



Provost Kim Wilcox (fifth from left) participated in the opening ceremonies of the MSU China Office in Beijing in October 2006. Other dignitaries pictured were Yang Shu, Jonathan Choi, and Qu Dongyu.

Provost's Week in China Addresses Multiple Priorities

The bond between MSU and China was further strengthened during an October trip to China by top level MSU administrators that included the grand opening of the MSU China Office, the signing of several partnership agreements between MSU and Chinese institutions, and a student recruitment fair.

Provost Kim Wilcox traveled to China for a week in mid-October, accompanied by Jeffrey Riedinger, acting dean of International Studies and Programs; Weijun Zhao, director of the Office of China Programs on the MSU campus; and Kim Gladstone, ISP's director of development and external relations.

The opening ceremonies for the MSU China Office in Beijing took place October 10. For the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Wilcox was joined on stage by Yang Shu, vice president of Lanzhou University; Jonathan Choi, president of the Sun Wah Group; and Qu Dongyu, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

The ceremony was attended by about 100 people and was covered by the local media. An interview with Wilcox ran that evening on China's CC-TV Channel 4.

While in Beijing, Wilcox and Riedinger signed formal agreements of cooperation with the State Forestry Administration and the Forestry Economics and Development Research Center. The agreements solidified the relationship between the center and MSU's College of Agriculture and National Resources in ecosystem policy research. Wilcox also spoke at the opening session of the 2006 International Forum on Online Education, which MSU was co-sponsoring.

The delegation also traveled to Hangzhou in Zhejiang province (southwest of Shanghai) for the signing of an agreement with Zhejiang University that will lead to joint research, technical assistance, and development of electronic instructional materials, and student and faculty exchanges.

In addition, there were meetings with China's vice minister of education, Wu Qidi, and representatives of other government agencies and educational institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Beijing Forestry University, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, National Agro-technical Extension and Service Center, Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Nanchang University, China

President Simon Visits Hong Kong

President Lou Anna K. Simon was in Hong Kong January 8–10, 2007, to meet with higher education leaders and alumni. She was accompanied by ISP Acting Dean Jeffrey Riedinger. Highlights of the trip were meetings with Lawrence T. Wong (Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, 1970), CEO of the Hong Kong Jockey Club; and Jonathan Choi, president of the Sun Wah Group and chairman of the Sun Wah Education Foundation. (A \$5 million grant from the foundation in 2004 funds the U.S.-China Center for Research on Educational Excellence on the MSU campus.) President Simon is shown presenting Choi with a package containing an official MSU Beaumont Tower plate. Choi's gift to Simon was a crystal replica of a "jin ding," an ancient Chinese cooking vessel, which the China Academy of Science Academician Honor Foundation, supported by Sun Wah, awards China's most renowned scholars.



Radio and TV University, and China Education Association for International Exchange.

For the first time, MSU had a booth at the annual International Education Expo along with 250 other universities from 30 countries. Wilcox and Riedinger joined MSU's Barb Kolar, assistant director for international admission, and other MSU representatives to answer questions from potential students. An estimated 30,000 students and parents attended the two-day event.

In the October 23 "From the Provost's Desk" message about his China trip, Wilcox said, "Collectively, my experiences from the trip solidified my belief that the partnerships and programs MSU continues to nurture in China reflect the kind of momentum that will help move the university from land-grant to world-grant. While they are recognizably progressive and forward-thinking, they are at once hallmark MSU. And that, to me, says we're moving in the right direction."



Provost Wilcox speaks with a potential student at an education fair in Beijing in October. He was in the city for the opening of the MSU China Office.