

China, EU tap market in urbanization partnership

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<u>BEIJING</u> -- China and <u>Europe</u>an Union (<u>EU</u>) has made another step forward in enhancing their strategic partnership as cities and organizations of the two parties agreed to join hands in tapping China's growing <u>urbanization market</u>.

<u>Tianjin</u>, Shenzhen and 10 other Chinese cities have signed partnership agreements with European cities and organizations during the 2013 China-EU Urbanization Partnership Forum held last week in Beijing.

"China expects more EU countries and cities as well as enterprises and organizations to establish close and practical partnership with their Chinese counterparts," said Xu Shaoshi, head of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top economic planner.

Building smart, green and low carbon cities are the global trend in urbanization, as well as EU's strengths and China's development goal, Xu said.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said that China is willing to learn from the <u>European Union</u> in its push towards urbanization, while urging the two sides to deepen cooperation in many aspects, especially among enterprises, to jointly improve city design, public services and historical and cultural heritage.