

# AGREEMENT

## ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRIENDSHIP RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE PROVINCE OF SICHUAN OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The State of Michigan and the Province of Sichuan have gradually strengthened their mutual understanding and friendship in recent years through the continual exchange of friendly visits and interviews. Michigan State University and Sichuan University already enjoy a successful exchange relationship and this has contributed much to the establishment of friendship relations between the State of Michigan and the Province of Sichuan.

The State of Michigan of the United States of America and the Province of Sichuan of the People's Republic of China, in order to develop further the friendly cooperation between the people of the State of Michigan and the people of the Province of Sichuan, and to make contributions to the continued development of friendly relations between the peoples of America and China, have agreed to establish a formal relationship of friendship between the State of Michigan of the United States of America and the Province of Sichuan of the People's Republic of China.

I. The State of Michigan and the Province of Sichuan have established a relationship of friendship, based upon the principles laid down in the U.S.- China Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations.

II. The State of Michigan and the Province of Sichuan have decided to strengthen friendly contacts between state and province and, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, to carry out cooperation and exchanges in industry and agriculture, economic activities and trade, science and technology, culture and education, sports and health, travel and tourism and other fields, in order to promote the continued economic and cultural development of the State of Michigan and the Province of Sichuan.

III. The two parties agree to encourage their departments and enterprises concerned to cooperate in various forms, for example, to give first consideration to each other in trade, enter into joint ventures and licensing arrangements, carry out cooperative production, and transfer technology.

IV. The leaders and departments concerned of both sides will maintain regular contact to consult on matters relating to cooperation and exchanges between the State and the Province.

V. This agreement is signed at Chengdu on 9 November 1982 and is effective from the date of signing.

The agreement is done in duplicate in the English and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the GOVERNOR  
PROVINCE OF SICHUAN  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

For the GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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## Sichuan

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**Sichuan** (四川, pinyin: Sīchuān, previously spelled Szechuan or Szechwan, lit. "Four rivers") is a province in central-western China with its capital at Chengdu.

## History

The territory of the province and its vicinity were the cradle of unique local civilizations, which can be dated to at least 15th century BC (i.e. later years of Shang Dynasty). Beginning from 9th century BC, Shu (today Chengdu) and Ba (today Chongqing City) emerged as cultural and administrative centres where two rival kingdoms were established.

Shu's existence was unknown until a 1986 archaeological discovery at a small village named Sanxingdui (三星堆 san1 xing1 dui1) in Guanghan (廣漢 guang3 han4) County. Believed to be an ancient city of the Shu Kingdom, the excavations yielded invaluable archaeological information.

Although the Qin Kingdom destroyed the civilizations of Shu and Ba, the government accelerated the technological and agricultural advancements comparable to that of the Huanghe Valley. The Dujiangyan (都江堰 du1 jiang2 yan4) irrigation system, built in 3rd century BC under the inspection of Li Bing (李冰 li3 bing1), was the symbol of modernization of that period. Composed of a series of dams, it redirected the flow of Min Jiang, a major tributary of Chang Jiang (The Yangtze River), to fields and relieved the damage of seasonal floods. The construction and various other projects greatly increased the harvest of the area which thus became the main source of provision and men for Qin's unification of China.

Various ores, especially iron, were abundant. Adding to its significance, the area was also on the trade route from Huang He Valley to foreign countries of the southwest, especially India.

Military importance matches the commercial and agricultural values. As the area is actually a basin and is surrounded by the Himalayas to the west, Qinling Range to the north, and mountainous areas of Yunnan to the south, its climate is often heavily foggy. Since Chang Jiang flows through the basin and thus is upstream to areas of eastern China, whoever controlled the area could easily sail navies downstream. Therefore, the area was always the base of numerous ambitious militarists and was the refuge of Chinese governments throughout

## 四川省 Sichuān Shěng

<i>Province Abbreviation (s):</i> 川 Chuān or 蜀 Shǔ	
Capital	Chengdu
Area	Ranked 5th
- Total	480,000 <u>km<sup>2</sup></u>
- % water	xx%
Population	Ranked 4th
- Total (as of year 2000)	83,290,000
- Density	174/km <sup>2</sup>
Administration Type	Province
Governor	Zhang Zhongwei

history. A few independent regimes were founded; the most famous was Shu Han of the Three Kingdoms. The Jin Dynasty first conquered Shu Han on its path of unification. During the Tang Dynasty, it was a front against Tibet. The Southern Song Dynasty established a joint system of defense with Xiangyang against the Mongolian Yuan, which proved successful as Mongke Khan died of illness in Sichuan. The line of defence was finally broken through after the first use of firearms in history during the six-years siege of Xiangyang. Foggy climate hindered the accuracy of Japanese bombing of the basin and Chongqing where the capital of Republic of China had moved to during World War II.

Sichuan's borders have remained relatively constant for the past 500 years. This changed in 1997 when the city of Chongqing as well as the surrounding towns of Fuling and Wanxian were formed into the new Chongqing Municipality. The new municipality was formed to spearhead China's effort to develop its western regions as well as to coordinate the resettlement of refugees from the Three Gorges Dam project.

## Geography

The area is actually a basin and is surrounded by the Himalayas to the west, Qinling Range to the north, and mountainous areas of Yunnan to the south. Chang Jiang flows through the basin and thus is upstream to areas of eastern China.

The climate is often heavily foggy.

Bordering provinces: Chongqing Municipality, Tibet, Qinghai, Gansu, Shaanxi, Guizhou and Yunnan.

## Economy

The Three Gorges Dam, the largest dam ever constructed, is being built on the Yangtze River in nearby Hubei province to control flooding in the Sichuan Basin, neighboring Yunnan province, and downstream. The plan is hailed by some as a Chinese effort to shift towards alternate energy sources and to further develop its industrial and commercial bases but others have criticised it for its potential harmful effects, such as massive resettlement of refugees, loss of archeological sites, and ecological damage.

## Demographics

### Culture

- Szechuan cuisine

### Tourism

UNESCO World Heritage Sites:

- Dujiangyan (see history section) was made a World Heritage Site in 2000
- Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area
- Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area
- Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area
- Dazu Rock Carvings
- Mount Qincheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System

## Miscellaneous topics

### Colleges and universities

- Sichuan University (Chengdu)
- Southwest Jiaotong University (Chengdu)