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Contact: Mary Flannery  
215.937.5424  
[mary.flannery@phl.org](mailto:mary.flannery@phl.org)

## PHL Airport Welcomes China Ambassador

**PHILADELPHIA** – In its ongoing efforts to obtain direct air service from Philadelphia to China, Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) yesterday welcomed Ambassador Zhang Qiyue, Consul General of the People’s Republic of China in New York on a tour of the airport and a reception that included City and elected officials from the region, members of the Consulate of the People’s Republic of China in New York, and representatives of the Greater Philadelphia business and tourism communities.

Airport CEO Chellie Cameron and members of the PHL executive team presented Ambassador Zhang with an overview of the strength and attributes of the greater Philadelphia market, the largest U.S. metro area without non-stop service to Asia. The Ambassador was also given a tour of the airport.

The airport tour was followed by an official reception at the R2L Restaurant on the 37<sup>th</sup> floor of Liberty Place with its dramatic views of America’s first World Heritage City. City Commerce Director Harold Epps and U.S. Senator Thomas Carper of Delaware joined Ambassador Zhang in addressing the attendees.

“China is the fastest growing market in terms of overseas visitors coming to Philadelphia,” Cameron said. “We have been working tirelessly as a region to obtain direct air service to Asia. This was a unique opportunity to show Ambassador Zhang and the Chinese consulate team the attractiveness of air service between Philadelphia and China.”

Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$15.4 billion in spending annually and supporting more than 96,300 full-time jobs for the 11-county Philadelphia MSA.