On March 13, 2017, the EastWest Institute (EWI), in concert with the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), convened the first ever conference on prospects for infrastructure cooperation between the United States and China. This conference, held in Beijing, brought together a U.S. delegation comprising investment and infrastructure experts—some of whom have advised the Trump administration on infrastructure—with Chinese counterparts from a number of private sector and state-owned enterprises. Discussion throughout the conference focused on the policy priorities of the Trump Administration; the Trump administration’s vision for the development of U.S. infrastructure; the current state of U.S.-China relations; and opportunities, challenges and recommendations for U.S.-China infrastructure cooperation.

While in Beijing, the U.S. delegation also met with senior representatives from the Communist Party of China and officials from a number of Chinese governmental ministries and agencies involved in infrastructure, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Commerce; the Ministry of Finance; and the National Development and Reform Commission. The delegation also met with officials from the Embassy of the United States in Beijing to share key outcomes from the meetings with Chinese officials. Throughout both the conference and official meetings, the delegates raised a number of proposals and recommendations for the Trump-Xi presidential summit at Mar-a-Lago in April.

The conference highlighted various opportunities for cooperation between the two countries, including Chinese investment in U.S. infrastructure projects and potential U.S.-China infrastructure cooperation in third-country (and especially emerging) markets. Participants from the two sides agreed that both the Trump administration’s prioritization of revitalizing U.S. infrastructure as well as the opportunities for Chinese investment in U.S. infrastructure create the potential for enhanced, mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.
Meet the Delegates

Conference on U.S.-China Infrastructure Cooperation

U.S. DELEGATES

Norman F. ANDERSON
As president and CEO of CG/LA Infrastructure, Mr. Anderson focuses on infrastructure project development, aimed at increasing growth, job creation and wealth in economies worldwide. He also led Blueprint 2025, a guide to building U.S. infrastructure being used by the Trump administration, which brought together 100 private and public entities to create a 19-point series of recommendations designed to double the level of infrastructure investment in the United States.

Andrew CHARLESWORTH
Mr. Charlesworth is a director of John Laing Capital Management Ltd. (JLCM) and is responsible for delivering the fund’s performance targets. He also leads the finance advisory board of the Blueprint 2025 infrastructure plan, which is being used by the Trump administration as a guide for infrastructure initiatives.

David J. FIRESTEIN
Mr. Firestein is the EastWest Institute’s Perot Fellow and senior vice president for the Strategic Trust-Building Initiative and Track 2 Diplomacy. In this capacity, he leads the EastWest Institute’s Asia-Pacific program and Russia and United States program. A career U.S. diplomat from 1992 to 2010, Mr. Firestein is an expert on China, Russia, public diplomacy and U.S. politics. In his Foreign Service career, he served at the U.S. embassies in Beijing (five years) and Moscow (four years).

Anthony W. PARKER
Mr. Parker is the four-times elected treasurer of the Republican National Committee and has served in that position since 2011. He was also the treasurer for the 2012 and 2016 Republican Conventions and served on President George W. Bush’s national finance team.

Wayne SILBY
Mr. Silby co-founded Calvert Funds, a $15 billion investment management group noted for its leadership in the area of socially responsible investment. He also co-founded Social Venture Network, a group of socially oriented entrepreneurs and investors, and Calvert Social Venture Partners, one of the first impact venture capital funds.

Daniel M. SLANE
Mr. Slane is the founder and co-owner of The Slane Company, whose principal business includes real estate development, lumber and furniture. He has also served on the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission since 2007 and was chairman of the Commission in 2010 and vice chairman in 2011.

Timothy P. STRATFORD
Mr. Stratford is the managing partner in Covington & Burling LLP’s Beijing office and a member of the firm’s International Trade, Corporate, Public Policy and Government Affairs practice groups. He also served as an assistant United States trade representative (USTR) from 2005 to 2010.
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Yuan Peng (left), David J. Firestein and Andy Pan.

Discussion session at CICIR.

Alan Wong (left) and Andrew Charlesworth.

Wayne Silby (left) and Yuan Peng.
Official Meetings

Meeting at the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC).

Anthony W. Parker (left) and IDCPC Vice Minister Guo Yezhou.

Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the People’s Republic of China.

MFA Director General Cong Peiwu (left), Timothy P. Stratford and Wayne Silby.

Acknowledgements

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