

News story: Matt Hancock visits China to promote co-operation on healthcare innovation

During his visit, he will co-host the UK-China Health Dialogue in Beijing and attend the World Economic Forum to champion the UK's world-class life sciences sector.

The health and social care secretary will promote his vision for the UK to have the most advanced health-tech sector in the world.

In Beijing, he will meet China's Health Minister Ma Xiaowei to discuss how the UK and China can work together to help patients live longer, healthier and happier lives by harnessing the potential of technology.

The Secretary of State will also attend the World Economic Forum in Tianjin, which he is co-chairing, to highlight the shared interest around innovation in health technology. He will discuss how patients can have access to the best and most cost-effective medicines when he meets with Minister Hu Jinglin from the National Healthcare Security Administration.

Matt Hancock said:

As global leaders, the UK and China must work closely together to tackle key emerging issues in healthcare like the increasing resistance to antibiotics, the issues of an ageing population, and how we can harness the power of technology to help patients live longer, healthier and happier lives.

I want the UK to have the most advanced healthcare system in the world, and this is a great opportunity to champion our world-class life sciences and health-tech sectors.

News story: One month until UK hosts Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit

The first ever Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit will take place in London on 8 and 9 October.

Political figures, experts and policy-makers from around the world will come together at the summit with one common goal: better mental health for all.

The meeting will help countries work together to deal with stigma attached to mental health and address other issues to do with mental ill-health.

Leading voices in health and care are being asked sign a declaration committing to putting mental health on the same footing as physical health. Average global spend on mental health is just 2.8% of government health spending. In the UK that figure is around 9.5%.

Ahead of the summit, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has started a conversation about mental health. The social media campaign asks people what we need to change in how we see and treat mental health. People around the world are being invited to share their views on Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #TheWorldNeeds.

A number of high-profile mental health campaigners, charities and celebrity ambassadors have already lent their support to the campaign and upcoming summit. Mental health charity Time to Change is set to launch a global film at the event, featuring a Hollywood A-lister.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

It is shocking that 1 in 4 people in the world will be affected by mental ill-health at some point in their lives and around 450 million people are currently living with a diagnosed mental ill-health condition.

For too long we have collectively failed to grasp the true magnitude of the problem. We owe it to everyone to put mental and physical health on an equal footing, to try and eradicate the apathy towards mental health once and for all. I urge policy-makers and leaders to put mental health at the front of their minds.

[News story: One month until UK hosts Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit](#)



The first ever Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit will take place in London on 9 and 10 October.

Political figures, experts by experience and policy-makers from around the world will come together at the summit with one common goal: better mental health for all.

The meeting will help countries work together to deal with stigma attached to mental health and address other issues to do with mental ill-health.

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1. 17 September 2018 Corrected dates of summit to 9 and 10 October.
2. 17 September 2018 First published.

[Press release: UKEF and VAMED present export opportunities at London supplier fair](#)

UK Export Finance and the Department for International Trade are partnering with global healthcare provider VAMED to showcase export opportunities for UK companies in Zambia at a supplier fair on 4 October 2018.

Companies attending the event will find out more about opportunities to supply VAMED's Kasama Hospital project in Zambia, which will bring much-needed healthcare provision to the northern region of Zambia and improve the lives of nearly two million local residents.

Baroness Fairhead, Minister of State for Trade and Export Promotion, said:

The UK is at the forefront of technological innovation in healthcare, and our recently launched [Export Strategy](#) sets out how we will ensure that our world-class suppliers can thrive in a global marketplace. I am delighted that UK Export Finance and the Department for International Trade are partnering with VAMED to harness UK expertise to deliver this transformational healthcare project, improving the lives of millions of people in Zambia.

John Griffin, VAMED UK, said:

Delivering world-class healthcare depends on cooperating with the leading suppliers in the field. We are delighted to team up with UK Export Finance and the Department for International Trade on this supplier fair and look forward to meeting suppliers who share our passion for improving healthcare provisions to communities around the world.

Apart from its activities in Zambia, VAMED is successfully active in many other countries in Africa and around the globe where the company is providing first class health care facilities in South and Central America, the Middle East and Asia. This event will also provide attendees with insight on VAMED's global activities.

In addition, UK companies will learn how UKEF, as the UK's export credit agency, can boost UK exports by providing financing for major international healthcare projects, as well as helping companies access trade finance to fulfil their international ambitions.

VAMED is a global provider for hospitals and other facilities in the healthcare sector. To date it has delivered 850 projects in more than 80 countries.

When completed, the Kasama hospital will have a capacity of over 300 beds, including 48 for paediatric patients, and eight theatres, and will help the Zambian Government improve healthcare in rural areas and reduce its dependence on overseas treatment.

Event Details

- Thursday 4 October 2018 08:30 – 17:30
- St James' Court Hotel, 54 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AF
- Free to attend
- Deadline for registration – 26 September

This event follows the recent launch of the [Export Strategy](#), which sets out how the government will support businesses of all sizes to make the most of the opportunities presented in markets around the world.

Background

UK Export Finance

1. [UK Export Finance](#) is the UK's export credit agency and a government department, working alongside the Department for International Trade as an integral part of its strategy and operations.
2. It exists to ensure that no viable UK export should fail for want of finance or insurance from the private market. It provides finance and insurance to help exporters win, fulfil and ensure they get paid for export contracts.
3. Sectors in which UKEF has supported exports include: aerospace, healthcare, telecommunications and transport.
4. UKEF has a regional network of 24 export finance managers supporting export businesses. [Find your local representative here.](#)
5. Find UKEF's latest [country cover positions](#).
6. UKEF supports exporters with a range of products that include:

- Bond insurance policy
- Bond support scheme
- Buyer & supplier credit financing facility
- Direct lending facility
- Export insurance policy
- Export refinancing facility
- Export working capital scheme
- Letter of credit guarantee scheme

About VAMED

Founded in 1982, VAMED has become the leading global provider of a full line of services for hospitals and other health care facilities. The group has implemented about 850 projects in more than 80 countries on five continents. VAMED's portfolio ranges through project development, planning and turnkey equipment, with an option for maintenance, technical, commercial and infrastructure services to total operational management of health care facilities.

With its portfolio of services, VAMED covers the entire range of health care, from health tourism and preventive medicine including medical care and nursing to aftercare and rehabilitation. VAMED is Austria's leading private provider of rehabilitation services and, through VAMED Vitality World, the company is also Austria's largest operator of thermal spas and health resorts.

In the year 2017 the VAMED group was responsible for more than 18,000 staff worldwide, generating a volume of business of €1.7billion.

Speech: IMF Article IV Press Conference 2018: Chancellor's statement

I am delighted to welcome Christine Lagarde and her team back to the Treasury this morning, to present their conclusions of the IMF's annual Article IV assessment of the UK economy.

I had the pleasure of meeting the IMF team during the visit – and I'd like to thank them for their work, their challenging inquiries, and for the robust external scrutiny that they continue to provide.

This annual inspection is an event that we very much welcome.

It has been a valuable source of challenge for myself and my predecessors – and while we do not always follow every recommendation of Christine and her

team to the letter – we certainly always listen to them, and take them into account in delivering our economic plan.

And thanks too to the hard work of the British people, we have delivered an economic plan that put jobs and prosperity first, has brought our economy back from the brink – and put it on solid footing for the future.

And the fact is – today our economy stands fundamentally strong:

Unemployment has fallen to 4% – a 40-year low;

Employment is at near record highs;

Real wages are growing again – and are set to grow substantially faster over the next three years according to the OBR;

We've brought the deficit down by 4/5 from a 50 year high...

...and while the IMF rightly point out that our debt is too high at 85% of GDP...

...this year it is finally set to begin falling...

...and it is very important we continue to reduce it in the years ahead.

Our economic plan has delivered growth in the economy, growth in employment, and growth in wages...

...and it has also allowed us to invest in the key priorities for the British people too:

We're investing an extra £24 billion a year in the NHS...

...we've established a £31bn National Productivity Investment Fund – because as the IMF remind us – improving productivity is the key to higher real wages and raising living standards...

...we're raising public investment to its highest sustained level in 40 years...

...and we've cut taxes for over 30 million people.

But we cannot take this economic progress for granted...

...we are at a critical juncture for the UK economy...

...and as we head into the final stages of the Brexit negotiations...

...we must not put these achievements – and the prosperity of the British people – at risk;

We must lock in the economic progress we have made...

...as we leave the EU we must secure a close and enduring future partnership with our European neighbours...

...and we must heed the clear warnings of the IMF and others of the significant cost that not reaching a deal with the EU will have for British jobs and British prosperity.

We have made good progress in the negotiations, – progress which the IMF welcome in their report...

...and as talks intensify, I am confident we will reach agreement on the Withdrawal Agreement and Future Framework this Autumn.

But we must, of course, continue to prepare for all scenarios...

A no-deal scenario remains unlikely – but it is not impossible.

We have released [a number of technical notices](#) setting out what citizens and businesses would need to do in the case of no deal, with more to come in the coming weeks.

The IMF are clear today that no-deal would be extremely costly for the UK – as it would also for the EU...

...and that despite the contingency actions we are taking – leaving without a deal would put at risk the substantial progress the British people have made over the past ten years in repairing our economy.

That is why it is so important for people up and down this country, that we reach a negotiated agreement on our future relationship over the coming weeks.

I'll finish by thanking Christine and the IMF once again for their hard work – and for the ongoing scrutiny of our economic plan: We value your advice, and look forward to studying the full report when it is published later this year.

Now I'm delighted to welcome Mme Lagarde to the podium to set out the IMF's main findings, and I look forward to hearing what she has to say.