[Chinadaily.com.cn](http://Chinadaily.com.cn)  
  
                          January 10, 2008 Thursday  
  
  
**LET US PROTECT THE WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN**  
LENGTH: 973 words  
  
  
Editor's Note: US Commerce Assistant Secretary David Bohigian has visited China  
several times in past five years. This time, he is leading the second US  
Clean-Energy Trade Mission to China, which comprises 17 American companies. In  
an interview with Zhang Xiaogang, he talks at length about the prospects of  
clean energy technology cooperation between the two countries. Following are  
excerpts: Q: What kind of result can you foresee if the US and China work  
together to promote clean energy technology?  
  
  
A: We're here to talk about how we can provide more energy in a more efficient  
and cleaner manner so that we're able to reduce the intensity of greenhouse gas  
emissions in the decades to come. I hope for two things. One is to continue the  
tremendous discussions we've had as part of the Asia Pacific Partnership on  
Clean Development and Climate, which includes China, India, Japan and other  
countries in a series of multilateral meetings and task forces to talk about  
deploying these technologies. Another part of that discussion, in which China is  
participating, is the major economies' meeting in Washington in late 2007. It  
will be held again in Hawaii in just a few weeks. So those policy discussions  
are taking place in Beijing, Hong Kong and Guangzhou with central government  
officials, as well as provincial and local officials. (We) talk about things  
like market-based pricing for energy, how to protect intellectual property  
rights so the most important innovations can enter the market. We've got many  
policy goals that we'll discuss, as we did this morning with the Ministry of  
Finance and the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), and will do so with the National  
Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) tomorrow morning. We're happy to have  
had those discussions together often in the US we say the government creates the  
climate for business or it helps the environment for prosperity, and that's  
never more true than when we're discussing the environment and climate issues.  
  
  
Q: China, too, is very competitive in implementing solutions. If China and the  
US join hands, do you think they will set a good example for other developing  
countries, especially those around the Pacific rim such as India and Indonesia?  
Will it open the doors for US firms and Chinese engineers, and perhaps workers,  
to implement solutions across the world? A: We're in no choice. If China and the  
US are not working together, the problems will only get worse with air and water  
pollution, and climate change. Our companies have the ability to work together  
closely with your companies. Our last trade mission in April 2007 was  
(incidentally) the first clean energy trade mission the US government ever led.  
It resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in sales, and we believe each one  
of those is a design and implementation solution for both countries.  
  
  
Q: Will there be more trade missions? Or, will it become more regular or  
institutionalized between the two countries, or several countries? Can it be  
tied to a bigger program? A: Every American knows the Chinese saying that a  
journey begins with a single step. Today we've taken two important steps. First,  
having our companies here on the second clean energy trade mission has helped  
our countries institutionalize the process of our companies' coming together.  
  
  
The second step we've taken today is opening up a dialogue on clean energy and  
energy efficiency. And that dialogue, along with our partners at the China  
Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products  
(CCCME), and our partners at the NDRC and MOFCOM, we certainly hope will  
continue. The president has prioritized working with the world through the major  
economies, as well as the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and  
Climate, and we certainly expect that to continue.  
  
  
Q: Do you expect the initiatives you've taken to continue beyond this year -  
after the presidential election, that is? A: I really hope it will continue in  
2009 under a new president and beyond because it really has become a  
generational issue. This generation of policy makers and more and more voters  
understand the importance of these issues. I believe it is bipartisan,  
Republicans and Democrats seek to develop cleaner energy, and energy that  
doesn't have the same carbon footprint that we've had in the past. It's  
important that we show cooperation in trade and on clean energy.  
  
  
Q: Many US clean-tech companies don't have a presence in China. Some have just  
come here looking for opportunities. What kind of environment are they seeking?  
What services do they expect China to provide? And what kind of regulatory  
conditions they expect? A: US, Chinese and global companies all will benefit  
from some of the policy changes that China is undertaking. I'll highlight just a  
few. One is the market-based pricing for energy. People's ability to pay the  
right rate, the global rate for energy, is probably the most powerful force  
creating energy efficiency and new innovation opportunities in China.  
  
  
Second, I would highlight the rule of law. Companies' ability to understand what  
they have bargained for and get the support of the court system is absolutely  
crucial. And third would be intellectual property rights. But I do think China  
remains an enormous opportunity for both the countries. We are going to take a  
bus ride from Guangzhou to Hong Kong tomorrow. During that ride, we are going to  
see one out of 20 factories in the world (that has been) developing products.  
And we want to make sure the Chinese and American peoples and those in the rest  
of the world can use that prosperity to protect the world for their children. So  
it's an enormous opportunity that our partners here and the Chinese government,  
and with CCCME, have provided.  
  
  
For the full transript of the interview, visit [www.chinadaily.com.cn](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn)