

CHINA VISIT TO LAUNCH TECH SUZHOU ADVOCATES **SEPTEMBER 2024**

I travelled to Shanghai from 5th to 10th September to spend time with our Tech China Advocates group, led by the team at CENTI Group, to launch our latest GTA group, Tech Suzhou Advocates and attend the 17th Pujiang Innovation Forum.

LAUNCH OF TECH SUZHOU ADVOCATES

On Friday, 6th September, I travelled to Taicang, part of the greater Suzhou area, a city west of Shanghai and considered one of the most prosperous in China. We were hosted by Dassault Systèmes, a French multinational that creates software for 3D product design, manufacturing and aviation.

During the event, we formally launched Tech Suzhou Advocates, which is now the 6th group in Tech China Advocates - joining Shanghai, Shenzhen, Wuxi, Chengdu and Hong Kong. As part of the event, Tech China Advocates also launched its second working group focused on Aerospace Tech, this following the TCA Healthtech working group launched in 2023.



OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 17TH PUJIANG INNOVATION FORUM



On 7th September, I attended the official opening of the 17th Pujiang Innovation Forum. This is one of the largest tech events in China and was opened by the Mayor of Shanghai, Zheng Gong along with Jining Chen, Secretary of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee. During the official opening, Shanghai launched an approximate £1 billion Future-Oriented Industries Fund.

Later that evening, I joined a dinner hosted by the NETC (National Eastern Tech-Transfer Centre), whose delegation with its Executive Director Mr Zhou, attended London Tech Week in June. My attendance was part of an 'enterprise exchange' that we agreed with the Deputy Secretary for Shanghai Municipal Government in November 2023.

INNOMATCH AND WORLD TECHNOLOGY MANAGERS SUMMIT

On 9th September, I delivered keynote remarks, discussing technological innovation, collaboration and transfer, at the World Technology Managers Summit, an event running alongside the Pujiang Innovation Forum. Later that day, I attended InnoMatch, a key event within Pujiang Innovation Forum, and was joined by Femi Owolade-Coombes, GTA Leader for the GTA Young Entrepreneurs group.



The following day, I joined the 7th Regional Innovation Cooperation Forum supported by NETC, sharing a keynote that also focused on technology transfer and innovation. This preceded a roundtable discussion, and that evening I attended the World Technology Managers Summit dinner, where it was great to hear from Johann Löhn, Trustee of the Steinbeis Foundation and Jason Wen, Director at the Office of Technology Transfer at Boston College, both sharing perspectives of technology transfer.



For the duration of the trip, the agenda was packed, and I was reminded about the strategic importance of science and technology to the Shanghai Municipal Government. During my visit, Tech China Advocates lead John Zai and his team were fantastic hosts, ensuring an excellent trip.

The events that I attended mainly took place in Zhangjiang, a base for both Chinese and foreign tech companies. Zhangjiang is a region of Shanghai fully focused on technology and innovation, featuring several science and research parks along with world-leading universities. Zhangjiang is a tangible example of the Shanghai government's significant agenda to make the city a world-leading tech hub and among the most vibrant in the world.