



Press Release

AWDC and Diamond Administration of China (DAC) Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Antwerp, June 4 2015. The Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) and the Diamond Administration of China (DAC) have signed a memorandum of understanding that aims to reinforce cooperation between the two diamond centers.

The MOU was signed during the Antwerp-Shanghai Investment Forum taking place in Antwerp June 3-4, which welcomes an economical and political delegation led by Shanghai Party Secretary and former mayor of Shanghai Han Zheng. The Investment Forum aims to follow up on the official visit to Shanghai by Antwerp mayor Bart De Wever, in collaboration with the Port of Antwerp and AWDC, in October last year.

The wide-ranging agreement will oversee the bilateral exchange of information and data about market and industry trends, jointly promoting and supporting Belgian and Chinese diamond trade and investments as well as developing marketing initiatives to drive the sale of diamonds and diamond jewelry. AWDC as well as DAC will specifically support HRD Antwerp's activities in China.

Ari Epstein, AWDC CEO, stated that: "The aim of the MOU is to strengthen cooperation and exchange between the two diamond sectors, and to promote the development of the diamond industries in both countries."

The Diamond Administration of China (DAC) is charged with the administration and statistical analysis of national diamond imports and exports as well as the examination and verification of transactions under the rules of the Shanghai Diamond Exchange (SDE). The DAC also reviews and approves the establishment of foreign-invested diamond companies and the daily regulation of their operations. It participates in the formulation of regulations and policies concerning diamond imports and exports and other diamond transactions, and provides services to the Exchange and to domestic and foreign diamond companies.

Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) is an industry-established foundation, whose mission is to serve and support the diamond business in Antwerp, the world's most important diamond trade hub. AWDC is the coordinating body and the official representative of the Antwerp diamond sector, and as such is recognized internationally as the host, spokesperson and intermediary for the Belgian diamond community. In this capacity, AWDC liaises on behalf of the Belgian diamond sector with governments and actively promotes support for the diamond sector at home and abroad.

Diamonds love Antwerp

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84% of all rough diamonds and 50% of all polished diamonds pass through Antwerp. Diamonds represent 5% of the total Belgian exports and 15% of all Belgian exports outside the EU, making diamonds the most important export product outside the EU.

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