

**THOMAS C. LEPPERT
MAYOR**



MAYOR'S ASIA TRADE MISSION Beijing Investors Eyeing Southern Sector Projects

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Mayor Tom Leppert and his Asia trade delegation are confident the city could soon see results from their trade mission to China and South Korea.

The group arrived Wednesday in Beijing and began meeting with major firms and individual investors to focus on economic development projects proposed for Dallas. Several of the projects are already in advanced stages.

“Clearly these are firms and investors that see the value and benefits of making their investments in Dallas,” said Mayor Leppert. “They understand – on so many different levels - that Dallas is one of the best places to do business. If this trip moves them over the goal line, we’re ready to welcome them.”

One firm manufactures the giant blades and turbines used to create renewable energy from wind.

The delegation toured the plant Wednesday night, which is located two hours outside Beijing. Mayor Leppert and Councilmember Natinsky want the company to consider building a manufacturing operation in Dallas.

“This is a good example of how our city can benefit from new technologies designed to provide alternative sources of energy,” said Mayor Leppert. “If we want the Dallas economy to be a major part of that emerging market, we must be aggressive in pursuing it now.”

The group also met with Chinese investors interested in the city’s new economic development tool, the City of Dallas Regional Center (CDRC). This allows high worth individuals who invest at least a million dollars in a project that creates a certain number of jobs, to qualify for a US investor visa. The city hopes to pair up investors with qualified projects on this trip.

One firm the delegation met with is a major Chinese logistics corporation which wants to expand its operations to the United States, and could potentially qualify as a CDRC project. The firm is interested in Dallas due to the International Inland Port of Dallas. IIPD is the giant logistics hub in southern Dallas County,

“With the jobs and the boost in logistic activity this project could bring – as well as ancillary economic development - this would represent a big return on our investment in the IIPD,” said Councilmember Natinsky.

Since taking office, Mayor Leppert has been a strong proponent of making Dallas a major player on the global trading front. Believing that strong relationships help lay the foundation for this the mayor has personally led several trade delegations to Asia, Canada and Mexico – and has made it a point to meet with government and business leaders visiting from other countries.

At a Beijing meeting on Wednesday, Chinese businessman Wang Wen Baio said the mayor's efforts are setting Dallas apart.

"To come here to visit, to recruit business, this is the correct approach" said Mr. Wang.

The delegation will meet with investors on Friday in Nanjing, then Shanghai, returning on Sunday.

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PHOTOS: MAYOR'S ASIA TRADE MISSION

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Above: Beijing Logistics Investor Meeting

Below: Delegation with Wind Turbine Firm Executives





Above: Wind Turbine Plant 1

Below: Wind Turbine Plant 2





Above: Wind Turbine Plant 3