

PRESS RELEASE 25 September 2023

**Wexford County Council host high level Chinese Delegation and Sign letter of intent between Wexford and the Jiangxi Province**

Wexford County Council has hosted a delegation of six key representatives from the Jiangxi Province in China and has signed a letter of intent for future trade, education, tourism and cultural ties for Wexford and the Chinese province.

The Governor of the Jiangxi Provincial People’s Government, Mr Ye Jianchun was welcomed to Wexford on Thursday, September 21st 2023 along with his colleagues who included the Secretary-General of Jiangxi’s Provincial People’s Government Mr. Xu Yanbin, the Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office Mr. Fan Young, the Secretary of the CPC Jingdezhen Municipal Committee Mr Liu Feng, the Director General of the Dept of Culture and Tourism of Jiangxi Ms. Mei Yi and the Deputy Division-Chief of the Foreign Affairs Office Mr. Xiao Zhibin.

The Jiangxi province is located in Eastern China to the south of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River with a total population of 45 million. It consists of 11 prefectural cities and 100 counties.

County Wexford was the only location outside of Dublin visited by the delegation during their visit to Ireland.

The occasion saw the delegation enjoy a full day of meetings and visits across the county. The first occasion was a visit to Danone Wexford where the group enjoyed a tour of the facility. Employing over 380 people in Wexford, and on a journey to net-zero emissions, Danone Wexford was of particular interest to the delegation, as a market leader in sustainability within the food manufacturing industry. Next on the itinerary, was a visit to the CBS Secondary School in Wexford town, hosted by the Mayor of Wexford, Cllr John Hegarty and Principal, Michael McMahon to further enhance the links between CBS Wexford and China. The school features Chinese studies as part of the Transition Year curriculum and students from CBS have visited China on a number of occasions. The delegation then travelled to Rosslare Europort where they were welcomed by Cllr Jim Moore, Chairman of Rosslare Municipal District and Senior Management of Rosslare Europort who outlined future growth plans for the Europort and proposed investment of c.€440m in expansion of facilities.

The afternoon saw the delegation visit Wexford County Hall at Carricklawn where details on Wexford County Council’s key economic development plans and opportunities for collaboration with Jiangxi were discussed. Following this meeting, an official signing ceremony of a ‘Letter of Intent’ took place with the Governor of Jiangxi Provincial People’s Government, Mr Ye Jianchun and Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council, Cllr John Fleming, in front of an invited audience which included the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, Mr. He Xiangdong.

Commenting on the visit Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council Cllr John Fleming said, *“We were honoured to have hosted such a high-level delegation led by the Governor of the Jiangxi Provincial People’s Government, Mr Ye Jianchun.*

*The purpose of this visit was to establish strategic linkages and collaboration working towards embracing each regions cultural strengths, along with each party learning about the business environment in each region thereby gaining a better understanding of the increasing opportunities between us. This visit was a resounding success and we are delighted to have signed a Letter of Intent between Wexford County Council and the Jiangxi Province to work towards a thriving future relationship.”*

In 2022, the GDP of Jiangxi province reached 3207.47 billion yuan (€413 billion), with an increase of 4.7%, ranking first in China. The general public budget revenue reached 294.83 billion yuan (€38 billion) with an increase of 4.8%. The total volume of import and export of trade was 671.3 billion yuan (€47.8 billion) with an increase of 34.9%.

For further details on Wexford County Council’s current and planned economic ambitions visit: www.investwexford.ie.

**ENDS**

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**Further information**

***ABOUT THE JIANGXI PROVINCE***

The Jiangxi province of China is located to the south of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River. Covering a total area of 166,900 square kilometres, Jiangxi has a population of 45 million. It consists of 11 prefectural cities and 100 counties (including county-level cities and districts). It is a place reputed for endowing with abundant resources and producing outstanding people.

Jiangxi has an advantageous geographical location and a convenient transportation network. Adjacent to the Yangtze River Delta, the Pearl River Delta, and the triangular area of the southeast of Fujian Province, Jiangxi is thus given a geographic advantage of connecting the east with the west, and linking the north with the south, which makes Jiangxi one of the most active provinces in the field of innovative economy. Jiangxi has convenient transportation by land, water and air, and all the major channels outbound are high-speed, the mileage of expressways in Jiangxi has exceeded 6,700 kilometres. Jiangxi has seven airports, namely, Nanchang airport, Jiujiang airport, Jingdezhen airport, Ganzhou airport, Jinggangshan airport, Yichun airport and Shangrao airport. Among them, Nanchang international air cargo routes are accessible to the world, making Nanchang Europe’s second most popular place of inquiry for freight.

Jiangxi has a long history and a splendid culture. Jiangxi is the cradle of Chinese revolution, the cradle of the People's Liberation Army, the cradle of the Chinese Soviet Republic and the birthplace of China’s Labor Movement. si Jiangxi has a long history and rich culture. Indeed, it is considered the cradle of the Chinese revolution, and the Republic, and the place of origin of the Chinese labour movement. In addition, Jiangxi is recognized as the world's source of rice planting culture, as well as the birthplace of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism. It is home to the porcelain capital Jingdezhen, the renowned Tengwang Pavilion, the White Deer Cave Academy and the ancient Donglin Temple dating back thousands of years. A number of great scholars have emerged in Jiangxi, including the idyllic poet Tao Yuanming, Ouyang Xiu, Zeng Gong and Wang Anshi from the eight most famous scholars in the Tang and Song Dynasties, the "Shakespeare of the East" Tang Xianzu, and the "Father of Chinese Railways" Zhan Tianyou, etc.

Jiangxi is abundant in natural resources and has good ecological environment. Its forests coverage accounts to 63.35% of the entire province, ranking among the top in China. The Yangtze River, the third largest river in the world, flows through Jiangxi, feeding this "land of abundant fish and rice". Poyang Lake, China's largest freshwater lake, is a world-renowned wetland for migratory birds, where 98% of the world's cranes overwintering. The province takes pride in its 56 national-level forest parks, 5 world heritage and 4 world geoparks. President Xi Jinping praised by commenting that Jiangxi is a good place, endowing with charming ecological environment and many places of interests, and “Mt. Lu shows to the world its tranquillity, Mt. Sanqing shows to the world its beauty, Mt. Longhu shows to the world its uniqueness”. Jiangxi is endowed with abundant mineral resources. The copper reserve of Jiangxi ranks the first in China. Jiangxi is reputed as the “Copper Capital of China”, the “Tungsten Capital of the World” and the “Kingdom of Rare Earths “and the “Hometown of the non-ferrous metal”.

Jiangxi has developed swiftly and is full of vitality. In 2022, the GDP of Jiangxi province reached 3207.47 billion yuan, with an increase of 4.7%, ranking first in China. The added value of industries above a designated scale reached 4829.55 billion yuan with an increase of 9.0%. The general public budget revenue reached 294.83 billion yuan with an increase of 4.8%. The total volume of import and export of trade was 671.3 billion yuan with an increase of 34.9%.

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Description automatically generatedA group of people standing together

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