



ANTWERP PORT AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

Successful trade mission to China to be followed up

A high-powered delegation headed by port alderman Marc Van Peel and made up of representatives from Antwerp Port Authority, the Customs Service and various private companies has successfully completed a trade mission to China. In addition to numerous meetings with Chinese business leaders, a large-scale seminar was held in Suzhou and the mission ended with participation in the Logistics Fair in the capital, Beijing. The mission, which forms part of the Port Authority's Im-pact on China programme, was aimed at making the port of Antwerp better known in China and raising its market share.

From 10 to 20 June the Antwerp delegation visited among others the cities of Tianjin, Suzhou, Yangzhou, Shanghai, Ningbo and Beijing, meeting more than 400 representatives of shipping companies, ship's agents, port authorities, freight handlers, stevedoring companies, forwarders and service providers. The delegation also took part in a number of more culturally-oriented activities. These included a visit to the exhibition "A story of the image" in Shanghai, featuring works by old masters and contemporary artists from Antwerp, of which the port authority is one of the main sponsors.

Another special event during the trade mission was the guest lecture given by port alderman Marc Van Peel at Shanghai Maritime University. This was the first time in its history that the university had invited the chairman of a foreign port authority to give a lecture. In front of a packed audience Marc Van Peel outlined the significance of Antwerp as a port and the opportunities that it offers for Belgian and Chinese entrepreneurs.

In Ningbo the members of the delegation were able to renew acquaintance with the local port authority, with which Antwerp Port Authority had signed a treaty of friendship last year. The mission took advantage of the opportunity to further strengthen the relations and extend the network. At the friendly reunion it was decided that the mayor of Ningbo would visit the port of Antwerp at the end of October this year. Business relations from Shanghai will also travel to Antwerp this autumn in order to become better acquainted with the port.

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