



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

SCOTT H. CHRISTIANSEN, CHAIRMAN

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD

## Economic Development Officials Attend Air Cargo Conference

**W**innebago County Director of Economic Development **Sue Mroz** was part of a local contingent that traveled to China for the 2008 Air Cargo Conference. Local members of the group included **Bob O'Brien** (Chicago Rockford International Airport Executive Director), and **Bharat Puri** (First Rockford Group).

The 3rd International Trade Fair for Logistics, Telematics and Transportation took place at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre, attracting 11,000 trade visitors from 66 countries and regions and more than 430 exhibitors from 46 countries.

Shanghai's Pudong International Airport is the largest cargo airport in mainland China with a total cargo throughput of 1,951,205 tons in 2006, a 16.3 percent increase over the previous year. The airport is a major hub for many of the world's leading airlines and has a most impressive infrastructure containing China's largest forwarders and shippers, providing a ready-made audience for such a major event.

In almost all sectors, the Chinese economy is



*Amy Young, General Manager of Securiforce Cargo (China Ltd.), on right, shares a light-hearted moment with a kite vendor during the cargo Conference in Shanghai.*



*Alex Pon, owner of PAC Trans Air & Sea, Inc. and Sue Mroz, Director of Economic Development.*



*(left to right) Yoshio Gotoh, President of an international consulting firm; Sue Mroz, Director of Economic Development; and Bob O'Brien, Executive Director of Chicago Rockford International Airport.*

growing in double-digit figures. This is also true of global air freight volumes — in 2006 the figure was 27 million tons. The growing market in courier, parcel and express delivery services is also boosting the air cargo business. The biggest expansion in air traffic is expected to come in Asia, because this region has lagged behind the rest of the world to date. The growth in air cargo is one factor in this expansion and so, too, is the booming tourism industry. German logistics experts reckon that by 2010 at least, air cargo business to and from China will have expanded by between 15 and 20 percent. ☼

