

## **SUZHOU INDUSTRIAL PARK (SIP) 12<sup>th</sup> JOINT STEERING COUNCIL MEETING**

Singapore and China noted the commendable achievements of the SIP over the last 16 years and its robust performance during the recent global economic downturn at the 12<sup>th</sup> SIP Joint Steering Council (JSC) Meeting today. Singapore also reiterated her commitment to support SIP's continued development. Both sides will work together as SIP transforms its developmental model into one that is driven by modern services, innovation and talent, to maintain its position as one of the leading industrial parks in China and the region.

Started in 1994, SIP is the first flagship cooperation project between Singapore and China. Co-chaired by Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Wong Kan Seng and PRC Vice-Premier Wang Qishan, the SIP JSC is a high-level platform that oversees bilateral cooperation in SIP. The JSC meets annually.

SIP posted commendable economic performance in 2009 despite the global economic downturn. While SIP's total trade dipped 18.1% to US\$ 51.2 billion as a result of weakened external demand, its GDP grew 15.1% to reach RMB 112 billion. Utilised FDI remained healthy at US\$1.81 billion, similar to the previous year, signalling continued investor confidence in SIP.

For the first half of 2010, SIP's trade rebounded strongly, rising 67.7% from the same period last year to reach US\$35.6 billion. SIP's efforts to transform its industry structure have also gathered pace. More than half of the 327 new foreign investment projects it attracted last year were in the high-tech or services sectors. High-tech industries now make up 60.3% of all manufacturing production, while the services industries account for 32.7% of SIP's GDP.

At the JSC meeting today, both sides acknowledged the direction that SIP will take to bring it to the next phase of development. With a firm foundation and support from both governments, SIP is well positioned to restructure its economy to leverage on opportunities in the post-crisis world. To support SIP's economic transformation, Singapore will evolve its software transfer programs to meet the changing developmental needs of SIP.

The JSC meeting also highlighted the tremendous scope for SIP to share its experience and replicate its development model to the rest of China. While Singapore has trained some 2,200 Suzhou and SIP officials in Singapore over the years, close to 20,000 Chinese officials visit the SIP every year to learn its model of development.

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