

China underscores importance of the Kimberley Process

Officials in China highlighted the importance of the Kimberley Process (KP) in promoting the healthy and sustainable development of the diamond industry, local Chinese news portal *eastday.com* **reported** recently. China is currently the world's second-biggest diamond consumer and fourth rough diamond trader, industry members said.

These remarks were made recently at the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme Intersessional Meeting 2014 in Shanghai, which drew the participation of Zhi Shuping, head of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ); Yang Xiong, mayor of Shanghai; Wei Chuanzhong, chair of this year's Kimberley Process and deputy head of AQSIA; and Edward Asscher, president of the World Diamond Council.

As one of the founding members of the KP, China has been actively promoting the use of conflict-free diamonds, Zhi said.

Shanghai, where the country's only official diamond trading platform – the Shanghai Diamond Exchange – is located, has become the diamond trading centre in the country, said the city's mayor Yang Xiong. Diamond trading volume in the city has been growing by 40 percent each year, thanks to the strict implementation of the KP, he added. Shanghai's Free Trade Zone, which was unveiled in July 2013, is also expected to further boost diamond trade in the city, according to Yang.