
Sino-European Collaboration in EU-Jiangsu Cluster Forum

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The European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN) and Chemie-Cluster Bayern (CCB) organised a cluster forum with regional representatives and stakeholders from Europe and China on 10 June 2014 to exchange experiences and to explore potential areas of collaboration.

For ECRN – a network primarily focused on enhancing collaboration between chemical regions in Europe – the **EU-Jiangsu Cluster Forum** marks an important step towards broader collaboration beyond the EU. China as a country rich with land and resources is a good partner for exchange, especially since good experiences on inter-regional collaboration have already been achieved through the work of CCB in **Jiangsu Zhongshan International Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Center (JITC)**, a pilot German-UK-Chinese cooperation excellence project.

Over 40 participants gathered together for a day of discussions and debates. Numerous key themes were covered as representatives from Jiangsu region and municipality of Yancheng presented their perspective of chemical cooperation; regional representatives from Limburg and Flanders gave examples of European activities; the European Commission (DG ENTR), Cefic (the European Chemical Industry Council) and ECRN gave their inputs; and views from the industry were outlined by representatives from BASF and INEOS Phenol. The day culminated in a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding on the Realisation Phase of the **Sino-European Eco-Industry Park in Yancheng** and a roundtable discussion on how to involve other chemical clusters, regions and business networks in further Sino-European cooperation.

The first experiences through JITC and **mutual interest for greater collaboration** among all participants provide a good basis for continuation. Both the Chinese and the European partners identified numerous opportunities and potential for benefits from mutual learning and broad-based cooperation involving not only trade and investments, but also science and research, SMEs, and joint ventures for instance in the framework of chemical parks and throughout the value chain. **Pragmatic approach and continued dialogue** were thus seen as the way forward.

The European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN) is an association of regional authorities from across Europe. ECRN is recognized as a European stakeholder for regional issues concerning the chemical industry and related policies. The network represents regions where chemical industry is an integral part of the local economy and seeks to bring regions together to tackle the challenges by exchanging information and exploring solutions to common problems. The aim of the ECRN is to improve the competitiveness of chemical regions, facilitate collaboration between regions, and to represent the common interests of the chemical regions in Europe.

For further information, please see the ECRN website (www.ecrn.net) or contact the Director of the ECRN Secretariat, Dr. Hanny Nover, +32 27410949, nover@ecrn.net