

Cleantech Switzerland, China Liaison Office

Press Release: Groundbreaking Ceremony Sino-Swiss Zhenjiang Ecological Industry Park, January 22, 2013

To: Swiss Media Representatives in China

From: Marco Rhyner, Cleantech Switzerland China Liaison Office

On January 22, 2013 the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Sino-Swiss Zhenjiang Ecological Industry Park (SSZEIP) has been celebrated in Zhenjiang/Jiangsu. This bilateral initiative shall foster economic ties between Switzerland and China based on a more sustainable and environmental friendly development approach. The ceremony with speeches by the Swiss Ambassador, representatives of the Mofcom, Zhenjiang and Cleantech Switzerland has been followed by more than 300 invited guests, amongst them 15 interested Swiss company representatives.

SSZEIP is a bilateral initiative between the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation to promote cooperation among companies from both sides in establishing an eco-friendly industrial park. On July 9, 2012 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Chinese Minister of Commerce, Mr. CHEN Deming and the Swiss Federal Councillor, Mr. Johann SCHNEIDER-AMMANN has been signed. On July 10, 2012 a Framework Agreement between Zhenjiang Economic and Technological Development Zone (ZETDZ) Administrative Committee and Cleantech Switzerland followed to foster the cooperation on operational level.

The park covers an area of 20 km² and is part of ZETDZ, which has an area of around 220 km², located at the eastern suburb of Zhenjiang City, the cross point of Yangtze River and Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal. It thus enjoys great geographical advantages with ZETDZ complete railway, highway and waterway integration traffic network. The SSZEIP site is located 30 minutes by car to the Beijing-Shanghai High-speed railway and 15 minutes by car to Shanghai-Nanjing intercity railway. The first general airport under construction in Jiangsu Province is 5 km away. The park will serve various functions such as national detection centre, laboratories, R&D centers, certification centre for international commodity, management centre of projects and technologies, training centre of specific skill, demonstration and trading center of international business, offices, incubators, workshops, etc. The first building complex project of the park, Sino-Swiss Innovation Center, covers 100,000 m² land with a construction area of around 220,000 m².

The SSZEIP Groundbreaking Ceremony is the first milestone in this bilateral initiative. Organized by ZETDZ with operational support of Cleantech Switzerland and political support by the Embassy of Switzerland and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai, the event took place on January 22, 2013 in the city of Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province. More than

300 people from governmental organisations and private industries followed the groundbreaking ceremony with speeches by Mr. Jacques de Watteville, Ambassador of Switzerland to China, Ms Qiu Lixin, Vice Director of Foreign Investment Administration Department, Mr. Li Xiaoping, Party Secretary of ZETDZ Administrative Committee and Mr. Marco Rhyner, Chief Representative China, Cleantech Switzerland China Liaison Office.

In addition to the groundbreaking ceremony a project introduction and investment promotion seminar was held, informing companies about the business and investment opportunities in SSZEIP. Amongst the participants representatives of 15 interested Swiss companies considering to look for business opportunities or new locations for their China activities. Follow-up meetings between Swiss companies and ZETDZ after the event were held to discuss project details on an individual basis.

The highlight in the early stage of this bilateral cooperation are the construction of 60'000 m² central park administration buildings based on Swiss green building technology, executed by the ETH spin-off company Keller Technologies, a pioneer in energy-efficient and comfortable living buildings in Switzerland and China.

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