

MAYOR OF LONDON



To His Excellency Mr Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China

Your Excellency

As Mayor of London I would like to offer you the most heartfelt of welcomes on the occasion of your State Visit to our city in October 2015.

When I met with Party Secretary Guo Jinlong from Beijing earlier this year, I was particularly interested to hear about the One Belt, One Road initiative that accentuates China's ambition to have an important role in the international market place. I am also delighted to note the Shanghai Free Trade Zone, which was first trial-led when I last visited China in 2013, is operating in full swing and expanded this year. The institutions and mechanisms around the Free Trade Zone, I believe, could offer very large opportunities in future for UK-China business relations if the experiment is successful and repeated elsewhere in the country. I would like to reinforce my message that London supports these initiatives and I hope that you will actively consider the high-quality expertise and products offered by London's companies.

The UK government is creating the ideal business environment for investment in regeneration projects across the UK. We are particularly pleased to be observing the growing interest and confidence from the Chinese partners to invest in our strong pipeline of urban renewal projects in London, such as those in Vauxhall and the Royal Docks. London is immensely proud to be home to nearly 200 Chinese firms operating in London's key sectors, including the creative industries, industrial and business services, and financial services.

2015 marks a flagship year for UK-China relations with the first ever UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange. It is an incredible platform to promote the understanding between our peoples and also to build new creative partnerships to capitalise on exciting opportunities. My office has been privileged to support a number of China/UK cultural events, for example the Night of Beijing concert co-hosted with the Beijing Municipal Government in June.

London contains a wealth of opportunities which Chinese individuals, companies and organisations could be a part of, and I look forward to welcoming more students, tourists and businesses from China to our great city.

I hope you have a fantastic and successful visit to London and if there is anything my office can help with, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Boris Johnson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London