



絲綢之路國際總商會  
Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce

# Hong Kong Declaration

**Silk Road Chamber Declaration**  
**Hong Kong SAR, China, 9-10 December 2015**



China first launched what has become known as the “Belt and Road” initiative in 2013, calling for the creation of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Silk Roads through Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. These new channels for trade and investment will vastly improve the links between the 60 Silk Road countries and their population of 4 billion people, as well as with the rest of the world.

The "Belt and Road" initiatives are an invitation to ride the express train of China’s economic development. It is estimated that in the next five years, China will import goods worth more than 10 trillion USD, Chinese investment abroad will exceed 500 billion USD, and more than 500 million outbound visits will be made by Chinese tourists. The priorities identified for the new Silk Roads and Belt include investments in telecommunications and the internet, transportation, infrastructure, energy, trade facilitation, financial cooperation and cultural exchange.

China has made it clear that the ambitions of the new Silk Roads are not limited by history and geography, but are meant to encompass all countries ready to partner in this new form of multilateralism. The creation of a new digital Silk Road that spans the globe will significantly further this ambition.

The fundamental objective of the new Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce (SRCIC) is to further the participation of businesses around the world, in the trade and investment opportunities provided by the new land, maritime and digital Silk Roads.

The Silk Road International Investment Forum was the platform for the inauguration of the new Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce; it is also the first step in building the partnerships within the global business community which will help make the new Silk Roads as effective in promoting Peace and Prosperity through commercial ties as their previous incarnations in the ancient world. The principles set out below will guide development of the SRCIC work program. One of the results of this work program will be specific recommendations SRCIC and its members will propose to relevant Governments and international organizations.

## **A. The Founding Principles of the SRCIC**

### **1. Belt and Road Partnerships**

The SRCIC will facilitate participation by business in the region and beyond in the ‘Silk Road and Belt’ initiative. This 21<sup>st</sup> century trade and investment initiative based on the ancient land and maritime Silk Road trade routes includes enterprises and investors from around the globe. The primary aim of the SRCIC is to bring together members from all industry sectors and regions of the world to

foster trade and investment in the Silk Road regions, contributing to growth in the world economy.



## **2. Contributing to the Harmonious Growth and Freedom of International Commerce**

The SRCIC will be a business partner for international trade organizations which regulate international trade and negotiate trade rules and regulations. These include the World Trade Organization and the International Trade Centre, both of which are included in the initial SRCIC work program.

## **3. Sustainable Silk Road Business Development**

The SRCIC will adhere to basic principles for sustainable development and environmental responsibility as enunciated in the COP 21 protocols, negotiated in December 2015. The SRCIC will be a source of information for business on these principles and on their implementation by specific companies.

## **4. Digital Silk Road**

A particular contribution of the SRCIC to global trade will be the creation of an online Silk Road, linking its members and all regions of the globe to Silk Road opportunities in trade and investment. This unique online facility is a priority of the SRCIC work program.

## **5. Cultural and Information Exchange**

Another unique aspect of the SRCIC work program will be to provide its members (and their members) with opportunities to share cultural and historical information across the online Silk Road. This will be particularly useful for companies in the growing cultural and entertainment industries, especially those wishing to participate in the tremendous growth of these sectors in China.

## **6. Anti-Corruption**

The SRCIC subscribes to and will promote the anti-corruption practices initiated by the International Chamber of Commerce and by the UN Global Compact. Information will be shared with all members and partners about the ICC tools on anti-corruption, including model contract clauses. The ten-point anti-corruption protocol of the UN Global Compact will be used as a reference.

## **7. SRCIC and the G20-B20 Process**

China will take over the G20 presidency on Dec. 1, 2015, and a series of related meetings will be held next year in various cities of China. China's chosen theme for 2016 is "Building an innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive world economy". China's President Xi Jinping has said that "The trends and policies of major economies are becoming increasingly divergent, we are in dire need of new sources of growth to push for a new round of prosperity for the world economy."



The SRCIC mission in this context will be to underline the importance for the global economy of success for the Belt and Road initiative as a new source of growth for the world economy, and the importance for its success of effective partnerships between government and business worldwide.

## **B. SRCIC Work Program**

The SRCIC will contribute to developing a partnership between business and relevant governments on Silk Road trade and investment opportunities. The following work program includes recommendations which will be advanced to governments through various channels, including to the G20 Governments, through the B20 process, hosted by China in 2016.

### **1. Consultation with Business in Belt and Road Implementation.**

Governments will be urged to create a consultation mechanism whereby business can voice opinions and make proposals about Belt and Road initiatives. The SRCIC will propose to the Government of China that it work with the China Chamber of International Commerce to create an International Silk Road Business Council.

### **2. Openness and Transparency in Contracting Procedures.**

The participation by companies in the trade and investment opportunities provided by the Belt and Road initiatives will depend on an open, transparent and efficient means of procurement for services and goods for Belt and Road projects in infrastructure, telecommunications, Internet and other sectors. The creation of a multilingual online facility for such procurement will be one of the SRCIC proposals.

### **3. Inclusion of International Anti-Corruption Protocols.**

The SRCIC emphasis on anti-corruption practices will be part of the proposal to governments, so that ICC, Global Compact and other international protocols and practices to fight corruption will be integrated into the Belt and Road procurement and projects.

## **C. SRCIC Work Program – Projects**

### **1. The Online Silk Road**

The strategic rollout of the “One Belt One Road” Initiative will reshape international trade and create tremendous commercial opportunity. The Online Silk Road will support chambers and their



members to participate in this opportunity by:

- 1) Providing a platform to unite service providers along the value chain.
- 2) Hosting commercial exhibitions in the digital space linked to its network of offline experience centres.
- 3) Enhancing access to tailored trade settlement and financing solutions through intelligent matchmaking.
- 4) Creating a “SMART” logistics alliance to deliver end-to-end logistics solutions across all “One Belt One Road” countries.
- 5) Establishing its operational centre in one of China’s Free Trade zones, where office space, trading services and facilities will be made available to chamber and trade association members and businesses.

## **2. Silk Road Research Institute (SRRI)**

The role of the Institute is to support the work of the SRCIC through cooperation with other relevant international think tanks on subjects of mutual interest, including global trade and investment, Belt and Road initiatives, Business 20 action and the G20, amongst others. The Executive Chairman of the SRCIC supervises the work program of the Silk Road Research Institute, which is approved by the SRCIC Executive Board.

## **3. G20/B20 Business Action**

The SRCIC is active in the Business 20, which provides proposals from international business to G20 leaders. Chairman Lu Jianzhong participated in the B20 gathering in Ankara in September, 2015. China will be the official host of the G20 and B20 meetings in 2016. The CCOIC/CCPIT will be the official B20 host during the year, and the SRCIC will work in partnership with them to play a useful role to advance Silk Road business interests in the context of the G20 policy agenda.