

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY
LEE YI SHYAN'S CALL ON SUZHOU MAYOR YAN LI,
6.00PM, 23 OCTOBER 2008, AT SUZHOU KEMPINSKI HOTEL**

1 Minister of State (MOS) for Trade and Industry Lee Yi Shyan called on Suzhou Mayor Yan Li, at the start of his two day visit to the Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP). During his visit, he witnessed the opening of Ascendas iHub Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) facility, Eton International School and the 10th anniversary of Boai Charity School.

2 During the meeting, MOS Lee recalled the 10th Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP) Joint Steering Council (JSC) meeting held last month which had further endorsed SIP's achievement as a model park for sustainable development. Deputy Prime Minister Wong Kan Seng and Vice Premier Wang Qishan had urged SIP to continue to upgrade its competitiveness by building its R&D infrastructure and services industries. MOS Lee said the opening of the Ascendas BPO facility and Eton International School reflected the continued confidence Singapore firms have in SIP, and their positive response to SIP's strategy to upgrade its soft-infrastructure.

3 MOS Lee and Mayor Yan Li also discussed plans to celebrate SIP's 15th anniversary next year. MOS Lee suggested to Mayor Yan Li that China-Singapore Suzhou Development Co. Ltd. (CSSD), with its experience in urban planning, sustainable development and park management, should join hands with Singapore firms to lead development in Chinese cities, starting with Jiangsu cities outside Suzhou.

4 The meeting also noted the wide-ranging collaboration between Singapore and Suzhou, in areas including human resource development, science and technology collaboration, edu-tourism, environmental engineering services industry development, in addition to the traditional manufacturing and real estate investments Singapore firms have made in Suzhou.

5 Both MOS Lee and Mayor Yan Li agreed that the frequent meetings between Singapore and Suzhou officials reflect the importance the leaders of both countries place on the SIP project.

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