



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS, INC.®

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PRESS RELEASE

ASTL TO OPEN SECOND CHINA OFFICE IN SHANGHAI AND SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL HONGKOU DISTRICT GOVERNMENT

The American Society of Transportation and Logistics opened their first overseas office in Beijing in January 2007. Due to the successful expansion of the Certified in Transportation and Logistics (CTL) training program, development work in the cold chain arena, and Sino-American annual conference, ASTL announces the opening of their second office to be located in Shanghai. The purpose of this office is to provide a platform for transportation and logistics professionals to dialog and participate in training and exchange programs between the US and China. The office will also be utilized to launch the Global Logistics Manager (GLM) certification program developed from a grant awarded by the Market Development Cooperator Program within the Manufacturing and Services International Trade Administration of the US Department of Commerce. The office will be located in the North Bund Shipping Service Cluster in a partnership with the Shanghai Municipal Hongkou District Government.

Shanghai North Bund Shipping Service Cluster includes a 1.5 mile shoreline along the Huangpu River, covering an area of 1.17 square miles and is one of Shanghai's established Central Business Districts. Shanghai North Bund is currently home to seven of China's top ten container shipping companies and over 2,000 shipping and logistics-related companies including China Shipping, COSCON, Shanghai International Port Group, CH Robinson, UTi, Ryder, SDV, T.S. Lines and others.

Earlier this year the Chinese Central Government announced plans to build Shanghai as an International Shipping Center by 2020. This plan includes building of a modern transportation system and shipping service system. The North Bund Shipping Cluster is an important foundation for the building of Shanghai international shipping center, and it's the only municipality to have a modern service industry cluster for shipping service.

To attract the world's leading shipping and logistics related companies such as ship liners, logistics companies, cruise companies, maritime arbitration, finance & insurance, conference & exhibition, trade, tourism, and professional services providers, North Bund Shipping Service Cluster has established a Special Fund of 30 Million RMB per year to offer subsidies for office rental or purchase, conferences & exhibitions, human resources development, research and SME business loans. In addition, there are tax incentives available. Shanghai North Bund offers tremendous opportunities for shipping and logistics-related enterprises.

Mr. Lu Qingdong, Director of Hongkou Shipping Service Office held a seminar in Anaheim California November 16, presenting the current business opportunities, outlining the incentives available to shipping and logistics companies and answering questions regarding foreign investment policies and regulations. Also present were Mr. Zhang Lei, Deputy Director of Construction and Traffic Committee of Shanghai Hongkou Government, Mr. Pu Zhenghu, Deputy Director of Jiang Wan Branch Office of Hongkou Government, Ms. Ding Yi, Deputy Director of North Bund Shipping Service Cluster Development Office and Mr. Chen

Jinsong, Section Chief of Hongkou Investment Promotion Office. This event was an opportunity for American logistics industry to gain insight into the latest developments of the one of the most dynamic shipping, based economies in the world.

The American Society of Transportation and Logistics and Shanghai Municipal Hongkou District Government also signed a joint strategic agreement establishing the US-China Logistics Cooperation Office and co-organizing the annual Sino-American Logistics Conference.

The US-China Logistics Cooperation Office will work closely with government and industry serving as a platform to exchange information, connecting businesses and host US-China logistics collaborative initiatives including the US-China Cold Chain Council, Yangtze-Mississippi Dialogue, Sino-US Transportation Safety Institute and the Sino-American Logistics Conference.

Since its inception in 2007, the Sino-American Logistics Conference has been widely recognized as the premier event focused on US-China supply chain. This annual conference brings together government and industry from both sides to share practices and dialogue on important issues. It continues to be strongly supported by U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Ministry of Commerce P.R. China, Ministry of Transport P.R. China, National Development and Reform Commission and industry leaders.

About the American Society of Transportation and Logistics (AST&L)

AST&L® is a professional society founded in 1946 by industry leaders to insure a high level of professionalism and promote continuing education in the field of transportation and logistics. AST&L's mission is to facilitate education and certification in the fields of transportation, logistics, and supply chain management. AST&L's membership of shippers, carriers, educators, students, consultants and third-party logistics individuals is dedicated to continuing education and is committed to raising the professional standards in the industry.

Established in January 2007, the ASTL-China office has organized successful conferences, developed a membership program, organized subject expert delegation exchanges, and provided training in transportation of hazardous goods and logistics management. For information regarding ASTL- China contact Mr. Chung Tam, Chief Representative, ctam@astl-china-org or +1 86-10-5820 6271.