

## Deals Closed with Quebec

Cross-border economic meeting produces new ties

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Albany Quebec and New York sealed agreements Wednesday for an exchange of college faculty, to create dual degrees in aeronautics, and collaborate in some high-tech enterprises during an economic meeting between the cross-border neighbors.

"We are each other's most important trading partner," said Quebec Premier Jean Charest during the third annual Quebec New York Economic Summit. "We cherish the relationship and we believe it is a very important part of our future, that we need to push it further, we need to enhance it, we need to recognize the advantages of being neighbors."

Charest said although China and India are important and are getting most of the attention as emerging markets, "Our real interest starts with our neighbors . . . The future is about regional economies."

The leaders also announced a concerted effort to bring high-speed rail from Canada through New York. In addition, they mapped out more proposals. For example, Pataki and Charest said new transmission lines could be built from Quebec to take advantage of its growing wind and hydro power. Pataki said Quebec stayed lit in the 2003 blackout because its system isn't interdependent with New York's. Both areas could benefit from energy sharing because New York's greatest need is in summer while Quebec's is in winter, Pataki said.

Charest and Pataki also agreed to memorandums of understandings to:

Provide internships, faculty exchanges, access to technical aircraft manuals and access to U.S. and Canadian aviation certifications. The agreement will benefit the Champlain Valley Education Services and Clinton Community College in New York and enable the Ecole Nationale d'Aerotechnique to develop and offer bilingual training programs as well as U.S. Federal Aviation Administration certification.

Promote the Quebec corridor through New York for tourism. The programs will include celebrations in 2008 for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec and in 2009 for the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Lake Champlain in New York by French explorer Samuel de Champlain.

Provide semester-long faculty exchanges between Quebec City's Universite Laval and the Canadian and Quebec studies programs at the State University College at Plattsburgh.

Develop agreements between programs of study at the State University at Albany and Universite Laval.

Further collaborate on nanotechnology enterprises through the State University at Albany.