# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE** | **Update on recent Trade Mission to China** |
| **DATE** | **26 March 2018** |
| **BY** | **Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport** |

I recently visited China and Hong Kong in support of a substantial multi-sector trade mission and to promote Wales as a global business partner. I was also pleased and proud to attend a special performance by the Welsh National Opera at a packed house in Hong Kong – an outstanding illustration of Wales’ cultural offer.at the highest level.

In Shanghai I hosted a St David’s Day business reception to promote partnerships with the 24 member trade mission from Wales. I addressed a seminar for Shanghai companies interested in doing business with Wales. I also met a range of other businesses with potential investment interest.

The Welsh delegation included a strong cultural component which promoted the richness of what Wales has to offer. I was particularly pleased to witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Library of Wales and Shanghai Library which lays a foundation for further mutually beneficial co-operation between the two institutions.

In Hong Kong I hosted a further business reception, supported by a cultural offering from the WNO, to promote links with our trade mission and Wales as a business partner more generally. I used my visit to build links with the Hong Kong business community and government, as well as UK bodies who can help us – the British Consulate, the Department for International Trade, the British Council and Chambers of Commerce.

It is very encouraging to see a good number of excellent Welsh companies with the ambition and drive to develop new or increased export markets. The economy of China is dynamic and continues to grow. Wales is open to business from around the world and we will continue to work actively to provide an open and supportive environment for investors. Equally, the Welsh Government is committed to working with businesses to support new and existing export ambitions in China and elsewhere. It has never been more important for business and government to work together to expand our horizons and generate more wealth.

Note: the following companies joined the China/ Hong Kong trade mission

* 4Pi Productions UK
* Abartech
* Air Covers
* Ballet Cymru
* Bombastic
* Cardiff Metropolitan University
* Christine Bird-Jones
* Coleg y Cymoedd
* Cradocs Savoury Biscuits
* FAW Trust
* GTW Developments Group
* Julia Brooker Paintings
* Llanllyr Water Company
* Manutech Europe
* National Library of Wales
* NPTC Group of Colleges
* PPM Technology
* Ruth Lee
* Silverlining Furniture
* Teddington Engineered Solutions
* Ty Nant Spring Water
* Volcano Theatre Company
* Wagtail UK
* Welsh National Opera

*This statement is being issued during recess in order to keep members informed. Should members wish me to make a further statement or to answer questions on this when the Assembly returns I would be happy to do so.*