

Exposé

Best practice approaches from Hamburg for G20 challenges

Free Global Trade

The G20 continuously reviews ways of achieving strong, sustainable and balanced global economic growth. Ever since the first G20 summit in Washington, DC in 2008, trade has been included in the G20's permanent agenda, since growth and employment are dependent on free global trade. Therefore, the G20 regularly issues clear statements opposing protectionism and supporting fair terms of competition. (www.g20.org)

Cultivated for centuries since the Hanseatic League, free trade and interchange have been a driver of Hamburg's ethos as eagerness to experiment, entrepreneurial spirit and innovative strength.

Keywords: trade, logistics, free trade, China, One Belt – One Road

One Belt – One Road

From the Hanseatic League to the New Silk Road

Hamburg regards itself as a central hub for the sea and overland routes of the New Silk Road that will be part of the Chinese government's "One Belt – One Road" initiative. The idea of the New Silk Road continues Hamburg's centuries-old tradition as a Hanseatic city as regular ship departures from Hamburg to the east coast of China can be traced back to the mid-18th century. Hamburg has maintained close relations with its Chinese partner city of Shanghai since the 1980s. Hamburg and China are linked in various ways, and a growing number of freight train connections to other regions within the People's Republic is being developed in addition to existing sea routes.

Thanks to its favourable inland location and excellent hinterland connections, the port of Hamburg is ideally suited as a hub of the New Silk Road. The port's efficiency and innovative power and the ongoing expansion of both analogue and digital port infrastructure further add to this. But even at this current stage, China is Hamburg's most important trading partner, with a total volume of approx. 2.6 million containers handled in 2016. As Hamburg is the largest maritime terminal in Europe and 47% of hinterland traffic is conducted via rail, a growing number of direct train routes have been established between Hamburg and China. In April 2017 alone, Hamburg recorded 177 freight movements by rail between the port of Hamburg and 32 destinations in China.

This lively exchange extends not only to the economic, but also to the cultural sphere, with numerous collaborations and networks in the fields of art and culture as well as education and science. The idea of interconnecting Europe and China further is reflected in events such as the Hamburg-Shanghai vintage car rally along the historic Silk Road, which was first organised in 2006. Today, Hamburg has established itself as the leading centre for China-related expertise.

Hardly any other location in Europe offers such concentrated knowledge on China. Together, all of these factors contribute to ensuring that the entire value chain is perfectly aligned with business ties with China. The expansion of transport infrastructure between these two regions is a crucial step in this regard. A fruitful cooperation between Europe and Asia as part of the “One Belt – One Road” initiative expands the range of possibilities to jointly master the challenges of the 21st century.

Further information

www.marketing.hamburg.de/hamburg-china.html (Chinese only)

www.chinetime.hamburg.de

Facts & figures

- Trade relations between Hamburg and China since 18th century
- Port of Hamburg: 2.6 million containers handled with China in 2016
- 177 freight movements by rail with 32 destinations in China in April 2017

Picture material

www.marketing.hamburg.de/mediaserver-result/media/405.html

www.marketing.hamburg.de/mediaserver-result/media/403.html

www.marketing.hamburg.de/mediaserver-result/media/349.html

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About Hamburg and the G20

On 7 and 8 July, the heads of state and government of the world's leading 20 industrialised and emerging economies and their delegations are meeting in Hamburg, Germany. The exhibition grounds of Hamburg Messe in the very heart of the city will serve as the main venue for the summit. Hamburg, the "gateway to the world" with a port that is connected to 950 ports in some 180 countries worldwide, will be the first German city to play host to a G20 summit. In addition to the venues at the exhibition grounds, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the city's new landmark, will also play a special role. The new concert hall officially opened its gates in January. In the context of the summit, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel has invited the heads of state and government as well as the representatives of the participating organisations to a concert on the night of the first day of the summit.

As part of its G20 presidency, Germany will be addressing traditional G20 issues relating to the global economy, trade, financial market regulations and fiscal policy, which have been included in the agenda ever since the financial crisis of 2008/2009. In addition, Germany aims to draw public attention to today's global challenges, such as combating pandemics, work safety, the promotion of women, ways of dealing with displacement and migration, prospects for African economies, as well as policy measures in the areas of climate protection, energy, and sustainable development. In Hamburg all of these topics have been of relevance and the city can offer many best practice examples and innovative projects connected with the G20 topics.

Further information, text material, statements, photos and footage, exposés and comprehensive media services by the City of Hamburg relating to the G20 are available at www.marketing.hamburg.de/g20.html

For G20 accreditation, themes and topics, please visit the official G20 website at www.g20.org

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