

Branstad-China Ties



BACKGROUND WITH CHINA

- Served as governor of Iowa for 6 terms equaling over 22 years (1983-1999 and 2011-present); longest-serving governor in American history
- Considered an “old friend”, a culturally significant title, by President Xi Jinping
- Has long-standing relationship with Chinese Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai
- Collaborated with Ministry of Agriculture for China, including meetings with Minister Han Changfu
- Worked closely with Madam Li Xiaolin of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to further relationships between states in America and Chinese provinces
- As an active voice for trade, Gov. Branstad has met with leaders from the Ministry of Finance
- Gov. Branstad has led 6 trade mission to China during his time as governor meeting with numerous provincial governors and local officials
- Gov. Branstad first visited Hebei Province in 1984
- Supports President-elect Trump's mission to negotiate trade deals that put America's interests first
- Wife, Christine; 3 adult children, Eric (Adrienne), Allison (Jerry), Marcus (Nicole); 7 grandchildren

“Coming here is really like coming home. You can't even imagine what a deep impression I had from my visit 27 years ago to Muscatine, because you were the first group of Americans that I came in contact with. My impression of the country came from you. For me, you are America.” - Xi Jinping, 2012

TIMELINE OF BRANSTAD-CHINA RELATIONSHIP

1983--Branstad signs a formal agreement establishing the sister-state relationship between Hebei province and Iowa

1984--Governor leads fifty-person delegation to Hebei

1985--Xi Jinping, then a county-level party leader from Hebei, visits Iowa for the very first time and meets with Branstad at the state capitol in his formal office

2011—Branstad meets with Chinese provincial governors in Salt Lake City, Utah

2011--Branstad has the honor of meeting with Xi, then vice-president, in the Great Hall of the People; Branstad extends an invitation to him to visit Iowa

2012--Vice President Xi visits Des Moines and Muscatine after 27 years; Branstad sends a personal thank-you to Xi and invited him to an “old friends” reunion dinner

2012--Branstad and Xi's 20 Iowa friends return to China for an “old friends” reunion dinner

2014--Marks the 5th trade mission to China with other governors led by Branstad and meets with President Xi

2015--Branstad meets with President Xi in Seattle, Washington to discuss trade opportunities between Iowa and China

2016--Becomes the 6th Chinese trade mission led by Branstad to expand beef and pork exports

PRESS CLIPS

<https://governor.iowa.gov/2012/01/gov-branstad-and-It-gov-reynolds-welcome-chinese-vice-president-xi-jinping-to-iowa>
<http://www.ktiv.com/story/33675979/2016/11/Thursday/following-compliments-from-trump-branstad-addresses-future>
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/06/06/iowa-governor-chinese-leader-are-old-friends/2398943/>
<http://www.businessinsider.com/a-rural-town-in-iowa-helped-chinas-president-xi-jinping-rise-to-power-2015-4>