

Hebei, China? It's time to look closer.



We are pleased to announce that after two years of preparation we have signed MOUs (Memoranda of Understanding) with the following three associations in China:

1. China Association of Circular Economy (CACE) www.chinacace.org
2. China Association of Automobile Manufacturers – Remanufacturing Committee www.remanchina.org
3. National Remanufacturing Demonstration Base in Hejian

Our formal signing ceremony was the mid-point in a 'Green Manufacturing Conference' at which Chinese relationships with the UK were underlined by a presentation from Tom Child, Minister Counsellor, from the British Embassy. The 400 delegates at the conference heard from, amongst others, Junsheng Bi, Director of the Department of Energy Conservation at MIIT, Academician Binshi Xu and Weijiang Yin,

Party Secretary of Hejian City. The conference was timed to coincide with a nationally significant event in Beijing where development plans for the Hebei region were approved; plans that will act as a pressure release valve for the capital city (population 30 million) and accelerate growth in Hejian city, the base for an important new industrial cluster for remanufacturing.

Hebei region is home to approximately 150 remanufacturing companies, some with global-scale ambition. Of most significance was our visit to the brand-new National Demonstration Base for Remanufacturing. In Hejian City, we toured a massive new facility designed to offer engineering and research support services to companies aiming to develop their remanufacturing activities. Foremost amongst these businesses were auto parts maker ChangLi and a remanufacturer of drilling components for the global oil and gas industry.

The wider industrial development plans in Hebei deserve closer review given that they will create massive new investment opportunities for European businesses – from project managers to infrastructure equipment and machine tools suppliers. The challenge for EU policy makers is to ask what do these plans and the focus on remanufacturing mean for industrial policy and competitiveness in Europe in 10 years' time? Wang Shaojie, Mayor of Hejian, promised the most solicitous of welcomes to international companies willing to invest in the region.

We were glad to have with us member companies Lexmark and IBM. Other Council members will be able to access a

detailed account of our week-long visit to China and can contact Director David Fitzsimons to enquire how to use the new network. We look forward to working with our three new partners in China and invite proposals from existing (and prospective) members on how best to build on these relationships.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK and the outstanding organisational contribution from academic staff at the University of Brighton.

The CER (Conseil Européen de Remanufacture) is managed by Oakdene Hollins



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