



Stars Aligning for Trip to Shanghai – Week of May 17

As time marches forward, it seems one constant is the growing economic importance of China. Recognizing the immense significance of China to our region's economy and our members, the Bay Area Council is opening its first satellite office and Bay Area business community landing pad in Shanghai's Yangpu District.

A few weeks ago, Jim Wunderman asked a large group of members to prepare to join him and Vincent Lo, the Chairman of the Shui On Group, in Shanghai in the Spring. Whether you have decided it time to follow your customers to China, access its huge market, find capital or partners or any other reason to expand on the other side of the Pacific, you should mark your calendar for our biggest trip yet to China the week of May 17. Look for a formal invitation shortly. While not confirmed, we are pleased that U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke is strongly considering joining us that week to open our office. (P.S. As a bonus, you will have the opportunity to attend the Shanghai World Expo 2010, which the city reportedly spent \$45 billion preparing for – more than the Beijing Olympics!) More to come...

California is Broken: What Would CEOs Do to Fix It?

If you were the chief executive of California, what would you do to fix our state government? This was the question posed to a group at a joint Bay Area Council - Alliance of Chief Executives roundtable event last week, attended by 25 chief executives. The issues addressed were focused on reforming California governance, our state education system and creating and sustaining jobs. Some very innovative proposals came out of this forum – including this idea from a chief executive in attendance on the issue of jobs:

Build the world's fastest and pervasive information network infrastructure (orders of magnitude faster than what we typically have access to today) to connect all homes, businesses, education, government, education, and healthcare facilities. This would transform the current economic models that constrain job creation; would reduce environmentally harmful and costly demands on our physical infrastructure by fostering rich, interactive, tele-presence connectivity for all. This would allow California to leverage its huge geographical size by compressing distance and time.

We look forward to continuing this partnership with the Alliance of Chief Executives through similar roundtable events, and then using these innovative ideas to help shape our initiatives and policy work.