

**THOMAS C. LEPPERT
MAYOR**



CITY OF DALLAS

NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact: Chris Heinbaugh
214.670-0773**

China Trade Mission Returning to Dallas Mayor Says Return Visits Are Critical

HONG KONG – Thursday: The Mayor’s Trade Delegation wrapped up its trade mission to China after a meeting with one of the Hong Kong’s top trade officials. The team is returning to Dallas.

“I am very encouraged by what we accomplished by this trip,” said Mayor Leppert. “But everyone needs to understand, we don’t stop here. This is just the start.”

Mayor Tom Leppert, along with Dallas officials and business leaders spent Thursday morning with Christopher Jackson with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. Mr. Jackson briefed the delegation on Hong Kong’s operations and logistics hub, the second busiest in the world, handling about 9,800 tons of freight each day. He also spoke of anti-corruptions efforts, Hong Kong since the territory become part of China, and the new global economy and Hong Kong’s role in it.

Mr. Jackson encouraged Dallas to play a closer role with Hong Kong trade officials, perhaps even set up an Asian trade office in Hong Kong. Mayor Leppert said he would explore the idea. Mr. Jackson said it’s a new business environment and a global economy. He said that Hong Kong – with its rule of law and anti-corruption efforts offers global companies more confidence.

Mayor Leppert felt Dallas’ Inland Port is the likely connector for Hong Kong shippers and a key partner in the future for Dallas.

“Clearly, we have a great deal to learn from each other,” said Mayor Leppert. “Hong Kong has a long history of dealing in a global environment. Dallas, with its inland port can help Hong Kong’s trading partners reach their customers in the Eastern U.S. quickly, efficiently and with significant savings.”

Delegation to Return

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The group went on to tour the city's enormous convention and exhibition facility where a major Asian trade show was going on inside.

The visit to Hong Kong wraps up a whirlwind yet focused trade mission to China by the Dallas Mayor and a delegation of city and business leaders.

During the 9 day tour:

- The group visited Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Qingdao, Dalian, Shenzhen and Hong Kong.
- The Mayor finalized a deal to move ZTE's headquarters to Dallas. ZTE is a major Chinese telecom firm based in Shenzhen.
- The Mayor signed two "Friendship City Agreements" which are key pacts needed to help boost trade and attract investment with Dallas.
- The Mayor and his delegation met with two Chinese airlines. They laid the groundwork to negotiate a non-stop flight between DFW and China within the next two years.
- The group met with the Mayors of Tianjin, Qingdao, Dalian and Shenzhen, along with major corporations within the cities visited.

Mayor Leppert said Dallas is going to have to return and replenish those relationships.

"We certainly are proud with what we accomplished during this trip," said Mayor Leppert. "But even more important – we have are establishing strong personal relationships in each of these cities. This is what it will take to establish Dallas as a major player in the global economy for the long haul."

In a wrap up dinner with the Hong Kong harbor skyline as a backdrop, Mayor Leppert thanked the delegation –including Councilmembers Ron Natinsky, Tennell Atkins and Jerry Allen - for their efforts in making the mission a success. He especially singled out the efforts of Mr. Natinsky and Director of Economic Development Karl Zavitkovsky for laying the groundwork with numerous visits to China over the past several years.

Mayor Leppert and his delegation are returning to Dallas Friday. No press conference is scheduled.

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See photos on next page

Photos — Trade Delegation's visit to China



Chris Jackson Briefing the Delegation



Chris Jackson and the Mayor in the Hong Kong and Exhibition Centre

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More Photos — Trade Delegation's visit to China



A Final Shot of the Mayor's Trade Delegation



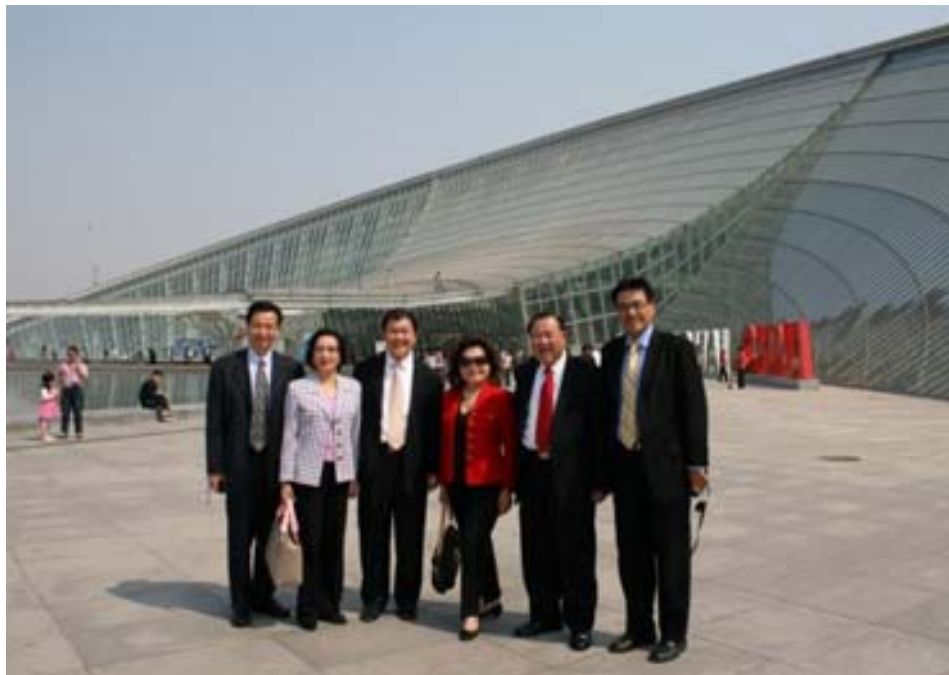
Mayor Leppert and
Qingdao City Official

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More Photos — Trade Delegation's visit to China



Inside the Hong Kong and Exhibition Centre



Delegation Members in Dalian – David Gu, Sophie and Peter Ng, Mary and Dr. Charles Ku and William Tsao