



The Connector

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Did you Know?

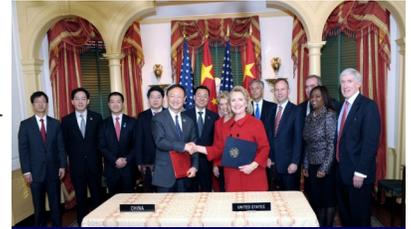
- California is the eighth largest economy in the world.
- In 1979, students from New York's Vassar College were the first to be granted permission to study in the People's Republic of China.
- North Carolina's Grandfather Mountain, highest peak in the Blue Ridge, is the only private park in the world designated by the United Nations as an International Biosphere Reserve.

Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Yang Sign MOU to Deepen and Broaden Engagement with China

In January 2011, during the State visit by China's President Hu Jintao, Secretary Clinton and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi signed a *Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China Concerning the Establishment of a U.S.-China Governors Forum to Promote Sub-National Cooperation*. The signing reflected a growing awareness that increased cooperation at the subna-

tional level will strengthen the bilateral relationship and benefit both nations.

"This agreement is recognition by our governments that we want more cooperation on a subnational level because the United States and China face many similar challenges and opportunities," Secretary Clinton said before signing the MOU. "I congratulate China's leaders and those in our own government who are committed to this important aspect of our relations." Washington Governor Gregoire



Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Jiechi after signing the MOU.
DoS Photo

witnessed the MOU signing.

In the MOU, the United States and China expressly endorsed the establishment of a U.S.-China Governors Forum, a first-ever subnational dialogue between the U.S. governors (cont. 3)

Subnational Engagement with Brazil as it Hosts World Events



President Barack Obama pictured with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff during President Obama's first trip to South America in March.
Photo Courtesy of the Brazilian Government

During President Barack Obama's state visit to Brazil in March, U.S. Ambassador to Brazil Thomas Shannon and Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota signed a *Memorandum of Understanding On Cooperation to Support the Organization of Major Global Sporting Events*. S/SRIGIA is assisting in the implementation of the MOU through its power to

convene best practices from U.S. cities with experience hosting similar international events.

S/SRIGIA is working with Embassy Brasilia and Consulate Rio de Janeiro in preparation for Brazil's hosting of the 2011 Military Games, the 2014 FIFA™ World Cup, and the 2016 Summer Olympics. Salt Lake City, Atlanta, New York, Washington, D.C., and Chicago are among the cities which have a successful track record of hosting world events and have expressed an interest in offering assistance.

On March 30, Rio State Gov. Sergio Cabral and his staff met with Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and signed an MOU to further cooperation between the two states in areas such as education, sports, environment, energy, culture, health, security, and infrastructure. In addition, Rio state cabinet members (cont. 3)

"The United States and Brazil are partners not just because we share history...the same hemisphere [and] ties of commerce and culture, but also because we share...enduring values and ideals."

— President Barack Obama, March 20, 2011



Hunan Party Secretary Leads Delegation to National Governors Association Meeting to Further U.S.-China Governors Forum

“Individual U.S. governors have been reaching out to China for years...that is why we support the...Governors Forum, which is designed to help states build their own successful partnerships.”

— **Secretary Clinton, Jan. 19, 2011.**

In February 2011, Hunan Province Secretary Zhou Qiang and Madam Li Xiaolin, Vice President of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), led a delegation to the winter meeting of the National Governors Association (NGA) in Washington, D.C. to plan for the launch of the U.S.-China Governors Forum, an initiative to bring U.S. and Chinese governors together to discuss topics of mutual interest, including trade and in-



Washington Governor Chris Gregoire, Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman, Hunan Province Secretary Zhou Qiang, and CPAFFC Vice President Madam Li Xiaolin during a press conference. DoS Photo

vestment, energy, and education. Zhou’s visit is the first by a

Chinese provincial leader under the MOU signed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in January 2011 concerning the establishment of a *U.S.-China Governors Forum* to promote subnational cooperation.

Zhou delivered remarks at the NGA meeting, where NGA Chair Governor Gregoire and CPAFFC Chairwoman Madame Li signed an agreement formally establishing the *U.S.-China Governors Forum*. Zhou also met (cont. 4)

Sister Cities International 55th Annual Conference

“This is an excellent platform—and audience—for exchange, learning, and strategic debate around cities and states, and their roles internationally.”

— **Special Rep. Lewis, March 3, 2011**

In March 2011, S/SRGIA hosted a workshop at the Department of State to promote global diplomacy during the Sister Cities International (SCI) 55th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. SCI Board Chairman Mayor Brad Cole of Carbondale, Ill., and Sister Cities International’s then-President and CEO Patrick Madden congratulated the Department for its support of SCI and for longstanding partnership with SCI.



Special Rep. Lewis with SCI Board Chairman Mayor Brad Cole (middle) and SCI then-CEO Patrick Madden. DoS Photo

Workshop participants included officials from more than 20 U.S.

states as well as from Canada, China, Georgia, Ghana, Haiti, Pakistan, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, the Russian Federation, and South Africa.

State Department officials from the bureaus of Western Hemisphere Affairs, East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and African Affairs provided briefings at the workshop, which explored a range of issues including climate change, the (cont. 4)

Special Rep. Lewis Leads U.S.-China Governors Forum Advance Trip to China



Special Representative Lewis pictured with Governor Wang Sanyun of Anhui Province during her advance trip to China. Photo Courtesy of Anhui’s Foreign Affairs Office

In advance of the U.S.-China Governor’s Forum, which launched during the National Governor’s Association summer meeting in July in Salt Lake City, Utah, Special Rep. Lewis led a U.S. delegation to meet with Chinese central and provincial leaders from Beijing, Anhui, Zhejiang, Qinghai, and Yunnan.

These meetings provided an opportunity to reinforce the

United States’ commitment to subnational cooperation. Both the central government and provincial government leaders were enthusiastically supportive of the subnational initiative because they believe it will increase exchanges of views, visits, and transactions.

The United States delegation included U.S. Consul General for

Shanghai, Beatrice Camp; Acting Consul General of the U.S. Consulate General in Chengdu, Roy Perrin; Embassy China Minister of Economic Affairs, William Weinstein; staff from the Bureau for East Asian and Pacific Affairs; and the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

“We envision... [the] forum as merely the first in a series of exchanges between U.S. and Chinese...leaders and governments.”

— **Special Rep. Lewis, May 24, 2011**



Brazil Continued



Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and Rio de Janeiro State Governor Sergio Cabral signing the MOU. Photo courtesy of Gov O'Malley's Press Office

(from 1) Pedro Spadale and Francisco Caldas met with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Headquarters staff. The state cabinet members were particularly interested in transparency and mechanisms for tracking recovery fund expenditures to state and local communities, as Rio state will receive substantial federal funds to prepare for the games.

MOU Signing Continued

(from 1) and their Chinese provincial counterparts. The Forum will be co-convened regularly by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). The Forum will serve as a platform to promote peer-to-peer dialogue, and strengthen

relationships between U.S. state governors and Chinese Party Secretaries and governors, and will cover topics of mutual interest, such as trade, investment, energy and the environment, tourism, and education.

The Forum launched in July at the NGA Annual Summer Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"You are not only creating...opportunities for the people of your...provinces—you are laying the groundwork for closer ties between our nations for many years to come."
— *Secretary Clinton, Jan. 19, 2011.*

Urban Greening in America: The United States Mission to the United Nations

"When it comes to the green economy, local partnerships can have a global impact."
— *Secretary Clinton, May 10, 2011*

Supporting government-wide efforts to increase energy efficiency and sustainability, U.S. Representative to the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Ambassador Rick Barton welcomed participants to an Urban Greening in America event at the U.S. Mission to the

U.N. in January 2011. The event was moderated by Alternate Representative of the U.S. to the 65th Session of the General Assembly of the U.N. former Seattle Mayor Gregory Nickels and Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Nancy Sutley. David Bragdon, the

Director of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability at New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's office, Audrey Choi, Managing Director of Global Sustainability at Morgan Stanley; and Peter Mullan, Vice President of Planning and Design at The High Line, were the (cont. 4)

S/SRGIA Hosts Global Engagement Dialogue on China for State and Local Leaders Throughout the United States



Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel J. Kritenbrink provides a briefing on U.S.-China relations in the 21st century at the Global Engagement Dialogue hosted by S/SRGIA in February. DoS Photo

On February 10, 2011, more than 70 state and local elected leaders and representatives from throughout the U.S. attended a symposium on "Expanding Relationships in China for State and Local Governments," co-hosted by S/SRGIA and the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Representatives from the state and local governments of Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Ohio, North Carolina, Virginia, and municipal trade association representatives came to the U.S. Department of State to learn about the political and economic relationship

between the United States and China. Panelists discussed programs and resources available to them from Federal agencies as they look to increase cooperation with China.

Under Secretary Robert Hormats delivered the keynote address, providing an overview of U.S.-China economic relations and stressed the importance of subnational cooperation to achiev-

ing U.S. economic goals. The symposium also featured speakers from a cross-section of the federal government, including the Departments of Energy, Commerce, and the Treasury, as well as a representative from the Delaware Governor's Office and the private sector, who shared their practical experiences, challenges, and opportunities for doing business in China.

"As the U.S. pursues more sustained cooperation with China, there is a growing awareness... [that] increased cooperation at the state and local level will strengthen the bilateral relationship and benefit both nations."
— *Special Rep. Lewis Feb. 10, 2011*



Hunan Party Secretary Continued

“Governors will share ideas, connect people and businesses, and then sustain and deepen these connections through regular meetings— Our states and provinces can be laboratories that generate solutions. We can help each other grow trade and investment, create jobs, educate our children, and solve the problems we all share.”

— **Secretary Clinton, Jan. 19, 2011.**

(from 2) with U.S. governors from Washington, Delaware, North Carolina, Utah, Nebraska, Maryland, and Montana.

Governor Jack Markell of Delaware and Hunan Party Secretary Zhou signed an agreement to increase business exchanges and investment promotion. Zhou then travelled to Georgia, where he and Governor Nathan Deal celebrated the completion of the first phase of SANY— America’s assembly plant in Peachtree City. SANY, based in China’s Hunan province, has invested \$60 million in the state of Georgia, where it employs 108 people.

Urban Greening Continued

(from 3) distinguished panelists.

“Today, we are focusing on ‘green’ initiatives at the local level, which together have had broad repercussions on the sustainability of our neighborhoods, cities, states, and nations,” remarked Ambassador Barton. White House CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley said that green policies can help address some of the many challenges of global urbanization. Furthermore, CEQ Chair Sutley added that state and local governments around the world will share a responsibility to create and disseminate those green policies. S/ SRGIA looks forward to fostering more

productive dialogue on how green policies at the state and local levels can be used to solve energy, economic, and environmental challenges at the global level.

“It is important that we showcase green initiatives...that are blooming in cities all across America...these are truly a testament to the ingenuity and the resourcefulness [that] the American People...have to create lasting, visible change in their communities, from the ground up.”
— **Ambassador Barton, Jan. 31, 2011.**

Sister Cities International 55th Annual Conference Continued



Sister Cities International Executives and staff including then-CEO Patrick Madden, Board Chairman Mayor Brad Cole, and Board Vice Chair Thomas Lisk pictured at the Department of State.
DoS Photo

(from 2) U.S.-Mexico border, and municipal law enforcement partnerships.

S/ SRGIA hosted a reception in the State Department’s historic Benjamin Franklin room following these workshops, where Special Rep. Lewis delivered remarks highlighting areas of mutual interest for further cooperation and engagement.



Conference attendees in the historic Benjamin Franklin room.
DoS Photo

“We have only been able to catch a glimpse of what these state and local governments are really capable of achieving on an international scale.”
— **Special Rep. Lewis March 3, 2011**

In the Next Issue of The Connector

- S/ SRGIA facilitated and the National Governors Association hosted the U.S. China Governors Forum in Salt Lake City, UT July 15 –17.
- The National Conference of Black Mayors attended a full day of briefings at the Department of State including presentations on trade, Africa, CARICOM, and Haiti by these respective desks and bureaus within the department.

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