

Pressrelease

18. November 2005

New German Centre Shanghai officially opened

Shanghai – In an official ceremony on 18. November 2005, BayernLB opened its new German Centre Shanghai in the fast-growing Pudong district. The celebration featured the motto “Building Bridges” as the new centre provides more than 33,000 square metres Grade A office space, commercial area, showrooms as well as conference and training facilities mainly to German companies.

Speaking to 600 guests, Werner Schmidt, Chairman of the Board of Management of BayernLB, pointed out the prospects for German companies in China. “When we consider the promising future in China, it is especially important to remember that ‘all business is local’. To be successful in China requires a close proximity to the customers either with a representative office or by means of a subsidiary. The new German Centre Shanghai will enable us to provide valuable support to the German SMEs in particular. This support reaches far beyond the scope of business as to what it was possible in the past.”

The first German Centre Shanghai – located in leased premises at the Tongji University – opened its doors in 1994. It established itself as a place to go for German companies seeking market entry into China with local presence and foreseeable costs. Since then, over 130 German companies have profited from the provided services and the experience of the German management in the Centre. Due to lack of office space to fulfil the on-going demand and long lasting interest of German companies in doing business in China, the BayernLB decided in 1998 to build a new center.

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The new German Centre addresses not only newcomers, but also companies already established in China that are interested in ultra-modern offices with plenty of space. With its new complex, the German Centre offers office space of up to several thousand square metres – which can be flexibly divided up – as well as attractive space for commercial purposes, showrooms and conference facilities. In addition, the German Centre can now provide an even greater range of office services and support to companies, making day-to-day operations and, in particular, the start-up phase for newcomers to China considerably easier. Its tenants will also profit from the existing network between German and international companies located under one roof. The network of competence will further offer them close contact to the German Consulate General in Shanghai, the German Embassy in Beijing, the German and European Chambers of Commerce and other authorities.

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The response to the new German Centre has so far been very positive: 30 tenancy agreements have been signed with a total office area of more than 10,000 square metres, and a number of letters of intent have been signed up as well.

The new German Centre was built in the Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park. The park is a central part of the 533 square kilometres commercial district of Shanghai/Pudong and already home for many international companies. The centre's location lies very close to the New International Expo Centre, the transrapid railway and the subway. The Pudong International Airport is just 25 minutes away by car.

The German Centre Shanghai, an instrument for promoting foreign trade, is part of a global network which includes locations in Asia such as Jakarta, Beijing, Singapore and Yokohama. In this context, Schmidt underlined the innovative approach of the facility: "As one of the founding fathers of the German Centre concept, I am especially pleased that we have been enhancing this concept and the ideas it is based on, and that we have adapted it to the particular needs of German companies in Shanghai." The German Centre offers recreational facilities, a clubhouse

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and service apartments which will be available as of the second quarter 2006.

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Schmidt pointed out that in the growing Chinese market all banking activities of BayernLB have been centralized by the move of the branch office into the new German Centre Shanghai. "It creates the opportunity for all German Centre tenants to access extensive financial services under one roof, in particular, since our Shanghai branch office received the approval for doing business in local currency (RMB) last summer."

Concluding, Schmidt noticed: "The goal of BayernLB is – in line with the theme of the opening ceremony – to let the German Centre build bridges between Germany and China to the mutual benefit. Equally I am convinced that the new building will not only become the economic centre of German activities in Shanghai but will also represent a modern, optimistic and cosmopolitan 'Made in Germany' in China.

Note to the press

To download pictures of the new German Centre in Shanghai, go to www.germancentreshanghai.de, then click on "Presse".

-> Access: germancentre/presse