2026

Shanghai Foreign Investment Policy Highlights

Shanghai Foreign Investment Development Board

Introduction

Shanghai has long been one of the most dynamic cities in China for foreign investment, with cumulative actual foreign investment exceeding USD 380 billion. Foreign capital plays a pivotal role in driving the city's economic growth, stabilizing employment, and enhancing its core competitiveness and level of internationalization. Currently, nearly 80,000 foreign-invested enterprises in Shanghai contribute approximately one-quarter of the city's GDP, about one-third of its tax revenue, nearly 40% of its industrial output, and around 60% of its goods imports and exports.

In 2025, Shanghai saw the establishment of 6,361 new foreign-invested enterprises, representing a year-on-year increase of 6.8%. The city's actual use of foreign capital totaled USD 16.06 billion, accounting for nearly one-sixth of the national total, while total foreign trade for the year exceeded RMB 4.5 trillion. In the first quarter of 2026, Shanghai saw 1,538 newly established foreign-invested enterprises, up 14% year on year, and actual use of foreign capital reached USD 4.897 billion, an increase of 7.6% year on year. The city also certified 30 regional headquarters of multinational corporations and 15 foreign-funded R&D centers, bringing the totals to 1,091 and 654, respectively. These figures underscore the high level of openness of both China and Shanghai.

To help foreign-invested enterprises gain a comprehensive understanding of the core strengths within Shanghai's current investment policy system, the 2026 Shanghai Foreign Investment Policy Highlights presents over 200 provisions from more than 90 key policies. These are structured around core concerns for foreign investors and foreign-invested enterprises, spanning high-level opening-up, advanced manufacturing, modern services, and various investment factors. The document focuses on three leading industries, namely integrated circuits, biomedicine, and artificial intelligence, as well as key manufacturing sectors such as intelligent connected new energy vehicles, high-end equipment, advanced materials, and life sciences and healthcare. It also highlights modern service sectors, including finance, commerce and trade, cultural and creative industries, the digital economy, and professional services. The aim is to provide overseas enterprises investing in Shanghai with effective and authoritative policy guidance.

For detailed information on application requirements, eligibility criteria, and validity periods of each policy, please refer to the original policy documents. The final interpretation of each policy rests with the respective issuing authorities.

Contents

I. High-Level Opening-Up

(I) Market Access

1. Market Access Negative List

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Commerce, State Administration for Market Regulation

Original Text

Highlights:

The list comprises 106 items, including 6 prohibited access items and 100 permitted access items, representing a reduction of 11 items compared to the 2022 edition.

Main Content:

1. For prohibited access items, market entities are not allowed to enter the relevant sectors. These include: areas explicitly prohibited by laws, regulations, or decisions of the State Council related to market access; products, technologies, processes, equipment, and practices explicitly eliminated or restricted by national industrial policies; development activities that do not comply with the requirements of designated functional zones; and unauthorized engagement in financial-related business activities, Internet-related business activities, and news and media-related services.

2. For permitted access items, local governments at all levels shall establish service procedures for market access in accordance with publicly available laws, regulations, technical standards, licensing requirements, processing procedures, and time limits. Business entities may enter the relevant sectors by meeting the prescribed conditions and following the required procedures. These items cover 100 specific matters across 20 major categories, including agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery, mining, electricity, heat, gas and water production and supply, wholesale and retail, transportation and warehousing, catering and

accommodation, information and software services, financial services, real estate, leasing services, technological research, water conservancy and environmental services, residential services, education, healthcare and social work, as well as culture, sports and entertainment.

2. Catalogue of Encouraged Industries for Foreign Investment

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

National Development and Reform Commission,
Ministry of Commerce

Original Text

Highlights:

With an expanded list of industries encouraged for foreign investment and a focus on high-end intelligent and green manufacturing as well as modern services, the catalogue further broadens investment incentives and preferential support policies, encouraging foreign capital to contribute to China's industrial upgrading and coordinated regional development

Main Content:

1. The updated catalogue contains a total of 1,679 items, representing a net increase of 205 items and 303 revisions compared with the 2022 edition. Specifically, the national catalogue comprises 619 items, with 100 new items and 131 revisions, while the regional catalogue includes 1,060 items, with 105 additions and 172 revisions. Overall, the updates have further expanded the scope of industries encouraged for foreign investment.

2. The catalogue places strong emphasis on high-end, intelligent, and green development, guiding foreign investment toward advanced manufacturing and strategic emerging industries, including integrated circuits, biomedicine, high-end equipment manufacturing, new energy, and new materials. It also encourages foreign investment in modern service sectors, such as the digital economy and information technology services, to promote industrial upgrading.

3. Foreign-invested enterprises in Shanghai engaged in industries listed in the catalogue may enjoy the following preferential policies. First, imported equipment for self-use within the total investment amount is exempt from customs duties, except for products ineligible for duty exemption under national regulations.

Second, encouraged industrial projects that make intensive use of land are given priority in land supply, and the minimum land transfer price may be set at no less than 70% of the national minimum price standard for industrial land transfer corresponding to the local land grade. Foreign-invested enterprises in encouraged sectors are also supported in making flexible use of industrial land through long-term leasing, lease-before-transfer arrangements, and land transfers with flexible durations, to reduce initial land use costs. Third, foreign investors using profits distributed by domestic enterprises to directly reinvest in industries listed in the national catalogue are eligible for tax credit benefits, provided they meet relevant conditions.

3. Special Administrative Measures (Negative List) for Foreign Investment Access

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

National Development and Reform Commission,
Ministry of Commerce

Original Text

Highlights:

The number of restrictive measures on the negative list has been reduced from 31 to 29, and all foreign investment access restrictions in the manufacturing sector have been eliminated.

Main Content:

1. For investment in sectors not covered in the negative list, foreign-invested enterprises enjoy national treatment equal to that of domestic investors. For sectors included in the negative list, foreign investors must comply with special administrative measures regarding equity and senior management personnel requirements for market access.

2. The 2024 edition of the negative list has removed two restrictive measures: “the printing of publications must be controlled by the Chinese side” and “investment is prohibited in the application of traditional Chinese medicine processing techniques such as steaming, frying, roasting, and calcining, as well as in the production of proprietary Chinese medicines with confidential prescriptions”.

(II) Key Open Areas

China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone

1. Opinions on Piloting Institutional Opening-up in the Financial Sector in Eligible Pilot Free Trade Zones (Port) to Align with International High Standards

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

People's Bank of China, Ministry of Commerce, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

Foreign-funded financial institutions are allowed to offer new financial services equivalent to those provided by Chinese financial institutions. Decisions on applications by financial institutions to conduct relevant services shall be made within 120 days. Support is provided for the lawful cross-border purchase of certain types of overseas financial services. Measures are also introduced to facilitate the inward and outward transfer of funds related to foreign investment, improve arrangements for the cross-border flow of financial data, and comprehensively strengthen financial supervision.

Main Content:

1. In accordance with the principle of equal treatment for domestic and foreign entities, decisions on complete applications that meet statutory requirements submitted by overseas financial institutions, investors in such institutions, and cross-border financial service providers to conduct financial services in pilot areas shall be made within 120 days from the date of acceptance, and applicants shall be notified in a timely manner. Where a decision cannot be made within 120 days, the applicant shall be promptly informed with an explanation. Where laws

or administrative regulations stipulate a decision-making period exceeding 120 days, the decision shall be made within the prescribed timeframe.

2. On the premise of authenticity and compliance, all transfers related to the investment of foreign investors in pilot areas may be freely remitted in and out without delay.

2. Notice on Carrying Out Pilot Programs to Expand Opening-up in the Healthcare Sector

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Commerce, National Health Commission, National Medical Products Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

In pilot areas such as the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, foreign-invested enterprises are permitted to engage in the development and application of human stem cell and gene diagnosis and therapy technologies for product registration, market approval, and production. Once approved, these products may be used nationwide.

Main Content:

Foreign-invested enterprises are permitted to engage in the development and application of human stem cell and gene diagnosis and therapy technologies in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone for the purpose of product registration, market approval, and production. Foreign-invested enterprises intending to participate in the pilot program must comply with relevant Chinese laws and administrative regulations, meet the requirements related to the management of human genetic resources, clinical trials of pharmaceuticals (including international multicenter clinical trials), drug registration and marketing, drug manufacturing, and ethical review, and complete the necessary administrative procedures.

3. Implementation Plan for Shanghai to Execute the Overall Plan for Fully Advancing the High-Level Institutional Opening-up of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone in Alignment with High-Standard International Economic and Trade Rules

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy aims to establish an institutional framework and regulatory model aligned with high-standard international economic and trade rules within the planned area of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone. It seeks to raise trade and investment facilitation to world-class levels, align digital economy rules with internationally accepted practices, strengthen the regulatory capacity for opening-up and risk prevention capabilities suited to an open economy, enhance the overall capacity to participate in international rule-making, and foster new drivers and competitive advantages for international cooperation and competition in key sectors.

Main Content:

1. Facilitate the provision of electronic payment services, ease cross-border transmission of financial data, support financial innovation and development, and optimize telecommunication services.

2. Promote goods imports, encourage the development of the commercial cryptography industry, further facilitate customs clearance, encourage innovation in logistics business models, and improve customs supervision and law enforcement.

3. Take the lead in implementing high-standard digital trade rules, regulate and promote cross-border data flows, advance the application of digital technologies, and promote data opening-up and sharing.

4. Strengthen intellectual property protection, reinforce trademark and geographical indication protection, improve the patent protection system, and enhance administrative supervision and judicial protection.

5. Advance reforms in government procurement by optimizing procurement procedures, refining procurement management, and strengthening procurement oversight; promote reforms in post-border management systems; deepen the reform of state-owned enterprises; strengthen the protection of workers' rights and interests; and improve the risk prevention and control system.

Lin-gang Special Area

1. Notice on the Pilot Program for Expanding the Opening-up of Value-added Telecommunications Services

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Industry and Information Technology

Original Text

Highlights:

The pilot program for expanding the opening-up of value-added telecommunications services will be launched first in pilot areas such as the Lin-gang Special Area of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone.

Main Content:

The foreign shareholding restrictions for businesses such as Internet Data Centers (IDCs), Content Delivery Networks (CDNs), Internet Service Providers (ISPs), online data processing and transaction processing, and information services including information publishing platforms and delivery services (excluding Internet news information, online publishing, online audio-visual services, and Internet cultural operations), as well as information protection and processing services, will be removed in Lin-gang Special Area of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone.

2. Several Opinions on Supporting the Lin-gang Special Area of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone in Further Deepening High-level Reform and Opening-up and Stimulating Strong Impetus for High-quality Development

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy introduces highly supportive preferential measures in areas such as cross-border finance, talent incentives, technology finance, and industrial clusters to further support the development of the Lin-gang Special Area into a special economic functional zone with greater global influence and competitiveness.

Main Content:

1. Residence card holders working in the Lin-gang Special Area are eligible for dedicated bonus points under the residence card points system, with 2 points granted for each full year of employment, up to a maximum of 20 points.

2. For talent eligible to apply for Shanghai household registration under the 5-year or 3-year residence card-based eligibility requirements, the required period of employment in the Lin-gang Special Area is reduced to 2 years and 1 year, respectively.

3. Financial institutions are encouraged to take the lead in establishing a “loan + external direct investment” business model and to pilot employee stock ownership plans and equity incentive loans for technology companies.

4. The China Integrated Circuit Co-insurance Consortium mechanism will be improved to provide comprehensive risk protection for innovation in the integrated circuit industry.

5. A “challenge-based recruitment” mechanism will be implemented to support enterprises in the integrated circuits, biomedicine, and civil aviation sectors in recruiting teams globally to undertake key research and development projects.

6. Support will be provided for the development of international financial asset trading platforms to facilitate domestic and overseas investors in allocating global financial products.

3. Several Policies for Promoting the Development of International Organizations in Lin-gang Special Area of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone

Issued:

2026

Issuing Authority:

China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Lin-gang Special Area Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy aims to attract international organizations to the Lin-gang Special Area by providing support for the following types of international organizations and related enterprises registered or operating in Lin-gang:

1. Overseas non-governmental organizations in the technology or economy sectors, with the Lin-gang Special Area Administration serving as their supervising authority.

2. International organizations registered in the Lin-gang Special Area with other entities acting as their supervising authorities.

3. International organizations operating in Lin-gang that contribute to the area's participation in international economic governance.

4. Relevant provisions are also applicable to regional intergovernmental organizations and foreign-related private non-enterprise entities that support the clustering and development of international organizations.

Main Content:

1. International organizations that establish operations in the Lin-gang Special Area may receive rewards of up to RMB 1 million yuan depending on their level and influence, with 50% granted within the first year of settlement and the remainder to be disbursed thereafter based on their activities in Lin-gang and contribution to attracting key enterprises and professional talent.

2. International organizations of major or special significance that are registered and established in Lin-gang may receive one-time rewards. Service enterprises that assist in attracting international organizations or support their development may receive rewards of up to RMB 1 million based on their performance.

3. International organizations that host or co-host global events in Lin-gang may receive subsidies covering up to 50% of actual expenses, capped at RMB 2 million. For regional events, subsidies may cover up to 50% of actual expenses, capped at RMB 300,000 per event and RMB 600,000 per organization per year.

4. International organizations that contribute to ecosystem development, sci-tech innovation, and industrial chain integration for Lin-gang's leading industries may receive rewards of up to RMB 2 million based on comprehensive evaluation results. International organizations that arrange for enterprises and institutions within Lin-gang to participate in or lead the formulation of international industry standards, international economic and trade rules, or the publication of internationally recognized journals may receive rewards of up to RMB 1 million per project. International organizations that facilitate the overseas expansion of Lin-gang-based enterprises and institutions may receive rewards of up to RMB 500,000.

How to Access and Apply:

Visit the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Lin-gang Special Area Administration website (https://www.lingang.gov.cn/) to access relevant services or obtain more information.

4. Notice on Revising the Several Measures of the Lin-gang Special Area of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone for Supporting the Innovative Development of the Financial Industry

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Lin-gang Special Area Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy aims to promote higher-level, broader, and deeper financial opening-up in the Lin-gang Special Area, attract high-quality domestic and international financial resources, and strengthen the supporting and leading role of finance in the special economic functional zone and modern new city to better serve the development of Shanghai as an international financial center.

Main Content:

1. Accelerate the introduction of high-quality domestic and international financial resources. Support the establishment of licensed financial institutions and their subsidiaries, branches, and specialized entities, and encourage the development of new-type financial institutions and investment enterprises. Eligible entities may receive a one-time reward of up to RMB 60 million, subject to comprehensive assessment.

2. Promote the development of financial industry clusters and supporting infrastructure. Support the development of the lakeside financial cluster and provide comprehensive service support for financial institutions. Financial support may be granted in accordance with relevant building economy policies.

3. Support efforts to attract high-level financial talent. Encourage financial institutions to recruit high-level and urgently needed financial professionals from both domestic and international markets. Eligible institutions may receive talent

incentives of up to RMB 7 million, along with comprehensive support in housing and children's education for recruited professionals.

4. Encourage sound operations and high-quality development of enterprises. Financial institutions may receive financial support based on annual evaluations of their performance in business development, industry impact, and social contribution.

5. Accelerate the development of a distinctive financial industry system. Support the development of the Lin-gang International Reinsurance Functional Zone, a pilot zone for innovation in financial leasing, and an equity investment cluster. Eligible enterprises may receive targeted support.

6. Develop a benchmark financial technology cluster. Attract foreign-invested fintech and insurtech institutions; support eligible fintech enterprises and talent in applying for tax incentives; and encourage enterprises to purchase or lease computing power for technological innovation, with corresponding subsidies provided.

7. Enhance the quality and efficiency of financial services through innovation. Support financial institutions in advancing product innovation and technology application. Projects recognized in financial innovation evaluations may receive special rewards of up to RMB 1 million, depending on the award level.

5. Several Policies of the Lin-gang Special Area of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone for Promoting the Development of the Legal Services Industry

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Lin-gang Special Area Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

Support the development of legal service clusters and encourage legal service providers to enhance their capabilities and develop emerging legal services as well as distinctive legal cultural works. Support the development of legal service platforms and issue legal service vouchers to key industries in the Lin-gang Special Area to empower the real economy. Promote diversified mechanisms for resolving commercial disputes.

Main Content:

1. Support the development of legal service clusters. Provide annual rewards of up to RMB 1.5 million for non-profit legal service projects, up to RMB 500,000 for legal service providers, up to RMB 200,000 for emerging projects, and up to RMB 100,000 for legal cultural works.

2. Support the development of legal service platforms and provide rewards based on overall performance and comprehensive benefits.

3. Issue legal service vouchers to key industries in the Lin-gang Special Area to empower the real economy.

4. Support diversified mechanisms for resolving commercial disputes, with annual rewards of up to RMB 250,000 for outstanding institutions and up to RMB 100,000 for arbitrators.

5. Provide rewards of up to RMB 1 million for outstanding contributions to foreign-

related legal services supporting major national strategies.

6. Provide rewards of up to RMB 1 million for outstanding performance in serving major regional projects.

7. Support the organization of rule of law activities, with a subsidy of 40%-50% of expenditures, capped at RMB 2 million.

8. Provide rewards of up to RMB 100,000 for efforts to attract high-caliber legal professionals.

How to Access and Apply:

Lin-gang Special Area Administration:
https://www.lingang.gov.cn/html/website/lg/index.html.

Government Online-Offline Shanghai platform:
Lin-gang Special Area Flagship Store

6. Ten Measures for Further Supporting the Development of Foreign Investment in the Lin-gang Special Area

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Lin-gang Special Area Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy introduces ten measures to accelerate the development of the Lin-gang Special Area as a special economic functional zone with greater international market influence and competitiveness, and to better support foreign-invested enterprises and foreign nationals in innovation, entrepreneurship, investment, and the pursuit of a higher-quality life in the area.

Main Content:

1. Fully align with high-standard international economic and trade rules, such as the CPTPP and DEPA, and build a demonstration zone for institutional opening-up. Implement “national treatment + negative list” management to ensure nondiscriminatory treatment for foreign-invested enterprises.

2. Innovate the model for cross-border data management, continuously release scenario-based lists for cross-border data flows, and promote the safe and orderly cross-border flow of data related to foreign-invested enterprises’ R&D, production, sales, and operations.

3. Establish a registration-based protection mechanism for key intellectual property enterprises and promote the formation of a coordinated protection system across administrative, civil, and criminal sectors.

4. Promote the development of digital customs and implement measures to further liberalize and facilitate trade.

5. Facilitate enterprises in carrying out international transshipment consolidation and distribution services, optimize the business model for container shipping services operated by foreign-funded liners between Chinese ports, and support the scaling-up of such operations.

6. Support the simplification of foreign exchange registration and further facilitate fund receipts and payments.

7. Provide full-account fund settlement services for domestic and foreign enterprises to meet their financial needs throughout their entire life cycle.

8. Support the accelerated development of leading enterprises and key supply chain enterprises, and provide comprehensive support for technology-based small and medium-sized enterprises in innovation and entrepreneurship.

9. Provide convenience for foreigners to obtain work permits in China and enhance their sense of gain, integration, and happiness.

10. Optimize law enforcement and inspection methods for foreign-related enterprises by fully leveraging the “one team for law enforcement” mechanism and implementing the “comprehensive one-time inspection” system.

How to Access and Apply:

Visit the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Lin-gang Special Area Administration website (https://www.lingang.gov.cn/) to access relevant services or obtain more information.

Hongqiao International Central Business District

1. Notice on Issuing the Action Plan for the Coordinated Development of a World-Class Business Environment in the Hongqiao International Central Business District (2026)

Issued:

2026

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Hongqiao International Central Business District Administrative Commission

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy proposes establishing a linked innovation zone under the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone in the Hongqiao International Central Business District (CBD), implementing facilitation policies for investment, trade, finance, and cross-border e-commerce, promoting institutional opening-up in alignment with international rules, and developing a comprehensive service system to position the Hongqiao International CBD as the leading service hub for Yangtze River Delta companies seeking to expand overseas.

Main Content:

1. Strengthen Hongqiao's role as an open hub. Build a service system aligned with international rules to support enterprises in global operations, and reinforce Hongqiao's role as a strategic gateway for Yangtze River Delta enterprises expanding into international markets.

2. Strengthen support for key resources. Focus on industrial and innovation chains to promote the concentration and efficient allocation of resources such as space, capital, talent, and technology.

3. Enhance the effectiveness of services. Upgrade services from simply "getting

things done" to "getting things done well, quickly, and effectively", with particular emphasis on improving enterprises' access to cross-border services and direct policy support.

4. Improve communication and coordination mechanisms. Build a new governance framework driven jointly by government, the market, and society, while enhancing the region's livability, business environment, and the influence of its business brand.

How to Access and Apply:

Visit the Shanghai Hongqiao International Central Business District Administrative Commission website (https://www.shhqcbd.gov.cn/) to access relevant services or obtain more information.

Eastern Hub International Business Cooperation Zone

1. Administrative Measures for Shanghai Eastern Hub International Business Cooperation Zone

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy provides the fundamental legal framework for the Shanghai Eastern Hub International Business Cooperation Zone (IBCZ). Guided by the principles of closed-loop management and streamlined entry and exit, it aims to develop the Eastern Hub IBCZ into a high-level international trade and business cooperation hub by leveraging the policies of the comprehensive bonded zone alongside measures to facilitate cross-border personnel mobility.

Main Content:

1. Implement a special supervision model: The Eastern Hub IBCZ will operate under closed-loop management, with perimeter fencing and other infrastructure constructed in line with the standards of a comprehensive bonded zone. Goods within the zone that are deemed exports are eligible for exemptions from value-added tax and consumption tax, as well as other applicable tax incentives.

2. Facilitate personnel entry and exit: A streamlined management system will be implemented for eligible overseas individuals entering and exiting the Eastern Hub IBCZ. Overseas individuals holding valid international travel documents and supporting materials may stay within the zone for up to 30 days and may apply for an extension for justified reasons.

3. Focus on core functional sectors: The policy prioritizes the development of

key sectors such as international exhibitions, international trade, international consumption, and aviation services. Enterprises are encouraged to engage in bonded exhibitions and trade, cross-border e-commerce, and other related business activities within the zone.

How to Access and Apply:

Visit the Shanghai Eastern Hub International Business Cooperation Zone Integrated Information Management Service Platform (https://ibcz.pudong.gov.cn/ehub-mobile-front/) to access relevant services or obtain more information.

(III) Policies Related to Foreign Investment

1. Measures of Shanghai Municipality for Encouraging Reinvestment by Foreign-Invested Enterprises in China

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Original Text

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce,
Shanghai Municipal Development & Reform Commission,
Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization,
Shanghai Municipal Financial Regulatory Bureau,
People's Bank of China Shanghai Head Office,
Shanghai Branch of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, etc.

Highlights:

The policy outlines 20 measures to optimize the investment environment, strengthen resource support, and deepen service innovation, with the overall goal of encouraging foreign-invested enterprises to increase reinvestment in China.

Main Content:

1. Measures supporting foreign-invested enterprises have been introduced. For example, measures to promote project implementation include strengthening project coordination services, optimizing land allocation, encouraging technological upgrades, and boosting participation in the pilot program for opening up the service sector. Measures to facilitate investment and operations include easing foreign exchange registration and capital use, streamlining the production transfer process for medical devices, coordinating pharmaceutical logistics, and facilitating food chain operations.

2. Tax policies have been implemented to ensure the effective application of

tax credits for foreign investors who reinvest distributed profits, as well as the deferral of withholding income tax, thereby reducing their tax burden. In addition, foreign-invested enterprises that reinvest in industries listed in the Catalogue of Encouraged Industries for Foreign Investment may enjoy relevant support policies for imported equipment.

3. Several service tools have been launched to assist enterprises, including a system for complaints and consultations on foreign investment and application guidelines for matters related to reinvestment. These tools enable enterprises to instantly access foreign investment policy information, stay updated on developments, and report relevant issues, ensuring timely responses and smooth handling.

2. Implementation Plan to Further Optimize the Environment for Foreign Investment and Enhance Efforts to Attract Foreign Investment

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce,
Shanghai Municipal Development & Reform Commission, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Strengthen support for foreign-funded R&D centers.
2. Expand the opening-up of the service industry.
3. Expand channels for attracting foreign investment.

Main Content:

1. Encourage foreign-funded R&D institutions to carry out collaborative innovation and provide financial support for eligible innovation projects, encourage eligible foreign investors to establish investment companies and regional headquarters in Shanghai, with qualifying projects eligible for applicable support policies, and encourage eligible foreign investors to establish equity investment funds, with a fast-track process established for qualifying projects.

2. Encourage foreign-invested enterprises to conduct clinical trials of overseas-listed cell and gene therapy drugs in Shanghai in accordance with the law, and accelerate the implementation of the pilot program for expanding the opening-up of value-added telecommunications services.

3. Foreign-invested enterprises can submit related inquiries or reasonable requests in the Complaint & Consultation about Foreign Investment section on the Shanghai Foreign Investment Promotion Service Platform.

How to Access and Apply:

Enterprises can visit the Shanghai Foreign Investment Promotion Service Platform (https://www.investsh.org.cn/cn/cn/index) and click on “Complaint &

Consultation about Foreign Investment" to view frequently asked questions on foreign investment or submit specific inquiries and requests.

Regional Headquarters of Multinational Corporations

1. Provisions of Shanghai Municipality on Encouraging Multinational Corporations to Establish Regional Headquarters

Issued:

2022

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Expand the policy scope to include business unit headquarters of multinational corporations.
2. Optimize criteria for identifying headquarters enterprises, improve supporting measures for headquarters enterprises, and introduce dynamic evaluation mechanisms.

Main Content:

1. Headquarters types and identification: The scope of headquarters enterprises has been expanded to include business unit headquarters of multinational corporations, referring to entities whose overseas-registered parent company adopts a divisional organizational structure based on functions, businesses, products, brands, or services. Identification criteria have been optimized by relaxing the parent company's shareholding requirement to a minimum direct or indirect holding of 50%, and by expanding the scope of eligible applicants for functional institutions, allowing foreign-funded companies to establish headquarters-type institutions or business unit headquarters in Shanghai.

2. Facilitation of cross-border fund operations and management: Headquarters enterprises are supported in establishing cross-border capital pools to conduct fund collection, allocation, settlement, hedging, investment, and financing in local and foreign currencies. High-level headquarters may carry out cash-pooling to

integrate local and foreign currency management. Domestic payments of foreign exchange income under capital accounts and RMB funds obtained from foreign exchange settlement may be processed directly based on payment order letters. Banks may also directly handle cross-border RMB settlement for trade and capital account transactions based on payment and receipt instructions.

3. Trade facilitation measures: Foreign exchange receipt and payment procedures for new types of international trade may be handled directly, and eligible headquarters enterprises may be included in the offshore trade “white list”. Support is provided for the establishment of international trade distribution centers by headquarters enterprises, which may be recognized as demonstration enterprises. These enterprises may engage in maintenance services for products such as high-end medical equipment within comprehensive bonded zones, while qualified entities may conduct high-value-added bonded maintenance services outside the zones. Headquarters enterprises may be classified as Class I or Class II enterprises for export tax refund management and may join the China (Shanghai) International Trade Single Window to access dedicated services. In addition, headquarters enterprises that obtain AEO (Authorized Economic Operator) advanced certification may enjoy customs clearance facilitation. Shanghai Customs will also support headquarters enterprises in participating in the pilot program for tariff guarantee insurance and facilitate the import and export of R&D materials.

4. Support for technological innovation and investment: Headquarters enterprises may participate in the development of municipal R&D and innovation platforms, undertake government-funded research projects, and jointly establish technology innovation consortia with partners. Eligible enterprises may be included in the “white list” of biomedical pilot enterprises, with R&D samples benefiting from customs clearance facilitation. Qualified investment projects may be included in the municipal list of major foreign-funded projects and receive coordinated support for access, land use, foreign exchange, and other related matters, as well as financial assistance. Business registration may be completed entirely online, with facilitation for the use of electronic business licenses and seals.

5. Talent introduction and support: Overseas returnees in short supply and urgent

need and outstanding domestic talent employed by headquarters enterprises may apply for Shanghai household registration. Overseas talent may receive additional points when applying for the Shanghai Overseas Talent Residence Permit (Shanghai Residence Card Type B). Overseas professionals may apply for professional titles, senior executives may be nominated for the Magnolia Gold Award, and headquarters enterprises may be preferentially recommended to join the International Business Leaders' Advisory Council for the Mayor of Shanghai. Overseas work experience of professionals in fields such as finance, planning, and shipping who hold overseas qualifications may, upon filing with the relevant authorities, be recognized as domestic work experience. Families of foreign senior executives working at headquarters enterprises may enjoy facilitation in residency, healthcare, access to talent housing, and school enrollment for their children as international students.

6. Entry and exit facilitation: Chinese nationals employed by headquarters enterprises may apply for the APEC Business Travel Card, and residents of the Chinese mainland can enjoy facilitation for overseas business travel. Foreign nationals may apply for multiple-entry visas valid for up to 5 years and residence permits valid for 3 to 5 years. Foreign nationals entering China for urgent business may apply for port visas. Senior executives may be given priority when applying for permanent residence in China. Fast-track channels are also available for processing health certificate applications for executives.

7. Intellectual property protection: Well-known foreign-related trademarks of headquarters enterprises may be included in the Shanghai Key Trademark Protection List. Enterprises may also safeguard their rights across regions through the inter-regional administrative cooperation mechanism for intellectual property protection.

8. Service support: District governments may introduce supporting subsidies and incentive measures. A two-tier service system featuring dedicated headquarters service specialists at both the municipal and district levels will be established. Government–enterprise communication platforms will be developed, and regular roundtable meetings will be held to coordinate and resolve issues faced by headquarters enterprises.

How to Access and Apply:

The Municipal Commission of Commerce issues annual notices on the application for headquarters funding support, specifying the relevant application requirements. Eligible entities may apply through the commerce authority of the district where they are located by submitting the required materials specified in the notice. District commerce authorities and finance departments will conduct preliminary reviews and forward approved applications to the Municipal Commission of Commerce for evaluation. Upon completion of the review process, the Municipal Commission of Commerce and the Municipal Finance Bureau will notify district commerce authorities and finance departments of the results.

2. Several Measures of Shanghai Municipality for Supporting the Capacity Upgrading of Regional Headquarters of Multinational Corporations

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Reward regional headquarters of multinational corporations that undergo upgrades or expand their functions.
2. Increase support for R&D.
3. Encourage headquarters to increase investment.

Main Content:

1. A one-time reward of RMB 3 million is granted to China regional headquarters that are upgraded to Asia-Pacific headquarters with at least two core functions.

2. A one-time reward of RMB 10 million is granted to entities recognized as global business unit headquarters. A one-time reward of RMB 3 million is available for headquarters that establish new functions such as R&D and treasury management.

3. Open innovation platforms recognized by relevant authorities are eligible for a one-time reward of RMB 3 million. Headquarters are encouraged to host high-level business events such as global executive meetings and international training events in Shanghai, with financial incentives provided based on the event type.

4. Headquarters with R&D functions are encouraged to apply for recognition as high-tech enterprises or technologically advanced service enterprises, and are eligible for a reduced corporate income tax rate of 15%.

5. Headquarters are encouraged to set up venture capital funds and enjoy relevant tax incentives. They are also encouraged to establish non-profit basic research

funds, with fiscal subsidies provided for research projects at universities and research institutes supported by such funds.

6. Headquarters and manufacturing enterprises they invest in are encouraged to accelerate production line upgrades and equipment renewal. Eligible technical transformation investment projects may receive support of up to 10% of the total approved investment, capped at RMB 100 million.

Foreign-Funded R&D Centers

1. Notice on Preferential Import Tax Policies for Supporting Scientific and Technological Innovation During the 15th Five-Year Plan Period / Notice on the Administrative Measures

Issued:

2026

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Finance,
General Administration of Customs,
State Taxation Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

Eligible research, educational, and public cultural institutions that import research and teaching supplies, books, and materials that cannot be produced domestically are exempt from import duties, value-added tax (VAT), and consumption tax. Such tax-exempt equipment, upon approval, may be shared for use in the research and teaching activities of other institutions, as well as for certain clinical applications.

Main Content:

1. Research, educational, and other institutions that import research and teaching supplies that cannot be produced domestically or do not meet performance requirements may be exempt from import duties, VAT, and consumption tax.

2. Publication import entities that import books and materials for research and teaching purposes for the aforementioned institutions are exempt from import VAT.

3. Eligible entities include research institutes, national laboratories, state key laboratories, national technology innovation centers, restructured research institutes, foreign-funded R&D centers, science and technology-oriented private

non-enterprise entities, higher education institutions, Party schools at or above county level, public libraries at or above prefecture level, and entities licensed to import publications.

4. Tax-exempt imported goods are subject to catalogue-based management, with the catalogue to be separately formulated by the Ministry of Finance.

5. Tax-exempt imported research and teaching supplies may, with the approval of customs, be used for relevant activities in other institutions. Research instruments included in the national network management platform may be shared in accordance with rules on open access. With customs approval, medical testing instruments used for research or teaching purposes may be used in clinical activities at affiliated or associated hospitals (with large-scale equipment limited to one unit per hospital per category every three years).

2. Measures for Further Encouraging Foreign Investors to Establish R&D Centers

Issued:

2023

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Science and Technology

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Support scientific and technological innovation.
2. Improve the convenience of research and development.
3. Encourage the introduction of overseas talent.
4. Strengthen intellectual property protection.

Main Content:

1. Local governments may provide support for new types of R&D institutions set up by foreign investors in areas such as infrastructure development, equipment procurement, supporting services for talent, and operating funds.

2. Support will be provided for foreign-invested open innovation platforms in land, equipment, and infrastructure, among other areas.

3. Facilitated arrangements will be offered for cross-border technology transfer within multinational enterprise groups.

3. Announcement on Value-Added Tax Policy for the Purchase of Equipment by R&D Institutions

Issued:

2023

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce,
State Taxation Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

Preferential policy on value-added tax (VAT) for the purchase of domestically produced equipment by domestic R&D institutions and foreign-funded R&D centers.

Main Content:

1. The policy of full VAT refund for purchases of domestically produced equipment by domestic R&D institutions and foreign-funded R&D centers will continue to be implemented.

2. Foreign-funded R&D centers shall meet all of the following conditions: a total investment of no less than USD 8 million for independent legal entities or total R&D expenditure of no less than USD 8 million for non-independent legal entities; a staff of no fewer than 80 full-time research and development personnel; and a cumulative equipment acquisition cost of no less than RMB 20 million since establishment.

How to Access and Apply:

Tax Refund Qualification Filing (mandatory before the first application)
Filing Authority: Competent tax authority (where the institution is located); Policy and Regulation Database of the State Taxation Administration
Filing Method: On-site filing at the tax service hall; or via the Electronic Tax Bureau: Export Tax Refund Management Export Tax Refund (Exemption) Filing

4. Policy Measures of Shanghai on Further Supporting the Upgrading of Foreign-funded R&D Centers

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy outlines 26 specific measures, focusing on increasing support for basic research and industry-academia-research collaboration, supporting the integrated development of R&D, innovation, and manufacturing, promoting the local ownership and operation of intellectual property, and facilitating the flow of production factors.

Main Content:

1. Increase support for basic research and industry-academia-research collaboration: Foreign-invested enterprises will be further supported in participating in basic research, and foreign-funded R&D centers will be encouraged to actively engage in government research projects. These R&D centers will also be supported in collaborating with universities and research institutes to translate basic research outcomes into commercial products. Such initiatives will strengthen their capacity for original product innovation, enhance their position within the global R&D networks of multinational corporations, and provide greater access to R&D resources.

2. Support the integrated development of R&D, innovation, and manufacturing: The city will guide foreign-invested manufacturing companies to build high-level R&D platforms aligned with the city's ten key industrial chains and pillar industries jointly promoted at the municipal and district levels. It will also increase R&D investment in high-growth sectors such as smart terminals, embodied intelligence, aerospace economy, biomanufacturing, and green and low-carbon

technologies, while promoting the commercialization of R&D outcomes locally. Support for open innovation platforms will be strengthened, and foreign-funded R&D centers will be encouraged to apply for recognition as High-tech Achievement Transformation Projects and for inclusion in Shanghai's Catalogue of Recommended Innovative Products. Support will be provided for the lab and pilot testing phases of R&D commercialization in areas such as land supply and environmental impact assessments.

3. Support local ownership and operation of intellectual property: Shanghai will further encourage the local holding, operation, and commercialization of intellectual property achievements, and support foreign-funded R&D centers in applying for the Shanghai Intellectual Property Innovation Awards. Foreign-funded R&D centers are also encouraged to engage in service outsourcing, with project support provided to eligible companies.

4. Further facilitate the flow of production factors: The city will strengthen support for talent, customs clearance, and data flows. Regarding talent, the measures optimize entry and exit procedures for foreign personnel and incentives for local talent. Regarding data flows, a green channel will be established for the cross-border flow of designated important data, and efforts will be made to advance the formulation of negative lists in relevant fields. Regarding the entry and exit of R&D supplies, support is provided for issues of concern to foreign-funded R&D centers, such as the valuation of R&D supplies without transaction value and the extension of the stay period for goods temporarily imported or exported.

How to Access and Apply:

https://www.investsh.org.cn/cn/investsh/zctz/2026032310583133538518

5. Notice on Import Tax Policies for Foreign-funded R&D Centers in Shanghai for 2026–30

Issued:

2026

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce,
Shanghai Municipal Finance Bureau,
Shanghai Customs, Shanghai Municipal Tax Service

Original Text

Highlights:

Eligible foreign-funded R&D centers may apply for tax exemptions on imported equipment.

Main Content:

Eligible foreign-funded R&D centers are exempt from import duties, import value-added tax, and consumption tax on imported equipment used for scientific research, technological development, and teaching purposes.

How to Access and Apply:

Foreign-funded R&D centers may apply through the "Suishendui" portal on the Government Online-Offline Shanghai platform (https://zwdt.sh.gov.cn/qykj/shell_oc_policy_zq/policy/index?from=zwfw) and submit the required paper materials to the service hall of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce (1st Floor, Building 5, No. 300 Shibocun Road).

6. Regulations of Shanghai Municipality on Encouraging the Establishment of Foreign-funded R&D Centers

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy aims to encourage foreign investors to establish high-level R&D institutions in Shanghai by clarifying the criteria for the recognition of foreign-funded R&D centers, global R&D centers, and open innovation platforms, while providing corresponding administrative services and policy support.

Main Content:

1. Clarify recognition criteria: Specific recognition criteria are established for foreign-funded R&D centers, global R&D centers, and foreign-funded open innovation platforms, covering areas such as R&D investment, staffing, and functional authorization.

2. Standardize application procedures: The materials required for application are clearly specified, and applications may be processed through the Government Online-Offline Shanghai platform to improve efficiency.

3. Implement ongoing evaluation: Comprehensive ongoing evaluations will be conducted for recognized institutions to ensure continued compliance with recognition requirements. Procedures are also specified for matters such as name changes.

4. Funding support: Global R&D centers and open innovation platforms may, in accordance with relevant regulations, receive financial support such as funding from the Fund of Shanghai Municipality for the Development of Regional Headquarters of Multinational Corporations.

How to Access and Apply:

Applicants may visit the following dedicated sections on the Government Online-Offline Shanghai platform to obtain more information and complete relevant procedures:

Foreign-funded R&D centers: “Recognition of Other Foreign-funded R&D Centers”

Global R&D centers: “Recognition of Global R&D Centers”

Foreign-funded open innovation platforms: “Recognition of Foreign-funded Open Innovation Platforms”

Global Partners Program for Promoting Foreign Investment

1. Implementation Measures of Shanghai Municipality for the Global Partners Program for Promoting Foreign Investment

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy aims to capture new global investment opportunities, make full use of international and domestic resources, further expand investment promotion channels, promote high-quality foreign investment, and attract high-quality foreign-funded projects to Shanghai by appointing global partners, including professional service providers, financial institutions, industry leaders, and trade associations. Selected partners may be recognized following evaluation and are eligible for incentives such as support for talent recruitment and streamlined entry and exit procedures. A municipal-level task force will be established to coordinate project implementation and resource allocation.

Main Content:

1. Eligible applicants and requirements

Eligible applicants: Professional service providers, financial institutions, leading enterprises in industry chains, business associations, and international cooperation organizations.

Requirements: Applicants must operate in compliance with the law, hold significant influence in their respective fields, and have rich investment promotion resources and extensive business networks.

2. Partnership activities

Project recommendation: Introduce high-quality foreign investment projects such as greenfield investments, mergers and acquisitions, headquarters, and R&D centers, and support their implementation.
Resource integration: Organize investment promotion activities and help attract foreign capital to support Shanghai's development.
Consultation services: Provide advisory support on industrial planning, investment trends, and investment promotion policy formulation.

3. Support measures
Honorary incentives: Outstanding partners will be recognized based on annual evaluations and may be honored at municipal-level events. Their responsible persons may be nominated for the Magnolia Gold Award.
Talent support: Outstanding partners will be included in relevant talent support programs and may enjoy benefits such as residency support. Investment promotion personnel of global partners may apply for Overseas Talent Residence Permits and work permits.
Entry and exit facilitation: Investment promotion personnel of global partners and related parties will enjoy streamlined services for port visas, residence permits, and APEC Business Travel Cards.

4. Implementation and coordination mechanisms
Task force coordination: A dedicated task force led by the Municipal Commission of Commerce, with participation from various municipal departments, is established to manage global partner selection, coordination, and service support.
Project implementation: The task force provides coordinated support for major foreign investment projects in areas such as market access, planning, and foreign exchange to ensure smooth implementation.
Resource matching: Projects will be matched with districts based on industrial characteristics, and updates on investment policies and event information will be regularly shared with partners.
Global promotion: Media partnerships will be leveraged to showcase the achievements of global partners and enhance Shanghai's international investment profile.

How to Access and Apply:

Entities may submit applications to the Task Force for the Global Partners Program for Promoting Foreign Investment.

For inquiries, please contact the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce at 021-23111111 / 021-23110632, and request to be transferred to the Task Force.

II. Key Industries for Priority Development

(I) Advanced Manufacturing

1. Action Plan for Supporting the Transformation and Upgrading of Shanghai's Advanced Manufacturing Sector (2026–2028)

Original Text

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Highlights:

1. Implement industrial structure optimization and upgrading: Upgrade and strengthen traditional competitive industries; accelerate the strategic leadership of leading industries; and promote the growth of key and emerging industries.

2. Strengthen innovation capacity and core technology breakthroughs: Unleash enterprise innovation vitality and accelerate breakthroughs in key core technologies.

3. Enhance quality and efficiency: Promote technological transformation; deepen digital and intelligent transformation; and accelerate green transition.

4. Reinforce resource and factor support: Strengthen talent attraction and development; enhance workforce support; and expand development space.

5. Strengthen financial support; enhance logistics support; promote cost reduction and efficiency gains; accelerate scenario-based application development; expand domestic and international markets; and optimize enterprise services.

Main Content:

1. For projects meeting the criteria for the first set of major technical equipment or the first batch of new materials, support of up to 30% of the product sales contract value may be provided, with a maximum of RMB 20 million.

2.Support enterprises in increasing investment in basic research and strengthening technological reserves. Enterprises with annual investment reaching or exceeding RMB 100 million may receive a one-time subsidy of RMB 10 million; those with annual investment between RMB 50 million (inclusive) and RMB 100 million (exclusive) may receive RMB 5 million; and those with annual investment between RMB 10 million (inclusive) and RMB 50 million (exclusive) may receive RMB 2 million.

3.Provide support for interest incurred on loans for fixed-asset investment in technological transformation projects or for equipment financing lease expenses, with cumulative support capped at RMB 20 million. Support enterprises in carrying out low-carbon energy initiatives, energy-saving process upgrades, and equipment retrofits, with rewards ranging from RMB 1,000 to RMB 2,000 per ton of standard coal equivalent, capped at RMB 10 million. Promote the development of green factories, with more than 100 new national-level green factories to be established by 2028. Enterprises newly recognized as national-level green factories may receive a one-time reward of RMB 200,000.

4.Encourage enterprises to support eligible talent in applying for special talent awards in key industrial sectors. Each individual may receive a reward of up to RMB 300,000.

How to Access and Apply:

For more information, please visit the website of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization at https://www.sheitc.sh.gov.cn/.

Artificial Intelligence

1. Shanghai Special Plan for Accelerating the Development of Materials Intelligent Engines (2025–2027)

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization, Shanghai Municipal Development & Reform Commission, Shanghai Municipal Education Commission, Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality

Original Text

Highlights:

The Plan aims to further deepen the integration of artificial intelligence and new materials building on the achievements of the materials genome initiative. This involves promoting data interactive models based on privacy-preserving computing and leveraging the powerful enabling capabilities of AI in new materials development.

Main Content:

Funding programs, including those for promoting high-quality industrial development, will be leveraged to provide support for projects related to digitalized materials R&D, smart laboratories, data sharing, computing platforms, and generic digital technologies based on project types and stages. Measures will also be taken to gradually improve technology maturity across the cultivation, development, and application stages and facilitate phased technology commercialization steadily and effectively.

Biomedicine

1. Guidelines on Supporting the Innovation-driven Development of the Biopharmaceutical Industry Along the Whole Chain

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

The Guidelines aim to promote the innovation-driven development of Shanghai's biopharmaceutical industry across the entire process of R&D, clinical trials, industrialization, and market application through full-chain support, with the goal of building a biopharmaceutical hub with global influence.

Main Content:

1. R&D support: For selected Class I innovative drug R&D projects undertaken by Shanghai-based applicants that achieve successful outcomes, support of up to 40% of the R&D investment may be provided for each phase, with a maximum of RMB 10 million, RMB 20 million, and RMB 30 million, respectively, for Phase I, II, and III clinical trials. Specifically, for cell and gene therapies that require only early clinical trials or confirmatory trials, support of up to RMB 15 million and RMB 30 million may be provided, respectively. Each organization may be eligible for support of up to RMB 100 million annually.

For innovative medical devices entering special review procedures in Shanghai or nationally, support of up to RMB 3 million may be provided in accordance with regulations. If these products obtain their first registration certificate and begin production, additional support of up to 40% of the R&D investment may be provided, with a maximum of RMB 8 million. Each organization may be eligible for support of up to RMB 30 million annually.

2. Clinical research support: Financial support may be provided for qualified contract research organizations (CROs) to align with international standards in clinical trial services, with a maximum of RMB 1 million per project. For clinical trial projects of high-level innovative products conducted overseas, support of up to RMB 20 million may be provided per project. Each organization may be eligible for support of up to RMB 100 million annually.

3. Industrialization support: For projects related to process technology R&D as well as the development of specialized technical service platforms and industrialization bases, support of up to 30% of the newly approved investment may be provided in accordance with regulations. Enterprises are encouraged to accelerate high-end, intelligent, and green transformation, with financial support of up to 10% of the approved total project investment provided. The maximum support for both types of projects is capped at RMB 100 million.

How to Access and Apply:

Shanghai Science and Technology Management Information System:
https://svc.stcsm.sh.gov.cn

2. Several Policy Measures for Accelerating the Development of Shanghai as a Global Hub for Biomedical R&D Economy and Industrialization

Issued:

2022

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy aims to advance the commercialization of R&D achievements and product launches, strengthen cross-departmental coordination, mobilize efforts across the entire industry chain, encourage the physical establishment of biomedical R&D centers, attract and nurture innovation headquarters, improve incubation and cultivation mechanisms for technology enterprises, optimize support policies for R&D and production activities, and enhance the role of fiscal funds in mobilizing social capital. These efforts are intended to further increase the total economic contribution of biomedical R&D, and build Shanghai into a global hub for biomedical R&D economy and industrialization.

Main Content:

1. Optimize supporting policies for the marketing authorization holder (MAH) system for innovative drugs. Shanghai will relax the requirement that both product registration and manufacturing must take place within the city. Eligible projects involving Class I innovative drugs, where Shanghai-based applicants obtain the registration certificates and contract the manufacturing to enterprises outside Shanghai (including affiliated companies), may receive financial support of up to 30% of their R&D investment, capped at RMB 20 million, in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

2. Optimize supporting policies for the MAH system for improved new drugs. Shanghai will relax the requirement that both product registration and

manufacturing must take place within the city. Eligible projects involving improved new drugs featuring advanced technology and significant advantages in safety and efficacy, where Shanghai-based applicants obtain the registration certificates and contract the manufacturing to enterprises outside Shanghai (including affiliated companies), may receive financial support of up to 15% of their R&D investment, capped at RMB 7.5 million, in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

3. Optimize supporting policies for the medical device registrant system. Shanghai will relax the requirement that both product registration and manufacturing must take place within the city. Eligible projects involving medical device products that have entered the national or municipal special review procedures for innovative medical devices, where Shanghai-based applicants obtain the registration certificates for the first time and contract the manufacturing to enterprises outside Shanghai (including affiliated companies), may receive financial support of up to 30% of their R&D investment, capped at RMB 5 million, in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

How to Access and Apply:

Shanghai Science and Technology Management Information System:
https://svc.stcsm.sh.gov.cn

3. Shanghai Municipal Pilot Program for the Import of Biopharmaceutical Research and Development and Testing Items

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce,
Shanghai Customs District of the People's Republic of China

Original Text

Highlights:

The program aims to establish a directory of pilot biopharmaceutical enterprises (R&D institutions).

Main Content:

1. Biopharmaceutical enterprises (R&D institutions) included in the directory will be exempt from obtaining the Drug Imports Customs Clearance Form for importing R&D items.

2. Testing and monitoring institutions included in the directory importing traceable standards will not be required to obtain the Clearance Notification for Pesticide Import Registration or the Clearance Notification for Environmental Management on the Import of Toxic Chemicals.

Life Sciences and Healthcare

1. Implementation Opinions on Advancing the Innovative Development of International Healthcare in Shanghai

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy aims to advance the innovative development of international healthcare in Shanghai, enhance the quality of healthcare services, attract international resources, foster technological innovation in the sector, and promote industry integration.

Main Content:

1. Optimize the layout: Promote the clustered development of international healthcare services in strategic areas such as Pudong New Area and Lin-gang Special Area; standardize the establishment of international medical departments in public hospitals; and foster private healthcare brands.

2. Expand healthcare services: Offer comprehensive services covering outpatient, emergency, inpatient, and health management; and develop special services, including online medical services, specialty clinics, and traditional Chinese medicine treatments such as acupuncture and tuina.

3. Foster technological innovation: Support the application of advanced technologies such as CAR-T therapy and particle therapy; establish research-oriented hospitals; and promote the global expansion of traditional Chinese medicine.

4. Pilot opening-up: Attract foreign-owned hospitals; pilot the use of urgently

needed overseas drugs and medical devices; and explore the certification of international commercial insurance and the development of local medical certification standards.

5. Facilitate services: Streamline entry and exit processes for foreign patients; provide multilingual services; expand payment options to support foreign currency accounts and direct insurance billing; and promote medical tourism and intermediary services.

2. Shanghai Pilot Program on Expanding Opening-up in the Field of Wholly Foreign-owned Hospitals

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Health Commission,
Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy aims to deepen the pilot program for further opening up the wholly foreign-owned hospital sector, attract foreign-funded medical institutions to establish a presence in Shanghai, enhance international medical services, and optimize the business environment.

Main Content:

1. Pilot scope: Wholly foreign-owned hospitals (excluding those specializing in traditional Chinese medicine) are permitted to be established in Shanghai, with priority given to opening-up areas such as the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone and Lin-gang Special Area, as well as areas with a high concentration of foreign residents. No more than two hospitals may be established in each designated area.

2. Operational requirements: Permissible hospital types include general hospitals, specialized hospitals, and rehabilitation hospitals, all of which must meet tertiary-level standards. High-risk medical procedures such as organ transplants and assisted reproduction are prohibited. At least 50% of the hospital's staff must be Chinese nationals. Data servers must be located within China. Hospitals may apply for inclusion in the basic medical insurance system and are encouraged to cooperate with commercial insurance companies.

3. Approval management: Applications to establish wholly foreign-owned hospitals are subject to preliminary review by the district health commission before the Municipal Health Commission issues the license. The approval process

takes between 20 and 45 working days. On-site inspections and public disclosure are also required. The license is valid for a period of five years.

How to Access and Apply: https://zwdt.sh.gov.cn

Next-Generation Electronic Information

1. Several Measures of Shanghai for Promoting the High-Quality Development of the Software and Information Service Industry

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

To thoroughly implement the national software development strategy, fully leverage the information service industry as a key driver of stable economic growth across the city, and promote the high-quality development of Shanghai's software and information service industry (hereinafter referred to as the "software and information service industry"), 17 specific measures have been introduced in four areas: stimulating the vitality of business entities, supporting AI empowerment, improving policies for fostering new growth drivers, and reducing costs and burdens for enterprises.

Main Content:

1. Stimulate the development vitality of business entities: Implement quality enterprise cultivation and incentive measures, encouraging all districts to provide rewards to enterprises with revenue exceeding RMB 20 billion and a growth rate 1.2 times higher than the city's average. Implement SME development incentive measures, granting cumulative rewards to core teams of software and information service enterprises that achieve annual main business revenue exceeding RMB 1 billion, 5 billion, 10 billion, and 20 billion for the first time, with maximum rewards of RMB 5 million, 10 million, 20 million, and 30 million respectively. Implement microenterprise growth incentive measures, providing one-time rewards ranging from RMB 200,000 to RMB 500,000 based on growth rate to enterprises whose

annual revenue exceeds RMB 20 million for the first time.

2. Support AI-empowered upgrading and quality improvement: Support cloud service providers in developing Model-as-a-Service (MaaS) capabilities and provide computing power subsidies to innovation entities that utilize such services. Support software and information service enterprises in partnering with industry enterprises to collaboratively develop and apply industry-specific models, providing funding subsidies of up to 30% of project investment. Support the development of general-purpose agents, and include agents that reach a certain user scale within the scope of “computing power vouchers” and “model vouchers.” Support enterprises in accelerating intelligent transformation and digitalization upgrading, providing funding subsidies of up to 50% for intelligent technology transformation projects.

3. Improve support policies for cultivating new growth drivers: Expand the market demand for independent and controllable software. For eligible software application projects, provide application subsidies to purchasers of up to 80% of the procurement contract amount. Promote the clustered development of the digital content industry in Shanghai, supporting areas such as digital games, film and television, and music, and conduct pilot programs at appropriate times to treat foreign-invested game products as domestic game products.

4. Effectively reduce costs and alleviate burdens on enterprises: Reduce R&D costs by implementing the pre-tax additional deduction policy for R&D expenses and providing rolling support for key R&D projects. Reduce financing costs by leveraging the role of policy-based financing guarantee funds, with a single-entity guarantee cap of RMB 30 million. Reduce network costs by promoting a further reduction in average broadband and dedicated line rates by more than 5%. Reduce labor costs by implementing policies such as one-time employment absorption subsidies and supporting enterprises in establishing postdoctoral research workstations.

2. Several Policy Measures of Shanghai Municipality for Promoting the Sound Development of Online New Economy

Issued:

2023

Issuing Authority:

General Office of Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Support the development of relevant industry entities.
2. Encourage the construction of new types of infrastructure.
3. Stimulate the vitality of enterprise in scientific and technological innovation.
4. Promote innovation in financial service models.

Main Content:

1. Provide support for qualified digital economy enterprises in areas such as talent, finance, and cross-border data flow in accordance with laws and regulations; confer honorary titles such as China Top 100 Internet Companies; and facilitate cross-departmental and cross-regional coordination for application scenarios.

2. Support the construction of new types of infrastructure such as cross-border services, data flywheels, large-scale corpus, and Web 3.0; provide subsidies to qualified data trading entities in accordance with regulations.

3. For key tasks explicitly identified by the state and the municipality, as well as critical projects of strategic and public welfare significance, upon approval by the Municipal Government, the maximum support ratio may reach 50% of the approved total project investment, with the maximum support amount reaching RMB 50 million.

4. Support the establishment of an online new economy industrial fund to provide

targeted financing services for qualified online new economy enterprises of various types.

3. Measures for the Administration of the Special Fund for Shanghai's Urban Digital Transformation

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Data Bureau,
Shanghai Municipal Finance Bureau

Original Text

Highlights:

To accelerate the urban digital transformation of Shanghai, consolidate and enhance the city's competitiveness and core strengths, and build a new strategic advantage for Shanghai's future, the special fund for Shanghai's urban digital transformation is established to regulate fund management, improve utilization efficiency, and support the creation of an internationally influential digital hub.

Main Content:

1. Clear direction of fund support. Focus on five major areas: the data factor market system, promotion of key application scenarios, industry-wide common empowerment, regional pilot demonstrations, and creation of a digital development environment. Support projects such as core technology R&D of big data, open application of public data, digital innovation of livelihood services, and intelligent upgrading of urban governance.

2. Two types of support: non-reimbursable grants and rewards. For non-reimbursable grants, the support ratio generally does not exceed 30% of the total project investment, with a maximum support of RMB 5 million per project. For reward-based projects, the maximum reward per project is RMB 500,000. In principle, the same project shall not receive duplicative support from municipal-level fiscal funds.

3. Phased fund disbursement: For non-reimbursable grant projects, 50% of the support amount is disbursed initially, with the remaining amount disbursed after

acceptance and evaluation. Reward-based projects may be disbursed in a lump sum upon evaluation.

How to Access and Apply:

The application guidelines for 2026 have not yet been released. According to the 2025 document, after the application guidelines are released, enterprises can apply online at the “Municipal Support Fund Application” section under the “Shanghai Municipal Data Bureau” tab on the Government Online-Offline Shanghai platform, or contact the following for further information:

Shanghai Municipal Data Bureau: 021-23012000

Shanghai Government Service Hotline: 021-12345

Shanghai outstanding digital business enterprise product projects: 23117465

“Suishenma” (Shanghai QR Code) application projects: 23118463

IoT sensing application projects: 23118423

Digital public service system projects: 23118443

Intelligent Connected New Energy Vehicles

1. Measures of Shanghai Municipality for Encouraging the Development of Charging and Battery Swap Facilities for Electric Vehicles

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Development & Reform Commission, Shanghai Municipal Transportation Commission, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy aims to promote the high-quality development of Shanghai's charging and battery swap infrastructure to better support the rapid adoption of electric vehicles and the upgrading of the industry.

Main Content:

1. For charging facilities completed in demonstration residential communities after the implementation of these Measures, charging service providers will receive a subsidy covering 30% of their equipment investment, and homeowners' assemblies will be granted a one-time subsidy based on the number of newly added charging spaces in these communities.

2. For general-purpose battery swap stations, which support multiple brands and vehicle models, and non-general-purpose stations completed after the implementation of these Measures, service providers will receive subsidies covering 40% and 20% of their equipment investment, respectively. These subsidies apply specifically to the charging and battery swapping systems, excluding the batteries.

3. From the implementation date of these Measures to December 31, 2025, electric taxi drivers who follow government-guided fare pricing and pay charging and battery swapping fees to service providers via the municipal platform for

public data collection and monitoring of charging and battery swap facilities will be eligible for either a per-kWh subsidy or a one-time subsidy. Payments to service providers will be based on the amount after the subsidy is applied.

How to Access and Apply:

Please refer to the operation flow chart available at: https://www.shanghai.gov.cn/zxzj-2026-xz001/20260316/c7a696d8edcc43219cc93961fec65e36.html

High-End Equipment

1. Special Action Plan of Shanghai Municipality for Promoting Large-Scale Equipment Renewals and Broader Application of Innovative Products in the Industrial Sector

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization, Shanghai Municipal Development & Reform Commission, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy aims to advance large-scale equipment renewals in key sectors, ensure the security and stability of industrial and supply chains, and accelerate the promotion and application of innovative products.

Main Content:

Each year, Shanghai will offer financial support to approximately 10 new material application certification projects, covering 30% of the certification and testing contract amounts, with a maximum of RMB 1 million per product.

Advanced Materials

1. Implementation Measures for Supporting High-Quality Industrial Development in Shanghai Chemical Industry Park (2026–2027)

Issued:

2026

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Chemical Industry Park Administration Commission

Original Text

Highlights:

The policy outlines a series of measures across the following areas to promote the high-quality development of the new materials industry:

1. Support for key industries.

2. Innovation support.

3. Green, circular, and low-carbon development.

4. Security and emergency response capabilities.

5. Digital park development.

6. Enterprise quality improvement and upgrading.

Main Content:

1. For electronic chemical projects that align with the key development directions of the Shanghai Chemical Industry Park (SCIP), feature advanced technologies, and have an approved investment of over RMB 100 million, the support will be up to 10% of the approved project investment, with a maximum of RMB 20 million. If the project is part of a major national or municipal strategic initiative, the support may increase to 20% of the approved investment, with a maximum of RMB 30 million.

For advanced materials, biomanufacturing, and green and low-carbon projects, the support will be up to 10% of the approved project investment, with a maximum of RMB 20 million. For other high-end manufacturing projects, the support will be up to 10% of the approved project investment, with a maximum of RMB 5 million per project. For major projects, the support may increase to a maximum of RMB 10 million.

2. Development of sci-tech innovation platforms: National-level sci-tech innovation platforms, such as manufacturing innovation centers, technology enterprise incubators, makerspaces, and functional platforms, will be eligible for a reward of up to RMB 5 million, while municipal-level platforms may receive up to RMB 3 million. Newly recognized national engineering research centers, national engineering technology research centers, national enterprise technology centers, and state key laboratories will receive a one-time reward of RMB 3 million, provided they maintain their status within the valid certification period. Similarly, newly recognized municipal-level research institutions will receive a one-time reward of RMB 1 million, provided they maintain their status within the valid certification period.

3. Energy conservation and utilization projects: The city will support low-carbon energy transformation, energy-saving technology upgrades, pollution reduction and carbon reduction initiatives, as well as circular economy and comprehensive resource utilization projects, offering a reward of up to 30% of the project investment, with a maximum of RMB 5 million per project.

4. For digital park development projects, a reward of up to RMB 5 million will be granted per project.

5. Enterprise quality improvement and upgrading: A one-time reward of RMB 250,000 will be granted to companies recognized as high-tech enterprises for the first time; enterprises newly recognized as national-level and Shanghai municipal-level "Single-Product Champion" enterprises will be granted a one-time reward of RMB 1,000,000 and RMB 300,000 respectively; enterprises newly recognized as national-level and Shanghai municipal-level "Specialized and Sophisticated" enterprises will be granted a one-time reward of RMB 1,000,000 and RMB 250,000 respectively.

How to Access and Apply:

For more information, please visit the website of the Shanghai Chemical Industry Park Administration Commission at https://www.scip.gov.cn/.

(II) Modern Service Industry

1. Work Plan for Accelerating the Comprehensive Pilot Program for Expanding Opening-up of the Service Sector

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Commerce

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Support the opening up of telecommunications services and related digital industries.

2. Improve the opening up in the healthcare and wellness sector.

3. Promote international cooperation in the financial sector.

4. Promote the interconnectivity of transportation services.

5. Improve the level of trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.

Main Content:

1. Open domestic Internet Virtual Private Network (VPN) services to foreign investment, with foreign equity capped at 50%, and remove foreign equity restrictions on online data processing and transaction processing services (specifically app store services) as well as Internet resource collaboration services, except in sectors prohibited from foreign investment.

2. Support qualified foreign and Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan doctors in opening clinics in pilot areas including Shanghai, and support professional medical staff in engaging in short-term practice activities according to regulations; support the establishment of foreign-funded nursing colleges, support the establishment of non-profit medical institutions through joint donations between China and foreign

countries, and allow foreign-funded donations to set up non-profit old-age care institutions.

3. Support eligible Chinese and foreign commercial banks and insurance institutions to participate in RMB treasury bond options trading; Expand the pilot program of qualified foreign limited partners (QFLP).

4. Explore the development of international rail-sea intermodal transportation and rail intermodal services for power lithium batteries, lithium battery-powered motorcycles, bicycles, and energy storage equipment.

5. Exempt domestic reinvestment from foreign exchange registration requirements; facilitate overseas certification bodies to conduct export product certification business in pilot areas such as Shanghai after completing record-filing; allow companies registered in pilot areas such as Shanghai to directly handle the registration of funds related to overseas listings at banks.

2. Measures for the Use and Administration of Investment Funds for the Development of Service Industry in Shanghai

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Support project development, business operations, and major issue research in weak links, key areas, priority regions, and emerging sectors within the development of the service industry.

2. For specific application rules, please refer to the annual project application guidelines issued by the Shanghai Municipal Development & Reform Commission.

Main Content:

1. Eligible recipients of financial support shall be legally established legal persons or unincorporated organizations with a reasonable economic scale, a sound credit record, and no record of violations of laws or regulations.

2. For major demonstration projects, the amount of municipal investment funds shall not exceed RMB 6 million in principle. For key projects, the maximum proportion of municipal investment funds shall not exceed 20% of the total project investment, and the amount of support shall not exceed RMB 3 million. For major strategic research and service industry park planning, the maximum proportion of municipal investment funds shall not exceed 20% of the contract amount.

3. Several Measures of Shanghai Municipality for Promoting the Coordinated Development of Service Industry Quality and Efficiency Enhancement and Consumption Expansion

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

Promote the coordinated development of service industry quality and efficiency enhancement and consumption expansion, deepen reform, opening-up, and innovation in the service sector; strengthen supply-side support, stimulate high-quality consumption demand through high-quality service supply; and drive high-quality development of the service industry, thereby improving supply, boosting consumption, stabilizing growth, and enhancing public well-being.

Main Content:

Financial and Platform Economy Support

1. Support innovation in insurance products and services, upgrade inclusive insurance products such as "Huhuibao."

2. Support the issuance of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) for consumer infrastructure and the application for local government special bonds.

Incentives for the Integrated Development of Culture, Sports, Entertainment and Tourism

1. Support museums, galleries, and science and technology venues in organizing or co-hosting high-quality paid special exhibitions, and reasonably determining performance-based compensation based on outcomes.

2. Support the development of new performance venues and digital cultural and

entertainment spaces in shopping malls, office buildings, and historic buildings, with interest subsidies and other support measures.

3. Provide incentives to theater operators hosting high-quality performances based on audience attendance and other factors.

4. Support the introduction of well-known branded sports events and the development of proprietary event IPs.

Livelihood Services and Healthcare Support

1. Provide subsidies to employee-based housekeeping enterprises implementing categorized health check systems for service staff.

2. Support the conversion of existing commercial and office buildings into elderly care facilities, with one-time subsidies provided by districts based on bed capacity.

3. Encourage financial institutions to develop pension trust products.

Brand Standards and Comprehensive Support Measures

1. Explore support for eligible entities holding “Shanghai Brand” certifications.

2. Support business entities in applying for service consumption scenario development projects.

3. Support scenario-based transformation of spatial carriers, implementing policies such as floor area ratio incentives and flexible planning management.

4. Optimize the use of fiscal funds to support business entities in improving supply quality and cultivating key consumption scenarios.

5. Strengthen coordination between fiscal and financial policies, implementing measures such as financing guarantees and loan interest subsidies. Enhance performance management of funds, with greater use of reward-based subsidies.

4. Measures for the Recognition and Administration of Technology-Advanced Service Enterprises in Shanghai

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality, Shanghai Municipal Finance Bureau, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

Formulate 19 specific rules for the identification of technology-advanced service enterprises.

Main Content:

1. Technology-advanced service enterprises recognized in accordance with the Measures may be subject to enterprise income tax at a reduced rate of 15% within the validity period.

2. Extend the validity of Measures for the Recognition and Administration of Technology-Advanced Service Enterprises in Shanghai to June 20, 2029.

Financial Services

1. Action Plan for Further Enhancing the Facilitation of Cross-border Financial Services in the Shanghai International Financial Center

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

People's Bank of China,
National Financial Regulatory Administration, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

Eighteen key measures have been proposed in five areas: improving cross-border settlement efficiency, optimizing exchange rate hedging services, strengthening financing services, enhancing insurance protection, and upgrading comprehensive financial services.

Main Content:

1. Support pilot banks such as Bank of China, China CITIC Bank, China Min-sheng Bank, and Citibank (China) Co., Ltd. in their Shanghai branches in carrying out operations in accordance with the new regulations. Establish a mechanism for due diligence exemption appeals and reviews for the foreign exchange operations of pilot banks to enhance the quality and efficiency of cross-border financial services.

2. Pilot the use of the rediscount window to support RMB cross-border trade financing; encourage banks in Shanghai to expand cross-border trade lending, reduce the cost of RMB trade financing for enterprises, and promote import and export trade settlement in RMB.

3. Increase insurance support for key export enterprises, such as domestic commercial aircraft manufacturers, new energy vehicle companies, and large-scale equipment manufacturers; promote collaboration between insurance

companies and reinsurance companies to establish insurance consortiums and enhance their capacity to underwrite special risks.

2. Notice on Matters Concerning Deepening the Reform of Foreign Exchange Management for Cross-border Investment and Financing

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

State Administration of Foreign Exchange

Original Text

Highlights:

Deepen reform of foreign exchange administration for cross-border investment and financing; enhance facilitation of cross-border investment and financing; support the attraction and utilization of foreign investment; and promote high-quality financial services for the real economy.

Main Content:

1. Remove the registration requirement for basic information on preliminary expenses for domestic direct investment. Where overseas investors need to remit preliminary expenses before establishing a foreign-invested enterprise in China, they may directly open a preliminary expense account with a bank and remit funds without prior registration.

2. Remove the registration requirement for domestic reinvestment by foreign-invested enterprises. Where foreign-invested enterprises conduct domestic reinvestment using foreign exchange capital or RMB funds converted therefrom, the investee enterprise or equity transferor is no longer required to complete registration for receiving such reinvestment, and funds may be directly transferred to the relevant accounts.

3. Allow domestic reinvestment of foreign exchange profits under foreign direct investment. Foreign exchange profits legally generated by foreign-invested enterprises in China, as well as those legally obtained by overseas investors, may be directly credited to the capital account of the investee enterprise or the capital account settlement account of the equity transferor for reinvestment.

4. Facilitate the receipt of overseas funds by domestic non-enterprise research

institutions. Such institutions may handle foreign exchange registration, account opening, and fund conversion procedures with reference to foreign direct investment (i.e., extending the “Kehuitong” (Research Remittance Connect) policy).

5. Expand the facilitation quota for cross-border financing. Eligible high-tech enterprises, “specialized, refined, distinctive and innovative” enterprises, and technology-based SMEs nationwide may have their facilitation quota increased to the equivalent of USD 10 million; for eligible enterprises selected under the “Innovation Points System,” the quota is increased to the equivalent of USD 20 million.

6. Simplify registration requirements for cross-border financing facilitation. Enterprises participating in such programs are no longer required to submit audited financial statements for the previous year or the most recent period at the contract registration stage.

7. Streamline the negative list for the use of capital account income. The restriction prohibiting the use of capital account foreign exchange income and converted RMB funds for purchasing non-owner-occupied residential properties is removed.

8. Optimize facilitation for payments of capital account foreign exchange income. Banks may determine the proportion and frequency of ex post random inspections for facilitation business based on clients’ compliance status and risk levels.

9. Facilitate foreign exchange settlement and payment for overseas individuals purchasing property in China. The facilitation measures piloted in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area are expanded nationwide. Eligible overseas individuals may complete foreign exchange settlement and payment based on a property purchase contract or agreement, with supporting filing documents to be submitted subsequently.

How to Access and Apply:

Please refer to the Operational Guidelines for Further Facilitating Foreign Exchange Administration for Cross-border Investment and Financing (Attachment).

3. Notice on Expanding the Pilot Scope of High-level Opening-up for Certain Cross-Border Trade and Investment in the Lin-gang Special Area

Issued:

2023

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Branch of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange

Original Text

Highlights:

Expand the pilot areas for QFLP foreign exchange management and the pilot areas where banks directly handle the registration of foreign debt contracts for non-financial enterprises; broaden the scope of domestic expenditure for overseas funds raised by QFLPs; simplify foreign exchange registration, allowing free capital inflows and outflows and facilitating currency exchange; and enhance the flexibility of the organizational form of QFLP pilot funds.

Main Content:

1. The pilot area for foreign exchange management of Qualified Foreign Limited Partners (QFLPs) in Shanghai has been expanded from the Lin-gang Special Area to the entire Shanghai municipal region. The pilot area for banks to directly handle the registration of foreign debt contracts for non-financial enterprises has been expanded from the Lin-gang Special Area to Pudong New Area.

2. QFLPs are allowed to engage in various investment activities in the domestic market beyond the scope of foreign investment access special management measures (negative list) through equity, debt, and other forms (excluding real estate enterprises and local government financing platforms). These include equity in non-listed companies, common shares of listed companies not publicly issued and traded (including block trades, negotiated transfers, etc.), preferred shares and convertible bonds that can be converted into common shares, and participation in rights issues as an original shareholder of a listed company.

3. Different funds under the same management entity can flexibly adjust and use their quotas. The QFLP pilot program adopts a quota management system, under which foreign investors can freely remit capital in and out within their registered quota to subscribe to or redeem shares in pilot funds. Foreign exchange funds that meet the requirements can be directly converted into RMB upon entry. There is no need to register foreign currency capital contributions for pilot funds or to conduct foreign exchange registration for reinvestment in domestic investee enterprises under the pilot program. Neither of them requires the opening of an account for settlement of foreign exchange pending payment, etc.

4. Pilot funds may be established in the form of a corporation, partnership, or contractual arrangement, among other permissible organizational structures.

How to Access and Apply:

Enterprises can scan the QR code on this page to access the policy attachments, including operational guidelines on foreign exchange management under the QFLP pilot program and on the registration and amendment of foreign debt contracts for non-financial enterprises with banks in Shanghai.

4. Action Plan for Promoting the High-Quality Development of Shanghai into a Global Financial Technology Center

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Encourage the clustered development of fintech companies.
2. Promote the development of key players in fintech innovation.
3. Strengthen direct investment and financing support for fintech companies.

Main Content:

1. For key fintech projects and platforms, as well as institutions providing information technology services to financial institutions and regulatory authorities, those that are based in fintech clusters (such as in Pudong New Area, Huangpu District, and the Lin-gang Special Area as model fintech hubs) and meet the eligibility criteria upon certification, will be supported by the local government (or administrative committee) in accordance with laws and regulations.

2. Support financial infrastructure institutions, financial institutions, large technology enterprises, and others in establishing fintech R&D centers and innovation platforms in Shanghai; encourage joint efforts among multiple parties to build various fintech joint laboratories, incubators, and other initiatives; and explore and promote joint innovation and commercialization of fintech achievements. Entities based in fintech clusters that meet the eligibility criteria upon certification will be supported by the local government (or administrative committee) in accordance with laws and regulations.

3. Encourage large financial institutions, technology enterprises, etc. to set up special equity investment funds in Shanghai. Support fintech companies in utilizing the multi-tiered capital market for financing through listings, bond

issuances, and other means. Encourage leading fintech companies to strengthen the integration of resources along the industry chain by focusing on their core business and expanding through mergers, acquisitions, and restructuring. Support fintech companies in carrying out cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

Trade and Commercial Services

1. Notice on the Implementation of Shanghai's 2026 Policy on Large-scale Equipment Upgrades and the Trade-in of Used Consumer Goods Programs

Issued:

2026

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Development & Reform Commission, Shanghai Municipal Finance Bureau

Original Text

Highlights:

Implement national policies on large-scale equipment upgrades and consumer goods trade-in programs by introducing 16 measures across four areas: equipment upgrades, consumer goods trade-in, recycling system improvement, and implementation support.

Main Content:

1. Promoting Large-scale Equipment Upgrades: Support eligible projects in sectors including industry, electronic information, energy and power, transportation, logistics, education, culture and tourism, healthcare, and commercial complexes in applying for national funding. Continue implementing loan interest subsidies for technological transformation and equipment upgrades subsidies.

Support the scrappage and upgrades of old operating freight trucks and the renewal of new energy urban buses. Support applications for scrapping operating freight trucks meeting the China IV or lower emission standards and replacing them with low-emission trucks (with priority given to electric trucks), as well as the renewal of new energy urban buses and power batteries. The subsidy standards shall be implemented in accordance with the Notice on the Implementation of the Scrappage and Upgrades of Old Operating Freight Trucks and the Implementation Rules for the Upgrades Subsidy of New Energy Urban Buses and Power Batteries in 2025.

Support applications for the scrappage and upgrades of old agricultural machinery. The subsidy standards shall be implemented in accordance with the Notice on Effectively Implementing the Subsidy Policy for the Scrappage and Upgrades of Agricultural Machinery in 2025. Agricultural (plant protection) unmanned aerial vehicles and grain dryers, among others, are included in the scope of subsidies.

2. Implementation of Trade-in of Used Consumer Goods Program (Amounts Involved):

Vehicle scrappage and replacement: A subsidy of 12% of the vehicle price (capped at RMB 20,000) for the purchase of new energy passenger vehicles; a subsidy of 10% of the vehicle price (capped at RMB 15,000) for the purchase of fuel-powered passenger vehicles with an engine displacement of 2.0 liters or below.

Vehicle trade-in for upgrade: A subsidy of 8% of the vehicle price (capped at RMB 15,000) for the purchase of new energy passenger vehicles; a subsidy of 6% of the vehicle price (capped at RMB 13,000) for the purchase of fuel-powered passenger vehicles with an engine displacement of 2.0 liters or below.

Home appliance trade-in: A subsidy of 15% of the product sales price, capped at RMB 1,500 per item, for the purchase of products meeting the Grade 1 energy efficiency or water efficiency standards among six categories of home appliances: refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, air conditioners, computers, and water heaters.

Purchase of digital and smart products: A subsidy of 15% of the product sales price, capped at RMB 500 per item, for the purchase of four categories of products (with a unit sales price not exceeding RMB 6,000): mobile phones, tablets, smartwatches and smart bands, and smart glasses.

3. Smoothing the recycling and circular utilization network: Improve the recycling network for used equipment and consumer goods, and continuously optimize the “two-network integration” recycling system.

How to Access and Apply:

For applying for subsidies for scrapping and upgrading old operating freight trucks in transportation: The owner of the operating freight truck shall, within the policy implementation period, submit an application to the municipal-level transportation authority with district jurisdiction where the owner is located, fill in the Application Form for Scrappage and Upgrades Subsidies for Old Operating Freight Trucks, and submit relevant materials. For details, please consult the Shanghai Municipal Transportation Commission at 021-23196076.

For applying for scrapping and renewing old agricultural machinery: After completing the purchase, the buyer may independently submit a subsidy claim to the local agriculture and rural affairs department. The district-level agriculture and rural affairs department shall, upon receiving the signed and confirmed subsidy application from the buyer, decide whether to accept the application within 2 working days. Upon acceptance, it shall complete the verification of the machinery within 13 working days and carry out a public announcement for no fewer than 5 working days. For details, please consult the Agricultural Machinery and Intelligent Equipment Division of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

For vehicle scrappage and replacement: Sign up for the lottery (via the “SCOFCOM” WeChat public account, under Government Services – Automobile Trade-in Subsidy Application – Subsidy Eligibility) – notarized lottery draw – lottery result inquiry – submit application (by January 10, 2027 after winning, through the following platforms: the National Automotive Circulation Information Management System website, and the “Automobile Trade-in” mini-program).

For automobile trade-in: Sign up for the lottery (via the “SCOFCOM” WeChat public account) – after winning, submit application (by January 10, 2027 through the following platforms: the “SCOFCOM” WeChat public account, and the “Chexinmeng” WeChat public account and App).

For home appliance trade-in: Online registration (log in to a service provider’s app, such as Alipay, UnionPay QuickPass, etc.) – notarized lottery draw – issuance of eligibility vouchers – verification of eligibility vouchers.

For purchase of digital and smart products: Online registration (log in to a service provider's app, such as Alipay, UnionPay QuickPass, etc.) – notarized lottery draw – issuance of eligibility vouchers – verification of eligibility vouchers.

2. Measures for Further Promoting the High-Quality Development of Shanghai's Debut Economy

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce,
Shanghai Municipal Finance Bureau,
Shanghai Customs District of People's Republic of China

Original Text

Highlights:

Enhance the level of new product debuts at exhibitions; pilot inspection facilitation measures for debut imported consumer goods; and pilot a fast-track customs clearance mode for debut imported cosmetics.

Main Content:

Exhibitors who hold global debut events for new products at consumer goods exhibitions with domestic and international influence held in this city will receive a subsidy of up to 30% of their total actual expenses on booth rental, booth construction and design, and promotion, capped at RMB 500,000. For debut events at exhibitions held during the "First in Shanghai" campaign period from March to May, the subsidy cap is increased to RMB 600,000 with the same 30% support ratio. For imported goods associated with first launches, first shows, first exhibitions, or first store, multiple facilitation conformity assessment procedures such as qualified assurance shall be adopted, differentiated inspection models shall be implemented, and customs clearance efficiency shall be improved. Non-sale imported cosmetics participating in first launches, first shows, and first exhibitions events in this city shall be exempted from submitting the registration certificate for imported special cosmetics and the record-filing certificate for imported general cosmetics, exempted from Chinese label inspection, and exempted from laboratory testing.

How to Access and Apply:

Follow the official website of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce at https://sww.sh.gov.cn and the “SCOFCOM” public WeChat account.

3. Several Measures for Accelerating the Upgrading of Shanghai's Convention and Exhibition Industry

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce

Original Text

Highlights:

Encourage the introduction and cultivation of new exhibitions and the acquisition and integration of high-quality exhibition resources. Provide financial support for large-scale exhibitions held in Shanghai for the first time. Enhance the internationalization level of exhibitions by offering tiered support to projects that meet specified thresholds for overseas exhibitors and visitors. Promote the integrated development of the exhibition and industrial sectors.

Main Content:

1. Encourage the introduction and cultivation of new exhibitions, as well as the merger and acquisition of high-quality exhibition assets, and provide tiered financial support for large-scale exhibitions held in Shanghai for the first time.

2. Enhance the internationalization level of exhibitions and provide tiered support for events that meet requirements on scale and the proportion of overseas exhibitors and visitors.

3. Develop exhibitions in niche sectors, support emerging industries and new consumption formats in exhibition activities, and provide support for high-quality industrial exhibitions.

4. Implement a "one venue, one policy" approach for exhibition venues, activate underutilized venue resources, and promote the integration of conferences and exhibitions to improve utilization efficiency.

5. Stabilize exhibition venue rental rates, introduce preferential policies, standardize service catalogues, and optimize supporting services.

How to Access and Apply:

Convention and Exhibition Industry Division, Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce

Consultation Hotline: 23111111 (ask for Convention and Exhibition Industry Division)

4. Several Measures on Further Promoting the High-Quality Development of Debut Economy in Shanghai

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce, Shanghai Municipal Finance Bureau, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

Support leading domestic and foreign brands to open high-level first stores in Shanghai; support the holding of first shows and exhibitions; build the professional service ecosystem for debut economy; optimize the management of approval and filing of initial activities; provide customs clearance convenience for imported first new products.

Main Content:

1. Grant a one-time reward of RMB 1 million to first stores at the Asia level or above. Grant a one-time reward of RMB 1.2 million to first stores at the Asia level or above that open during the “First in Shanghai” campaign. Encourage districts with the financial means to provide appropriate support to first stores at the national level or above.

2. Encourage more high-quality, high-traffic domestic and international brands to debut in Shanghai through first launches, first shows, and first exhibitions. Events will be evaluated based on factors such as the innovation level of new products, number of participants, overall impact, and media coverage. A subsidy of up to RMB 1 million may be granted to event organizers, covering venue rental, exhibition setup, and promotional activities, at up to 30% of the actual investment. During the “First in Shanghai” event period, activities with international influence and market leadership can receive a maximum subsidy of 1.2 million RMB.

3. Provide financial support of up to RMB 1 million for global communication promotions, industry summit forums, and other related projects organized by

high-level professional service organizations in the debut economy, covering up to 30% of the actual investment.

4. For large-scale new product launch events with more than 1,000 participants, implement a one-time approval system for similar events at the same venue. For smaller new product launch events with fewer than 1,000 participants, a one-time filing system for similar events at the same venue will be implemented on a trial basis, based on the model of large-scale events.

5. Establish an "Enterprise Service Package" for the customs clearance facilitation of imported goods related to first launches, first shows, first exhibitions, and first stores. Provide facilitation measures for imported consumer goods used for sample displays, new product launches, etc., that will not be sold in the domestic market. After preliminary review by the district commerce authority, the application shall be uniformly submitted to the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce.

How to Access and Apply:

Refer to the application material requirements of last year. Enterprises shall submit paper materials to the district-level commerce authorities where they actually operate. The district commerce authorities will conduct initial review and then submit them to the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce.

Review Process and Requirements:

(1) Project evaluation. The Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce will consolidate the enterprise materials that have undergone initial review by all districts, organize experts to conduct assessment of relevant materials, and determine the shortlisted enterprises upon review.

(2) Public announcement. The list of shortlisted enterprises will be made public for public scrutiny. If no objections are raised, it will be formally announced.

(3) Audit and disbursement. The Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce will, based on the final list of shortlisted enterprises and in accordance with the support standards, apply to the Shanghai Municipal Finance Bureau for fund disbursement following the relevant regulations and procedures for centralized treasury payment. Meanwhile, the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce

will distribute the final list of shortlisted enterprises to the commerce authorities of all districts. Districts with suitable conditions are encouraged to introduce relevant supporting policies.

Cultural and Creative Industries

1. Shanghai Ultra-HD Audio-visual Industry Development Action Plan

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization, Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Increase support for the ultra-HD audio-visual industry.
2. Increase financial support.
3. Support the introduction of talents in the ultra-HD audio-visual industry.

Main Content:

1. Promote the R&D and industrialization of high-standard, cutting-edge products, develop advanced technologies such as flexible displays and high-resolution near-eye displays, and advance the AI-enabled development of the ultra-HD audio-visual industry.

2. Increase financial support and coordinate the use of special funds for promoting high-quality industrial development, the development of strategic emerging industries, and scientific and technological innovation. Continue to strengthen support for breakthroughs in core technologies of the ultra-HD audio-visual industry, the construction of major infrastructure and key projects, the development of the content industry ecosystem, and the implementation and promotion of application scenarios. Encourage social capital to actively participate in the development of ultra-HD audio-visual industry in an orderly manner.

3. Support the introduction of high-level talent and entrepreneurial teams in the

ultra-HD audio-visual industry from both domestic and international sources. Make full use of municipal and district-level talent incentive policies, and provide support to eligible individuals or teams.

2. Shanghai Municipal Measures for the Administration of Special Funds for the Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industry Development

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Office of the Shanghai Culture and Creative Industry Promotion Leading Group, Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Support the development of cultural and creative related sectors, the construction of public platforms, and the promotion of industrial projects.

2. Allocate the funds through non-repayable grants or interest-subsidized loans. Determine the level of financial support based on the project's functional positioning, content, expected benefits, and total investment amount.

3. For specific application rules, please refer to the annual project application guidelines issued by the Office of the Shanghai Culture and Creative Industry Promotion Leading Group.

Main Content:

1. Support the areas covered in the cultural and creative industries classification directory, including media and arts, industrial design, architectural design, and leisure and entertainment. Support the development and promotion of public service platforms for cultural and creative industries, projects led by outstanding individuals and talent teams, as well as key projects identified by the Office of the Shanghai Culture and Creative Industry Promotion Leading Group.

2. The non-reimbursable funding is divided into two types: pre-support and post-support. For projects receiving pre-support, the funding for a single project generally shall not exceed 50% of the total investment. For those receiving post-support, the project must comply with the specific requirements outlined in the

fund application guidelines for the given year. For projects using the loan interest subsidy method, the subsidy amount shall be determined based on the loan amount and the benchmark lending rate published by the People's Bank of China for the corresponding period.

Tourism Services

1. Notice on Issuing Several Measures for Further Promoting the Development of Cruise Transport and Tourism Services

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Original Text

Highlights:

To implement the decisions and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on vigorously boosting consumption, stimulate market vitality, and cultivate and expand cruise consumption, ten specific measures are proposed across four aspects: enriching route products, improving port services, optimizing management efficiency, and strengthening safety assurance.

Main Content:

Expand cruise homeport routes and pilot programs: Encourage PRC-flagged cruise ships to develop domestic coastal routes, and allow foreign-flagged cruise ships, upon approval, to temporarily engage in domestic coastal transport. Support the development of long-haul itineraries such as Maritime Silk Road routes and round-the-world voyages. Advance pilot programs in Shanghai and other locations for "cruise-to-nowhere" itineraries, and explore more open policies on travel documents and duty-free arrangements.

1. Optimize entry and port call arrangements for foreign-flagged cruise ships: Streamline the approval process for multi-port calls and implement end-to-end online processing. Support enterprises in applying for multiple port calls in a single submission. Adjust shore power requirements: cruise ships on visiting routes that are not yet equipped to receive shore power may continue to berth at

Chinese ports through the end of 2029.

2. Enrich cruise tourism product offerings: Promote the introduction of performing arts, exhibitions, cultural and creative products, and wellness services on board. Leverage visa-free entry policies to diversify shore excursion offerings. Develop new “cruise+” consumption scenarios and build clusters for cruise-themed souvenirs and branded products.

3. Improve efficient port entry and exit operations: Deepen coordination between maritime authorities and port operators to implement streamlined cruise services featuring “direct entry and berthing” and “direct departure and exit”; optimize navigation support for ultra-large cruise ships in areas such as the Yangtze River Estuary, and strengthen priority traffic support for port entry and departure following severe weather conditions.

4. Optimize the cruise ship registration system: Simplify international ship registration procedures under the “China Yangpu Port” registry and streamline inspection processes. Encourage Chinese-invested cruise operators to register vessels at “China Yangpu Port” by leveraging the tax incentives of the Hainan Free Trade Port.

5. Enhance end-to-end service quality: Guide enterprises to improve services across the entire value chain, including ticketing, embarkation and disembarkation, and shore excursions. Clarify that cruise operators engaging in package tour business must obtain the appropriate travel agency qualifications. Support applications for pilot programs under the initiative to build China into a country with strong transportation capabilities.

6. Strengthen cruise transport safety assurance: Establish multi-agency coordination mechanisms and enhance information sharing. Implement “one ship, one policy” safety supervision plans for large cruise ships. Encourage enterprises to increase investment in the training of senior cruise crew members.

7. Improve emergency response mechanisms: Refine emergency response plans, update large-scale life-saving operation plans and search-and-rescue cooperation frameworks. Conduct regular multi-format drills and exercises to enhance emergency response capabilities for unexpected incidents.

2. Action Plan for Optimizing the Departure Tax Refund Consumption Environment in Shanghai (2025–2027)

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce, Shanghai Municipal Tax Service of the State Taxation Administration, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

This action plan is formulated to leverage Shanghai's role as the first stop for inbound tourism to China, and to establish Shanghai as a benchmark city for departure tax refunds featuring a well-distributed network of refund outlets, an extensive selection of eligible goods, attentive customer service, and a seamless “purchase, verification, refund” experience.

Main Content:

1. Expand the coverage of departure tax refund outlets: Add refund stores in major commercial districts, pedestrian streets, tourist attractions, cultural and museum venues, airports, passenger ports, and other locations, with priority given to expanding into distinctive venues such as ancient towns, theme parks, and cultural and creative industrial parks. By 2027, the city will host over 3,000 departure tax refund stores and over 10,000 refund outlets, with “Refund-Upon-Purchase” stores comprising more than 80% of the total.

2. Optimize the filing and support process for refund stores: Streamline filing procedures, with the competent tax authority completing the filing within five working days of receiving all required documentation. Support stores in purchasing related equipment by providing a 50% subsidy on such expenses, and encourage refund agencies to reduce or waive relevant fees for merchants.

3. Build distinctive departure tax refund areas: Develop signature departure tax refund commercial zones within international consumption clusters; build

distinctive tax refund neighborhoods in areas such as Wuan Block, Xintiandi, and Yuyuan Road; and establish tax refund tourism landmarks across all A-rated tourist attractions citywide, promoting the clustered development of refund stores.

4. Improve the facilitation of tax refunds: Install self-service tax refund kiosks at Pudong and Hongqiao airports to enable passengers to process refunds independently. Broaden refund channels by ensuring sufficient cash availability and exploring instant electronic refund transfers. Promote the sealing and coding of eligible goods by refund stores so that customs verification can be performed without unpacking.

5. Lower the minimum purchase threshold for departure tax refunds: Reduce the minimum purchase threshold for refund-eligible goods bought by the same overseas traveler at the same refund store on the same day to RMB 200.

6. Raise the cash refund ceiling: Increase the cash refund limit for "Refund-Upon-Purchase" services to RMB 20,000 to cover the demand generated by high-value goods.

7. Promote departure tax refund signage and guidance: Coordinate the design of a Shanghai departure tax refund promotional logo that is both internationally oriented and distinctly local. Launch multilingual editions of the Guide to the Departure Tax Refund for Overseas Visitors and the electronic map, and integrate them into platforms such as "Easy Go" and "Huxiaoyou," enabling travelers to instantly locate and access refund stores.

8. Improve financial services and verification: Optimize credit card pre-authorization services and explore the development of low-value insurance products for small-amount "Refund-Upon-Purchase" transactions. Pilot self-service verification at airports and enhance departure tax refund services at cruise ports.

3. Measures for the Administration of Shanghai Municipal Special Funds for Tourism Development

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism, Shanghai Municipal Finance Bureau

Original Text

Highlights:

A special fund for tourism development in Shanghai was established to provide priority support for key areas, major initiatives, and important innovations incorporated into Shanghai's cultural and tourism development plans, while encouraging and supporting various forms of private capital to jointly advance the high-quality development of Shanghai's tourism industry.

Main Content:

1. Support projects that promote the development of the tourism industry. Support key industrial projects aligned with Shanghai's tourism development direction. Support new forms of cultural-tourism integration, new scenarios, new experiences, and smart tourism projects that serve as innovative benchmarks. Provide matching support for projects in Shanghai that have received national tourism development funds.

2. Support projects that enhance the city's image. Support projects that upgrade and expand tourist attractions, boost inbound tourism, increase the supply of high-quality tourism products and services, and advance tourism standardization.

3. Support tourism public welfare facility projects. Support projects that facilitate convenient tourism consumption, provide public tourism information, deliver tourism convenience and benefit services to the public, and construct tourist safety protection facilities.

4. Support major tourism event projects. Support municipal or regional benchmark

tourism festivals and events that encourage broad participation, promote tourism consumption, and showcase the city's image.

5. Define support methods and funding amounts. Adopt either non-reimbursable grants or loan interest subsidies for a single project—choose one option. For non-reimbursable grants: fund no more than 30% of the total project investment or cost, with the amount not exceeding 5 million RMB. For loan interest subsidies: determine the amount based on the loan principal and the prevailing loan prime rate over the same period. Subsidize interest for a maximum of two years, with the total support not exceeding 5 million RMB.

Elderly Care Services

1. Several Measures and Policies on Further Promoting the High-Quality Development of Silver Economy in Shanghai

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Accelerate the development of key sectors and foster the growth of market entities.

2. Strengthen resource support to create a favorable development environment.

Main Content:

1. Expand smart elderly care scenarios and products: Support the inclusion of eligible smart elderly care product R&D in the city's special funding for elderly care technology. Continuously update and release the promotion catalog of smart health and elderly care products and services, and strengthen financial support.

2. Optimize accessible transportation services: Encourage elderly care institutions and medical institutions to purchase welfare vehicles. Study policies that support and incentivize welfare vehicle use. Support the inclusion of stair-climbing machine services in government-purchased elderly assistance services.

3. In eastern Shanghai, encourage the Municipal Rehabilitation Assistive Devices Centre (Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park, Pudong New Area) to leverage local strengths in artificial intelligence and biomedicine to promote interdisciplinary integration and cultivate new models in the healthy aging industry. In western Shanghai, support the Shanghai Rehabilitation Assistive Devices Industrial Park (Qingpu Xihongqiao

Subpark) in leveraging the Yangtze River Delta's regional advantages to attract more corporate headquarters in the rehabilitation device sector and build a new platform integrating exhibition and trade. In southern Shanghai, rely on Minhang's “Grand NeoBay” innovation community to establish the Shanghai Elderly Care Technology Industrial Park.

4. Provide subsidies to elderly care workers who reach certain skill levels and explore professional competency evaluation systems for elderly care professionals.

5. Support eligible elderly care projects by allowing their land prices to be determined with reference to the benchmark prices for standard factory industrial projects. Encourage the transformation of qualified existing resources into compliant elderly care service facilities.

Human Resources Services

1. Several Measures to Support the AI-Empowered Transformation and Upgrading of the Human Resources Services Industry in Shanghai

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau

Original Text

Highlights:

Strengthen the guarantee of basic data and computing power services enabled by AI; support human resources service institutions in making AI R&D investments; promote the co-construction and sharing of industry human resources data and AI models; popularize the digital-intelligent chain-based development model; intensify the promotion and application of AI agents for going global; participate in the development of an AI industry-training integration ecosystem; empower public employment services with AI to achieve improvement; build a distinctive “AI+HR” service brand and promote the coordinated and integrated development of “AI+HR + industry”; establish an open innovation laboratory for human resources; and reinforce efforts to attract and cultivate digital-intelligent talent in the industry.

Main Content:

1. Support key enterprises in building a cloud platform ecosystem, establish a computing power collaboration mechanism, and provide suitable cloud-based computing power services.

2. Encourage institutions to develop AI technologies, apply for subsidies such as guidance funds and computing power vouchers, and support technology-based SMEs in using innovation vouchers.

3. Support leading enterprises and platform enterprises in jointly building data laboratories, creating training datasets, and developing models for intelligent recruitment, assessment, and training.

4. Select digital-intelligent chain leaders, open interfaces, and provide lightweight SaaS products to drive the coordinated transformation of micro and small enterprises.

5. Encourage the research and development of AI agent products for global expansion, incorporate them into the "Thousand Sails Going Global" promotion program, and strengthen integrated policy and service support.

6. Build industry-training integration centers and AI sub-centers, cultivate AI-related skilled talent, and provide one-stop employment services.

7. Enhance the efficiency of public employment services with AI, support institutions in joining platforms, applying for internship bases, and claiming subsidies.

8. Collect AI transformation cases, compile application guidelines, and have industrial parks provide "AI+HR" policy service packages.

9. Establish a supply-demand matching platform, support institutions in participating in high-end exhibitions, and promote the integration of human resources services into the three chains.

10. Support Jing'an District in jointly building an open innovation laboratory, focusing on digital technology R&D and achievement demonstration.

11. Support digital-intelligent institutions in being included in the key scope for talent introduction, and strengthen talent support services and digital training.

How to Access and Apply:

Shanghai Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau: https://rsj.sh.gov.cn/index.html. Consultation Hotline: 021-12333

2. Several Measures for Supporting the Transformation and Upgrading of the Consulting and Surveying Services Industry in Shanghai

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce, Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization

Original Text

Highlights:

Focusing on the transformation and upgrading of the consulting and surveying services industry, strengthen AI-enabled data and computing power support; encourage institutions to increase investment in AI research and development; promote the co-construction and sharing of industry data and models; and build a distinctive “AI + Consulting” service brand.

Main Content:

1. Promote the co-construction and sharing of industry data and AI models, encourage the development of domain-specific vertical models, and build digital-intelligent benchmark cases.

2. Advance innovation in digital-intelligent service models, support emerging models such as subscription-based and performance-based payment, and expand the coverage of service vouchers.

3. Strengthen support for international expansion, encourage enterprises to join the “Going Global” service alliance, and support the establishment of international service networks through mergers, acquisitions, and strategic cooperation.

4. Support participation in green, low-carbon, and ESG ecosystem development, and provide related consulting services.

5. Encourage foreign-invested consulting enterprises to participate fairly in local procurement, and carry out targeted investment promotion to attract international

institutions to establish headquarters or R&D centers in Shanghai.

How to Access and Apply:

Shanghai Consulting Association, Consultation Hotline: 021-53821058

Legal Services

1. Regulations of the Shanghai Municipality on Promoting the Initiative for an International Commercial Arbitration Center

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Standing Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress

Original Text

Highlights:

The Regulations clearly establish the goal of building a globally oriented Asia-Pacific international commercial arbitration center. They strengthen overall government coordination, interdepartmental collaboration, judicial support, and regional cooperation; standardize the corporate governance of arbitral institutions; support the development of smart arbitration and green arbitration; and enhance the cultivation and international recruitment of arbitration professionals.

Main Content:

1. With the goal of building an Asia-Pacific Arbitration Center, the Regulations aim to optimize the business environment, further expand opening-up, foster first-class arbitral institutions, and strengthen government coordination and fiscal support.

2. Courts are encouraged to support arbitration innovation, improve judicial supervision and the coordination between litigation and arbitration, and promote regional collaboration and international exchanges.

3. The Regulations standardize the corporate governance of arbitral institutions, safeguard their independent operations, and advance the development of smart arbitration and green arbitration.

4. Support is provided for hiring overseas professionals and establishing overseas branches, while improving arbitrator management and team development and aligning remuneration systems with international standards.

5. An arbitration development fund will be established to support institutional research, talent cultivation and international recruitment, as well as to provide public-interest consultation services and fee reductions or exemptions.

6. Well-known overseas arbitral institutions are permitted to establish registered offices in Shanghai to conduct foreign-related arbitration business.

7. The development of international arbitration rules is encouraged, case-handling procedures are improved, and professional arbitration brands are cultivated.

8. The city will explore ad hoc arbitration for foreign-related commercial and maritime disputes and strengthen judicial support for preservation measures and evidence collection.

How to Access and Apply:

“One-Stop International Commercial Dispute Resolution Platform”: https://cicc.court.gov.cn/pc/user/aboutus?type=platformIntroduction

2. Several Measures for Leveraging Shanghai's Functional Advantage, Strengthening the Law Firm Brands and Accelerating the Building of Shanghai into an International Legal Service Center

Issued:

2023

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Improve overseas talent introduction policies.

2. Explore and pilot the practice of allowing licensed attorneys to become partners in law firms without the three-year practice restriction, in order to attract high-end overseas legal talent to practice in Shanghai.

3. Support local law firms in recruiting outstanding legal talent from globally renowned law schools.

4. Provide support or rewards to law firms that recruit outstanding overseas talent, in accordance with regulations; strengthen comprehensive support services for outstanding overseas talent, including housing, children's education, and healthcare.

Main Content:

1. Encourage law firms to scale up and strengthen competitiveness through the establishment of local branches, cross-district mergers, and strategic partnerships. Further optimize the law firm relocation process and promote the introduction of facilitative measures for the inter-provincial and inter-city relocation of law firms in the Yangtze River Delta region.

2. Each district should align with local economic and industrial characteristics to build information aggregation hubs centered around "specialization + industry," and introduce related support policies based on areas such as the Lin-gang

Special Area, Hongqiao International Central Business District, Lujiazui Financial and Trade Zone, West Bund AI Valley, Nanjing West Road-Suhewan High-end Service Cluster, North Bund and Pujiang Golden Triangle, and the Financial Cluster of the Bund. This will help develop distinctive legal service clusters such as the Core Area for International Legal Services Center and the Hongqiao International Central Legal District.

How to Access and Apply:

Shanghai Bar Association, Consultation Hotline: 021-64030000

3. Guidelines for Overseas Arbitration Institutions Applying to Establish Business Offices in Shanghai

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Justice

Original Text

Highlights:

These Guidelines aim to provide guidance and standardized procedures for overseas arbitration institutions applying to establish business offices in Shanghai.

Main Content:

1. Scope of Application: Applicable to overseas arbitration institutions establishing business offices in Shanghai to conduct foreign-related arbitration business.

2. Definition: Refers to non-profit arbitration institutions lawfully established overseas, including those from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, as well as those established by international organizations.

3. Competent Authority: The Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Justice is responsible for registration and supervision.

4. Establishment Requirements: The institution must have been in existence for more than five years, have substantively conducted arbitration business, enjoy international recognition, and ensure that its person in charge has no record of intentional criminal offenses.

5. Registration Procedure: Application materials shall be submitted   the Bureau of Justice will complete its review within 20 working days   after filing with the Ministry of Justice, a registration certificate will be issued.

6. Scope of Business: Permitted to handle foreign-related disputes involving international commerce, maritime matters, investment, and other relevant fields (including cases where foreign-invested enterprises in the Lingang Special Area

agree to designate Shanghai as the seat of arbitration), but not permitted to conduct arbitration for purely domestic disputes.

7. Incentive Measures: Support is provided for ad hoc arbitration, access to dispute resolution platforms, exchanges and cooperation with local arbitration institutions, and policy facilitation in taxation, finance, and talent services.

How to Access and Apply:

Qualified overseas arbitration institutions applying to establish business offices in Shanghai shall submit the application form and supporting materials to the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Justice (Shanghai Public Legal Services Center; Tel: 021-53899700).

III. Optimizing the Business Environment

1. Action Plan of Shanghai for Accelerating the Creation of a World-Class Business Environment (2026)

Issued:

2026

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

The Action Plan sets out 26 measures focusing on four key areas: government services, market competition, industrial ecosystem, and social co-governance. Through systematic reforms, it aims to move from "single-point breakthroughs" to "ecosystem building", and to foster a world-class business environment.

Main Content:

1. Enterprises may access the "Government Online-Offline Shanghai" and visit the dedicated "Enjoying Benefits without Application" page to view the list of policies and detailed information on benefits that can be enjoyed without submitting a separate application.

2. Enterprises with financing needs may access the "Suishenban Enterprise Cloud" app or its WeChat mini program, and use the "Suishenrong (Shanghai SME Financing Service Platform)" page for online credit approval, financing applications, and related services.

How to Access and Apply:

1. "Enjoying Benefits without Application" dedicated page

(1) PC Terminal: Access the main portal of "Government Online-Offline Shanghai" (https://zwdt.sh.gov.cn), navigate to the "Suishendui" section, and locate the "Enjoying Benefits without Application" function in the Core Services section. Users may also directly enter "Enjoying Benefits without Application" in the

homepage search bar for quick access.

(2) Mobile Terminal: Open the “Suishenban Enterprise Cloud” App and enter the “Suishendui” channel. Locate the “Enjoying Benefits without Application” function in the Core Services section. Users may also directly access the function by searching for “Enjoying Benefits without Application” in the search bar within the APP.

2. Unified Financing Service Platform for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises—“Suishenrong”

Access the platform via the “Suishenban Enterprise Cloud” App (log in and locate the “Suishenrong” application entry) or through the WeChat Mini Program (search directly for “Suishenrong”). Enterprises may register and log in free of charge to browse and apply for financing products.

(I) Sci-tech Innovation

1. "Announcement on Further Improving the Policy of Pre-tax Additional Deduction of Research and Development Expenses"

Issued:

2023

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Finance and State Taxation Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

This Announcement establishes long-term provisions regarding the policy of additional deduction of research and development expenses (R&D expenses) when filing tax prepayment returns.

Main Content:

For all eligible enterprises: Where R&D expenses do not result in the formation of intangible assets, an additional 100 percent deduction shall be allowed based on the actual amount incurred; where intangible assets are formed, amortization shall be allowed at 200% of the asset cost.

2. Announcement on the VAT Refund Policy for Equipment Procured by R&D Institutions

Issued:

2023

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, and State Taxation Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

Full VAT refunds will be granted for purchases of domestically produced equipment by domestic R&D institutions and foreign-funded R&D centers.

Main Content:

Foreign-funded R&D centers shall meet all of the following requirements simultaneously: for centers established as independent legal entities, the total investment shall be no less than USD 8 million; for non-independent legal entities, the total R&D investment shall be no less than USD 8 million; the number of full-time research and experimental development personnel shall be no fewer than 80; and the original value of equipment cumulatively purchased since establishment shall be no less than RMB 20 million.

How to Access and Apply:

Qualification Recognition Application: From January 1 to March 31 each year, applicants shall submit the required application materials to the Service Hall of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce (F1, Building 5, No. 300 Shibocun Road).

Tax Refund Application: Upon obtaining the qualification, applicants may apply for a tax refund with the competent tax authority.

3. Shanghai Global Science and Technology Partnership Plan

Issued:

2026

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

Through six major initiatives and 18 supporting measures, Shanghai aims to accelerate the development of a globally competitive open innovation ecosystem and enhance its global influence and leadership in sci-tech innovation.

Main Content:

1. Foreign-invested enterprises are granted equal access to apply for and receive funding under Shanghai's government-funded science and technology programs. Scientific research infrastructure and public scientific and technological information resources are also open to foreign-invested enterprises on an equal basis.

2. Foreign-funded R&D centers are encouraged to establish public-interest basic research science funds. Fiscal subsidies will be provided for basic research projects conducted by universities and research institutes supported by such funds.

3. Collaborative innovation programs for foreign-funded R&D institutions will be established to support foreign-invested enterprises in conducting basic research and frontier technology innovation jointly with Shanghai-based research institutions and technology enterprises through mechanisms such as jointly established laboratories.

4. Foreign-invested enterprises are supported in establishing open innovation platforms, concept validation platforms, and common technology service platforms, as well as in providing cross-border incubation services. They are

eligible, on an equal basis, for policies related to innovation and entrepreneurship incubator development, including subsidies, land support, and tax incentives.

5. Green-channel services will be provided for high-level foreign scientific and technological talent coming to Shanghai for innovation and entrepreneurship. Shanghai will also improve the system for recognizing international professional qualification certificates.

6. Leveraging the pilot free trade zones and the Lin-gang Special Area of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, Shanghai will expand functions such as bonded R&D, offshore incubation, and cross-border technology transactions, while supporting the development of global offshore innovation hubs.

4. Several Measures on Accelerating Frontier Technology Innovation and the Cultivation of Future Industries

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

Focusing on future manufacturing, future information, future materials, future energy, future space, and future health, the policy aims to rationally plan and precisely cultivate future industries based on industrial foundations and resource endowments.

Main Content:

1. Support for the establishment and operation of high-quality incubators, with funding support of up to RMB 20 million in accordance with relevant provisions.

2. Special support for ecosystem-leading technology enterprises with significant innovation investment, strong industry influence, and remarkable leading effects, including a one-time subsidy of up to RMB 10 million in accordance with relevant provisions.

3. Support of up to RMB 20 million for qualified entities responsible for the development of future industry clusters.

4. Support for various innovation entities to jointly build demonstration application scenarios for future industries with government departments, enterprises, and public institutions, with support of up to RMB 8 million for qualified projects.

How to Access and Apply:

Application Portals: "Government Online-Offline Shanghai"—Suishendui (Enterprise Portal): https://zwdt.sh.gov.cn/ (search "Future Industries");

Shanghai Financial Science and Technology Investment Information Management

Platform: http://czkj.sheic.org.cn/;

Official Website of the Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality: https://stcsm.sh.gov.cn/

5. Several Measures of Shanghai Municipality on Promoting the Growth and Expansion of Specialized, Sophisticated, Distinctive and Innovative SMEs

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Support specialized, sophisticated, distinctive and innovative SMEs in progressing from small-scale to designated-size enterprises, from designated-size to stronger enterprises, from stronger enterprises to shareholding reform, and from shareholding reform to public listing.

2. Promote higher-level innovation and reduce the full-factor costs of enterprises.

Main Content:

1. A fund cluster with a total scale of no less than RMB 100 billion will be established to strengthen direct investment in specialized, sophisticated, distinctive and innovative SMEs.

2. Credit loans for specialized, sophisticated, distinctive and innovative SMEs will receive interest subsidies of up to 30 percent.

3. Subsidies of no more than 30 percent of the contract amount will be granted for the procurement of professional services related to technological innovation, overseas expansion, and other areas.

How to Access and Apply:

Recognition of Specialized, Sophisticated, Distinctive and Innovative Enterprises: Online application via Shanghai Enterprise Service Cloud (http://www.ssme.sh.gov.cn). After logging in the website, enterprises shall complete the application form for specialized, sophisticated, distinctive and innovative SMEs in accordance with the annual application notice and upload supporting materials such as revenue, R&D, and patent documentation.

Application Platform for Specialized, Sophisticated, Distinctive and Innovative "Little Giant" Enterprises: Tiered Cultivation Platform for High-Quality SMEs of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (http://zjtx.miit.gov.cn).

Rewards for enterprises that first reach the designated-size threshold or enterprises above designated size: Adopted through the "Enjoying Benefits without Application" model. The Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization and the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Finance will directly match and distribute rewards based on enterprise data, without requiring proactive applications.

Application Portal for Growth Rewards for Specialized, Sophisticated, Distinctive and Innovative "Little Giant" Enterprises (annual revenue growth exceeding 20 percent for two consecutive years): Shanghai Enterprise Service Cloud or the corresponding district-level special fund application system for SME development.

Application Portal for Loan Interest Subsidies and Financial Leasing Subsidies for Technological Transformation Projects (including support of up to RMB 100 million for major projects): Annual Special Fund Application Platform of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization (usually also accessible through the Shanghai Enterprise Service Cloud).

Application Portal for Interest Subsidies for Credit Loans (up to 30 percent):Relevant application channels of the Shanghai Policy-based Financing Guarantee Fund Management Center for SMEs, or district-level financing interest subsidy application systems.

Professional Service Subsidies (for technological innovation, overseas expansion, etc., up to 30 percent of the contract amount): Adopted through the "Enjoying Benefits without Application" model, with subsidies calculated and granted directly by service providers or competent authorities based on contract data for services procured by enterprises.

6. Several Measures of Shanghai Municipality on Accelerating the High-Quality Development of the Scientific and Technological Service Industry

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

Financial rewards are granted to scientific and technological service enterprises that, for the first time, meet the threshold for inclusion in the designated-size enterprise statistics system.

Main Content:

For scientific and technological service enterprises that first meet the designated-size threshold, a municipal-level financial reward of up to RMB 200,000 will be granted; and for enterprises achieving high year-on-year growth, a municipal-level financial reward of up to RMB 100,000 will be granted.

How to Access and Apply:

Responsible Department: Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality (STCSM)

Application Method: Enjoying Benefits without Application (no proactive application required by enterprises). Eligible enterprises are automatically identified through data comparison conducted by the STCSM and the Municipal Bureau of Statistics.

7. Management Implementation Rules of Shanghai Municipality for Accelerating the Development of High-Growth Enterprises (Trial)

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal Commission of Economy and Informatization

Original Text

Highlights:

The Rules aim to establish a tiered cultivation system for high-growth enterprises in Shanghai by defining the evaluation criteria and support measures for enterprises at four levels: potential gazelle enterprises, gazelle enterprises, potential unicorn enterprises, and unicorn enterprises. Through a combination of the "Enjoying Benefits without Application" model and voluntary application, the policy seeks to promote high-quality enterprise development, with the goal of fostering more than 1,000 high-growth enterprises by 2027.

Main Content:

1. Clarifying the tiered cultivation system: High-growth enterprises are classified into four levels: potential gazelle enterprises (start-up stage), gazelle enterprises (growth stage), potential unicorn enterprises (expansion stage), and unicorn enterprises (mature stage), with differentiated and categorized cultivation measures implemented accordingly.

2. Establishing basic eligibility requirements: Participating enterprises must operate lawfully in Shanghai, possess independent legal person status, and have principal businesses aligned with the orientation of key industries. They must also have had no major safety, quality, or environmental accidents, nor any serious violations of laws or regulations, in the past three years.

3. Refining the criteria for potential gazelle enterprises: The enterprise must have been established for 3–10 years, with annual revenue of no less than RMB 20

million in the previous year, a compound annual revenue growth rate of no less than 10 percent over the past two years, and an average annual R&D expenditure of no less than RMB 10 million over the past three years, accounting for no less than 3 percent of revenue.

4. Refining the criteria for gazelle enterprises: The enterprise must have been established for 3–10 years, with annual revenue of no less than RMB 50 million in the previous year, a compound annual revenue growth rate of no less than 20 percent over the past two years, and an average annual R&D expenditure of no less than RMB 20 million over the past three years, accounting for no less than 5 percent of revenue.

5. Refining the criteria for potential unicorn enterprises: The enterprise must have been established for no more than 10 years, have received equity investment from qualified institutions, have a post-investment valuation of no less than RMB 5 billion in its most recent funding round, and have accumulated total financing of no less than RMB 100 million upon reaching that valuation.

6. Refining the criteria for unicorn enterprises: The enterprise must have been established for no more than 10 years, have received equity investment from qualified institutions, have a post-investment valuation of no less than RMB 7 billion in its most recent funding round, and have accumulated total financing of no less than RMB 350 million upon reaching that valuation.

7. Optimizing the evaluation mechanism: Potential gazelle and gazelle enterprises are identified through the “Enjoying Benefits without Application” model and do not require enterprise applications. Potential unicorn and unicorn enterprises must conduct self-assessments and may voluntarily submit applications to the competent district-level authorities.

8. Strengthening cultivation services: Municipal and district-level authorities will enhance support in areas such as high-level talent recruitment and development, factor support, innovative product application, and policy-based fund support, while establishing a dynamic management mechanism featuring regular entry and exit adjustments.

How to Apply:

Potential Gazelle and Gazelle Enterprises: No proactive application is required from enterprises. These enterprises are identified through the “Enjoying Benefits without Application” model based on data evaluation conducted by the relevant authorities.

Information Update and Maintenance: Enterprises included on the official list must update their information annually before April 30 through the “Shanghai Enterprise Service Cloud” (http://www.ssme.sh.gov.cn). Failure to update on time or failure to pass the review will result in disqualification.

8. Measures for the Administration of Shanghai Science and Technology Innovation Vouchers

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality (STCSM) and Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Finance

Original Text

Highlights:

Municipal fiscal science and technology funds are used to support technology-based small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and innovation and entrepreneurship teams in purchasing professional services from service institutions.

Main Content:

Enterprises (teams) may use innovation vouchers to offset part of the cost of purchasing professional services according to their innovation and entrepreneurship needs. After completion of the transaction, verified orders will receive funding support of up to 50 percent of the total order value. Each enterprise may use up to RMB 300,000 per year, and each team may use up to RMB 100,000 per year.

How to Access and Apply:

Innovation vouchers are issued electronically through the "Enjoying Benefits without Application" model. The Shanghai Science and Technology Innovation Voucher Intelligent Service Platform (https://kjcxq.stcsm.sh.gov.cn/) is responsible for the full-process daily service and management of voucher issuance, usage, order verification, and fund disbursement.

9. Interim Measures of Shanghai Municipality for the Administration of Disruptive Technology Innovation Projects

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality (STCSM)

Original Text

Highlights:

This special program is established and funded by the STCSM using municipal fiscal funds to support national disruptive technology innovation.

Main Content:

1. Early-stage projects: Basic research has been largely completed, but the technology cannot yet be stably reproduced in the laboratory. Each project will receive funding of RMB 1 million or RMB 2 million.

2. Mid-stage projects: Basic research has been completed, and the technology can be stably reproduced in the laboratory, but it has not yet passed the key technical node determining success or failure. Each project will receive funding of RMB 5 million or RMB 10 million.

3. Near-term projects: The technology has preliminarily completed pilot-scale testing and has basically passed the key technical node determining success or failure. Each project will receive funding of RMB 5 million or RMB 10 million.

How to Access and Apply:

Applications are accepted year-round via email (no online application system). Application Email: dipa.sh@jingjinji.cn

(II) Talent Policies

1. Announcement on the Continuation of the Individual Income Tax Policy on Allowances and Subsidies for Expatriates

Issued:

2023

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Finance and State Taxation Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

Expatriates who qualify as tax residents in China may either claim special additional deductions (the same as those available to Chinese residents, such as deductions for children's education, housing mortgage interest, or housing rent), or opt to enjoy tax exemptions on eight categories of allowances and subsidies.

Main Content:

1. The eight categories of tax-exempt allowances and subsidies must be provided in non-cash form or reimbursed against actual expenses incurred, and are exempt from individual income tax within reasonable standards.

2. The eight categories include: housing allowances (rent and property management fees); meal allowances and laundry expenses; relocation expenses (upon onboarding or departure); domestic and overseas business travel allowances; home leave expenses (up to two round trips per year); language training expenses; children's education expenses (tuition and kindergarten fees); and other reasonable allowances and subsidies.

How to Access and Apply:

1. Natural Person Electronic Tax Bureau (Withholding Agent Portal): The withholding agent (employer) shall log in to the Natural Person Electronic Tax Bureau (Withholding Agent Portal) to complete the filing.

2. Natural Person Electronic Tax Bureau (Web Portal): Visit https://etax.chinatax.gov.cn.

3. Individual Income Tax App: Search for “Individual Income Tax” in the official mobile app store to download and process the application.

4. Tax Service Hall: Visit the tax service hall of the competent tax authority for offline processing.

2. Notice on Tax Policies for Venture Capital Enterprises and Individual Angel Investors

Issued:

2018

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Finance and State Taxation Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

Preferential corporate income tax policies for corporate venture capital enterprises investing in start-up technology enterprises.

Main Content:

Corporate venture capital enterprises investing in start-up technology enterprises may deduct 70 percent of the investment amount from taxable income.

3. Five New Measures to Facilitate Foreigners' Visits to China

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

National Immigration Administration of China

Original Text

Highlights:

These five measures are designed to further remove barriers for foreign nationals coming to China for business, study, and tourism, so as to better support high-level opening-up and promote high-quality development.

Main Content:

1. Relax the eligibility requirements for foreign nationals applying for port visas upon arrival in China.

2. Allow foreign nationals transiting directly within 24 hours through major hub airports, such as Beijing Capital International Airport, to be exempt from border inspection procedures.

3. Allow foreign nationals in China to apply for visa extensions, renewals, and reissuance at nearby immigration authorities.

4. Allow foreign nationals in China who require multiple entries and exits to apply for re-entry visas.

5. Simplify the documentation requirements for foreign nationals applying for visas and related permits in China.

4. Announcement on Implementing Several Immigration Administration Policy Measures to Further Facilitate Individuals and Enterprises

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

National Immigration Administration of China

Original Text

Highlights:

A series of immigration facilitation measures have been introduced to provide greater convenience for individuals and enterprises and to further facilitate cross-border travel for mainland talent.

Main Content:

1. Six categories of talent working in northern Shanghai—including outstanding professionals, scientific researchers, professionals in culture and education, healthcare professionals, legal professionals, and management personnel—may, upon presentation of relevant talent certification, apply separately or simultaneously for multiple-entry talent endorsements for Hong Kong and Macao with validity periods ranging from one to five years. Each stay in Hong Kong or Macao shall not exceed 30 days.

2. For mainland residents holding business endorsements for Hong Kong or Macao, the permitted duration of each stay in Hong Kong or Macao will be extended from the current maximum of 7 days to a maximum of 14 days.

5. Several Provisions on Encouraging Overseas Returnees to Work and Start Businesses in Shanghai

Issued:

2026

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Overseas returnees are encouraged to leverage their professional expertise and strengths to contribute to Shanghai's economic and social development through various means, including delivering lectures in China, engaging in academic and technical exchanges, establishing enterprises, conducting consulting activities, undertaking commissioned cooperative research, providing intermediary services, and taking part-time positions.

2. Convenience will be provided, in accordance with laws and regulations, for overseas returnees establishing enterprises to enjoy relevant preferential policies and benefits.

3. Relevant policy support and benefits will be made available to overseas returnees.

Main Content:

1. Overseas returnees working or starting businesses in Shanghai, together with their spouses and children under the age of 16 (or children enrolled in regular secondary schools), may apply for Shanghai household registration (hukou) with the Shanghai Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau in accordance with relevant municipal regulations.

2. Children who have lived abroad for more than five years may enjoy preferential bonus-point policies when taking Shanghai's senior high school and college entrance examinations during the first three years of their adaptation period to the Chinese language after returning to China.

3. During their employment in Shanghai, overseas returnees may participate in professional title evaluations, professional qualification examinations, and professional qualification registration in accordance with relevant regulations. Shanghai also provides residence and entry-exit facilitation services for overseas returnees who have obtained foreign nationality.

4. Shanghai will raise funds through multiple channels to provide financial support and related subsidies for high-level overseas returnees coming to Shanghai for entrepreneurship, employment, or short-term academic lectures.

5. Overseas returnees who have not obtained foreign nationality may apply for civil service positions in Shanghai in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

6. District governments, industrial parks, and enterprises are encouraged to provide rental subsidies or in-kind housing support to outstanding overseas returnees engaged in scientific and technological innovation and entrepreneurship.

6. Notice on Special Visa Facilitation for Foreign Business People to Shanghai

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Foreign Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

Eligible foreign business people may enjoy special visa facilitation policies.

Main Content:

Eligible foreign business people may apply to Chinese embassies or consulates abroad for a five-year multiple-entry M visa, or other corresponding visa categories with a stay period of up to 180 days, upon presentation of a special visa invitation letter issued by the Foreign Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government. Applicants may be exempted from fingerprint collection, may authorize another person to handle the visa application on their behalf, and will be charged only the fee applicable to a one-year multiple-entry visa.

(III) Financial Support Measures

1. Notice on Supporting High-Quality Enterprises in Borrowing Medium- and Long-Term Foreign Debt to Promote High-Quality Development of the Real Economy

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)

Original Text

Highlights:

Optimize the administration of medium- and long-term foreign debt for high-quality enterprises by streamlining review requirements and procedures, improving interim and ex-post supervision, enhancing the facilitation of cross-border investment and financing activities, and effectively preventing foreign debt risks.

Main Content:

1. Reasonably defining the criteria for high-quality enterprises: Enterprises eligible for the preferential foreign debt administration framework shall be identified based on factors including compliance with current regulatory requirements, alignment of production and operations with national macroeconomic regulation and industrial policies, strong operating and financial performance within their industries, relatively high international or domestic credit ratings, no domestic or overseas debt defaults within the past three years, no record of legal violations or dishonesty, and compliant financial statements. This is intended to improve the precision and effectiveness of classified foreign debt administration.

2. Simplifying review requirements and procedures: High-quality enterprises may submit applications for planned consolidated foreign debt quotas covering both parent companies and subsidiaries, allowing for “one-time application with

multiple drawdowns". Where applications for international commercial loans or offshore bond issuance lack certain supporting documents, applications may be processed on a conditional basis. For enterprises meeting specified conditions, legal opinions in application materials may be issued by in-house legal departments instead of external professional institutions. In addition, the NDRC will establish a dedicated review channel for foreign debt applications submitted by high-quality enterprises to accelerate processing.

3. Continuing to strengthen support and services for foreign debt financing: Support will be broadly extended to high-quality enterprises under all forms of ownership in borrowing foreign debt. The criteria for identifying high-quality enterprises will be adjusted in due course in response to changes in domestic and international conditions. Local authorities are encouraged to proactively provide services and guidance to support qualified enterprises within their jurisdictions in reasonably conducting medium- and long-term foreign debt financing, improving capital utilization efficiency, and promoting the high-quality development of the real economy.

4. Improving ongoing and ex-post supervision: A coordinated supervision mechanism will be established jointly with relevant authorities and local governments to oversee enterprises' foreign debt activities. Spot checks will be conducted, as appropriate, on the use of proceeds raised through foreign debt financing and the timely submission of required information by high-quality enterprises. Local governments will be guided to leverage their territorial management advantages to strengthen oversight of the use of foreign debt proceeds within their jurisdictions, effectively prevent foreign debt risks, and achieve a dynamic balance between development and security.

2. Management Regulations on the Pilot Program of Integrated RMB and Foreign Currency Cash Pooling for Multinational Corporations in Shanghai

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Branch of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE)

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Improve the convenience of cross-border fund operations.
2. Enhance the flexibility of cross-border fund operations.

Main Content:

1. Multinational corporations are permitted to authorize the principal enterprise of the cash pool to handle centralized receipts and payments on behalf of overseas member enterprises in transactions with domestic member enterprises or overseas entities.

2. Domestic member enterprises of multinational corporations are permitted to conduct inter-company lending in different currencies for current-account cross-border payment business, thereby reducing financing costs, simplifying filing procedures, and expanding filing channels.

(IV) Data Circulation Support Measures

1. Guiding Opinions on Cultivating Data Circulation Service Institutions and Accelerating the Market-Oriented and Value-Based Development of Data Elements

Issued:

2026

Issuing Authority:

Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, National Data Administration, etc.

Original Text

Highlights:

Promote data circulation and trading by supporting key market participants that facilitate the market-oriented and value-based development of data elements, including data exchanges (centers), data circulation service platform enterprises, and data service providers.

Main Content:

Public data products and services are encouraged to be circulated and traded through data exchanges (centers).

2. Provisions on Promoting and Regulating Cross-Border Data Flows

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Cyberspace Administration of China

Original Text

Highlights:

Safeguard data security, protect personal information rights and interests, and promote the lawful, orderly, and free flow of data.

Main Content:

Where a data processor provides personal information overseas and meets any of the following conditions, it is exempt from filing for a data export security assessment, entering into standard contractual clauses for outbound personal information transfers, or obtaining personal information protection certification:

1. Where it is necessary to provide personal information overseas for the conclusion or performance of a contract to which the individual is a party, such as for cross-border delivery, international shipping, cross-border remittance, cross-border payment, cross-border account opening, airline or hotel bookings, visa applications, or examination services.

2. Where it is necessary to provide employees' personal information overseas for cross-border human resources management carried out in accordance with legally established employment policies and lawfully executed collective contracts.

3. Where it is necessary, under emergency circumstances, to provide personal information overseas to protect an individual's life, health, or property safety.

4. Where a data processor other than a critical information infrastructure operator has cumulatively provided the personal information (excluding sensitive personal information) of fewer than 100,000 individuals overseas since January 1 of the current year.

3. Action Plan for the Development of Trusted Data Spaces (2024-2028)

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

National Data Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

Pilot programs for three types of trusted data spaces—enterprise, industry, and city—will be launched in sectors with strong application demand, solid development foundations, high economic and social value, and strong demonstration potential. By 2028, China aims to establish more than 100 trusted data spaces and develop a number of data-space solutions and best practices.

Main Content:

Eligible applicants should, in principle, be independent corporate legal entities registered in the People's Republic of China, as well as national-level innovation platforms such as national laboratories, national medical centers, and national scientific data centers. Applicants must demonstrate sound economic performance and good credit records over the past three years, as well as strong data resource foundations and ecosystem leadership capabilities. Subsidy Standards (2025-2026): up to 25 percent of total project investment (for data infrastructure-related projects); maximum subsidy per project: RMB 50 million; and support may take the form of non-repayable grants or interest subsidies.

How to Access and Apply:

Applicants shall prepare a pilot application dossier and construction plan for submission to the relevant provincial or municipal data administration authority. Following review and public announcement by the National Data Administration, approved projects will be included in the national pilot program and incorporated into the central government budget investment plan for funding allocation.

Electronic application materials should be submitted to the designated email address, with the subject line formatted as: Entity Name + Project Title + Shanghai Trusted Data Space Innovation and Development Pilot Application. Email: linyang@shanghai.gov.cn. Consultation Hotline: 021-23012069 / 021-23012062.

(V) Intellectual Property Protection

1. Measures for Administrative Adjudication and Mediation of Patent Disputes

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Office of the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA)

Original Text

Highlights:

Protect the lawful rights and interests of patent holders and the public, and standardize administrative adjudication and mediation procedures for patent disputes.

Main Content:

1. Implementing provisions under the newly amended Patent Law: New chapters have been added covering administrative adjudication of major patent infringement disputes, administrative adjudication under the early resolution mechanism for pharmaceutical patent disputes, and administrative mediation for disputes arising from open patent licensing. The Measures also clarify time limits for adjudication requests and introduce provisions on information-based administration.

2. Implementing provisions under the newly amended Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law: The Measures introduce provisions on electronic service of documents, improve mediation standards for service inventions, and refine administrative jurisdiction rules.

3. Incorporating practical experience and best practices: Useful practices developed through the handling of major patent infringement disputes and pharmaceutical patent disputes under the early resolution mechanism have been summarized and codified.

4. Responding to the needs of adjudicating authorities and parties: The Measures clarify requirements for oral hearings, add provisions on joining additional parties, and introduce rules relating to technical investigations and technical appraisal.

5. Clarifying substantive standards for determining patent infringement: The Measures set out rules regarding the scope of patent protection, the all-elements rule, the doctrine of estoppel, the dedication rule, literal infringement, and infringement under the doctrine of equivalents.

6. Improving provisions relating to jurisdiction and case closure mechanisms.

7. Adding provisions on handling refusal to comply with decisions and repeated infringement, and clarifying specific circumstances for case suspension.

8. Simplifying documentary requirements for parties.

9. Optimizing procedures for acceptance, filing, investigation, and evidence collection; clarifying filing requirements; and improving rules on the allocation of burden of proof.

10. Improving measures relating to recusal, confidentiality, and entrusted case handling; refining recusal rules; clarifying confidentiality obligations of parties; and introducing provisions on entrusted case handling.

2. Administrative Measures for Special Funds for Intellectual Property in Shanghai

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Intellectual Property Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

Special funds are available to eligible applicants, including enterprises, public institutions, and social organizations registered or incorporated in Shanghai.

Main Content:

1. Projects relating to IP protection demonstrations, protection engineering, and protection standardization approved by the national intellectual property authority may receive funding support of up to RMB 800,000.

2. Projects relating to IP protection demonstrations, protection engineering, and protection standardization recognized by the Shanghai intellectual property authority may receive funding support of up to RMB 200,000.

3. Projects supporting domestic and overseas IP rights protection for patents, trademarks, and geographical indications registered in Shanghai may, upon successful rights protection and evaluation, receive funding support of up to RMB 500,000.

4. Eligible IP rights protection assistance institutions and public-interest dispute mediation organizations in Shanghai may receive funding support of up to RMB 100,000.

5. Intellectual property protection talent development projects in Shanghai may, upon evaluation, receive funding support of up to RMB 100,000.

How to Access and Apply:

Apply through the Government Online-Offline Shanghai by searching for

“Intellectual Property Subsidies” or “Intellectual Property Special Fund Projects”.

Website: https://zwdt.sh.gov.cn

Application Timeline:Creation-related categories (such as PCT applications and integrated circuit layout designs): accepted year-round with batch reviews

Project-based categories: centralized annual application period (typically September to October, subject to the official notice for the relevant year)

3. Several Measures of the Shanghai Intellectual Property Administration on Promoting the High-Quality Development of the Intellectual Property Service Industry

Issued:

2024

Issuing Authority:

Shanghai Intellectual Property Administration

Original Text

Highlights:

1. Foster a high-level business environment for the intellectual property service industry

2. Cultivate high-caliber intellectual property service institutions

3. Build a highly qualified intellectual property service talent pool

Main Content:

1. Strengthening the clustering advantages of the intellectual property service industry: Shanghai will deepen the development of the national demonstration zone for the high-quality clustering development of the intellectual property service industry, support eligible areas in piloting IP service industry clusters, and encourage the concentration of IP service resources in national innovation demonstration zones, pilot free trade zones, modern services clusters, and high-tech industrial development zones. The city will also attract influential and highly professional IP service institutions, build comprehensive IP service brands, and further promote trade in intellectual property services.

2. Further expanding opening-up in the intellectual property sector: High-level foreign patent agencies are encouraged to establish permanent representative offices in Shanghai. Leveraging the special functional positioning of the Lingang Special Area, Shanghai will explore, under national authorization, further expansion of pilot opening-up measures in the intellectual property sector.

3. Advancing intellectual property discipline development and education: Shanghai

will support the development of the Shanghai International College of Intellectual Property, deepen talent cultivation cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and accelerate the establishment of intellectual property as a first-level academic discipline.

(VI) Land Element Support

1. Implementation Opinions of the General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government on Advancing the Renewal and Upgrading of Commercial Office Buildings

Issued:

2025

Issuing Authority:

General Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Original Text

Highlights:

Support will be provided through strengthened land-use and planning guarantees, enhanced financial support, and improved approval efficiency to upgrade the quality and functional concentration of business districts, while promoting the functional expansion and integrated development of commercial office buildings.

Main Content:

1. Skybridges added between adjacent blocks in accordance with planning requirements, added buildings or structures exempt from construction project planning permit requirements, and additional exterior wall areas resulting from the adoption of green building technologies exceeding current standards and meeting corresponding technical requirements may, in accordance with relevant regulations, be excluded from floor area ratio (FAR) calculations. Commercial office buildings that provide public spaces, public service facilities, or other public-use elements may, in accordance with urban renewal regulations, be granted additional commercial floor area. Where supplementary land grant fees are involved, district governments may, upon approval, allow such fees to be paid in installments within the prescribed payment period.

2. Financial institutions in Shanghai are encouraged to increase credit support for commercial office building renewal projects. Existing commercial office buildings are encouraged to undertake building energy-efficiency upgrades and "fifth facade" renovations. Eligible demonstration projects meeting relevant technical standards may receive financial subsidies. For commercial office buildings installing photovoltaic facilities, investment entities may receive financial incentives in accordance with relevant policies.

How to Access and Apply:

Building Energy-Efficiency and Fifth Facade Renovation Demonstration Projects:

Application Portal: Official website of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (Government Services section) "Application for Building Energy-Efficiency and Green Building Demonstration Projects"; or via the "Government Online-Offline Shanghai" platform by searching for "Support for Building Energy-Efficiency Demonstration Projects".

Photovoltaic Installation Projects:

Application Portal: District Development and Reform Commission where the project is located (offline service window and online One-Stop Government Services Platform). The Shanghai Municipal Development and Reform Commission issues annual application notices at the beginning of each year, while district development and reform commissions organize applications on a semiannual basis.

To Our Readers

This publication is compiled by the Shanghai Foreign Investment Development Board and is intended to provide foreign-invested enterprises with accurate and up-to-date policy guidance.

For specific details regarding eligibility criteria, application requirements, validity periods, and other relevant matters, please refer to the original policy documents. The issuing authorities reserve the final right of interpretation of all policies.

Summary of Policy
Implementation Procedures

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