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Wayne County facilitates business in China for Michigan company

Chongqing, China – During Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano’s fourth trade mission to China, a Michigan-based company signed an agreement Tuesday to provide environmental services for a China-based firm.

Atwell-Hicks of Ann Arbor will work with Charlon Technology Development in Chongqing, China to improve environmental quality in China. Officials from the two companies met last year during Executive Ficano’s third trade mission.

“Wayne County is proud to have helped facilitate a Michigan company’s entry into China’s environmental market,” Ficano said. “Our office, with strong support from our environmental director Kurt Heise, is opening more doors in China for Michigan-based environmental companies.”

With one-fifth of the world’s population, China is looking for solutions to address its growing energy, air quality and water pollution problems. In many environmental areas, China is about 30 years behind the United States.

“Since Atwell’s participation in last year’s trade missions, Executive Ficano has opened doors for our company in China,” said William Henderson, vice president. “Wayne County has been instrumental in assisting us put our firm in the forefront by establishing contact with Chongqing’s Charlon Technology Development.

“We are currently in the process of completing a joint venture and are looking forward to doing business in China starting early next year.”

Last year, Wayne County signed environmental cooperation agreements with four Chinese cities and expects to sign similar agreements with two additional cities this week.

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