SEMI and Dalian Municipal Government Hold Talks on Cooperation

By Cherry Sun, SEMI China

During the Davos Forum, a SEMI delegation visited Dalian to discuss the industrial development of integrated circuits and the industrial strategic layout of the city with Dalian municipal government leaders.

座談会現場

SEMI delegation includes SEMI President and CEO Ajit Manocha, ASE Group CEO Tien Wu, Tokyo Electron Executive Chairman Tom Tsuneishi, JSR. Micro Inc., CEO Eric Johnson, Advanced Energy Industries President & CEO Yuval Wasserman, SOITEC, CEO Paul Boudre, and SEMI CFO and COO Richard Salsman.

Dalian municipal government representatives include Jin Guowei (the People’s Government of Dalian, Deputy Mayor), Ren Weida (Dalian Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology, Director), Cong Ke (Dalian Municipal Bureau of Commerce, Director), Zhao Dong (Jinpu, new district Party working committee member), Ren Chupei (Dalian High-Tech Industrial Zone, Deputy Director), Jiang Bin (Dalian Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology, Deputy Director), and Tang Zhongde (Dalian Semiconductor Industry Association, President).
Mr. Jin Guowei, deputy mayor of the Dalian, kicked off the meeting by welcoming the SEMI delegation and stressing the importance of the meeting and the great progress the city’s IC industry has made after. Yet, he said, there’s still much work to be done to grow its semiconductor industry. Dalian began developing its IC industry after the Intel project settled in the city over 10 years ago.

Mr. Jin described Dalian’s natural, industrial and talent environment as well as its culture as well-suited suited to the development of Dalian’s IC industry.

Mr. Ajit Manocha, President of SEMI, said “I have been to China nearly 100 times, but it is my first time in Dalian. During SEMICON China 2019, I met with Mr. Jin at a luncheon, and thanks so much for Mr Jin’s invitation. So when the Davos Organizing Committee invited me to come to Dalian for the Summer Davos Conference, I said yes without hesitation.

“Today, I’m really happy to invite these important leaders to come with me, who are all from well-known enterprises in IC industry,” Mr. Manocha said. “As Mr. Jin mentioned, there are about 300,000 talented graduates every year. For SEMI, this is exactly what we and all IC companies need.”

Then members of the SEMI delegation addressed the gathering.
Eric Johnson: “It was great to travel with the other SEMI members, to get to know them and also to educate some of the people. I didn’t realize really little do people understand about our contribution. So these efforts to get us together and try to educate people has been very good, and of course the complete spectrum of presentations and information that we got are fantastic.”

Richard Salsman: “It was a great event. It was interesting to come to Dalian for the first time. It’s an interesting city. On top of that, the Economic Forum was an interesting place to be because it gave us some perspectives on how other industries view technology. And it’s clear they don’t really understand how far technology has advanced. As you listen to them, most of them believe that AI is something that is coming. It’s been something we’ve been doing for 10 years. It’s also interesting how people are approaching it. There were a lot of interesting presentations and different perspectives. Discussions with the government and industry this morning were particularly interesting because we talked about roles and responsibilities of government.”

Tien Wu: “This event is very good. When we are producing semiconductors, we generally focus on our own fields. Come here to listen to the opinions of other people in the world, especially those in other countries. They are not so familiar with semiconductors. They look at the vision of technology and the semiconductor. Because we start in the semiconductor industry, we think semiconductors are the mother of technology. We also believe that the world understands the relationship between technology and semiconductors. In fact, this is not what we think. So let’s listen and learn about some end users’ opinions. There are some benefits to doing things in the future and communicating with the outside world. The forum speakers are quite good. From them, I see that that future business is quite promising.”

Tom Tsuneishi: “This is very interesting of course. And also, the key thing is we can see many kinds of people – some are politicians, some are young engineers, some are management. Globally they get together. That’s a big networking event. And I think SEMI’s mantra to “Connect, Collaborate, Innovate” is exactly what we can do by utilizing the opportunity to see many people. So, to see many people here is okay. But afterward, how we can utilize those opportunities and the connections? That’s the key and that’s the value of this Forum. So I think it’s not only just attending this Forum, but also how we can utilize the relationships we establish in two to three years, not two to three days. That’s the key thing and that’s the value.”

Yuval Wasserman: “You know I came here without high expectations, not knowing exactly what the Forum is about and I am very pleasantly surprised. It was clear to me that the world is going through significant change driven by the industrial revolution 4.0 and everything that we do is either directly or indirectly enabling or contributing to this revolution. Another interesting surprise that I had is to understand the various aspect of this revolution in different places around the world – what it means to other countries, what it means to other societies. And understanding that everybody is going to depend on everybody. So collaboration and
development across borders, across cultures and across countries is so important. It gave me also comfort to hear directly that China needs the world and the world needs China, which means that all the tension between government and arguments right now, I believe are temporary because in the long term reason will prevail and everybody is looking for a win-win situation for the world and for humanity. It was great to represent the semiconductor industry with the team from SEMI, and the team was interesting: different companies, different countries of origin and different pieces of the semiconductor industry. And it’s a big opportunity not only to participate but also to represent the industry. So I am very happy that I came here.

Paul Boudre: “You know what, I liked it very very much. I came here with no expectations. I didn’t know exactly what I was going to find. But trusting Ajit and SEMI opened some new doors. And we are opening new doors. I think for SEMI and for our industry, this is a great place to be because we are promoting an industry that is very critical to everything that’s been discussed here, but nobody talked about this industry. And so positioning this industry into this Economic Forum I think is key because we are part of the governments at the state level. And it’s not just at one state, it’s around the world. What I heard over the last a few days is all about data, it’s all about sharing data, it’s all about technology, and how we benefit from technology. So it’s very important for us to be here and you guys from SEMI have done a wonderful job.”
Mr. Ajit Manocha thinks the Forum is a strong start for future cooperation. For the IC industry to grow, he thinks three points are important: government support, the capacity for universities to cultivate talent, and infrastructure construction.

Mr. Ajit Manocha said, “Dalian offers these potentials, so there are more chances to cooperate. SEMI must give vigorous support to help the development of the Dalian IC industry. SEMI holds many leading professional semiconductor summits every year, and I will also consider putting some conferences in Dalian to introduce more SEMI members to Dalian. Of course, we warmly welcome Dalian delegations, which consist of leading figures from the IC industry, to attend the International Trade Partners Conference held in Hawaii in November. We hope all experts can have full communication on the development of the IC industry. Maybe these communications will effectively ease trade tensions between China and the United States.”

Finally, Ajit believes that it will be more opportunities for cooperation between Dalian and SEMI, and Dalian will become another semiconductor operations center for SEMI.

Finally, Mr. Jin said, “ITPC must be listed in the agenda. Because of the full schedule of Summer Davos, you might not have the chance to visit our industrial park and universities. We hope every guest can visit us again to learn more about Dalian. The Jinpu New Area focuses on developing manufacturing projects. Enterprises with facilities here will enjoy favorable tax policies. Dalian High-Tech Industrial Zone focuses on high-tech projects, and IC design companies gather here.”