



“The Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”

Welcome remarks at the Closing Lunch

by

Dr. Hubert Lienard

**Chairman, Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business (APA);
President and CEO, Voith GmbH, Germany**

- Check Against Delivery -

Hamburg Chamber of Commerce

October 11, 2014



Hamburg
Chamber of Commerce

Dear honorable guests,

dear

Prime Minister Li Keqiang,

Premierminister Xavier Bettel, Luxemburg

Mr. Martin Schulz, (Präsident des Europäischen Parlaments,

Minister of Foreign Affairs (Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier),

Mr. Major (Olaf Scholz),

Mr. Melsheimer, (President Chamber of Commerce, Host)

Mr. (Nikolaus) W. Schües, (Conference Chairman, Host)

Mr. Li Yizhong, (Chairman, China Federation of Industrial Economics, China)

Mr. Yao Shenhong, (Executive Vice Chairman and Secretary General, China Association of Trade in Services, China)

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Here at the Hamburg Summit, you covered important ground in the past two days: You explored new chances for closer economic cooperation and how to improve trade relations. And you also addressed upcoming challenges: How to deal with urbanization and mobility? How to go about internet security and environmental protection?

Without China, there won't be any answers for the huge global challenges and mega trends.

I am travelling to China for more than thirty years now. The development of this country really fascinates me. China is no longer the "world's workbench" but is turning into a high tech country. This will bring our partnership to a new level and change it. Germany has to seek out new markets to compete internationally, but we have an outstanding track record in terms of innovation, research and development. China offers a huge, new market, but needs to seek out opportunities to be prepared for its future in innovation, research and development.

In China, an unbelievable amount of prosperity has already been created in the last 20 years. But due to the sheer size of the country there are still disparities in wealth. One of the main tasks for China will be to manage how to close this middle income gap. The German economy can provide support to deal with this challenge, not only through its local presence in China and the creation of jobs, but also by granting access to know-how for their Chinese subsidiaries, by training employees and suppliers and so on. Overall, Germany contributes significantly to the sustainable development of Chinese economy.

To us, this successful partnership earns enabling. We therefore request equal treatment of German investors in China and Chinese investors in Germany.

- We appreciate the internationalization of Chinese companies through the removal of foreign investment restrictions.
- And we are committed to a welcoming culture for Chinese investors in Germany

These tasks can only be mastered jointly by politics and business. It is this area between politics and business, where APA has its main role: As an intermediary and advisor.

It is our mission to promote equality, partnership and sustainable development in our economic relations, which will be beneficial to both partners, Germany and China.

Thank you very much.