

## Danish Chamber of Commerce in China Annual Report

Annual General Meeting, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019

At the previous Annual General Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018 the Board, managing the daily affairs of the Chamber, was elected as follows:

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|----------------|--|
| Chairman:      | Jens Eskelund* ( <i>Resigned on 25 August 2018</i> ) |
| Vice Chairman: | Mathias Severin Boyer                                |
| Treasurer:     | Klaus Anker Petersen                                 |
| Secretary:     | Anders Ellemann Kristensen                           |
| Member:        | Alfred Che   |
| Member:        | Luka Lu  |
| Member:        | Chris Cui  |
| Member:        | Hu Zhan  |
| Member:        | Peter Glinvad  |
| Member:        | Thomas Møller Andersen                               |
| Member:        | Lena Hørlyk Petersen                                 |
| Member:        | Richard Kang   |

Danish Embassy (ex officio): Jakob Linulf\*\* (*Thierry Hoppe took over on 24 Aug 2018*)

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*\*In August 2018 Chairman Jens Eskelund announced his resignation from the board of DCCC whereafter the Vice Chairman in accordance with the bylaws assumed the authority of the Chairmanship with the title of Acting Chairman until the next AGM.*

*\*\*In August 2018 ex officio and Honorary Board Member Jakob Linulf assumed his new role as Consul General of the Royal Danish Consulate General in Shanghai and in his stead, new Minister Counsellor and Coordinator of the Trade Council China, Thierry Hoppe assumed the ex officio position.*

## ACTING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2018 has been a year of new initiatives and consolidation for the Danish Chamber of Commerce in China, but also a time for looking back at what we have achieved since our establishment in 1995 some 23 years ago. Currently the DCCC has almost 300 members spread over three chapters in North, Central and South China. With 51 activities held in the North China Chapter with a total of 1,600 participants, we live up to our core mission of serving as the natural and preeminent business and social networking platform for the Danish community in China. We could not have done this were it not for the hard work and dedication of our secretariat and board members who came before us.

Equally important, we could not have succeeded without the support of our members. We have strong Danish member companies within new energy, green technology, pharmaceutical, shipping, agriculture, education, fashion and finance sectors, whose support we are very thankful for and humbled by. Danish companies in China punch above their weight, a tradition going back many decades and even centuries. Danish companies already employ close to 900,000 employees in the Chinese service sector and approximately 50,000 in the industrial sector. But yet, there is much more to be done and we in the DCCC, wish to play a greater role in assisting our members succeed in China and to promote, study and protect trade, investment, commercial and other relations between Denmark and China – another key tenant of the DCCC's mission.

Looking forward then, we recommend that the incoming board will look to further strengthen our offerings through partnerships, while retaining our distinct and strong DCCC Brand. Partnerships are crucial to the success in having the best impact and outcome for our members and the wider Danish community in China. In Beijing we are blessed with having not only the largest Danish diplomatic representation in the World, to be one of the few unique locations in the world to have an officially sanctioned Cultural Center but also a Sino-Danish University Center which was partly funded by the Danish Industries. Outside the Danish community, we also value our partnership with the European Chamber of Commerce as well as the European SME Center who we seek to build a stronger relationship with for the benefit of our member companies. Here I also wish to expressly extend our appreciation to the Royal Danish Embassy in Beijing for another year of close cooperation in 2018. We look forward to working together for the benefit of Danish companies in China in the year to come.

2018 was a year in which the headlines were dominated by the Trade War between the US and China. This also impacted Danish Companies and the Macro trade environment in China. In this increasingly competitive environment, the role of the DCCC becomes ever more relevant and our partnerships become increasingly important.

In these days and months, Denmark is preparing for an election. What is positive is that discussions regarding the Danish diaspora is getting attention from all sides. The Danish diaspora in China is strong and vibrant and we all have a role and

responsibility in communicating the impressive progress and economic development in China to our compatriots back home. The DCCC hopes to play an increasingly vocal role in this debate in the year to come and help to bridge the gap between Denmark and China. When talking about the composition of our community we cannot forget the many hard working Chinese leaders and employees working for our Danish member companies. As the number of Danes in North China has decreased over the last couple of years, our companies have become ever more dependent on their professional contribution. In 2018, the DCCC decided to further our focus on this segment of Chinese professionals and students with a Danish connection by starting the formation of an Alumni association for Chinese alumni returning to China from Danish universities. I invite all Chinese professionals with Denmark in their hearts to participate and contribute to the DCCC.

In conclusion, I wish to sincerely thank you – the members of the DCCC – for your support and active contribution. The success of the DCCC is founded upon your participation as its members. I also extend a special thanks to our excellent secretariat run by General Manager Mads Vesterager and Office Manager Emily Luo for their commitment and good work towards running the secretariat and executing our activities. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mathias Boyer

Acting Chairman of the DCCC North China – on behalf of the Board of Directors  
Beijing, 21<sup>th</sup> February 2019