

LEE YI SHYAN IN SHANGHAI, CHONGQING AND CHENGDU TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Lee Yi Shyan led the Future China Advanced Leaders' Programme to Shanghai, Chongqing and Chengdu from 20 to 25 April 2014. During the trip, Mr Lee also met his counterparts to discuss possible areas of cooperation between Singapore and the Chinese cities.

In Shanghai, Mr Lee met with Pudong Party Secretary Shen Xiaoming and Shanghai Vice Mayor Ai Baojun. VM Ai is also the Director of the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone Administrative Committee. During the meetings, the leaders reaffirmed the close Singapore-Shanghai economic relations and discussed ways to further deepen economic collaboration between both sides.

In Chongqing, Mr Lee met Executive Vice Mayor Weng Jieming and had a fruitful exchange on the opportunities for Singapore businesses in China's Western region, in particular the Liangjiang New Area (两江新区). Established in 2010, the Liangjiang New Area is a 1,200 sq km national-level New Area, which is the first in Western China after Shanghai Pudong and Tianjin Binhai New Area. Mr Lee also met Singapore companies based in Chongqing who shared the growing opportunities in the various sectors such as electronics, automotive, city development, logistics and finance. The visit also allowed the delegation to understand Chongqing's business environment.

In Chengdu, Mr Lee met Sichuan Governor Wei Hong, Vice Governor Gan Lin and Mayor Ge Honglin. The leaders discussed ways to strengthen economic ties and explore new areas of cooperation. Mr Lee also visited the Singapore-Sichuan Hi-Tech Innovation Park (新川创新科技园), which was set to be an innovation cluster for high-tech enterprises, jointly developed by Singbridge, Sembcorp and the Chinese joint venture partner Chengdu Hi-Tech Investment Group. During his visit, Mr Lee also officiated the opening of the Singapore Centre in Chengdu, which houses Singapore government agencies such as the Economic Development Board (EDB), International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and Singapore Tourism Board (STB).

Economic linkages between Singapore and the various Chinese Western cities have been growing in recent years. Noting the strong growth, Mr Lee said, "Singapore and China enjoy strong bilateral relations. Over the years, we have seen more Singapore companies venturing into the Western region of China as infrastructure matures and affluence rises. Economic progress in the western region presents many untapped opportunities for Singapore businesses. Singapore's engagement with the western region, through mechanism such as the Singapore-Sichuan Trade & Investment Committee, EDB and IE Singapore offices in Chengdu, Chongqing and Xi'an, have facilitated our companies' entry into the region. Vice versa, Chinese companies in the region have begun exploring establishing regional headquarters and listing possibilities in Singapore."

Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth) Sam Tan, Parliamentary Secretary (Ministry of Social and Family Development) Low Yen Ling, government officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IE Singapore were also part of the delegation.



Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Lee Yi Shyan officiating the opening of the Singapore Centre in Chengdu

From left:

*Mr Jackson Phang
Centre Director (Chengdu), Singapore Economic Development Board*

*Mr Rennie Phua
Area Director (West China), Singapore Tourism Board*

*Ms Chiong Woan Shin
Regional Director (West China) International Enterprise Singapore*

*Mr Matthew Lee
Regional Director (China) Economic Development Board*

*Mr Lee Yi Shyan
Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry*

*Ms Low Yen Ling
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development*

*Mr Yew Sung Pei
Assistant Chief Executive Officer, International Enterprise Singapore*

*Mr Pang Te Cheng
Consul-General, Consulate-General of The Republic of Singapore in Chengdu*

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
25 APRIL 2014**