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# NEWS FROM CHINA

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Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala in Trivandrum.



Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Shri. S. Sudhakar Reddy, Secretary-General of the Communist Party of India.



Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Mr. Sunil Kumar, President of Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI).



Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Shri. Sudheendra Kulkarni, Chairman of Observer Research Foundation (Mumbai).



All India Chinese Association held its founding congress in the Embassy.



Working group from MEA and MOF paid a visit to the Sunshine School of the Embassy.

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Xi Jinping Meets with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India

# XI JINPING MEETS WITH PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI OF INDIA



On June 9, 2017, local time, President Xi Jinping met in Astana with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.

Xi Jinping pointed out that at present, the international situation is

undergoing profound and complex changes. As two largest developing countries across the world, China and India should further focus on cooperation and march forward together, provide assistance to respective national development and

make contributions to safeguarding world peace, stability and promoting common development. Attaching great importance to developing bilateral relations, China is willing to make joint effort with India to enhance political mutual trust, align

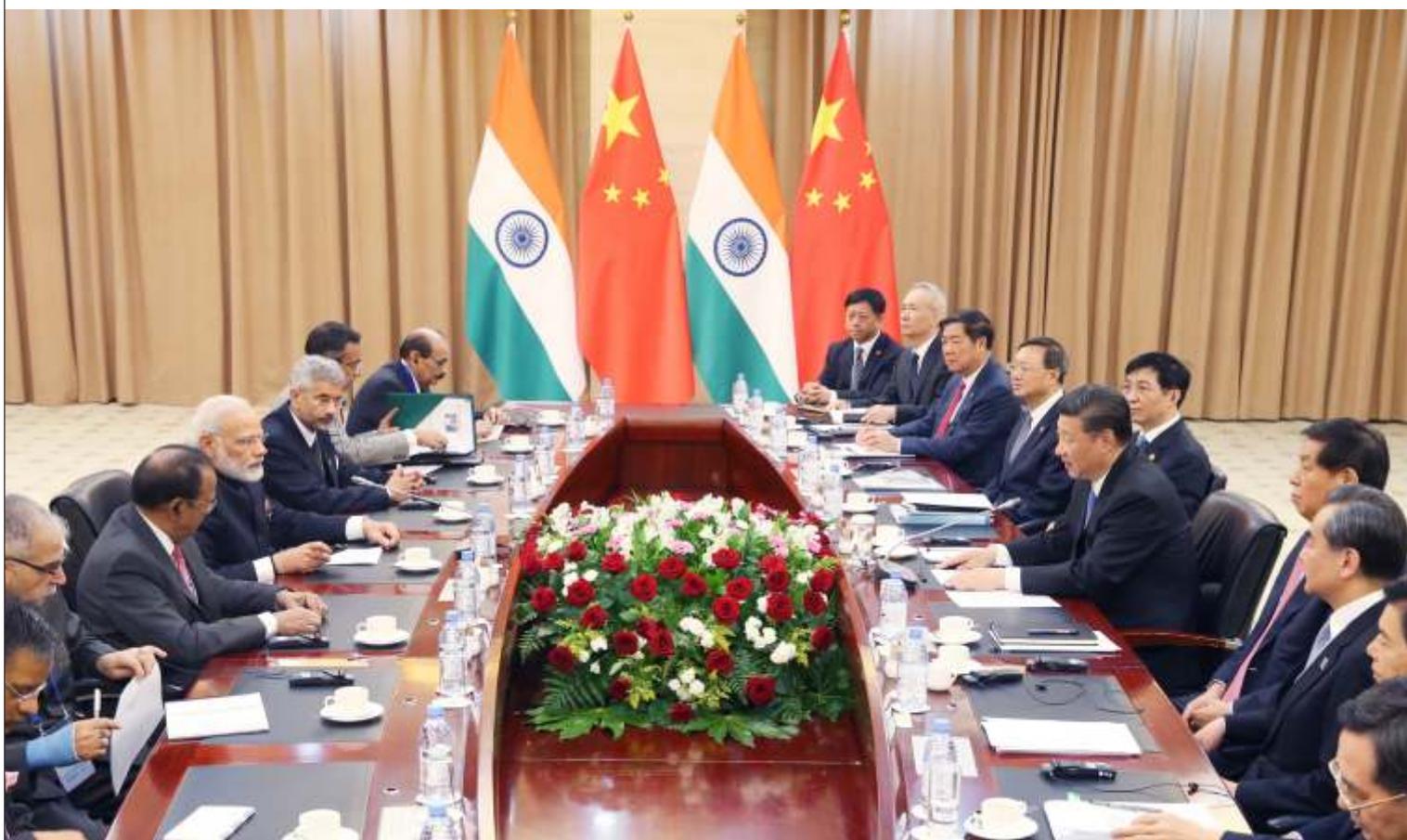
development strategies, deepen practical cooperation, and maintain coordination and cooperation regarding major international and regional issues, so as to push China-India strategic cooperative partnership for the sustained, healthy and stable development. Both sides should intensify high-level exchanges and mechanism communication, enhance strategic communication, promote policy docking, reinforce cooperation in trade and investment, and propel cooperation in major projects including production capacity, industrial parks and railway construction for more early harvest. We should join hands to promote regional connection and common development and enhance the integration of development initiatives, push forward the construction of the Bangladesh-

China-India-Myanmar economic corridor for the substantial progress at an early date, and beef cooperation within the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. China and India should strengthen exchanges in locality, think tank, culture, media, tourism and other fields, intensify communication and coordination in multilateral arenas, and properly control and handle disputes and sensitive issues.

Xi Jinping congratulated India on becoming the official member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) soon, and expressed that China is willing to, together with India, reinforce cooperation within the SCO framework, and jointly make positive efforts to push the SCO for healthy and sustained development.

Narendra Modi said that India and China are ancient civilizations and bilateral friendship enjoys time-honored history. Under the background of complex and ever-changing international situation, the sound India-China relations could play a stable role. Both sides should deeply tap cooperation for cooperation, enhance communication and coordination in international affairs, respect each other's core concerns and properly handle differences. Appreciating China's support in the country's participation in the SCO, India stands ready to intensify bilateral cooperation within the SCO.

Wang Huning, Li Zhanshu, Yang Jiechi and others attended the meeting.



The 17th SCO Summit

XI JINPING ATTENDS 17TH MEETING OF  
SCO COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATE AND  
DELIVERS IMPORTANT SPEECH,  
STRESSING TO JOINTLY BUILD A COMMON  
HOME OF SECURITY, STABILITY,  
DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY AND  
ANNOUNCING CHINA TO HOST THE 2018  
SCO SUMMIT





On June 9, 2017 local time, the 17th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan. President Xi Jinping attended the meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Almazbek Sharshenovich Atambayev of Kyrgyzstan, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, President Emomali Rakhmon of Tajikistan and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan. Xi Jinping delivered an important speech at the meeting, stressing that the SCO member states should strengthen the sense of community of shared future, consolidate solidarity and coordination, jointly tackle challenges, deepen practical cooperation, enhance people-to-people and

cultural bonds, uphold openness and inclusiveness, and jointly usher in a brighter future for the SCO.

At around 11:50 a.m. local time, Xi Jinping arrived at the Palace of Independence and was warmly greeted by Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The Heads of state of the SCO members firstly held a small-scale meeting, and then invited leaders of observer states, including President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan, President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, President Tsakhia Elbegdorj of Mongolia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif of Iran as

well as representatives of relevant international and regional organizations, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres, to attend a big-scale meeting. Nursultan Nazarbayev chaired the meetings. Leaders present at the meetings analyzed the SCO's development status quo, mission and prospects, exchanged views on major international and regional issues and reached broad consensus. During the meeting, India and Pakistan were officially admitted as new member states of the SCO. The meeting decided that China will host the next meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State in 2018, and take over the SCO rotating presidency.

Xi Jinping delivered an

important speech entitled Upholding Solidarity, Coordination, Openness and Inclusiveness and Building a Common Home of Security, Stability, Development and Prosperity at the meeting.

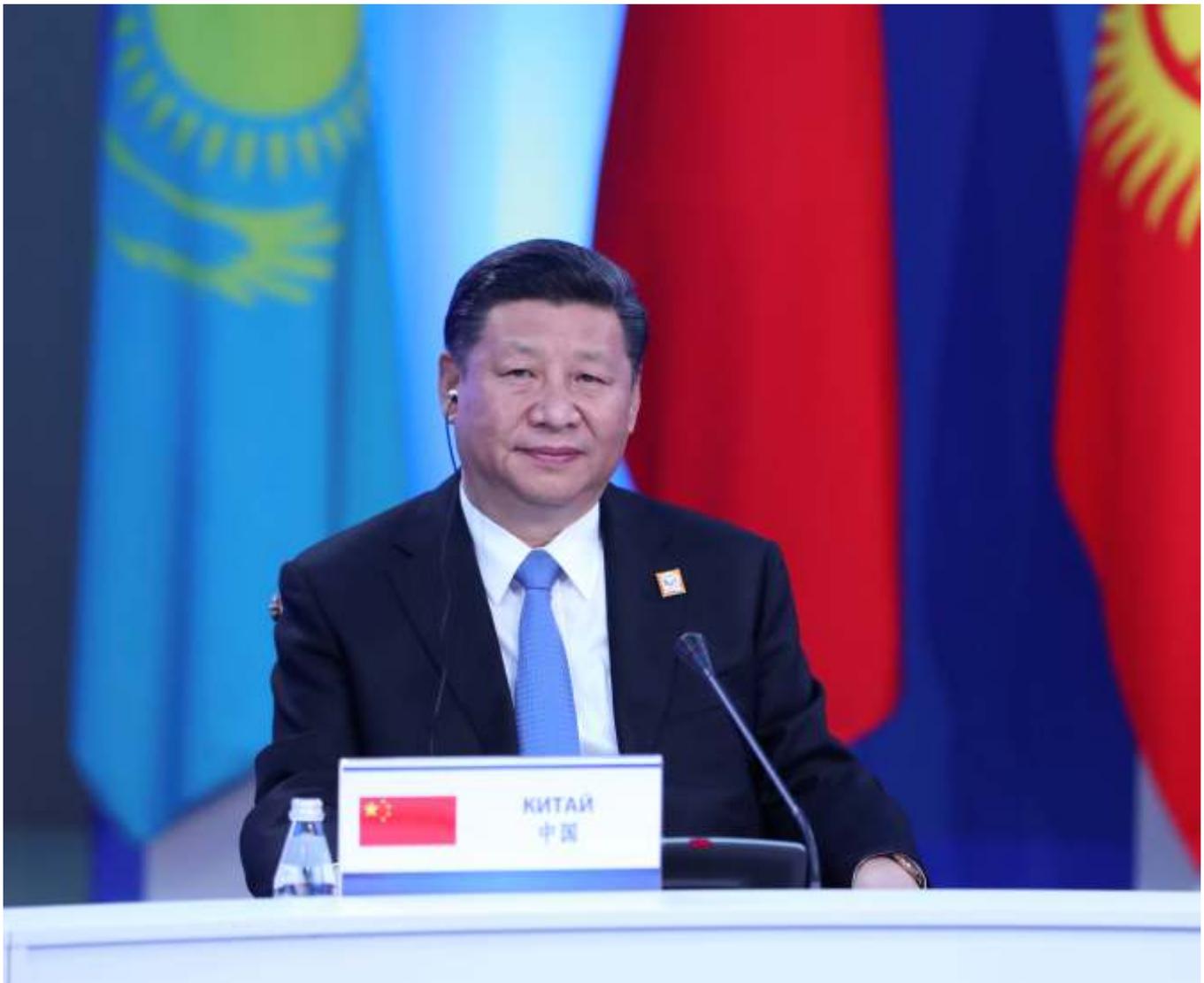
Xi Jinping pointed out that this year marks the 15th anniversary of the signing of the SCO Charter as well as the 10th anniversary of the Treaty on Long-term Good Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation of the SCO Member States. Firmly upholding the Shanghai Spirit, the SCO member states have established an example of the new type of international relations featuring win-

win cooperation. China is willing to, together with all parties, strengthen the sense of community of shared future, and build a common home of security, stability, development and prosperity.

Xi Jinping offered five proposals on the development of the SCO. First, consolidate solidarity and coordination. All member states should deepen political mutual trust, increase mutual support, enhance exchanges and cooperation between legislative bodies, political parties and in the judicial fields, and build a community of shared future featuring equal treatment, mutual support, and

sharing of weal and woe as well as safety and danger. The Chinese side proposes to draw up a 5-year outline for the implementation of the Treaty on Long-term Good Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation of the SCO Member States.

Second, jointly tackle challenges. China supports the implementation of the SCO Convention on Combating Extremism, advocates strengthening the building of regional counter-terrorism institutions, and proposes to hold a defense security forum and formulate a three-year program of cooperation to combat the “three



forces". China calls upon all parties to support Afghanistan's peace and reconciliation process, and expects the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group to play a more active role in the cause of Afghanistan's peaceful reconstruction.

Third, deepen practical cooperation. China and relevant parties are actively advancing the integration between the "Belt and Road" construction and regional cooperation initiatives as the construction of Eurasian Economic Union and other national development strategies like the "Bright Road" of Kazakhstan. The SCO may well serve as an important platform for this endeavor. China proposes to gradually put in place institutional arrangements for regional economic cooperation, supports the establishment of a mechanism for sub-national cooperation and has actively conducted cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises.

Fourth, enhance people-to-people and cultural bonds. China is willing to, together with all parties, continuously well operate the SCO University, and well hold the youth exchange camp and the summer camp for elementary and middle-school students. China will host such SCO activities as the cultural and art festival, and launch a "China-SCO cooperation program in human resources development". China suggests setting up a mechanism for media cooperation, and would like to host the first SCO media summit.

Fifth, uphold openness and inclusiveness. China supports the SCO in carrying out cooperation with its observer states, dialogue partners and other countries, and supports the SCO in further expanding exchanges

with the UN and other international and regional organizations.

Xi Jinping stressed that China will take over the rotating presidency of the SCO and host the next summit in June 2018. China will earnestly fulfill the obligations and work with all parties to usher in an even brighter future for the SCO.

Leaders present at the meeting agreed that admitting new members will promote the SCO's development and improve its potential. All member states should, on the basis of mutual respect, win-win cooperation, non-conflict and non-confrontation, and abiding by principles of international law and in accordance with the principles of equal and indivisible security and balancing each other's interests, build a fairer and more reasonable multi-polar world pattern that conforms to the common interests of various countries and respective interests, in a bid to push forward the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

Leaders of various countries reiterated to firmly abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, strengthen mutual support on respective efforts in safeguarding national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and other core interests, and jointly make contributions to consolidating peace and maintaining global security and stability. All parties will enhance cooperation, jointly cope with security threats and challenges, and jointly combat terrorism, splittism and extremism. Leaders of various countries advocated that, on the basis of abiding by universally recognized norms and principles of international law, the only choice of solving regional conflicts is political and diplomatic means and that never

allowing the maintenance of self-security at the cost of other countries' security.

Leaders of various countries welcomed the "Belt and Road" initiative, highly appraised the achievements from the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing this May, and supported the implementation of relevant consensus, so as to promote regional economic cooperation. The leaders supported the trade and investment facilitation. Regional connectivity should be enhanced, and cooperation in such areas as infrastructure construction, innovation, finance, environmental protection, science, technology, health, culture, education, sports and tourism should be reinforced.

Heads of the SCO member states signed the Astana Declaration of the SCO Heads of State, the SCO Convention on Countering Extremism, Resolution on the Completion of the Procedure of the Admission of the Republic of India into the SCO and Granting it the SCO Membership, Resolution on the Completion of the Procedure of the Admission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan into the SCO and Granting it the SCO Membership, Resolution on the Proportion of Membership Fee of the SCO Member States Considering Granting the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Membership, Resolution on SCO Secretary-General's Report on the SCO's Work in 2016, Resolution on SCO Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure's Report on Its Work in 2016, Resolution on Regulations of Representative of SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure and other documents.

The meeting issued the Statement by the SCO Heads of State on Joint Counteraction to International Terrorism and Press Communiqué of Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of State.

After the meeting, President Xi Jinping attended a banquet held by Nursultan Nazarbayev for leaders of

various countries present at the meeting as well as principals of international and regional organizations.

On the same night, Xi Jinping, together with Nursultan Nazarbayev and leaders of other countries, attended the opening ceremony of Astana Expo 2017 and watched

fireworks displays.

Prior to the opening ceremony, Xi Jinping and heads of all delegations present at the opening ceremony visited Kazakhstan's National Pavilion "Bright World" at the Astana Expo 2017.

## UPHOLDING SOLIDARITY, COORDINATION, OPENNESS AND INCLUSIVENESS

Building a Common Home of Security, Stability, Development and Prosperity

– Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China at the 17th Meeting of Council of Heads of States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Astana, 9 June 2017

Astana, June 9 (Xinhua) — The following is the full text of the speech given by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the 17th Meeting of Council of

Heads of States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

President Nazarbayev,

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to be here in Astana to attend the SCO Summit.



The vibrancy that this city displays is also a vivid reflection of the robust growth of the SCO.

I would like to thank the host country Kazakhstan and President Nazarbayev for the meticulous preparation and thoughtful arrangements. In the past year, Kazakhstan has done tremendous amount of effective work as the SCO President, which the Chinese side speaks highly of.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of SCO as well as the 10th anniversary of the Treaty on Long-term Good Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation. The two documents lay down the principles and give guidance to SCO member

states in their work. Firmly committed to the Shanghai Spirit, SCO member states are making solid progress on the road of building a community of shared future, thus establishing a fine example of the new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation. In this context, today we are going to admit India and Pakistan as new member states of the SCO.

At present, the international and regional situation is undergoing profound and complex changes. Destabilizing factors and uncertainties are on the rise. Only through cooperation can countries properly meet threats and challenges. China is willing to work together with all parties to strengthen the sense of community of shared future, and

build a common home of security, stability, development and prosperity. To this end, I would like to propose the following.

First, strengthen solidarity and coordination. As a saying in Kazakhstan goes, where there is solidarity, happiness will follow. The Shanghai Spirit has inspired a strong sense of solidarity which ensures the growth of the SCO. We should carry forward this fine tradition of solidarity and coordination. All member states, old and new, should work in close coordination, deepen mutual trust and increase mutual support in their endeavor to build a community of shared future featuring equality, mutual support, solidarity and sharing of weal and woe. It is China's proposal for the



SCO to draw up a 5-year outline for implementation of the Treaty on Long-term Good Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation. This will help set the direction for SCO cooperation in all fields in the next phase. It is suggested that exchange and cooperation between legislative bodies, political parties and in the judicial fields be increased so as to provide channels of policy communication for all parties.

Second, join hands to tackle challenges. Security is the prerequisite for development. Without security, there will be no development to speak of. Recent acts of terrorism in this region show that the fight against the three forces remains a long and arduous task. We should continue to give priority to the SCO's commitment to maintain regional security and stability. China supports the enforcement of the SCO Convention on Combating Extremism to be signed at the Summit. This will effectively contain the spread of extremism. To enhance the capacity of member states in coordination and implementation in the security field, China calls for the SCO to strengthen regional counter-terrorism institutional building and resolutely crack down on illicit drug manufacturing and trafficking. China is willing to host again the SCO joint counter-terrorism cyber exercise. China proposes to hold a defense security forum and formulate a three-year program of cooperation to fight the three forces. China supports the SCO in speaking with one voice on international and regional issues. The SCO can contribute to finding political settlement to hotspot issues. China is concerned with the deteriorating security situation in

Afghanistan recently, and calls upon all parties to support the country's peace and reconciliation process. We hope the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group will play an even more active role for Afghanistan's peace and reconstruction.

Third, deepen practical cooperation. Regional integration and economic globalization are the trends of our times, and it is important for them to bring benefits to all countries and peoples. Last month, the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was successfully held in Beijing. China and the parties concerned are now actively exploring ways to synergize the Belt and Road Initiative with regional cooperation initiatives like the Eurasian Economic Union and national development strategies, including the "Nurly Zhol" of Kazakhstan. The SCO may well serve as an important platform for this endeavor. It is China's suggestion to gradually put in place institutional arrangements for regional economic cooperation, and we may begin with a SCO trade facilitation agreement. For greater connectivity between regional countries, China supports the opening of the cross-border routes on schedule as prescribed in the Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on Creating Favorable Conditions for International Road Transportation. China welcomes non-SCO countries in our region to join the Agreement, and endorses the formulation of a plan for coordinated development of roads among SCO member states. To mobilize more resources and driving force for practical cooperation under the SCO framework, China supports the

establishment of a mechanism for sub-national cooperation and has vigorously promoted SME cooperation by its initiatives of economic think-tanks alliance and e-commerce alliance of the SCO. China suggests that we fully utilize the existing platforms to raise finance for SCO projects, while at the same time exploring at the expert level possible ways to establish the SCO development bank.

Fourth, enhance people-to-people bonds. It is important for SCO countries to bring our people, youth in particular, closer to each other, so that the good-neighborliness and cooperation between us will be carried forward by the future generations. China is ready to work with other parties to ensure the success of the SCO University, as well as SCO's brand projects such as the youth exchange camp and the summer camp for elementary and middle-school students. China would like to host such SCO activities as the cultural and art festival, women's forum and skills contest of workers, and strive for solid progress of SCO cooperation in health, disaster relief, environment protection, sports and tourism. China will launch a "China-SCO cooperation program in human resources development", under which China will invite representatives from SCO states to seminars and workshops in China, send Chinese experts to SCO states to give policy advice, carry out local training programs in SCO states and provide government scholarships. With this, we hope to broaden and deepen China's cooperation with other SCO members in human resources development. Closer people-to-people ties would not be

possible without the positive role of the media. Hence China suggests setting up a mechanism for media cooperation, and would like to host the first SCO media summit.

Fifth, uphold openness and inclusiveness. Openness has been a defining feature of the SCO since its inception. China supports the SCO in carrying out cooperation of various forms and in a broad range of areas with its observer states and dialogue partners as well as other countries, and in further reviewing the applications from the related countries for legal

status in the SCO in accordance with its regulations and the principle of consensus. China stands for more exchanges and cooperation between the SCO and the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, in a joint effort to promote lasting peace and shared prosperity in the world.

China highly commends the work of the two permanent bodies of the SCO and will make an additional contribution of RMB10 million to the Secretariat for it to improve working conditions and undertake more

activities.

Dear Colleagues,

After this summit, China will take over the rotating presidency of the SCO and host the next summit in June 2018. China will make best efforts to fulfill the task and work with all other parties to give our people a greater sense of ownership and usher in an even brighter future for the SCO.

Thank you.

## XI JINPING AND PRESIDENT NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV OF KAZAKHSTAN JOINTLY VISIT CHINESE PAVILION OF ASTANA EXPO 2017 AND ATTEND VIDEO LINK EVENT ON CHINA-KAZAKHSTAN CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORTATION

On June 8, 2017 local time, President Xi Jinping, who was on a state visit to Kazakhstan, visited the Chinese Pavilion of the Astana Expo 2017 accompanied by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. They jointly attended a video link event on China-Kazakhstan cross-border transportation.

Upon Xi Jinping and Nursultan Nazarbayev's arrival at the hall outside the Chinese Pavilion, the two heads of state were warmly welcomed by a song

and dance performance called "Song and Smile", performed by Chinese artists from all nationalities.

Stepping into the Chinese Pavilion, Xi Jinping and Nursultan Nazarbayev stopped and watched for a while the documentary the "Belt and Road" -- A Journey of Road. The two heads of state visited the exhibition areas, such as the Energy Corridor, the Wisdom and Practice of China, the Energy Dream Theater, the Global Mission and Cooperation and other areas. In the section of Wisdom

and Practice of China, President Xi Jinping invited Nursultan Nazarbayev to experience the simulated driving in a high-speed rail. During their visit, the two heads of state talked while walking and exchanged views every now and then.

The Astana Expo 2017, themed Future Energy, is the first specialized expo held by a country in the Central Asia. Among the over 100 participating countries and international organizations, China was the first to launch the



construction of its national pavilion. Under the theme of Future Energy and Green Silk Road, the Chinese pavilion aims to share with the international community China's concepts and practices in traditional energy transformation, new energy exploitation, environmental protection, sustainable development, and other aspects.

In the end, the two heads of state attended a video link event held in the Chinese Pavilion on China-Kazakhstan cross-border transportation.

Xi Jinping and Nursultan Nazarbayev watched a video with great attention about the cooperation on China-Kazakhstan cross-border transportation. The video link event first connected China-Kazakhstan logistic cooperation center in Lianyungang, China and then the dry port in the Khorgos-East Gate special economic zone. The video showed the operating, re-loading and

grouping of the trains in the two places respectively. And the relevant principals of the two countries reported the situation. Both heads of state jointly pushed the operating lever and the video showed that four trains were running in whistling in two sessions. Xi Jinping and Nursultan Nazarbayev delivered speeches respectively.

Xi Jinping pointed out in his speech that the opening of the freight train of China-Kazakhstan cross-border transportation not only brings benefits to China and Kazakhstan but also provides more convenience for transportation and cooperation opportunities for the countries along the "Belt and Road", showcasing the organic integration of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The two sides have actively implemented the Cooperation Outline on Docking the Silk Road Economic Belt Construction and the New Economic Policy of the "Bright Road".

Kazakhstan has turned from a traditional inland nation into a key transportation hub in the Eurasia, playing an increasingly important role in the East-West trade chain. The further deepening of China-Kazakhstan cross-border transportation will contribute more for the prosperity and development in the region. It is hoped that the two countries could continue to making concerted efforts to build the new Eurasia land and maritime routes linked by Lianyungang and Khorgos into a pilot and demonstration project of the "Belt and Road" initiative and work together to build a road of peace, prosperity, opening up, innovation and civilization.

Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed gratitude to President Xi Jinping's attendance at the opening ceremony of the Astana Expo 2017 and China's support and participation in his speech. He expressed that the theme of the Chinese Pavilion fully displays the



Fireworks explode at the opening ceremony of 2017 Astana EXPO in Astana, Kazakhstan, on June 9, 2017. (XinhuaWu Zhuang)

development concept of green silk road. The cooperation on China-Kazakhstan cross-border transportation sets a good example of aligning the New Economic Policy of

the “Bright Road” and the Silk Road Economic Belt Construction and that will certainly bring economic prosperity and well-being for the countries as well as peoples along the

route.

Wang Huning, Li Zhanshu, Yang Jiechi and others attended the above events.



Fireworks explode at the opening ceremony of 2017 Astana EXPO in Astana, Kazakhstan, on June 9, 2017. (XinhuaWu Zhuang))

## MAY CHINA-KAZAKHSTAN RELATIONSHIP FLY HIGH TOWARD OUR SHARED ASPIRATIONS

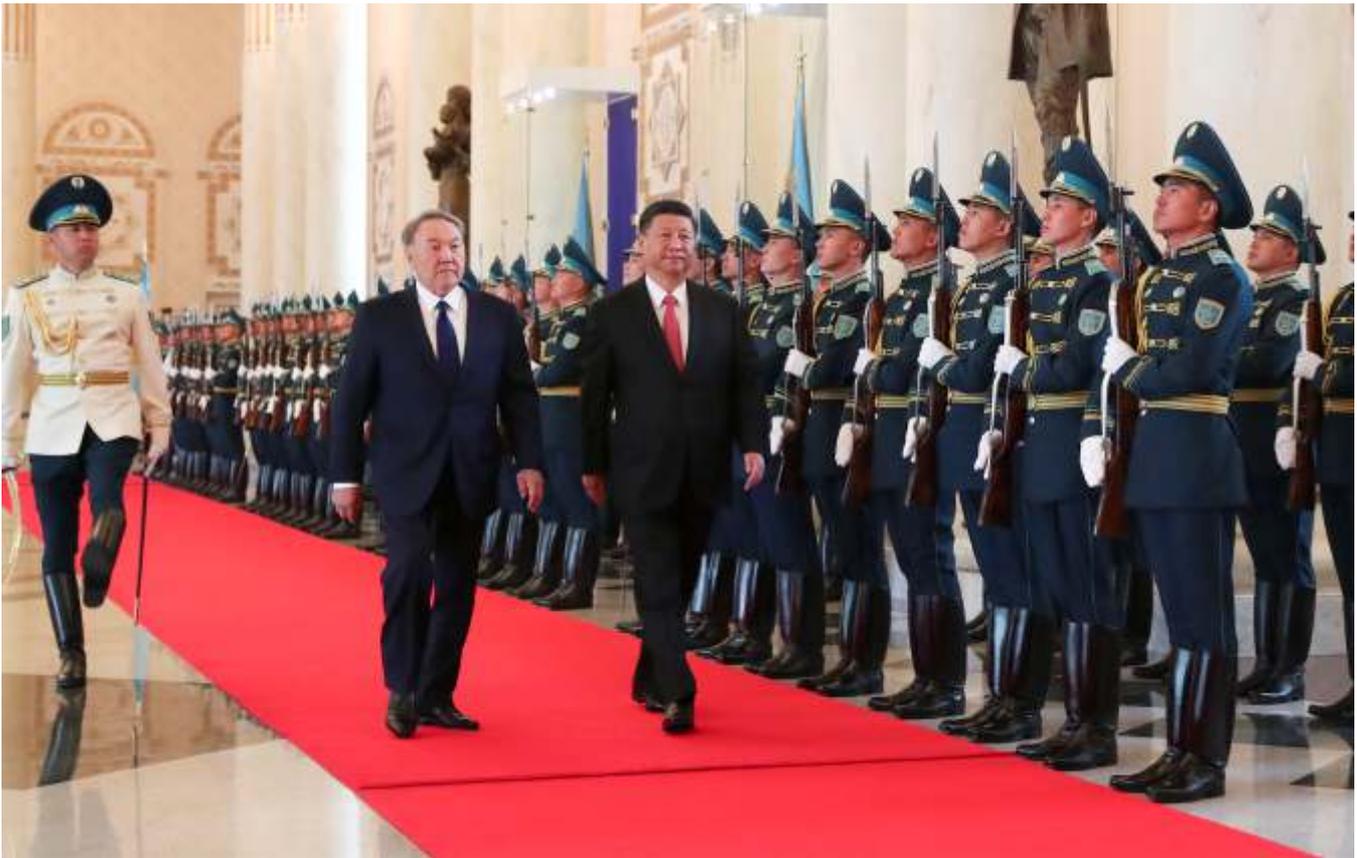
Astana, June 7 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping published a signed article in the Kazakh newspaper Aikyn Gazeti on Wednesday under the title “May China-Kazakhstan Relationship Fly High Toward Our Shared

Aspirations,” ahead of his state visit to Kazakhstan.

Following is the full text of the article:

In this lovely mid-summer month

of June when all living things are flourishing, I will be traveling to Kazakhstan at the invitation of President Nursultan Nazarbayev. This will be my third visit to your country. I will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)



annual summit and the opening ceremony of Expo 2017 Astana. In this connection, I cannot but recall the fond memories of the magnificent Kazakh steppe, vibrant rivers, the phenomenal national development, and most of all, the warm-hearted and sincere Kazakh people. I very much look forward to returning to your beautiful land.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Kazakhstan. Over the past quarter of a century, our bilateral relations have withstood the test of time and the ever-changing international situation. Our two countries are not only good neighbors but also comprehensive strategic partners. We are now working together to build a community of shared interests and shared future. Our bilateral relations have moved forward by leaps and bounds and

become stronger and closer than ever before.

- China-Kazakhstan political mutual trust has grown stronger. Our two countries respect each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and choice of development path. We have firmly supported each other on issues vital to our respective core interests, and worked in close coordination and collaboration on international and regional issues.

- China-Kazakhstan practical cooperation has deepened continuously. China ranks among Kazakhstan's top trading partners and investors. Chinese investment in Kazakhstan amounted to over 42.8 billion U.S. dollars. China's lending to Kazakhstan has exceeded 50 billion U.S. dollars on an accumulative basis. Our two-way trade of the first four months of 2017 surged by 45.6

percent. Kazakhstan's exports to China are on the rise. Kazakh wheat flour, vegetable oil, soybean, meat products and honey have made their way to the dining table in more and more Chinese households. Our two countries have identified and agreed on 51 projects of industrial capacity cooperation which will help promote Kazakhstan's industrialization and create more jobs for the Kazakh people. Kazakhstan has exported 100 million tons of oil to China via the China-Kazakhstan crude oil pipeline, and 183 billion cubic meters of gas to my country through the natural gas pipelines. Our two countries are exploring opportunities for cooperation on new energy including nuclear, wind and photovoltaic power. There are over 50 flights between us every week. In 2016, more than 1,200 Europe-bound China Railway Express trains transited through Kazakhstan, and

rail freight handled by our railways reached 8.2 million tons and the number of freight containers increased by more than two-fold. This February saw the first freight of Kazakh wheat exported to Southeast Asia via China.

- China-Kazakhstan people-to-people and cultural exchanges have grown closer. In 2016, nearly 500,000

or TV series, such as *A Bite of China* or *Family On the Go*, have captivated more and more Kazakh viewers.

It was during my first visit to Kazakhstan back in 2013 that I proposed the initiative of the Silk Road Economic Belt, which started the process of Belt and Road cooperation. Over the past four years, the Belt and Road Initiative has

recovering amid deep-going readjustment. Global development remains a daunting challenge. In this context, the building of the Belt and Road brings us unprecedented historic opportunities. Last month, the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was successfully held in Beijing. The countries represented at the forum agreed to work more closely together



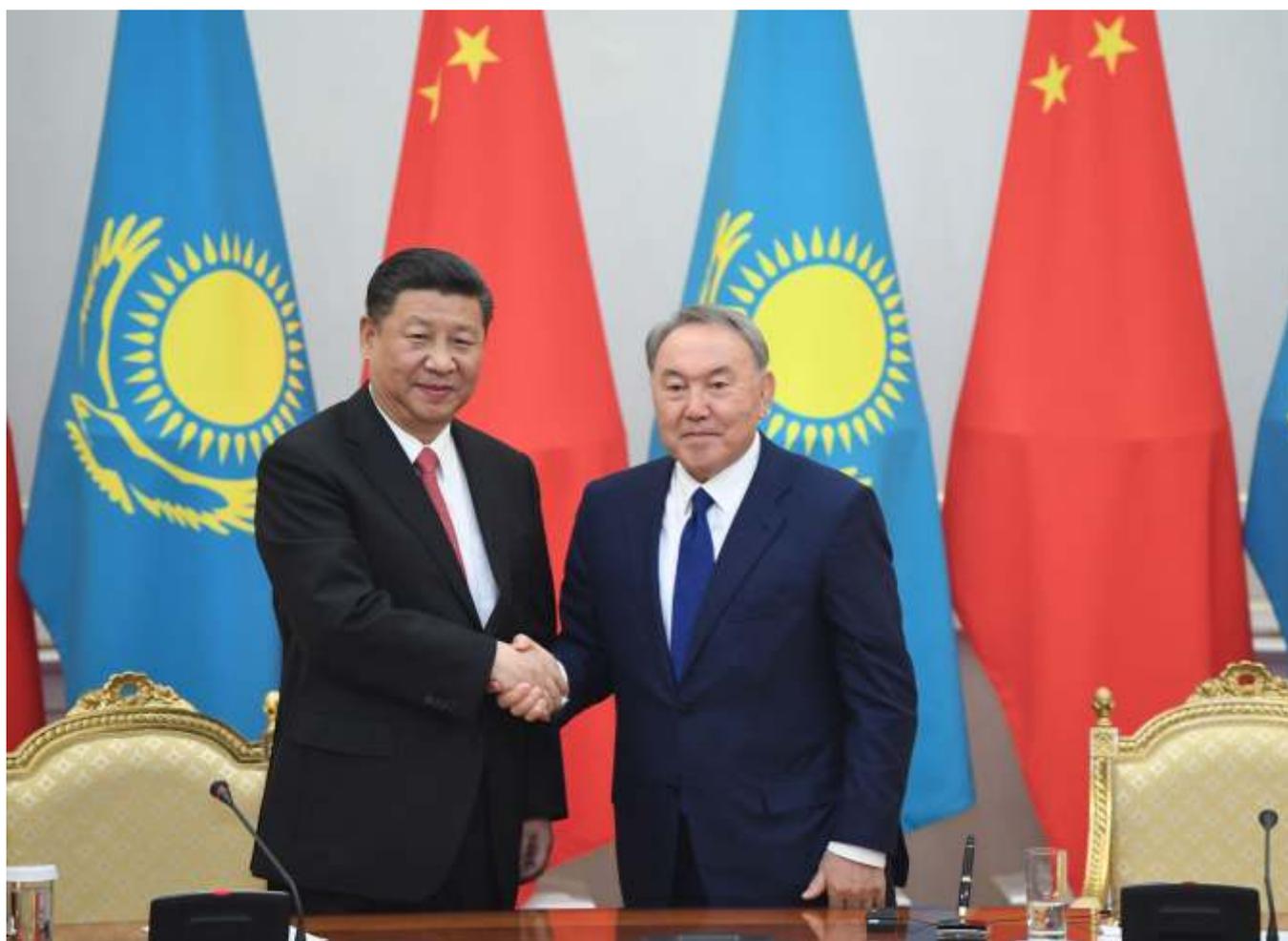
mutual visits were made between our two countries, and 14,000 Kazakh students were studying in China. Five Confucius Institutes and seven Confucius Classrooms have been set up in Kazakhstan while four Kazakhstan Centers have been inaugurated in Chinese universities. The Kazakh singer Dimash Kudaibergen is now a household name in China. Popular Chinese films

gradually developed from a proposal to actions, and from a concept to practice. The initiative offers an open and inclusive platform of cooperation and has become a global public good well received by the international community.

The international situation is undergoing profound and complex changes. The world economy is slowly

to synergize development strategies for greater complementarity and common development.

The primary task of my upcoming visit is to have in-depth discussions with President Nazarbayev on how best the two countries can advance China-Kazakhstan comprehensive strategic partnership under the new



circumstances, accelerate our cooperation in all areas and come up with an overall action plan for that purpose. It is my sincere hope that China-Kazakhstan win-win cooperation for common development and prosperity will grow from strength to strength and have a brighter future.

- We need to promote cooperation in jointly building the Belt and Road. We need to synergize our development strategies in a faster pace and work together to implement the outcomes of the Belt and Road Forum. We need to further unlock the potentials for cooperation on ports, transportation and logistics, speed up the construction of such projects as the New Eurasian Land Bridge, the

China-Central and Western Asia Economic Corridor and the Western Europe-Western China Road so as to promote connectivity and trade facilitation. We should also identify investment and financing models that are more flexible and effective, and expand trade settlements in local currencies in support of our bilateral cooperation projects.

- We need to make industrial capacity cooperation a new area of growth in China-Kazakhstan cooperation. We need to accelerate the implementation of the agreed early-harvest projects, continue to leverage the role of the existing mechanism of dialogue on investment and industrial cooperation and maintain close contact on

information exchange and policy coordination in an effort to provide a sound business environment for our companies operating in each other's country.

- We need to vigorously promote high-tech and innovation cooperation. We need to deepen cooperation in frontier areas such as aerospace and aviation, digital economy and new energy. We also need to advance the development of big data, cloud computing and smart city, and speed up cooperation in IT industries and e-commerce. We will endeavor to bring about an innovation-driven development so as to upgrade China-Kazakhstan cooperation to a new level.

- We need to develop programs that help bring our people closer. We will work more actively to promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges. We should promote mutual understanding and mutual appreciation between our people through the establishment of cultural centers in each other's country, the joint operation of institutions of higher education and the exchange of films, television programs and literature works. China will encourage more visits of its citizens to Kazakhstan for tourism so that they will see for themselves the unparalleled beauty of this "Uly Dala Eli," the land of the great steppe.

- We need to deepen our security cooperation. We will implement the vision for common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. We will continue to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism, drug trafficking and transnational organized crimes according to law and jointly safeguard the cyber security. We should put in place bilateral security mechanisms for the Belt and Road cooperation to ensure the security of the oil and gas pipelines and other large cooperation projects undertaken by our two countries. We will protect the legitimate rights and interests and the personal and property safety of our citizens and companies.

- We need to strengthen our cooperation at the international and multilateral levels. We will enhance communication and coordination under such multilateral frameworks as the United Nations (UN), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and maintain timely exchange of views on international and regional hotspot

issues. China supports Kazakhstan's greater role in international affairs in its capacity as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2017-2018 term.

Another important item on my agenda in Kazakhstan is to attend the SCO annual summit in Astana. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the SCO Charter and the 10th anniversary of the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation of the SCO Member States. Over the years, the SCO member states have been firmly committed to the purposes and principles enshrined in the two important documents. We have never failed to honor and promote the "Shanghai Spirit" featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development. As a result, the mutual trust among the SCO member states is stronger and solid progress has been made in SCO cooperation in all areas. All this has contributed significantly to regional stability and prosperity.

The SCO finds security cooperation extremely important and has put in place cooperation mechanisms on combating terrorism, separatism, extremism, drugs and transnational crimes. The member states have held joint counter-terrorism drills on a regular basis, and worked actively to address hotspot issues. All these efforts have helped to maintain regional security and stability.

The SCO member states have implemented in earnest the Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the SCO Member States and the Development Strategy of the SCO Until 2025, and

steadily moved forward cooperation in such areas as trade, investment, connectivity, energy, finance and agriculture. The SCO has also worked actively to deepen member states' exchanges in culture, education, youth, health, science and technology, environmental protection, tourism and sports. Such endeavors have helped to boost economic and social development in the member states and enhance friendship and cooperation.

As the rotating chair of the SCO, Kazakhstan has contributed significantly to the organization and its development. At the upcoming Astana summit, heads of the member states will make a number of important decisions on deepening cooperation in all fields and completing the organization's first membership expansion. These decisions will reinforce the organization's position for future development. China will succeed Kazakhstan as the rotating chair upon conclusion of this summit. China stands ready to work with Kazakhstan and other member states and build on the Astana summit to further strengthen the organization so that it will deliver more tangible benefits to people in this region.

The Expo 2017 Astana, the first of its kind in a Central Asian country, will be opening soon. Its theme "Future Energy" is very much in line with global trend toward a green, healthy and sustainable economic growth and highly compatible with China's initiative on a green Silk Road.

China supports Kazakhstan in hosting a successful and distinctive Expo. The China Pavilion will showcase state-of-the-art technologies such as an "artificial

minisun” using nuclear fusion and a high-speed rail cockpit simulator. Our pavilion aims to promote a green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable way of life and production, and demonstrate China’s vision on green development. I wish the Astana Expo a complete success!

Under President Nazarbayev’s outstanding leadership, Kazakhstan has maintained social harmony and stability and achieved rapid economic growth since its independence. The Kazakh people are living better and happier lives. Thanks to the steady growth of its aggregate national strength, Kazakhstan now ranks among the world’s 50 most

competitive countries, creating the “Kazakhstan miracle.”

Going all out in its third modernization drive, Kazakhstan is pressing ahead with its new economic policy of the “Nurly Zhol,” the “Strategy-2050” and its social modernization. The Kazakh people are making great strides towards the “Kazakh dream” of national renewal and prosperity. The Chinese people are also making unremitting efforts to achieve the country’s “two centenary goals” (i.e., to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects when the Communist Party of China celebrates its centenary and turn China into a

modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious when the People’s Republic of China marks its centennial) and realize the Chinese dream of great national rejuvenation. The Kazakh and Chinese people, closely bound by our shared aspirations, are joining hands to make their dreams a reality.

I do believe that as long as we stay true to our goals and work closely together, the China-Kazakhstan relations will fly high toward our shared aspirations and usher in an even better future!

## CARRY FORWARD SILK ROAD SPIRIT AND WRITE A NEW CHAPTER FOR COOPERATION

— Foreign Minister Wang Yi Talks about President Xi Jinping's Visit to Kazakhstan, and Attendance at 17th Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of State and Opening Ceremony of Astana Expo 2017

From June 7 to 10, 2017 local time, President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Kazakhstan, and attended the 17th Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the opening ceremony of Astana Expo 2017 upon invitation. At the end of the trip, Foreign Minister Wang Yi briefed the press on the visit.

Wang Yi said that this visit is the first visit after President Xi Jinping hosting the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF), and it is also an important diplomatic action of China towards the Eurasian region. Within a short time of over 60

hours, President Xi Jinping extensively attended over 20 bilateral and multilateral events, featuring a joint discussion of the cause of China-Kazakhstan friendly cooperation, a joint design of the blueprint of SCO development, and a joint promotion of the grand gathering of Astana Expo 2017. Upholding all along the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning, mutual benefit and win-win results, this visit injects strong impetus to the construction of the “Belt and Road”, tightens the strong bonds for neighborhood community

of common destiny, and opens up broad prospects for regional peace and prosperity. Public opinions from China and abroad have paid high attention to this visit, and maintain that at a time when the BRF was just successfully concluded, President Xi Jinping’s revisit to the country where the Silk Road Economic Belt was first initiated makes a new step forward in the joint construction of the “Belt and Road” and plays a new chapter of good-neighborly and friendly cooperation, which fully demonstrates the image of a major country featuring good faith, responsibility and action.

## First, Elevate China-Kazakhstan relations to New Highs

China and Kazakhstan, connected by mountains and rivers, and have enjoyed a time-honored friendship between the two peoples. Since the establishment of the diplomatic relations 25 years ago, China and Kazakhstan have witnessed a comprehensive and rapid development of bilateral relations, and increasingly become a genuine community of common interests and community of common destiny. During the visit to Kazakhstan, President Xi Jinping and President Nursultan Nazarbayev made a comprehensive plan for bilateral cooperation and pushed China-Kazakhstan relations to an even higher stage.

Political mutual trust achieves an unprecedented promotion. This visit is President Xi Jinping's third visit to Kazakhstan and also his 16th meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbayev, which demonstrates the good working relations and deep personal friendship between the two heads of state as well as the height and intimacy of China-Kazakhstan relations. The two heads of state reached important consensus on deepening China-Kazakhstan comprehensive strategic partnership and jointly signed the China-Kazakhstan Joint Statement, charting the course and drawing the blueprint for the development of bilateral relations in the next stage. President Xi Jinping pointed out that China and Kazakhstan will forge an even closer community of common interests and community of common destiny, and become good neighbors, good friends and good partners forever. President Nursultan Nazarbayev highly praised the natural partnership and sincere friendship between China and Kazakhstan. Both

sides agreed to continue political support to each other, respect each other's development path and internal and external policies, safeguard each other's core interests, stay in close communication on major international and regional issues and enhance coordination and collaboration within the frameworks of multilateral mechanisms.

Development strategies are docked in a faster pace. The Cooperation Outline on Docking the Silk Road Economic Belt Construction and the New Economic Policy of the "Bright Road" signed between China and Kazakhstan last year marks a new phase of docking of development strategies featuring in-depth integration and mutual promotion. During this visit, both sides decided to achieve the docking in four major aspects. First, realize the docking of the new Eurasia Land Bridge and China-Central Asia-West Asia economic corridor construction with Kazakhstan's strategy of building international logistics thoroughfare. Second, promote the docking of international production capacity cooperation with Kazakhstan's acceleration of industrialization process. Third, realize the docking of China's advantage in land and maritime joint transportation with Kazakhstan's

Since the establishment of the diplomatic relations 25 years ago, China and Kazakhstan have witnessed a comprehensive and rapid development of bilateral relations, and increasingly become a genuine community of common interests and community of common destiny.

demand in eastward shipping. Fourth, promote the docking of "Digital Silk Road" initiative and "Digital Kazakhstan" strategy. These plans focus on connectivity, production capacity cooperation and scientific and technological innovation, cover "Western Europe-Western China" highway, China-Kazakhstan Horgos International Border Cooperation Center and other key projects, and form a new pattern of China-Kazakhstan all-round and mutually beneficial cooperation. The two heads of state also attended the ceremony of China-Kazakhstan Eurasia cross-border transportation, witnessing new achievements in the joint construction of the "Belt and Road".

Friendly cooperation is promoted comprehensively. The two heads of state agreed to tap potentials for cooperation thoroughly, broaden cooperation channels continuously, and focus on complementary advantages, mutual benefit and win-win results to better benefit the two peoples. The two countries signed over ten cooperation documents between the governments and relevant departments, covering various fields such as economy, trade, finance, infrastructure construction, water conservancy, quality inspection and media. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in people-to-people and cultural engagement, and at local level so as to enhance mutual understanding and friendship. President Xi Jinping announced to increase the quota of Chinese government scholarships to Kazakhstan, winning positive responses in the local community. Both sides agreed to deepen cooperation in aspects such as cracking down on the "three evil forces" and cross-border organized

crimes so as to jointly address the challenges that threaten regional security and stability.

During the visit to Kazakhstan, President Xi Jinping and President Nursultan Nazarbayev visited the Chinese Pavilion at Astana Expo 2017, and attended the opening ceremony of the Expo with the heads of delegation. This Expo is a nationwide celebration in Kazakhstan and also the first specialized Expo held by a Central Asian country. "Neighbors wish each other well, just as loved ones do to each other." President Xi Jinping's attendance at the Expo upon invitation is not only a support to Kazakhstan, but also a support to the Central Asian countries who are seeking development and revitalization as well as the rise of international status. China participates in the Expo with the largest exhibition area, displaying the latest technological achievements. China will host wonderful activities of the Chinese Pavilion, becoming an attraction of the Expo.

#### Second, Lead the SCO to Achieve New Development

Since its establishment 16 years ago, the SCO has become an important platform and reliable support for the member countries to enhance mutual trust, deepen good-neighborly friendship, expand practical cooperation and jointly safeguard regional security and stability. With the increasing uncertainties and instabilities in the current international and regional situation, the member countries are more dependent on the SCO. China will take over the presidency after the summit, and its role is highly expected. President Xi Jinping attended the summit for the fifth consecutive year and had in-depth exchanges of views

with leaders of other countries on the SCO's major topics as well as international and regional issues, contributing China's wisdom, proposing China's initiative and taking China's responsibility.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that we should stay true to our mission, continue to carry forward the "Shanghai Spirit", advance with the times and open up a new situation for regional cooperation.

Cohesion of the SCO members is strengthened. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the signing of the SCO Charter and the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on Long-Term Good-neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation of the SCO Member States. At this summit, the member countries reviewed the "Shanghai Spirit" mainly embodied in the two documents, and have become more cohesive in the face of complex and ever-changing international and regional situation. With the official admission of India and Pakistan as its member countries at the summit, the SCO completed its first enlargement, with its international influence further enhanced and cooperation space further expanded. President Xi Jinping pointed out that we should stay true to our mission, continue to carry forward the "Shanghai Spirit", advance with the times and open up a new situation for regional cooperation. He called for the member countries, old and new, to stick to the good tradition of solidarity and coordination, deepen political mutual trust and strengthen mutual support so as to build a community of common destiny featuring equal treatment, mutual support, and sharing of weal and woe

as well as safety and danger. These important views will promote the SCO member countries to work hand in hand through thick and thin, release enlargement bonus and maintain a sound and stable development.

The overall direction of the SCO development is charted. President Xi Jinping announced at the summit that China will hold the next summit in June 2018, expounded China's working ideas as the rotating presidency and pinpointed the fundamental philosophy of the SCO development in the following stage. He stressed that the member countries should consolidate solidarity and coordination and support each other in safeguarding respective core interests. We should join hands to address challenges and assure security and stability of regional situation. We should give play to the SCO's role to promote the process of political settlement of the Afghan issue. We should dock development strategies so that the people of all countries can benefit from the course of regional integration and economic globalization. All members should tighten people-to-people and cultural bonds to strengthen the sense of the SCO as a "big family". All members should adhere to inclusiveness and openness, and enlarge exchanges and cooperation with observer countries, dialogue partners and other countries as well as international and regional organizations. All sides held that President Xi Jinping's ideas and concepts are closely related with the changing situation, fit the needs of all sides, focus on mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, and will promote the SCO for a new round of development and open up new prospects for regional cooperation.

New initiatives are proposed for SCO cooperation. President Xi Jinping put forward a series of detailed initiatives on SCO cooperation in various fields such as politics, security, economy, people-to-people and cultural engagement, external exchange and mechanism building, including to formulate a five-year implementation outline for the Treaty on Long-term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation of the SCO Member States, to hold Defense and Security Forum and draw up a three-year cooperation outline to fight against the “three evil forces”, to discuss and sign the SCO Trade Facilitation Agreement and carry out timely feasibility study on free trade zone, and to establish economic think-tanks alliance, e-commerce industry alliance, media cooperation mechanism and others. These initiatives not only base themselves on the current situation but also adopt a long-term perspective, with macro thinking as well as operability, and will promote the SCO development toward a direction of more comprehensive coordination, more practical cooperation and more efficient actions.

Fully adopting China’s opinions and initiatives, the leaders of the member states jointly signed and issued documents such as the Astana Declaration and the Press Communique<sup>1</sup>. All sides also signed the SCO Convention on Countering Extremism. As a significant initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping at the Dushanbe Summit in 2014, the convention perfects the legal foundation for combating the “three evil forces”, helps to address the symptom and root of terrorism, and conduces to more targeted anti-terrorism cooperation.

During the summit, President Xi Jinping met with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The two heads of state agreed to strengthen mutual support, intensify collaboration and coordination in international and regional issues, promote the SCO for further development, and promote the docking of the “Belt and Road” construction with the Eurasian Economic Union for more achievements. President Xi Jinping also met with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India respectively, reaching important consensus on stabilizing China-India relations and supporting the peace process in Afghanistan.

President Xi Jinping also met with leaders of Tajikistan, Spain and Turkmenistan respectively, which greatly promotes bilateral relations and practical cooperation.

### Third, Write a New Chapter of “Belt and Road” Construction

President Xi Jinping put forward the initiative of the Silk Road Economic Belt for the first time when visited Kazakhstan in 2013. The “Belt and Road” construction began since then as a grand initiative. Over the past four years, it has been gradually transformed from initiative to actions, and from philosophy to practice. After chairing the first BRF, President Xi Jinping revisited the country where the “Belt and Road” was initiated, and met again with regional leaders, promoting the “Belt and Road” construction for new progress at a new starting point.

The BRF consensus is vigorously carried forward. President Xi Jinping made incisive explanations of the rich connotation of the Silk Road spirit at the opening ceremony of the Forum,

and portrayed the bright prospects and direction of the “Belt and Road” construction. This visit combined the Silk Road spirit and the achievements of bilateral and multilateral meetings, and produced a strong resonance. It is fully reflected that the Silk Road spirit shares the same core with China’s guidelines in neighborhood diplomacy featuring amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, has similarities with “Shanghai Spirit” featuring solidarity, mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation, and conforms to the Expo’s philosophy of exchanges among civilizations. During this visit, President Xi Jinping carried forward the principles of wide consultation, joint construction and sharing, comprehensively promoted policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds, reached broad consensus with all sides and achieved a series of achievements in practical cooperation, providing strong support to forge the “Belt and Road” into a route featuring peace, prosperity, openness, innovation and civilization.

The docking of development strategies is strongly promoted. Kazakhstan is a key country along the “Belt and Road”. President Xi Jinping’s visit promoted China and Kazakhstan to play an exemplary role in jointly building the “Belt and Road” and in international production capacity cooperation. The land and maritime joint transportation of the two countries links two continents and three oceans, and the Lianyungang-Horgos thoroughfare between China and Kazakhstan links the “Belt” and the “Road”. The SCO plays an indispensable role in promoting connectivity in the above five aspects

among regional countries. President Xi Jinping stressed that China will continue to promote the docking and cooperation between the “Belt and Road” construction with the development strategies of the member countries and integration initiatives in other regions. To this end, the SCO will play its role as a platform. President Xi Jinping’s attendance at the specialized Expo is an initiative step in promoting people-to-people and cultural exchanges and amity among the peoples. The Expo themed Future Energy coincides with the initiative of building a “Green Silk Road”. President Xi Jinping served as a “guide” at the Chinese Pavilion, explained China’s philosophy in green development and promoted international exchanges and cooperation.

The “Belt and Road” initiative wins strong support. Documents such as the Joint Statement issued by China and Kazakhstan and the Astana Declaration issued by the SCO fully

acknowledged the positive significance of the “Belt and Road” initiative in bilateral and multilateral cooperation as well as regional and world economic development, spoke highly of the achievements of the summit and supported their implementation. Leaders from all countries said that they are willing to continue actively responding to and participating in the “Belt and Road” construction. Through President Xi Jinping’s visit, we once again deeply feel that the “Belt and Road” initiative has become a popular international public product in which countries grasp opportunities for cooperation and see hope for development. The “Belt and Road” initiative is receiving more international consensus of recognition and enjoying more promising prospects.

Wang Yi said that President Xi Jinping’s visit is another successful practice of China’s all-round foreign diplomacy. It has realized an organic combination of bilateral and

multilateral agenda, an echo of diplomacy at home and abroad, and an overall consideration of the situation at home and abroad. It drives the overall development with successes in key points and has achieved brilliant results. We should thoroughly study and carry out Xi Jinping’s diplomatic thinking, comprehensively implement the achievements of this visit, deepen good-neighborly and friendly cooperation, earnestly promote the “Belt and Road” construction, and strive to build a more solid and practical partnership network. Through these efforts, we hope to create a sound external environment for domestic development, effectively guarantee the success of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and the realization of a well-off society in an all-round way, and make greater contributions to the cause of world peace and development.

## SCO EXPANSION VITAL FOR INT'L SECURITY, COMMON PROSPERITY

Beijing, June 10 (Xinhua) — The Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s (SCO) first-ever membership expansion demonstrated its strategic value in boosting international security and common development, officials and experts have said.

With the accession of India and Pakistan at the 17th SCO summit in Astana, the SCO covers three-fifths of Eurasia, and has nearly half the world population.

As a driving force in regional

security and stability, the SCO has made security cooperation a priority since its founding in 2001. The expansion will improve its potential for cooperation and representation and boost international security and stability.

“The expansion is a historic moment for the SCO and relations between Eurasian countries,” Dmitry Mezentsev, former secretary general of the SCO, told Xinhua.

Mezentsev said it would produce

far-reaching influence for the international agenda, vigorously boost international security and stability and help resolve problems in the Eurasian region.

Under the “Shanghai Spirit” of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity and pursuit of common development, the SCO has made remarkable achievements in battling terrorism, extremism and separatism.

“The SCO has played an

exemplary role in building a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation over the past 16 years since its founding,” said Sun Zhuangzhi, secretary-general of the SCO Research Center affiliated to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Sun’s remarks were echoed by Jiang Yi, a researcher with the Institute of Russian, Eastern European, Central Asian Studies under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, saying that the SCO had taken the lead in building new international relations, particular in resolving deep-rooted historical problems and creating a new consensus.

“The SCO expansion indicates that the ‘Shanghai Spirit’ has been recognized by more and more countries and that it has a bigger appeal in regional cooperation,” Jiang said.

Noting that Pakistan is located at a strategic position along the Belt and

Road, while India is one the fastest growing economies in the world, Jiang said the expansion came at the right time, with southern Asian countries looking to tackle terrorism.

China, as a staunch supporter and facilitator of the SCO framework, has played a positive role in the development of the mechanism.

Currently, China is committed to building a new type of international relation featuring win-win cooperation. The Belt and Road Initiative has engaged more than 100 countries and international organizations since it was proposed in 2013 and has already made great progress.

The initiative aims to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along and beyond the ancient Silk Road trade routes.

Meanwhile, China invested a total of 51.1 billion U.S. dollars in Belt and

Road countries from autumn 2013 to July 2016, accounting for 12 percent of its total outbound direct investment.

Security and stability are the basis of economic cooperation among SCO member states, Jiang noted, adding that SCO expansion would help the alignment of China’s Belt and Road Initiative with the development strategies of other SCO member states.

As China assumes the SCO rotating presidency after the Astana summit, Jiang said that further development of the SCO would be conducive to establishing a fairer and more reasonable international order.

Before the accession of India and Pakistan, the SCO covered China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

## External Affairs

# XI JINPING MEETS WITH PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN OF RUSSIA

On June 8, 2017 local time, President Xi Jinping met with President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Astana.

Xi Jinping pointed out that not long ago, I met with President Vladimir Putin during the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF), during which we reached the important consensus on maintaining the high level operation

of China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination and reinforcing bilateral all-round cooperation. Under the current complicated and changeable international situation, the sound development of China-Russia relations is vitally important to both China and Russia’s development and revitalization, as well as the world peace and stability. Both sides should support each other on issues

concerning respective core interests, promote the integration of the “Belt and Road” construction and the Eurasia Economic Union for more tangible outcomes, deepen people-to-people and cultural exchange and people-to-people bond, and intensify coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs.

Xi Jinping stressed that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization



(SCO) is currently facing new development opportunities and challenges. China and Russia are obliged to strengthen communication and coordination, firmly follow the Shanghai Spirit, consolidate unity and coordination among the member states, safeguard regional security and stability, intensify practical cooperation, continuously uplift the influence of the SCO in international and regional affairs, and make more use of the SCO's role in the process of Afghanistan's domestic peace and reconciliation. China will take over the SCO rotating presidency after the Astana Summit, and stands ready to maintain close communication and coordination with all parties including

Russia and comprehensively deepen the SCO cooperation in various areas, so as to jointly promote the SCO for a new round of development.

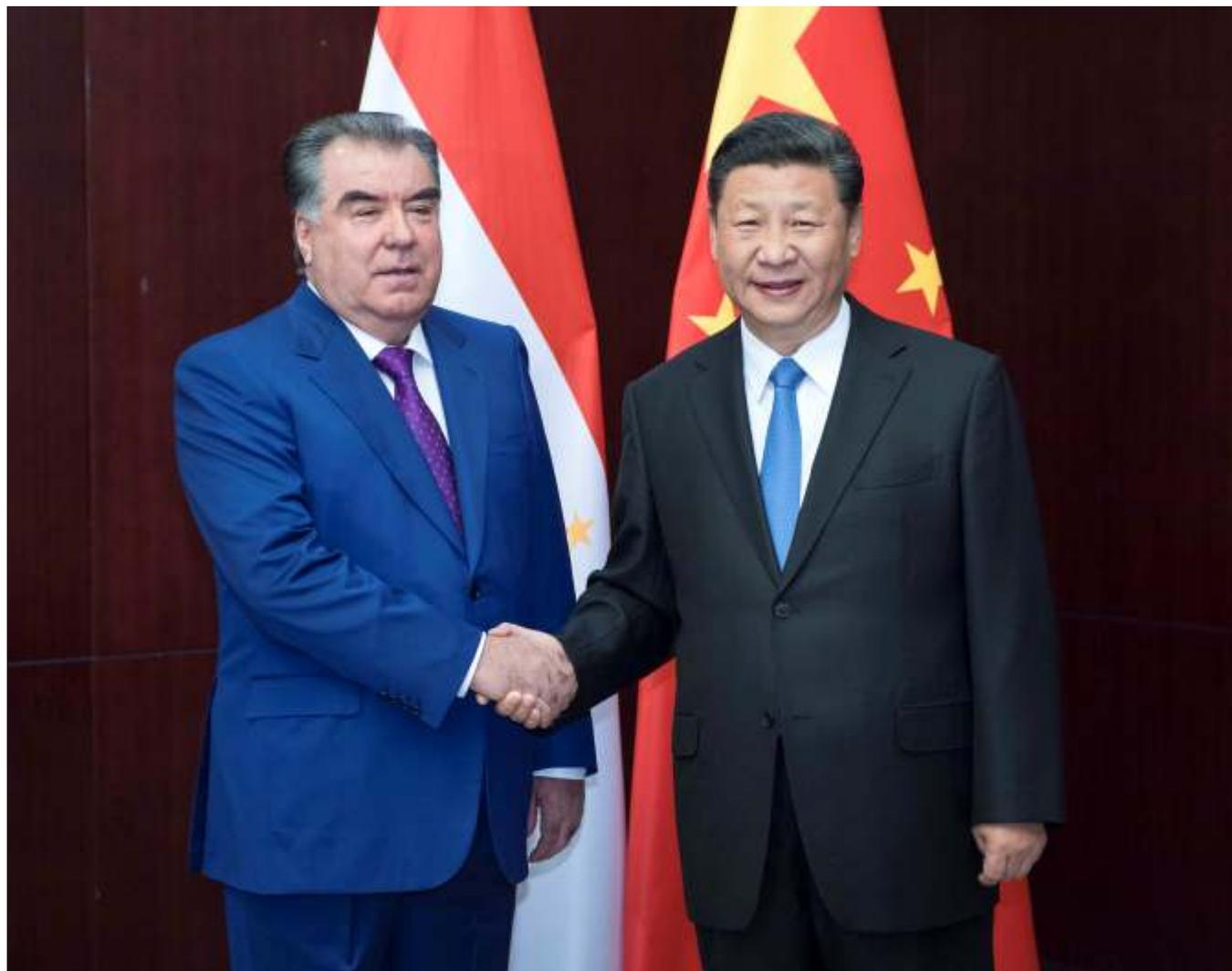
Vladimir Putin expressed that it is of great importance for Russia and China to maintain close high level exchanges. Facing the current complicated international situation, Russia and China should strengthen communication and coordination to safeguard world and regional peace, stability and security. Russia and China should work with relevant parties to enhance unity and coordination among the SCO member states to boost the SCO to play a more significant influence in

international affairs. Vladimir Putin congratulated China again for successfully holding the BRF and noted that the "Belt and Road" initiative bears practical significance and also has won broad support from the international community.

The two heads of state also exchanged views on the international and regional issues of common concerns such as the situation in Afghanistan and on the Korean Peninsula.

Wang Huning, Li Zhanshu, Yang Jiechi and others attended the meeting.

## XI JINPING MEETS WITH PRESIDENT EMOMALI RAHMON OF TAJIKISTAN



On June 9, 2017 local time, President Xi Jinping met in Astana with President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan.

Xi Jinping pointed out that China and Tajikistan are close and friendly neighboring countries and strategic partners with high-level mutual trust. Both countries have maintained close high-level exchanges, achieved fruitful outcomes from cooperation in such fields as economy, trade,

agriculture, infrastructure construction, energy and security, and intensified coordination within the frameworks of the UN and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). At present, bilateral cooperation in the joint construction of the “Belt and Road” has achieved important outcomes, and both sides should promote the cooperation towards a high-end, innovative and diversified direction in the next stage. The two countries should enhance

coordination on economic policies and alignment of development strategies, push forward connectivity construction for new progress, strengthen cooperation in production capacity and equipment manufacturing, deepen cooperation in disaster relief, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and reinforce cooperation in defense, law enforcement and security. The Chinese side is willing to, together

with Tajikistan, take the 25th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations as an opportunity to carry forward the spirit of good neighborliness and friendship, beef up strategic coordination and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, in a bid to push China-Tajikistan strategic partnership towards a higher level.

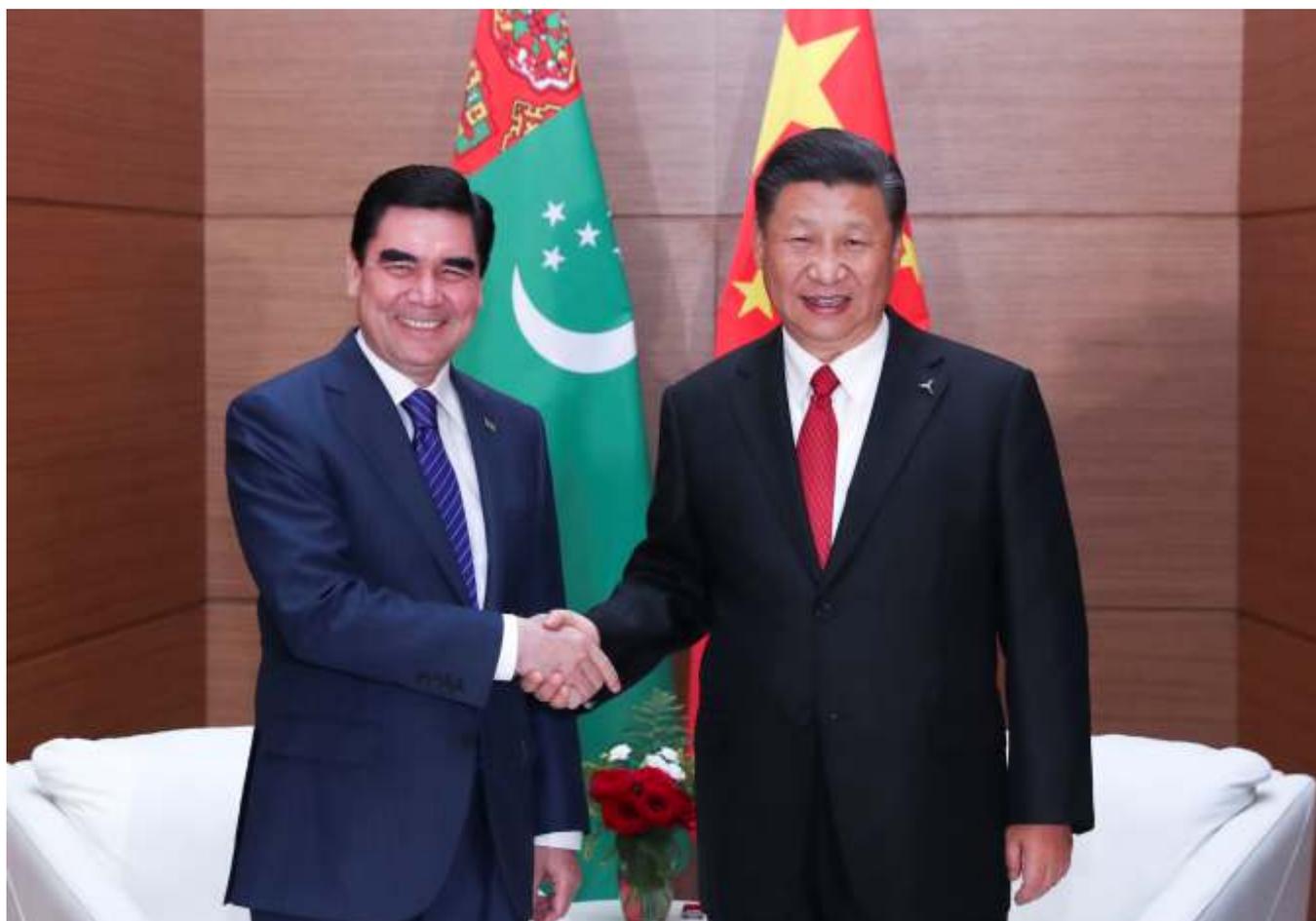
Emomali Rahmon expressed that Tajikistan and China are good neighbors, good friends and good

partners. Attaching importance to its friendship with China, the Tajik side values China's important role in international affairs, and commits to deepening Tajikistan-China strategic partnership. Since the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations 25 years ago, both countries have maintained high-level mutual trust and scored fruitful outcomes from cooperation in economy, trade, science, technology, people-to-people and cultural engagement and other fields. The country's development

strategy highly matches with the historic "Belt and Road" initiative initiated by China. Tajikistan stands ready to align the self-development with the "Belt and Road" construction, and strengthen cooperation in the fields of connectivity, electricity, agriculture, and security.

Wang Huning, Li Zhanshu, Yang Jiechi and others attended the meeting.

## XI JINPING MEETS WITH PRESIDENT GURBANGULY BERDIMUHAMEDOV OF TURKMENISTAN



On June 9, 2017 local time, President Xi Jinping met with President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan in Astana.

Xi Jinping pointed out that China and Turkmenistan are good friends and good partners. At present, China-Turkmenistan relations have been embracing a sound development momentum with continuous improvement of political mutual trust, constant deepened practical cooperation and close coordination in international affairs. The Chinese side attaches great importance to China-Turkmenistan relations and stands ready to take the opportunity of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between the two countries to increase mutual support, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and constantly consolidate the connotation of China-Turkmenistan strategic

partnership.

Xi Jinping stressed that under the new situation, China and Turkmenistan should intensify exchanges at high level and all levels, fully tap the potentials, and actively explore and innovate, so as to make joint efforts to well plan for the practical cooperation in all areas in the next step. The two countries should intensify people-to-people and cultural exchanges to enhance the mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. Appreciating Turkmenistan for its support and early participation in the “Belt and Road” construction, China is willing to work together with Turkmenistan to cooperate under the “Belt and Road” framework in a bid to better benefit the two peoples.

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that the Turkmenistan-China relations have enjoyed sound

development since the establishment of diplomatic relations 25 years ago. Both sides support each other on the issues concerning respective core concerns and in international affairs, and achieved fruitful outcomes from economic and trade cooperation. The Turkmen side dedicates itself to deepening the strategic relations between Turkmenistan and China, and stands ready to, together with China, intensify high-level exchanges, expand cooperation in such areas as natural gas, clean energy, production capacity, and transportation infrastructure under the “Belt and Road” framework, as well as strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges in education and culture. The Turkmen side sincerely hopes the development of Turkmenistan-China relations could be as fast as the Akhal-teke horses.

Yang Jiechi and others attended the meeting.

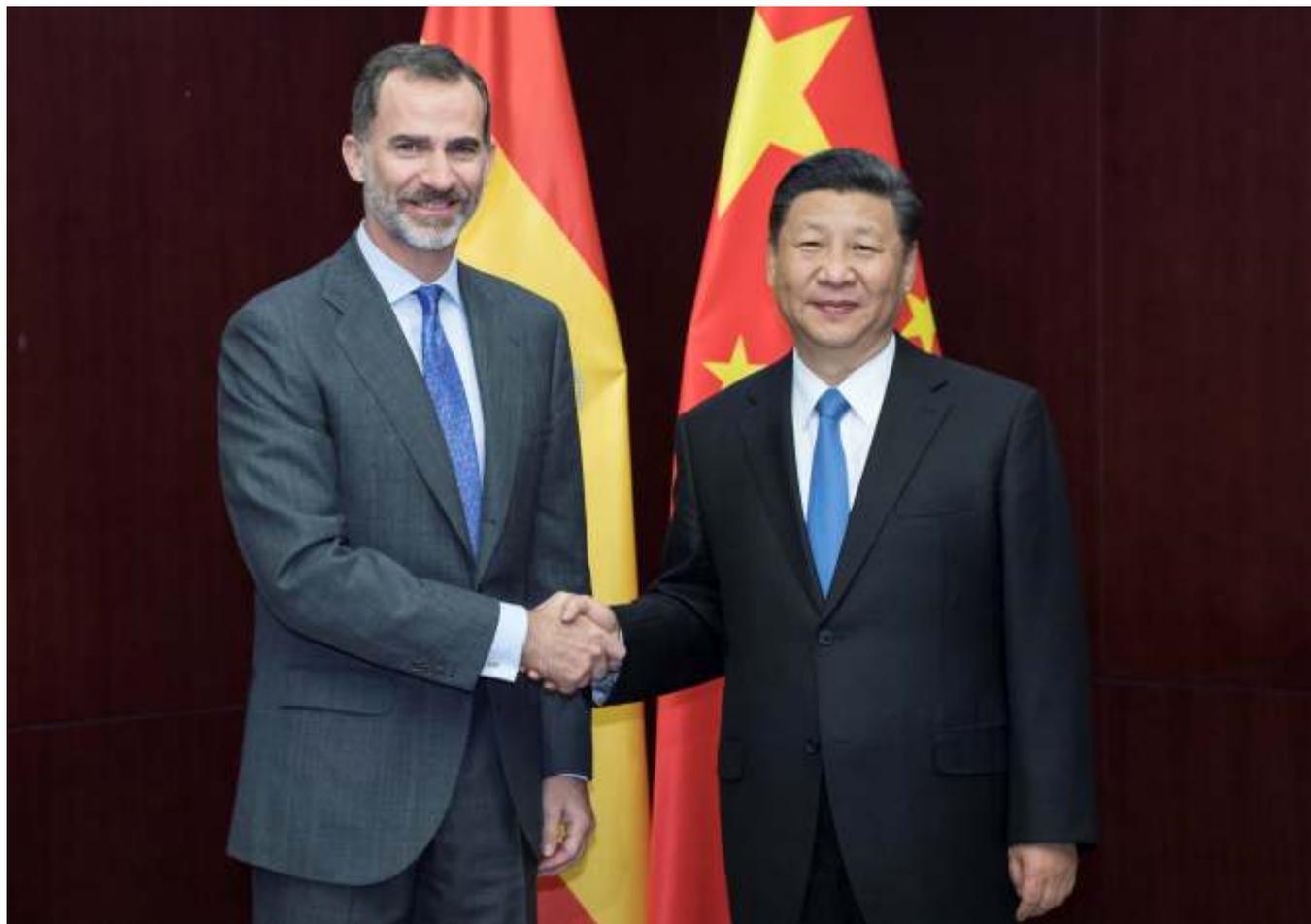
## XI JINPING MEETS WITH KING FELIPE VI OF SPAIN

On June 9, 2017 local time, President Xi Jinping met in Astana with King Felipe VI of Spain.

Xi Jinping pointed out that China attaches great importance to China-Spain relations, and appreciates the Spanish royal family’s long-standing, firm support and active promotion to the development of relations between the two countries. China is willing to work with Spain to elevate bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership to a higher level, so as to better benefit the two peoples. The two sides should intensify high-level exchanges and firmly support each other on issues

concerning respective core interests and major concerns. The two countries need to enhance the docking of development strategies, deepen cooperation in such fields as finance, telecommunications, renewable energy, agriculture, biomedicine, aerospace and aviation, strengthen people-to-people and cultural exchanges, boost exchanges at local and non-governmental levels, and expand cooperation in areas like education, tourism and sports. Both countries should maintain consultation and cooperation on international and regional hotspot issues and advance the economic

globalization toward a more open, inclusive, universally beneficial and balanced direction. China welcomes Spain to actively participate in the “Belt and Road” construction and jointly well make full use of the China-Europe freight train from Yiwu of China to Madrid of Spain. China firmly supports the European integration process, and both countries should actively forge the four partnerships of peace, growth, reform and civilization. It is hoped that Spain will continue to play an active role within the European Union and make positive contributions to the long-term,



healthy and stable development of China-Europe relations.

Felipe VI expressed that both countries enjoy a long-standing friendship, and score positive achievements in promoting exchanges and cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, politics and culture on the

basis of mutual respect. Spain is willing to work with China to consolidate political mutual trust, strengthen high-level interactions, and deepen practical cooperation in various fields. The "Belt and Road" initiative proposed by China will play an important role of promotion in facilitating global economy. Spain is

ready to actively participate in cooperation in such areas as infrastructure and energy within the framework of the "Belt and Road".

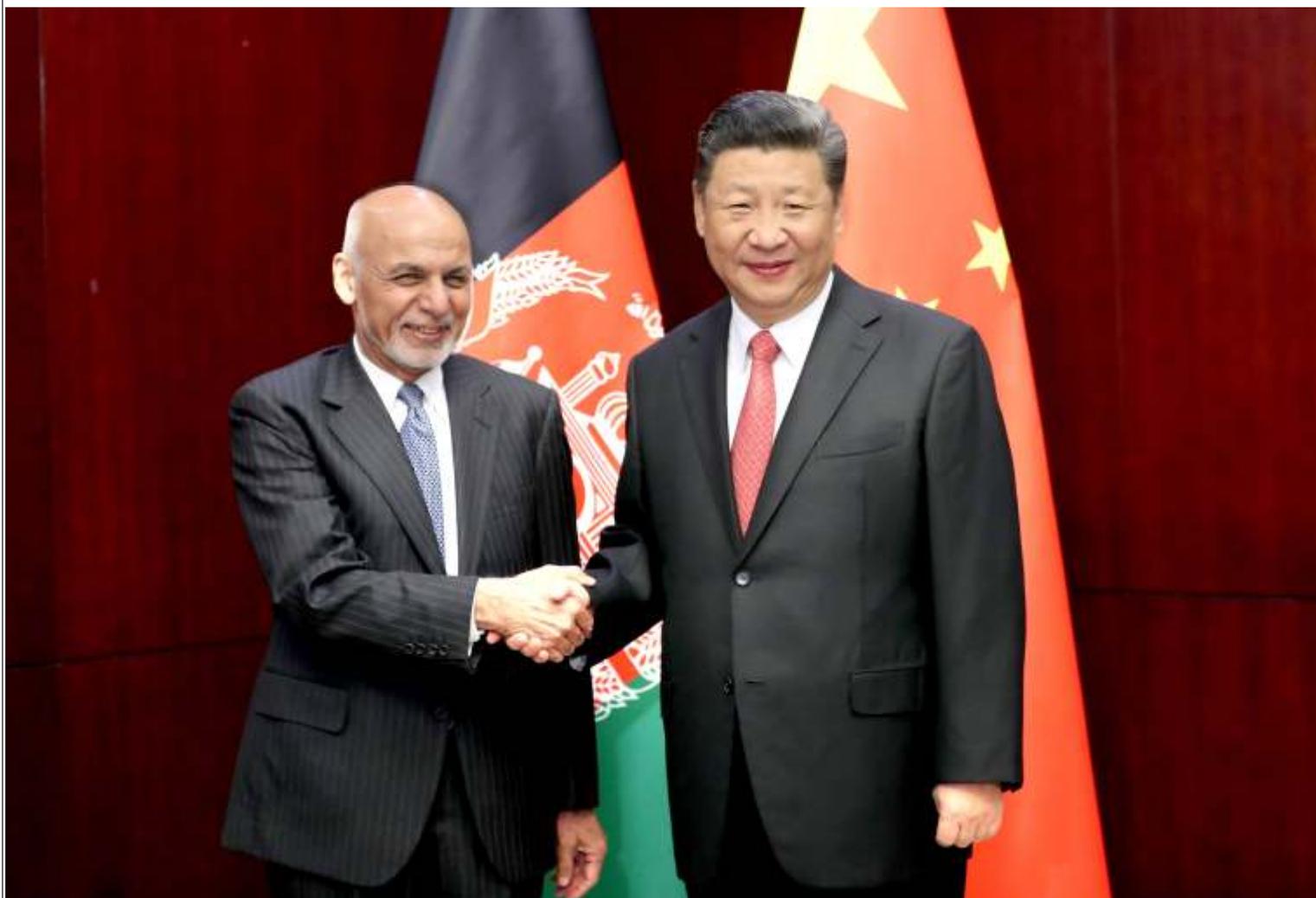
Wang Huning, Li Zhanshu, Yang Jiechi and others attended the meeting.

## XI JINPING MEETS WITH PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD ASHRAF GHANI OF AFGHANISTAN

On June 8, 2017 local time, President Xi Jinping met with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan in Astana.

Xi Jinping stressed that China-Afghanistan relations maintain a sound development momentum. The two countries have intensified

exchanges at all levels, deepened cooperation in such areas as economy, trade and people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and made



positive progress in the joint construction of the “Belt and Road”. Both sides should make use of the role of high-level exchanges in leading bilateral relations, and enhance bilateral exchanges and mutual visits at all levels. The two sides should actively implement the practical cooperation agreements including the Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Promoting the Construction of the “Belt and Road” between China and Afghanistan, deepen practical cooperation within the “Belt and Road” framework, and steadily push forward China-Afghanistan connectivity projects. Cooperation in anti-terrorism and security should be strengthened. Supporting the Afghan government’s efforts in safeguarding

domestic security, China is willing to continuously help Afghanistan reinforce its relevant capacity building.

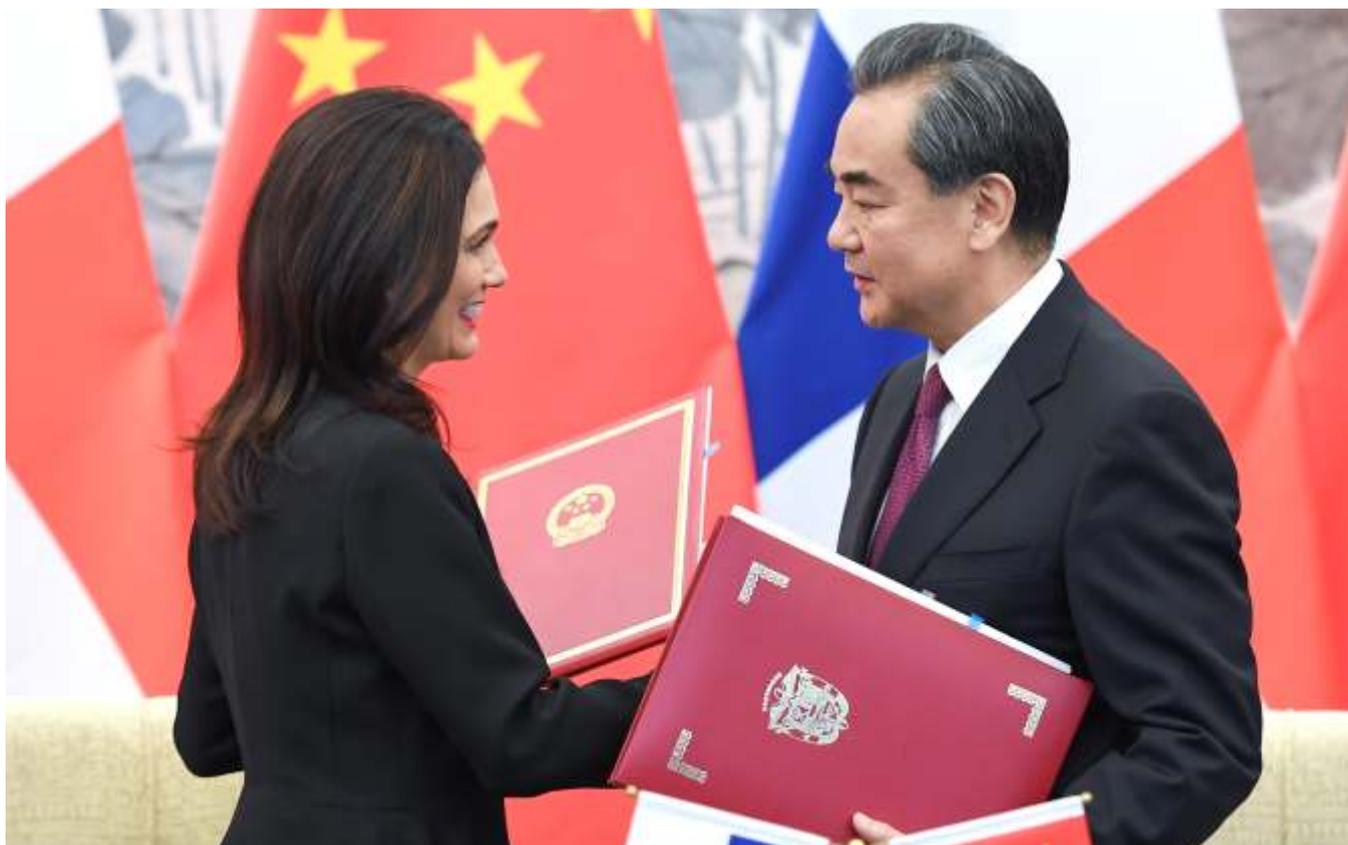
Xi Jinping pointed out that China firmly upholds the friendly policy towards Afghanistan, and will play a constructive role in advancing Afghanistan’s peaceful reconstruction and reconciliation process. China supports Afghanistan in playing a greater role in promoting the regional economic integration and connectivity.

Mohammad Ashraf Ghani expressed that Afghanistan cherishes its friendly relations with China, thanks China for its support in the

country’s peaceful reconstruction and reconciliation process, and highly cherishes China’s important role in international and regional affairs. The Afghan side is committed to strengthening cooperation with China in economy, trade, security and other fields. Highly appraising the “Belt and Road” initiative, the country looks forward to aligning its self-development with the “Belt and Road” construction, and actively participating in cooperation in such areas as transportation and connectivity.

Wang Huning, Li Zhanshu, Yang Jiechi and others attended the meeting.

# THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



On June 13, 2017, Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Vice President and Foreign Minister Isabel Saint Malo de Alvarado of Panama in Beijing and signed the Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Panama. The main contents are as follows:

The People's Republic of China and the Republic of Panama, in keeping with the interests and desire of the two peoples, have decided to recognize each other and establish diplomatic relations at the

ambassadorial level effective from the date of the signing of this communique.

The two governments agree to develop friendly relations between the two countries on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence.

The Government of the Republic of Panama recognizes that

there is but one China in the world, the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. The government of the Republic of Panama severs "diplomatic relations" with Taiwan as of this day and undertakes not to have any more official relations or official exchanges with Taiwan. The Government of the People's Republic of China appreciates this position of the Government of the Republic of Panama.

Belt & Road Initiative

# CHINESE VICE PREMIER STRESSES BUILDING OF BELT AND ROAD



Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli addresses a work conference on the Belt and Road Initiative in Beijing, capital of China, June 16, 2017. (Xinhua/Wang Ye)

Beijing, June 16 (Xinhua) — Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli said Friday that China should endeavor to develop the Belt and Road into a path of peace, prosperity, opening up and innovation, as well as one that connects civilizations.

Addressing a work conference on the Belt and Road Initiative, Zhang said local authorities must encourage the Silk Road spirit of “peace and

cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit” to push forward the China-proposed initiative.

To build the initiative into a safe cooperation environment, China should connect the initiative with the development strategies of other countries along the Belt and Road, raise the ability of overseas security protection and create an environment

featuring joint contribution and shared benefits, Zhang said.

“By focusing on development, the country must continue to focus on connectivity and industrial cooperation as the major fields of cooperation for building the Belt and Road into a road of prosperity,” Zhang said.

He said that to build an open

business environment, unswerving efforts should be made to safeguard multilateral trade systems, enhance investment cooperation and facilitate trade and investment.

“China should also enhance cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road in innovation-related fields, including the Internet, big data, cloud computing, digital economy, artificial intelligence and nano-technology,” Zhang said.

More platforms should be created to enhance multi-layered people-to-people exchanges in building the Belt and Road into a means of connecting different civilizations, Zhang noted.

The country should do its best to implement the outcomes from the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, which was held from May 14 to 15, Zhang said.

He added that the government should increase guidance and supervision for Chinese companies doing business overseas, strictly regulate their investment and business operations, and prevent risks in major investment projects.

China should also find new means of international investment and financing and create a multi-level financial platform to give the initiative

stable and sustainable financial support with controllable risks, he said.

The vice premier also called for the setting up of think tanks and studies into important issues to offer valuable consultation and facilitate decision-making in building the initiative.

Named after the ancient Silk Road, the Belt and Road Initiative is seeking to integrate the rapidly expanding Chinese economy with the development of Asia, Europe, Africa and beyond.

## CHINA OPENS NEW FREIGHT SERVICE TO CENTRAL, SOUTHERN ASIA



People unveil a new freight train in Baoding, north China's Hebei Province, June 16, 2017. A new rail freight service from north China's Baoding city to central and southern Asia became operational on Friday. (Xinhua/Jin Liangkuai)



A freight train moves out of a logistic park in Baoding, north China's Hebei Province, June 16, 2017. A new rail freight service from north China's Baoding city to central and southern Asia became operational on Friday. (Xinhua/Jin Liangkuai)

Shijiazhuang, June 16 (Xinhua) — A new rail freight service from north China's Baoding city to central and southern Asia became operational on Friday, the second international freight route for the Chinese city.

The train loaded with 1,000 tonnes of goods such as textiles, electronics and machinery parts, will

reach Kashgar in the south of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region where the goods will be distributed to six countries by road.

The train is run by Taitong International Transport Co., Ltd from Hebei Province. The trip takes 15 to 18 days.

In April 2016, first international freight train from Baoding ran to Belarus.

Encouraged by the Belt and Road Initiative, more than 20 Chinese cities now run trains to central Asia and Europe.

## KENYA LAUNCHES FLAGSHIP STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY SET TO TRANSFORM NATION

Mombasa, Kenya, May 31 (Xinhua) — Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday launched the passenger train service of the 480-km

Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), paving way for the nation's endeavor for industrialization and prosperity.

Terming it as "a new chapter" in the history of Kenya, the president said the modern railway will replace the meter gauge railway that was

constructed more than 100 years ago during the British colonial rule.

“Today we celebrate the laying of one of the key cornerstones to Kenya’s journey of transformation to an industrial, prosperous and middle-income country,” he said ahead of embarking on the inaugural trip from Mombasa to Nairobi.

The launch came one day after the Kenyan leader launched the first SGR cargo service between the two cities.

Kenyatta said that the SGR was made possible due to the close Sino-Kenya friendship.

“I want to thank our partner and true friend China for the support that has enabled the construction and completion of the project after only two and a half years,” he said.

The 3.8-billion-U.S.-dollar

infrastructure project was constructed by the China Road and Bridge Corporation, with 90 percent of the funding coming from China.

Chinese State Councilor Wang Yong, who attended the launching ceremony as the special envoy of Chinese President Xi Jinping, said the Mombasa-Nairobi railway has been an early fruit that came out of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in late 2015.

“The Mombasa-Nairobi SGR is an exemplary project of China-Africa cooperation on the construction of roads, railways, aviation networks and industrialization,” Wang said, adding that the SGR will bear great significance in boosting the development in Kenya and the region, speeding up Africa’s industrialization

process, and expanding the reach of the Belt and Road to more African countries.

“China stands ready to work with Kenya to make the Mombasa-Nairobi railway become a railway of prosperity and development for Kenya, and a new example of the transformation and upgrade of China-Africa cooperation,” said Wang.

Welcoming passengers who are ready to board the inaugural train, Angela Obunga, a Mombasa West Railway Station staff, said she is happy with her new job for passenger service at the station as the new railway is launched.

“It is good for Kenya because it will now have an efficient train service plying the Nairobi Mombasa route. Transportation between the two cities will be more reliable and





convenient,” she said.

The SGR, providing both cargo and passenger transport services, will cut dramatically the time and costs for the movement of goods and people. It is expected to reduce the time for a passenger traveling from Mombasa to

Nairobi to merely four and a half hours compared to nearly 10 hours on bus. Time to transport cargo from Mombasa to Nairobi, meanwhile, will also decrease from two days to eight hours.

Edward Ngugi, another SGR

passenger service clerk, said the commissioning of the SGR will mean less congestion on the Nairobi-Mombasa highway. Public expenditure on the maintenance of the road will also reduce due to less wear and tear as people will begin favoring railways to transport goods.

## UKRAINE AIMS TO BECOME 'STRONG CHAIN' IN MODERN SILK ROAD



Kiev - Ukraine targets to become a “strong chain” in the China-proposed modern Silk Road through building economic and logistic links between Asia and Europe, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Gennady Zubko said on Thursday.

“We are striving to ensure that the Ukrainian presence on the New Silk Road is becoming more and more

important,” Zubko was quoted by the government press service as saying during the World Expo-2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Ukraine has good infrastructure network to connect Asia and Europe, he said, adding that the East European country is also willing to participate in the project as an exporter of goods.

The Belt and Road Initiative opens up new opportunities for Ukraine to boost its metallurgical, agriculture and chemical exports, Zubko noted.

Besides, he pointed that Ukraine has good prospects to cooperate with other countries along the Silk Road in aviation and shipbuilding industries.

The Belt and Road Initiative aims to build trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient

Silk Road routes.

Ukraine has formally joined the Silk Road project in 2015, launching a

train to China via the sea-rail Trans-Caspian International Transport Route through Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.



## BELT AND ROAD CAN BE A CATALYST

by Cecily Liu

Projects provide opportunity for rapid advancement of China's financial infrastructure, City of London adviser says.

China's role in leading projects along the Belt and Road map will be a catalyst for the country to rapidly advance its domestic financial infrastructure and achieve integration

with international financial markets, says Sherry Madera, special adviser for Asia at the City of London Corp.

"China's participation in financing and investing in complex infrastructure projects along the Belt and Road will bring its domestic financial system in line with global standards and help China's capital

market liberalization. I think the two are tied," Madera says.

Belt and Road can be a catalyst Sherry Madera, special adviser for Asia at City of London Corp. Provided to China Daily

In particular, she says, China's existing currency swaps with international central banks could be



better used to mitigate currency risks in relation to financing cross-border projects. Additionally, China's massive domestic bond market could be used to support further funding of Belt and Road projects, and China could lead discussions on regulatory stability and transparency for markets involved in the initiative, she says.

Madera, who recently returned from the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, in Beijing on May 14 and 15, spoke to *China Daily* in her office in Guild Hall, an 800-year-old heritage building in the heart of London's Square Mile financial district.

Madera's team is now pushing for the City of London to have closer engagement with China, especially amid uncertainties over Brexit.

Two of the four City of London overseas offices are in China.

"London doesn't need to be on the Belt and Road map, but we would

like to finance the Belt and Road map," Madera says, noting London's expertise in project finance, green finance, insurance, financial product structuring and legal services.

The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013, has won support from more than 100 countries and international organizations, over 40 of which have signed cooperation agreements with China.

HSBC estimates that Belt and Road development projects will cost up to \$6 trillion (5.4 trillion euros; ¥4.7 trillion) in the next 15 years, while PricewaterhouseCoopers estimates the costs at \$5 trillion.

China is already leading the initiative's financing efforts. At the Belt and Road forum, China committed an additional contribution of \$14.6 billion to the Silk Road Fund, adding to its initial commitment of \$40 billion in 2014.

Despite the optimistic outlook on financing, Madera cautioned that Belt and Road projects bear significant geopolitical and currency risks, since infrastructure projects require a lengthy time horizon, as they extend across different geographic regions and have complex financing structures.

"Structuring the projects in a way that makes them bankable and accountable is important to secure investor trust," she says.

There is also currency risk in the funding process, and a large fluctuation "can really skew your profit", she says.

Newly built infrastructure projects often have complex funding models, mainly because they attract different investors in the construction and operation stages. Banks typically finance initial construction, where risks and returns are higher; long-term low risk

investors, such as pension funds, typically get involved in later stages when returns look more certain.

“From day one, you need to engage with both sets of investors. There are additional consideration about how to successfully move capital from phase one to phase two,” she says.

To successfully mitigate risks, it is important to first ensure financial sustainability of projects under construction, and then ensure existing capital can be freed up and used again on other projects along the Belt and Road, she adds.

Involving the right players is also encouraged. Insurance and reinsurance companies can be crucial in helping to lower the risk of projects, while the involvement of multinational development banks can act as a stamp of confidence to help provide investable creditworthiness from the beginning and lower the costs of financing, she says.

Madera’s advice is backed up by

examples of big infrastructure projects that easily went wrong, even in mature economies.

The Berlin Brandenburg Airport, which was planned to launch in 2012, has experienced a six year delay and a tripling of costs.

The UK’s Wembley Stadium, home of English football, experienced a five-year delay and a doubling of cost estimates. The big budget and time overrun led project contractor Multiplex to take its engineering consultant to court.

Different from single-country projects, the Belt and Road’s international scope means more factors must be considered, Madera says. “More players are getting involved, more currencies are involved, as a function of globalization.”

The need to address these challenges also brings new opportunities, including the development of green finance products, the internationalization of

the renminbi and a further opening up of China’s domestic financial markets for international engagement, Madera says.

Green finance refers to the trend of institutional investors putting their money into environmentally friendly projects that guarantee long-term returns and green credentials.

“The Belt and Road Initiative’s need for funding can push forward the creation of a framework of standards for green finance products,” Madera says, adding that initiatives in this area, such as Bank of China’s launch of a green covered bond in London, is one example of an innovative product.

The three-year, \$500 million bond, launched in November, is innovative for being a covered bond, meaning it gives investors a dual recourse structure: allowing claims over a dedicated “cover pool” of assets, and the usual claim against Bank of China. This is seen as an innovative structure that enhances



the bond's credit quality, and it became the first such bond to be issued by a Chinese entity and secured by onshore assets.

With the increasing use of renminbi in the projects, "the Belt and Road is increasing efficiency across trade corridors, she says.

"Currency will play an immense role in how the trade corridor develops, particularly across parts of Southeast Asia and Africa."

Madera founded several of her own startups in the financial, technology, telecommunications, internet and travel industries.

She eventually turned toward the government sector and became minister-counsellor and director at the British embassy in Beijing from 2014 to 2016.

During her Beijing years, Madera witnessed an array of UK China financial milestones, including the fast growth of London into a leading renminbi offshore hub, the London-branch launches of several Chinese banks and, more important, President Xi Jinping's state visit to the UK in 2015, which marked the beginning of the "golden era" of the two countries' relationship.

So, when she returned to London in January to advise the City of London's Asia engagement, she was eager to put her China knowledge to use, and the development of the Belt and Road Initiative became a focus.

"What most inspired me is the scale of the ambition," she says. "President Xi has used the phrase 'project of the century', that's what really brought it home for me: a plan for creating commercial, cultural, knowledge and technology links that touch the entire globe."

### Culture & Life

## BRICS MEDIA JOINT PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION HELD IN BEIJING



Visitors watch the creations at the BRICS Media Joint Photography Exhibition at the National Museum of China in Beijing, capital of China, June 15, 2017. The exhibition, hosted by Xinhua News Agency, displays more than 170 photos. (Xinhua/Xiao Xiao)



A visitor takes photos at the BRICS Media Joint Photography Exhibition at the National Museum of China in Beijing, capital of China, June 15, 2017. The exhibition, hosted by Xinhua News Agency, displays more than 170 photos.

## PEOPLE OF VARIOUS ETHNIC GROUPS CELEBRATE LONGJI TERRACES CULTURAL FESTIVAL IN GUANGXI



People of various ethnic groups dance on the Longji Terraces Cultural Festival in Longsheng, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, June 9, 2017. (Xinhua/Li Xuanli)



People of the Yao ethnic group march on the Longji Terraces Cultural Festival in Longsheng, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, June 9, 2017. (Xinhua/Li Xuanli)

## 9.4 MLN STUDENTS SIT CHINA'S COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM



Examinees of the national college entrance examination sit on a bus to leave for the exam venues in Shijiazhuang, capital of north China's Hebei Province, June 7, 2017. A total of 9.4 million Chinese students sit the annual national college entrance examination from Wednesday. (Xinhua/Zhang Shuo)



Examinees of the national college entrance examination arrive at the exam venue in Nanjing Tianjiabing Senior High School in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, June 7, 2017. A total of 9.4 million Chinese students sit the annual national college entrance examination from Wednesday. (Xinhua/Su Yang)

Tibet Today

## VOLUNTEERS AND TIBETAN CHILDREN CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S DAY



From May 25 to 27, 25 volunteers from Chengdu and Chongqing celebrated the International Children's Day with more than one thousand children in Lithang County, Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan.



From May 25 to 27, 25 volunteers from Chengdu and Chongqing celebrated the International Children's Day with more than one thousand children in Lithang County, Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan.

## TIBET ATTRACTS UNPRECEDENTED INVESTMENT FROM CENTRAL SOES



Lhasa, June 14 (Xinhua) — Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region is set to see a record influx of investment from central state-owned enterprises (SOEs) as the region has signed cooperation agreements with 36 central SOEs for 347 projects.

The agreements, inked Tuesday at a meeting on strategic cooperation in Lhasa, the regional capital, cover energy, transport and industrial sectors among others. They will play an active role in developing industries, improving the livelihoods of locals and helping

Tibet realize a moderately prosperous society by 2020 together with the whole nation, said the regional government.

The new projects marked unprecedented investment from central SOEs in the region with high-level and broader cooperation between Tibet and central SOEs, it added.

The participating SOEs include State Grid, China Baowu Steel Group, and China Power Construction Corporation.

Xiao Yaqing, head of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission.

(SASAC), said the commission and central SOEs will boost green development and contribute to poverty reduction in the region as part of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020).

Central SOEs must put environmental protection first, abide by national and local environmental laws, and strictly control highly polluting facilities, he said at the meeting.

## TIBET AIRLINES LAUNCHES ACTIVITIES IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BEFORE CHILDREN'S DAY





knowledge on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

“We want the kids to learn about knowledge on flight safety on this special holiday, to build the awareness on it, and to give them a dream of aviation,” said Wang Fohui, captain for Tibet Airlines’ Flag Team, the first all-women flight team from the plateau.

“The kids were very enthusiastic and happy about our visit, so we’re determined to do more campus events in future. We hope to bring more lively and interesting programs to schools in the future,” she added.

Pupils in southwest China’s Tibet had a hands-on lesson on civil aviation as their International Children’s Day gift when flight crew from Tibet

Airlines went into their schools to interact with them by showing fun videos and scene plays, vivid airplane models, and explaining the flight

## BOOK REVIEW

### CHINESE CERAMICS

Fang Lili holds a PhD from the Department of Art History at the Central academy of Art and Design. She completed her post-doctoral research at the anthropology Research Institute of Peking University under the tutelage of Mr. Fei Xiaotong. She is currently director of the Art Anthropology Center at China Art Research Institute and vice president, research fellow and doctoral advisor of the Chinese Culture Research Institute at China Art Research Institute. She is also a member of the National Intangible Cultural Heritage Preservation Experts Committee and president of China Art Anthropology Society. In addition to art anthropology research and education, she is also dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage. In recent years, she has completed a significant number of field investigations and written various books.

We hope you will find this book useful.

Please email us first to reserve the book providing the serial No. Hope to hear from you in the coming future. Your comments and suggestions on NFC are also greatly welcome.

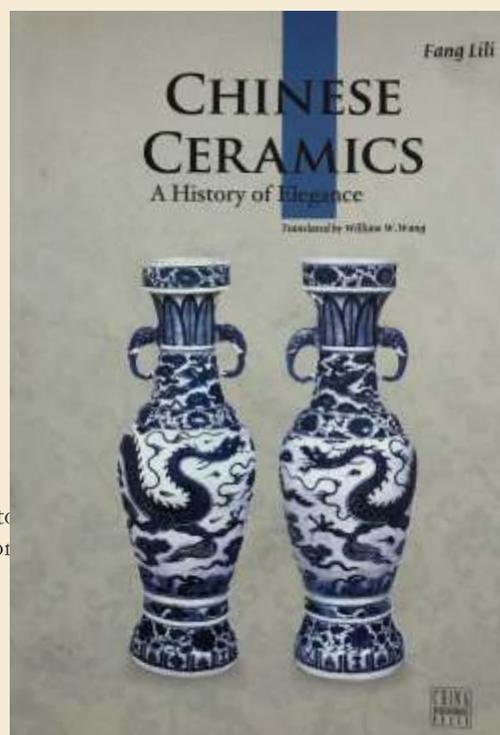
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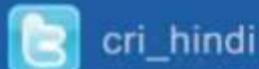


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Fireworks explode at opening ceremony of 2017 Astana EXPO

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