MEDIA STATEMENT
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NSW Premier launches ACPET China

New China presence to provide in-country support for one of Australia’s largest export industries

In a move to further boost educational ties between Australia and China, the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) today announced the launch of ACPET China. ACPET’s establishment of a permanent presence in China will provide in-country support to ACPET members that are currently active, or wish to become active in the China market, with the goal of official recognition by China’s Ministry of Education.

NSW Premier Mr Barry O’Farrell launched ACPET’s China presence at an official function yesterday afternoon in the city of Chengdu. Mr O’Farrell is leading a high level trade and investment delegation from NSW that is visiting Guangzhou, Chengdu, Jinan and Beijing. ACPET’s Chief Executive Officer, Claire Field, is a delegation partner.

“NSW is focused on welcoming a growing number of international students to the state” said Premier O’Farrell.

“The NSW Government is working in cooperation with the Australian Government to make it easier for international students to study in Australia. We welcome international students and value the contribution of private education providers in NSW.”

ACPET CEO Claire Field thanked the Premier for his Government’s recognition of the role of privately-owned tertiary institutions and for launching ACPET’s China presence, which she said will help to promote the many high quality Australian education opportunities available to Chinese students who are considering studying overseas.

“ACPET’s presence in Chongqing will also assist us to establish high-level government, industry and provider relationships for our members,” Ms Field said. “It is also a further step towards our mission of providing better support and services to Chinese students coming to Australia.

ACPET also announced the appointment of Li Min as ACPET’s Executive Officer for China at the launch event. Ms Li’s main responsibilities include leading and coordinating ACPET’s activities in China, establishing and maintaining high-level government contacts, and providing linkages to education and training for prospective students.

ACPET’s new office in Chongqing follows extensive due diligence on the part of ACPET and also two large scale delegation trips by ACPET members. Chongqing is the gateway city to western China with a population of 31.4 million spread across 42 districts. It forms a key manufacturing and distribution hub on the upper Yangtze River. Chengdu, a sister city, lies some 300km away by rail link.

ACPET has 1,100 members delivering higher education, vocational education and training and English
language courses throughout Australia, with approximately one third of its members are in New South Wales (NSW). NSW is a leading destination for international students, with the majority of students from China and throughout the world choosing NSW as their study destination.

**Media Contact:**
ACPET Chief Executive Officer, Claire Field
+61 411 240 671
Claire.Field@acpet.edu.au