**Annex III:**

**An Overview of Putian**

Putian, a prefecture-level city of Fujian Province, with its ancient name of“Xinghua”, “Xingan”,“Puyang” or “Puxian”, has been the center of politics, economy and culture in the middle of Fujian Province and is one of Fujian “famous historical and cultural cities.”. Litchis are harvested in large quantities here, thus Putian is also called “the Litchi City”. As an emerging port city and the Mazu Cultural Center, Putian is dubbed as a “seashore city” endowed with rich culture and literature. Putian has successively won the Top 100 Chinese City with great investment attraction, China’s best commercial city, national garden city, the city of footwear export base in China, the Chinese wood carving city, and has been awarded the Prize of the National Model Green City, Chinese classical furniture city, Chinese silver ornament city, the industrial base of Chinese jewel and jade, etc.

Located in the central coast of Fujian, Putian is on the west bank of the Taiwan Straits, on the north of Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian province and the south of Quanzhou and Xiamen special economic zone. Its east longitude is between 118°27`-119°39`, and north latitude 24°59`-25°46`, covering a total land area of 4,119 square kilometers and sea area of 11,000 square kilometers. There are more than 150 islands distributed around Meizhou bay, Xinghua bay and Pinghai bay. Putian enjoys Subtropical marine monsoon climate with its annual average temperature between 18℃ and 21℃. Putian is home to marine products, such as abalones, prawns, swimming crabs, Ding Changyu and so on. Its four kinds of fruit, namely, longan, litchi, loquat and Wendan pomelo are known to the world, thus being referred to as “the Land of Fish and Rice” and “the City of Fruits”

Authorized by State Council, Putian City was founded in September, 1983. After the adjustment of administrative division in February of 2002, it currently governs Xianyou County, Licheng District, Chengxiang District, Hanjiang District, Xiuyu District, Meizhou National Holiday Resort Management Committee and North Shore of Meizhou Bay Economic Development Zone Management Committee. Its urban built-up area is 88.52 square kilometers, and the total population is 3,290,000 by the end of 2013, including 2,830,000 residential population. Putian is also the ancestral home of most Chaozhou-Shangtou people, and the hometown of overseas Chinese. By 2014, it has more than 1,500,000 Chinese from abroad, distributed in 84 countries and areas. Putian has approved 1518 oversea Chinese enterprises, with a total investment of $7.577 billion and utilizing overseas Chinese investment of $7.002 billion , accounting for over 75% of the total utilizing foreign investment in Putian.

Putian is unique for its custom and culture. The diligence of the people, the strong local accent, the unique Mazhu costumes, the Putian Opera are all full of interest; the traditional rites and the architectural style are colorful. Putian has special dialect. It is said that the dialect of Putian was the official language used during Tang Dynasty. Also, many famous people came from Putian, including over 2000 Jinshi (a person who passed all three examinations held by the government in ancient time), 10 Zhuangyuan(a person who won the Number 1 in the final), and 8 prime minister (in feudal China) during the 1200 years from Tang to Qing Dynasty. Many artistic talents came out through the ages in Putian, including calligraphy masters Cai Xiang (one of the four famous calligraphers in Song Dynasty), Cai Jing, Cai Bian, Chen Zhang, Chen Wenlong, Liu Kezhuang, Guo Shangxian, Zhou Ying, Song Yu, etc; Painters Ceng Jing, a famous portrait master in Ming Dynasty, who had created the "Embossing Method" with national style, also known as the "Bochen School". His works has the extremely important status in the history of Chinese painting. Also, the representative painters of modern Xianyou School of painting were Li Xia, Li Geng, Huang Xi, Zhou Xiuting, etc. The famous sculptures with cultural value include Mazu wooden statue in the Southern Song Dynasty (anonymous sculptor), Muzu statue in the former main shrine in Meizhou Mazu Temple in Putian (original authors were Lin Tiandang and Lin Shenghuang), and the stone carving dragon post by Guo Huai in Qing Dynasty, etc.

Putian boasts picturesque scenery and numerous historical sites. With more than 250 places of historic interest and scenic beauty, it is one of Fujian “famous historical and cultural cities.”Mazu cultural tourism is ranked as one of ten provincial tourism brands. Also it has Meizhou bay Xiuyu deep water harbour which is famous as “rare in the world and infrequent in china”. The other major resort areas include Meizou National Holiday Resort, Jiulihu Lake, Putian Arts and Crafts City, Chinese Classical Art Expo City, South Shaolin Temple, Jiulong Valley, Caixi Rock, Yongxing Rock, Guanghua Temple, Sanqing Temple, Mulan Pei, Ninghai Bridge, Putian Royal Manor Hot Spring Resort. Therefore it is listed as one of the top tourist destinations for people at home and abroad. Also it has Meizhou bay Xiuyu deep water harbor which is famous as “rare in the world and infrequent in china”. Opening to the outside world and docking stations, Xiuyu Harbor has been built with great utility of 19 wharves, and has opened to navigation with many countries and regions of the world.