

Press Release

Berlin, 25 February 2009

China as a Partner in Times of Crisis

- **Trade Minister Chen Deming on a tour of Europe with a purchasing delegation**

“Companies from China buy goods in Europe totalling around 11 billion euro. China is thus a reliable partner in the global economic crisis.” said Jürgen Heraeus, China spokesman of the Asia-Pacific Committee at the APA Economic Forum held on Wednesday in Berlin. “While in Europe all countries are thinking about using the taxpayers’ money for national measures to boost consumption or to support distressed banks, China is intensifying cooperation with its European partners”, said Mr. Heraeus.

Letters of Intent with around 30 German companies as well as various contracts were signed today, including many small and medium-sized enterprises. Purchasing activities focused on the engineering, electronics and electro-technology and automotive sectors. During the trip to Europe the emphasis is on purchasing high-quality products with modern technology. Mr. Heraeus highlighted the fact that Chinese companies are also welcome as investors in Germany.

Mr. Heraeus reminded the German and Chinese governments of their promises not to resort to protectionist measures in the economic crisis. These promises should be kept at all costs. What prompted this reaction are reports from German companies that the governments are advising companies in certain Chinese provinces to implement “buy-local” measures. “We expect the Chinese government to keep to its successful course of opening the Chinese market and not to postpone pending liberalisation steps, such as in the insurance sector.”

Some 450 company representatives from Germany and China met together at an APA Economic Forum. Half this number belonged to the Chinese delegation commissioned by Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and headed by Minister of Trade Chen Deming.

About the Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business

The Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business (APA) voices the concerns of German business to policy-makers in Germany and the Asia-Pacific region. It is the most important German forum for the formulation and discussion of Asia-related economic and political strategies pertaining to German and Asian business interests. The objective of the APA is to intensify co-operation with the Asia-Pacific countries and to foster mutual trade and investment. As global economic challenges and the economic importance of Asia-Pacific are increasing, APA's mission is to shape the future in changing times, together with Asia, based on the principles of partnership, innovation and sustainability.

The APA is a joint initiative and umbrella organization of leading business federations – the [Federation of German Industries](#) (BDI), the [Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce](#) (DIHK), the [German Asia-Pacific Business Association](#) (OAV), the [Federation of German Wholesale and Foreign Trade](#) (BGA) and the [Association of German Banks](#) (Bankenverband), it relies on the competence of its sponsor organizations as well as their member companies. Dr. Jürgen Hambrecht, CEO of BASF SE, has been Chairman of the APA since July 2006.

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