

British Embassy Visits TEDA

March 2012

In March a small group, headed by the Director of Trade Brian Gallagher, visited TEDA, Tianjin's premier development zone, for a briefing on latest developments. The British Embassy team included Eddie Malone, Fan Rui and Gao Ge. As it was their first visit to TEDA they split into two groups to cover more sectors. Whilst one group toured the original TEDA zone and visited the successful internet shopping company – Ihaveyou.com, Brian and colleagues visited the new South Port (Nan Gang) project. He was accompanied by Selina Zhang, Chief Representative for China of the UK Energy Industries Council – EIC.



This project is to build one of the world's largest petrochemical ports, which was started in 2009 and is now well underway. The new port zone has been a major undertaking as it involved a massive land reclamation scheme preparing a total area of 200 square kilometres with two deep water basins able to accommodate vessels up to 150,000 tons. The project will be handled in three phases. At the completion of the first phase (in 2015) Nangang will be capable of handling 50 million tons of cargo annually. In the 12th and 13th Five-Year-Plan Nangang will build a key cluster of oil refining and ethylene industries to provide a chemical industrial base for the north of China. The objective is that by 2020 the total investment of Nangang will reach 800 bn RMB, generating an output value of over 1 trn RMB.

Brian and his colleagues also had the opportunity to discuss future development plans with Vice Chairman Lang Dong over lunch. The whole visit was squeezed into an action-packed day. This, of course, is now possible with the advent of the high speed train service which takes just 30 minutes from Beijing to downtown Tianjin or 50 minutes to TEDA.

Brian was very pleased to have seen the new port with his own eyes and, having spent a life time in the Oil & Gas industry, he was able to gauge the future of this vast project.

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