DC Outreach:
On-the-ground knowledge shared with Washington

By Ian Curtiss

The Conference discussions and presentation titles were:
- US Government Engagement with China During a Time of Reform
- AmCham China Business Climate Survey: Current Operating Environment
- Implications of Economic Reforms: Challenges and Opportunities
- Apologize or Else? Enforcement Challenges in China
- China’s Foreign Policy at a Time of Reform

Things change fast in China, and only those on the ground have the ability to keep up with changes in the economy, government, and society in China. For this reason, AmCham China leadership makes its annual trip to Washington, DC to share updates on the issues affecting American businesses in China. The delegation meets with officials from the administration, congress, and independent agencies to offer insights on the business environment in China, and US policies that can support our members.

This year’s US government meetings frequently turned to discussions on the ongoing opportunities for bilateral trade and investment. The delegation was led by AmCham China Chairman Greg Gilligan, and members of the Board of Governors: Eric Emerson, Lin Gao, Wang-Li Moser, Randy Phillips, Lester Ross, and Tim Stratford, with AmCham China President Mark Duval, Vice President Patrick Wang, and Policy Analyst Ian Curtiss also attending. This year, AmCham China welcomed AmCham Shanghai President Kenneth Jarrett to also join the delegation. The delegation pressed US officials to take advantage of the current climate to pursue negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty with China, as well as ensure the US government continues supporting intellectual property rights and market access rights for American businesses in China.

To continue expanding the understanding of member issues in China, this year witnessed the 5th Annual AmCham China DC Dialogue, where members hold public discussions with local DC experts on the current policies and concerns for businesses in China. With the support of the US Chamber of Commerce, this year’s conference was titled “Reform Opportunities and Challenges for US Businesses” and hosted over 120 attendees from the government, industry, and academia. The half-day event was sponsored by AmCham China members Intel, WilmerHale, and Mintz Group, and held keynote presentations by Evan Medeiros and Christopher Smart, special assistants to the president and senior directors within the National Security Council, as well as a discussion with former special assistant to the president and Senior Director for East Asian Affairs Jeffery Bader.

For questions regarding AmCham China’s DC Outreach, please contact Ian Curtiss at icurtiss@amchamchina.org.