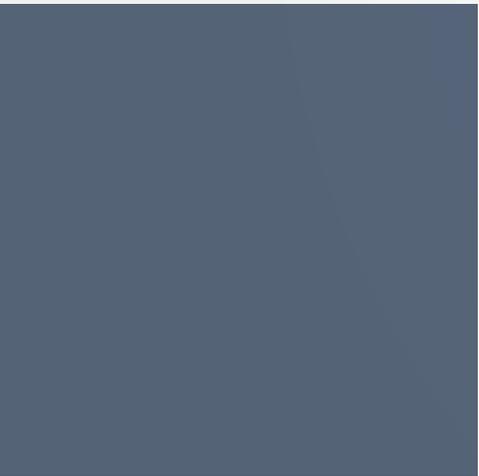
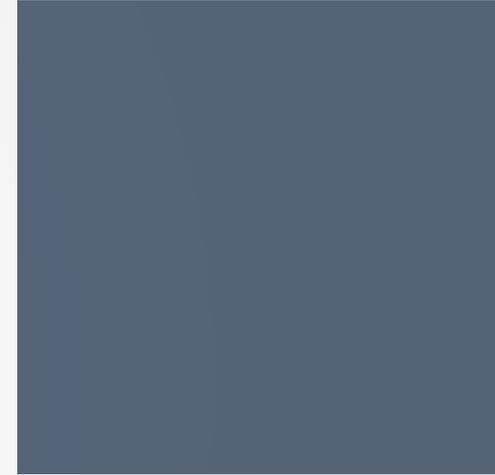


Keynote Speech at the World Free Trade Conference (2017)

*Wei Zengjun, Vice Governor of Shaanxi Province
(On the Afternoon of May 17, 2017 at Omaha)*



Extending sincere greetings to all the distinguished guests.



I would like to take this chance to introduce Shaanxi Province to you to promote our mutual understanding.





With a land area of 205,600km² and a population of 38.13 million

An aerial photograph of the Xi'an City Wall in Shaanxi, China. The wall is a massive, grey stone structure with several traditional Chinese towers on top. In the foreground, a wide river flows, with a red boat on the water. A large, ornate stone bridge with multiple arches spans the river, with people walking on it. The background shows modern city buildings and a clear sky.

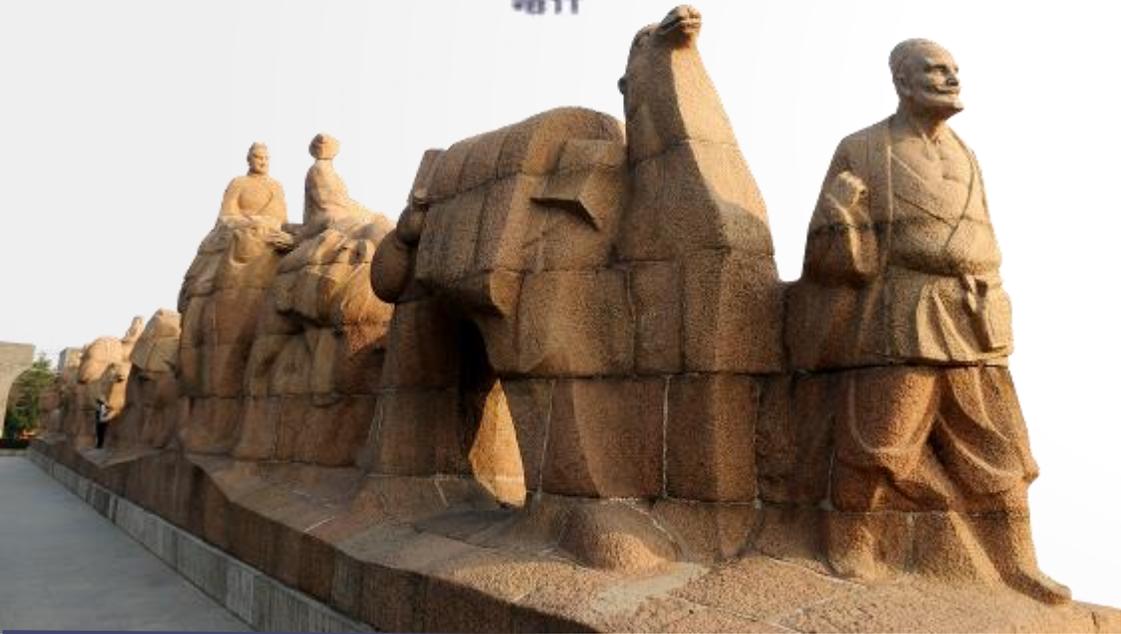
Shaanxi boasts a long history and profound culture.

 Shaanxi boasts a long history and profound culture.



The first ancestor of Chinese people—Yellow Emperor

Shaanxi boasts a long history and profound culture.



Zhang Qian in the Han Dynasty

 **Shaanxi boasts a long history and profound culture.**



Some dynasties including Zhou, Qin, Han and Tang, had built their capitals in Shaanxi, which created glorious history and culture.

 Shaanxi boasts a long history and profound culture.



It left Shaanxi with many historical relics, such as Terra-Cotta Horses and Warriors, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, considered as natural historical museum, being a world-famous tourism destination.

Shaanxi boasts a long history and profound culture.

Last year, tourists at home and abroad visiting Shaanxi reached 449 million, accounting for one tenth of the total number of the tourists visiting China. More and more people from other countries are learning about China by paying a visit to Shaanxi.

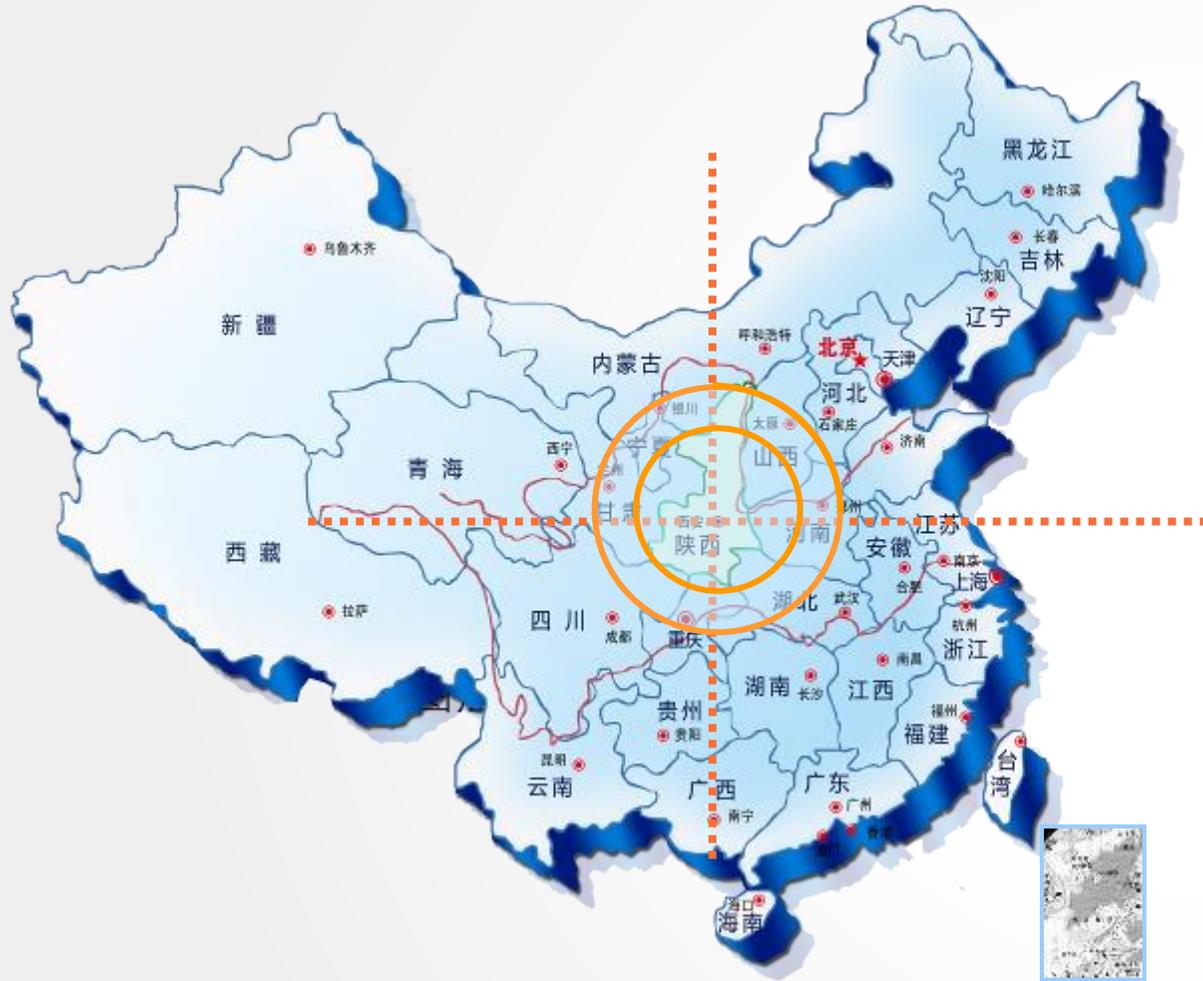




**Shaanxi is
well-developed
in transportation.**



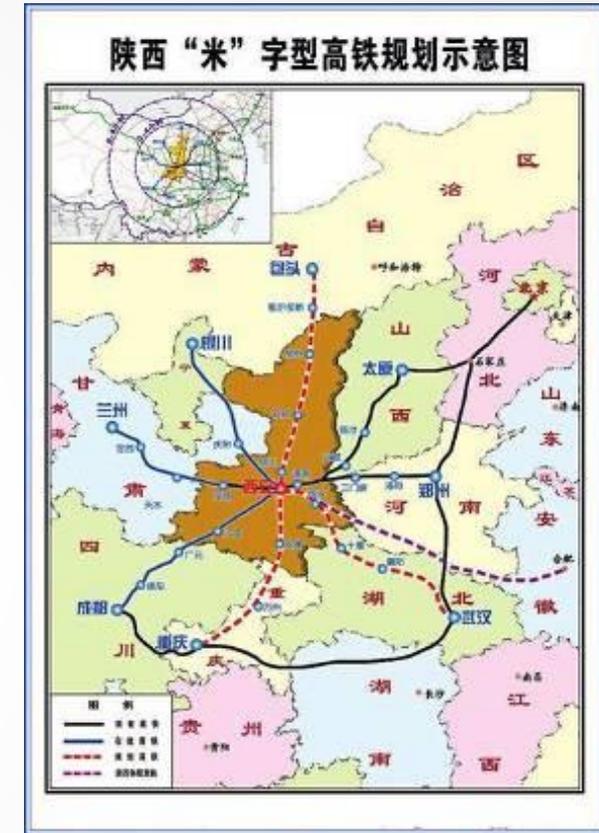
Shaanxi is well-developed in transportation.



It connects the East to the West and links the North with the South.

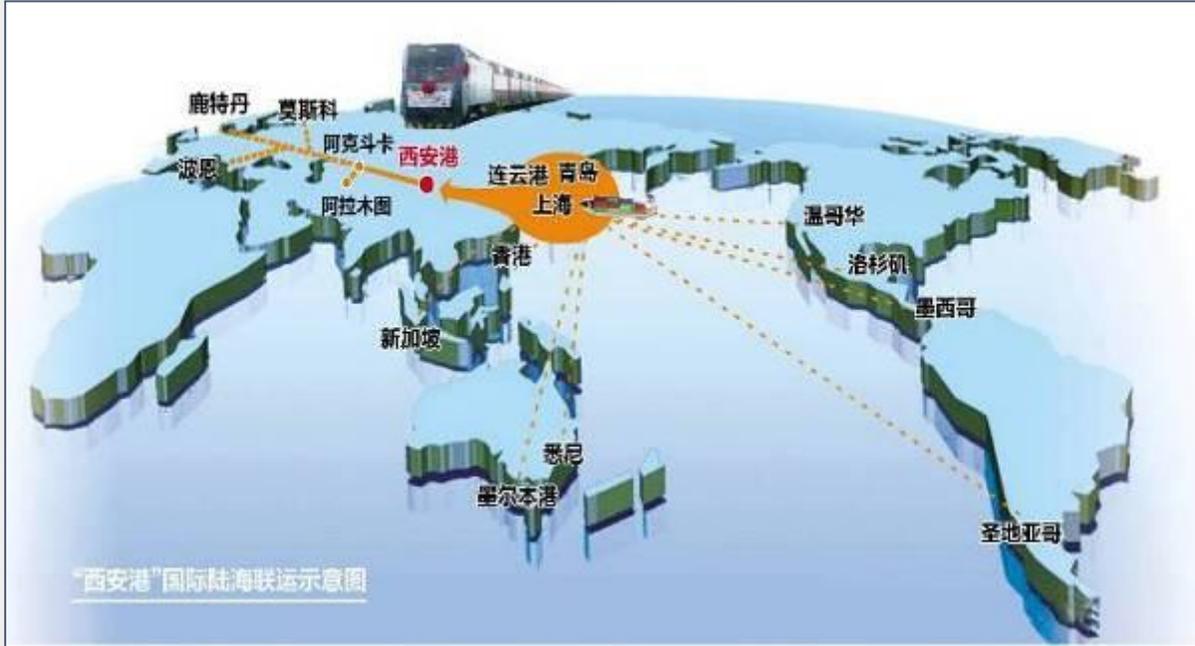


Shaanxi is well-developed in transportation.



The traffic mileage of expressways in the province reaches over 5100 kilometers and the total railway operating mileage is 4900 kilometers.

Shaanxi is well-developed in transportation.



There are four China-Europe trains connecting Xi'an with Almaty, Moscow, Warsaw and Hamburg. The international freight flight from Xi'an to Amsterdam has been operated under normal.



Shaanxi boasts strong strength in science and education.



Shaanxi boasts strong strength in science and education.



Shaanxi has 108 higher education institutions and more than 1000 scientific research institutions. There are 1.08 million college students and 1.1 million professional technical talents studying and working in Shaanxi.



Shaanxi boasts strong strength in science and education.



Last year, the total turnover of technical contracts of Shaanxi reached RMB 80.27 billion yuan and the number of granted patents reached forty-eight thousand, up by 45.7%, ranking first in China.

An aerial night photograph of a large industrial complex, likely a refinery or chemical plant. The facility is illuminated with numerous lights, highlighting its intricate network of pipes, towers, and storage tanks. Several tall, slender chimneys with red and white horizontal stripes are visible against the dark blue twilight sky. In the foreground, a large area is filled with numerous large, cylindrical storage tanks. The overall scene conveys a sense of active industrial operations.

**Shaanxi is full of
energy for
development.**



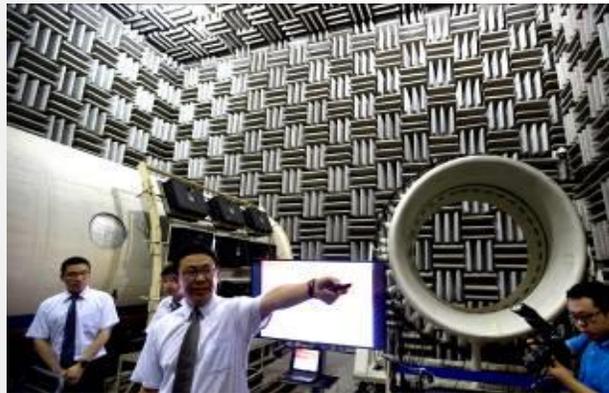
Shaanxi is full of energy for development.



The potential economic value of 137 currently found minerals in Shaanxi is worth RMB 42 trillion, and the output of its coal, oil and gas are all listed at top three in China.



Shaanxi is full of energy for development.



Shaanxi has formed powerful industrial development bases in fields like energy and chemical industry, advanced equipment manufacturing, electronic information, aerospace industry, and bioengineering and pharmaceutical industry.

Shaanxi is full of energy for development.



Shaanxi is a frontrunner in the manufacturing of aircraft and its components, electric transmission and transformation equipment, heavy loaded trucks and new energy vehicles.

An aerial view of a crop duster plane flying over a lush green field. The plane is orange and white, with long wings and a tail-mounted engine. It is spraying a fine mist of blue liquid across the field. In the background, there is a dense line of green trees under a clear blue sky. In the lower-left corner, a person is visible in the field, holding a red flag on a long pole.

**Shaanxi is obviously
advantageous in
characteristic agriculture.**



Shaanxi is obviously advantageous in characteristic agriculture.



Shaanxi is one of the birthplaces of China's agriculture.



The agricultural precursor of China—Hou Ji



Shaanxi is obviously advantageous in characteristic agriculture.

Shaanxi is the largest high-quality apple production base and the largest fruit juice export base in China.





Shaanxi is obviously advantageous in characteristic agriculture.

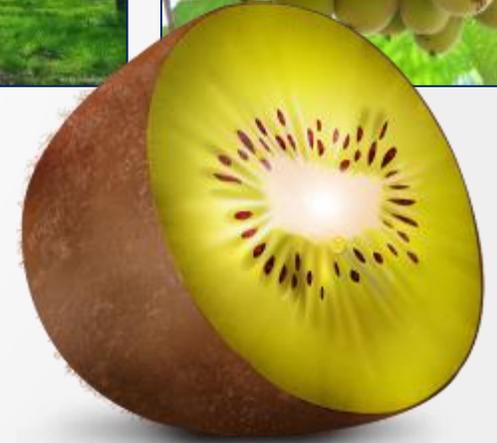


Shaanxi's productivity of apple accounts for 1/7 of the world's total.

Shaanxi's productivity of apple juice accounts for 1/3 of the world's total.



Shaanxi's productivity of kiwi fruit accounts for 1/3 of the world's total.





Shaanxi is obviously advantageous in characteristic agriculture.



Shaanxi has prominent advantages in agricultural production and scientific research. Yangling Agricultural High-tech Industries Demonstration Zone is the only agricultural science city in China.

Shaanxi is obviously advantageous in characteristic agriculture.



In October in 2016, the International Society for Horticulture Science held the First World Apple Conference in Yangling, further promoting the international influence of Shaanxi's agriculture.



Many American enterprises, including the Applied Material, Micron Semiconductor, invested in Shaanxi, and developed faster.

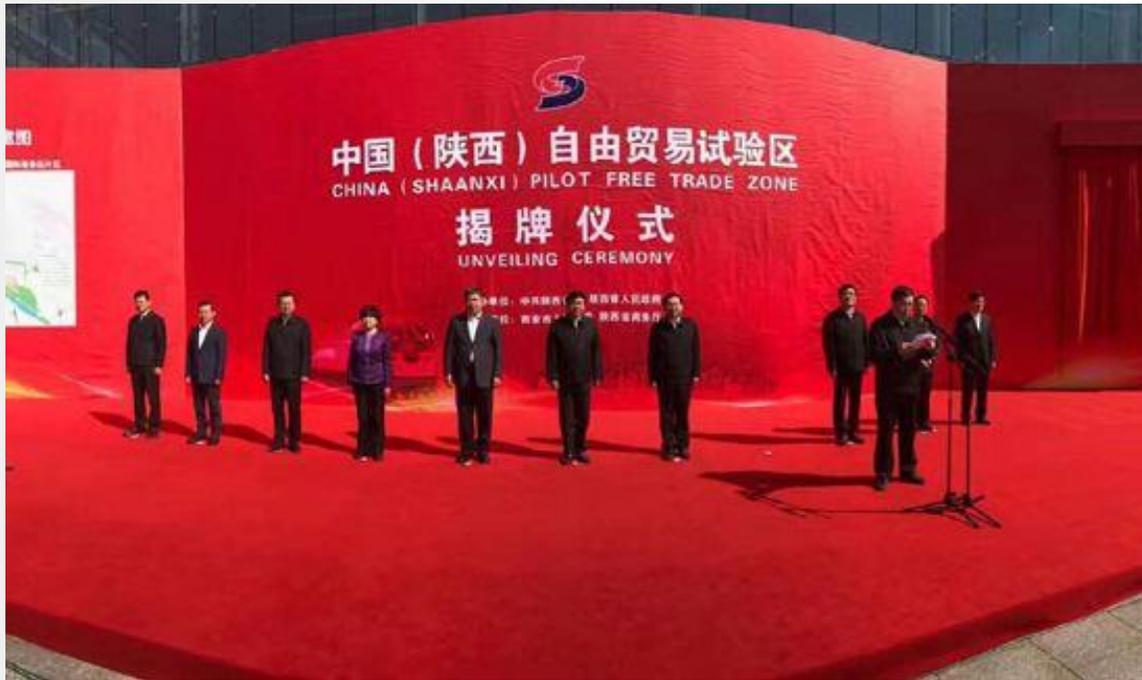


The USA is the third largest trade partner of Shaanxi.



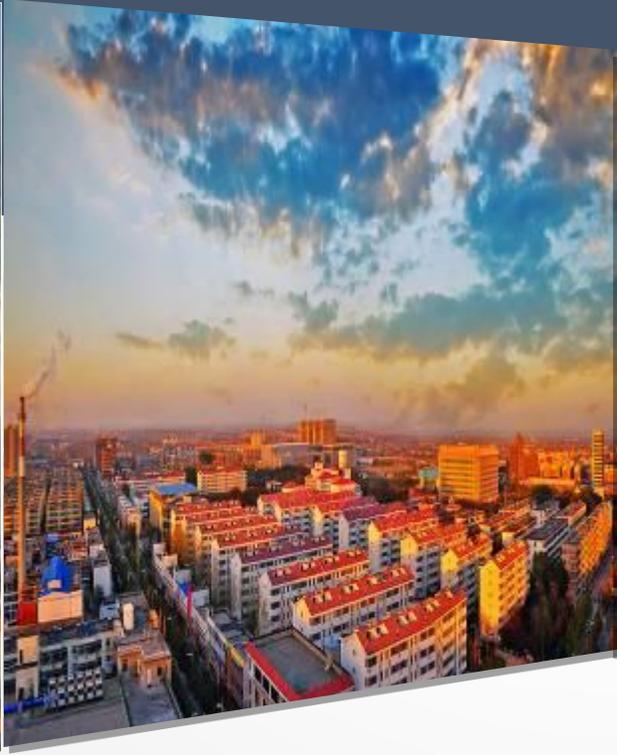
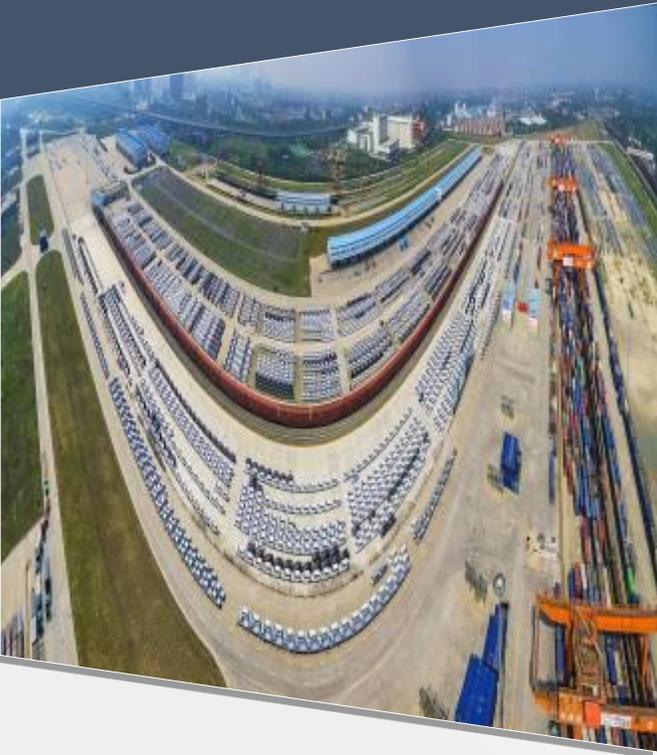
In total, 78 Shaanxi enterprises invested in USA, with the cumulative investment of 250 million US dollars.

The USA is the third largest trade partner of Shaanxi.



On April 1, the pilot free trade zone of Shaanxi was unveiled and put into operation.

Three pieces of advice



To improve cooperative mechanism.



- ◆ Hope to take full use of the complementarity in the competitive fields of agriculture and animal husbandry, energy resources and commerce to support the enterprises of Shaanxi and Nebraska to develop pragmatic cooperation.
- ◆ Take the opportunities of those economic & trade cooperation platforms, such as the World Trade Conference held in Nebraska, the Silk Road International Expo, Yangling Agricultural High-tech Fair and Euro-Asia Economic Forum held in Shaanxi to increase interaction and gradually set up a long-term and sustainable exchange and cooperation mechanism.
- ◆ Depending on our sister province-state friendship, we can keep on widening our friendly exchange between governments and people-to-people, and further deepening our wide cooperation in the fields of agriculture, investment, commerce, culture, education, health care, etc..



To promote the facilitation level for trade & investment.

◆ In the following five years, China will import some commodities with the total value of 8 trillion US dollars, absorb foreign investment of 600 billion US dollars, invest in foreign countries with the total value of 750 billion US dollars and have 700 million tourists traveling abroad.





To promote the facilitation level for trade & investment.

◆ We will make active efforts to provide first-rate service for foreign enterprises including American ones, that came to Shaanxi to invest and develop, and provide facilitation service for those Shaanxi enterprises, that went abroad to invest and develop in other countries, including USA.



◆ We will take the significant opportunity of constructing China (Shaanxi) Pilot Free Trade Zone to fasten reforming and innovation, expand foreign investment admission, strengthen intellectual property protection and further optimize investment and development environment.

To promote the facilitation level for trade & investment.



Hope the two sides can strengthen exchange and exploration in regard to pushing forward investment and trade facilitation to provide more convenient and effective service for our enterprises.



To strengthen tourism cooperation.



In recent years, the number of Shaanxi tourists traveling to USA is increasing faster. It was up 29.6% in 2016, compared with the last year. There are 18000 tourists to USA in 2016. In the same period, 350000 American tourists traveled in Shaanxi, increasing 17.2%.



To strengthen tourism cooperation.



Hope the two sides can explore new mode and channel for tourism cooperation, devote greater effort to popularize tourism market, commonly push forward the facilitation for tourism service, attract more tourists, then to keep on promoting international influence of the both-sides tourism brand.



We welcome american tourists including those from the state of nebraska to go sight-seeing in shaanxi. And we will organize shaanxi tourists to travel in america. Thus, we can promote our understanding and friendship.

Sincerely invite American entrepreneurs and friends from all walks of life to participate in conferences and expositions, invest and go sight-seeing in Shaanxi, personally experience the development vigor of Shaanxi, appreciate the charm of Shaanxi culture and share the development opportunities of Shaanxi to make common development come true.





Thank you!