



# Premiere era

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# UAE's Etihad Airways, Chinese company ink cooperation deal

DUBAI - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Etihad Aviation Group said Friday that it signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation with China's Jiangsu Provincial Overseas Cooperation and Investment Company (JOCIC).

The MoU, signed by Etihad Aviation Group CEO Tony Douglas and JOCIC Chairman Luo Hua, pushes for cooperation on a "wide range of areas" to better support the development of the China-UAE Industrial Park in the capital Abu Dhabi's Khalifa Port, Etihad said in a statement.

The cooperation covers air logistics, procurement, mutual promotion on respective premises and digital channels, it added.

The MoU will also provide companies investing in the China-UAE Industrial Park with preferred air transportation and cargo rates on the routes to and from China covered by Etihad Airways, which is controlled by the government of Abu Dhabi. JOCIC and companies of the China-UAE Industrial Park have designated Etihad Airways as their preferred airline.

The memorandum will also promote Abu Dhabi's "unique geographic advantages" and Etihad Airways' convenient network, which support China's Belt and Road Initiative.



Douglas said China is a strategically important market for Etihad, and the partnership will "strengthen the position of Abu Dhabi as an aviation hub to connect China with the economies along the Belt and Road Initiative by leveraging our strong global network." In April 2008, Etihad Airways launched its first direct passenger flights from Abu Dhabi to Beijing. "The China-UAE Industrial Park is a major project under the Belt and Road Initiative," Luo said. "It represents an important consensus reached by the leaderships of China and the UAE to strengthen international industrial capacity cooperation."

Established in July 2017, with a 50-year agreement signed between Abu Dhabi Ports and JOCIC, the China-UAE Industrial Park has successfully achieved investment agreements with 16 Chinese companies, totalling 1 billion U.S. dollars in value.

The Chinese companies investing in the industrial park are from sectors including new energy sources, aluminum processing, machinery manufacturing, trade and logistics, chemicals, packaging and more.



# Efficiency improved at Shanghai Int'l Port Group

The procedure requiring a document to transfer a cargo container, used at Shanghai Port for nearly three decades, has finally been retired with the introduction of automation, according to China Transportation News Network.

The old procedure was known as an equipment interchange receipt. The change will greatly reduce the time it takes to transfer containers, increase logistics efficiency, improve road traffic and lower transportation costs.

Up to 68 liners, seven container terminals operated by the Shanghai International Port Group, and more than 50,000 trucks and their drivers will benefit from the change.

About 15 million equipment interchange receipts operated at Shanghai Port, and the paperless procedure will save more than 400 million yuan (\$60 million) in cost, and shorten the cargo arrival to collection time from 4.5 days to between 12 and 24 hours.



The paperless procedure is just one of the latest efforts made by Shanghai to develop a smart port. SIPG Chairman Chen Xuyuan said: "Smart ports are what future ports are going to be. This is a systematic eco-system with the combination of the state-of-the-art technologies of the internet and internet of things."

Mechanization has greatly saved labor costs," said Ding Songbing, general manager of the strategy and research department at SIPG. He said SIPG had more than 50,000 employees in the 1980s, and its annual cargo volume was less than 100 million metric tons before 1984, in stark contrast to the Port of Shanghai's current cargo volume of 750 million tons and 17,000 employees.

"All the 16 quay cranes, 40 rail-mounted gantry cranes, and 80 vehicles are automatically guided at the terminal, and 230 people are doing the same volume of work that more than 800 do at a conventional terminal," Ding said.

Ding added that more efforts are needed as the port and Shanghai are continuously seeking higher efficiency on the way to becoming an international shipping center.

By promoting the same standards and sharing data and information, ports in the Yangtze River Delta region as well as those in Yangtze River Economic Belt will be able to collaborate with each other to improve development, Ding said.



## Air freight route links Wuhan with Liege

WUHAN - Central Hubei province's Wuhan Tian he International Airport has launched a new freight route, linking Wuhan, the provincial capital, with Liege in Belgium. A Boeing 747-400 cargo aircraft, operated by Uni-top Airlines, departed from Liege Airport and arrived at Wuhan at 1:20 pm Friday. It will take off from Wuhan at 2 am Saturday morning and arrive at Liege Airport at 5:30 pm local time. The arrived flight was loaded with auto parts produced by Germany and Britain. Electronics, high-end apparel and machine parts will be loaded on the outbound aircraft. The regular flight, which can carry up to 200 tones of goods, is scheduled to depart from Wuhan every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

ITL Park is becoming a center for the trillion-scale trade logistics industry in greater Xi'an and a driving force behind the city's development. The city's road network has been completed, metro line 3 has been opened to traffic, and metro line 14 has started construction. The Xi'an Olympic Sports Center and supporting facilities are speeding up construction. A new urban area is rapidly emerging which is comparable to G20. Moving forward, ITL Park will continue to build the largest port in inland China and accelerate development of the trillion-scale trade logistics industry to form a new modern, green, fashionable and open international city center.

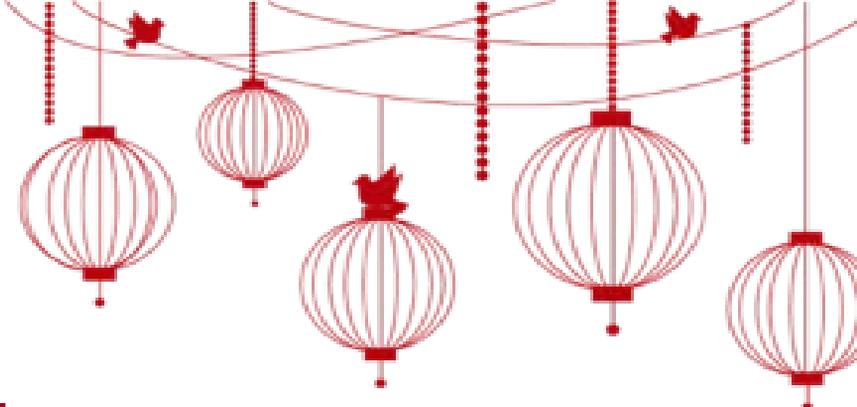


## ITL Park strives to build largest domestic inland port

Xi'an International Trade and Logistics(ITL) Park has become the largest domestic inland port and an important part of the Belt and Road Initiative after 10 years of continuous effort, according to a report by the Xi'an Daily on July 17. ITL Park is situated in Xi'an, an ancient Chinese capital city, and has a robust rail transportation system owing to the area's lack of seas and rivers. The park cooperates with many coastal ports to transport all sorts of goods, such as grain, meat and finished automobiles, to domestic and overseas markets. The park has the largest freight volume and most rail lines among all domestic inland ports. Its rail system is efficient, quick, and reliable.

Five main industries, including port-vicinity, e-commerce, financial leasing, trade logistics and culture and sports, have flourished in recent years, with total e-commerce trade volume exceeding 100 billion yuan (\$14.97 billion). Financial leasing and business factoring enterprises account for 70 and 90 percent of the total enterprises in Shaanxi province, respectively, with an average annual growth of over 30 percent and a fiscal revenue growth which ranked first in Xi'an for the year.





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