

Memorandum of Understanding on Friendly Exchanges and Cooperation
Between Shanghai, People's Republic of China
and Timiș County, Romania
(Draft Agreement)

PREAMBLE

Considering the *relations of friendship and cooperation between the People's Republic of China and Romania, based on mutual respect and support in various areas of common interest*;

Recalling *the Joint Declaration of the People's Republic of China and Romania on the Extensive Partnership of Friendship and Cooperation*, signed in 2004, which strengthened the strategic framework of collaboration between the two countries;

Recognizing that the *Municipality of Shanghai*, a municipality directly administered by the People's Republic of China, and *Timiș County*, Romania (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"), represented by the local authorities, possess significant potential for cooperation and exchanges across various fields;

Desiring to promote friendly cooperation and exchanges between Shanghai and Timiș County, to deepen mutual friendship, and to contribute to the development of friendly relations between the People's Republic of China and Romania;

On the basis of the principles of equality and mutual benefit, and acting through friendly consultations, the Parties have reached the following consensus:

Objectives

In accordance with the principles of equality and mutual benefit, the Parties will carry out exchanges of experience and best practices across a wide range of fields, including business and trade, urban planning and management, scientific and technological innovation, culture and tourism, education, environmental protection, and health, and will encourage the establishment of friendly relations between the residents of the two administrative-territorial units.

This cooperation will aim to promote prosperity and sustainable development and will be carried out in accordance with the powers vested in the Parties under the legislation in force in their respective States.

Fields of Cooperation

The Parties will promote cooperation between organizations and institutions in the following fields:

1. Cooperation between the local authorities

The Parties will organize visits between representatives of local institutions, specialists from administrative departments, as well as personnel from administrative departments or agencies, and will encourage participation in major events organized by each Party;

2. Business and Trade

The Parties will support cooperation in the fields of business, trade, and investment, will support enterprises, organizations, and institutions in developing mutually beneficial partnerships, and will encourage participation in economic forums, trade fairs, and exhibitions held within the administrative jurisdiction of the other Party;

3. Urban Planning and Management

The Parties will promote cooperation in the fields of infrastructure, transportation (including road, rail, air, and maritime), as well as urban planning, development, and management, and will support enterprises, institutions, and organizations in conducting such cooperation;

4. Scientific and Technological Innovation

The two Parties will support the organization of exchanges of experience between local institutions carrying out activities in the field of technology, within the scope of their respective competences, and will facilitate the organization of conferences and exhibitions in cooperation with relevant local institutions;

5. Culture and Tourism

The Parties will encourage cooperation between institutions, organizations, and representatives in the fields of culture and tourism and will facilitate participation in cultural and artistic events, including art, film, and music festivals. The Parties will also pay particular attention to the joint promotion of the tourism potential of the two administrative-territorial units at tourism exhibitions and fairs organized in their States and abroad and will encourage visits between their residents;

6. Education

The Parties will facilitate the organization of exchanges of experience and best practices between representatives of local educational institutions regarding the ensuring of the conditions for carrying out the educational process and will support the participation of pupils and students in the programs and joint projects promoted by the respective institutions;

7. Environmental Protection

The Parties will promote cooperation between departments, institutions, enterprises, organizations, and professionals in the field of environmental protection and will encourage exchanges of experience and best practices in fields such as energy and low-carbon development;

8. Health

The Parties will promote cooperation between institutions and organizations in the field of health and will encourage exchanges of experience and best practices in the medical field, as well as the development of joint training programs and capacity-building in the health sector;

9. Strengthening Friendship Ties

The Parties will encourage visits between the residents of the two administrative-territorial units and will support the implementation of joint cultural programs for the purpose of mutual acquaintance and the strengthening of friendship ties between the local communities they represent;

Implementing Authorities

To implement the provisions of this Memorandum, the Foreign Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government and the Office for External relations, Protocol and Business Environment of the Timiș County Council will be responsible for the liaison and coordination between the two parties.

FINAL PROVISIONS

This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded for a period of one (1) year and takes effect from the date of its signing. The document may be amended by the written agreement of the two Parties. Amendments and/or additions take effect from the date of their signing.

Each Party may terminate the Memorandum of Understanding by written notification addressed to the other Party. The termination takes effect three months from the date of receipt of the respective notification.

Signed at, on, in two original copies, each in the English, Chinese and Romanian, languages, all texts being equally valid. In case of differences in interpretation, the English text will prevail;

For SHANGHAI, MUNICIPALITY DIRECTLY ADMINISTERED BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	For TIMIȘ COUNTY, ROMANIA President, ALFRED-ROBERT SIMONIS
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