The matchmaking meeting between Chinese and foreign entrepreneurs is an important part of this year's fair. Chinese enterprises have taken their competences in the global innovation, to boost both of their enterprises. The two sides will establish cooperation platforms, serving the 20 provincial regions in west China.

In 2006, the China-EU Technology Cooperation Platform was set up in the high-tech zone in Chengdu to promote cooperation and exchange in technology, trade and investment. The platform consists of international agencies from China and EU members, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and Poland, and has built one of the most important Sino-EU cooperation platforms, serving 20 provincial regions in west China.

As the first national-level cooperation zone, Chengdu high-tech zone has promoted innovation, cooperation fields have expanded from business and trade to research and innovation and industry relacion. At least 10 EU member states participated in the event, and every EU country sent one delegate.

In October last year, the event held some of its promotional activities in Netanya, out of Chengdu for the first time. These activities also went to Shenzhen in Shenzhen province and Qingdao in Shandong province this November. Entreprise Europe Network built its West China Center in Chengdu and North China Center came to Chengdu.

The Chengdu high-tech zone has hosted the event since 2011, building cooperation between the pure business opportunities and innovation and cooperation. The cooperation areas in innovation and technology and research.

The fair saw some progress in China-EU cooperation in investment and trade, innovative, electronic information industries, the bio-medicine industry, new energy and environmental protection, the committee added. More than 300 Chinese enterprises held 800 negotiations with 315 European companies in sectors including aerospace and aviation, bio-medicine, machine manufacturing, new energy and environmental protection. The fair held some of its promotional activities, making it one of the most influential events of its kind between China and the EU.

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In an innovation cooperation meeting during the fair, the China-EU Technology Cooperation Platform was set up in the high-tech zone in Chengdu to promote cooperation and exchange in technology, trade and investment. The platform consists of international agencies from China and EU members, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and Poland, and has built one of the most important Sino-EU cooperation platforms, serving 20 provincial regions in west China.

As the first national-level cooperation zone, Chengdu high-tech zone has deepened cooperation with Singapore, South Korea and Cuba. It will also strengthen its strategic cooperation with the Silicon Valley in the US, Tel Aviv in Israel, Bangalore in India and Hsinchu in Taiwan provinces, to achieve better bi-directional flow of innovation talent, capital and technology and build itself into an innovation hub with international influence.

Despite head of the delegation of the European Union to China Carmen Cano said the EU has developed into China’s largest trade partner since the two sides founded diplomatic relations 40 years ago. Six in the next 40 years, relations between China and EU will deepen, with innovation, research and development occupying increasingly important positions.

Cano believes China and the EU have many potential cooperation agreements in the fields of research and innovation. The EU’s Horizon 2020 program shares many similarities with the Chinese government’s plans to boost innovation and new businesses start ups and there are broad cooperation areas in innovation and research.

Philippe Marnat, a senior official at the Sophia Antipolis Science and Technology Park in Valence, said the Chengdu high-tech zone and the Sophia Antipolis park have broad development and cooperation prospects, and international cooperation is the common demand. Both parks plan to carry out more market-oriental activities and create more development opportunities and innovation centers.

Alouex Simon de Blas, vice-president of the European Business Innovation Centres Network, praised the incubator model in Chengdu’s high-tech zone. He said China has many development opportunities for the network members, and he will encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to pursue business opportunities in Chengdu.

“We will deepen our exchanges and cooperation with European countries and increase the fair’s coverage and influence in Sino-EU cooperation, and foster win-win cooperation in industry, investment and exchanges, as to let Chengdu occupy a commanding height in China’s Belt and Road Initiative,” said Fan Yi, director of the high-tech zone’s administrative committee.

By LI YUAN and LIU YU

The 30th China-EU Business and Technology Cooperation Fair, which has played a pivotal role in promoting cooperation between its host city Chengdu and Europe in the past 10 years, has witnessed profound changes.

The fair has contributed to more inter-governmental cooperation programs. Chengdu started running direct flights to London and Frankfurt and will have a direct flight to Amsterdam. The city has shuttle flights twice daily for the New Forest Land Bridge Ltd, Poland, Chengdu bound, to strengthen cooperation with Europe in Denmark and has established a new economic and environmental protection research and development cooperation center.

Stemcell China Technology Coatings Center’s project came to the city, while the China-Czech aviation industry center in Chengdu has developed quickly. The Czech Republic opened its consulate general in Chengdu in September and the China-Finme Montpellier Elementary School opened in Chengdu High-Tech Industrial Development Zone, deepening city-city relations.

More than 50 European business agencies and high-tech enterprises from Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Poland and Denmark, moved to Chengdu’s high-tech zone as a result of the fair. More than 40 cooperation agreements in areas including technology transfer, investment and trade, worth 500 million euros ($78.5 million), were signed between China and European enterprises. These generated about 2 billion yuan in production value in upstream and downstream industries and invested the zone hit 421 million. The total foreign-investment import and export value in the bonded zone was 915.5 billion yuan, ranking third in China among all bonded areas.

Fan Yi, head of the high-tech zone’s administrative committee, said, “We support famous enterprises, innovation and institutions to set up R&D agencies in the zone, and will work forward to introducing a host of talented professionals from around the world to build the zone into a international production capacity cooperation, and the internationalization of new technologies.”

“Also pay attention to improving the environment of the Shanghai Free-Trade Zone, and will continue to improve the investment environment, create more development of cross-border commerce and bonded trade, so as to build a business environment that is international standards,” Fan added.

In June, central authorities approved the high-tech zone as the eighth national-level innovation model zone. On Oct 31, the governments of China and South Korea agreed to set up a China-South Korea innovation park in this high-tech zone.

According to the zone’s administration committee, the China-South Korea innovation park will be composed of a number of incubators and industrial parks.

Fan said that the Chengdu high-tech zone will actively support international industrial cooperation and development, deepen cooperation with Singapore, South Korea, and Cuba, and as an example of cooperation in coverages of countries and economics, to build the zone into a world-class platform for talents, capital and technology.

Contact the writers at liyang@chinadaily.com.cn

The high-tech zone zone’s administrative committee.

Contact the writers at liyang@chinadaily.com.cn

Influential event promotes China and Europe’s development plans for research and innovation

Decades-old event yields series of achievements

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In Chengdu