EAU Report



Launch of EAU Report: China **Embraces the World Market** a commentary by Bill O'Shea Partner, Hunt & Hunt Lawyers 26 November 2002 Level 26, 360 Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Tel: (03) 8602 9200 • Fax: (03) 8602 9299

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## China's Entry to the WTO

 Will it make it any difference to the way China deals are put together?

Will it increase their likelihood of success?



## What's changed?

- Contract Law
- Trading projects easier
- Services more difficult for foreign lawyers
- E-commerce an emerging opportunity

60M online subscribers in China (5% of the population) increasing @ 6% per month up from just 600,000 in 1997

2<sup>nd</sup> largest internet market in the world after the US



## What's changed? (cont)

- Intellectual property laws re-vamped and toughened
- Enforcement is still the problem
- Local government and officials still to be convinced



#### **Australia China Relationship**

- Continues to be strong
- Macquarie Bank investment seminar in Shanghai: a new level of commitment - should be followed by others



### Australia China Relationship (cont)

- Australia a centre of technical excellence:
  - > medical research
  - > biotechnology



### Australia China Relationship (cont)

- Australia can also assist emerging China-based multinational white goods manufacturers.
- Last year, the number of Chinese air conditioner brands dropped from 200 to 30 – it's a hot market in more ways than one!
- We can offer:
  - > innovation in design
    - > specialisation in retailing



### Australia China Relationship (cont)

- Still frustrating concluding a deal in China:
- the deal always changes when you arrive in China!



#### **Environmental projects**

- environmental projects an opportunity going begging
- carbon credits the magic ingredient to fund projects in China
- Kyoto Protocol the key



#### Jiang Zemin's speech to 16th National CCP Congress

- "Building a well-off society"
- agricultural reform: 100 million farmers re-located to non-farming activities by 2001
- their annual income increased by 1000 yuan
- "The three represents"
- private property: "Get rich is glorious"?



#### Whereto from here?

- China has made significant changes to accommodate WTO membership
- Enforcement of new and tougher laws is still the issue
- China compares well against other "socialist" countries
- EAU Report again highlights the great opportunities in China for Australian business





# Thank you.

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