A Letter to Foreign Chambers of Commerce and Relevant Foreign Institutions in Tianjin

17 Feb., 2020

Dear AmCham China Members,

The Foreign Affairs Office of Tianjin Municipal People’s Government would like to extend the best wishes to you.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19, Tianjin, which attaches paramount importance to the safety and health of the public, has been committed to effectively responding to epidemic prevention and control with scientific containment and targeted policies under the strong leadership of the central government, building citizens’ confidence to win the battle against the epidemic.

The Tianjin municipal Party committee and government, in accordance with the decisions and plans of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, and under the premise of containing the virus, have been working hard to improve reform, development and stability as a whole. A raft of measures and policies have been introduced to promote the resumption and reproduction of various enterprises and to accelerate development. For the production and operation of foreign enterprises, we hereby provide you all with some of those measures and policies, of which, we hope, relevant foreign enterprises in the city will be informed.

As a functional department of the Tianjin municipal government in charge of foreign affairs, we are always already to help you. Please feel free to contact us with any questions at our 24-hour hotline: 022-58368675.

We look forward to seeing you and more friends in Tianjin. Let us work together for win-win cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Foreign Affairs Office of Tianjin Municipal People's Government
Tianjin launches policies and measures to boost economic and social development amid COVID-19 outbreak

Amid the COVID-19 epidemic, Chinese president Xi Jinping noted that top priority should always be given to people’s safety and health, and epidemic prevention and control should be carried out in an all-round way with firm confidence, concerted efforts, scientific containment and targeted policies.

Xi stressed that while sparing no effort to bring the epidemic under control, we should have confident that the fundamentals of China’s long-term economic development remain unchanged. China will make greater efforts concerning economic performance to minimize the impact of the outbreak on the economy and achieve this year’s goals and tasks of economic and social development. China will give better play to a proactive fiscal policy and increase budgetary input to ensure conduct of the prevention and control work as well as make the prudent monetary policy more flexible and moderate to offer discounted loan interest rates for producers of anti-virus materials, Xi added. Domestic demand should be expanded and foreign demand kept stable. Higher quality and an expansion of capacity should be promoted in the service sector, consumption of physical goods expanded and the potential of emerging consumption unleashed, Xi said. Efforts must be made to support production resumption by foreign trade enterprises by increasing trade financing and giving full play to export credit insurance. Xi pointed out that China will actively participate in the international coordination and cooperation, striving to create a sound international environment for the development of foreign trade. The implementation of a number of major foreign investment projects and the Foreign Investment Law and its supporting rules and regulations should be sped up, Xi stressed. China will work to optimize the investment environment for foreign investors and protect their legitimate rights and interests, he said.

The Tianjin municipal Party committee and government, faithfully implementing the Party's decisions and plans, are taking active steps to help solve the problems and difficulties encountered by enterprises in work and production resumption and their sound development while bringing the epidemic under control. In terms of related policies and measures, Tianjin authorities, giving full consideration to the difficulties faced by enterprises in work resumption and capital turnover amid the outbreak, have formulated and promulgated Measures for Promoting Sustained and Sound Economic and Social Development while Winning the Battle Against the COVID-19 Epidemic, as a drive to promote sustained and sound economic and social development in the city.

Appendix: Measures for Promoting Sustained and Sound Economic and Social Development while Winning the Battle Against the COVID-19 Epidemic
Measures for Promoting Sustained and Sound Economic and Social Development while Winning the Battle Against the COVID-19 Epidemic


For the purpose of thoroughly implementing the important instructions of General Secretary Xi Jinping for the prevention and control of the COVID-19 epidemic, the following measures are put into effect in accordance with the decisions and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, to fully support enterprises greatly affected by the epidemic to emerge from the hard time, coordinate efforts to promote the reform, development and stability, and foster the sustained and sound development of the city’s economy and society while bringing the epidemic under control.

I. Strengthening epidemic control and addressing inadequacies

1. Fund guarantee for epidemic control projects shall be strengthened. Support for local government bond funds and city- and district-level fiscal funds shall be increased, and the expenditure structure shall be adjusted. Emergency projects such as fever clinics, designated hospitals and disease control and prevention institutions at all levels, as well as basic security projects such as the production of emergency epidemic-prevention supplies, material reserves and cold chain logistics shall be given priority over the coronavirus period. The national emergency loan shall be used for medical supplies, living materials and major facilities directly related to the epidemic. The mechanism for the storage of emergency medical protection materials shall be improved, the types of materials stored shall be classified, the construction of material warehouses shall be accelerated, and the list of producers and suppliers shall be made, to ensure efficient operation of production, storage and transportation of emergency medical protection materials. (Responsible units: Tianjin Development and Reform Commission, Tianjin Finance Bureau, Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology, Tianjin Commission of Commerce, Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Financial Affairs, Tianjin Branch of People's Bank of China, Tianjin Bureau of China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission and Tianjin Municipal Health Committee)

2. The green channel for project approval shall be improved. The principle of "without the need to be physically present" shall be fully implemented. The approval of emergency projects related to epidemic prevention and control shall be completed within 24 hours, and the allocation of land, water, electricity and other resource-based indicators shall be given priority to. If the approval cannot be completed on time due to the intersection of procedures, the projects shall start first and the relevant procedures shall be finished later. Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, the date for the payment of land transfer fees and the commencement and completion of projects that have been supplied with land for use shall be automatically extended without going through renewal procedures. (Responsible units: Tianjin Development and Reform Commission, Tianjin Government Service Office, Tianjin Network Information Office, Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology, Tianjin Housing and Urban-Rural Construction Commission, Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Planning and Natural Resources, Tianjin Municipal Health Committee and
Tianjin Administration for Market Regulation)

3. The "vegetable basket" project shall be supported. The production of vegetable supply bases shall be encouraged by subsidies after assessment, and those production and operation entities who plant designated varieties shall receive a subsidy of 800 yuan per mu. 100 million seedlings included in the list of the intensive vegetable seedling plan shall be given subsidies, of which the subsidy for lettuce is 0.04 yuan per seedling, and for leaf lettuce and early maturing Chinese cabbage is 0.02 yuan per seedling. (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Agricultural and Rural Committee, Tianjin Finance Bureau and people's governments of agriculture-related districts)

II. Optimizing enterprise services and stabilizing expectation

4. Resumption of work and production for enterprises shall be promoted. The production of epidemic-prevention supplies such as medical protective suits and masks that are urgently needed shall be supported. Raw and auxiliary materials enterprises shall resume work and expand their production capacity. All this will help enterprises ensure raw materials, personnel, electricity, transportation and other key factors in the process of resuming production, accelerate quality certifications and procedures, and release their production capacity. For enterprises that produce medical supplies and are identified by Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology and Tianjin Municipal Health Committee, financial institutions shall grant them credit arrangements and Tianjin Finance Bureau shall fully cover the interests of those enterprises to expand their reproduction. Enterprises that purchase upgraded equipment shall enjoy the policy of technological upgrading. (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology, Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Financial Affairs, Tianjin Finance Bureau, Tianjin Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau, Tianjin Municipal Transportation Commission, Tianjin Administration for Market Regulation and people's governments of all districts)

5. For enterprises that produce epidemic-prevention supplies such as medical protective suits and N95 masks, the surplus products shall be collected and stored by the government if they meet the standards and shall be orderly incorporated into the reserve system after the epidemic. (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Health Committee, Tianjin Finance Bureau, Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology and Tianjin Administration for Market Regulation)

6. Construction of wholesale and retail platforms shall be supported. A certain proportion of subsidies shall be given to the construction and upgrading of online wholesale and retail proprietary trading or third-party platforms, e-commerce service enterprises and online comprehensive platforms recognized by Tianjin Commission of Commerce. Key circulation enterprises such as large wholesale markets and large supermarket chains shall be coordinated, and organization of sources of goods and government reserves shall be strengthened. (Responsible units: Tianjin Commission of Commerce, Tianjin Development and Reform Commission and Tianjin Finance Bureau)

7. Rent concessions shall be given to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). For SMEs that rent state-owned commercial property for their operation and public-built supporting food markets, the rent for three months shall be exempted and halved. For SMEs that rent business premises from non state-owned landlords, the landlords shall be encouraged to reduce the rent for the tenants, and the specific matters shall be settled by both parties through negotiation. (Responsible units: Tianjin State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, Tianjin Finance Bureau and people's governments of all districts)
8. City operation shall be strengthened. Key factors such as water, electricity, gas and heating that supply the normal operation of enterprises shall be ensured while bringing the epidemic under control. Uninterrupted supply of energy resources shall be given to enterprises that are closely related to urban and rural operation, epidemic prevention and control, daily necessities, and national economy and people's livelihood. New demands shall be met through green channels. (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology, Tianjin Municipal Commission of Urban Management, Tianjin Development and Reform Commission and Tianjin Water Authority and Tianjin Electric Power Company)

III. Supporting enterprises and stabilizing employment

9. Employment of key enterprises shall be ensured. An incentive mechanism of employee transfer shall be established. If the city's human resources service agencies send more than 30 employees at one time to key enterprises lack of labor and make them sign a labor contract for more than 1 year, they will get a maximum reward of 600 yuan per person according to the number of people transferred and stable employment time on the job. If vocational colleges send more than 30 graduates or intern students at one time and make them work for more than 3 months, they will get a maximum reward of 1,000 yuan per person. (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau and Tianjin Finance Bureau)

10. Enterprises shall be encouraged to stabilize employment. The unemployment insurance premium rate shall be reduced by stages, with the unit rate and the employee's personal rate both being 0.5%, which will be maintained until July 31, 2021. For insured enterprises that do not lay off workers or reduce the number of staff, 50% of the actual unemployment insurance premium paid last year shall be reimbursed. (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau, Tianjin Finance Bureau and Tianjin Municipal Tax Service, State Taxation Administration)

11. Support for start-up loans shall be increased. All those who start businesses in Tianjin shall apply for a start-up loan of up to 300,000 yuan for a maximum of 3 years with full discounted interests. Small and micro enterprises shall apply for a loan of up to 3 million yuan for 2 years with a 50% discount of the loan prime rate, when the number of their new recruits that can apply for start-up loans account for 20% of the total number of employees in the same year (10% for enterprises with more than 100 employees). (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau, Tianjin Finance Bureau, Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Financial Affairs and Tianjin Branch of People's Bank of China)

IV. Promoting research and innovation and making breakthroughs

12. Enterprises shall be guided to make technological breakthroughs. The major technology project of "emergency prevention and control of New Coronavirus" shall be launched. Clinical research and the development of antiviral drugs, vaccines, test reagents, and medical and diagnostic technologies for the epidemic prevention and control shall be implemented. Relevant products and technologies shall be promoted to enter clinical application and obtain product certifications as soon as possible. (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Science and Technology Bureau, Tianjin Finance Bureau, Tianjin Administration for Market Regulation and Tianjin Municipal Food and Drug Administration)

13. Enterprises shall be given interest discount on their research. For service outsourcing institutions and enterprises entrusted with the development of drugs, vaccines and epidemic-prevention supplies or supply chain support, as well as the provision of medical diagnosis and treatment over the coronavirus period, discount
interest shall be granted. (Responsible units: Tianjin Commission of Commerce, Tianjin Finance Bureau and Tianjin Municipal Health Committee)

14. The cycle for policy implementation shall be shortened. Banks and guarantee agencies shall be encouraged to further increase their financing support for sci-tech companies in extension and renewal of loans, loan guarantees, development of fin-tech products such as "eagle loans", "gazelle loans" and green service channels. Online financing docking for sci-tech companies shall be carried out by making full use of information technology. The issuance of incentive funds to national high-tech enterprises which are recognized initially shall be accelerated, science and technology support policies shall be implemented immediately, and tax relief enjoyed by national high-tech enterprises within the validity period shall be ensured. (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Science and Technology Bureau, Tianjin Municipal Tax Service, State Taxation Administration and Tianjin Finance Bureau)

V. Further increasing tax and fee reduction efforts

15. Tax relief shall be increased. For SMEs that have difficulty paying taxes due to the epidemic, they shall apply for a three-month extension of tax returns according to law. For those who have special difficulties and cannot pay taxes on time, they shall apply for a three-month extension of tax payment according to law. For enterprises that suspend production or suffer heavy losses and have difficulty paying property tax and urban land use tax, they shall apply for temporary tax relief. Public welfare donations made by enterprises and public institutions to combat the epidemic shall be deducted prior to the corporate income tax according to relevant policies and regulations. Public welfare donations made by individuals to combat the epidemic through social groups eligible for pre-tax deduction shall be deducted when calculating taxable income according to relevant policies and regulations. Taxpayers who donate epidemic-prevention supplies free of charge and sign donation contracts shall not pay stamp duty. (Responsible unit: Tianjin Municipal Tax Service, State Taxation Administration)

16. Social security policies shall be relaxed. The due date for payment of social security shall be extended appropriately. If the insured employers affected by the epidemic fail to register the insurance and pay social insurance premiums on time, they shall be allowed to re-register and re-pay the insurance within three months after the end of the epidemic. No overdue fees shall be charged, social insurance benefits of the insured employees shall not be affected, and the personal rights and interests related to social insurance payment, such as house purchase, license plate lottery, children education and points-based household registration shall not be affected. (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau, Tianjin Medical Security Bureau, Tianjin Finance Bureau, Tianjin Municipal Tax Service, State Taxation Administration, Tianjin Housing and Urban-Rural Construction Commission, Tianjin Municipal Transportation Commission, Tianjin Municipal Education Commission, Tianjin Development and Reform Commission and Tianjin Public Security Bureau)

17. Cost reduction and efficiency improvement in port logistics shall be promoted. “Ship-side delivery” of imported goods and “direct loading” of exported goods shall be strengthened. Enterprises shall be encouraged to apply the "port collecting" mode of operation. And "direct loading" shall be completed within 24 hours prior to customs clearance to further reduce the border compliance time. (Responsible units: Tianjin Customs, Tianjin Municipal Transportation Commission, Tianjin Commission of Commerce and Tianjin Port Group Co., Ltd.)

VI. Strengthening financial support
18. Credit support shall be enhanced. For industries that are severely affected by the novel coronavirus outbreak, such as retail, wholesale, catering, logistics, culture and tourism, as well as companies that have great potential but suffer temporary difficulties, banks shall provide financial support by extension and renewal of loans without repaying the principal, establish and open a fast approval channel, simplify the business procedures, and shall not reduce, rescind and cut off loans. The first 6 billion yuan of emergency financing from Tianjin Branch of China Development Bank and Bank of Tianjin shall be fully used to promote major corporate banks to issue special loans at a rate lower than the market interest rate for the same period. (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Financial Affairs, Tianjin Branch of People's Bank of China, Tianjin Bureau of China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission and Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology)

19. Financing costs for enterprises shall be reduced. Discounted loan interest rates shall be given to enterprises that are closely related to urban and rural operation, epidemic prevention and control, daily necessities and national economy and people's livelihood. For enterprises that enjoy the policy of special refinancing provided by the People's Bank of China, the city- and district-level finance departments shall give a 50% discount of the special refinancing interest rate. With government-backed financing guarantee institutions, counter guarantee shall be canceled and the guarantee fee shall be reduced by half. The re-guarantee fee of government-backed re-guarantee institutions shall be halved, and other types of guarantee institutions shall be encouraged to follow suit. (Responsible units: Tianjin Branch of People's Bank of China, Tianjin Bureau of China Insurance Regulatory Commission, Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Financial Affairs, Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology and Tianjin Finance Bureau)

20. Insurance services shall be strengthened. For enterprises suffering losses due to the epidemic, insurance institutions shall open a 24-hour service hotline and a green channel for claims settlement, give priority to handling online claims, appropriately expand the scope of responsibility, simplify claims acceptance requirements, and adopt ways such as prepayment to ensure that all claims are paid. Tianjin Branch of China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation shall be encouraged to import epidemic-prevention supplies and equipment for enterprises, provide the overseas supplier list, credit investigation, special preferential rates and other special services for free, support the approval of credit limits, set up the green channel for special loss assessment and compensation, and appropriately relax the claims requirements. (Responsible units: Tianjin Bureau of China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission and Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Financial Affairs)

21. Development of the financial leasing business shall be supported. Financial leasing companies who carry out leasing business related to epidemic prevention and control, such as material production equipment, medical equipment, and inspection and quarantine equipment, shall be encouraged to slow or reduce rent and interest payment. For enterprises seriously affected by the epidemic and facing temporary difficulties, they are encouraged to extend their rent receivable and increase their financing granted, and actively provide differentiated preferential leasing services. (Responsible units: Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Financial Affairs and Tianjin Bureau of China Insurance Regulatory Commission)

Relevant policies and measures issued by the state shall be implemented accordingly. This document shall come into force from the date of issuance and shall be valid for another 3 months after the end of the epidemic.
Administrative Measures for Application for Registration of the Business Scope of Enterprises in Tianjin

Article 1 These measures are formulated in accordance with the Provisions on Administration of Registration of the Business Scope of Enterprises and the Notice by the State Council on Launching the Pilot Program for the Reform of “Separating Operating Licenses from Business Licenses” in All Pilot Free Trade Zones, and based on local conditions, with a view to standardizing the administration of registration of the business scope of enterprises in Tianjin and facilitating them to independently engage in business activities in accordance with law.

Article 2 These measures shall apply to the administration of application for and standardized registration of the business scope of enterprises in Tianjin.

Article 3 “Business scope” is the scope within which an enterprise engages in business activities. It is divided into general business items and licensed business items. It shall be applied for and registered in accordance with law, recorded in business licenses and released to public.

Article 4 Enterprises in Tianjin shall apply for registration of the business scope independently. The applicant shall, in accordance with the articles of association or agreement, file an application for registration to the market regulation departments of Tianjin by choosing the specified entry of standard statements of business scopes in the Catalogue of Standard Statements for Business Scope Registration (hereinafter referred to as “Standard Catalogue”) issued by the State Administration for Market Regulation.

Article 5 Tianjin Administration for Market Regulation shall, based on the actual situation of the city and in accordance with the Standard Catalogue and relevant regulation requirements, expound corresponding relationships between the business scopes and the local licensed items of the enterprises involved and clarify general items and licensed items to conduct the localized regulation of the standard statements of business scopes.

Article 6 The entries of the standard statements of business scopes (hereinafter referred to as "standard entries") describe the business activities in a classified and generalized form. In terms of specific business activities, business modes or services and products conforming to the standard entries, the applicant shall apply for registration based on the standard entries corresponding to the Standard Catalogue.

Article 7 Where the business scope applied for by an enterprise includes general items, “general item:” must be indicated at the beginning of the registration entry, and the statement “(Except for the items subject to approval according to law, the enterprise shall independently carry out business activities according to law with its business license)” must be indicated at the end; Where the business scope involves licensed items, “licensed item:” must be indicated at the beginning of the registration entry, and the statement “(For the items subject to approval according to law, the enterprise shall carry out
business activities after its application is approved by relevant departments, and the specific business items shall be subject to approval documents or licenses of relevant departments)” must be indicated at the end.

**Article 8** Where the business scope applied for by an enterprise includes general items, the enterprise may independently engage in business activities in accordance with law after obtaining a business license.

**Article 9** The business scope applied for by an enterprise shall specify the corresponding relationships of the licensed items of the enterprise in accordance with the reform of separating business licenses and operation licenses and the Negative List of Market Access. Market regulation department shall tag them respectively based on the reform methods of “directly canceling the examination and approval, changing the examination and approval to filing, implementing notification commitment, and optimizing the examination and approval service” and “integrating multiple certificates”. Concerning the licensed items, the applicant shall apply for registration in accordance with Article 10.

**Article 10** Where the business scope applied for by an enterprise includes the licensed items stipulated by laws, administrative regulations or decisions of the State Council, the licensing departments shall make regulations of and impose limitations on the specific conditions, and scope and time of the licensed business activities by issuing relevant approval documents or licenses, and the enterprise shall engage in relevant production and business activities after obtaining the approval documents and licenses of the approval authority. For the business items that are subject to approval prior to registration according to law, administrative regulations or decisions of the State Council (hereinafter referred to as “ex-ante licensed items”), the enterprise shall obtain an approval of the relevant departments before it submits an application for registration using standard entries with approval documents and licenses of the approval authority. For business items that are subject to approval or filing after registration according to laws, administrative regulations or decisions of the State Council (hereinafter referred to as “ex-post licensed items”), the enterprise shall independently choose standard entries to apply for registration. The enterprise shall apply for change of registration or deregistration if the ex-ante licensed items within the business scope of the enterprise are revoked, or the licenses or other approval documents are withdrawn or the validity period of the licenses or other approval documents expires.

**Article 11** An enterprise shall not apply for registration if the name of the business sector or business characteristics are not indicated in the business scope as clearly required in relevant stipulations.

**Article 12** Real-name online registration is available for enterprises to apply for the registration of the business scope. The applicant shall independently fill in and refine the information according to relevant online prompts before submission. The registration authority shall grant the registration if it meets the relevant requirements; If not, the authority has the right to return it to the applicant for modification or not to grant it.
Article 13 Where the business scope applied for by an enterprise involves multiple entries, the first entry shall be consistent with the name of the business sector of the enterprise. The general items or license items within the business scope of the enterprise shall be marked with the name of the business sector. If the name corresponds to a license item, the license item shall be registered first. If it corresponds to a general item, the general item shall be registered first. If the enterprise’s name does not indicate the statement of its business sector, the applicant shall independently apply for the registration order of the license items or general items.

Article 14 The applicant shall apply for registration of the change of its business scope in accordance with these measures. If the business scope specified in the articles of association or agreements, or the specific matters of the approval documents or licenses of licensed matters are changed or adjusted, and the standard entries need to be changed, the applicant shall apply for registration of the change of its business scope.

Article 15 A branch of an enterprise may, according to the articles of association or agreements of the enterprise, independently file an application for the business sectors related to the general items within the business scope of the enterprise to which it belongs. Concerning the licenses or filing matters of the business scope involved, the branch shall apply for registration in accordance with Article 10, and shall not extend beyond the range of the licenses or filing matters within the business scope of the enterprise to which it belongs unless otherwise stipulated by the laws, administrative regulations or decisions of the State Council.

Article 16 The applicant shall not apply for registration of any business activities explicitly prohibited by laws and regulations.

Article 17 The market regulation departments shall, based on the business scopes registered by enterprises, and in line with the corresponding relationships of the business licenses and filing matters stipulated in the relevant regulations and the Standard Catalogue, share the data via Tianjin’s information resources sharing and exchange platform through information sharing and push departments corresponding to the standard entries, and send the data to the corresponding departments in Tianjin; If one entry corresponds to multiple departments, it shall be marked and synchronously shared with relevant departments.

Article 18 The Standard Catalogue shall be disclosed, updated and maintained by the State Administration for Market Regulation. If the entries in the Catalogue need to be added or adjusted, the Tianjin Administration for Market Regulation, after accepting the applications, shall submit them to the State Administration for Market Regulation.

Article 19 These measures shall apply to the application for the registration of business scopes of individual businesses and farmers’ professional cooperatives.
**Article 20** These measures shall come into force as of February 15, 2020. The Administrative Measures for Application for Registration of the Business Scope of Enterprises in Tianjin were adopted at the second directors’ office meeting on January 31, 2020 and are hereby issued to you for compliance and implementation.