

Seminarie Medische Beeldvorming (Agfa)

9 juni 2010

Ladies and gentlemen,

你好 **Nihao** (Goedemorgen)

欢迎大家到世博会比利时馆 **Huanying dajia dao**

(Welkom in het Belgische Paviljoen)

Hereby I welcome you to Antwerp week at the Belgian Pavilion on the World Expo.

As governor of the province of Antwerp I am very happy and proud that every week in this Pavilion is kind of Antwerp week. Even the architect of this Pavilion is from Antwerp. The contribution of Antwerp spearheads is remarkable. Lots of the crown jewels are shown here permanently. Diamonds, fashion, creative economy, smart logistics, sustainable development,...

That is no coincidence. The province of Antwerp is a highly prosperous industrialized region in the north of Belgium, one of the founding members of the European Union.

The capital of Belgium, Brussels, is home to the headquarters of the European Union and a host of other international organizations and corporations.

The province of Antwerp is widely acknowledged as a powerhouse of the national economy. The province is strategically located in Flanders, Belgium's Dutch-speaking region but well known for its highly-educated multilingual population. Antwerp is responsible for 19% of the added value in Belgium and for 33% in Flanders. When looking at export our province is accountable for 28% in Belgium and 47% in Flanders.

Economically, Antwerp has long been recognized as one of the world's premier cities for diamonds and fashion, and host of the second biggest petrochemical cluster in the world.

But Antwerp has far more to offer.

For any company pursuing European market expansion, Antwerp is the logical base because of its world-class port, multimodal Europe-wide connections, highly creative workforce and inexpensive real estate.

But also in healthcare Antwerp is leading the way. Later today Christine Van Broeckhove is attending a seminar here. She is well known for her progressive research on dementia and more particular Alzheimer disease.

Next to government investing in innovation and research, also companies are setting the agenda. Agfa Healthcare, Pfizer, Janssen Pharmaceutica are three of the major players in our province with an enormous contribution to modern healthcare.

Agfa HealthCare, your host today, is one of the participating partners of this Antwerp week. This Belgian company is one of the strongest in radiology and IT.

It is the strategy of Agfa HealthCare to see China as one of their main target countries for the future.

This seminar is symbol of that strategy which I applaud.

Without further ado, I wish you a productive seminar.