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Germany is helping China to modernize its emergency rescue services under a long-standing and successful partnership that was taken to a new level a few days ago with the signing of an action plan for cooperation on healthcare during the China-Germany intergovernmental consultations in Berlin. The action plan includes rescue and emergency medical services. China and Germany plan to profile their cooperation, including this exciting new intergovernmental development, at a joint pavilion at INTERSCHUTZ 2015, the world's leading exhibition for rescue, fire prevention, disaster relief, safety and security, which will be held in Hannover, Germany, in June 2015.

The German side of the cooperation with China is spearheaded by the Björn Steiger Foundation under the joint medical directorship of Dr. Roland Huf, of Munich University Hospital (KUM), and Dr. Stefan Lührs, a noted emergency medical specialist. Dr. Lührs: “The cooperation project, which has now received official government blessing, is Germany’s biggest-ever bilateral cooperation project in the field of emergency and rescue services.” The Björn Steiger Foundation was instrumental in setting up Germany’s modern emergency rescue service. In terms of its involvement in China, the Foundation is responsible mainly for designing and structuring China’s emergency rescue service and for overseeing the provision of state-of-the-art technical equipment. It has already developed a master plan for modernizing and developing the country’s emergency rescue infrastructure with the aim of creating an integrated land- and air-based service modeled on the German system. The master plan will initially be implemented in two cities: Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province, and Jieyang, Guangdong Province.

“We are proud to have the opportunity to present this bold and ambitious project next year at INTERSCHUTZ in Hannover,” said Dr. Jochen Köckler, a member of the Managing Board of Deutsche Messe AG, the company that organizes INTERSCHUTZ. “Needless to say, our primary interest is in the humanitarian benefits that a state-of-the-art rescue and disaster relief service can deliver. Having said that, we are also pleased to say that the cooperation is a boon to the economies of both countries. Both aspects will be evident at the German-Chinese joint pavilion.”

Several German companies are playing a key part in the cooperative project and have already agreed to exhibit at the German-Chinese joint pavilion at INTERSCHUTZ. Among them are Airbus Helicopters, Daimler, Strobel, Volkswagen and Ziegler. Several of these firms already have branch offices in China, where their activities are creating jobs for local people. The modern rescue service infrastructure they are helping to build is also making the participating Chinese cities more attractive for foreign experts and investors.

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