The Cabot Corporation – Xinsheng Zhang Lectureship at Washington University

Tuesday | October 9, 2012 | 4:00pm
Etta Eiseman Steinberg Auditorium

China’s Leadership Succession and Political Transformation

Dr. Cheng Li
Director of Research and Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution’s John L. Thornton China Center
Created in 2011, the Cabot Corporation-Xinsheng Zhang Lectureship series offers unique opportunities for students and faculty at Washington University, along with the St. Louis community, to learn about issues of global leadership, particularly in China. The series has been made possible by a generous gift from Cabot Corporation honoring the leadership and service of Xinsheng Zhang, through the establishment of the Cabot Corporation-Xinsheng Zhang Endowed Lectures Fund to the McDonnell International Scholars Academy. It hosts distinguished guest speakers in business, academia, government, and the non-profit sector, with an emphasis on China.

PROGRAM

4:00pm  INTRODUCTION
Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton
Mr. Patrick Prevost, President & CEO
Cabot Corporation
Dr. Xinsheng Zhang, Vice President
Shell Aviation
Dr. James V. Wertsch, Director
McDonnell International Scholars Academy
Vice Chancellor for International Affairs

4:15pm  LECTURE
Dr. Cheng Li
“China’s Leadership Succession and Political Transformation”
Steinberg Hall - Auditorium

5:30pm  RECEPTION
Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum | Atrium
Founded in 1882, Cabot is headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts and is a global leading producer of specialty chemicals and advanced materials with sales of $2.9 billion in fiscal year 2010. Cabot operates 36 manufacturing facilities located in the USA and 20 other countries. It is a public company quoted on the NYSE under CBT. Cabot’s products are based on technical expertise and innovation in one or more of three core competencies: making and handling very fine particles; modifying the surfaces of very fine particles to alter their functionality; and designing particles to impart specific properties to a composite. Its particles support existing and emerging applications for its global business-to-business customer base. 

Zhang Xinsheng joined Shell in 2011 after 17 years with Cabot Corporation, a global performance materials company. As the head of Shell Aviation, Sheng and his colleagues manage a business of serving fuels and lubricants to airlines, air forces, and other aviation customers. Shell Aviation is a leading player in the aviation industry, operating in more than 800 airports and fueling an aircraft every 12 seconds.

Before joining Shell, Sheng was a member of the Executive Committee of Cabot Corporation, Vice President and General Manager of Cabot Asia Pacific Region, with 11 manufacturing facilities and 7 offices.

Sheng is a Canadian citizen and native of China. He received his undergraduate education at Shiyan Normal School in Hubei, holds a Master’s degree in Engineering from the Rubber Research and Design Institute in Beijing, and a PhD in polymer science from the Institute of Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Academica Sinica). Sheng is married with two children. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf and walking his dog.
Patrick Prevost

Patrick M. Prevost joined Cabot in 2008. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Company. Prior to joining Cabot, Mr. Prevost served as President of the Performance Chemicals Division of BASF in Ludwigshafen, Germany. Prior to BASF, Mr. Prevost was a senior executive at BP Plc which he joined via the acquisition of Amoco Corporation in 1999. He held multiple operational and functional leadership positions at Amoco before 1999, which he joined in 1983.

Mr. Prevost is a chemist and earned his BSc. degree in Chemistry from the University of Geneva in Switzerland. He followed this with an MBA from the University of Chicago. He is a French citizen who has spent many years living in the United States and Asia. He also spent time in Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. He is a board member of General Cable and of the American Chemistry Council. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the French Cultural Center and the New England Conservatory in Boston.

Cheng Li


Before joining Brookings in 2006, Dr. Li was the William R. Kenan professor of government at Hamilton College, New York, where he had taught since 1991. Dr. Li has advised a wide range of government, business and non-profit organizations on working in China. Dr. Li currently serves as a director of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, a member of the Academic Advisory Team of the Congressional U.S.-China Working Group, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a director of the Committee of 100. He is a regular participant and speaker of the famous Bilderberg Conference. Dr. Li has frequently been called upon to share his unique perspective and insights as an expert on China. He recently appeared on CNN, C-SPAN, BBC, ABC World News with Diane Sawyer, NPR News Hour with Jim Lehrer, and the PBS Charlie Rose Show. Born in Shanghai, in 1985 he came to the United States, where he later received an MA in Asian Studies from the University of California, Berkeley in 1987, and a PhD in Political Science from Princeton University in 1992.