

China, Chongqing and Shanghai, April 25 –May 2.

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Our first destination was Chongqing, by some seen as the world's largest municipality with about 30 million inhabitants. The city is growing fast and acts as an important economical hub in central China.

We took off by noon from Taiwan Taoyuan Intl. Airport, transferred in Guangzhou and arrived in Chongqing on late Sunday evening, April 25th. From there we went by a recklessly driving taxi to our hotel, located in the center of the city. Our first impression then became the traffic, with people driving worse than any one of us had ever experienced in China before.

On the morning the next day, we got picked up by a driver working for ABB. He took us to the factory located in the outskirts of the big city. We were shown the production of their big transformers and their new test lab. After lunch, we continued with a visit to the Volvo-Changan joint-venture factory. Here Volvo produces Volvo S80L, a car unique for the Chinese market. We were shown the production line, a mixed line producing both Volvo-, Ford- an until recently Mazda models.

The next day, Tuesday, we had some time off for exploring the Chongqing atmosphere. On Wednesday morning we caught an early flight to Shanghai Pudong Airport. From there we took the highspeed maglev train, and continued with a taxi to our hotel near the Bund. The rest of the day we spent visiting the newly built skyscrapers on the Pudong side.

Thursday morning we had our next appointment at the Swedish Chamber of commerce. A relaxed presentation was held and we were invited to celebrate Valborg together with the "Young Professional's" Shanghai chapter towards the end of the week.

Our next meeting was in the same building, at the Swedish Trade office. We met with former Chalmers International Taiwan Office HoO Van Hoang. He described the work of the Swedish Trade office in Shanghai, which is the biggest ST office in the world.

In the afternoon we went on to visit the Volvo Cars sales office. Here we were nicely received and had an interesting talk about the growing car market in China. During the evening the same day we met with some of the Chalmers Alumni in Shanghai, they had arranged dinner at a restaurant in the French Concession area. Also invited to the dinner was the entrepreneur and professor Jan Staël von Holstein. He gave an interesting dinner talk about branding in China.

On Friday, we went to visit the ECA Chemicals factory. Here they produce chemicals for the paper industry. The factory is located in a science park area outside Suzhou, one hour by train from Shanghai.

Saturday was the day of the big opening of the Shanghai World Expo. We went and visited the big expo area and had a walkthrough of the Swedish Pavilion, designed by SWECO. The expo site is huge and the day included a lot of walking and looking at the countries different pavilions.

Sunday morning we once again went to Shanghai Pudong Airport and returned back to Taiwan.