

APEC SPECIAL

Fuzhou APEC forum:
Low carbon, high-techBy HU MEIDONG
AND WEI TIAN

Held in the southern city of Fuzhou for the first time, the sixth APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Economic Cooperation Technology Conference and Fair opened on July 1 with a focus on low carbon economies and sustainable development.

With the title "Technology to enhance economies — cooperation to create the future", the fair hosts discussions on technical innovation, consumers, capital markets and other hot economic topics.

The exhibition provides a forum for small and mid-sized enterprises from APEC members to further mutual integration and common development.

This year's fair has more than 1,700 booths over a total exhibition area of 40,000 sq m.

A total of 306 enterprises from 22 APEC member economies as well as 821 domestic enterprises are among the

4,000 exhibitors and participants at the forum.

Notable delegates include Li Jianbo, IBM partner and general manager of its enterprise consulting department for China, Zhou Yunjie, executive vice-president of Haier, Huang Jie, general manager of Intel's China division and Liang Chunxiao, Alibaba vice-president.

Nearly a hundred buyers from APEC members and Europe are expected to sign deals at the event.

For the first time Tibet autonomous region sent a delegation to the fair.

Among the activities, a low-carbon real estate forum discussed transition of the industry, the largest energy consumer and carbon discharger in China.

Other conferences include a desalination seminar and a gathering to introduce technologies from Hiroshima, Japan.

New products, new technologies, ways to reduce carbon use and save energy, and

environmental protection are expected to be main recipients of investment at this year's fair.

Optical technology from Malaysia, herbal medicine in Indonesia, new machinery by the US, minerals in Russia, energy-efficient lighting from Taiwan province and new materials and biotech from China, along with other patented products from member economies, are among highlights on display.

The business community from Taipei said it highly values the fair in Fuzhou. More than 200 Taiwanese exhibitors enrolled for participation, some 50 percent of registration from outside the mainland.

Fuzhou is the leading city in the West Coast Economic Zone, which is adjacent to the Yangtze River and Pearl River deltas.

Many representatives said they see the development potential of the zone and Fuzhou's leading role, which brought a greater number of participants than originally planned.



HU MEIDONG / CHINA DAILY

Fujian vice-governors Li Chuan (second, right) and Su Zengtian (third, left) share a light moment with APEC delegates at the Zhenhai Tea House in Fuzhou.

SME FAIR PROMOTES TRADE AND TRANSITION

Founded in 1989, the Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) organization now has 21 members with a combined population of 2.7 billion people — 45 percent of the world total.

Its small and medium enterprise (SME) technology conference and fair is among the most influential for member economies and is the largest APEC

event held in China.

The economic output of APEC economies comprises 55 percent of the global total, while their combined trade accounts for 46 percent of the world figure.

The most influential economic and trade forum for SMEs in APEC member economies, the fair was first held in Tokyo, followed by Yantai, China, the next

year. Subsequent fairs — sponsored by China's National Development and Reform Commission — were held in Qingdao from 2004 to 2008.

The fair this year in Fuzhou has hosted a dialog between SMEs and Fortune 500 companies, the third time the seminar has been held.

Corporate business

leaders and the heads of SMEs exchanged opinions on topics such as localization for multinationals, the transition of SMEs, industrialization of modern agriculture, technology entrepreneurship, consumer markets and aspects of a low-carbon economy.

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Traditional Chinese tea ceremony at APEC conference and fair underway in Fuzhou.



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Delegates listen attentively at a dialog between SME heads and leaders of Fortune 500 companies.



ZHU XINGXI / CHINA DAILY

The opening ceremony attracts officials and senior business executives from APEC member economies.