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Press release

Berlin's panda plan is taking shape

Contract terms agreed in Beijing and Chengdu

What variety of bamboo do Giant Pandas like best? And just how thick do these rare bears like their bamboo stalks to be? Chairman of the Supervisory Board Frank Bruckmann and Zoo Director Dr Andreas Knieriem learned about things like this on their trip to China from 13 to 17 October. The mission of the journey was to conduct final contract negotiations in Beijing with the China Wildlife Conservation Association (CWCA) and the State Forestry Administration (SFA) and to pay a visit to the panda breeding station in Chengdu.

“Our schedule included the final contract negotiations and agreeing on the details of the enclosure. Exactly which panda pair will be coming to Berlin will only be decided when we sign the contract in the coming weeks,” said Dr Knieriem. “The site is currently being prepared so that construction of the very attractive 5,280 m² panda enclosure can start as soon as possible.”

“Following the contract negotiations, we are now even more excited about the groundbreaking ceremony in November 2016,” says Frank Bruckmann. “Nothing now stands in the way of the pandas’ move to Berlin and visitors to our zoo can already start looking forward to welcoming them in summer 2017. Until then, we will maintain the close contact between Berlin and Chengdu.”

More Zoo Berlin employees will travel to China to meet and exchange information with their Chinese colleagues at a conference on panda breeding in Chengdu. This event will focus on the keeping, care and breeding of pandas.

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