



***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***  
**Cape Coral Economic Development Office**  
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## **Cape Coral Sister City Venture with China Moves Forward** ***Delegation Visit Set for February 24***

Cape Coral, Fla., January 8, 2019 — Four high-level delegates from the Baise Municipality Guangxi Zhuang will be visiting Cape Coral for the first time February 24-27. Preparations have moved into high-gear after city officials received word that the delegates accepted the city's formal invitation.

The City's Economic Development Office (EDO) is coordinating the visit in partnership with the local business community through the creation of a formal Welcome Committee. Members of the Welcome Committee include representatives from key sectors in the community such as education, healthcare and private-sector businesses. The committee has been conducting planning sessions since early November. The goal is to showcase the best of Cape Coral, offer key business and educational tours and still allow time for quality cultural and business discussions. Tours of Cape Coral Hospital, the City's Charter School System and Ecological Laboratories are planned. Ecological Laboratories currently has a manufacturing facility in China.

"This visit is the beginning of a business and cultural exchange that will ultimately benefit both Cape Coral and Baise," said Mayor Joe Coviello. "We are honored to host these delegates and look forward to showing them what makes Cape Coral a great place to live, work and invest."

Business Owner JoAnne Killion, who provides educational student exchange programs, initiated the plan to find a sister city in China more than two years ago. "The opportunities for both countries are so strong," says Killion. "The future could hold cultural, student, and medical exchanges as well as enriching business and commerce ventures. I am very excited to see this come to fruition."

At first glance, Baise and Cape Coral may not appear to have a great deal in common. Baise is over 20 times the size of Cape Coral with 12 counties and 135 townships. However, the two cities share similar climates as well as popularity as tourist destinations.

The Economic Development Office is encouraging Cape Coral businesses with an interest in exploring opportunities to do business in China to contact Business Recruitment/Retention Specialist Nita Whaley via email at [nwhaley@capecoral.net](mailto:nwhaley@capecoral.net) or call (239) 574-0443.



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