

## WAMTech attends the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai

WAMTech had the privilege of attending the first China International Import Expo (CIIE), which took place from 05-10 November 2018 at the Shanghai National Exhibition and Convention Centre (NECC) in China.



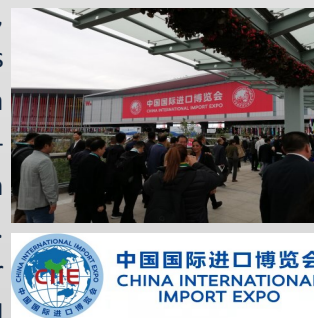
In May 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that China will hold CIIE starting from 2018. It is a significant move for the Chinese government to hold CIIE to give firm support to trade liberalisation and economic globalisation and actively opening the Chinese market to the world. The expo facilitated countries and regions all over the world to strengthen economic cooperation and trade, and to promote world economic growth in order to make the world economy more open.



WAMTech was invited to be part of the official South African delegation representing small businesses. The Department of Small Business Development (DSBD) in partnership with the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) hosted the delegation on a mission to expand trade between small business in South Africa and China. An invitation was extended to 10 National Gazelles, of which WAMTech has been a member since 2016, to accompany the DSBD Deputy Minister, Mr. Cassel Mathale, and the CEO of Seda, Ms. Mandisa

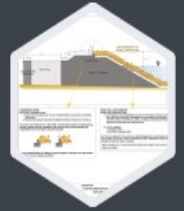
Tshikwatamba, as part of the South African delegation.

In five days we attended several business meetings with government officials, including the Mayor and municipal leaders from Jing'An district, as well as prominent business leaders in Shanghai. The SA delegation also attended a trade conference at the city of Yiwu, where we visited the world largest wholesale market—covering more than 70,000 stores. The massive import exhibition and many spectacular sights in Shanghai, was however the highlight of the trip. Shanghai is an amazing city and the National Exhibition and Convention Center is the world's largest single block building and exhibition complex with a total construction area of nearly 1.5 million m<sup>2</sup>.



It was a truly memorable experience and it was a real honour for WAMTech to be part of this special group. New friends were made and business relationships were established in-between tall skyscrapers, interesting flavourful food, large crowds of people and many friendly and welcoming Chinese faces.

We would like to extend our deep gratitude to Mr Ambrose Makgwale, Programme Manager at Seda for the Gazelles group and all the other staff at Seda and DSBD for making this trip possible and for providing WAMTech the opportunity to expand its markets in an effort to grow and create employment. WAMTech is looking forward to doing business with China and the world!



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