

Memorandum of Cooperation
between the Province of Zuid-Holland, the Kingdom of
the Netherlands
and Hebei Province, the People's Republic of China
for the Period of 2021-2025

The Province of Zuid-Holland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Hebei Province, the People's Republic of China signed an Agreement on the Establishment of Friendship Relationship in The Hague, the Netherlands on September 21, 2007. Hereafter, the two provinces signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for the Period of 2012-2015 in Shijiazhuang in August 2012, and a Memorandum of Cooperation for the Period of 2016-2020 in The Hague in May 2016.

Over these 13 years, within the framework of the friendship relation, governmental organizations, businesses and knowledge institutes from both sides followed all agreements mentioned above, had frequent exchanges, and generated substantial concrete business achievements.

In order to deepen the friendship relation, and enhance the cooperation and exchanges further, based on the principle of friendly cooperation and mutual benefits, two provincial governments reached a consensus of the cooperation for the period of 2021 to 2025 below:

1. Key cooperation sectors between two provinces

Zuid-Holland Province has a well-developed economy. Port logistics, agri-horticulture, life science & health, and digital economy are main sectors of Zuid-Holland. Hebei Province has a wide range of industries and is a major agricultural province in northern China. The three Chinese national development strategies, Coordinated Development for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region, 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, and the development of Xiongan New Area, offered Hebei a significant opportunity to opening up further to the outside world and create new international exchanges. Two provinces will share each other's specialty and experiences in the following fields:

1.1 Water management

The two provincial governments support water departments of both sides to implement the Agreement on Water Scientific Cooperation signed in March 2019. Commercial project and academic theoretical research focus on the fields of the distributed hydrological model and flood forecasting, sponge city construction, comprehensive treatment of groundwater over-exploitation, seawall and flood detention area management, and water environment protection and treatment. Water departments of two provinces will coordinate and establish an international cooperation platform to facilitate above mentioned cooperation themes.

1.2 Agriculture and horticulture

Province of Zuid-Holland supports Dutch agri-horticultural sector to cooperate with business and knowledge partners in Hebei, encourages businesses and technical experts to be involved both glass greenhouse construction and operation management, and solar greenhouse upgrade project. The two provincial governments support agricultural and animal husbandry companies of both sides to do business project in the fields of vegetable seeds, flowers, dairy industry, agricultural intensification and automation, agricultural tourism (beautiful countryside), and food processing.

1.3 Urban sustainable development

The two provincial governments support urban construction and environmental protection department of both sides to cooperate in the fields of smart city construction, urban sewage treatment, low-carbon city construction, and urban pipe network construction.

1.4 Introduce expert talents

Province of Zuid-Holland recommends experts of landscape architecture, engineering, water management and innovation to be included in the “high-end foreign expert database” of Hebei Province. To the extent permitted by the policy, the Dutch experts are given appropriate intellectual policy support.

1.5 Port logistics

The two provincial governments support Dutch ports to cooperate with Port of Qinhuangdao, Port of Jingtang, Port of Huanghua and Port of Caofeidian in the fields of port management, planning, industries near ports, and logistics.

1.6 Trade and investment

Province of Zuid-Holland welcomes businesses of Hebei use the Netherlands as their gateway to enter the European market, and invest in the Netherlands, especially in the sectors of biomedicine, life sciences, aerospace, agri-horticulture, clean energy and maritime shipping. Hebei Provincial Government encourages Dutch companies invest and operate business in Hebei in the sectors of agriculture, medicine, logistics, ports, environmental protection, horticulture, water management, elderly care and so on.

1.7 Life sciences and health

The two provincial governments support businesses and knowledge institutes of both sides cooperate, share experience and practices, and explore market together in the fields of elderly care, life science and health cluster.

1.8 Educational cooperation

The two provincial governments support universities in Zuid-Holland to cooperate with universities in Hebei, such as Hebei University and Hebei University of Technology in the terms of lecturer training, student exchange, and academic discipline co-development.

2. Establishing a joint working group mechanism between two provinces

With the principles of strengthening overall planning, forming mechanisms, separating government and enterprise, and complying with laws and regulations, the joint working group of Hebei Province and Province of Zuid-Holland will be established. The joint working group is responsible for coordinating and determining concrete key cooperation items and projects, and guiding the implementation process of the key cooperation items and projects. The joint working group is also responsible for offering advice and suggestions about the further cooperation to provincial leadership of both sides. The Chinese side will be led by the Provincial Foreign Affairs Office, and the Provincial Development and Reform Commission, the Provincial Department of Education, the Provincial Department of Science and Technology, the Provincial Department of Civil Affairs, the Provincial Department of Transportation, the Provincial Department of Water Resources, the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Provincial

Department of Commerce, the Xiong'an New District Management Committee, etc.; the Dutch side will be led by the EU International Affairs Bureau of the Province of Zuid-Holland, the relevant Dutch government departments involved, and the joint working group communicated and coordinated cooperation matters from time to time.

3. Cooperation and exchanges between Zuid-Holland Province and cities and counties in Hebei Province

Within the framework of the friendship relation, the two provincial governments welcome cities and counties of both sides to participate the cooperation and exchange between two provinces. To promote the establishment of city-level and county-level friendship cities based on the economic development characteristics and intention of cooperation of both parties. To actively promote the city and county-level local governments, enterprises, institutions and scientific research institutions to connect and discuss cooperation. To promote the exchange and cooperation between Langfang City and Alphen aan den Rijn in Zuid-Holland province in the fields of horticulture and agriculture; promote the exchange and cooperation between Zhangjiakou City and Zuid-Holland in the field of ice and snow industry; promote the exchange and cooperation between Hengshui City and Zuid-Holland Province in the fields of water conservancy and urban construction; promote the exchange and cooperation between Shijiazhuang City and Zuid-Holland Province in the fields of life sciences, etc.

This memorandum is signed in duplicate in XXX on XXX in both Chinese and English, both texts being equally authentic.

People's Government of Hebei
Province
The People's Republic of China

Province of Zuid-Holland

The Kingdom of the Netherlands