Customers can apply and pay for U.K. and Belgian visa applications online—using just one set of supporting documents—then book a single U.K. visa appointment to complete the process. On average, customers are currently receiving both visa decisions within eight days. More than 950 customers have used the U.K.-Belgian Visitor Service between 01 July and 07 September. (September)

Read more [here](#).

U.K. Government Chief Scientific Adviser launches Longitude Prize in China

Sir Mark Walport, U.K. Government Chief Scientific Adviser, launched the £10 million Longitude Prize in



China at a Science Salon on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) at the British Ambassador's Residence in Beijing. The Longitude Prize is open for anyone to compete. It is a historic challenge with a £10 million prize fund that aims to conserve antibiotics for future generations. The challenge is to develop a cheap, accurate, rapid, and easy-to-use point of care test that will identify when antibiotics are needed and, if they are, which ones to use. Sir Mark said, “Anti-microbial resistance is one of the most urgent health challenges of our time, and I hope the

Longitude Prize will inspire innovators in China, the U.K., and across the world to develop tools to solve this problem.” (September) Read more [here](#).

UKTI and Shanghai FTZ partner to help U.K. companies with e-commerce sales

U.K. Business Secretary Sajid Javid signed a partnership agreement on behalf of U.K. Trade and Investment (UKTI) with the Shanghai Cross-Border e-Commerce Public Platform. The signing took place at the first ever China-U.K. Cross-Border e-Commerce Cooperation Roundtable organised by the Bank of China in Shanghai. The partnership was organised as part of UKTI's e-Exporting Programme. The agreement will support U.K. exporters and help promote their online sales in China by helping them to find new customers, build brand awareness, and analyse Chinese consumer requirements. The Shanghai Cross-border e-commerce Public Platform will work with UKTI to:



- provide help to U.K. companies wishing to sign up to e-commerce platforms registered in the Shanghai Free Trade Zone (FTZ)
- encourage e-commerce platforms registered in the Shanghai FTZ to run a marketing campaign promoting U.K. brands on their platforms
- share information to help U.K. companies understand the opportunities in China and how they can be optimised through e-channels in the Shanghai FTZ

UKTI will work to grow the volume of U.K. online exports to China through the Shanghai FTZ e-marketplace by:

- delivering a programme with U.K. partners to increase the number of companies seeking to export through global e-marketplaces
- promoting opportunities for U.K. companies to grow their business in China through e-marketplaces
- working with partners and private sector experts to provide peer-to-peer mentoring for U.K. companies seeking to export through e-channels
- delivering a retail and brands campaign across relevant e-commerce platforms in the Shanghai FTZ

Read more [here](#).

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