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Chinese bank agreement to boost trade and investment

An agreement between the NSW Government and the China Development Bank Corporation will help promote Chinese investment and development of major projects in NSW, Minister for State Development Ian Macdonald said today.

"The Government and the Bank will work together to enhance bilateral economic and trade relations and facilitate economic development in NSW and China," said Mr Macdonald at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Vice President of China Development Bank Corporation, Shanghai Branch, Ms Xu Guozhen.

The China Development Bank Corporation is a State-owned financial institution that provides financing to leading Chinese companies for projects such as infrastructure, energy and transportation.

It was established in 1994 and has 32 branches and four representative offices in China.

Mr Macdonald said the NSW Government and the Corporation would co-operate in facilitating major developments in resources, infrastructure, clean energy, minerals processing and agriculture.

"NSW's bilateral trade with China was worth \$20.4 billion in 2008-09 and has grown by nearly 138 per cent in the past five years," Minister Macdonald said.

"The presence of these banks in Sydney has a flow-on effect encouraging international companies to invest in NSW.

"Sydney is Australia's finance hub, with 81 per cent of all foreign and domestic banks based here generating 42 per cent of Australia's financial services income here in NSW.

Mr Macdonald said the NSW Government places a high priority on further developing Sydney as a global business and financial centre in the Asia Pacific.

Ms Xu said the China Development Bank Corporation welcomed the opportunity to work with the NSW Government.

"The MoU provides the basis for the further development of China's business relationship with NSW," Ms Xu said.

"It is part of the Corporation's role to support Chinese enterprises to seek international investments," she said.
