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Ambassador Luo Zhaohui and his wife Dr. Jiang Yili met with Shri. V.P. Singh Badnore, Governor of Punjab.



Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Shri. Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab.



Ambassador Luo Zhaohui visited Dr. Kotnis Acupuncture Hospital in Ludhiana.



Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Shri. Ramachandran, Editor of *The Tribune*.



Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Dr. Karan Singh, an Indian politician, philanthropist and poet.



Chinese Embassy celebrated the 91st anniversary of the Founding of the People's Liberation Army of China (PLA).

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XI URGES BRICS COUNTRIES TO DEEPEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP, OPEN UP 2ND "GOLDEN DECADE"



Chinese President Xi Jinping on July 26 urged BRICS countries to deepen strategic partnership and work to open up a second "Golden Decade" at the Plenary Session of the 10th BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The session, hosted by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, was also attended by Brazilian President Michel Temer, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The leaders of the five BRICS countries exchanged in-depth views on BRICS cooperation and major international issues of common concern under the theme "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive

Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution," reaching broad consensuses.

TURN VISION INTO REALITY

Delivering a speech titled "Turn Our Vision into a Reality," Xi pointed out the outstanding features of the new industrial revolution and put forward initiatives on the future development of the BRICS cooperation.

"Let us work together with the rest of the international community for an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity," said the Chinese president.

The previous three industrial revolutions were all characterized by transformative advancement in

science and technology: the rise of mechanization in the 18th century, the harnessing of electricity in the 19th century, and the advent of the Information Age in the 20th century, Xi said.

Such breakthroughs have greatly unleashed social productivity and significantly improved people's living standards, thus profoundly reshaping the course of human history, he said.

The world is experiencing another revolution in science, technology and industry, which is greater in scope and depth. New technologies, business models and industries are emerging one after another. Countries around the world have found their interests and future tied together like never before, Xi said.

"We have yet to sustain global

growth with new driving forces and to address the North-South imbalance and other deep-seated structural problems," he told the session.

"What's more, constant flare-ups of geopolitical conflicts and the escalation of protectionism and unilateralism are directly affecting the external development environment of emerging markets and developing countries," he said.

The BRICS countries "must therefore have a keen grasp of the trend of our times, deepen our strategic partnership, and consolidate our cooperation framework underpinned by economic, political and security cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, so as to turn our vision of a second 'Golden Decade' into a reality," said the Chinese president.



FOUR-POINT PROPOSAL

To build the new chapter in BRICS cooperation, Xi put forward a four-point proposal.

First, he called on the BRICS partners to unlock the enormous potential of economic cooperation by stepping up trade, investment, economic, financial, and connectivity cooperation to make this pie still bigger.

They also need to work together to safeguard the rule-based multilateral trading regime, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and reject protectionism outright, Xi said.

"It is important that we continue to pursue innovation-driven development and build the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) to strengthen coordination on macroeconomic policies, find more complementarities in our development strategies, and reinforce the competitiveness of the BRICS countries, emerging market economies and developing countries," he said.

Second, Xi urged the BRICS members to safeguard global peace and security, and to stay committed to multilateralism, as well as the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

"We should call on all parties to abide by international law and basic norms governing international relations and to settle disputes through dialogue and differences through consultation," Xi said, adding that the BRICS should jointly work for a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, equality, justice and win-win

cooperation.

Third, the BRICS partners should expand people-to-people exchanges and aim at greater people-to-people connectivity and more popular support for BRICS cooperation through extensive exchanges in various areas, in order to "spread the BRICS story far and wide to further enhance the mutual understanding and traditional friendship among our people," Xi said.

Fourth, according to the Chinese president, the BRICS countries should build a network of closer partnerships.

"We may explore 'BRICS Plus' cooperation within the United Nations, the G20, and other frameworks to advance the common interests and boost the development space for emerging markets and developing countries, thus contributing more to world peace and development through broader partnerships," he said.

STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP & GUARD MULTILATERALISM

Addressing the session, Ramaphosa highlighted the rising unilateralism and protectionism in the world, and their negative impact on emerging market economies and developing countries.

South Africa supports the BRICS countries in building the PartNIR, and takes the opportunity of the fourth industrial revolution to achieve greater development in the second "Golden Decade" of the BRICS cooperation, Ramaphosa said.

Facing similar development tasks, Temer said the BRICS countries

should strengthen solidarity, jointly address the current risks and challenges, align their development strategies, expand cooperation fields and enhance science and technology competitiveness.

Putin said the BRICS countries are faced with a complicated and ever-changing international situation, urging them to unite and coordinate with each other, stick to multilateralism and international norms, and jointly dedicate themselves to protecting the economic order, promoting high-quality and equal development, and properly resolving regional hotspot issues through political means.

The BRICS countries should carry out closer cooperation under multilateral frameworks and boost their influence in international affairs, he said.

Calling the BRICS countries an important engine of global growth, Modi said they should actively help improve global governance, carry forward multilateralism, facilitate free trade and make globalization beneficial to all, so as to better protect the interests of developing countries.

The summit issued the Johannesburg Declaration, in which the BRICS countries sent a clear signal to preserve multilateralism and reject protectionism.

The BRICS countries decided to initiate the PartNIR and deepen cooperation in areas such as economy and trade, finance, political security and people-to-people and cultural exchanges, according to the declaration.

FULL TEXT OF CHINESE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT PLENARY SESSION OF BRICS JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT

The following is the full text of the speech: Turn Our Vision into a Reality

**Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
At the Plenary Session of the BRICS Johannesburg Summit, Johannesburg, 26 July 2018**

Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered on July 26 a speech titled "Turn Our Vision into a Reality" at the Plenary Session of the BRICS Johannesburg Summit.

Your Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa,
Your Excellency President Michel Temer,
Your Excellency President Vladimir Putin,
Your Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

Let me begin by thanking President Ramaphosa and the South African government for their warm hospitality and thoughtful arrangements. The BRICS Summit is convened in Africa again after a lapse of five years. This is an occasion to celebrate.

The theme of this summit - "BRICS in Africa: Collaborating for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution" - is most fitting under the current circumstances. The previous three industrial revolutions were all characterized by transformative advancement in science and technology: the rise of mechanization in the 18th century, the harnessing of electricity in the 19th century, and the

advent of the Information Age in the 20th century. Such breakthroughs have greatly unleashed social productivity and significantly improved people's living standards, thus profoundly reshaping the course of human history.

Today, we are experiencing another revolution in science, technology and industry, which is greater in scope and depth. Breakthroughs are being made in quick succession in frontier technologies like big data and artificial intelligence. New technologies, business models and industries are emerging one after another. Countries around the world have found their interests and future tied together like never before.

That said, we have yet to sustain global growth with new driving forces and to address the North-South imbalance and other deep-seated structural problems. What's more, constant flare-ups of geopolitical conflicts and the escalation of protectionism and unilateralism are directly affecting the external development environment of emerging markets and developing countries.

History keeps surging forward

independent of people's wish. We the BRICS countries must therefore have a keen grasp of the trend of our times, deepen our strategic partnership, and consolidate our cooperation framework underpinned by economic, political and security cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. This way, we will be able to turn our vision of a second "Golden Decade" into a reality, and together build a community with a shared future for mankind.

First, we must unlock the enormous potential of our economic cooperation. Closer economic cooperation for shared prosperity is the original purpose and priority of BRICS cooperation. It is also in the economic field that we enjoy the most promising, diverse and fruitful cooperation. We need to step up trade, investment, economic, financial, and connectivity cooperation to make this pie still bigger. At the same time, we must work together at the United Nations, the Group of 20, and the World Trade Organization to safeguard the rule-based multilateral trading regime, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and reject protectionism outright.

It is important that we continue to pursue innovation-driven development and build a Partnership on New Industrial Revolution to strengthen coordination on macroeconomic policies, find more complementarities in our development strategies, and reinforce each other's efforts in renewing economic driving forces and upgrading economic structure. In this context, China will host ten human resources development programs during which experts of our five countries will be invited to draw up a blueprint for our cooperation in the new industrial revolution. By so doing, we hope to enhance the competitiveness of not only BRICS countries but also other emerging markets and developing countries.

Second, we must safeguard global peace and security. Political and security cooperation is an important component of BRICS strategic partnership. We should stay committed to multilateralism and to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. We should call on all parties to abide by international law and basic norms governing international relations and to settle disputes through dialogue and differences through consultation. By fully leveraging the role of BRICS meetings of foreign ministers,

national security advisers and permanent representatives to the United Nations, we can make our voice heard, put forth our solutions, and jointly work for a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, equality, justice and win-win cooperation.

Third, we must expand people-to-people exchanges. We the BRICS countries boast great civilizations. When it comes to cultural and people-to-people exchanges, there is a lot we can do together. As a matter of fact, such exchanges have notably gained momentum over the last year or two. We should aim at greater people-to-people connectivity and more popular support for BRICS cooperation through extensive exchanges in cultural, educational, health, sports, tourism and other areas. China would therefore like to suggest joint touring exhibitions by the BRICS alliances of museums, art museums, national galleries, and libraries and closer cooperation in the cultural, creative and tourism industries and at the sub-national level. This way, we can spread the BRICS story far and wide to further enhance the mutual understanding and traditional friendship among our people.

Fourth, we must build a network of closer partnerships. Since the

inception of the BRICS mechanism, openness and inclusiveness have remained our abiding commitment. The "BRICS Plus" approach we adopted at the Xiamen Summit is designed to strengthen the unity and coordination among BRICS members for greater cohesion and, at the same time, to keep broadening the BRICS "circle of friends" in a joint pursuit of shared development and prosperity for all emerging markets and developing countries. We may explore "BRICS Plus" cooperation within the United Nations, the G20, and other frameworks to advance the common interests and boost the development space for emerging markets and developing countries, thus contributing more to world peace and development through broader partnerships.

Colleagues,

The future of BRICS is in the hands of our people. Let us work together with the rest of the international community for an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

Thank you.

CHINESE PRESIDENT SHARES THOUGHTS ON WORLD'S NEXT DECADE AT BRICS BUSINESS FORUM

From new global growth drivers to the international landscape and the global governance system, Chinese President Xi Jinping here on July 25 shared his thoughts on the changes

the world is going to witness in the next decade.

The next decade will be a crucial one in which new global growth

drivers will take the place of old ones, seeing faster changes in the international landscape and the international alignment of forces, and witnessing a profound reshaping



of the global governance system, Xi said while addressing the BRICS Business Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa.

He said that a new round of revolution and transformation in science, technology and industries featuring artificial intelligence, big data, quantum information and biotechnology are gaining momentum, and they are giving birth to a large number of new industries and business forms and models and will fundamentally change global development and people's work and lives.

"We must seize this important opportunity to enable emerging markets and developing countries to achieve leapfrog development," he

told about 1,200 government officials and business people.

Xi continued that emerging markets and developing countries already contribute 80 percent of global economic growth, and based on exchange rate calculation, these countries account for nearly 40 percent of the global economic output.

"Growing at their current rates, these countries will see their economic output approach half of the global total in a decade," Xi said. "The collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries is unstoppable, and it will make global development more balanced and global peace more firmly based."

Speaking of the global governance system, Xi pointed out that the world is moving toward multi-polarity and greater economic globalization amid setbacks.

"Geopolitical hotspots keep emerging, and the dark shadow of terrorism and armed conflicts still haunts us. Unilateralism and protectionism are mounting, dealing a severe blow to multilateralism and the multilateral trading regime," he said.

"The international community has reached a new crossroads; and we are facing a choice between cooperation and confrontation, between opening-up and a close-door policy, and between mutual benefit and a beggar-thy-neighbor



approach," Xi said.

Thus, the evolution of global governance system will have a profound impact on the development of all countries, particularly emerging

markets and developing countries, and indeed on the prosperity and stability of the whole world, he said.

"We BRICS countries should keep abreast of the historical trend,

seize development opportunities, jointly meet challenges, and play a constructive role in building a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind," Xi said.

FULL TEXT OF CHINESE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT BRICS BUSINESS FORUM IN SOUTH AFRICA

**Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China
At the BRICS Business Forum, Johannesburg, 25 July 2018**

Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered on July 25 a speech titled "Keeping Abreast of the Trend of the Times to Achieve Common Development" at the BRICS Business

Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The following is the full text of the speech:

Your Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa,
Your Excellency President Faure Gnassingbe of Togo,
Your Excellency Deputy President

David Mabuza of South Africa,
Ministers,
Friends from the business
community,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

Good afternoon! I am delighted to visit South Africa, the "rainbow nation," once again and meet you here in the beautiful city of Johannesburg. The first international summit I attended after taking office as Chinese president five years ago was the fifth BRICS Summit held in Durban. Three years ago, right here in this convention center, I attended the FOCAC Johannesburg Summit with African leaders.

Nearly three years on, as I once again set foot on the African continent, I am struck by its robust growth and strong vitality.

Thanks to the strong support of all participating parties, China successfully hosted the BRICS Xiamen Summit last September. We as BRICS leaders unanimously agreed to strengthen our strategic partnership, consolidate the cooperation architecture with its three main drivers, namely, economic cooperation, political and security cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges. We thus laid out a vision of BRICS+ cooperation and jointly ushered in the second Golden Decade of BRICS cooperation.

I understand that in the Nguni language, Johannesburg means the "Place of Gold." We cannot find a better place to chart the course for our Golden Decade than in this city of gold. Here in Johannesburg, I look forward to working with other BRICS leaders to embark on a new journey of BRICS cooperation and fulfill our new mission.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

The BRICS mechanism owes its birth and growth to evolution of both the global economy and the international landscape. In its first decade, BRICS cooperation got off the ground and bore rich fruit. We five BRICS countries, guided by the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, have deepened our cooperation, enhanced our solidarity and mutual trust, improved the lives of our peoples, and made our bond of interests and friendship even closer. Indeed, our cooperation has contributed much to global economic recovery and growth.

We are witnessing major changes unfolding in our world, something unseen in a century. This is a world of both opportunities and challenges for us emerging markets and developing countries. We should pursue BRICS cooperation in the historical process of global transformation, and we should promote the development of our own countries in the historical course of promoting the common development of both BRICS countries and other countries in the world, thus making new advances in the next Golden Decade.

-- The next decade will be a crucial one in which new global growth drivers will take the place of old ones. A new round of revolution and transformation in science, technology and industries featuring artificial intelligence, big data, quantum information and biotechnology are gaining momentum. They are giving birth to a large number of new industries and business forms and models and will fundamentally change global development and people's work and

lives. We must seize this important opportunity to enable emerging markets and developing countries to achieve leapfrog development.

-- The next decade will see faster changes in the international landscape and the international alignment of forces. Emerging markets and developing countries already contribute 80 percent of global economic growth. Based on exchange rate calculation, these countries account for nearly 40 percent of the global economic output. Growing at their current rates, these countries will see their economic output approach half of the global total in a decade. The collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries is unstoppable, and it will make global development more balanced and global peace more firmly based.

-- The next decade will see a profound reshaping of the global governance system. The world is moving toward multi-polarity and greater economic globalization amid setbacks. Geopolitical hotspots keep emerging, and the dark shadow of terrorism and armed conflicts still haunts us. Unilateralism and protectionism are mounting, dealing a severe blow to multilateralism and the multilateral trading regime. The international community has reached a new crossroads; and we are facing a choice between cooperation and confrontation, between opening-up and a close-door policy, and between mutual benefit and a beggar-thy-neighbor approach. Thus, the evolution of global governance system will have a profound impact on the development of all countries, particularly emerging markets and developing countries, and indeed on the prosperity and stability of the whole world.

We BRICS countries should keep abreast of the historical trend, seize development opportunities, jointly meet challenges, and play a constructive role in building a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind.

First, we should pursue win-win cooperation to build an open economy. Openness and cooperation are the sure way to achieve progress in science and technology and growth of productivity. A trade war should be rejected, because there will be no winner. Economic hegemony is even more objectionable, as it will undermine the collective interests of the international community; those who pursue this course will only end up hurting themselves.

As the world economy is going through profound transition and changes, only by opening themselves can different countries achieve mutual benefit, shared prosperity and sustainable development. This should be the right choice for all countries. We BRICS countries should firmly promote an open world economy, be resolute in rejecting unilateralism and protectionism, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and jointly steer the global economy toward greater openness, inclusiveness, balanced growth and win-win outcomes for all. We should ensure that economic globalization will deliver more benefits. We should help emerging markets and developing countries, African countries and the least developed countries in particular, fully involve themselves in international division of labor and share in the benefits of economic globalization.

Second, we should pursue innovation and seize development

opportunities. Science and technology, as the primary production forces, have provided inexhaustible power driving progress of human civilization. Humanity had made giant leaps forward as it progressed from an agricultural civilization to an industrial civilization, a process which created both huge gains in social productivity and growing pains. The world today has once again reached a critical historic juncture. In the unfolding new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, new things will inevitably emerge and take the place of old ones. Indeed, this will be a difficult and painful process. But if countries succeed in seizing opportunities that have presented themselves, they will be able to achieve new dynamic growth and deliver better lives to their people.

In the face of new opportunities brought by new science and technology, every country has an equal right to development. Those who fail to keep abreast of the trend of the times will fall behind and become irrelevant. What we can and should do is to seize opportunities, increase input in innovation, focus on creating new areas of growth and replace old growth drivers with new ones. We should endeavor to advance structural reform, remove all institutional barriers to innovation and fully unlock innovation potential and energize the market. We should develop a global perspective, boost international exchanges and cooperation in innovation, and fully leverage each other's comparative strengths and resource endowment, so as to enable more countries and people to benefit from scientific and technological advances. At the same time, we should ease the impact of application of information technology, automation and smart

technology on traditional industries and create new job opportunities in the process of fostering new industries.

Third, we should pursue inclusive growth to deliver benefits to people of all countries. Uneven and insufficient development is a common challenge facing all countries. The North-South gap, namely, the gap between developed countries and emerging markets and developing countries, remains huge. And there are also development gaps of varying degrees within countries.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a comprehensive action plan for the international community. We BRICS countries should, basing ourselves on our actual national conditions, follow the guidance of the 2030 Agenda as we pursue our own development strategies. We should put people first, ensure coordinated economic and social development and protect the environment, thus giving our people a stronger sense of fulfillment and happiness. We should ensure harmony between man and nature and encourage the international community to fully implement the Paris Agreement. We should treat nature with awe and do more to foster an ecological system conducive to green development. It is necessary to promote international development cooperation, urge developed countries to fulfill their promises on official development assistance and increase support to developing countries.

Home to more developing countries than any other continent, Africa has more development potential than any other region in the world. We should strengthen cooperation with Africa, support its

development and make BRICS-Africa cooperation a model for South-South cooperation. We should actively carry out cooperation with African countries in such areas as poverty reduction, food security, innovation, infrastructure development and industrialization in a way compatible with their national conditions. We should help African countries develop their economic structure, contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and thus enable Africa, an ancient continent, to gain strong vitality.

Fourth, we should uphold multilateralism and improve global governance. An enabling and stable external environment is crucial for the development of all countries, especially emerging markets and developing countries. Obviously, the current international order is not a perfect one. But as long as it is rule-based, aims to be equitable and pursues win-win outcomes as its goal, such an international order should not be discarded at will, still less should it be dismantled and rebuilt all over again.

We BRICS countries must uphold multilateralism. We should urge all parties to fully observe collectively adopted international rules, and we should treat all countries as equals regardless of their size, address issues that matter to all through consultation and oppose hegemony and power politics. We should promote common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, get actively involved in mediation efforts for resolving geopolitical hotspot issues. It is important for us to firmly support the multilateral trading regime, advance global economic governance reform and increase the representation and voice of emerging markets and developing countries.

When new rules are made on such issues as innovation, trade and investment and intellectual property protection or on new frontiers including cyberspace, outer space or the polar regions, we should make sure that the views of emerging markets and developing countries are heeded, their interests and demands are taken into consideration, and there are sufficient opportunities for their development.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up. Success only comes through hard work. During the past 40 years, China has come a long way. With strenuous efforts, China has blazed a path of building socialism with distinctive Chinese features. Proceeding from China's realities and developing a global vision, we in China have both drawn strength from the wisdom of the time-honored Chinese civilization and learned from other countries, both east and west. We have embraced the world and integrated our country fully into it. While pursuing its own development, China has also made important contribution to peace and development of mankind.

As the world's biggest developing country, China will ride the trend of the times and pursue innovation-driven, coordinated, green and open development for all. We will step up efforts to pursue innovation-driven development and fully engage in international cooperation on innovation and technologies. We will take an active part in South-South cooperation to foster greater opportunities for common development of emerging markets and developing countries.

China will continue to develop itself with its door wide open. At the annual conference of the Boao Forum for Asia held last April, I announced a number of new initiatives to open China further, and these initiatives are being speedily pursued. China will build a more investment-friendly environment that is aligned with international standards, more transparent and law-based and encourages competition and opposes monopoly. China will take tough law enforcement steps to strengthen protection of intellectual property rights and make IPR infringement even more costly. We encourage companies to maintain normal technological exchanges and cooperation, and will see to it that their lawful intellectual property rights are protected. China will also increase imports to promote balance of payment under the current account.

China will host the first China International Import Expo in Shanghai this November, a major move to firmly support trade liberalization and open its market. The Expo will serve as a new platform for the world to access the Chinese market. By now, over 130 countries and regions and more than 2,800 companies have confirmed participation and over 150,000 buyers in and outside China are expected to attend this fair. I welcome business leaders from other BRICS and African countries to attend the Expo.

China will continue to vigorously pursue the Belt and Road Initiative to create new opportunities of social and economic development for participating countries and for them to implement the UN 2030 Agenda. The Belt and Road Initiative, guided by the principle of seeking shared

benefits through extensive consultation and joint contribution, originated in China but belongs to the world. It is our sincere hope that other BRICS countries, African countries and other emerging markets and developing countries will forge strong partnerships with this initiative so that its benefits will reach more countries and their peoples.

China and African countries are destined to be good friends, good brothers and good partners, and China-Africa cooperation stands as a fine example of South-South cooperation. This coming September will see a reunion of China and African countries at the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing. Themed on "China and Africa: Toward an Even Stronger Community with a Shared Future through Win-Win Cooperation," the Beijing Summit aims to enhance complementarity between China-Africa joint efforts to pursue the Belt and Road Initiative, the 2030 Agenda and the 2063 Agenda on the one hand and the development strategies of African countries on the other. This will enable China and Africa to pursue high quality and high standard cooperation for mutual benefit and common development.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

Business cooperation is the most important and fruitful aspect of BRICS cooperation. Thanks to our joint efforts, new advances have been made in this cooperation this year. We BRICS countries will forge a partnership on the new industrial revolution, which involves more coordination of macro economic policies, closer cooperation on innovation and industrialization and joint efforts to accelerate economic upgrading and the replacement of growth drivers. Our five BRICS countries have also made good progress in cooperation on trade facilitation, service trade, e-commerce, intellectual property rights and in other fields. These steps will enable us to seize opportunities and meet challenges in a changing world and enrich the BRICS Economic Partnership Strategy.

The business community is the mainstay of BRICS economic cooperation and a dynamic force driving it. As business leaders, you have a great role to play in shaping the second Golden Decade of BRICS cooperation. I hope that you will fully leverage your strengths to enhance win-win cooperation for common

development between our five countries. As business leaders, you should take bold steps to explore new ground in pursuing reform and innovation. And working together, you can surely open up new horizon for the development of our five countries and other emerging markets and developing countries. I also hope you will keep in mind the needs of the people and pursue both economic and social returns, so as to increase public support for BRICS cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Friends,

This year marks the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela. Let me quote one of his famous sayings, "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb." Indeed, the history of BRICS cooperation is a journey of our five countries climbing great hills only to reach new heights. I am convinced that when our five countries forge ahead together, we will scale new peaks, reach new heights, and make even greater contribution to peace and development of mankind.

Thank you.

XI CALLS FOR EXPANDING "BRICS PLUS" COOPERATION TO ADDRESS COMMON CHALLENGES

Chinese President Xi Jinping on July 27 called on emerging market economies and developing countries to enhance cooperation in addressing common challenges.

Xi made the remarks in a speech to an outreach dialogue grouping leaders from the BRICS, the "BRICS Plus" and African countries at the 10th BRICS summit here.

The leaders discussed international development and cooperation, as well as the important cause of South-South cooperation, and reached broad consensus.



The world is undergoing great developments and transformation, during which emerging markets and developing countries are faced with shared opportunities and challenges, Xi said, stressing that it is increasingly important for them to enhance solidarity and cooperation.

First, he said, the BRICS countries and their partners should jointly deepen their mutually beneficial partnership.

We should understand, support, stay forever with and help each other, taking "BRICS Plus" cooperation as an opportunity to build an open, inclusive, cooperative and win-win partnership and create a platform for deepening South-South cooperation, said the Chinese president.

Second, the BRICS countries and their partners should jointly explore new driving forces for development, Xi said.

We should together seize the opportunity of the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution set up at this summit to take the high ground of development, and release our potential in complementarities and coordination, so as to achieve innovative, interconnected and inclusive development, he said.

Third, the Chinese president urged the BRICS partners to jointly create a positive external environment, protect the multilateral trade regime, build an open world economy, continue to promote global economic governance reform, and strengthen the representation and voice of emerging market economies and developing countries.

Fourth, we should build a new type of international relations together, firmly safeguard multilateralism, push the development of international order

toward a more just and rational direction and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Xi said.

We should stick to the international development and cooperation model of regarding North-South cooperation as the main channel, and South-South cooperation as a complement, he said.

President Xi stressed that it is significant that the BRICS summit was once again held in Africa, noting that we should take it as an opportunity to comprehensively deepen the partnership between BRICS and African countries.

China and Africa have been good friends, good partners and good brothers, said Xi, adding that with joint efforts, the China-Africa comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership has developed rapidly,

having formed a pattern of all-round, multi-level and wide-ranging cooperation that benefits billions of people.

Regardless of how the international order changes, China will continue to maintain the policy of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith and uphold justice and shared interests to continuously support Africa in achieving prosperity, he said.

China and Africa will jointly hold the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in September.

Xi said he is looking forward to meeting African leaders in the Beijing summit and called for injecting new impetus into the China-Africa comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

He also pointed out that the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, with China still being the world's largest developing country.

China will stay as a developing country no matter how it develops, staunchly support the development of developing countries and be committed to building close partnerships, according to the Chinese president.

We should pull together and work hand in hand to strive ahead advancing greater development for emerging markets and developing countries, he noted.

Leaders invited for the dialogue commended the BRICS leaders for carrying forward the practices from last year's Xiamen Summit by conducting such a dialogue, saying it

reflects the inclusiveness of the BRICS cooperation.

They pledged support to institutionalize the dialogue and build extensive development partnerships in a bid to advance South-South cooperation.

Under the current circumstances with the challenges of rising unilateralism and protectionism, all parties believe in the need to strengthen solidarity and cooperation between emerging markets and developing countries, promote development of cooperative partnership between the BRICS countries and Africa, enhance practical cooperation in various fields and jointly oppose unilateralism and protectionism, so as to gain inclusive growth, sustainable development and benefits to all.



Besides Xi, other BRICS leaders, including South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Brazilian President Michel Temer, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the

leaders or representatives of the leaders from Angola, Argentina, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal,

Seychelles, Tanzania, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Jamaica, as well as heads of regional organizations in Africa attended the dialogue.

FULL TEXT OF BRICS SUMMIT JOHANNESBURG DECLARATION

BRICS in Africa:

Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution
Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa, 25 to 27 July 2018
10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration

Following is the full text of the 10th BRICS Summit Johannesburg Declaration released on July 26:

I. PREAMBLE

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, met from 25 - 27 July 2018 in Johannesburg, at the 10th BRICS Summit. The 10th BRICS Summit, as a milestone in the history of BRICS, was held under the theme "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution".

2. We are meeting on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela and we recognise his values, principles and dedication to the service of humanity and acknowledge his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of the culture of peace throughout the world.

3. We commend South Africa for

the Johannesburg Summit thrust on development, inclusivity and mutual prosperity in the context of technology driven industrialisation and growth.

4. We, the Heads of State and Government, express satisfaction regarding the achievements of BRICS over the last ten years as a strong demonstration of BRICS cooperation toward the attainment of peace, harmony and shared development and prosperity, and deliberated on ways to consolidate them further.

5. We reaffirm our commitment to the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, democracy, inclusiveness and strengthened collaboration. As we build upon the successive BRICS Summits, we further commit ourselves to enhancing our strategic partnership for the benefit of our people through the promotion of peace, a fairer international order, sustainable development and inclusive growth, and to strengthening the three-pillar-driven cooperation in the areas of economy, peace and security and people-to-people exchanges.

6. We recommit ourselves to a world of peace and stability, and support the central role of the United Nations, the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter and respect for international law, promoting democracy and the rule of law. We reinforce our commitment to upholding multilateralism and to working together on the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals as we foster a more representative, democratic, equitable, fair and just international political and economic order.

7. We reiterate our determination to work together to strengthen multilateralism and the rule of law in international relations, and to promote a fair, just, equitable, democratic and representative international order.

8. We recommit our support for multilateralism and the central role of the United Nations in international affairs and uphold fair, just and equitable international order based on the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, respect for

international law, promoting democracy and the rule of law in international relations, and to address common traditional and non-traditional security challenges.

9. We welcome the hosting of the BRICS-Africa Outreach and second BRICS Plus Cooperation with Emerging Markets and Developing Countries (EMDCs) during the Johannesburg Summit.

10. We express satisfaction at the outcomes of Ministerial Meetings that have been held (Annex 1) and look forward to the remainder of meetings to be held under the 2018 BRICS Calendar of Events.

II. STRENGTHENING MULTILATERALISM, REFORMING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND ADDRESSING COMMON CHALLENGES

11. We reaffirm our commitment to the United Nations, as the universal multilateral organisation entrusted with the mandate for maintaining international peace and security, advancing global development and promoting and protecting human rights.

12. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and support for the United Nations as the universal intergovernmental organisation entrusted with the responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, advancing sustainable development as well as ensuring the promotion, and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

13. We reiterate our commitment to the strengthening of multilateral

institutions of global governance to ensure that they are able to comprehensively address global challenges.

14. We also recognise the inherent strength of regional initiatives in support of the objectives of the broader multilateral system.

15. We further reaffirm our commitment to the centrality of the universal collective security system enshrined in the UN Charter. We recognize the importance of working towards an international system based on international law, with the UN Charter as its fundamental cornerstone, which fosters cooperation and stability in a multipolar order. We note the long overdue outstanding task of ensuring the adequate representation of African States in the UN, especially in peace and security matters.

16. Faced with international challenges requiring our cooperative efforts, we reiterate our commitment to shaping a more fair, just and representative multipolar international order to the shared benefit of humanity, in which the general prohibition of the use of force is fully upheld and which excludes the imposition of unilateral coercive measures outside the framework of the UN Charter. We emphasise the indivisible nature of peace and security and reiterate that no country should enhance its security at the expense of the security of others.

17. We recall the 2005 World Summit Outcome document and reaffirm the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more representative, effective and efficient, and to increase

the representation of the developing countries so that it can adequately respond to global challenges. China and Russia reiterate the importance they attach to the status and role of Brazil, India and South Africa in international affairs and support their aspiration to play a greater role in the UN.

18. We underscore the importance of sustained efforts aimed at making the United Nations more effective and efficient in implementing its mandates. We encourage further collaboration amongst the BRICS countries on a better resourced UN, on its administration and budget, on preserving the UN's Member State-driven character and ensuring better oversight of and strengthening the Organisation.

19. We express our support for continued cooperation of BRICS members in areas of mutual interest including through regular exchanges amongst their multilateral Missions.

20. We reaffirm our commitment to fully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to provide equitable, inclusive, open, all-round innovation-driven and sustainable development, in its three dimensions - economic, social and environmental - in a balanced and integrated manner, towards the ultimate goal of eradicating poverty by 2030. We pledge our support for the important role of the United Nations, including the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), in coordinating and reviewing global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to reform the UN Development System with a view to enhancing its

capability in supporting member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda. We urge developed countries to honour their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments fully in time and to provide additional development resources to developing countries.

21. Regarding Climate Change, we welcome the progress towards finalizing the Work Programme under the Paris Agreement and express our willingness to continue working constructively with other Parties to conclude its related negotiations at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) towards the 24th Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP24) to be held in Katowice, Poland in December 2018. We call upon all countries to fully implement the Paris Agreement adopted under the principles of the UNFCCC including the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and urge developed countries to provide financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing countries to enhance their capability in mitigation and adaptation.

22. We undertake to strengthen BRICS cooperation in energy, especially in transitioning to more environmentally sustainable energy systems supportive of the global sustainable development agenda, balanced economic growth and the collective socio-economic wellbeing of our citizens. We continue to strive toward universal energy access, energy security, energy affordability, reduced pollution and environmental conservation. We reaffirm that the diversification of energy supply sources, including renewable and low carbon energy sources, investments in energy and energy infrastructure,

energy industry and market development and intra-BRICS collaboration for access to primary energy sources will continue to underpin our energy security. We recognise the need to accelerate energy transition including in transportation, heating and industry uses.

23. We acknowledge the importance of energy efficiency and the popularisation of an energy efficient life style in virtue of its potential contributions to energy security, industrial competitiveness, emissions reduction, economic growth, job creation and other areas when introduced.

24. We acknowledge that the BRICS Ministers of Energy agreed to establish the BRICS Energy Research Cooperation Platform and to develop its Terms of Reference, and note the ongoing discussions for that purpose.

25. We reaffirm and support the establishment of the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform (ARP) initiated by India in 2016. We appreciate the fundamental importance of research, development and innovation in global sustainability and competitiveness. We endeavour to strengthen the agricultural research collaborative networks among the BRICS countries to enhance the resilience of the collective agricultural and food systems in the face of the changing climate. We recognise the need for follow-up steps in implementing the aims and objectives of the ARP. We commit to step up intra-BRICS collaboration including within the frame of the Agriculture Research Platform and the Basic Agriculture Information Exchange System (BAIES).

26. We acknowledge the

outcomes of the 4th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting which was held under the theme "Strengthening cooperation amongst BRICS on Circular Economy in the context of the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)". We note that the circular economy approach represents enormous potential to reduce waste, to forge more environmentally sustainable processes, diversify our economies whilst contributing to economic growth and job creation.

27. We acknowledge the outcomes of the successive BRICS Environment Ministers' Meetings including the implementation of the Environmentally Friendly Technology Platform, Clean Rivers Umbrella Programme and the Partnership for Urban Environment Sustainability Initiative. The progress in the establishment of the BRICS Environmentally Sound Technology (BEST) Cooperation Platform is acknowledged, which is intended to be practical and results orientated, and would include partners, science organisations, civil society, private sector and financial institutions.

28. We welcome the commitment to enhance cooperation in the field of water on the basis of sustainable development in an integrated way, addressing the themes of water access flood protection, drought management, water supply and sanitation, water and climate, systematically facilitating water pollution prevention and control, river and lake ecosystem restoration and preservation, ecosystem conservation, and water resources management.

29. We acknowledge the BRICS Meeting of Heads of Disaster Management in Buffalo City, wherein

the Action Plan 2018-2020, was adopted and the first meeting of the BRICS Joint Task Force was held to further enhance our cooperation in this field.

30. We reaffirm the intention to enhance cooperation and collaboration amongst BRICS countries in the field of biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable access and benefit sharing of biological resources, and also undertake to promote our cooperation in biodiversity-related international conventions and fora including on endangered species and amongst our National Parks authorities.

31. We recognise the vast potential in cooperation and collaboration in advancing the Oceans Economy amongst BRICS countries, which encompasses multiple sectors, including the strategic areas of maritime transport, shipbuilding, offshore oil and exploration, aquaculture, port development, research and technology, conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, marine and coastal tourism, financial and insurance services, as well as coastal industrial zone development.

32. We remain committed to the continued implementation of the Agenda for BRICS cooperation on population matters 2015-2020, which was agreed to by the Ministers responsible for Population Matters in 2014, because the dynamics of population age structure changes in BRICS countries pose challenges and present opportunities, particularly with regard to gender inequality and women's rights, youth development, employment and the future of work, urbanisation, migration and ageing.

33. We deplore the continued terrorist attacks, including in some BRICS countries. We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever committed and by whomsoever. We urge concerted efforts to counter terrorism under the UN auspices on a firm international legal basis and express our conviction that a comprehensive approach is necessary to ensure an effective fight against terrorism. We recall the responsibility of all States to prevent financing of terrorist networks and terrorist actions from their territories.

34. We call upon the international community to establish a genuinely broad international counter-terrorism coalition and support the UN's central coordinating role in this regard. We stress that the fight against terrorism must be conducted in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, international refugee and humanitarian law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. We reaffirm our commitment on increasing the effectiveness of the UN counter-terrorism framework, including in the areas of cooperation and coordination among the relevant UN entities, designation of terrorists and terrorist groups and technical assistance to Members States. We call for expeditious finalisation and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) by the United Nations General Assembly.

35. To address the threat of chemical and biological terrorism, we support and emphasise the need for launching multilateral negotiations on an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism, including at the

Conference on Disarmament.

36. We firmly believe that those responsible for committing, organising, or supporting terrorist acts must be held accountable. We call upon all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism, which should include countering radicalisation, recruitment, travel of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, blocking sources and channels of terrorist financing including, for instance, through organised crime by means of money-laundering, supply of weapons, drug trafficking and other criminal activities, dismantling terrorist bases, and countering misuse of the Internet by terrorist entities through misuse of the latest Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

37. We reaffirm the importance of the elaboration under the UN auspices of rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States in ensuring security in the use of ICTs.

38. We embrace the undeniable benefits and new opportunities brought about by the advances in ICTs, especially in the context of the 4th industrial revolution. However, these advances also bring with them new challenges and threats resultant from the growing misuse of ICTs for criminal activities, the increasing malicious use of ICTs by state and non-state actors. In this regard, we stress the importance of international cooperation against terrorist and criminal use of ICTs and therefore reiterate the need to develop a universal regulatory binding instrument on combating the criminal use of ICTs within the UN. We acknowledge the progress made in promoting cooperation according

to the BRICS Roadmap of Practical Cooperation on Ensuring Security in the Use of ICTs or any other mutually agreed mechanism. We also acknowledge the importance to establish a framework of cooperation among BRICS member States on ensuring security in the Use of ICTs and, in this regard, BRICS member States will work towards consideration and elaboration of a BRICS intergovernmental agreement on cooperation on this matter.

III. STRENGTHENING AND CONSOLIDATING BRICS COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

39. We reaffirm our commitment to collective efforts for peaceful settlement of disputes through political and diplomatic means, and recognise the role of the UN Security Council as bearing the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

40. We express our concern over the ongoing conflict and heightened tensions in the Middle-East region and our conviction that there is no place for unlawful resorting to force or external interference in any conflict and that, ultimately, lasting peace can only be established through broad-based, inclusive national dialogue with due respect for the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of each of the countries of the region. We agree that, in each of the countries in the region, citizens have legitimate aspirations to fully enjoy civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms, especially with regard to the Israeli-Palestinian situation.

41. We agree that the conflicts elsewhere in the Middle East and

North Africa should not be used to delay resolution of long-standing conflicts, in particular the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We reiterate the need for renewed diplomatic efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in order to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid Principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and previous agreements between the parties, through negotiations with a view to creating an independent, viable, territorially contiguous Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel. We reiterate that the status of Jerusalem is one of the final status issues to be defined in the context of negotiations between Israel and Palestine. With regard to the situation in Gaza, we reiterate our support to the UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/ES-10/20) on the protection of the Palestinian population and call for its full implementation.

42. We reiterate our support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). We commend its vital role in providing health, education and other basic services for almost 5.3 million Palestinian refugees and underscore its relevance to bringing stability to the region and the need for ensuring a more adequate, sufficient, predictable and sustained funding for the Agency.

43. The ongoing conflict and major humanitarian crisis in the Republic of Yemen are also causes for further concern. We call for unhindered access for the provision of humanitarian assistance to all parts of Yemen and urge the international community to expeditiously provide

the necessary assistance. We urge all parties to fully respect international law, to cease hostilities and to return to the UN brokered peace talks, leading to an inclusive Yemeni-led dialogue towards the achievement of a political solution to the conflict.

44. We also call on all parties directly involved in the current diplomatic crisis in the Gulf region to overcome their dissensions through dialogue and welcome the efforts of Kuwait in this regard.

45. We reaffirm our support for the process of an "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned" national peace and reconciliation process. We express our concern over the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan particularly the increase in the number and intensity of terrorist-related attacks on the Afghan National Security Forces, the Government and civilians. We call on the international community to assist the government and the people of Afghanistan with the objective of working towards the realisation of peace. We also welcome the Parliamentary elections that are scheduled to be held in October 2018 and the Presidential elections in 2019.

46. We reaffirm our commitment for a political resolution of the conflict in Syria, through an inclusive "Syrian-led, Syrian-owned" political process that safeguards the state sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Syria, in pursuance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015) and taking into account the result of the Congress of the Syrian National Dialogue in Sochi. We reiterate our support for the Geneva process and the mediation offered by the UN, as well as the Astana process which has been showing signs of

positive developments on the ground, and stress the complementarity between the two initiatives. We reaffirm our commitment to a peaceful resolution in Syria and our opposition to measures that run contrary to the UN Charter and the authority of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and that do not contribute to advancing the political process. We also highlighted the importance of unity in the fight against terrorist organisations in Syria in full observance of the relevant UNSC Resolutions. We reiterate our strong condemnation of the use of chemical weapons by any party, for any purpose and under any circumstances and renew calls for comprehensive, objective, independent, and transparent investigations of all alleged incidents. We call for enhanced efforts to provide necessary humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people, bearing in mind urgent reconstruction needs.

47. Recalling the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear programme we call upon all parties to fully comply with their obligations and ensure full and effective implementation of the JCPOA to promote international and regional peace and security.

48. We welcome recent developments to achieve the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and maintain peace and stability in North East Asia. We reaffirm the commitment for a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to the situation.

49. We express our serious concern about the possibility of an arms race in outer space and of outer space turning into an arena for

military confrontation. We reaffirm that the prevention of an arms race, including of the placement of weapons in outer space, would avert a grave danger for international peace and security. We emphasise the paramount importance of strict compliance with the existing legal regime providing for the peaceful use of outer space. We also reaffirm that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce this regime. We welcome the newly established Group of Governmental Experts to discuss possible elements for a legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space including inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space. We stress that practical transparency and confidence building measures may also contribute towards non-placement of weapons in outer space. We reiterate that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects.

50. We welcome South Africa's hosting of the Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations in Pretoria on 4 June 2018. The Ministers exchanged views on major global political, security, economic and financial issues of common concern and on strengthening BRICS cooperation. We look forward to the forthcoming Meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations on the margins of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

51. We welcome the 8th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives

for Security held on 28 and 29 June 2018 in Durban, and commend them for enriching BRICS' dialogue on the global security environment, counter-terrorism, security in the use of ICTs, major international and regional hotspots, transnational organised crime, peacekeeping, as well as the linkage between national security and development issues.

52. We emphasise the important role of United Nations peacekeeping to international peace and security, and the contribution of BRICS countries in this regard. We recognise the need for BRICS countries to further enhance mutual communication and cooperation on peacekeeping matters at the United Nations and the South African initiative for a BRICS working group on peacekeeping in this regard.

53. We commend the African Union for its efforts aimed at resolving and managing conflicts on the continent and welcome the strengthening of the cooperation between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. We commend the African Union's commitment to the "Silencing of the Guns by 2020" and support efforts to strengthen the African Peace and Security Architecture.

IV. BRICS PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY, REFORM OF FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS, AND THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

54. We welcome that the global economy has continued to improve, while noting that growth has been less synchronised and that downside

risks still remain. This is reflected in a variety of challenges including rising trade conflicts, geopolitical risks, commodity price volatility, high private and public indebtedness, inequality and not sufficiently inclusive growth. We understand the critical importance of ensuring that the benefits from growth are shared in a more inclusive manner. We further stress the importance of a favourable external environment for sustained growth of global trade.

55. BRICS economies continue to support global economic expansion and outlook. We advocate continued use of fiscal, monetary and structural policies in concert, to forge strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. We express concern at the spill-over effects of macro-economic policy measures in some major advanced economies that may cause economic and financial volatility in emerging economies and impact their growth prospects adversely. We call on major advanced and emerging market economies to continue policy dialogue and coordination in the context of the G20, FSB and other fora to address these potential risks.

56. Recalling the Johannesburg Summit's focus on the 4th Industrial Revolution and the outcomes of the BRICS Meetings of Science and Technology and Industry Ministers, we commend the establishment of the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR). To commence the full operationalisation of PartNIR, an Advisory Group will be set up, comprising of respective representatives of BRICS Ministries of Industry, in consultation with appropriate Ministries, to develop, as a first step, the Terms of Reference and a Work Plan aligned with the 4th Industrial Revolution priorities, to be

submitted to the BRICS Chair. The PartNIR aims at deepening BRICS cooperation in digitalisation, industrialisation, innovation, inclusiveness and investment, to maximise the opportunities and address the challenges arising from the 4th Industrial Revolution. It should enhance comparative advantages, boost economic growth, promote economic transformation of BRICS countries, strengthen sustainable industrial production capacity, create networks of science parks and technology business incubators, and support small and medium-sized enterprises in technology intensive areas. We believe that the initiative to establish the BRICS Networks of Science Parks, Technology Business Incubators and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises is a promising step in that direction.

57. We recognise the critical and positive role the internet plays globally in promoting economic, social and cultural development. In this regard, we commit to continue to work together through the existing mechanisms to contribute to the secure, open, peaceful, cooperative and orderly use of ICTs on the basis of participation by all states on an equal footing in the evolution and functioning of the internet and its governance, bearing in mind the need to involve the relevant stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities.

58. We recognise the importance of BRICS scientific, technical, innovation and entrepreneurship cooperation for sustainable development and to enhance inclusive growth. We welcome the dynamic development of BRICS cooperation in science, technology and innovation and attach special importance to the advancement of our joint work in this

area. We affirm the value of implementing coordinated BRICS scientific projects aimed at promoting BRICS science, technology and innovation potential as a contribution to our combined efforts in addressing the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

59. We commend the progress of ongoing BRICS IPR cooperation. We recognise the importance of the development and transfer of technologies, including to developing countries, contributing to long-term sustainable and balanced global growth, and in this regard stress the importance of strengthening cooperation in intellectual property rights which contributes to innovation and the advent of new technologies to the benefit of society as a whole.

60. We are convinced that trade and technology are vital sources of inclusive growth, including through economic integration and consolidation of global value chains in sustainable and equitable ways. Technological progress will have wide ranging implications for production of goods and services as well as incomes of people. Appropriate policies and measures need to be taken to ensure that the developing countries benefit from the advantages of technological progress and do not suffer from lack of its early adoption. It is essential to develop effective policies to bridge the digital divides, including through supporting people to learn and by adopting new technologies and ensure effective mechanisms for transfer of relevant technologies.

61. We strongly acknowledge that skills development is critical to addressing the emerging mismatch

between the new skills demanded by an increasingly technology-and knowledge-driven global economy and the older skill set of many workers. The pace, scale and scope of present-day economic change make it that more challenging. In this regard, we support measures including policy recommendations proposed in the G20 Initiative to Promote Quality Apprenticeship and the BRICS Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation and Reduction through Skills, to further facilitate vocational training, lifelong learning and the training that is relevant to the fast-changing demand of growing economies and world of work.

62. We reaffirm the centrality of the rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system, as embodied in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), that promotes a predictable trade environment and the centrality of the WTO, and recognise the importance of the development dimension, and will make all efforts to strengthen the multilateral trading system.

63. We recognise that the multilateral trading system is facing unprecedented challenges. We underscore the importance of an open world economy, enabling all countries and peoples to share the benefits of globalisation, which should be inclusive and support sustainable development and prosperity of all countries. We call on all WTO members to abide by WTO rules and honour their commitments in the multilateral trading system.

64. We recall that the WTO Dispute Settlement System is a cornerstone of the multilateral

trading system and is designed to enhance security and predictability in international trade. We note with concern the impasse in the selection process for new Appellate Body Members that can paralyse the dispute settlement system and undermine the rights and obligations of all Members. We, therefore, urge all Members to engage constructively to address this challenge as a matter of priority.

65. We acknowledge the need to upkeep WTO's negotiating function. We, therefore, agree to constructively engage in further developing the current legal framework of the multilateral trading system within the WTO, taking into consideration the concerns and interests of all WTO members, including in particular the developing members.

66. We acknowledge the importance of infrastructure development and connectivity in Africa and recognise the strides made by the African Union to identify and address the continent's infrastructure challenges, inter alia, through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). We support the importance of stimulating infrastructure investment on the basis of mutual benefit to support industrial development, job-creation, skills development, food and nutrition security and poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa. We therefore reaffirm our support for sustainable infrastructure development in Africa, including addressing the infrastructure financing deficit.

67. Keenly aware of the need for

Africa's industrialisation and the realisation of the African Union's Agenda 2063, we commend African countries and the African Union on the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The AfCFTA is an important step to economic integration on the continent and the unlocking of the tremendous potential of intra-African trade and in addressing its socio-economic challenges. In this regard, we reiterate our support for Agenda 2063 and efforts to promote continental integration and development.

68. We advocate for a strong Global Financial Safety Net with an adequately resourced, quota-based International Monetary Fund (IMF) at its centre. To this effect, we reaffirm our commitment to conclude the IMF's 15th General Review of Quotas, including a new quota formula while protecting the voice of the poorest countries by the 2019 Spring Meetings and no later than the 2019 Annual Meetings. Governance reform of the IMF should strengthen the voice and representation of the poorest members of the IMF, including Sub-Saharan Africa.

69. We welcome and congratulate Governor Lesetja Kganyago of the South African Reserve Bank on his appointment as the Chair of the International Monetary and Financial Committee.

70. We note the steps undertaken on strengthening and ensuring the operational readiness of the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) and welcome the completion of a successful test run of the de-

linked portion of the CRA mechanism. We encourage cooperation between the CRA and the IMF.

71. We note with satisfaction the progress achieved on establishing the BRICS Local Currency Bond Fund, and look forward to starting its operation.

72. We agree to further strengthen cooperation on convergence of accounting standards and auditing oversight of BRICS countries in the area of bond issuance, and to further cooperation in these areas.

73. We welcome the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and Blockchain Technology in the Context of the Development of the Digital Economy. We believe that this work will contribute to our cooperation in adapting to the evolving internet economy.

74. Infrastructure, investment and international development assistance projects are the bedrock for sustainable economic development and growth; boosting productivity and enhancing integration. We stress the significance of infrastructure development and integration to foster closer economic ties.

75. We underscore the role that Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), in particular, the New Development Bank (NDB), are playing in catalysing private sector financing for public infrastructure and investment.

76. We draw satisfaction from the

progress made by the NDB in providing resources to contribute to the social, economic and environmental prospects of our countries and expect the Project Preparation Fund to be put into operation soon. We welcome the upcoming establishment of the Americas Regional Office in Sao Paulo, Brazil, which, alongside the Africa Regional Centre, will help the NDB consolidate its presence in those continents. We note the NDB's Board of Governors' discussions on Innovative Approaches for Development Finance at its 3rd Annual Meeting on 28-29 May in Shanghai, China, that deliberated on the NDB's future development in the changing global environment.

77. We stress the importance of enhancing BRICS financial cooperation to better serve the real economy and meet the development needs of BRICS countries. In the regard, we reaffirm our commitment to facilitate financial market integration through promoting the network of financial institutions and the coverage of financial services within BRICS countries, subject to each country's existing regulatory framework and WTO GATS obligations, and to ensure greater communication and cooperation between financial sector regulators. We will continue to enhance currency cooperation, consistent with each central bank's legal mandate, and to explore more modalities of the cooperation. We will also further expand green financing, so as to promote sustainable development in BRICS countries.

78. We reaffirm our commitment to support international cooperation in combating illicit financial flows,

including cooperation within Financial Actions Task Force (FATF) and World Customs Organisation. In this regard, we underscore the importance of increasing mutual exchanges and data sharing. We emphasise the importance of upholding and supporting the objectives of FATF and to intensify our cooperation to implement and improve its Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation in FATF.

79. Corruption remains a global challenge with long-lasting impact, including the undermining of legal systems of states. It also presents a threat to economic growth by discouraging the necessary local and foreign investment in a country. We reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation as envisaged in Chapter IV of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In that context, we commit to strengthening international cooperation within the context of the BRICS Working Group on Anticorruption Cooperation. Subject to our domestic legal systems we will cooperate in anti-corruption law enforcement, extradition of fugitives, economic and corruption offenders and repatriation in matters relating to assets recovery and other related criminal and non-criminal matters involving corruption and call on the International community to deny safe haven to corrupt persons and proceeds of corruption. We regard experience sharing and exchange as key to increasing mutual understanding and enhancing BRICS anti-corruption cooperation and will continue our efforts in this aspect as we have done in previous years. We

will further offer each other support in the implementation of the UNCAC by creating platforms for exchanging information and exploring convergences in multi-lateral platforms. We commend the African Union on choosing 2018 as the year of combating corruption.

80. In operationalising the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership, we welcome the positive outcomes of the 8th BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting as supported by the ongoing activities of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI). We also welcome the good progress made in the implementation of the BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Cooperation. We encourage measures that support greater participation, value addition and upward mobility in Global Value Chains for our firms, particularly in industry and agriculture, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including through the preservation of policy space to promote industrial development. In recognising the importance of increased value-added trade amongst BRICS countries, we commend the Ministers of Trade for reconvening CGETI's Trade Promotion Working Group as well as the BRICS E-Commerce Working Group. We welcome the commissioning of the review of the BRICS Joint Trade Study on promoting intra-BRICS Value Added Trade. We welcome the positive outcomes of the 8th BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting on cooperation on the IPR, e-commerce, trade in service, and further enhancement of cooperation in E-commerce, on standards and technical regulations, MSMEs and model e-port.

81. We welcome the signing of the BRICS Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Aviation. We believe it is an important milestone in strengthening BRICS cooperation in the fields of connectivity and infrastructure.

82. We appreciate the outcomes of cooperation between BRICS Customs Administrations in implementing the Strategic Framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation, and welcome its long-term objectives, including the early conclusion and entry into force of the BRICS Customs Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement so that the BRICS Authorised Economic Operator Programme is functional by the end of 2022, including mutual recognition of controls and economic operators. In this regard, we further welcome the BRICS Customs Action Plan, which identifies actions that will be taken collectively by the BRICS Customs Administrations in the short, medium and long term to achieve the stated goals and the establishment of BRICS Custom Training Centres. We recognise the potential of the BRICS Customs Cooperation Committee and call for enhanced intra-BRICS cooperation and at relevant multilateral fora, including in trade facilitation, law enforcement, use of advanced information technologies and capacity building.

83. We acknowledge the continued support provided by the BRICS Revenue Authorities for all the international initiatives towards reaching a globally fair and universally transparent tax system. We will continue our commitment to deal with the implications of the digital economy and, within that context, to

ensure the fairness of the international tax system particularly towards the prevention of base erosion and shifting of profits, exchange of tax information, both on request and automatically, and needs-based capacity building for developing countries. We commit to deepen exchanges, sharing of experiences, best practices, mutual learning and exchanges of personnel in taxation matters. We welcome the establishment of the Capacity Building Mechanism between BRICS Revenue Authorities.

84. We acknowledge the contributions of the BRICS Business Council and its 5th Annual Report, as well as of the BRICS Business Forum, to enhancing trade and business cooperation in infrastructure, manufacturing, energy, agribusiness, financial services, regional aviation, alignment of technical standards and skills development. We welcome the establishment of Digital Economy Working Group within the framework of BRICS Business Council.

85. Recognizing tourism's great potential to contribute to sustainable economic and social development, we welcome the initiative to establish a BRICS Working Group on Tourism, to foster greater cooperation between the BRICS countries and increase economic development and people-to-people relations. The BRICS Tourism work stream will exchange knowledge, experience and best practices in the areas of travel trade, air connectivity, tourism infrastructure, culture and medical tourism, barriers to tourism marketing, tourism safety and support - financial, insurance and

medical. We note with satisfaction that Intra-BRICS Tourism has grown despite the global economic downturn.

V. PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE COOPERATION

86. Emphasising the centrality of people in BRICS and its programmes, we commend the steady progress and exchanges in the fields of sports, youth, films, culture, education and tourism.

87. We reaffirm our commitment to a people-centred approach to development that is inclusive of all sectors of our people.

88. We acknowledge the 8th World Water Forum held in Brasilia, the world's major water-related event, held in the Southern Hemisphere for the first time, which contributed to establishing water as a priority at the global level.

89. We stress the importance for the BRICS countries to cooperate in matters related to outer space and we confirm our support to strengthening current initiatives in this field.

90. We commit to strengthening the coordination and cooperation on vaccine research and development within BRICS countries, and welcome the proposal to establish a BRICS vaccine research and development centre.

91. We welcome the 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Tuberculosis in the Sustainable Development Era: A Multisectoral response, in Moscow in 2017, and the resulting Moscow declaration to End TB and stressed the importance of the upcoming 1st

High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Ending Tuberculosis and the 3rd High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of non-communicable diseases, to be held in September 2018.

92. We recognise the importance and role of culture as one of the drivers of the 4th Industrial Revolution and acknowledge the economic opportunities that it presents.

93. We commend the organisation of the 3rd BRICS Film Festival and recognise the need to further deepen cooperation in this field. We acknowledge South Africa's proposal regarding a draft BRICS Treaty on Co-Production of Films to further promote cooperation in this sphere and to showcase the diversity of BRICS cultures.

94. We emphasise the guiding role of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2017-2021) for creative and sustainable cultural cooperation, and we note the various ongoing activities and initiatives of the BRICS culture experts.

95. We acknowledge the 2nd BRICS Seminar on Governance 2018 in Johannesburg, while recognising the intention of Brazil to hold the 3rd meeting in 2019 with greater and more diverse participation of academia and think tanks of all BRICS countries.

96. We acknowledge with satisfaction the progress made

towards strengthening cooperation and interaction amongst our people, through exchanges including the Think-Tank Council, the Academic Forum, the Civil BRICS Forum, the Young Diplomats Forum, the Youth Summit and the Young Scientists Forum.

97. We acknowledge the South African initiative regarding a BRICS Foreign Affairs Spokespersons Engagement.

98. We welcome the successful hosting of the 3rd BRICS Games by South Africa and we further note the progress that has been made in establishing the BRICS Sports Council.

99. Emphasising the importance of BRICS parliamentary exchanges, including of Women Parliamentarians, we look forward to further strengthening of BRICS exchanges in this regard.

100. Emphasising the role played by women in promoting inclusive development, we note the work being done to consider the establishment of the BRICS Women's Forum and the BRICS Women's Business Alliance.

101. Brazil, Russia, India, and China commend South Africa's BRICS Chairship in 2018 and express their sincere gratitude to the Government and people of South Africa for hosting the 10th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg.

102. Russia, India, China and South Africa extend full support to Brazil for its BRICS Chairship in 2019 and the hosting of the 11th BRICS Summit.

XI'S SPEECH AT BRICS SUMMIT HIGHLY PRAISED BY INT'L OBSERVERS

Beijing, July 27 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech at the 10th BRICS summit in Johannesburg is highly praised by scholars and observers of BRICS members and other countries.

The summit of the bloc of emerging market economies on July 25-27 gathered leaders from its members -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- to discuss ways in seeking common development and prosperity amid new global challenges.

Macharia Munene, a professor of international relations at the United States International University-Kenya, said President Xi's proposal to strengthen economic cooperation among the bloc's five members, such as in areas of trade, investment, financing and interconnectivity, will help forge a fairer global economic order.

Political security cooperation, he added, is an important part of the BRICS cooperation. In this regard, President Xi's call for a strong commitment is of great significance for promoting world peace.

President Xi's appeal for firmly safeguarding international peace and security as well as resolving disputes through dialogue are inspiring amid increasing security challenges worldwide, said Shepherd Mpofu, a senior lecturer at the University of Limpopo in South Africa.

Mpofu said that development and prosperity can be possible only when security is guaranteed.

President Xi "has been consistently advocating the 'BRICS Spirit' of cooperation and partnership with values such as mutual trust, mutual respect, equality at its core," said B.R. Deepak, a professor with the Center for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

In the opinion of Ronnie Lins, director of the China-Brazil Center for Research and Business, multilateralism, dialogue and coordination are the key notes for the BRICS countries to advance their relations.

Currently, the five BRICS members have worked out a multilayer and wide-ranging dialogue mechanism, Lins said, which has enabled them to use various dialogue platforms to seek solutions and tackle disputes, showcasing an international relationship of win-win cooperation and mutual benefits.

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In his speech, President Xi proposed to explore BRICS Plus cooperation within the United Nations, the G20 and other frameworks to advance the common interests and boost the development space for emerging markets and developing countries, thus contributing more to world peace and development through broader partnerships.

His view is agreed by some experts, who believe that the BRICS Plus model will help unite more developing countries and build a fairer and more reasonable global order.

Vasily Kashin, a researcher at the Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, said President Xi's initiative is very important, and that China is making efforts to explore multilateral mechanisms, including the BRICS Plus.

Oliver Stuenkel, an expert of international relations at Brazil's Getulio Vargas Foundation, said the wide-ranging friendship will allow developing countries to cooperate more broadly. Expanding the BRICS Plus cooperation is conducive to promoting the dialogue between emerging market economies.

In his speech, Xi stressed that the BRICS should aim at greater people-to-people connectivity and more popular support for BRICS

cooperation through extensive exchanges in cultural, educational, health, sports, tourism and other areas.

"This way, we can spread the BRICS story far and wide to further enhance the mutual understanding and traditional friendship among our people," Xi said.

Stuenkel said "with joint efforts, intra-BRICS cooperation has flourished in various fields, especially

in terms of people-to-people exchanges."

William Jones, Washington Bureau chief of the U.S. publication Executive Intelligence Review, highlighted President Xi's call for more cultural exchanges among BRICS members.

"President Xi has placed a premium on the dialogue of cultures, emphasizing a greater spread of each

other's cultural achievements for the world to see. The idea of a community of shared destiny implies also the universality of human culture, although this may be expressed in different languages and in different art-forms," Jones said.

"The proposal for the construction of BRICS museums to highlight the cultures of each of the members is an important aspect of the BRICS exchanges," he added.

BRICS EXPECTED TO ASSIST IN AFRICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE BOOM: EXPERT

Addis Ababa, July 27 (Xinhua) -- The emerging market bloc of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) can act as the key financial arm to planned infrastructure projects in African countries, an Ethiopian expert said on Friday.

Speaking to Xinhua, Gedion Jalata, CEO of the Center of Excellence International Consult, an Ethiopian consulting firm, said with South Africa being a member of BRICS group, there are bound to be some commitments to support African countries, while the increasing strength of BRICS bloc means an extended infrastructure commitment for African countries.

"I foresee possible commitments in terms of soft and hard infrastructure development like education, health, ICT and to confront rising challenges such as how to mitigate and adapt to climate change," he said.

Jalata's comment comes as the

10th BRICS summit concluded in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Jalata said with Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation at around 100 million people, engaging in ambitious infrastructure projects, the role of emerging blocs like BRICS in financial and other sectors is invaluable.

"China has a promising economic relationship with Ethiopia based on mutual benefits. The interest of Ethiopian government is about structural transformation of the economy, through an effective and inclusive growth and development. China through BRICS or the Forum

on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and other bilateral and multilateral forums can be an even more key developmental partner to Ethiopia," he said.

Jalata mentioned China's help in Ethiopia's industrial park development as one area the Asian economic powerhouse can further assist Ethiopia either through bilateral means or multilateral institutions like BRICS.

He said BRICS could help developing African economies like Ethiopia in future projects like ICT development, space exploration and aerospace engineering.

"The ongoing BRICS summit in Johannesburg is discussing the bloc's National Development Bank (NDB), which is expected to be an alternative financial development partner to developing countries, helping create an economic setting for efforts to create an inclusive, multipolar international relations," said Jalata.

Jalata said with Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation at around 100 million people, engaging in ambitious infrastructure projects, the role of emerging blocs like BRICS in financial and other sectors is invaluable.

China India Relations

XI SAYS CHINA TO BOOST CLOSER DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA



Chinese President Xi Jinping said on July 26 that China is willing to consolidate and develop a closer development partnership with India.

Xi made the remarks while meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the 10th BRICS summit in Johannesburg,

South Africa. It is their third meeting in three months.

"We have provided a top-level design for bilateral ties in a macroscopic perspective and a timely fashion, which is conducive to mobilizing the positive elements of all sectors in both countries and uniting the wills of the 2.6 billion people of

the two countries, so as to form a force that would push bilateral ties into the future," he said.

Xi said the Chinese side is ready to work with the Indian side to carry forward the fresh impetus of bilateral relations since their informal meeting in China's central city of Wuhan in April.

The Chinese leader called on the two sides to implement the important consensus reached by the two leaders at the Wuhan meeting.

He called on the two sides to strengthen strategic communication, increase mutual trust, promote practical cooperation, as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges, strengthen dialogue and properly manage differences.

Both China and India are countries of ancient civilizations, and have made important contributions to the advancement of human civilization, said Xi.

Today, as major emerging market

economies, as well as vindicators and contributors of the current international order, China and India should strengthen bilateral cooperation, while exploring a new model for regional cooperation, upholding multilateralism, championing economic globalization and striving for a more just and rational international order.

Modi said he and Xi had met three times in three months, and that can fully display the two countries enjoy a high-level bilateral relationship.

The Wuhan meeting is of milestone significance in the history of India-China relations, which has

greatly increased their mutual trust, and will bring new impetus and opportunities to the long-term development of bilateral relations, he said.

The Indian side is ready to keep close dialogue and communication with the Chinese side, deepen cooperation in various fields, properly address differences, strengthen cooperation within a multilateral framework, and jointly handle such challenges facing developing countries and emerging market countries as protectionism and global market fluctuations to advance their closer development partnership, Modi said.

AMBASSADOR LUO ZHAOHUI MEETS WITH CHAIRMAN OF PRASAR BHARATI





On July 27th, Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Dr. A. Surya Prakash, Chairman of Prasar Bharati. They shared views on enhancing exchanges and cooperation in the fields of culture, films, television and media between China and India. Mr. Zhang Jianxin, Cultural & Educational Counselor and Ms. Ji Rong, Press Counselor were present.

INDIAN BANKER CALLS FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA

Shanghai- China and India, both among the BRICS countries, should enhance cooperation in trade and investment, an Indian banker said.

"India and China are the two most populous countries in the world. We can be strong trading partners," Hitendra Dave, head of Global Banking and Markets for HSBC India, said here in an interview with Xinhua.

Dave believed that the consumption power of India's population will attract more

investment from Chinese companies.

"India has 18 percent of the world's working population and is expected to have 550 million middle class by 2025, which makes the opportunity for Chinese investments in India quite clear," Dave said.

The Indian bank also expected that the shared vision of clean energy will provide more trade opportunities between India and China.

"Greater cooperation and

collaboration between them in creating green economies will also go a long way in lowering carbon emissions globally," Dave said.

Moreover, he saw great potential for China and India to cooperate on infrastructure.

"China is highly experienced in infrastructure construction such as airports, highways and subways. India will need that capital as well as the technology and should learn from China's execution capability to



HSBC Holdings Plc signage is displayed at a branch in Mumbai, India, Jan 27, 2018. [Photo/VCG]

advance its infrastructure development," Dave said.

Last year, Indian exports to China went up by nearly 40 percent to \$16.34

billion, while overall bilateral trade hit a historic high of \$84.4 billion, up 20.3 percent year-on-year, according to statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce.

"Bilateral trade will keep strong growth. I won't be surprised if the volume is above \$100 billion this year," said Dave.

CHINESE PV COMPANY SUNGROW OPENS FACTORY IN INDIA

Beijing, Aug. 9 (Xinhua) -- Chinese renewable energy company Sungrow recently opened its photovoltaic inverter manufacturing factory in Bangalore, India.

With a total investment of 5.5 million U.S. dollars, the factory is designed with an annual production capacity of 3 gigawatt.

It's learned that the company attaches great importance to the development of the Indian market. On the one hand, India has favorable natural conditions for the development of solar

power. On the other hand, the Indian government has introduced a plan for the development of clean energy, and investing in PV industry is in line with the country's industrial development policy.

Insiders point out that Chinese PV companies are exploring the Indian market, and currently they mainly adopt the way of importing related products from China. As the Indian market develops further, opening a local factory will become a new trend.



External Affairs

CHINA, SOUTH AFRICA AGREE TO CARRY FORWARD TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP, ACHIEVE GREATER RESULTS IN TIES

China and South Africa on July 24 pledged to carry forward their traditional friendly relations and advance their comprehensive strategic partnership in the new era.

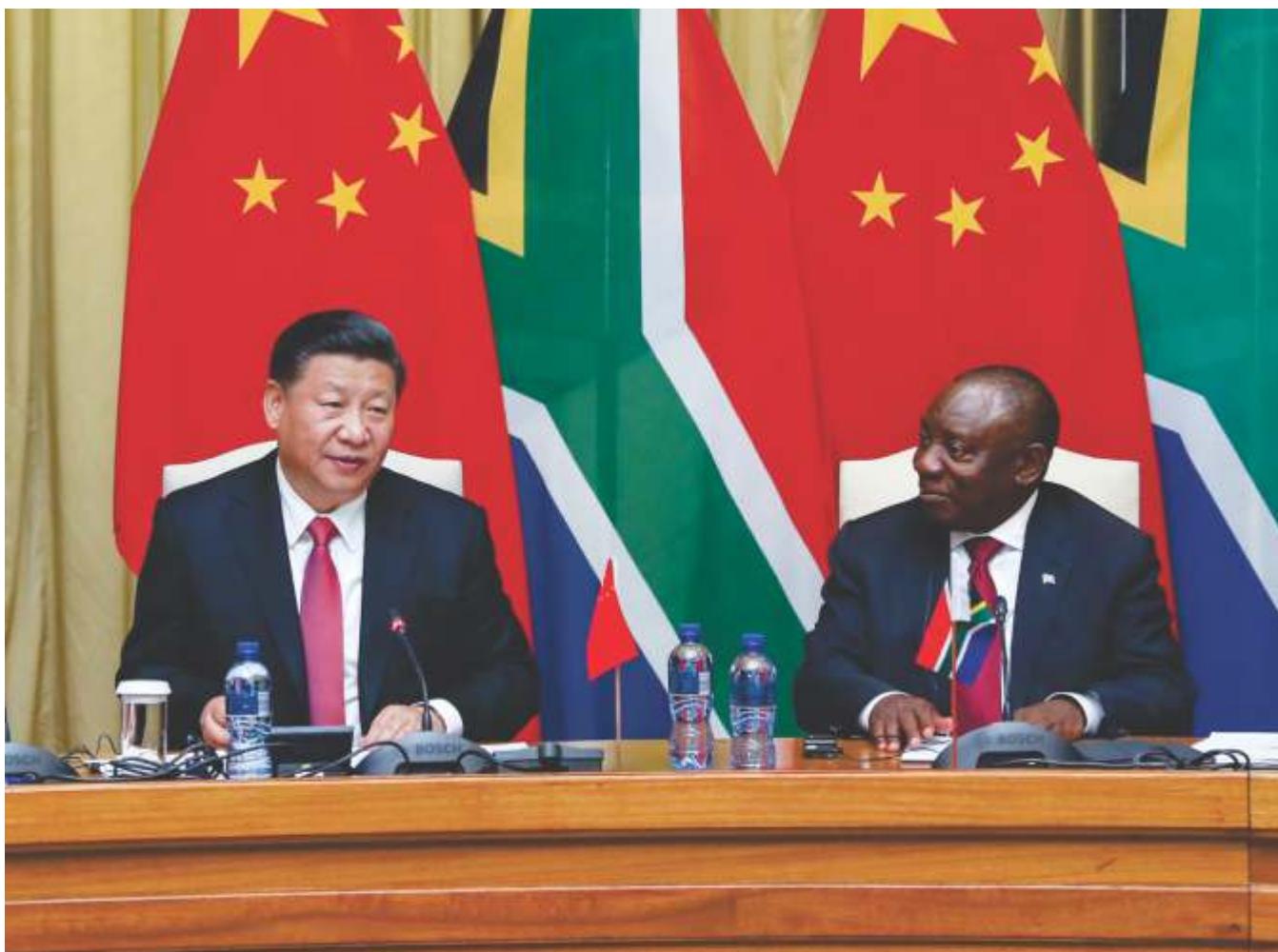
During the talks between visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping and his South African counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa, the two leaders agreed to strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen political mutual trust, align their development strategies, promote practical cooperation and increase

people-to-people exchanges, thus enabling the two peoples to enjoy more fruits of the bilateral cooperation.

Xi expressed appreciation to Ramaphosa for his important contributions to the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries and to the development of bilateral relations.

Noting that China and South Africa are both major developing

countries and emerging-market countries with important influence, Xi said that since the forging of diplomatic relations 20 years ago, the two sides have been committed to mutually-beneficial cooperation and common development, stood together through thick and thin, shared weal and woe, and established a "comrade plus brother" relationship featuring sincere friendship, mutual trust and close bond.



He said that China-South Africa relations have leapt from a partnership to a strategic partnership and then to a comprehensive strategic partnership over the past years, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples.

"Taking the opportunity of the 20th anniversary of diplomatic ties, China stands ready to work with South Africa on supporting each other in hosting this year's BRICS summit in Johannesburg and the Beijing summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), inheriting the past and ushering in the future, and pushing for more outcomes from the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership, so as to bring greater benefits to our

two peoples," Xi said.

Noting that China-South Africa relations are now standing at a new historical point, the Chinese president proposed the two sides to focus on the following areas to advance the bilateral relations:

-- The two sides should strengthen high-level exchanges, deepen political mutual trust, support each other in independently choosing the development path that suits their own national conditions, continue to understand and support each other on issues involving respective core interests and major concerns, increase exchanges between the governments, legislative bodies and various other areas, and deepen the inter-party

exchanges and cooperation.

-- The two sides should enhance cooperation within the frameworks of the Belt and Road Initiative and the FOCAC, align their development strategies, deepen exchanges and cooperation in new economy sectors and sunrise industries, and share the development opportunities brought by the fourth industrial revolution. The Chinese side is willing to focus on promoting cooperation in such areas as infrastructure construction, trade and investment, scientific and technological innovation, and finance, and supports the endeavors made by the South African government to develop the economy, create jobs, improve people's livelihood and promote social

transformation.

-- The two sides should deepen people-to-people bonds, implement the consensus the two sides have reached on facilitating personnel exchanges and strengthening cultural and educational exchanges, and consolidate cooperation in human resources development and tourism.

-- The two sides should promote security and law-enforcement cooperation. The Chinese side is willing to strengthen cooperation with South Africa on law-enforcement capacity building.

-- The two sides should increase coordination within multilateral frameworks including the UN, G20, BRICS and BASIC (Brazil, India,

South Africa and China), jointly safeguard multilateralism, oppose unilateralism and protectionism, and promote a more just and equitable international order.

For his part, Ramaphosa said that South African and Chinese peoples enjoy traditional friendship, and the two countries have constantly consolidated and developed their relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties 20 years ago.

The relations have gone beyond the bilateral scope with important strategic significance, and the two countries have carried out fruitful cooperation on regional and multilateral levels, he said, noting that the special friendly ties have brought substantial benefits to the two peoples.

Ramaphosa said that it is in the fundamental and long-term interests of South Africa to continue to strengthen political mutual trust, expand practical cooperation, enhance scientific, technological and people-to-people exchanges with China, and promote their comprehensive strategic partnership.

He pledged that South Africa will continue to firmly adhere to the one-China policy, push for positive progress in cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, increase communication and coordination with China on major international and regional issues, oppose unilateralism, strengthen multilateralism, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries.



On the 10th BRICS summit in Johannesburg on July 25-27, Xi said that it is the first one to be held in the second "golden decade" of BRICS cooperation and has a special significance.

BRICS gathers the world's five major emerging economies -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

"We should bear in mind the big picture of BRICS cooperation, constantly cement our strategic partnerships, make a loud and clear voice on upholding multilateralism, and jointly build an open world economy," Xi said, while pledging to coordinate with and support South Africa for a successful BRICS summit.

Xi and Ramaphosa will co-chair

the FOCAC Beijing summit in September. Hailing the contributions that South Africa has made for the institutionalization of the FOCAC and friendly cooperation between China and Africa as co-chair of the forum, Xi said that China looks forward to discussing with African countries on plans to promote China-Africa friendly cooperation in the new era and jointly build a closer China-Africa community with a shared future.

"It is China's long-term and firm strategic choice to strengthen solidarity and cooperation with African countries," he said.

Ramaphosa expressed gratitude for China's support in the 10th BRICS summit in Johannesburg. He told Xi that he looks forward to attending the

FOCAC Beijing summit and will coordinate with China to ensure the success of the two major events.

After the talks, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of a series of bilateral cooperation documents and met with the press.

Ramaphosa held a grand welcome ceremony for Xi prior to the talks.

Xi arrived in Pretoria on Monday to pay his third state visit to the "rainbow nation."

South Africa is the fourth stop of Xi's five-nation Middle East and Africa tour, which has taken him to the United Arab Emirates, Senegal and Rwanda. He will also visit Mauritius during a stopover.

CHINA, UAE AGREE TO LIFT TIES TO COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on July 20 decided to upgrade their bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

The decision was made as visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks here with UAE Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

By lifting their ties, China and the UAE will strengthen their bilateral in-depth cooperation in various fields, and promote continuous

development of bilateral ties on higher levels, in broader areas and at greater depths.

Xi arrived here for a state visit to the UAE on Thursday, the first by a Chinese head of state in 29 years to the Arab state.

Xi expressed his gratefulness to the UAE for its grand welcome of his visit, which shows the friendliness of the UAE toward the Chinese people, as well as the great importance it attaches to its ties with China.

Xi recalled his meeting with the Crown Prince in Beijing in 2015 when

the two sides reached many important consensuses on promoting bilateral friendly cooperation, saying that bilateral relations have since entered a new stage of development that is comprehensive, fast and in-depth.

China-UAE cooperation has a bright prospect and great potentials, stressed the Chinese leader.

The establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership will be conducive to deepening strategic mutual trust and lifting the level of mutually beneficial cooperation, Xi said.

He said he is confident that China and the UAE can become good friends and good partners who learn from and help each other, and achieve common development and prosperity.

The Chinese president conveyed his warm regards to UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and wished him an early recovery.

Xi called on the two countries to translate the China-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership into concrete achievements, cement political mutual trust, continue to take care of each other's core interests and major concerns, and support each other's pursuit of development path that suits themselves.

China and the UAE, Xi said, are natural partners for jointly building the Belt and Road. China regards the UAE as a key pivot in implementing the Belt and Road Initiative and appreciates the Crown Prince's vision of revitalizing the ancient Silk Road.

The two sides need to create stronger links between their development strategies, strengthen communications on industrial policies and plan and manage well the flagship projects within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, so as to boost the economic development of the Middle East region and the Gulf region.

China is willing to work with the UAE to build an all-round and all dimensional energy cooperation pattern, deepen investment and financial cooperation, and promote cooperation in the area of innovation, Xi said.

He also urged the two countries to strengthen security cooperation



and fight against all forms of terrorism.

People-to-people exchanges should be enhanced while inclusiveness and mutual learning between different regions and cultures should be further encouraged, noted the Chinese president.

China is willing to share its experience with the UAE to make the World Expo 2020 in Dubai an impressive event, Xi said.

At present, the majority of people in West Asia and North Africa are longing for social stability, said the

Chinese leader, adding that peace, reform and development are today's irresistible trend.

China stands ready to work with the UAE to deepen strategic cooperation, explore ways of achieving peace through development in the Middle East, address hotspot issues via political channels, so as to jointly promote the security and stability of the region, Xi said.

During his talks with Xi, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said he hopes President Xi will feel at home during the visit.

The UAE admires China's development model and its achievements, appreciates its pursuit of an opening-up development strategy, said the UAE vice president and prime minister, adding that his country is willing to carry out closer cooperation with China in a wide range of areas and stay as a reliable friend of China.

He said he is confident that Xi's visit will bring UAE-China partnership to a new height, and pledged that his country will continue its active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative.

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, for his part, said that his visit to China in 2015 remains fresh in his memory, and that his country is

delighted to host President Xi for this historic visit.

The UAE fully agrees with Xi's foresight and concept in governance, he said, adding that he believes that China will have a bright future and make greater contributions to world peace and human progress.

The Crown Prince pointed to the great potentials in bilateral cooperation in such areas as politics, economy, finance, science and technology, energy and people-to-people exchanges, saying that it is always the priority in the UAE's diplomacy to deepen its traditional, strategic and friendly ties with China, which the UAE sees as a brother.

The UAE firmly sticks to the one China policy, appreciates China's

important role in international affairs, and will strengthen communication and coordination with China on major issues like development and counter-terrorism, said the Crown Prince.

After the talks, the two sides issued a joint declaration on establishing a comprehensive strategic partnership. Leaders from both sides witnessed the signing of the cooperative document on the Belt and Road Initiative.

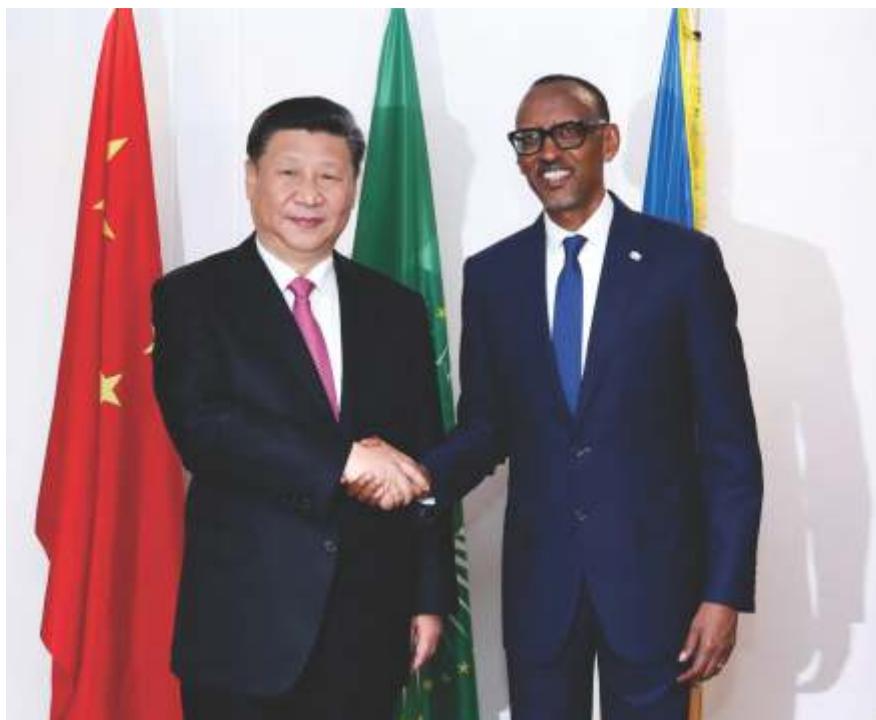
President Xi was conferred with the Order of Zayed, the UAE's highest civil decoration, by the Crown Prince, who also gave Xi an Arabian horse as present. Arabian horses are given as diplomatic gifts to distinguished guests by the UAE's royal family.

CHINA, RWANDA VOW TO WRITE NEW CHAPTER IN BILATERAL TIES

Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Rwandan counterpart, Paul Kagame, agreed here on July 23 to further promote bilateral cooperation in a bid to bring more benefits to the Chinese, Rwandan and African people.

In their talks, the two leaders also spoke highly of the growth of bilateral ties over the past 47 years since their countries established diplomatic relations.

Xi recalled his meeting with Kagame in Beijing in March 2017, during which they reached extensive consensus on promoting bilateral relations and friendly cooperation and brought China-Rwanda ties to a fast track of development.





Beijing is willing to work with Kigali to translate their traditional friendship into concrete benefits for the two countries and the two peoples, and open a new chapter in their friendly cooperative relations, Xi said.

China and Rwanda, Xi stressed, should view their ties from a strategic height and long-term perspective, firmly support each other independently choosing their own development paths, and keep mutual understanding and support on issues related to each other's core interests and major concerns.

Xi called on the two countries to strengthen the link between their respective development strategies,

give full play to their complementary advantages, and carry out pragmatic cooperation in more areas and at deeper levels.

China welcomes Rwanda's participation in the international cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, and encourages more Chinese investment in Rwanda to help advance the African country's industrialization and modernization, Xi said.

Xi asked the two sides to strengthen people-to-people exchanges, so as to bring closer the hearts of the two peoples and consolidate the social and public support for the future development

of their friendship.

The two sides, he suggested, also need to deepen law enforcement and security cooperation, maintain close coordination on international and regional issues, and strengthen collaboration on issues of global significance, so as to safeguard the common interests of African countries and developing countries.

Over the past several decades, China-Africa relations have always been defined by sincere friendship, unity and cooperation, Xi noted, pointing out that the two sides have become a community with a shared future going through thick and thin together as well as a community with shared interests dedicated to win-win

cooperation.

Strengthening unity and cooperation with African countries is an important foundation for China's foreign policy and a long-term steadfast strategic choice of Beijing, Xi said.

He compared Africa to a galloping lion, saying that China is glad to see a stronger Africa that is increasingly integrated.

Calling the African Union (AU) a banner guiding African countries to solidarity and cooperation, Xi said China always supports the AU playing a leading role in promoting peace and development of Africa and playing a bigger role in regional and global affairs.

China, he added, is willing to elevate the strategic significance of its relationship with the AU, set it as an example and make it more effective, so as to bring more benefits to the Chinese and African people.

Kagame, for his part, called China a reliable friend who shares weal and woe with Africa. He said it is of great importance for Rwanda and Africa to develop friendly ties with China.

He spoke highly of China's valuable assistance for Rwanda in

such areas as infrastructure construction, agriculture and education, adding that China's helping hand has made positive contributions to his country's reconstruction and livelihood improvement.

The Rwandan president also expressed his hope to strengthen exchanges with China on state governance and deepen win-win cooperation on bilateral as well as multilateral platforms.

Rwanda is willing to enhance cooperation with China within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, which offers a significant opportunity for both Rwanda and Africa, Kagame said.

As the AU's rotating chairman, Kagame stressed that China's long-standing firm support is of great value to Africa's development.

Africa places great importance on China's role in international affairs and is committed to further deepening their friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation, he added.

The African side, he said, looks forward to attending the Beijing summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in September, and stands ready to jointly

push forward the development of FOCAC, so as to generate more benefits for the people of both sides.

After their talks, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of multiple agreements on bilateral cooperation in the Belt and Road Initiative and other areas. They also met the press together.

Prior to the meeting, the Rwandan president held a grand welcome ceremony for Xi, who arrived in Kigali on Sunday for the first state visit to the African country by a Chinese head of state.

Xi inspected the guard of honor in the company of Kagame. A group of Rwandan well-wishers, dressed in traditional clothes, staged a dancing and drumming performance to express their joy and excitement.

Later in the day, Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial.

Rwanda is the third leg of Xi's first overseas visit after he was re-elected Chinese president in March. The trip has already taken him to the United Arab Emirates and Senegal, and will also take him to South Africa for a state visit and the 10th BRICS summit, and to Mauritius during a stopover.

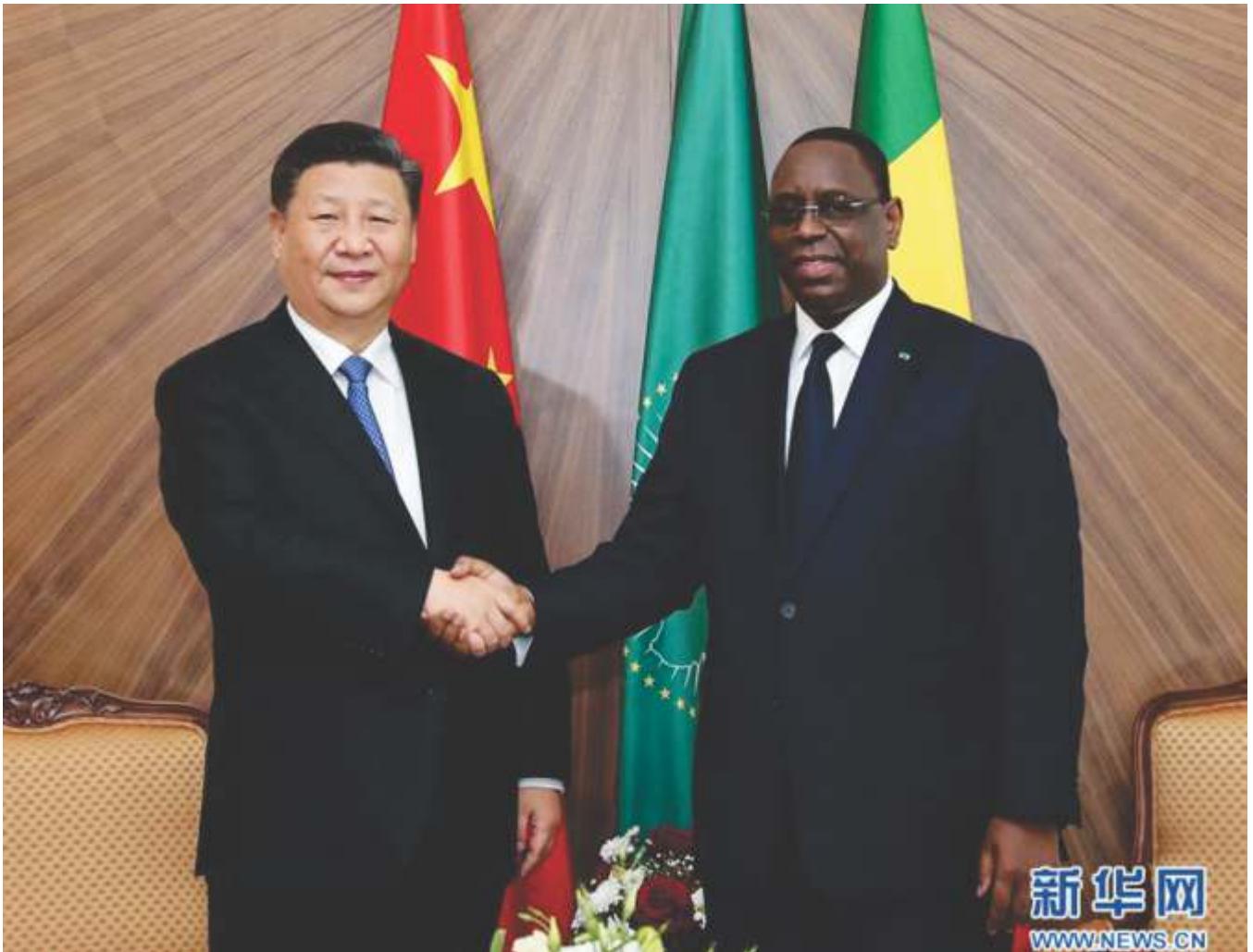
CHINESE, SENEGALESE PRESIDENTS PLEDGE TO CREATE BETTER FUTURE FOR TIES

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Senegalese President Macky Sall held talks here on 21 July, vowing to create

a better future for China-Senegal ties.

The two leaders spoke highly of

the development of bilateral ties in recent years, and agreed to continue to make joint efforts and promote



more fruitful results from cooperation in various fields.

Xi arrived here earlier on Saturday for the first state visit to Senegal by a Chinese head of state in nine years.

During the meeting with his host, the Chinese president thanked the government and people of Senegal for their warm hospitality and welcome, saying it fully demonstrated that China-Senegal friendship has gained broad support.

Recalling their joint decision to forge a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries in 2016, Xi said that thanks to joint efforts from both

sides, China-Senegal relations have entered a fast track with growing political mutual trust and concrete economic and trade cooperation.

China is willing to join hands with Senegal to lift bilateral ties and cooperation to a higher level, so as to bring more benefits to both peoples, Xi said.

The Chinese president expressed appreciation to Sall for viewing their ties from a strategic perspective, positively responding to the Belt and Road Initiative and strongly supporting China-Africa cooperation.

The two sides should carry out

closer high-level exchanges and support each other on issues concerning their core interests and major concern, said Xi.

Noting that the two countries should strengthen the alignment of development strategies and policy communication, Xi welcomed Senegal to be the first West African country to sign a Belt and Road cooperation document with China.

We hope to take this opportunity to comprehensively upgrade China-Senegal cooperation, he said.

China will continue to uphold the spirit of "teaching a man to fish," expand and deepen cooperation with

Senegal, and enhance its ability in independent development, Xi said.

He called on the two countries to boost people-to-people exchanges and promote mutual understanding between the two peoples.

The two sides should enhance law enforcement and security cooperation, Xi said, adding that China supports Senegal in building capability in counter-terrorism, peacekeeping and safeguarding stability.

China supports Senegal in playing a greater role in global and regional affairs, and is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with Senegal in major international and regional issues such as peace and security in Africa, the United Nations and climate change, so as to protect the common interests of Africa and developing countries, said the Chinese president.

Noting that he attaches great importance to China-Africa ties, Xi said he feels strongly about the long-term friendship between China and Africa, and their common future in sharing weal and woe.

The two sides are sincere partners on their path of development and natural allies in international affairs, Xi said, adding that China's development will bring more opportunities to Africa, while Africa's development will add momentum to China's development.

China will continue to uphold its African policy and concept of sincerity, concrete results, affinity and good faith, uphold justice and pursue shared interests, promote the construction of a closer China-Africa community with a shared future, so as to realize win-win cooperation and

common development, Xi said.

In September, we will hold a summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing, said Xi, adding that he is looking forward to meeting African leaders including President Sall in Beijing and discussing the important agenda on China-Africa cooperation.

For his part, Sall thanked President Xi for visiting Senegal in his first overseas trip since being re-elected as Chinese president, saying that it is Senegalese people's honor.

Hailing that China made significant contributions to humanity's progress in history, Sall said today's China is playing an even more important role in international affairs.

Senegal, Sall said, admires China's development achievements, appreciates China's precious support for Senegalese economic and social development and its implementation of revitalization plan.

The bilateral ties, based on solidarity, mutual trust, mutual respect, win-win and mutual benefit, are strong and satisfactory, said the Senegalese president.

Senegal firmly adheres to the one-China policy, is committed to deepening the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership with China, stands ready to enhance cooperation in areas such as infrastructure construction, water conservation, industrialization, agricultural product processing, tourism, culture and sports, said Sall.

Senegal supports China's Belt and Road Initiative and stands ready to vigorously participate in connectivity construction, Sall said, adding that his

country appreciates China's contribution in Africa's peace and development cause.

The FOCAC is a cooperative framework featuring inclusiveness, effectiveness and solidarity, established on the basis of practical cooperation, Sall said, vowing Senegal's full support in strengthening the FOCAC, deepening cooperation between China and Africa, and establishing the China-Africa community with a shared future.

Senegal is ready to strengthen communication and coordination with China in multilateral affairs, and work with China to build a more balanced, just and inclusive global governance system, safeguard multilateralism and oppose protectionism, Sall said.

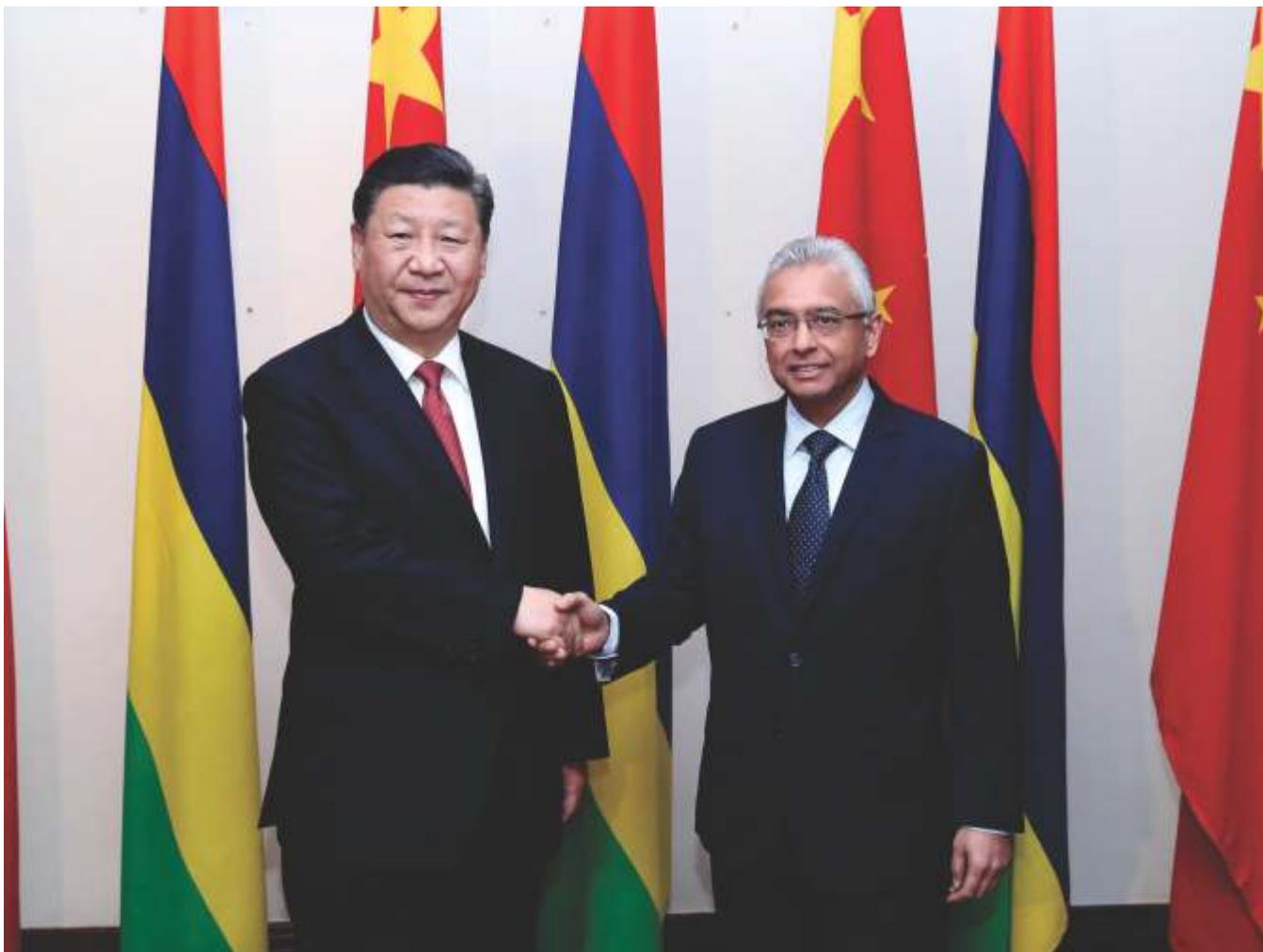
After their talks, Xi received Senegal's top medal of honor from Sall, and the two leaders witnessed the signing of multiple cooperation documents, including the one on jointly building the Belt and Road.

Before the talks, the Senegalese president and people held a grand welcoming ceremony for Xi, with thousands of locals dressed in festive attire, cheering, singing and dancing.

Senegal's official guards of the presidency also put on a magnificent parade on the streets of Dakar escorting the Chinese president.

Senegal is the second stop in Xi's first overseas trip after being re-elected Chinese president in March. He has already visited the United Arab Emirates and will pay state visits to Rwanda and South Africa, attend the 10th BRICS summit in Johannesburg, and visit Mauritius during a stopover.

XI MEETS MAURITIAN PM ON BILATERAL TIES



Chinese President Xi Jinping said on July 28 that China is willing to always be a good friend and a good partner of Mauritius and promote the bilateral friendly cooperative ties to continuously reach new heights.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth during his friendly visit to the country.

Xi spoke positively about the remarkable achievements Mauritius has made since it gained

independence 50 years ago, and expressed appreciation for the friendly policy the successive Mauritian governments have followed toward China.

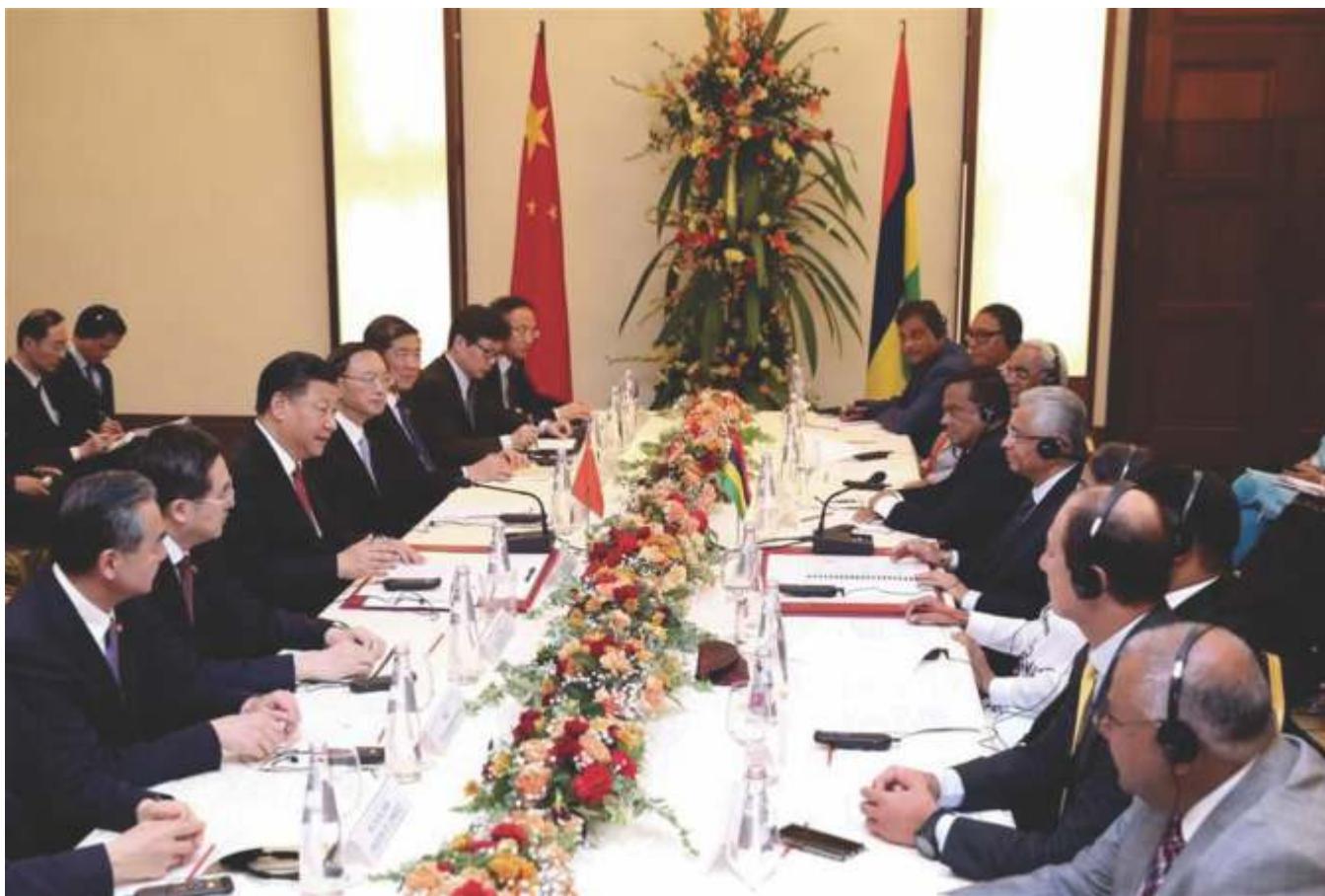
He pointed out that the two countries and two peoples enjoy profound friendship and cherish a close bond of affection for each other.

Since China and Mauritius established diplomatic ties 46 years ago, the two sides have witnessed

increasingly deepened political mutual trust and fruitful results in exchanges and cooperation in various areas, Xi said.

Both as developing countries, China and Mauritius have similar development processes and tasks, he said.

The two countries now face new important opportunities for the development of their relations, Xi pointed out.



The Chinese president said that the two countries should maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges, strengthen exchanges between government departments, legislative bodies and at sub-national level, and continue to understand and support each other on issues involving respective core interests and major concern.

The two sides should explore the potential for practical cooperation, improve the standard of bilateral trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, negotiate about and sign a bilateral free trade agreement at an early date, leverage the unique geographical advantage of Mauritius in participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, strengthen communication and aligning, and deepen cooperation in a wide range of areas, Xi said.

The two countries should also enhance people-to-people exchanges and mutual understanding, he said.

China stands ready to strengthen South-South cooperation on climate change with Mauritius, increase coordination in international affairs and safeguard the common interests of developing countries, he said.

On China-Africa relations, Xi said that China and Africa are a community with a shared future in which the two sides go through thick and thin together, and are also a community of shared interests in which the two sides carry out win-win cooperation.

No matter how the international landscape changes, and no matter how much progress China has made

in development, China will always stand together with Africa and other developing countries, and will be a sincere friend and reliable partner of Africa forever, Xi said.

He said that China and Africa have decided to hold the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in September, and he looks forward to discussing the China-Africa cooperation plan in the new era with African leaders including Prime Minister Jugnauth.

Jugnauth again extended his warm welcome for President Xi's stopover in and historic friendly visit to Mauritius, saying that the two countries enjoy a long history of friendship based on historical inheritance and people-to-people

bond.

He said that since the two countries established diplomatic ties, the two sides have developed a close and vigorous relationship on the basis of mutual trust and mutual respect.

Mauritius thanks China for its long-term strong support and assistance, pays high attention to China's development in the new era, admires China's tremendous

achievements, and speaks positively of President Xi's proposal to build a community with a shared future for mankind, he said.

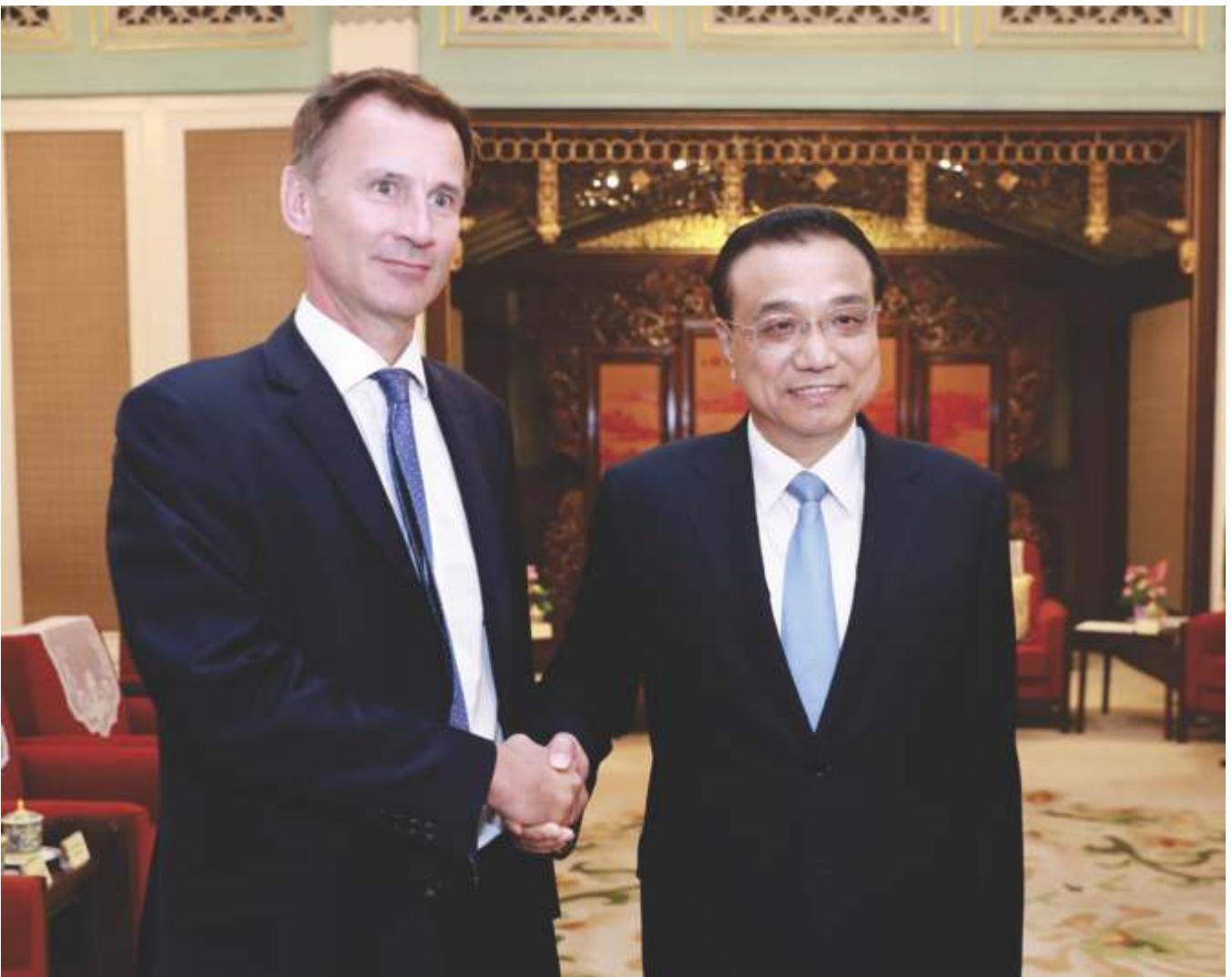
Mauritius will continue to firmly uphold the one China policy, welcomes the Belt and Road Initiative, and is willing to deepen mutually beneficial and friendly cooperation with China, Jugnauth said.

The prime minister said that he

eagerly looks forward to attending the FOCAC Beijing Summit to jointly build an even closer Africa-China partnership.

Mauritius is the last stop of Xi's five-nation Middle East and Africa tour. He has visited the United Arab Emirates, Senegal, Rwanda and South Africa, and attended the 10th BRICS summit in Johannesburg.

CHINESE PREMIER MEETS BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang met with British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt in Beijing on July 30, hailing the positive progress in China-UK ties and substantial cooperation in all areas.

Li said that as permanent members of the UN Security Council and two of the world's major economies, China and Britain have the responsibility to uphold the international order and systems based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core.

"China and Britain should jointly adhere to multilateralism, safeguard an open world economy, and add constructive forces for stability in the world," Li said during the meeting.

China expects to advance all-

round development of bilateral relations and cooperation with Britain, in a principle of mutual respect and equal treatment, Li stressed.

He called on the two sides to make a good use of each other's advantages and expand cooperation in various areas, and take the opportunity of the launch of the Shanghai-London Stock Connect within the year to cultivate new growth points for cooperation and achieve win-win results.

"China will work to create a better business environment for foreign companies in the country, including those from Britain," Li said, hoping Britain to provide a sound system guarantee for Chinese companies to invest in the United Kingdom.

Hunt, who was on his first China

visit as British foreign secretary, hailed the development of "Golden Era" of bilateral relations.

Britain looks forward to the annual meeting of the two heads of government next year, and is willing to continue cementing political trust with China and synergizing development strategies, said Hunt.

Given the international situation stands at a critical point, Britain and China should enhance communication and coordination, jointly uphold multilateralism, free trade, and safeguard the international order based on rules, he said.

Hunt co-chaired the ninth China-UK Strategic Dialogue with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Monday.

CHINA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) STAND TOGETHER IN FIRMLY SUPPORTING MULTILATERALISM

On August 3, 2018 local time, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a bilateral meeting with High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini on the sidelines of the Foreign Ministers' Meetings on East Asia Cooperation in Singapore.

Wang Yi noted that the China-EU Summit was successfully held in Beijing not long ago, during which the two sides reached important consensus on safeguarding the rules-

based multilateral trading system and resisting protectionism and unilateralism. Facing the current international situation which is full of uncertainty and instability, it is very important for China and the EU, two forces for stabilization, to enhance strategic communication and cooperation in a timely manner, and firmly support multilateralism as well as international rules, which not only conforms to the interests of the two sides, but also is conducive to maintaining world peace and stability. Federica Mogherini

expressed that the EU side is pleased with the recent successful EU-China Summit. The EU and China are long-term friends. Regarding China as a major and key strategic partner, the EU has no intention to adopt any policy or take any action against China. The EU stands together with China in supporting multilateralism and free trade. The EU side is willing to further enhance strategic communication and cooperation with the Chinese side.

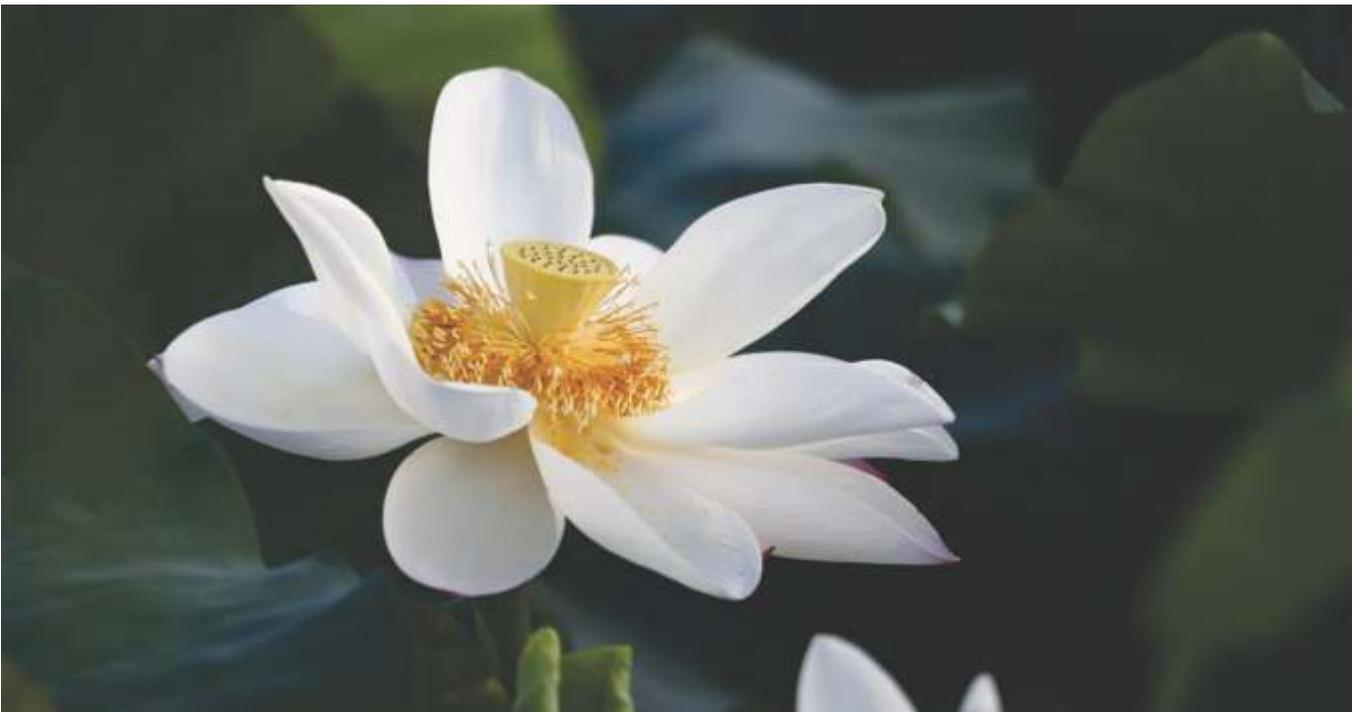
The two sides exchanged views

on the Iranian nuclear issue, and both agreed to continue to well safeguard and implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear issue, maintain the seriousness and authority of international agreements, and safeguard the basic norms of international law. Both sides expressed the objection to any unilateral sanction, and agreed to strengthen coordination and strive to maintain the rights of various parties under the JCPOA.

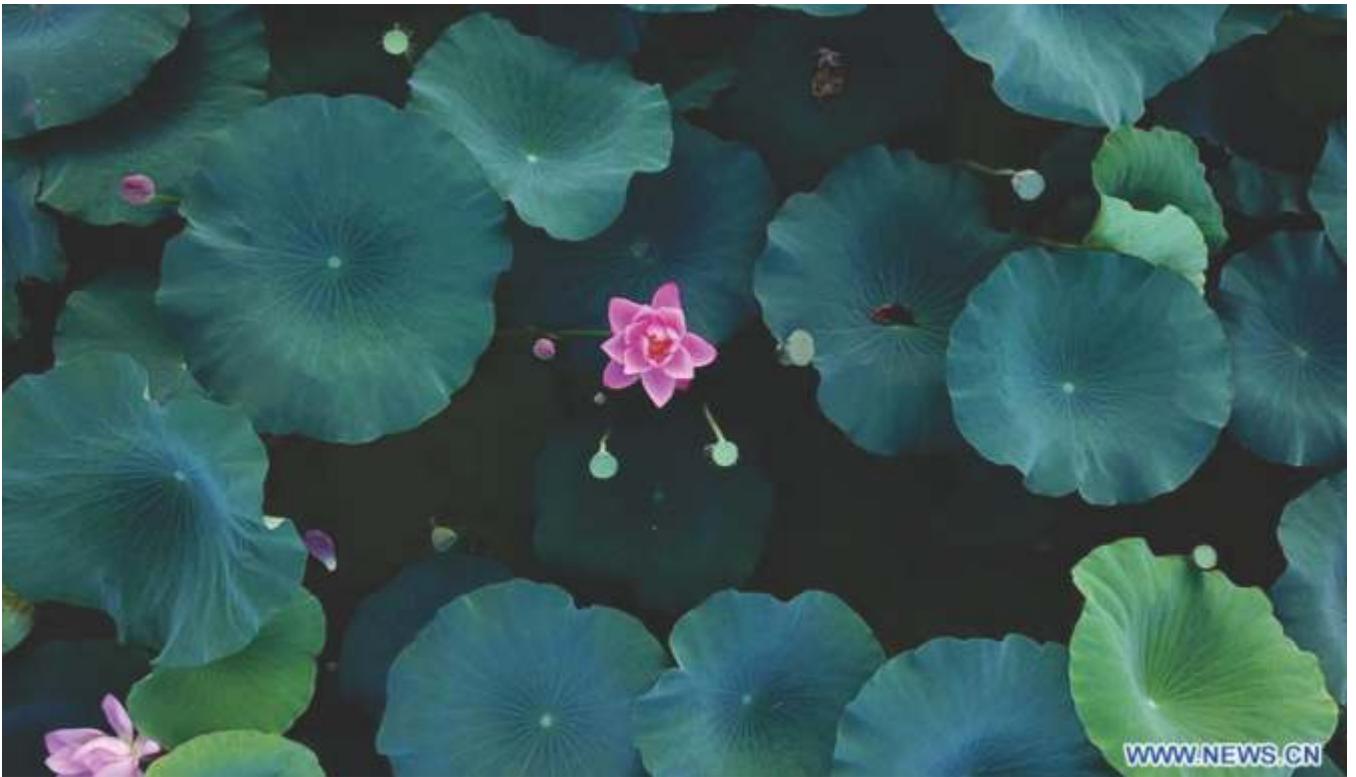


Culture & Life

LOTUS FLOWERS BLOOM IN SLENDER WEST LAKE SCENIC SPOT IN YANGZHOU CITY, E CHINA'S JIANGSU



Aerial photo taken on Aug. 14, 2018 shows lotus flowers blooming in the Slender West Lake scenic spot in Yangzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province. (Xinhua/Meng Delong)



Aerial photo taken on Aug. 14, 2018 shows lotus flowers blooming in the Slender West Lake scenic spot in Yangzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province. (Xinhua/Meng Delong)



A dragonfly rests on a lotus stem in the Slender West Lake scenic spot in Yangzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province, Aug. 14, 2018. (Xinhua/Meng Delong)



Lotus flowers bloom in the Slender West Lake scenic spot in Yangzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province, Aug. 14, 2018. (Xinhua/Meng Delong)

AERIAL VIEW OF ZHUHAI STATE FOREST PARK IN CHISHUI CITY, SW CHINA'S GUIZHOU



Aerial photo taken on Aug. 13, 2018 shows a view of the Zhuhai state forest park in Chishui City, southwest China's Guizhou Province. (Xinhua/Wang Changyu)



Tourists visit the Zhuhai state forest park in Chishui City, southwest China's Guizhou Province, Aug. 13, 2018. (Xinhua/Wang Changyu)



Tourists visit the Zhuhai state forest park in Chishui City, southwest China's Guizhou Province, Aug. 13, 2018. (Xinhua/Wang Changyu)



Aerial photo taken on Aug. 13, 2018 shows a view of the Zhuhai state forest park in Chishui City, southwest China's Guizhou Province. (Xinhua/Wang Changyu)

FARMERS HARVEST GRAPES IN BINGJIAO VILLAGE, N CHINA'S HEBEI



A visitor picks grapes in Bingjiao Village, Yongqing County of north China's Hebei Province, Aug. 14, 2018. Bingjiao, a well-known village for grape planting in Yongqing County, has introduced new species and technologies for the growing of grapes in recent years. There are now over 5,000 Mu (about 333 hectares) of grape fields in the village which can yield a total value of 30 million yuan (about 4.37 million U.S.dollars) every year. (Xinhua/Li Xiaoguo)



A farmer carries grapes for visitors in Bingjiao Village, Yongqing County of north China's Hebei Province, Aug. 14, 2018. Bingjiao, a well-known village for grape planting in Yongqing County, has introduced new species and technologies for the growing of grapes in recent years. There are now over 5,000 Mu (about 333 hectares) of grape fields in the village which can yield a total value of 30 million yuan (about 4.37 million U.S.dollars) every year. (Xinhua/Li Xiaoguo)

PREMIER LI KEQIANG MAKES INSPECTION TOUR IN XIZANG

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang made an inspection tour in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region on July 25. Li first came to Nyingchi prefecture in southeast Xizang and went straight to the Shiga Moinba village in Qangna Township, Mailing County after getting off the plane.

The Moinba village is an immigrant village of relocated residents from impoverished areas. Premier Li came into villager Kunsang's new house, sitting in their sofa, and talked with the six of them about their daily life. "What is the main source of income?" "How much could you make in a year?" "What about your health care and children's education?" "What kind of difficulties do you still have now?" Premier Li asked patiently.

Kunsang said that his family moved here from Medog County, where road travel is fairly difficult. Now, they can make an income of 150,000 yuan a year through farming and providing tourism service; they have ensured health care service and children's education programme. He said that there are a total of 72 households in his village, of which 90% of them made an income as much as his.

After hearing these, Li said that he was so pleased to see they have cast off poverty though the relocation programme and lived a prosperous

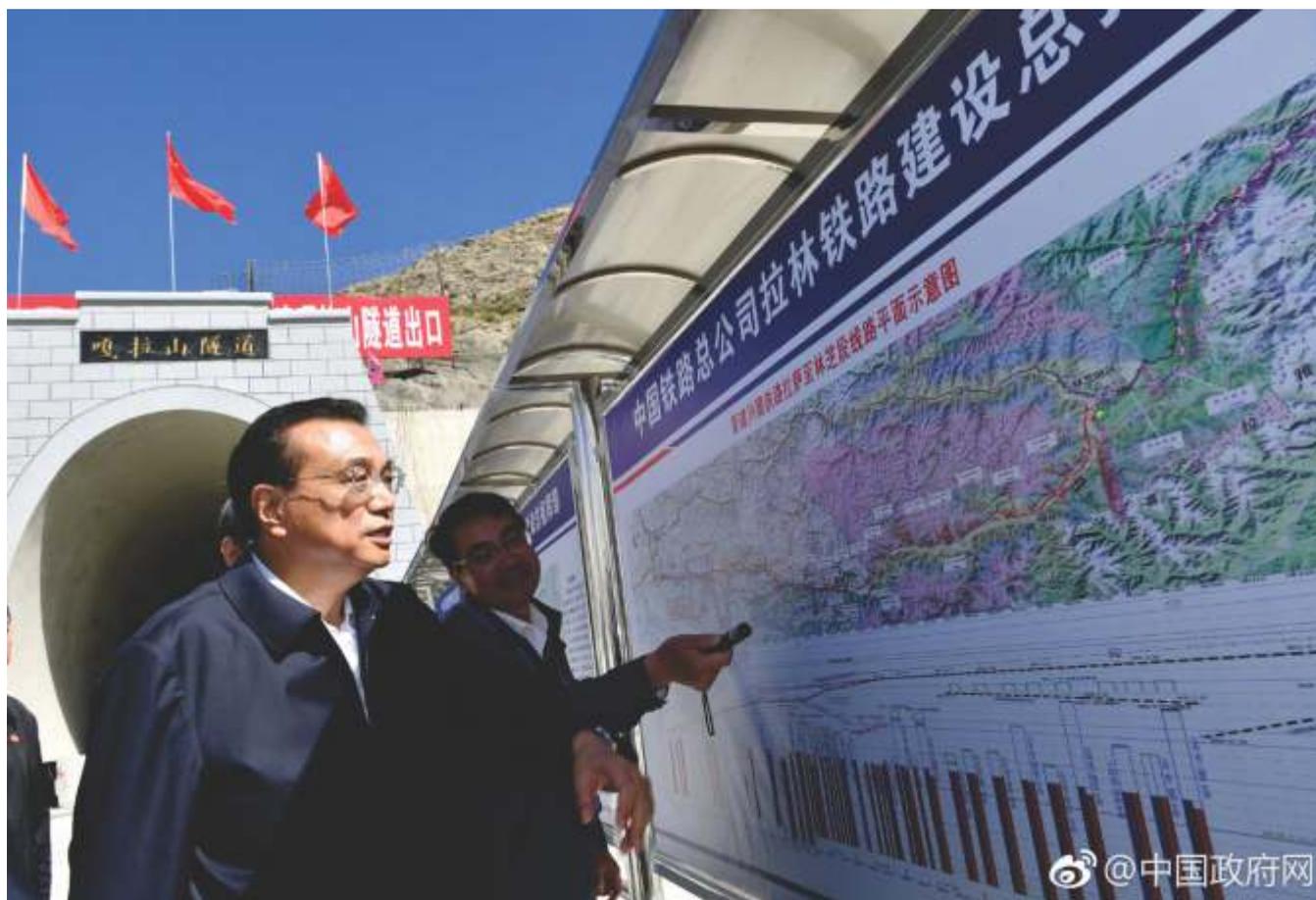


life. Li sent his wish that they could live a more prosperous life in future.

When talking with the six-year-old Yeshe Drolma, Kunsang's daughter, Premier Li asked whether she had gone to school. The girls answered she was in the senior class of kindergarten. When the Premier asked her to write a few words to show

him, the girl wrote her name both in Chinese and Xizangan earnestly on a paper and then gave it to the Premier as a present. "Wish you could learn hard and grow to be as intelligent and beautiful as your name says", Li said after learning that Yeshe Drolma means "intelligent fairy" in Xizangan.

PREMIER LI KEQIANG INSPECTS CONSTRUCTION WORK ON LHASA-NYINGCHI RAILWAY



On July 26, after flying into Lhasa Gonggar Airport, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang traveled directly to a construction site on the Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Xizang Railway in order to investigate the design and progress of construction. Premier Li visited the 3,500-meter-high Kala Mountain Tunnel, where he got down twice to carefully inspect the quality of construction, demanding that everything should be fit together perfectly and keep improving it.

Premier Li Keqiang inspects the construction site on the Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Xizang Railway on July 26. Image source: Chinese Government Online.

The Kala Mountain Tunnel was officially connected on April 7 of this year. It is located within Chushur County, Lhasa Prefecture and Gonggar County, Lhoka Prefecture and is the first tunnel on the Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Xizang Railway. It is also a difficult

engineering project and one under constraints of a time limit. It has a total length of 4,373 meters, a maximum buried depth of 674 meters, and lies at an average elevation of 3,600 meters above sea level, so construction conditions here are complicated and difficult.

According to reports, the tunnel passes through a layer of Aeolian sand, an area susceptible to dangers of falling rock, and a section of a fractured fault, where the



After the Kala Mountain Tunnel on the Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Xizang Railway was connected, construction staff cheer for a group photo in the tunnel. Image source: Shangyou News.

surrounding rock changes frequently and inrush of water is a serious issue. To deal with this, the China Railway 11th Bureau Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway Engineering Command Post actively carried out technical, strategic, and special research to tackle the problem, formulating special technical programs and measures to strengthen management and control of the construction process. Through hard work and joint efforts of all parties involved, the tunnel was connected safely and smoothly.

On June 9, the first sleeper train for the Lhasa-Nyingchi section came off the assembly line. It is expected to be officially laid on the railway track in September, and passenger operations on the whole line are expected to

begin in 2021.

The Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway is Xizang's first electric railway line. It will start in Lhasa and end in Nyingchi, with a total length of 435 kilometers and a design speed of 160 kilometers per hour. The line spans the southern valley between Mt. Gangdise and Nyenchen-Tanglha Mountain in the Himalayas, and it crosses the Yarlung Tsangpo River 16 times. More than 90 percent of the line is located at 3,000 meters above sea level on the plateau. It currently has the most complicated geological conditions and is the most difficult project in China's construction of a railway on the plateau. It will also be a common section shared by the Sichuan-Xizang Railway, Yunnan-

Xizang Railway, and Gansu-Xizang Railway lines.

The Lhasa-Nyingchi section is an important part of the Sichuan-Xizang Railway. Construction began on December 19, 2014, and the total length of the main line is 402 kilometers. The total construction period is seven years. After it is completed, southeastern Xizang will finally be connected by railway, and the line will become an important transportation installation for foreign exchange with southeastern Xizang. It has great practical significance and profound historical significance for promoting economic development and interconnection along the line.

At the same time, the route from

Lhasa to Nyingchi is rich in tourism resources. After the Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway is completed, it will form a world-class landscape corridor, promoting the development of tourism resources along the route and extending tourism resources outside to attract more tourists from the Central Plains region and Yangtze River Delta to visit western China, which will cultivate new economic growth points for the areas along the route. "The Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway will relieve some of the transportation pressure on the Qinghai-Xizang Railway.

Through the railway, the resources of National Highway 318 will be further developed and become more effective. The Sichuan-Xizang Railway will become another landscape avenue for China," Kelsang Tsewang, deputy director of Development and Reform Commission Railway Office of Xizang, said.

The Sichuan-Xizang Railway is known as "the most difficult railway to build". The line was surveyed in the 1950s but construction did not begin until 2014. The line steps are

eight to eight volts, and the cumulative climb height exceeds 1,400 meters. The line will begin in Chengdu, Sichuan Province and pass through Pujiang, Ya'an, Kangding, Litang, Baiyu, Jomdo, Chamdo, Bangda Township in Baxoi County, Nyingchi, Lhoka, and finally arrive in Lhasa. It will have a total length of 1,600 kilometers. Once the Sichuan-Xizang Railway is completed, it will only take 13 hours to travel to Lhasa from Chengdu, Chongqing, or Xi'an on China Railway Highspeed (CRH) trains.

AN INDIAN PILGRIM'S JOURNEY IN XIZANG

Lhasa, July 5 (Xinhua) -- Anuj Gupta was one of the first Indian pilgrims to travel to this sacred mountain and lake for this year's annual pilgrimage in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region.

Donning sports clothes and a windbreaker to keep him warm in the severe high-altitude weather, Gupta arrived at Nathu La Pass along the China-India border on June 24. He traveled to Xizang along with his mother.

The two were among 38 people in the first group of officially organized pilgrims from India this year. A total of 500 people are scheduled to arrive from India to Xizang from June to August, said Yang Zhigang, deputy director of the office of foreign affairs and overseas Chinese affairs in Nigaze City.

Each group of pilgrims spends around 12 days on their journey, traveling from the Nathu La Pass to

Ali Prefecture for a pilgrimage around Mount Kangrinboqe, 6,656 meters above sea level, and Mapam Yumco Lake, both sacred Hindu and Buddhist sites. A round trip covers 2,874 kilometers.

Gupta runs a jewelry and traditional garment shop in Lucknow of India.

"Before coming to Xizang, we spent four days in New Delhi for a medical examination to see if we were fit or not. After that, we were sent to three higher altitude places including Gantok, and then to China," he said.

Gupta's mother, 66, finished the pilgrimage with the help of porters and yaks. For younger pilgrims, the route is 52 kilometers of walking around Mount Kangrinboqe and 70 kilometers around Mapam Yumco Lake.

The pilgrims walked wide roads, across meadows and climbed up steep slopes covered with pebbles. On the

first day, Gupta started out early in the morning and aimed to finish 15 kilometers in a single day.

At the foot of the glacier near Mount Drolmala, Gupta and others challenged the limits of their strength. Steep slopes forced them to rest every few steps and a lot of people gasped for breath due to the high altitude.

"I thought we could pass the mountain without much difficulty, but if my porter were not there, I would not have made it," he said.

Residents from Gangca Village at the foot of Mount Kangrinboqe worked as porters and guides during the pilgrimage season from June to August.

The number of pilgrims was only a few dozen in the 1980s. In 2017, tourists and pilgrims exceeded 100,000, according to villagers. Working in the tourism sector has

helped boost the income of the villagers. Last year, the village cooperative, which rents out horses and yaks, earned about 10 million yuan (about 1.56 million U.S. dollars).

Wang Junhua, director of Baga Township, which administers the village, said they are developing sustainable tourism and offered information online to meet the demands of travelers around the world.

"The journey I enjoyed the most was not the final destination. I made a few friends. It made me a stronger man," Gupta said.

Gupta began heading home after circling Mapam Yumco Lake, about 4,588 meters above sea level.

China agreed to let India officially organize pilgrims to enter Xizang through Nathu La Pass in the Sikkim section of the China-India boundary

in 2015.

In the last three years, 509 such pilgrims entered Xizang through the pass.

"Every year, making arrangements for the pilgrimages takes two months. We have made arrangements for food, accommodations and transportation for the people. We also have medical staff on standby to help them," Yang said.

ANNUAL XIZANG FESTIVAL STARTS WITH THANGKA



Thousands of Xizangans and tourists celebrated an exhibition of giant thangka--religious images embroidered in silk--to mark the start

of the annual shoton, the Xizangan word for yogurt festival, on Saturday.

The thangka images were

unrolled at the Drepung and Sera monasteries in Lhasa, Xizang autonomous region, at 8:30 am on Saturday.



Accompanied by the sound of horns and religious chanting reverberating through the valley, monks slowly unrolled the thangka on a stage on the mountainside behind the monasteries.

Shoton is a religious festival that originated in the 11th century and later turned into a weeklong celebration incorporating both secular and religious events.

The 40-meter-long, 37-meter-wide thangka displayed at Drepung Monastery is an image of the Buddha Shakyamuni. It is more than 500 years old, according to locals.

Monks at Drepung Monastery carry a rolled thangka to celebrate the

annual weeklong shoton, the Xizangan word for yogurt festival, in Lhasa, Xizang autonomous region, on Saturday. Unrolled, the religious image is 40 meters long and 37 meters wide. (PHURBU TASHI/XINHUA)

Monks at Drepung Monastery carry a rolled thangka to celebrate the annual weeklong shoton, the Xizangan word for yogurt festival, in Lhasa, Xizang autonomous region, on Saturday. Unrolled, the religious image is 40 meters long and 37 meters wide. (PHURBU TASHI/XINHUA)

Dechen Wangmo and Dekyi Drolma set out for the event with butter tea and other Xizangan delicacies at 4 a.m. The two women said it is a mustsee event that they

attend every year, although lining up to wait for hours is not easy.

"I wish all living beings happiness, peace and less harm to each other, and I also wish for my own safety and health every day," Dechen Wangmo said.

The 30-year-old said she would go for a picnic in the next few days in Lhasa's Norbu Lingka Park with her family and friends.

The festival was included in the national intangible culture heritage list in 2006. This year it includes activities such as Xizangan opera performances, horse races, an ethnic costume show, hiking and a trade fair.



BOOK REVIEW

Xi Jinping - The Governance of China-II

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held in 2012, the Central Committee with Xi Jinping as general secretary has led the whole party and the people of China in the drive to realize the Two Centenary Goals and the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. In pursuit of these goals the country has upheld and developed socialism with Chinese characteristics, advanced the Five-point Strategy and the Four-pronged Strategy in a coordinated and integrated manner, and achieved historic progress in reform and opening up and socialist modernization. We have braved new challenges, blazed new trails, resolved long-standing and complex problems, realized long sought objectives, championed the causes of the CPC and the country, and brought Chinese socialism to the threshold of a new era.

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.

Editor

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FLIGHTS BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA

Schedule of China Southern Airlines Flights

ROUTING	FLIGHT NO.	DEPARTURE TIME	ARRIVAL TIME	FLIGHT DATES
New Delhi-Guangzhou	CZ3028	12:45	19:50	Daily
Guangzhou - NewDelhi	CZ3027	7:30	11:30	Daily
New Delhi-Guangzhou	CZ360	23:40	6:50+1	Daily
Guangzhou - NewDelhi	CZ359	18:50	22:30	Daily

Schedule of China Southern Airlines Flights (Summer Season)

ROUTING	FLIGHT NO.	DEPARTURE TIME	ARRIVAL TIME	FLIGHT DATES
New Delhi-Guangzhou	CZ3028	11:50	19:30	Daily
Guangzhou - NewDelhi	CZ3027	7:30	11:50	Daily
New Delhi-Guangzhou	CZ360	23:10	6:50+1	Daily
Guangzhou - NewDelhi	CZ359	18:50	22:10	Daily

China Eastern Time Table

ROUTING	Flight Number	Dep.	Arr.	Frequency	Aircraft	Remarks
Delhi-Shanghai(Pudong)	MU564	0230	1100	Daily	Airbus 330-200	Shanghai Pudong: Terminal-1
Shanghai(Pudong)-Delhi	Flight Number MU563	Dep 2110	Arr 0125+1	Frequency Daily	Aircraft Airbus 330-200	
Kolkata-Kunming	Flight Number MU556	Dep 0035	Arr 0510	Frequency Daily	Aircraft Boeing 737	Delhi IGI: Terminal-3
Kunming-Kolkata	Flight Number MU555	Dep 2355	Arr 2345	Frequency Daily	Aircraft Boeing 737	Kolkata NSCBI: Terminal-2

Schedule of Air China Flights Between India and China

ROUTING	FLIGHT NO.	DEPARTURE TIME	ARRIVAL TIME	FLIGHT DATES (JUL- AUG)	FLIGHT DATES (SEP-DEC)	FLIGHT DATES (JAN-MAR)
DEL-PEK	CA948	0310	1140	TUE/THUR/SUN	TUE/THUR/SAT/SUN	TUE/THUR/SAT/SUN
PEK-DEL	CA947	2040	0140+1	MON/WED/SAT	MON/WED/FRI/SAT	MON/WED/FRI/SAT
BOM-SHA	CA430	0150	1325	MON/TUE/THUR/SAT	MON/TUE/THUR/SAT (NOV -DEC MON/TUE/SAT)	MON/THUR/SAT
SHA-BOM	CA 429	1650	0050+1	MON/WED/FRI/SUN	MON/WED/FRI/SUN (NOV -DEC WED/FRI/SUN)	WED/FRI/SUN
BOM-PEK	CA 890	0230	1120	MON/WED/FRI/SUN	MON/WED/FRI/SUN	MON/WED/FRI/SUN
PEK-BOM	CA 889	1940	0100+1	TUE/THUR/SAT/SUN	TUE/THUR/SAT/SUN	TUE/THUR/SAT/SUN

Address and Contact Numbers of Chinese Airlines

Airlines	Address	Contact No.
Air China	Ground Floor, E-9 Connaught House, Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001	Tel: 011-43508888 Fax: 011-43508899
	Unit No. 9/2, Queen's Road, Bangalore 560001	Tel: 080-43587900 Fax: 080-43587999
	Ground Floor, C&B Square, 127 Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (east), Mumbai 400069	Tel: 022-61175555 Fax: 022-61175566
China Eastern Airlines	Thapar House, 124, Janpath, New Delhi 110001	Tel: 011-43513166 Fax: 011-43513155
	228A, Land Mark Building, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata 700020	Tel: 033-40448887/88 Fax: 033-22875173
China Southern Airlines	118, New Delhi House, 27, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110001	Tel: 011-43596075/77/78 Fax: 011-23737453
Cathy Pacific	G123, Tolstoy House, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi	Tel: 011-23321286/3332 Fax: 011-23721550



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