

Press Release (English Language Version) January 13, 2016

Zhengzhou Airport Economic Zone, Zhengzhou ,Henan Province, Peoples Republic of China

Contact: Renhui Li, Feifei Huang
Phone: (86-371-6063-2071)
Email: feifeihuang1226@126.com

University of North Carolina's Kasarda receives China's Foreign Talents Award. He tops the list for the "Most Influential Foreign Experts in China" by the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs for his contributions to the development of the Zhengzhou Airport Economic Zone.

[Zhengzhou, China [13 January 2016]- Dr. John D. Kasarda, a professor at the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School, has received China's prestigious 1000 Foreign Talents Award through the Recruitment Program of Foreign Experts. The program recruits non-ethnic Chinese who the central government considers leaders in science, technology, and innovation for the advancement of high-tech industries and promotion of new business practices. Each year, thousands of foreign professionals world-wide apply for this program but only a small portion win this honor. In 2015, 71 were selected. Those selected enjoy preferential treatment in terms of China entrance and exit, residence, medical care, and insurance. A 1 million RMB (US\$ 160,000) grant is provided to each individual selected to pursue project -related work in China. Additional research subsidies are provided through the winner's affiliated China organization.

For more information on China's "1000 Talents Program", see the official website: ["http://www.1000plan.safea.gov.cn"](http://www.1000plan.safea.gov.cn)

Dr. Kasarda is an expert in airport -driven economic development and the originator of the "Aerotropolis" concept which *Time* magazine named in 2011 as "One of the Ten Ideas that will Change the World". He is serving as the Chief Advisor to the Zhengzhou Airport Economic Zone (ZAEZ), the largest and one of the most ambitious in China. This development zone, covering 160 square miles, was approved as the first national-level airport economic zone by the State Council, China's Cabinet, in March 2013 for its strategic importance to China. Kasarda has participated in the planning and development of the ZAEZ from its beginning in 2011 , and his strategic vision and recommendations have paved the way for ZAEZ's rapid development. Since 2013, 48 modern industry projects worth US\$ 6.3 billion have been completed. The zone is the world's largest production site for smartphones, where 143 million were assembled last year, including approximately 80 percent of Apple iPhones. Combined imports and exports of the ZAEZ reached US\$ 5.9 billion by 2015, ranking it second among China's 48 free trade zones. In 2014, Zhengzhou International Airport at the center of the zone became China's fastest growing in both cargo and passenger volumes.

Guo Gengmao, the secretary of the Henan provincial committee of the Communist Party of China, has recommended Kasarda's book, *Aerotropolis: The Way We'll Live Next*, to all the province's

officials. “What attracts me the most is the author’s profound insights into air commerce development and his visionary design of an aerotropolis.” At the launching ceremony in Zhengzhou in December 2015 for a Chinese global satellite TV station “Aerotropolis TV” the Party Secretary of the ZAEZ, Zhang Yanming, praised Kasarda’s commitment and accomplishments. “From the first day of our inviting him as our chief advisor, Professor Kasarda has been deeply engaged not only in strategic planning but also helping guide our infrastructure and facility development.” Hu Quan, former Party Secretary of the ZAEZ, congratulated Kasarda on his receiving of the 1000 Talents Program Award saying: “We are so proud of you. This award manifests your great contributions to ZAEZ and your expertise in the aviation-driven economy.”

Read more about the winner and his contributions:

John D. Kasarda on
www.aerotropolis.com
www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_D._Kasarda
www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/faculty/

Selected photos to accompany ZAEZ press release



Photo 1 – John Kasarda (center) at launching China’s global satellite TV station “Aerotropolis TV” December 11, 2015

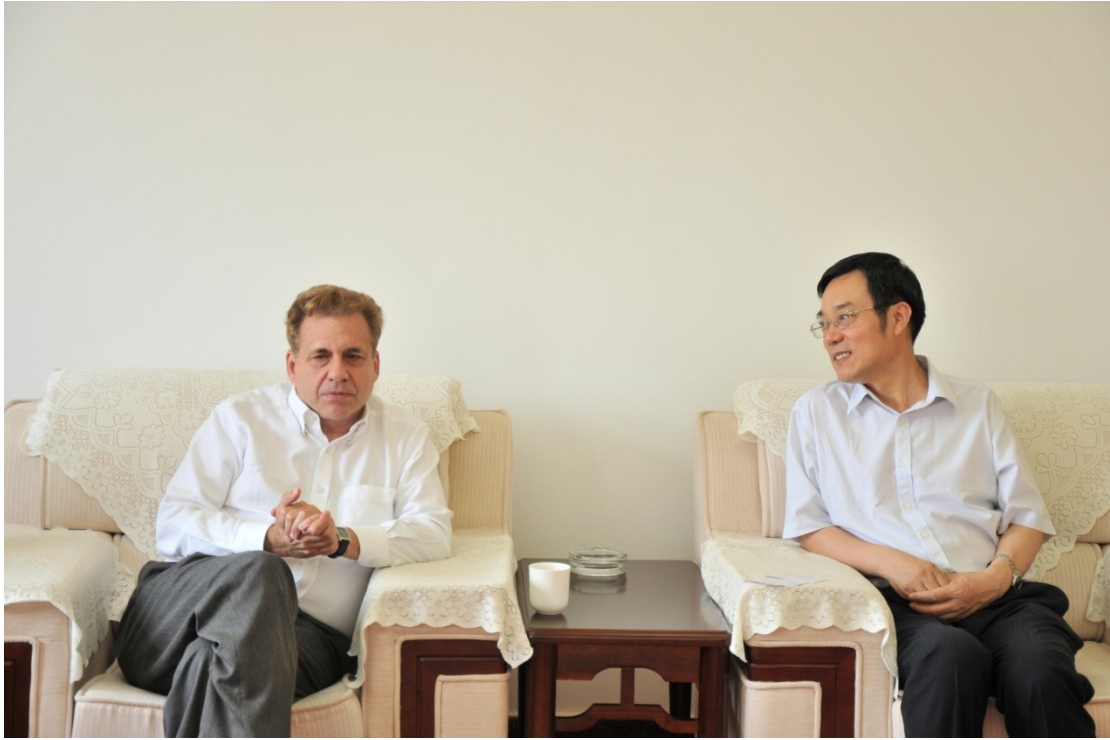


Photo 2 – John Kasarda meeting with former director of ZAEZ and current Party Secretary Zhang Yanming



Photo 3 – John Kasarda advising former director of ZAEZ and current Party Secretary Zhang Yanming on Zhengzhou Airport bonded zones

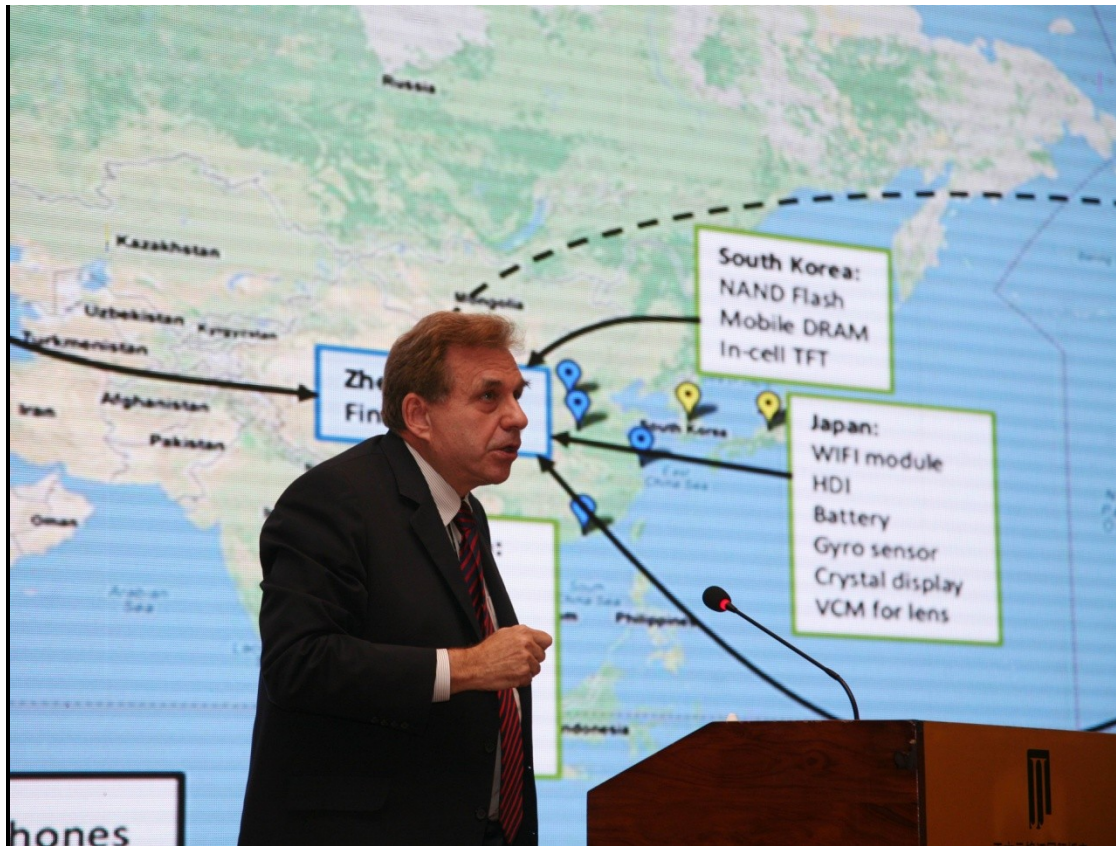


Photo 4 – John Kasarda presenting to ZAEZ officials on optimizing the Apple iPhone supply chain



Photo 5 – John Kasarda presented with the insignia for his work station in Zhengzhou



Photo 6 – John Kasarda prepares for the launch of China's new global satellite TV station, Aerotropolis TV



Photo 7 – John Kasarda being interviewed on Aerotropolis Satellite TV



Photo 8 – John Kasarda chatting with Zhao Suping, Director of the Department of Publicity of Henan Province



Photo 9 – Zhengzhou TV interviewing John Kasarda on development of the Zhengzhou Airport Economic Zone



Photo 10 – John Kasarda congratulated by ZAEZ director Zhang Yanming on being named Chief Advisor



Photo 11 – John Kasarda chats with Party Secretary Hu Quan prior to Chief Advisor ceremony



Photo 12 – John D. Kasarda, University of North Carolina and Chief Advisor to the Zhengzhou Airport Economic Zone