

## Press Release

### GLEIF Opens China Representative Office to Drive Digital Organizational Identity Across the Region

*GLEIF on-site activities will support the local government's efforts to promote cross-border trade and economic openness.*

**28 October 2025 – Basel** – The Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF), headquartered in Switzerland, today announces that it has officially established a representative office in China within the Shanghai Lin-gang Special Area. This strategic expansion aims to support growing demand for the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) and the verifiable LEI (vLEI) across the region.

China is a key jurisdiction within the Global LEI System, with increasing adoption and application of both the LEI and the vLEI reflecting its position as a leading hub in Asia for the development and deployment of digital organizational identity solutions.

This expansion builds on strong and sustained regulatory support. In December 2020, the People's Bank of China published a roadmap for LEI adoption to enhance global transparency and trust, which saw the integration of the LEI in payment systems and digital certificates. There is now growing momentum for the LEI and the vLEI in China to promote economic inclusion and growth by streamlining cross-border finance and enabling the digitalization of global trade.

The new office's strategic location within the Shanghai Lin-gang Special Area directly reflects dedicated initiatives to bolster the local application of the LEI. This follows the introduction of a comprehensive package of 50 measures encouraging companies in the Lin-gang Special Area to use the LEI for cross-border verification and key trade documents, such as electronic bills of lading, warehouse receipts, and invoices.

The China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Lin-gang Special Area Administration has also announced that it will subsidize the costs associated with LEI issuance for all companies operating within the area through the end of 2028. This strategic initiative is expected to further enhance the efficiency of entity identification and promote seamless compliance with international standards in cross-border trade.

Alexandre Kech, CEO, GLEIF, comments: "China is at the forefront in demonstrating the important role that trusted, digital organizational identity can play in breaking down the trust and transparency barriers that inhibit global trade flows. This presents a powerful opportunity to leverage the scale and dynamism of the Chinese economy to accelerate LEI and vLEI uptake – opening up new markets and opportunities for all businesses of any size, wherever they are in the world."

Yisong Lin, Director of Division of Yangshan Special Free Trade & Transportation Zone, China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone Lin-gang Special Area Administration, comments: "The Lin-gang Special Area is actively driving the digital transformation of shipping and trade. With GLEIF establishing a representative office in the Yangshan Free Trade Zone, we will work together to explore the use of verifiable identities and cross-border interoperability, providing strong support for the broader application of electronic bills of lading."

The establishment of the new office, headed by Yanzhao Zhang as the appointed representative, will play a pivotal role in supporting the continued advancement and expansion of the LEI and vLEI issuance infrastructure across Greater China. This includes a local LEI issuer and several Validation Agents, with strong momentum for the vLEI reflected by a growing network of Qualified vLEI Issuers and an expanding client base in the region. The office will also foster increased engagement and collaboration with key financial authorities and market infrastructures while supporting broader ecosystem initiatives.

Opening an office in China further increases GLEIF's presence across Asia-Pacific, following openings in Mumbai in 2024, Singapore in 2023, and the Chiyoda Ward of Tokyo in 2021. GLEIF now has a network of seven offices worldwide to ensure strong local representation in key countries globally.

– ENDS –

**Full resolution images and logos can be downloaded via this link**

<https://www.gleif.org/en/newsroom/gleif-graphics-images>

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#### **Relevant link**

[www.gleif.org](http://www.gleif.org)

#### **Glossary of terms**

##### **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)**

The Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a 20-character, alpha-numeric code based on the ISO 17442 standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The LEI connects to key reference information that enables clear and unique identification of legal entities participating in financial transactions. Each LEI contains information about an entity's ownership structure, answering the questions of 'who is

who' and 'who owns whom'. It provides a universally recognized identifier paired with essential entity data, rigorous verification processes and high data quality.

### **Verifiable LEI (vLEI)**

The vLEI concept is simple: It is the cryptographic secure digital counterpart of a conventional LEI. In other words, it is a digitally trustworthy version of the 20-digit LEI code which is automatically verified, without the need for human intervention. It gives government organizations, companies, and other legal entities worldwide the capacity to use non-repudiable identification data pertaining to their legal status, ownership structure and authorized representatives in any kind of digital interaction, transaction, or e-signature scenario.

### **About the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF)**

Established by the Financial Stability Board in June 2014, the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) is a not-for-profit organization created to support the implementation and use of the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) and its digital counterpart the verifiable LEI (vLEI). GLEIF is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland.

GLEIF's mission is to manage a network of global partners to provide trusted services and open, reliable data for unique legal entity identification worldwide. GLEIF makes available the technical infrastructure to provide, via an open data license, online access to the full global LEI database free of charge to users. GLEIF is overseen by the Regulatory Oversight Committee, which is made up of representatives of public authorities from across the globe.

Diversity and inclusion underpin GLEIF's values. This is reflected in its workforce of approximately 60 staff from over 20 nations, its operational excellence, and its commitment to open, global participation in the Global LEI System.

For more information, visit the GLEIF website at <https://www.gleif.org/en>.

### **Source:**

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