

Speech by Johnson Choi, President & Executive Director of China Hawaii Chamber of Commerce 10/20/03

Chairman Wang,
President Meng,
President Liu,
General Manager Chang,
Director Liu,
Director Ted Liu, 刘恩博 主任
Director Manny Menendez, 孟士德主任
President Tollefson,
President Terrill Chock, 卓少 会
President Vernon Ching, 惠昌会
President Michael Zhang, 少炯会
Dean Emeritus Chuck Gee,
Vice President Su,
Honor Guest, Ladies and Gentleman. Aloha.

On behalf of China Hawaii Chamber of Commerce, I would like to extend our warm welcome to our friends from Hebei, China. We appreciate your making a stop in Hawaii to strengthen our ties between our two organizations.

We have a very distinguish group of business leaders in the room who are friends of China for many years. Many of them have business ties with China.

It was back in 1985 when Yen Chun, a few other Chamber members, and I visited Hainan Island representing the City and County of Honolulu to sign our Sister City Agreement. Now as you all may know that Hainan is a province of China and has extended the Sister State Agreement with Hawaii. The State is planning a visit to Hainan in December. The seeds we helped planted are showing results.

In 1991 China Hawaii Chamber of Commerce signed a collaboration business agreement with CCPIT Guangzhou. It resulted in more than 10 million of trade and business between Hawaii, California and China.

Our Chamber of Commerce has more than 15 collaboration business partners in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Singapore, Hawaii, Mainland USA and Canada focusing on doing business and getting things done.

Our collaboration business partners have continued to provide valuable information on the ground level to us helping us to navigate through the maze of information. We have continued to reach out to those that are willing to do business.

Since our Chamber is 100% supported by our members and receive no funding from government. It enables us to focus on projects that make business sense benefiting our members.

Hebei is located in the Jing-Jin-Ji (Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei) Economic Region (京津冀經濟圈) and the Bohai Bay Economic region (環渤海經濟圈) .

It is a major producer of iron and steel. In 2001, Hebei's output of iron and steel ranked the first and third in China.

In 2001, Hebei's industrial output totaled Rmb376.7 billion or US\$46 billion (+9.9%). Heavy industry amounted to RMB 246.2 billion or US\$30.02, i.e. 65% of the province's total industrial output.

The North China Pharmaceutical Plant, locates in Shijiazhuang, is the major antibiotic producer in China with its output of penicillin ranking the highest in the world.

In coming years, Hebei will actively attract foreign funds and introduce advanced technology in all production sectors. The province aims to upgrade the overall productivity and product quality of its industrial enterprises and raise market competitiveness. Meanwhile, Hebei also targets to boost the tertiary sector such as finance, banking, information services and tourism.

Hebei is a popular tourist spot in Northern China with many historical sites such as the Chengde Summer Resort (承德避暑山莊), the Shanhaiguan Pass of the Great Wall (山海關), the Beidaihe (北戴河) Summer Resort, the Eastern Tombs and Western Tombs of the Qing Dynasty. Beidaihe is the Camp David of China and the place has hosted many important politburo meetings.

The agreement we are about to sign is only the first step on a long-term relationship. How the relation will grow depends on the efforts of our esteemed organizations, members and its leaders. We feel the agreement with Hebei is a good one and present excellent opportunities for Hawaii Companies.

We are looking forward to report back to you in 12 months and share with you many successful stories.

Thank you very much.