



## **Debut in beijing for the Minivan designed and developed by Pininfarina for the chinese Hafei Industrial Group Corporation**

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Pininfarina was the first Italian supplier of automotive design and development services to sign in 1996 a collaboration agreement with the Chinese industry, specifically the Hafei Industrial Group Corporation in Harbin. The deal reflects the extreme strategic importance Pininfarina assigns to active involvement in a market with such immense growth potential as China.

This technical and human exchange between two realities so different in history, culture and tradition, has produced more than a new vehicle: actually, it represents the best of the global market concept, intended as a significant advance in international understanding, in industrial and commercial cooperation and in economic growth.

In particular this Italo-Chinese cooperation whose first achievement is the new Songhuajiang Zhongyi Minivan, brought a work group of Hafei engineers and technicians to Turin where they followed the design work phase and the construction of the first prototypes, while a team of Pininfarina engineers went to China to support the industrialization of the vehicle. The outcome of this joint commitment will be making its debut on June 3rd at the Beijing Motor Show during a press conference held on the Hafei stand at 9.30 a.m. The vehicle is a new Minivan, or better an MPV, built on a Suzuki chassis and mechanicals and equipped with a choice of two engines (both 4 cylinder petrol units with power outputs of 970 and 1051 cc respectively), installed under the front seats. The vehicle will be produced in China, where it will be marketed starting from August 1999. Hafei is planning to build about 100,000 units a year of the Minivan and to sell it at a price of \$6-6,500, depending on the version. Pininfarina's contribution to this new vehicle has covered know-how in the fields of styling and design engineering, the construction of Masters and prototypes and industrialization. The new vehicle is just 3.57 meters long, 1.47 wide and yet accommodates 7 people in comfort with the aid of a 2+2+3 seat layout. This minivan boasts 5 doors: the front two traditional with 2 sliding doors behind them and a tiltable tailgate at the rear. Pininfarina has come up with a design that combines distinctive looks and an attractive personality with the utmost practicality in a way that meets the specific expectations of its intended market.