

CHINA IN TOUCH



An ACBC Northern Territory Newsletter

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NT President's observations

Monolithic China is a concept exploited in many comments about China. China is ruling the South China Sea, or China is stealing intellectual property, or China has an all powerful Central Government. This is the vision of China that represents the majority of Western thinking about China.

Tourists have a slightly different perspective. Its obvious that China has many different parts. This stretches from the super metropolises of Beijing to the second tier cities like Xi'an. Tropical Kunming is very different from Harbin in the cooler north. The sea side resorts of Hainan are different from the mountains of Yunnan or the landscape of Guangzhou. But these same tourists who have seen the geographical and cultural diversity often continue to subscribe to the idea of a monolithic China.

The domestic political reality is different. Government is not unified. It is filled with diverse opinions and diverse politics. The politics is not split along the same lines as in the West, but by the same token it cannot be described as monolithic. Divisions are deep and just as real as the division between the Liberal party and the Labor party, or Democrats and Republicans.

Eating dinner recently high above Jianguomen in Beijing I was involved in an, at times, heated discussion with Chinese colleagues , about the need for central rule because China is a divided society. Not the haves and have nots – that's a Western dividing line.

The central government spends only around 11% of the total of expenditure by all levels of government. This is much much lower than the Federal Government spend in Australia. The provincial Governments spend almost 90% of all Government expenditure so its no wonder that there are strong divisions and opinions about the way Government funding is allocated. You cannot blame the national Government. In most cases the blame lies with the provincial Government.

Additionally the national Government employs around 4% of all civil servants, a much lower percentage that in Australia. The idea that this is a monolithic central Government is not supported by the facts. Its these divisions of Governance and spending power that many say highlight the need for a strong Central Government.

The generally accepted conclusion in the discussion was that the Chinese Communist party, with some 90 million members, is essential to national unity to unify the otherwise divided society. It was agreed that the Chinese have developed a state system run by a technocratic elite of highly educated bureaucrats under party control. The Communist Party Executive Leadership school in Shanghai is an example of this professionalism. They bring in political leaders from around the world to talk to their executive students about management and political management.

This is China's enduring imperial system in modern form. It's a system from which the West derived both an independent bureaucracy and the concept of promotion based on merit judged by a civil service examination. Its also the source of what we now call red-tape. Edicts to from the Emperor to officials came tied with red tape.

Its unwise to take the lack of very public discussion and dissent as evidence that there are no deep and real divisions in Chinese politics and society. There is a unity around the need for a strong central Government because it constrains these divisions. There is less concern for the have-nots because there is a belief that the children of today's have-nots will have a better life than that of their parents. This is an aspiration that has faded in many Western economies.

Daryl Guppy,
President, NT Branch ,
Newsletter editor



Everything you need to know

July 10, 11, 12, 2018, Darwin NT

REGISTER TODAY

Use ACBC members discount code ACBC2018.

We are developing a great line-up of speakers from China and Australia

We are pleased to welcome China Daily as a media partner and Yang Qing Qing, Director Research Cooperation, Chaoyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University Beijing and Dr Luca de Leonardis, Head of Investment Promotion, HKETO as a speakers.

Recently confirmed speakers include:

They join previous confirmed speakers : **Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Michael Gunner**, Geoff Raby (Former Australian ambassador to China 2007-11), John Brumby (ACBC Chairman, former Premier of Victoria), Warwick Smith (Australia China Council Chairman) ; Mr. Li Zhonghang, Secretary-General of the Silk Road International Chamber of Commerce ; Luke Bowen, (Director, Develop the North); Mike Hughes, (CEO WestSide Corporation and MD Darwin Port, Shandong Landbridge Group), Paul Henderson (Former NT Chief Minister, Director Bespoke Territory), Andrew Hopper (Deputy CEO, NT Tourism), Alister Trier (Chief Executive Dept of Primary Industry and Resources); Rod Applegate (Deputy CE and head of Mines and Energy) The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) has also confirmed they will send a keynote speaker. Michael Tennant (CEO Department Business, Trade and Innovation) Quentin Kilian as MC; Professor Maddock, Vice Chancellor, Charles Darwin University, Harley Paroulakis, CEO Darwin Innovation Hub; Tony Stubbin, CEO, Land Development Corporation, NT; Maggie Zhou, CEO Alibaba, Australia; Mark Hu, PinsentMason; Steven Wang, CEO Atrip; Director Fan, HKETO, Government of the HKSAR; Patrick Underwood, Managing Director, North Australian Cattle Company; Hon Adam Giles (Former NT Chief Minister, General Manager, External Relations, Hancock Prospecting) Chen Lei, CCTV CGTN Business News Anchor will host the dialog panels.

DAY 1

PLENARY SESSION BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE EXPLANATION

What is the Belt and Road Initiative? Threat or opportunity Overview from Chinese and Western perspectives

BRI TRADE COMPONENTS

BRI Infrastructure elements

BRI Finance - investment structure, capital movements, AIIB, Silk Road Fund

BRI digital silk road structure/ regulation

NT PROJECT STRATEGY AND DEVELOP NORTH BRI COMPATIBILITY

Develop North policy outline

Project success and progress

Chinese investment attraction conditions

GALA DINNER

DAY 2

TEAM NT - PROJECT SPECIFIC PLENARY

Structuring investment proposals for BRI compatibility. Chinese and Western perspectives. How to prepare

Breakout 1	Agriculture	Breakout 2	Infrastructure including tourism
Breakout 3	Resources	Breakout 4	Department of business
Breakout 5	Education	Breakout 6	Tourism

PLENARY

Conclusion and summary

DAY 3

SITE AND PROJECT VISITS

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GALA DINNER SPONSOR



LUNCH SPONSOR



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FLYING DARWIN TO SHENZHEN? HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT

FLIGHT SERVICE

- Seats have more leg space than Jetstar. It's about the same space as Silk Air.
- Inflight entertainment is drop down screens
- Meals are larger and more substantial than Qantas in-flight meals
- Free pillows and blankets are provided
- 8 business class seats are available
- Luggage is 2 check-in bags of 23 kilo each. I.e a total of 46 kg.
- Booking can be done using the clunky Donghai site, but bookings can also be made with [Ctrip](#) and [Qunar](#).

CHINA CASH

- Cash RMB – you can only convert \$200 at a time at the Darwin airport. This is around 950 RMB. You can convert multiple batches of \$200.
- Changing cash Aussie dollars into RMB in China is difficult. Simplest is to change at Shenzhen airport. Currency Exchange booth is on the left as you come out of the main arrival area doors. BUT, if flight is significantly delayed, or you are significantly delayed (see below) , this service may be closed. It is not a 24 hour service.
- You can convert Aussie Dollars to RMB at your 4 to 5 star hotel.
- You can convert Aussie Dollars into RMB only at bank headquarters branches. Bank of China bank in the popular tourist Louhu District will change Australian dollars. The branches scattered around the shopping areas cannot change currency. You must have your passport to exchange cash.
- ATMS will give you a CASH ADVANCE on your debit card or credit card. Be alert for the terrible exchange rates and the ultra-high fees and interest charged by Australian banks for this service. Some Australian credit card providers play funny games with credit card cash advances and the interest rates can be horrendous so check conditions before leaving Australia.
- Your Australian credit card is accepted at major tourist venues, attractions and high level shopping. It is very often not accepted at mid-level restaurants, (think Darwin's Waterfront or lower) or at mid-level shops (Think Casuarina Katies)

VISA ON ARRIVAL

- Visa on Arrival is available and good for 5 days. It is only valid for Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, which includes greater Shenzhen and Shekou and the surrounding countryside, but NOT Guangzhou or the greater Guangdong region. You cannot leave the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone. If you try to board a flight to, say, Beijing you will be refused boarding (and no refund) If you are caught outside of the Shenzhen area you will be reported to the police. (Remember hotels check all visas when you check in and these are lodged with the central police station.) The Visa number records that it is a Visa on Arrival.
- If you go to Hong Kong then you will need a new visa on arrival when you come back to Shenzhen.
- The Visa on Arrival is a paste-in full page visa document. You will lose the use of one page of your passport. (Two pages if you go to Hong Kong and return)
- Getting a Visa on Arrival can take anything from 30 minutes to an hour or more, depending on the length of the line.
- Don't stand at the counter to fill out the form and then take a service ticket – you'll just spend extra time sitting around waiting for your number to be called.
- Visa on arrival cost is 168 RMB for a 5 day visa
- Payment can be made by cash RMB or credit card
- If its your first time in China, you will have to record your fingerprints BEFORE you get a visa which is BEFORE you get through passport control. The fingerprint line can be long, particularly if one of more machines is not operating.
- These finger print and visa on arrival delays may mean you miss the opportunity to change Australian dollars at the airport because the exchange booth is closed.
- If you have a recently issued passport with just one or two entries then it is a good idea to also bring your old passport as this may be requested.

ACBC NT has formally raised a number of these issues with NT Government, Department of Tourism and Donghai Airlines.

TRANSIT DETAILS

- Donghai Airlines does not have code-share arrangements with other Chinese airlines. If you are flying on to another destination not serviced by Donghai then you will need to collect luggage and re-check-in
- The Hyatt hotel is part of the Shenzhen terminal complex. Walk up the ramp as you exit the international arrival area. Veer slightly right and take the escalator near gate 13. It's a short covered walk across the road to the lobby of the Hyatt.

BATTERIES

- Batteries and power banks cannot be carried in check-in luggage. This includes batteries in toys, keyboards, iPad etc. On check-in in Shenzhen your luggage will be electronically screened for batteries. If they are detected – and they will be detected – then you and your luggage are pulled out of line and subject to prolonged security rechecking and luggage repacking. Batteries must be carried only in carry-on luggage. This is Standard procedure for all China flights. It will also apply to flights from Darwin to China. Don't cheat as luggage is also screened on arrival in Shenzhen.

SHENZHEN HABITS



- In many restaurants your eating utensils will come wrapped in plastic. A pot of tea, or hot water is also placed on the table, along with a larger open bowl. The Shenzhen habit is to unwrap the crockery and then use the first pour of water or tea to wash all the utensils. The used water, and the cellophane wrapping, is then placed in the larger open bowl.
- Squat toilets remain a dominant feature in Shenzhen, even in modern shopping centres. A Western toilet is always provided in disabled toilet cubicles. Sometimes this is the only choice available if you do not want to squat.
- Toilet paper is often not available, so make sure you carry a plentiful supply of tissues.

From Daryl Guppy

DONGHAI CHINA DELEGATION

At the invitation of Donghai Airlines, the Australia China Friendship Society led a combined ACFS and ACBC delegation to Shenzhen. This was the first flight from Darwin to Shenzhen. Donghai Airlines hosted a tourism introduction to Shenzhen for most members of the delegation. Australia China Business Council President and ACFS President and Vice President participated in a series of separate meetings.



The delegation were hosted at the Donghai Airlines staff hotel and met with Donghai Airlines managers. Additional ACFS and ACBC meetings were held with the Shenzhen office of the Foreign Affairs Department to introduce the Northern Territory.



ACBC accompanied by ACFS, met with CCPIT Shenzhen to discuss the Free Trade Zone, future business delegation visits and areas of cooperation.



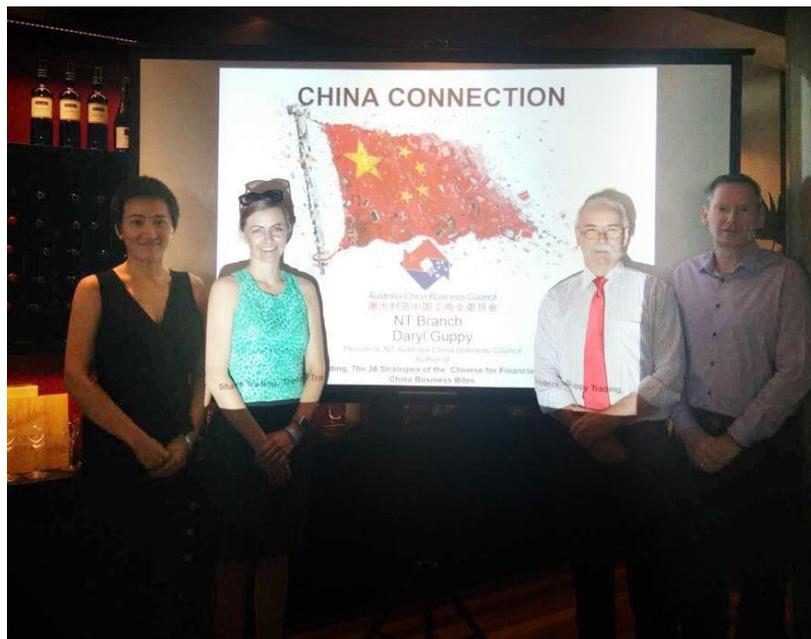
ACBC accompanied by ACFS also visited the Australia pavilion of a One Belt One Road expo. This operation is also in Shanghai and Wuhan and offers some opportunities for NT business engagement.



Please contact acbcnt@acbc.com.au if you are interested in more details.
From Daryl Guppy

WELCOME CHINA LUNCH

On May 30 the first Shenzhen-Darwin flights landed. In the week prior NT Tourism hosted a Welcome China lunch. The objective was to refresh highlight points for NT business that head already started preparing for China tourism, and to introduce some of the issues for business that had not yet prepared.



ACBC NT President presented the main presentation. Megan and Jane from TreeTi further discussed the social media landscape. The objective was to have guests understand the significant role that social media plays in Chinese tourism. Its more important than the role played with European tourism.

BUY, SELL, COMMENT



Martin Roger, Cluster General Manager, Double Tree by Hilton, detailed lessons from his experience in managing hotels in China and then managing hotels for Chinese tourists in Fiji. These are tourists with high levels of disposable income.

Disposable Income

- High spends:
 - Restaurants:
 - steaks/seafood
 - Pizza
 - Duty Free (brandy)
 - Tourism gifts
 - Trips (culture and experiences)
 - Coffee/Tea Market (Green Tea Frappuccino)
 - Chinese Restaurants will appear.
 - Spa/Beauty
 - KTV
 - Retail shops: Noodles, Chinese food ingredients (self catering apartments)

For the 100 guests this Welcome China lunch provided both a refresher and an introduction to the potential for Chinese tourism in the NT.

From Daryl Guppy

China Culture Notes – DUANWU (DRAGON BOAT) FESTIVAL June 16-18, 2018

The Dragon Boat Festival is one of the busiest travel holidays in China. During this time, people visit cities to enjoy the various festivities associated with the holiday. It is common to see impressive crowds in cities such as Beijing and Guangzhou. This year the public holidays are June 16 to 18.

The Dragon Boat Festival goes by many names in China and across the world. In Mainland China, the Dragon Boat Festival is referred to as the Duanwu Festival. The Duanwu Festival is celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth month on the lunar calendar. Because of this, the holiday is often called the 'double fifth' festival.

The Duanwu Festival is believed to have originated in ancient China. A number of theories exist about its origins. Today the best known of these relates to the suicide in 278 BCE of Qu Yuan, poet and statesman of the Chu kingdom during the Warring States period.

The best-known traditional story holds that the festival commemorates the death of poet Qu Yuan (c. 340 BCE – 278 BCE) of the ancient state of Chu, in the Warring States Period of the Zhou Dynasty. A descendant of the Chu royal house, Qu served in high offices. However, when the king decided to ally with the increasingly powerful state of Qin, Qu was banished for opposing the alliance. Qu Yuan was accused of treason. During his exile, Qu Yuan wrote a great deal of poetry, for which he is now remembered. Twenty-eight years later, Qin conquered the capital of Chu. In despair, Qu Yuan committed suicide by drowning himself in the Miluo River on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month.

Three of the most widespread activities for Duanwu Festival are eating (and preparing) zongzi, drinking realgar wine, and racing dragon boats.

Other common activities include hanging up icons of Zhong Kui (a mythic guardian figure), hanging mugwort and calamus, taking long walks, and wearing perfumed medicine bags. Other

traditional activities include a game of making an egg stand at noon, and writing spells. All of these activities, together with the drinking of realgar wine, were regarded by the ancients as effective in preventing disease or evil and promoting health and well-being.

In the Republic of China, Duanwu was also celebrated as "Poets' Day," due to Qu Yuan's status as China's first poet of renown.

It is said that the local people, who admired him, threw lumps of rice into the river to feed the fish so that they would not eat Qu Yuan's body. The common people, upon learning of his suicide, rushed out on the water in their fishing boats to the middle of the river and tried desperately to save Qu Yuan. They beat drums and splashed the water with their paddles in order to keep the fish and evil spirits from his body. Later on, they scattered rice into the water to prevent him from suffering hunger. Another belief is that the people scattered rice to feed the fish, in order to prevent the fishes from devouring the poet's body.



However, late one night, the spirit of Qu Yuan appeared before his friends and told them that the rice meant for him was being intercepted by a huge river dragon. He asked his friends to wrap their rice into three-cornered silk packages to ward off the dragon. This is said to be the origin of zongzi. These are the pyramid shaped cooked rice dumplings traditionally wrapped in bamboo leaves.

The main ingredient of Zong Zi is the glutinous rice. The next most important ingredient is the bamboo or reed leaves which form the wrapping and make Zong Zi distinct from other types of Chinese dumplings. The filling often contains either dates or sweetened red bean paste. These are the ones I once had in my family. I like them much more than the ones with meat but my brother doesn't. He says the meat ones are terrific.



The local people were also said to have paddled out on boats, either to scare the fish away or to retrieve his body. This is said to be the origin of dragon boat racing.

The Dragon Boat features the head and the tail of a dragon. In Chinese culture the dragon is seen as having power in the waters and the ability to exercise control over the rainfall.

A dragon boat is traditionally made of teak wood to various designs and sizes. It is now used in the team paddling sport of dragon boat racing which originated in China over 2000 years ago. While competition has taken place annually for more than 20 centuries as part of folk ritual, it emerged in modern times as an international sport in Hong Kong in 1976. For competition events, dragon boats are generally rigged with decorative Chinese dragon heads and tails.

Dragon boat races are traditionally held as part of the annual Duanwu Festival observance in China. 19th century European observers of the racing ritual, not understanding the significance of Duanwu, referred to the spectacle as a "dragon boat festival". This is the term that has become known in the West.

Dragonboat festival racing is observed and celebrated in many areas of east Asia with significant populations of ethnic Chinese. The date often falls on the Gregorian calendar month of June, but also rarely May or July. This is because Duanwu is reckoned annually in accordance with the traditional calendar system of China, which is a combination of solar and lunar cycles, unlike the Gregorian calendar system.

Compiled from multiple sources by Daryl Guppy

CANBERRA NETWORKING DAY – REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

THE AUSTRALIA CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL

2018 CANBERRA NETWORKING DAY

REGISTRATIONS OPEN SOON

Tuesday 19 June 2018

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CANBERRA NETWORKING DAY 2018

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Member exclusive: ACBC 2018 Canberra Networking Day
ACBC NT MEMBERS EXCLUSIVE – NT delegates will be eligible for support for
airfares and accommodation
Ask for details acbcnt@acbc.com.au

Member only event. Save the date: Tuesday 19 June 2018.

Hosted every year with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, [Canberra Networking Day](#) has been firmly established as a signature and premier annual event in the Australia-China bilateral business calendar.

The day presents a unique opportunity for ACBC members to meet with federal Ministers and senior officials charged with the major public policy decisions driving the Sino-Australian trade and investment relationship as well as networking with senior business and industry leaders.

Join the us as we hear from the those shaping the Australia China relationship.

CHINA PODCAST #15 Taking Care of an Ageing China - Carol Allen (Sapphire International)

In 2020, China's population is expected to reach 1.4 billion, 248 million of whom will be over 60 years. This rapid growth in an ageing population presents China with a demographic challenge that looks to reshape traditional norms of the how the family takes care of the elderly in a new modern China.

At the same time, China's evolving middle class demands higher quality services, world class medical technology and experienced health care workers to care for the aged. By 2020, the Central Government aims to provide significantly more aged care beds and a workforce of 10 million aged care workers.

As a world leader in the professional service of aged care, Australia has an opportunity to play a pivotal role in helping China develop its aged care capacity. Indeed, under the China Australia Free Trade Agreement, Australia now has unique access to China's health care market and can now operate in China without the need of a local partner.

On this episode we speak with Carol Allen from Sapphire Holdings on how Australian aged care providers are taking advantage of Australia's aged care expertise in China. We discuss Sapphire International's aged care facility currently under construction in Beijing's pristine Fragrant Hills, the experience of working with local partners on the ground in China and the unique differences in training and educating Chinese aged care workers.

Links

Soundcloud - <https://soundcloud.com/australia-china-business/16-taking-care-of-an-ageing-china-carol-allen-sapphire-international>

iTunes - <https://itunes.apple.com/au/podcast/16-taking-care-ageing-china-carol-allen-sapphire-international/id1282254811?i=1000412479843&mt=2>

ACBC Online - http://www.acbc.com.au/episode_detail_30

SAVE THIS DATE

This will be a major commitment by Australia. Its time to start thinking about a solid NT presence.

CHINA INTERNATIONAL IMPORT EXPO

NOVEMBER 5-10, 2018

Venue: National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai)
Hosts: Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China
Shanghai Municipal People's Government
Supporters: The World Trade Organization
The United Nations Industrial Development Organization
Organizers: China International Import Expo Bureau
National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.



Austrade invites you to attend the China International Import Expo (CIIE) - a six-day multi-sector tradeshow for imported products, timed with the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Chinese economy to international trade and investment.

Event details

Date:
5-10 November 2018

Location:
National Exhibition and
Convention Centre,
Shanghai

Apply by:
30 June 2018

*Places are limited so apply
early!*

E-COMMERCE SERVICES

Austrade has organised a free webinar on Thursday 7 June at 10.00am AEST to provide information on how you can become involved in the Expo. To register [click here](#).

CONSUMER GOODS

Austrade has organised a free webinar on Wednesday 6 June at 10.30am AEST to provide information on how you can become involved in the Expo. To register [click here](#).

HIGHER EDUCATION

Austrade has organised a free webinar on Wednesday 6 June at 2.30pm AEST to provide information on how you can become involved in the Expo. To register [click here](#).

HEALTH

Austrade has organised a free webinar on Wednesday 6 June at 1.00pm AEST to provide information on how you can become involved in the Expo. To register [click here](#).

SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

Austrade has organised a free webinar on Tuesday 5 June at 11.30am AEST to provide information on how you can become involved in the Expo. To register [click here](#).

TOURISM SERVICES

Austrade has organised a free webinar on Thursday 7 June at 11.30am AEST to provide information on how you can become involved in the Expo. To register [click here](#).

URBAN DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT, CREATIVE DESIGN AND THE ARTS

Austrade has organised a free webinar on Thursday 7 June at 1.00pm AEST to provide information on how you can become involved in the Expo. To register [click here](#).

NT ACBC Branch Meeting Dates

Meeting venue is kindly provided by Deloitte NT.

Meetings are open to all members of the ACBC, not just the committee members. Most matters discussed at the meeting are passed by general agreement. All members are encouraged to contribute ideas to the discussions.

Current proposed meeting dates are:

Dates	Time
13-Jun	8-9 AM
25-Jul	8-9 AM
5-Sep	8-9 AM
17-Oct	8-9 AM
28-Nov	8-9 AM

2017-2018 NT ACBC Executive

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Ex-Officio members

Wayne Fan – Department of Business

Cecila Brennan - Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Austrade - Martin Ferreyra

NT Tourism – Daryl Hudson

Lisa O'Donoghue – South Australia Liaison

PROPOSED NT BRANCH CHINA BUSINESS BRIEFINGS 2018

The Business Briefings will start again in 2018 and be provided free of charge for members only. Visitors are welcome to attend, but a small \$20 fee is payable. (Free if you join ACBC at the briefing) . Briefings run for about 60 minutes. Business Briefing sponsorship options are also available.

For more information, or requests for specific briefing topics, please contact ACBC Secretariat on 89270061 or acbcnt@acbc.com.au

GOT A CHINA STORY TO TELL? READ A GOOD CHINA BOOK - SEND US YOUR NEWS OR VIEWS

You are a valued member of the Australia China Business Council and we are keen to receive news on your business activities that we can publish on our national website or in our NT newsletters. Do you have an amusing, or interesting or cautionary tale. Drop us a note for the newsletter. Send us a email at acbcnt@acbc.com.au

ACBC NT OBJECTIVES

We aim for these services for ACBC NT members:

- To assist members to understand the nature of the business environment in China and where relevant opportunities lie.
- To raise the profile of ACBC NT members within the NT and Chinese business environment
- To share information regarding industry issues in the China market.
- To assist in generating business between member businesses.
- To facilitate co-operation with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade in relation to business issues.
- To present the views of NT SMEs operating in China to government authorities and other business groups where appropriate.
- To share market and economic intelligence and insights on critical industry issues.
- To create and maintain a collaborative community of business owners that can draw on each other for support in their engagement with China.
- To work in a collaborative community of Chinese business, cultural and friendship organisations to expand the networking capacity of NT members.

These objectives are achieved with networking events, workshops, conferences, briefing, newsletter communication and participation in creation of NT and national Government strategies.

ACBC NT WELCOMES NEW AND CONTINUING MEMBERS

Karen Sheldon Group; Sarah Hickey sarah@karensheildoncatering.com.au

Have your member business profile included in the newsletter. Send details to acbcnt@acbc.com.au

China News reports that did not make it into the local media.

China to relax foreign investment laws with "negative list"

China has agreed to release a "negative list" of measures aimed at easing foreign investment into key Chinese sectors, the Financial Times reports, in what analysts are interpreting as another possible concession by Beijing to US pressure.

The list will be issued by the end of this month, Beijing said, days ahead of US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross' arrival in the capital. Areas to be prioritised on the list include China's energy and transportation sectors, which have already been singled out as industries where China will import more goods from the US.

The negative list was put forward as one of the US demands during trade negotiations in early May. The US is hoping to pressure China into taking down barriers in areas that are currently off-limits to foreign capital, whilst pushing for a significant reduction in the bilateral trade deficit.

African leaders discuss making yuan reserve currency

Economists and policymakers from 14 African nations will debate whether or not the yuan should qualify as a reserve currency for the continent, Xinhua reports, as the countries address how to deal with the region's largest trading partner.

The issue will be raised at a forum in Harare, Zimbabwe, taking place across Tuesday and Wednesday for the so-called MEFMI (Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa) states and representatives of the African Development Bank.

"Most countries in the MEFMI region have loans or grants from China and it would only make economic sense to repay in renminbi," said MEFMI spokesperson Gladys Siwela-Jadagu.

"This is the reason why it is critical for policy makers to strategise on progress that the continent has made to embrace the yuan which has become what may be termed 'common currency' in trade with Africa."

China bans new fossil-fuel vehicle plants

A package of new rules for China's auto industry will place a ban on setting-up plants that produce fossil-fuel driven cars, in addition to lifting the caps on foreign ownership announced in April.

The proposed list, issued by the country's top economic planner the National Development and Reform Commission would essentially overhaul the existing development policy for the industry in place since 2004. The new rules could come into effect as early as the end of the year, sources told Caixin.

There will no longer be a 50% ceiling on foreign firms' ownership stake in businesses producing cars in China, although any new factories intended to produce fossil-fuel burning vehicles will be prohibited. Therefore the majority of foreign commercial vehicle companies will not be allowed to set up their own plants, but will have to stay within existing joint ventures.

China to stomp out inefficiencies in natural gas market

China is implementing a new policy to improve the efficiency of its natural gas market, Bloomberg reports, allowing the country's gas suppliers more freedom to change prices to meet seasonal supply and demand fluctuations.

According to the National Development and Reform Commission, distributors buying gas from state suppliers for residential use will have greater flexibility to move around the benchmark and suppliers will be restricted to how much they can increase rates. The policy is set to be rolled out on June 10th. The move is seen as a sign of further market liberalisation in one of China's fastest-growing and most state-influenced sectors. President Xi has made importing natural gas a key policy in keeping with environmental commitments, with the goal of gas accounting for 15% of the nation's energy supply by 2030. Rigidity with the market's pricing mechanisms, however, has created inefficiencies such as shortages during winter months.

China plans tariff cuts for up to 200 consumer goods

China intends to cut tariffs on a long list of consumer goods as early as July 1st, sources told Bloomberg, building on this week's decision to lower car import duties.

The some 200 products included in the shortlist so far range from food and agricultural to cosmetics goods, the sources said, though the final list is yet to be finalized. China's State Council will also have to approve any decisions before measures are taken.

Lowering tariffs on consumer goods would contribute to China's commitment made last week to reduce their substantial trade deficit with the US. Among the top US exports being promoted are energy, cars and agricultural produce.

This would not be the first time Beijing has made such a gesture. In November last year, tariff cuts were announced on 187 categories on consumer goods after President Xi committed to boost citizens' living standards with better quality products.

President Xi pledges further commitments to environment

China must "bite the bullet" when it comes to tackling economic waste and overconsumption, said President Xi Jinping on Saturday, after decades of rapid growth have done significant damage to the environment.

Although China has made considerable progress in tackling pollution and embracing green energy, its achievements had yet to be fully "consolidated," state media quoted Xi as saying.

"We must speed up the construction of a system of ecological civilisation and ensure that the ecology and environment are fundamentally improved by 2035, and that our goal of building a beautiful China is basically achieved."

Global environmental stocks, such as water management and new road materials companies, rallied following the announcement during yesterday's trading.

China may scrap birth limits as early as next year

The Chinese government is considering lifting all limits on the number of children a family can have by as early as 2019, sources told Bloomberg, putting an end to the four-decade-old social policy that has left China with a litany of demographic problems to deal with.

China's State Council is conducting research into whether a lifting of the two-child cap will produce the desired effects of stimulating the nation's birth rate, the sources said. The current law was introduced three years ago, replacing the previous one-child policy, but its relatively limited results suggest more dramatic action is needed. The birth rate fell 3.5% to 17.2 million in 2017, according to China's Bureau of National Statistics, negating half of the increase caused by the new law.

The long-term effects of the one-child policy have been an aging population leading to a shortage of workers, as well as a significant gender skew towards males.

Some experts say, however, that cultural changes are the real factor holding back the birth rate. "The policy shift will hardly boost the number of newborns in China," said Huang Wenzheng, senior research at the Center for China and Globalisation.

"China's number of births will continue to drop dramatically, considering a sharp decrease in the number of fertile women and declining fertility willingness."

AUSTRALIA CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

The Darwin branch of the ACFS is a co-operative partner with ACBC NT. ACBC NT members are encouraged to attend ACFS events.

ACFS has completed their first News Letter, a website and facebook. The web address is: www.acfsnt.org.au The facebook address is <https://www.facebook.com/acfs.nt>

UPDATED CHINA RESOURCES FOR NT MEMBERS

ACBC NT has an updated list of China resources available for NT members. This includes translators, interpreters, graphic artists and design teams. Some are based in Darwin and some in China. Please contact ACBC Secretariat on 89270061 or acbcnt@acbc.com.au for details



FORWARD THE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME. Keep other members informed about China experiences. Please email notes or comments to acbcnt@acbc.com.au. Please use email header ACBC NOTE. Information received up to the day prior to publication will be included.

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澳大利亚中国工商业委员会

Northern Territory

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More than \$ 50 million *	3492.50
\$ 15 million to \$ 50 million	1831.50
\$ 5 million to \$ 15 million	1024.87
Less than \$ 5 million	532.40
Student member (non-voting)	88.00