



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amy Hawkinson
amy.hawkinson@som.com
312.360.4309

CHICAGO CHINA INVESTMENT MISSION LAUNCHES AT SOM

March 17, 2011 (Chicago, IL) – Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and Chinese Consul General Yang Guoqiang today launched from SOM Chicago a 10-day investment-attraction mission to five cities in the Peoples Republic of China.

Noting that SOM had worked on more than 150 projects in 30 Chinese cities, delegation leader Mayor Daley repeatedly praised the firm for its efforts to help build the new China and modern-day Chicago.

“It is great Chicago companies like SOM that have done so much to build our special relationship with China, all over China,” said Mayor Daley, backed by Chicago business leaders, including SOM City Design Practice Partner Phil Enquist, who will accompany him Friday on the marketing mission to Beijing, Tianjin, Hangzhou, Chongqing and Hong Kong.

Mayor Daley said Chicago was ready to welcome major Chinese investments in infrastructure like high-speed rail and large urban development sites like the Lakeside project that SOM has been master planning on the Southside lakefront land once occupied by U.S. Steel’s giant Southworks operation.

Chicago Managing Partner Jeffrey McCarthy conferred with Consul General Yang about SOM’s work throughout China and about opportunities for future cooperation to build mutually beneficial friendship and business relations. McCarthy and Enquist also conferred privately with Mayor Daley on a variety of Chicago-building subjects.

The launch took place at a press conference in the lobby of SOM Chicago, with large models of some of SOM’s iconic, skyline-defining buildings in China as a backdrop to the Mayor’s and Consul General’s remarks. A Mayor’s Office press release highlighted the LEED Gold China World Trade Center Tower, the capital city’s tallest structure, designed by SOM Chicago Design Partner Brian Lee.

The Chicago Mayor was also generous in his praise of SOM “as a great corporate citizen of Chicago that has been giving back to make this a great city for many, many years, and I really very much appreciate all they have done in so many ways.”

ABOUT SOM

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM) is one of the leading architecture, interior design, engineering, and urban-planning firms in the world, with a 75-year reputation for design excellence and a portfolio that includes some of the most important architectural accomplishments of the 20th and 21st centuries. Since its inception, SOM has been a leader in the research and development of specialized technologies, new processes and



Name
March 17, 2011
Page 2 of 2

innovative ideas, many of which have had a palpable and lasting impact on the design profession and the physical environment. The firm's longstanding leadership in design and building technology has been honored with more than 1,400 awards for quality, innovation, and management. The American Institute of Architects has recognized SOM twice with its highest honor, the Architecture Firm Award—in 1962 and again in 1996. The firm maintains offices in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., London, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Brussels, Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

More information can be found at www.som.com.