Chinese Delegation to Meet With Leaders from the Massachusetts Biotechnology and Medical Device Industries, State Economic Development Officials

Goal is to Promote Collaboration between Two Regions And Help Build Life Sciences Cluster in Beijing

CAMBRIDGE, MA — A 16-member delegation from Beijing will visit Massachusetts this Wednesday through Friday, June 14 –16, to meet with representatives from the state’s biotechnology and medical device companies, along with top economic development officials. The delegation is seeking to forge relationships with business, science and government leaders, and to learn about the factors that have helped make Massachusetts one of the premier regions in the world for the life sciences industry.

The delegation is visiting at the invitation of the Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council (MassMEDIC) and the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MBC). It will be led by Mr. Cheng Lianyuan, General Director of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Industrial Development, who is spearheading efforts to develop the life sciences industry in Beijing. The delegation will also include Mr. Wang Zhimian, Deputy Director General of the Beijing Drug Administration, a branch of the government regulatory body that oversees both the medical device and pharmaceutical industries; Mr. Hu Ping, Director of the Beijing Intellectual Property Office, Division of Patent Execution; and Mr. Bai Tingquan, General Manager of the Beijing Zhongguancun Life Sciences Park Development Co., which is interested in attracting Massachusetts companies.

During its three-day visit, the delegation will meet with Thomas Sommer, President of MassMEDIC; Thomas Finneran, President of the MBC; and Ranch Kimball, Massachusetts Secretary of Economic Development. The delegation will also attend a private reception for chief executives of Massachusetts biotechnology firms at Genzyme Center, headquarters of the global biotechnology company Genzyme Corporation; attend the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council; and participate in a seminar sponsored by MassMEDIC that will explore the tremendous opportunity for medical device companies to enter the China market.
“Massachusetts is one of the foremost locations in the world for life sciences research, and the home of numerous innovative companies,” said Mr. Cheng. “We believe that Beijing has many of the elements in place to support a vibrant life sciences community, and we want to learn more about how to support the growth of this industry. We also want to establish and develop relationships with officials and companies that will enhance the interaction between the regions.”

In April, MassMEDIC signed a letter of intent with the Beijing Municipal Government to build and strengthen collaboration between medical technology companies in both regions. The agreement calls for the parties to promote collaboration between companies working in a broad range of areas, including medical devices and instrumentation, surgical appliances and supplies, x-ray and imaging equipment, diagnostics, and orthopedic goods. The parties will develop a process to regularly communicate information on industry developments and send it to delegations to enhance understanding; promote technology exchange; provide study, training and visiting opportunities for professionals; enhance collaborations between industry, research institutes, teaching hospitals and development organizations; and actively coordinate and promote trade collaborations and economic development between enterprises in China and Massachusetts.

In April, MassMEDIC representatives also attended and exhibited at the ChinaMed trade show in Beijing, attended by approximately 20,000 people, to introduce industry and government leaders in China to the Massachusetts medical device cluster.

“Massachusetts medical device companies were among the earliest to establish an important presence in China, and we are now pursuing a program to accelerate our involvement in this rapidly emerging region,” said Tom Sommer, president of MassMEDIC.

Tom Finneran of MBC added, “This visit holds tremendous promise for the Massachusetts biotech community to further our understanding of the environment for research and business in China, and to develop relationships with key officials. It is our hope that, not only will Massachusetts companies seek to establish a presence in China, but that Chinese companies will look to participate in the biotech community here in a direct and ongoing way.”

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