

MEDIA RELEASE

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IE Singapore signs first MOU with Ningbo People's Government to strengthen economic collaboration

IE Singapore and the Ningbo People's Government are signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote collaboration in the development of the Meishan Bonded Free Trade Port Zone among other areas.

MR No.: 059/08

Singapore, Tuesday, 11 November 2008

1. To deepen economic ties between Singapore and Ningbo, International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and the Ningbo People's Government will be signing an MOU to promote closer collaboration in the development of the Ningbo Meishan Bonded Free Trade Port Zone and in other areas including enhancing bilateral trade between Singapore and Ningbo, promoting strategic alliances in the port and logistics sector, as well as developing urban solutions for Ningbo.
2. With the approval of 7.7 sq km area on the Ningbo Meishan Island to become one of China's seven free trade port zones by the State Council in February this year, this MOU is timely and will enhance opportunities for Singapore-based companies keen to extend their presence into the region. Bonded free trade port zones are customs surveillance areas focusing on port operation, logistics, and export processing in ports and neighbouring areas. They are deemed as principal special economic areas in mainland China, and have a comprehensive suite of favourable policies and incentives to facilitate trading activities.
3. Besides jointly promoting collaboration and investment in logistic projects in the Zone, IE Singapore and the Ningbo People's Government will also actively engage Singapore-based companies to explore the possibility of establishing a Singapore-theme logistics park within the Zone. Other proposed areas of bilateral collaboration include the shipping and port sector; urban masterplanning,

development and operation of e-commerce business services; logistics and supply chain management, and people-to-people exchanges.

4. In addition, both parties also agree to promote economic cooperation in various sectors ranging from business process outsourcing (BPO), environmental and modern services (which includes information and communications technology), to healthcare and education.
5. The MOU will be signed by Mr Chua Taik Him, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of IE Singapore and Mr Chen Guoqiang, Vice Secretary-General of the Ningbo Municipal Government during the MOUs Signing Ceremony at the inaugural Ningbo Week held in Singapore, and witnessed by Mrs Lim Hwee Hua, Senior Minister of State for Finance and Transport, Singapore; Mr Mao Guanglie, Mayor of Ningbo, Zhejiang, People's Republic of China; Her Excellency Zhang Xiaokang, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Singapore; and Mr Chong Lit Cheong, Chief Executive Officer of IE Singapore. Other MOUs will be signed at the ceremony as well. This is also the first time that Ningbo has chosen to stage a major investment promotion event outside of Greater China. (Please refer to **Annex** for Chinese names and terms).
6. Said Mr Chua, "Singapore companies have been showing keen interest to explore commercial opportunities in the Ningbo City. Singapore's actual Foreign Direct Investment into Ningbo reached US\$102 million in 2007, an increase of 4% from the previous year. We believe the inking of this MOU will further broaden the scope of the Singapore-Ningbo bilateral economic partnership. We hope to share our experiences with and add value to the Ningbo People's Government to make Meishan Bonded Free Trade Port Zone Project a success."
7. Added Mr Chen, "Ningbo People's Government and IE Singapore have a long-standing and excellent working relationship in supporting Singapore-based companies in their venture into Ningbo. With Ningbo and Singapore both being port cities, Singapore companies have strengths and experience in providing port-related services such as logistics and supply chain management, which we hope that they can bring to Ningbo. This is a mutually beneficial collaboration and will contribute to both countries' growth and development."

Ningbo-Singapore trade and investment

8. In 2007, Singapore's trade with Ningbo amounted to US\$554.58 million¹. Key products traded include finished oil products, clothing and accessories, bearings, textile yarn, fabrics and apparel.

9. As at end July 2008, Singapore is Ningbo's 7th largest foreign investor with a total of 234 projects in the city². Singapore's main investments in Ningbo are in the industries of chemical, electrical/electronic appliance manufacture, metal work and textile. Examples of projects invested by Singapore-based companies in Ningbo includes the building of Capital Plaza by CapitaLand, which will be completed in year 2010; and OCBC Bank's investment in the Bank of Ningbo in 2006, where it became the first Singapore bank to invest in a China bank.

Annex: List of Chinese names and terms

Note to Editor

Please use 'IE Singapore' or 'IE' if an acronym for 'International Enterprise Singapore' is required. In addition, unless otherwise stated, the use of statistics cited in our media releases, website or Statlink, should be attributed to IE Singapore.

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¹ Source: Ningbo Municipal Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau

² Source: Ningbo Municipal Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau

About International Enterprise Singapore

International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore) is an agency under the Ministry of Trade and Industry spearheading Singapore's efforts to develop its external economic wing. We were formerly known as the Singapore Trade Development Board.

Our mission is to help Singapore-based companies grow and internationalise successfully. We offer a wide range of services in more than 30 locations worldwide by using a "3C" framework of assistance – Competency, Connections and Capital. We provide market information, and assist enterprises to develop their business capabilities and find overseas partners. At the same time, IE Singapore works to position Singapore as a base for foreign businesses to expand into the region in partnership with Singapore-based companies. Visit www.iesingapore.com for more information.

ANNEX

List of Chinese names and terms

1	International Enterprise (IE) Singapore	新加坡国际企业发展局 (简称: 企发局)
2	Ningbo People's Government	宁波市人民政府
3	Mrs Lim Hwee Hua Senior Minister of State Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Transport	陈惠华女士 高级政务部长 新加坡交通部及财政部
4	Mr Mao Guanglie Mayor of Ningbo, Zhejiang	毛光烈先生 宁波市人民政府市长
5	Her Excellency Mdm Zhang Xiaokang Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Singapore	张小康阁下 中国驻新加坡特命全权大使
6	Mr Chong Lit Cheong Chief Executive Officer IE Singapore	张力昌先生 局长 新加坡国际企业发展局
7	Mr Chua Taik Him Deputy Chief Executive Officer IE Singapore	蔡特鑫先生 副局长 新加坡国际企业发展局
8	Mr Chen Guoqiang Vice Secretary-General Ningbo Municipal Government	陈国强先生 宁波市人民政府副秘书长
9	Free Trade Port Zone	保税港区
10	Ningbo Week	宁波周