

“Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones

【Basic Information】

Moderators:

Addresses, Keynote Speech and Report Release Sections:

Yang Zhengwei	Director General of the Department of Pilot Free Trade Zone and Free Trade Port of the Ministry of Commerce of China
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Panel Discussion 1:

Cui Weijie	Vice President of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce of China
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Panel Discussion 2:

Wang Dawei	Economic Affairs Officer of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD
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Addresses:

Guo Tingting	Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce of China
Zhu Zhisong	Member of the Standing Committee of CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, Secretary of CPC Pudong New Area Committee, Director of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Administration

Keynote Speech:

Markus Steilemann	CEO, Covestro AG
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Report Release:

Richard Kozul-Wright	Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD
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Gu Xueming	President of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce of China
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Panel Discussion:

Tang Dajun	Deputy Director-General of China (Jiangsu) Pilot Free Trade Zone Affairs Office
Guo Fuyuan	General Manager of Yantai Jinghai Ocean Fishery Co., Ltd.
Qiu Jixing	Secretary of the CPC Working Committee of Changsha Area, China (Hunan) Pilot Free Trade Zone
Li Gongliang	Deputy Director-General of Tianjin Dongjiang Comprehensive Bonded Zone Administration
Yu Wanjun	Deputy Secretary-General of Zhoushan Municipal People's Government
Wang Jun	Deputy Director-General of Henan Provincial Department of Commerce
Wu Ge	Deputy Director-General of China (Sichuan) Pilot Free Trade Zone Affairs Office
Wu Yanyan	Vice President of BMW Group
Zhao Ming	Vice Mayor of Hefei
Yuan Fuyong	Deputy Director-General of Shenzhen Qianhai Shekou Area Administration, China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone

【Brief Introduction】

On the afternoon of November 6, 2023, “Invest in China Year”— Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones, hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of China and organized by the Department of Pilot Free Trade Zone and Free Trade Port of the Ministry of Commerce of China and China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges, was held at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai). More than 400 representatives from pilot free trade zones across the country, international organizations, multinational corporations, domestic enterprises and foreign chambers of commerce & associations, as well as industry experts participated in the event.



【Addresses】

Guo Tingting, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce of China,
addressed “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai

Guo Tingting, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Commerce of China, pointed out that the construction of pilot free trade zones is a crucial strategic initiative for China to advance reform and opening-up in the new era. Over the past decade, starting from Shanghai, the pilot free trade zones have gradually formed a high-level pattern of reform and opening-up covering the east, west, south, north, coastal, inland, and border areas. They have introduced a large number of foundational and groundbreaking reform and opening-up measures, leading to many landmark and leading institutional innovations, and effectively played the role of a comprehensive experimental platform for reform and opening-up. As China promotes high-level opening-up at a new starting point, the pilot free trade zones are important platforms. Foreign investors are sincerely welcomed to the pilot free trade zones and China for investment and business development.



Zhu Zhisong, Member of the Standing Committee of CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, Secretary of CPC Pudong New Area Committee, and Director of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Administration, addressed “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai

Zhu Zhisong, Member of the Standing Committee of CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, Secretary of CPC Pudong New Area Committee, and Director of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Administration, emphasized that building free trade pilot zones is a crucial strategic move in the new era of China to comprehensively deepen reform and expand opening-up. As the first national pilot free trade zone, the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone has adhered to institutional innovation as its core and aligned with the highest standards in the past decade. Its three roles are increasingly prominent: first, it serves as the pioneer of high-level reform and opening-up; second, it acts as the driving force for high-quality development; and third, it is an efficient governance demonstration model. In the future, the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone will enhance its leading role in institutional opening-up, increase the modernization level of its industrial system, and elevate its gathering and radiation capabilities.

【Keynote Speech】

Markus Steilemann, CEO of Covestro AG,
attended "Invest in China Year" — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and delivered a speech

Markus Steilemann, CEO of Covestro AG, stated that Covestro is a globally leading supplier of high-quality polymer materials committed to pioneering the circular economy. China's carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals align with Covestro's vision of achieving climate neutrality by 2035. China is one of Covestro's largest markets, and the company's development is closely related to the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone. Covestro has enhanced the status of its headquarters in Shanghai, covering important functions such as investment and innovation. It actively participates in the Group Open Innovation (GOI) plan in Pudong, and becomes the first multinational corporation to establish its global business unit headquarters in Shanghai. During this China International Import Expo (CIIE), Covestro collaborates with local developers in Shanghai to promote the application of green building solutions.

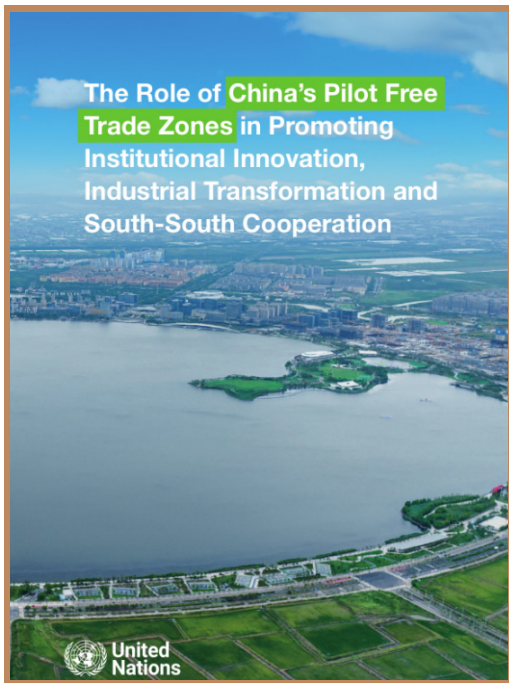
【Report Release】



Richard Kozul-Wright, Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies of UNCTAD, attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and released *The Role of China’s Pilot Free Trade Zones in Promoting Institutional Innovation, Industrial Transformation and South-South Cooperation*.



Gu Xueming, President of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce of China, attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and released *Report on Development of China’s Pilot Free Trade Zones (2013-2023)*



The report marks the first time a major international organization has issued a special research report on China's pilot free trade zones. It acknowledges the achievements of China's pilot free trade zones over the past decade, and highlights their unique contribution to deepening reform and opening-up and playing a pioneering role. The pilot free trade zones have significantly contributed to attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), promoting trade growth, and facilitating South-South cooperation. In the future, they will continue to provide reference for developing countries and contribute to global economic growth.



Report on Development of China's Pilot Free Trade Zones (2013-2023)

The report reviews President Xi Jinping's important instructions and speeches on the construction of pilot free trade zones, summarizes the ten-year construction process, and compiles significant events, related documents, and institutional innovations replicated and promoted at the national level. The report systematically presents reforms in areas such as investment, trade, finance, and the transformation of government functions. It highlights that the pilot free trade zones have become a leading force in high-level opening-up, a pioneer of in-depth reforms, an exemplar in high-quality development, and an important platform serving national strategies.



Yang Zhengwei, Director General of the Department of Pilot Free Trade Zone and Free Trade Port of the Ministry of Commerce of China, attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and moderated addresses, keynote speech and report release

【Panel Discussion】

1. Promoting the Development of Featured Industries



Tang Dajun, Deputy Director-General of China (Jiangsu) Pilot Free Trade Zone Affairs Office, attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and participated in panel discussion

Tang Dajun, Deputy Director-General of China (Jiangsu) Pilot Free Trade Zone Affairs Office, noted that in the four years since its establishment, the Jiangsu Pilot Free Trade Zone has adhered to its positioning as a pioneering zone for an open economy designated by the country. This includes being a demonstration zone for the real economy, innovative development, and industrial transition and upgrade. The zone has achieved certain results in the open and innovative development of the entire bio-pharmaceutical industry chain, including industrial scale, innovation capability, cultivation of leading enterprises, and institutional innovation. In the future, the Jiangsu Pilot Free Trade Zone will accelerate the open development of the entire bio-pharmaceutical industry chain. With a higher level of openness, it aims to gather global high-quality elements and resources, enhance the modernization of the industrial and supply chains, and create a world-renowned bio-pharmaceutical industry cluster, leading the way and serving as a model in advancing the modernization drive with Chinese characteristics.



Guo Fuyuan, General Manager of Yantai Jinghai Ocean Fishery Co., Ltd. ,
attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai
and participated in panel discussion

Guo Fuyuan, General Manager of Yantai Jinghai Ocean Fishery Co., Ltd. , stated that in 2023, President Xi proposed that “the deep-sea and far-sea mariculture industry has great development potential”. Coastal cities nationwide are accelerating the construction of modern marine ranches, with more than 50 sets of equipment already in place or under construction. Yantai area of the China (Shandong) Pilot Free Trade Zone has taken the lead in providing institutional solutions and addressing issues such as equipment rights confirmation, certification, asset financing, customs declaration and clearance for imported equipment, and the construction of modern live-fish transport vessels. This support helps fishery companies effectively address technical and institutional barriers, and offers a reference for the whole country. With the backing of the pilot free trade zone’s pioneering and daring institutional support, the future prospects of deep-sea and far-sea mariculture industry as a new business form are promising.



Qiu Jixing, Secretary of the CPC Working Committee of Changsha Area of the China (Hunan) Pilot Free Trade Zone, attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and participated in panel discussion

Qiu Jixing, Secretary of the CPC Working Committee of Changsha Area of the China (Hunan) Pilot Free Trade Zone, said that Changsha has a strong foundation in the construction machinery industry and is known as the “capital of Chinese construction machinery”. Changsha area has systematically integrated innovations to empower the development of the construction machinery industry, and provided experience in the systematic integration innovation regarding institutional innovation empowering the industry development. On the production side, there is intelligent upgrade, support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and an increase in production efficiency. On the research and development side, leveraging the advantages of tamper-proof and traceable blockchain, a digital password lock is used for intellectual property, achieving the pre-protection of intellectual property rights and safeguarding technological innovation. On the export side, institutional innovation is used to solve problems regarding international standards for products, assessment, inquiries, and obstacles encountered by enterprises in going global and exporting used equipment.



Li Gongliang, Deputy Director-General of Tianjin Dongjiang Comprehensive Bonded Zone Administration, attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and participated in panel discussion

Li Gongliang, Deputy Director-General of Tianjin Dongjiang Comprehensive Bonded Zone Administration, expressed that the Dongjiang Comprehensive Bonded Zone employs the “expert + manager” service concept. Leveraging the integrated innovation and efficient coordination of Tianjin regulatory authorities, it optimizes the leasing industry ecosystem. In customs supervision, innovative regulatory systems are implemented to facilitate the continuous aggregation of regional cross-border leasing. In financial supervision, it took the lead in establishing a local financial supervision bureau, and created a flexible regulatory approach embedded in services. In foreign exchange management, the region accounts for 80% of the total national assets in cross-border leasing. In the legal environment, the zone has the only specialized leasing court in the country, ensuring the professional handling of leasing cases and improving online filing and internet court trial functions. In industrial services, a financial leasing promotion bureau has been established, forming a collaborative service mechanism with specialized roles for various market entities.



Yu Wanjun, Deputy Secretary-General of Zhoushan Municipal People's Government, attended "Invest in China Year" — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and participated in panel discussion

Yu Wanjun, Deputy Secretary-General of Zhoushan Municipal People's Government, pointed out that the China (Zhejiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone is committed to building a commodity resource allocation center with oil and gas as the core, and carrying out institutional innovation around the entire industry chain. It has achieved four main accomplishments: first, the completion of a batch of major projects in the oil and gas industry and related significant infrastructure; second, the promotion of market-oriented reforms in the oil and gas trade; third, the development of maritime fuel oil with bonded fuel oil as a feature; fourth, exploration in the oil and gas trading field, introduction of capacity pre-sales and release of the Zhoushan high and low sulfur fuel oil price index. In the future, the zone will deepen its efforts in the oil and gas sector, strengthen institutional innovation, develop the entire oil and gas industry chain, enhance the strong links and shore up the weak links in the midstream and downstream, summarize experience in the oil and gas industry, and leverage geographical advantages.



Cui Weijie, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce of China, attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and moderated panel discussion 1

2. Creating a First-Class Business Environment



Wang Jun, Deputy Director-General of Henan Provincial Department of Commerce, attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and participated in panel discussion

Wang Jun, Deputy Director-General of Henan Provincial Department of Commerce, stated that the China (Henan) Pilot Free Trade Zone has achieved notable success in four areas. First, in aviation rights openness, the zone has effectively utilized the Fifth Freedom of the Air, expanded the coverage of flight routes, and established an international air cargo transit hub. Second, in regulatory innovation, it has introduced the “Customs Mode Smart Selection Menu” and the “Integrated Mode of Zone-Port Collaboration”. Third, in digital empowerment, it has pioneered the electronic air cargo transportation, achieved paperless operations and addressed pain points such as repetitive reporting and multiple declarations. Fourth, in standard enhancement, it has led the introduction of the first provincial-level multi-modal transport standard system and developed and promoted specialized transportation vehicles for air cargo containers. In the future, the zone plans to invest 50 billion yuan to build a new international land port in the Zhengzhou Airport Economy Zone, aiming for mutual support between the two ports and coordinated development of the two wings.



Wu Ge, Deputy Director-General of China (Sichuan) Pilot Free Trade Zone Affairs Office, attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and participated in panel discussion

Wu Ge, Deputy Director-General of China (Sichuan) Pilot Free Trade Zone Affairs Office, mentioned that the China (Sichuan) Pilot Free Trade Zone continues to innovate in building a legal and business-friendly environment and stimulating the vitality of market entities. First, it improves the relevant legal and regulatory framework by issuing regulations such as the Regulations of Sichuan Province on the Pilot Free Trade Zone. Second, it enhances legal services and mediation systems, and establishes a multi-level legal support system, including the integrated legal region — Tianfu Central Legal Services District, and the first pilot free trade zone court and procuratorate. Third, it innovates in the system, and creates mechanisms such as two-way mediation in commercial disputes and judicial case data analysis and judgment. Fourth, it establishes legal mediation institutions, advancing the establishment of mediation organizations like the International Commercial Mediation Center (Southwest) for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Fifth, it builds community-level service institutions, and offers one-stop legal service.



Wu Yanyan, Vice President of BMW Group,
attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai
and participated in panel discussion

Wu Yanyan, Vice President of BMW Group, noted that China is BMW’s largest market, and accounts for one-third of global sales. BMW’s achievements are inseparable from the first-class business environment created by China. The China (Beijing) Pilot Free Trade Zone continuously optimizes the entire talent service process, simplifies entry procedures for foreigners coming to China, provides convenience in taxation and green card application, improves the business environment, establishes a one-stop talent service center, and sets up the “portable handling” online integrated service platform. For foreign talent, the zone implements the joint application of residence and work permits and provides a catalog of recognized overseas professional qualifications.



Zhao Ming, Vice Mayor of Hefei,
attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai
and participated in panel discussion

Zhao Ming, Vice Mayor of Hefei, observed that Hefei area of the China (Anhui) Pilot Free Trade Zone continues to introduce pioneering institutional innovations, achieving the transformation of sci-tech innovation results into tangible economic productivity. First, in sci-tech innovation, it addresses key aspects of sci-tech innovation with problem-oriented approaches. It innovates the transformation system of research results, reforms equity investment in incubated sci-tech achievements, and uses credit certificates instead of multiple compliance certificates. Second, in industrial innovation, it explores the implementation of a one-time customs clearance for the inspection of special goods in the integrated customs operation in the Yangtze River Delta, establishes a mechanism for training high-end applied talent, and facilitates parallel approvals for rapid implementation. Third, in financial innovation, it creates financial innovation products such as intellectual property pledge and a one-stop financial service platform.



Yuan Fuyong, Deputy Director-General of Shenzhen Qianhai Shekou Area Administration of the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone, attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and participated in panel discussion

Yuan Fuyong, Deputy Director-General of Shenzhen Qianhai Shekou Area Administration of the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone, stated that Qianhai Shekou area has vigorously implemented the strategy to enhance the free trade zone for eight years since its inception. First, it adheres to reform and innovation, and explores the formation of “Qianhai Model”. Second, it optimizes the law-based business environment. It establishes the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong International Legal-services District, introduces 185 legal institutions, achieves “one trial as the final”, and issues regulations. Third, it facilitates cross-border trade. Trade facilitation measures were introduced such as the “1+4 global traceability and release” of imported goods and the MCC Qianhai Global Center Warehouse. Fourth, it expands financial opening-up. The Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong International Financial City was built, attracting international leading institutions such as HSBC, with 320 institutions settling in the Qianhai Financial District. Fifth, it has introduced preferential policies, with 20 policy measures in finance, trade, logistics, etc., and will announce new policies in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI) in the future.



Wang Dawei, Economic Affairs Officer of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD, attended “Invest in China Year” — Special Promotional Event in Pilot Free Trade Zones in Shanghai and moderated panel discussion 2