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## Meridian to host Chinese economic, cultural delegation

Visitors plan to explore potential business opportunities in the planned growth corridor.

BY JOE ESTRELLA - [jestrella@idahostatesman.com](mailto:jestrella@idahostatesman.com)  
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A 23-person delegation from Guangzhou, the capital Guangdong Province in southern China, will arrive Wednesday on a three-day visit.

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Plans for the trip have been in the making since **Meridian** Mayor Tammy de Weerd traveled to China in September 2009, said de Weerd executive assistant Robert Simison.

Delegation members are expected to tour The Core, a local health care, technology and industry-related growth corridor, the new Idaho State-**Meridian** Health Science Center. St. Luke's **Meridian** Medical Center, Boise State University and area high schools.

St Luke's, the anchor that is suppose to help lure industry-related businesses to the proposed health care corridor, will **host** a Saturday breakfast for the delegation at 8:15 a.m. at the hospital, followed by a tour of the facility, said spokesman Ken Dey.

The delegation will also meet with representatives from the Idaho Department of Commerce and Lt. Gov. Brad Little, Simison said.

Helping the city organize trip has been Ping He, a California-based businesswoman with ties to Idaho business owners with operations in China. She said the trip is designed to show the delegation "all of the resources we have here, and the first-time investment possibilities."

Chinese businessmen investing \$1 million for five years in American ventures are eligible to obtain visas granting them permanent status in the United States, under rules established by the United States Customs and Immigration Service.

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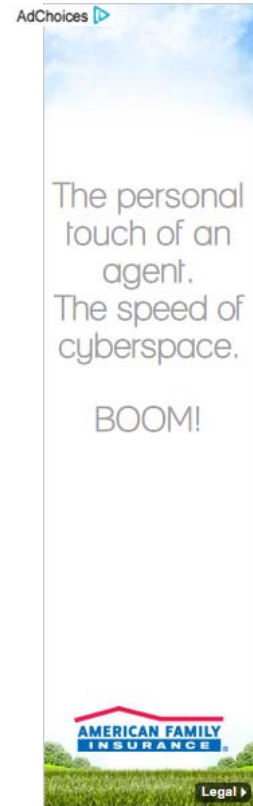
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