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## Plans worked out to boost auto industry



2009-1-4

The Chinese government has finished drawing up policies to stimulate the steel and automobile industries, Premier Wen Jiabao said on Friday. He said the government is working on "a basket of measures" to stimulate market demands and prevent the economy from an excessive slowdown.

The nation's economic stimulus measures will go beyond the announced 4-trillion-yuan (\$586 billion) package as more industry-specific policies are rolled out, Premier Wen said on Jan. 2 during his visit to Qingdao, a manufacturing and export hub in Shandong province. The government is refining and augmenting the package, because it was "rather preliminary" when announced on Nov. 9, he said. Wen said the State Council, or Cabinet, is drawing up two major plans. One involves 10 programs to expand demand, further detailing and specifying the 10 stimulus measures kicked out last year. The other

includes the readjustment and improvement of 10 pillar industries. Plans for the development of steel industry and automobile industry have been worked out and others are under way. "All such plans, if strongly related to economic development, should be expedited," Wen said. Striking a note of confidence, the Chinese Premier said the country's vast market, abundant labor resources, sound financial system and adequate liquidity would help it tide over the global financial crisis.

In recent months, the government authorities have announced a slew of policies to boost the auto industry. These policies include abandoning road tolls, reducing fuel prices and subsidizing those who scrap old cars to buy new ones. With more stimulus measures in the pipeline, the country's economy is expected to pick up steam in mid-2009 with full-year growth exceeding 8%, and the Chinese auto market will also see an upturn in the second half.

Source: [www.gasgoo.com](http://www.gasgoo.com)

To be continued ➡

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## Construction on schedule for Huber's new China silica plant

2009-1-7



Huber  
Engineered  
Materials

A FAMILY OF SOLUTIONS

(HEM), part of J.M. Huber Corporation, today announced construction is progressing on schedule for its new dental silica plant being built in the coastal city of Qingdao, China, in the Shangdong province.

“We continue to make significant progress at Qingdao and are optimistic we’ll make our goal of becoming operational in June of this year,” says Mike Marberry, president of HEM. “The buildings are currently being completed and the primary equipment installed, so the plant is taking shape. In the coming months, we will be finalizing construction and connecting utilities and other services. We are very excited about this addition to our silica production capabilities.”

When operational, the facility is expected to output 40,000 metric tons of precipitated dental silica annually. The plant is a critical component of Huber’s strategy to drive

geographic expansion and growth of its silica business, particularly in the Asian Pacific region. In addition to the new China plant, Huber produces silica products at six other locations in Havre de Grace, Maryland; Etowah, Tennessee; Oostende, Belgium; Hamina, Finland; Uddevalla, Sweden; and Jhagadia, India.

Known globally for its high quality and innovative functionality, Huber dental silicas are primarily used as cleaning agents and thickeners in toothpaste formulations. Huber has perfected the science of particle-size control and rheology to ensure its dental silica can be formulated in a variety of dentifrice products including opaque, clear gels, striped, dual phase, high cleaning and specialty formulas.

“The Qingdao facility will operate with the same high-quality standards that our customers have come to expect of Huber worldwide,” says Marberry. “When the plant begins commercial production, it will enable us to optimize our global manufacturing network and better serve our customers in this fast growing region.”

Source: J.M. Huber Corporation

## New Bridge across Yellow River completed

2008-12-28

A bridge spanning the Yellow River was completed and opened to traffic in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, Sunday.

This new bridge and a section of the Qingdao-Yinchuan expressway in Jinan are nearly 63 km in length. Total investments are estimated at nearly 4.2 billion yuan (about 618 million U.S. dollars), according to the Shandong Hi-Speed Group Co., Ltd., the investor of the project.

They constitute parts of an expressway connecting Qingdao, a port city in Shandong, and Yinchuan, capital of

northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

Source: [www.chinaview.cn](http://www.chinaview.cn)



A bird view of Qingdao-Yinchuan expressway, Qingdao part

To be continued

## Renowned Qingdao Symphony Orchestra to join the Choral Arts Society for Chinese New Year Concert - Single performance at the Kennedy Center February 1

2009-1-14



To celebrate the spirit of international fellowship and cooperation during the Chinese New Year, The Choral Arts Society of Washington announced today that it is joining China's critically acclaimed Qingdao Symphony Orchestra to present "Image China: Chinese New Year Concert 2009." The performance—a fun, festive, and invigorating mix of Chinese and American orchestral compositions—will take place Sunday, February 1, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The Qingdao Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Yongyan Hu, is making its inaugural American tour. Since its inception in 2005, the QSO has become internationally recognized for combining world-class musical excellence with a progressive spirit. "We were honoured to be chosen to partner with the Qingdao Symphony Orchestra for their American premier at the Kennedy Center," said the Choral Arts Society's Artistic Director and Founder Norman Scribner. "Music is certainly the international language of hope and cooperation, and we are proud to do our part to be a bridge between our cultures."

The program's American works include Leonard Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from West Side Story and a concert version of George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess. The

Chinese selections include a piano concerto by Chen Yi and a Xiaogang Ye concerto for "pipa," a four-stringed instrument of ancient Chinese origin. Featured performers include: Hongyan Zhang, pipa; Sa Chen, piano; Janice Chandler-Eteme, soprano; Alvy Powell, baritone; and The Choral Arts Society Chorus.

The Choral Arts Society of Washington is one of the nation's pre-eminent symphonic choruses. Under the direction of Maestro Scribner and comprising more than 190 professional-calibre volunteer singers, the Society has sung with the world's leading orchestras and conductors, recorded fifteen acclaimed CDs, and launched a highly successful national radio program. The Chorus most recently performed Mahler's Eighth Symphony under Valery Gergiev with the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus at Saint Paul's Cathedral as part of the 2008 City of London Festival (a live recording of which will be released on compact disc in 2009). In addition to the annual subscription series at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, Choral Arts performs regularly in such televised events as A Capitol Fourth (PBS) and The Kennedy Center Honors (CBS) and appears nationally and internationally with the world's leading conductors and orchestras including Leonard Slatkin and the BBC Festival Orchestra and Chorus at London Proms, the late Mstislav Rostropovich at Red Square, and John Adams and the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall.

Ticket prices for "Image China: Chinese New Year Concert 2009" range from \$15 to \$65 and are on sale now through the Choral Arts Society's Box Office at 202.244.3669, through Kennedy Center Instant Charge at 202.467.4600, and at [www.choralarts.org](http://www.choralarts.org). Student, senior, and group discounts are available. Orchestra seats start at \$30.

Source: PRNewswire

To be continued

## Aegon-CNOOC Life launches operations in China's Qingdao

2009-1-6

Aegon-CNOOC Life Insurance Co. Ltd., a 50-50 joint venture between Dutch-based life insurer Aegon N.V. and China National Offshore Oil Corp., won approval to start businesses in Qingdao, one of the largest ports and major cities in China's Shandong province.

According to the China Insurance Regulatory Commission, the life insurance joint venture will be allowed to operate in the administrative regions of Shandong province exclusively. It can determine its scope of business on its own under the regulator's approval.

Aegon-CNOOC said that in 2009, demand will continue to grow throughout China's insurance market. As a growing company, Aegon-CNOOC said it believes China will provide substantial market opportunities to the company and it also forecasts the Chinese insurance market next year will be very positive.

In addition, the Shanghai-based life insurer said its future business opportunities will come from "pension, health insurance and the emerging rural market."

By the end of November 2008, Aegon-CNOOC had original premium income of 1.37 billion yuan (148 million euros), representing growth of 4.6% from 1.31 billion yuan in October, according to the CIRC.

The regulator reported that during the first 11 months of last year, Qingdao recorded original premium income of 9.53 billion yuan, of which, life premium accounted for 5.84 billion yuan, property premium accounted for 2.63 billion yuan, health insurance accounted for 890 million yuan, and the remaining 163 million yuan was from accident insurance.

According to the CIRC, Shandong province recorded original premium income of 53.62 billion yuan in November 2008, up 7.8% from 49.76 billion yuan in October. Of the original premium income in November, 36.59 billion yuan was from life insurance, 12.73 billion yuan was from property insurance, 3.15 billion yuan was from health insurance, and the remaining 1.14 billion yuan was from accident insurance.

Source: A. M. Best via COMTEX News Network

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