



Media Release

1 June 2012

ANZ supports Maori road to China

A high-profile business tour of China has the potential to unlock enormous opportunities for Maori businesses, says ANZ's Head of Maori Relationships, David Harrison.

The Minister of Maori Affairs, Dr Pita Sharples, this week leads a delegation of top Maori businesses on a mission to China where they will meet with senior government officials and big-name Chinese companies. The mission will visit Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

"Asia offers enormous opportunity for Maori in terms of trade, tourism and inbound capital investment. This delegation demonstrates the keen interest that China has in building relationships with Maori and reinforces the strength of Maori business," Mr Harrison says.

"The Minister is to be commended for this initiative. It's vital that we continue building a platform on which Maori international business can flourish."

Over the past two years ANZ – New Zealand's largest bank - has also taken Iwi and Maori businesses to China, and more recently Vietnam.

"Although we have Maori business customers already exporting seafood, dairy, meat, wine and horticulture to Asia this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the potential," Mr Harrison says.

"We share the Minister's China vision and are delighted to be part of the delegation. We believe that ANZ's strong footprint across 15 Asian countries means we are well positioned to help Maori businesses unlock the enormous potential that Asia offers."

ANZ has staff across Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chongqing and recently announced it will be investing an additional \$300m to triple the size of its network in China, the world's fastest-growing major economy.

"This not only enables us to provide Maori with the banking services required to carry out business in Asia but also means we can provide market insights and introductions to our local business connections," Mr Harrison says.

ANZ New Zealand is the country's largest financial institution and one of the nation's largest companies. Its brands include ANZ Bank, National Bank, OnePath, UDC Finance, EFTPOS Bonus Bonds, and Direct Broking. Around one in two New Zealanders has a financial relationship with ANZ New Zealand.

For more information contact Stefan Herrick, Corporate Affairs, ANZ New Zealand, 021 819044 or 09 2526418.