





PRESS RELEASE

China Vows to Improve Foreign Investment

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On December 30, 2009 the Chinese government announced, during the State Council Executive Meeting, that China will take the following steps with respect to foreign investment:

- 1. The government will revise the Catalogue of Industries for Guiding Foreign Investment to broaden the scope of industries that are open to foreign investment, and to encourage foreign investments in the areas of advanced manufacturing, high-technology, modern services, clean technology, energy-saving and environmental protection;
- 2. The government will guide foreign companies to invest in the middle and western regions of China by promulgating a series of supportive measures;
- 3. The government will encourage the injection of foreign capital into the restructuring and reorganization of domestic Chinese enterprises through mergers and acquisitions. It plans to do so by accelerating the utilization of foreign capital for the establishment of credit guarantee companies for small and medium sized enterprises, broadening the domestic financing channels for foreign invested enterprises, and guiding the financial institutions to increase their support for foreign invested enterprises through RMB loans.
- 4. The government will further simplify and increase the transparency of foreign investment approval procedures; and
- 5. The government will simplify the procedures for converting foreign exchange capital into local currency. The above five areas published by the State Council set out a roadmap for its policy on the development of China's foreign investment in 2010.

Edward Lehman, Managing director of Lehman, Lee and Xu said that china will insist opening policy and encourage more foreign investment during the economic crisis period.

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