China, UC Davis collaborate on EVs

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To the Editor:

Yang Jian's recent column described China's burgeoning electric vehicle industry and the role of Vice Premier Ma Kai in promoting EVs ("How one pol championed China EV sales," Sept. 15).

In China and the U.S. alike, the commercialization of EVs is happening through a collaboration of automakers and government policymakers to produce and incentivize their increased adoption by consumers.

A new trans-Pacific EV initiative is in the pipeline, involving both countries: Under a landmark accord, China and the U.S. will work together to help expand the global market for zero-emission vehicles. The five-year memorandum of understanding establishes the China-U.S. ZEV Policy Lab, a partnership between the China Automotive Technology and Research Center and the University of California, Davis, one of the world's leading universities on sustainable transportation.

The lab will focus on policy research and studies of consumer behavior, train advanced vehicle researchers and leaders in California and China, and exchange information on best practices and lessons learned. The agreement was signed Sept. 6 in Tianjin, China.

The accord will strengthen cooperation between California, the current global leader in ZEV sales, and China, the world leader in new-car sales. The lab's advisory board will be co-chaired by representatives of the California Air Resources Board and China's National Development and Reform Commission.

With the world's cities choking literally and figuratively from traffic and pollution, many are calling for action and collaboration. The China-U.S. ZEV Policy Lab is an important answer to that call.

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