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HAPPY NEW YEAR

YEAR OF THE DOG

Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Prof. Lokesh Chandra, Chairman of Nehru Memorial Museum & Library and former Chairman of ICCR.

A Chinese delegation introduced the achievements of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to political communities in India.

Ambassador Luo Zhaohui gave an interview to CCTV in India, sharing his views on President Xi Jinping's New Year Speech.

Ambassador Luo Zhaohui participated in CII Seminar on China-India Relations.

Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Professor Anita Sharma, Head of Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi and Professor Yap Swee Keow.

A Chinese medical team provided free treatment in India.

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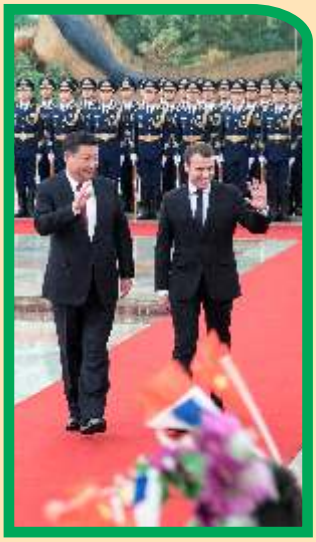

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Second Volume of Xi's Book on Governance

CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING DELIVERS 2018 NEW YEAR SPEECH

Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a New Year speech to domestic and overseas audience via China Radio International, China National Radio, China Central Television, China Global TV Network and the Internet. Here's the speech in full:

Comrades, friends, ladies and gentlemen,

Greetings! Time flies. As we are ushering in the year of 2018, I would like to extend my New Year wishes to my countrymen and women from all ethnic groups, in Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions and in Taiwan, as well as overseas Chinese. I also wish good luck to friends from all countries and regions across the world.

It is only natural that hard work pays off, and it brings changes for the better every day. In 2017, we held the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, embarking on a new journey towards the all-round building of a modern socialist China. Our national GDP reached a new level of 80 trillion yuan. Over 13 million new job

opportunities were created in urban and rural areas. The social old-age pension schemes have covered more than 900 million people, while 1.35 billion people have gained access to basic medical insurance. Another more than 10 million rural residents have been lifted out of poverty. "If only I could get tens of thousands of mansions! I would house all the poor people who would then beam with smiles(ancient Chinese poet Du Fu)." As part of our poverty alleviation efforts, 3.4 million people have moved into new and warm homes, and the goal of upgrading 6 million housing units in run-down areas has been realized in advance. The improvement of people's well-being has been accelerated, and the ecological environment has gradually improved. The people have gained a stronger sense of fulfillment, happiness and security. We are now one big step closer to the completion of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

We have made one achievement after another in the fields of science and technology innovation as well as massive projects. The Huiyan Hard X-ray Modulation Telescope has launched into space. The C919 large passenger jet has completed its maiden flight. The quantum computer has been successfully developed. Saltwater paddies have begun trial production. The first domestically built aircraft carrier has been put into use. The Haiyi underwater glider has conducted deep-sea observations. Samples of combustible ice in sea areas have been collected successfully. The Yangshan Phase-IV Automated Port has officially opened. The main structure of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge has been finished, and the Fuxing high speed trains have been operated across China … I would like to say Bravo to the great creativity demonstrated by fellow Chinese.

We held a military drill in Zhurihe training base, commemorating the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Upon the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China, I paid a visit to it and saw with my own eyes that Hong Kong has maintained its long-term prosperity and stability with the firm support of the motherland, and it will surely enjoy a better tomorrow. In order to remember history and call for peace, we held a ceremony to mark the 80th anniversary of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, as well as a national memorial service for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre.

China played host to several multilateral diplomatic events, including the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the BRICS Summit in Xiamen, as well as the CPC in Dialogue with the World's Political Parties High-level Meeting. I also participated in some of the world's important multi-lateral meetings. In the beginning of 2017, I attended the Davos World Economic Forum and delivered a speech at the UN Headquarters in Geneva. Then I participated in other events including the G20 Summit and the APEC summit. On different occasions, I exchanged views with relevant parties, and all of us agreed to work together to build a community with a shared future for mankind, so as to benefit people all over the world.

In 2017, I received a lot of letters from the public, including villagers from Yumai Township of Longzi County in Tibet, members of a mounted cultural troupe in West Suned Prefecture of Inner Mongolia, professors of Xi'an Jiaotong University who had relocated there from eastern China decades ago, and graduates from Nankai University who had joined the army. Their stories all impressed me deeply. People have adhered to patriotism and devotion with neither complaint nor regret, which makes me feel that the common people are the greatest and happiness is generated through hard work.

Comrades, friends, ladies and gentlemen!

2018 marks the beginning of China putting into action the guiding principles of the 19th CPC National Congress, which designed a blueprint for the country's development for the next three decades. "A nine-storey tower begins with a pile of earth." To translate the blueprint into reality, we must neither rush upon fantasy nor be guided by the sound of falsehood. We shall work steadily and in a down-to-earth manner.

2018 marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up policy. The policy is the only way for modern China to make progress in its development as well as to realize the Chinese dream. With the 40th anniversary of the reform and opening up policy as a turning point, we shall cut paths through mountains and build bridges across rivers, overcome all difficulties and carry reform through to the end.

It is our solemn commitment to lift all rural residents living below the current poverty line out of poverty by 2020. Once made, a promise is as weighty as a thousand ounces of gold. It is only 3 years left before 2020, so the whole society shall take joint actions, strive to the best of our capabilities, and implement targeted

measures for more success. If we win the battle against poverty three years later on schedule, that will mark the first entire elimination of absolute impoverishment in the Chinese nation's history which has lasted for thousands of years. Let's work together for this great achievement that is significant to both the Chinese nation and mankind.

At present, various sides have both expectations and worries about the prospect of peace and development for mankind, looking forward to China expressing its stand and attitude. The world is one big family. As a responsible major country, China has this to say: China will resolutely uphold the authority and status of the United Nations, conscientiously perform its due international obligations and responsibilities, keep its promises on global climate change, actively push forward the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, and always contribute to the building of world peace and global development, and the safeguarding of international order. The Chinese people are willing to work together with people of various countries in opening up a beautiful future of greater prosperity and tranquility for mankind.

Comrades, friends, ladies and gentlemen!

Our great development achievements have been made by the people, and should be shared by the people. I understand what concerns the people the most includes education, employment, income, social security, healthcare, elderly care, housing, and the environment. You have reaped the harvest from your hard work. You have also encountered quite some frustrations. There is still much room for improvement with regard to our work in relation to the people's livelihood. So we should strengthen our sense of mission and responsibility, and do practical and fruitful work for the sake of the people's welfare. The CPC committees, governments and officials at all levels shall always take into consideration the safety and necessities of the people wholeheartedly, and regard the work of benefitting the people as their top political achievement. They shall pay attention to and share the concerns of the people and create conditions for them to live a better and happier life.

Thank you all.

SECOND VOLUME OF XI'S BOOK ON GOVERNANCE PUBLISHED

Beijing, Nov. 7 (Xinhua) -- The second volume of Chinese President Xi Jinping's book on governance has been published in both Chinese and English, the publisher said Tuesday.

The second volume of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" collects 99 of Xi's speeches, conversations, instructions and letters, as well as 29 photos of the Chinese leader, between Aug. 18, 2014 and Sept. 29, 2017, the Foreign Languages Press said in a statement.

The articles are divided into 17 topics and the book also adds some necessary annotations to improve readers' understanding, according to the statement.

Over the three years since the publishing of the first volume in September, 2014, Xi, also general

Photo taken on Nov. 7, 2017 shows the second volume of Chinese President Xi Jinping's book "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China", in Beijing, capital of China. The second volume of Chinese President Xi Jinping's book on governance has been published in both Chinese and English, the publisher said Tuesday. (Xinhua/Chen Yehua)

secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has continued to put forward a series of new concepts, thoughts and strategies, enriching the CPC's theories, it said.

The second volume depicts the practices of the CPC Central Committee, with Xi at the core, in uniting and leading Chinese people to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics in a new era, the statement said.

It reflects the development and main contents of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

The newly-published volume is also expected to help the international community better understand the path, concept and model of China's development, it added.

An amendment to the CPC Constitution, approved at the Party's 19th national congress last month, has made Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era a new component of the Party's guide for action.

As of August, the first volume of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" had sold 6.42 million copies in 21 languages in more than 160 countries and regions.

A worker from the Foreign Languages Press puts the second volume of Chinese President Xi Jinping's book "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" in order, in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 7, 2017. The second volume of Chinese President Xi Jinping's book on governance has been published in both Chinese and English, the publisher said Tuesday. (Xinhua/Chen Yehua)

XI'S NEW BOOK ON GOVERNANCE EXCEEDS 10 MLN IN GLOBAL CIRCULATION

Beijing, Jan. 12 (Xinhua) -- Global circulation of Chinese President Xi Jinping's new book on governance has by Friday exceeded 10 million, according to China International Publishing Group (CIPG).

The second volume of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" was published in November in English and Chinese versions.

The articles in the book are put into 17 topics, under which there are 99 of Xi's speeches, conversations, instructions and letters, as well as 29

photos of the Chinese leader, all of which were published between Aug. 18, 2014 and Sept. 29, 2017.

The book is expected to help the international community better understand China's contribution as it tries to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, as well as peace and development of mankind, CIPG said in a statement.

The new book is going to be published in more different languages.

CHINA FOCUS: SENIOR OFFICIAL STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF XI'S SECOND BOOK ON GOVERNANCE

Beijing, Nov. 24 (Xinhua) — A senior official said on Friday that studying President Xi Jinping's new book on governance will deepen the understanding of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Wang Huning, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks at symposium on the second volume of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China," which was published earlier this month.

Wang said that "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese

Wang Huning (C, rear), member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, attends a symposium on the second volume of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China," in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 24, 2017. (Xinhua/Xie Huanchi)

Characteristics for a New Era is considered as the Chinese Marxism of the 21st century, which shows its originality and reflects the features of the times."

"According to the 19th CPC National Congress, it is an important strategic task to equip the whole Party with Xi's thought," said Wang.

The first volume was published in 2014 and received widespread attention and praise from readers at home and abroad.

The second volume, covering 17 topics, collects 99 of Xi's speeches, conversations, instructions and letters between Aug. 18, 2014 and Sept. 29, 2017.

The new volume depicts the practice of the CPC Central Committee with Xi at the core in uniting and leading Chinese people to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics in a new era.

It reflects the development and achievements of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

It also provides Chinese wisdom and solution for developing a community with a shared future for mankind and in promoting peace and development.

Wang called for deep understanding of the historical background that produced Xi's thought, the original contributions it made to Marxism and the guidance it provides for the realization of the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

Studying and publicizing the newly-published volume will further ingrain Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era in people's hearts and enhance the international community's understanding of Xi's thought," Wang said.

Huang Kunming, head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, also addressed the symposium, calling for leading cadres to take the lead in studying the new volume.

KEY CPC DEPARTMENTS CALL FOR LEARNING XI'S SECOND BOOK ON GOVERNANCE

Beijing -- All regions and departments across China should study President Xi Jinping's new book on governance, according to a notice released by the General Office of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

The second volume of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" was published earlier this month.

The notice by the General Office of the CPC Central Committee on forwarding the opinions of publicity and organization departments of the CPC Central Committee regarding studying Xi's new book was released recently.

Over the three years since the publication of the first volume in September 2014, Xi, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, has continued to put forward new concepts, thoughts and strategies, enriching CPC theories, the notice said.

The second volume, which has 17 topics, collects 99 of Xi's speeches, conversations, instructions and letters between Aug. 18, 2014 and Sept. 29, 2017.

It depicts the practice of the CPC Central Committee, with Xi at the core, in uniting and leading Chinese people to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics in a new era, the notice said.

The new volume also reflects the development and main contents of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

It is a major political task of the whole Party to study and carry out Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era at present and for the next period, the notice noted.

It also urged Party organizations at all levels to study the first and second volumes so as to understand Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and better implement the new thought.

Studying of the new book should also be included in training at Party schools and Party committees at all levels, executive leadership academies and academies of governance, the notice stressed.

NEW BOOK SHOWS GLOBAL AUDIENCE CHINA THROUGH XI'S EYES

Beijing, Nov. 22 (Xinhua) -- Inside a spacious factory building in the southern outskirts of Beijing, printing machines have been roaring and running around the clock for two weeks to publish a new book by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"About 500 of us workers have been working extra hours since Nov. 4," said Zhao Qing, an employee at Beijing Shengtong Printing.

The company was contracted to print 1 million copies of the second volume of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China," a collection of 99 of Xi's speeches, conversations, instructions and letters, as well as 29 photos of the Chinese leader from between Aug. 18, 2014 and Sept. 29, 2017.

Since the Chinese and English versions of the book hit the market on Nov. 7, major bookstores in Beijing, including those in the city's busiest shopping areas of Wangfujing and Xidan, have displayed them prominently.

"The first print run is about 5.46 million copies," said Xu Bu, president and chief editor of Foreign Languages Press, the book's publisher. "In the past few days, orders have flooded in and we expect more to come."

Sales are likely to exceed those of the first book, which was published in September 2014 and has sold

A worker from the Foreign Languages Press puts the second volume of Chinese President Xi Jinping's book "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" in order, in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 7, 2017. The second volume of Chinese President Xi Jinping's book on governance has been published in both Chinese and English, the publisher said Tuesday. (Xinhua/Chen Yehua)

about 6.6 million copies worldwide in 24 languages.

In addition to Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Arabic, Spanish, Russian and Portuguese versions from the Chinese publisher, another 15 languages versions of the first book were translated and published by local publishing houses, with Chinese editors supervising the final draft.

Cooperation with local publishers helped make the book suitable for diverse cultures and traditions, Xu said.

"Such a global promotion plan is rare for books by Chinese leaders. The second volume will follow suit," he said.

According to Xu, Foreign Languages Press has worked with international publishing house Lagardere Services to distribute the book through bookshops at major international airports and will promote it through Chinese embassies and other Chinese organizations abroad.

"We would also like to attract foreign readers who live in China or travel here," he added.

Although they have the same title and almost identical covers, the second volume comes at a different time -- "a new era."

For David Ferguson, English editor of both books with Foreign Languages Press, the fundamental difference is that the second volume has been brought under a single overarching philosophy: Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

"Western audience sometimes do not quite understand how important aphorisms and axioms are in Chinese political discourse," he said. "When a Chinese leader comes up with a new idea, it matters to everybody in the Party and the wider society."

Citing the subtle difference between "for a new era" and "in a new era," Ferguson said that the former suggests China is in control, while the latter indicates that it is reacting to something imposed by

external forces.

Robert Lawrence Kuhn, U.S. expert on China studies and chairman of the Kuhn Foundation, shared Ferguson's observation about China's political discourse, noting that articulation between theory and practice in China is greater than other major countries.

"A founding theory of the Party is needed to develop certain specific policies that emerge out of it," he said.

The two books by Xi have offered outsiders a resource to understand China's new guiding philosophy.

"Within the books, you can see the historical development of Xi's idea," Kuhn said. "You can see it inducing itself as these ideas come together, building up to what has been crystallized as Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era."

The two books give readers "a rich exemplification" of the specific elements that compose the thought, Kuhn added.

"The new book is not only well received by our institutional clients but by many ordinary readers," said Xu Jin, employee at the Beijing Xidan Book Building.

"I am touched by General Secretary Xi Jinping's words in this book. I find some of his expressions appealing, and the language he uses is charming, gentle and approachable," a college student surnamed Lyu told Xinhua at the Xidan bookstore.

Although the two books are mostly collections of Xi's speeches and written instructions, they are organized by topic and include only the most important articles or the most essential excerpts, with footnotes helping foreign readers to understand the cultural context, according to editors.

"The main reason why foreigners should read these books is that they are the first time that a Chinese leader has sought to capture his whole philosophy and communicate it to the international audience in so many languages," Ferguson said. "There is everything you need to know about where China is now and where China is trying to go."

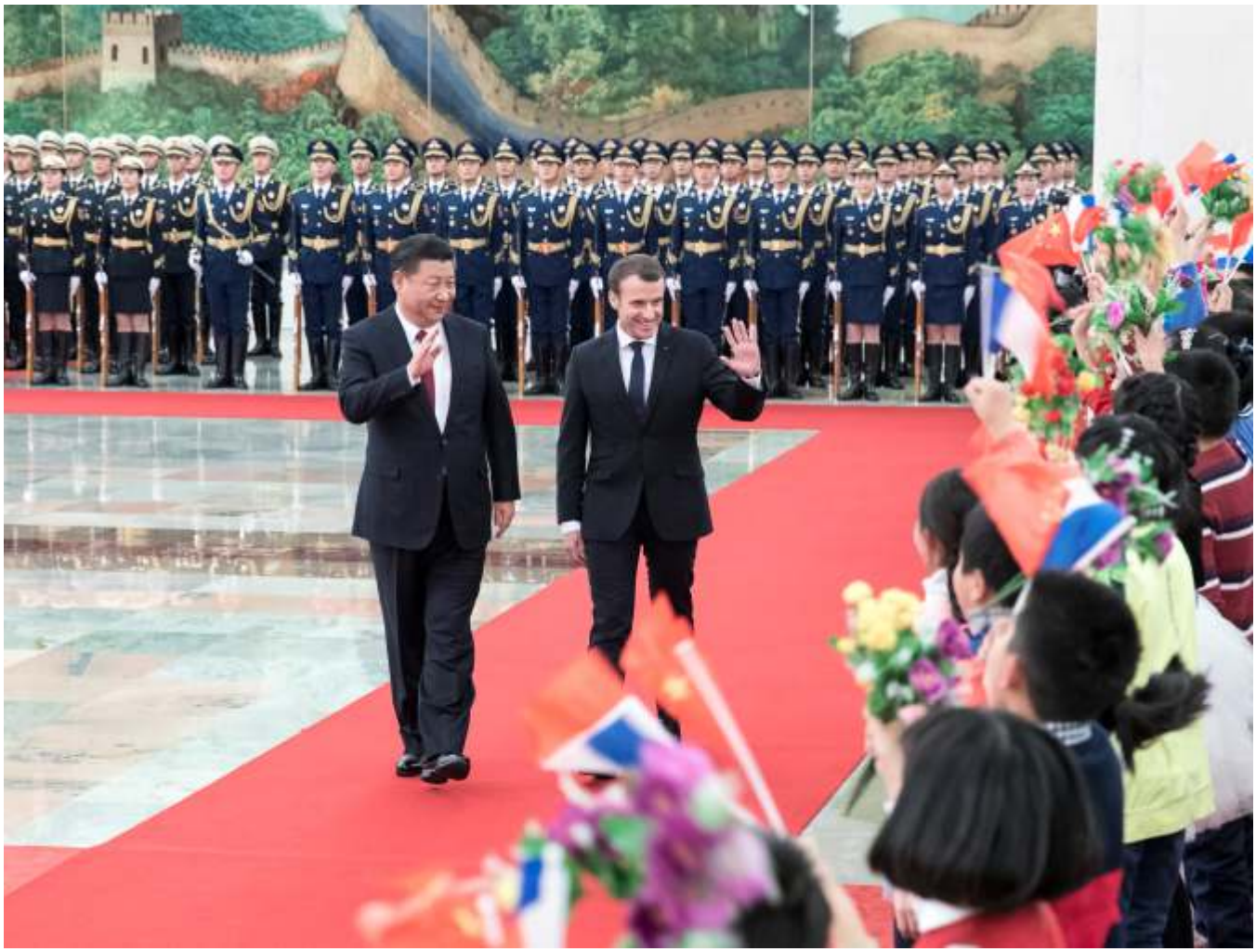
External Affairs

XI JINPING HOLDS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON OF FRANCE

On January 9, 2018, President Xi Jinping held talks with President Emmanuel Macron of France at the Great Hall of the People. The two heads of state agreed to adhere to the friendly tradition, and push forward the close and ever-lasting China-France comprehensive strategic partnership for stable and long-term development.

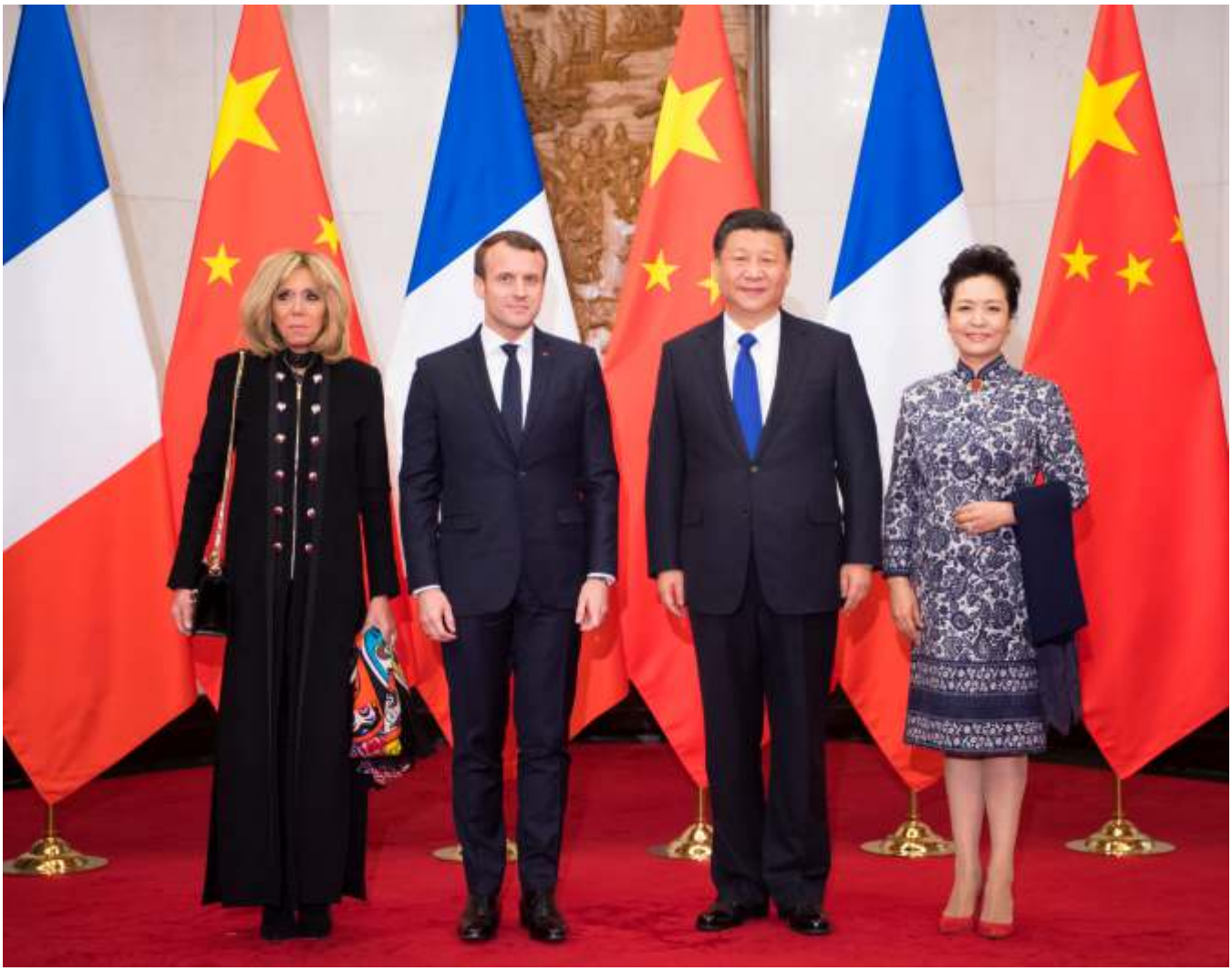
Xi Jinping pointed out that President Emmanuel Macron is the first foreign head of state to visit China in 2018, as well as the first head of state of a European country to visit China after the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC). China-France relations enjoy unique history and rich connotation. In recent years, bilateral relations have constantly maintained high-level development, becoming more mature, stable and vigorous. The relations between the two countries stand at a new starting point. The Chinese side is willing to, together with the French side, enhance contacts and deepen mutual trust as well as bilateral cooperation, so as to inject new impetus into the development of China-France comprehensive strategic partnership.

Xi Jinping stressed that to promote better and faster development of China-France relations in the new period, the two countries should conduct close and in-depth communication and exchanges, give full play to the political leading role of the head of state diplomacy in bilateral relations, and support the enhancement of exchanges at all levels between the governments, legislative bodies, political parties, militaries and other departments of the two countries. Both sides should also give full play to the planning and coordination role of various bilateral dialogue mechanisms. The two countries should earnestly accommodate each other's core interests and major



concerns, and properly handle differences, in order to make sure bilateral relations always develop steadily on the right track. Both sides should vigorously deepen strategic cooperation in nuclear energy, aviation and aerospace and other traditional areas, constantly nurture new growth points of cooperation, and speed up the advancement of cooperation in emerging areas including agriculture and food, medical services and health, urban sustainable development, green manufacturing and finance. Both sides should continue pushing forward the overall alignment between Made in China 2025 and France's Industry of the Future plan, enhance cooperation in innovation, and better achieve advantage complementarities and common development in such areas as digital economy, artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing industry. The two countries should seize new opportunities created by the "Belt and Road" initiative, and carry out practical cooperation within the "Belt and Road" framework, in order to jointly promote the prosperity of Eurasia. Both sides should mobilize more forces to actively participate in China-France cooperation, and constantly promote regional cooperation for in-depth and solid development. The two sides should earnestly advance people-to-people and cultural exchanges, promote long-term cooperation and mechanism building in various fields, and take the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics as opportunities to deepen bilateral cooperation in sports and enhance exchanges and cooperation in tourism, youth and other fields.

Xi Jinping pointed out that as permanent members of the UN Security Council and major countries with important international influence, both China and France should well fulfill the special responsibilities they shoulder, and enhance international cooperation in an all-round manner. Both sides should jointly uphold and safeguard multilateralism, intensify cooperation within the UN, the G20 and other multilateral frameworks, and join hands to build a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice, and win-win cooperation. Both sides should adhere to the global



governance concept featuring extensive consultation, joint construction and shared benefits, boost global governance reform, build an open world economy, and oppose all forms of protectionism, so as to push forward economic globalization to develop toward a more open, inclusive, universally beneficial, balanced and win-win direction. Both countries should stick to peacefully solving disputes through dialogue, actively promote the settlement of international and regional hotspot issues, and cope with climate change, terrorism, cyber security and other global challenges through cooperation, so as to safeguard world peace and stability as well as build a community with a shared future for mankind hand in hand.

Emmanuel Macron expressed that he is very glad to come to China for his first visit in 2018 and become the first head of state of a European Union (EU) country to visit China after the 19th CPC National Congress, which fully reflects the importance of France-China relations to both sides. France-China relations are of great significance. As permanent members of the UN Security Council, both countries shoulder major responsibilities for international collective security. Sharing similar ideas in multilateral affairs, France and China have maintained close communication and coordination, and carried out sound cooperation on such major issues as coping with climate change and promoting stable development of globalization. France attaches importance to strengthening bilateral cooperation under the "Belt and Road" framework, and believes that is of high strategic significance. It is hoped that, through this visit, both sides could establish closer communication and dialogue at high level and in various fields, enhance bilateral economic contacts and cooperation in aviation and aerospace, nuclear energy and other important areas, and strengthen educational and cultural exchanges, so as to jointly write a new chapter for France-China cooperation. At

present, the EU is facing new development, and France stands ready to actively promote EU-China cooperation for constant and forward-looking development.

Xi Jinping pointed out that China firmly supports the European integration, and stands ready to continuously align its strategy with the European side, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and join hands to promote the construction of four major China-EU partnerships featuring peace, growth, reform and civilization, in a bid to push forward China-Europe comprehensive strategic partnership for new and greater development. The Chinese side welcomes the European side to actively participate in the "Belt and Road" construction.

After their talks, the two heads of state jointly met with representatives of entrepreneurs who attended the first meeting of the Chinese-French council of entrepreneurs, and made speeches respectively. Xi Jinping pointed out in his speech that the Chinese economy is still a major powerhouse and stabilizer of global economic growth. China would continue implementing the concept of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, stick to the basic state policy of opening-up, adhere to high-quality development, and develop an open economy at a higher level. China stands ready to, together with France and Europe, uphold the concept of mutual understanding and win-win cooperation, stick to the general direction of two-way opening-up, and join hands to improve the global economic governance system which takes opening-up as orientation, cooperation as impetus and sharing as goal.

The two heads of state also jointly attended the inauguration ceremony marking the first completion of a European advanced pressurized water reactor of the Taishan nuclear power plant, and witnessed the signing of a bilateral memorandum of understanding on the establishment of the Chinese-French council of entrepreneurs, as well as the signing of bilateral cooperative documents covering national park system building, nuclear energy, space technology, professional resources exchange, environmental protection, finance, health, aviation, agriculture, elderly care, culture, education, commerce and other fields.

After the signing ceremony, the two heads of state also jointly met Chinese and foreign journalists.

Prior to the talks, Xi Jinping held a welcoming ceremony for Emmanuel Macron at the North Hall of the Great Hall of the People. President Xi Jinping's wife, Mme. Peng Liyuan, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and State Councilor Yang Jiechi, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Chen Zhu, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Lin Wenyi and others were present.

CHINESE AND RUSSIAN HEADS OF STATE EXCHANGE NEW YEAR CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

On December 31, 2017, President Xi Jinping and President Vladimir Putin of Russia exchanged new year congratulatory messages.

In the congratulatory message, on behalf of the Chinese government and people, Xi Jinping extended sincere congratulations and best wishes to President Vladimir Putin and the Russian people. Xi Jinping noted that, looking back at 2017, China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination has made new important progress at a high level. Both sides have rendered firm support on issues concerning each other's core interests, achieved important early harvests in docking cooperation between the "Belt and Road" construction and the Eurasian Economic Union, made progress and ensured stability in bilateral cooperation in major strategic projects, as well as continuously unleashed new drivers for innovative, agricultural and sub-national cooperation. Both sides have seen a successful conclusion of the China-Russia Media Exchange Year, vigorous people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and a more solid public opinion foundation of China-Russia friendly relations. Both sides have kept close and effective coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs, making significant contributions to safeguarding world peace and

stability.

Xi Jinping pointed out that in the coming year, I am willing to make joint efforts with you to consolidate China-Russia political and strategic mutual trust, expand China-Russia practical cooperation across the board and advance China-Russia international strategic coordination, so as to jointly lead the development of bilateral relations to yield new fruitful outcomes. I believe that the China-Russia sub-national cooperation exchange year to be held in 2018 and 2019 will definitely expand and deepen sub-national exchanges between the two countries across the board, and have the ideas of the long-lasting friendship between China and Russia and common development deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples.

In the congratulatory message, Vladimir Putin extended new year greetings to President Xi Jinping, and wished all Chinese people happy and healthy. Vladimir Putin expressed that Russia-China relations have made new achievements in the outgoing year of 2017. He was pleased that bilateral trade volume grew significantly, and exchanges in science, technology, culture and people-to-people and cultural engagement flourished. Russia and China have conducted fruitful coordination in international affairs and made important contributions to addressing international hotspot issues. Both sides actively conduct sub-national exchanges, and will hold the Russia-China sub-national cooperation exchange year in 2018 and 2019. Russia will work together with the Chinese side to continuously deepen Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination to benefit the friendly people of both countries.

XI JINPING AND PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA OF SOUTH AFRICA EXCHANGE CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND SOUTH AFRICA

On January, 1, 2018, President Xi Jinping exchanged congratulatory messages with President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, warmly congratulating on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and South Africa.

Xi Jinping pointed out in the congratulatory message that twenty years ago today, China and South Africa formally established diplomatic relations and opened a new page of bilateral relations. Over the past twenty years, under the joint efforts of both sides, China-South Africa relations have enjoyed comprehensive and in-depth development, achieving a major leap from partnership, strategic partnership to comprehensive strategic partnership. The facts have proved that continuously consolidating and deepening China-South Africa all-round cooperation conform to the fundamental interests of the two countries and their peoples. I stand ready to, together with Mr. President, promote the constant and forward-looking development of bilateral relations to better benefit the two countries and the two peoples.

Xi Jinping expressed that China and South Africa are incumbent co-chairs of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). In 2015, the FOCAC Johannesburg Summit jointly presided over by Mr. President and I achieved a complete success. In accordance with the proposal of Mr. President and common wishes of the African countries, China agrees to

hold the FOCAC Summit in 2018. I am willing to, together with Mr. President and other African leaders of the FOCAC members, make the 2018 FOCAC Summit a historic event which will strengthen solidarity and cooperation between China and Africa.

Jacob Zuma expressed that the 20th anniversary of the establishment of South Africa-China relations serves as a significant milestone in the history of bilateral relations. Over the past twenty years, South Africa and China have achieved sound cooperation results on the basis of traditional friendship and mutual trust. Bilateral relations have been constantly elevated and given more important strategic meanings. The two countries have coordinated closely on issues concerning each other's common interests and jointly coped with the new threats and challenges facing the world. As the co-chairs of the FOCAC, South Africa and China have dedicated to pushing forward Africa-China partnership and promoting the implementation of the results of the 2015 FOCAC Johannesburg Summit. He looks forward to attending the new summit of the FOCAC in China in September, 2018. He also hopes to take the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries as an opportunity to enhance South-Africa friendly relations, expand cooperation and achieve win-win results.

XI JINPING HOLDS GROUP MEETING WITH SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE NORDIC AND BALTIC COUNTRIES

On January 10, 2018, President Xi Jinping held a group meeting with leaders of parliaments of the Nordic and Baltic countries at the Great Hall of the People. Speaker of Parliament Maria Lohela of Finland, Speaker of Parliament Olemic Thommessen of Norway, Speaker of Parliament Steingrimur Jóhann Sigfusson of Iceland, Speaker of Parliament Eiki Nestor of Estonia, Speaker of Parliament Inara Murniece of Latvia, Speaker of Parliament Viktoras Pranckietis of Lithuania, First Deputy Speaker of Parliament Eva Thalen Finne of Sweden and others were present.

Xi Jinping said that this joint visit to China paid by leaders of parliaments of these countries was a new model for the Nordic and Baltic countries to jointly conduct high-level exchanges with China, marking that the political mutual trust as well as exchanges and cooperation in various fields between both sides have entered a new era of rapid development, which I welcome.

Xi Jinping pointed out that, at present, the relations between China and the Nordic and Baltic countries have maintained sound momentum of development. Both sides have enjoyed steadily enhanced political mutual trust, fruitful achievements from practical cooperation, increasingly closer people-to-people and cultural exchanges and more solid public opinion foundation. It not only conforms to the interests of respective countries, but also contributes to pushing forward the development of the China-Europe comprehensive strategic partnership and follows the trend of the times of peace, development, and win-win cooperation for China to develop healthy, stable and sustainable relations, and advance mutually beneficial and win-win bilateral and regional cooperation with the Nordic and Baltic countries. Both sides should always take mutual respect, equal treatment, inclusiveness and mutual learning as principles, respect each other's core interests and major concerns, and firmly hold the right development direction of bilateral relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective. Both sides should continue maintaining the momentum of high-level exchanges, strengthening communication, enhancing understanding, seeking common ground while resolving differences and expanding consensus. The two sides should synergize their respective development strategies and expand fields and channels of practical cooperation. In particular, both sides should strengthen cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and share the development dividends brought by Eurasian connectivity.

Xi Jinping introduced China's economic and social development situation and peaceful foreign policy. He said that the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) proposed that China will push forward the building of a new type of international relations and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. It implies the importance of the concept on socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the goal of China's diplomacy in the new era as well as the direction for all countries in the world to strive for. China will continue playing its role as a responsible major country, actively participate in reform and building of the global governance system, push forward the global governance system toward a more just and equitable direction, and constantly contribute Chinese wisdom and strength.

The leaders of parliaments from various countries present congratulated on the successful convening of the 19th CPC National Congress, expressed their admiration for the various people-oriented goals proposed at the 19th CPC National Congress, and wished the smooth realization of such goals. They expressed that China has made historical achievements in economic development, improvement of people's livelihood, poverty reduction and alleviation, environmental protection and other aspects. The Nordic and Baltic countries cherish their friendship with China and stand ready to further develop the friendly cooperative relations with China.

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice Chairman and Secretary General of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Wang Chen was present.

LI KEQIANG ATTENDS THE 2ND LMC LEADERS' MEETING, STRESSING TO FORGE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BELT ALONG THE LANCANG-MEKONG RIVER BASIN AND BUILD A LANCANG-MEKONG COMMUNITY OF SHARED FUTURE

On the afternoon of January 10, 2018 local time, Premier Li Keqiang attended the 2nd Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh. Li Keqiang and Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia co-chaired the meeting. Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith of Laos, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Vietnam and Vice President U Myint Swe of Myanmar were present.

Li Keqiang expressed that the LMC is the first and a new type of sub-regional cooperation mechanism jointly established by the six countries along the Lancang-Mekong River and an important platform for extensive consultation and joint construction of the "Belt and Road". Over the past two years, as we have upheld the cooperation concepts featuring development first, equal consultation, practicality and high efficiency as well as openness and inclusiveness, the LMC mechanism has produced better-than-expected progress. We forged the LMC pattern featuring leaders' guidance, all-round coverage and broad participation, created the LMC speed of daily progress, monthly results and yearly updates as well as cultivated the LMC culture featuring equal treatment, sincere mutual assistance and family-like atmosphere.

Li Keqiang pointed out that the LMC has become one of the most dynamic and productive cooperation mechanisms in the region. China is willing to work with the countries along the Mekong River to forge the economic development belt along the Lancang-Mekong River basin and build a Lancang-Mekong community of shared future. Li Keqiang put forward the following proposals regarding advancing the LMC from the nurturing period to the growth period in a smooth manner and forging a model of sub-regional and South-South cooperation.

First, well implement water resource cooperation. The six countries must trust, understand and support each other, strengthen upstream and downstream cooperation, accommodate each other's concern, and properly handle the relations between economic development and environmental protection in a coordinated way. With the focus on sustainable utilization of water resources, we must map out a "five-year action plan for water resource cooperation", enhance emergency management on droughts and floods, carry out joint researches on water resources and influence of

climate change, improve water quality monitoring system and forge a water resource cooperation platform featuring joint construction and shared benefits.

Second, reinforce production capacity cooperation in such areas as the construction of water conservancy facilities. China boasts cost-effective hydroelectric power equipment as well as engineering construction force, which suit the needs of the countries along the Mekong River. China encourages its companies to, in line with the concept of sustainable development, participate in the construction of hydropower stations, reservoirs, irrigation and drinking-water projects in the countries along the Mekong River so as to achieve win-win cooperation. The six countries must well implement the Joint Statement on Production Capacity Cooperation Among Lancang-Mekong Countries, make plans for connectivity among Lancang-Mekong countries and action plans for production capacity cooperation among Lancang-Mekong countries, and well build the existing economic and trade cooperation zones and cross-border economic cooperation zones.

Third, expand agricultural cooperation. China supports its enterprises in carrying out cooperation in the deep processing of agricultural products in the countries along the Mekong River and jointly developing third-party markets. China is willing to, together with the countries along the Mekong River, deepen cooperation in agricultural technology and build platforms for agricultural technology exchanges, joint research as well as investment and trade cooperation.

Fourth, upgrade human resource cooperation. China is willing to help the countries along the Mekong River nurture more professionals at all levels that are desperately needed for development. China will offer short-term training and in-service education for 2,000 people for the countries along the Mekong River and 100 four-year scholarships for undergraduates in 2018. China encourages joint training programs among universities and promotes cooperation among vocational schools.

Fifth, push forward medical and health cooperation. China is willing to set up joint prevention and control mechanisms for infectious diseases with relevant countries, carry out cross-border joint prevention and control projects for infectious diseases in an in-depth way, and build a Lancang-Mekong network for malaria elimination, so as to effectively safeguard health security in this region. China will assist relevant countries in building medical health system.

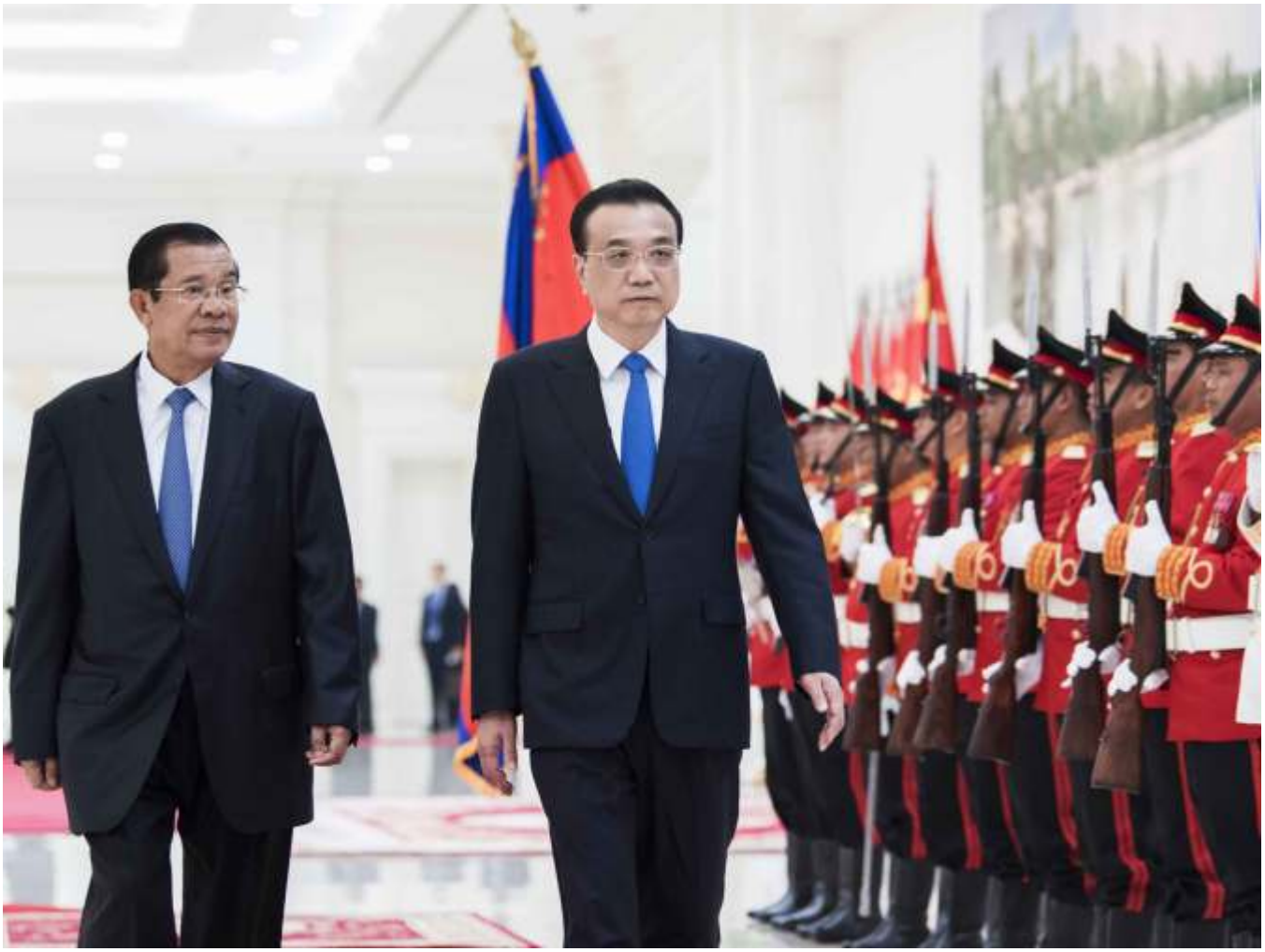
Li Keqiang suggested that the six member countries should, on the basis of consolidating the "3+5 cooperation framework", expand cooperation in such areas as digital economy, environmental protection, health, customs and youth, so as to gradually form "3+5+X cooperation framework". China's development benefits from a sound surrounding environment and also serves as a source of driving force and a stabilizer for the economic growth of neighboring countries. The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China convened not long ago stressed that China will follow a peaceful development path and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. China's development will definitely bring the earliest and most benefits to the neighboring countries, especially to the countries along the Mekong River. China is willing to take joint actions with relevant countries to cultivate the seedling of the LMC into a towering tree and open up a brighter future for sub-regional cooperation. As the meeting is held in Phnom Penh, it is believed that our cooperation results in the future will be definitely shining as gold.

Leaders present at the meeting praised that the proposals put forward by Premier Li Keqiang suit the long-term interests of the countries along the Mekong River, thanked China's support and assistance to the development of the five countries and believed that the LMC mechanism, though established not long ago, has yielded fruitful results and showcased a broad cooperation prospect featuring good-neighborliness and friendliness as well as mutual benefit and win-win results. With the political willingness to reinforce cooperation and economic complementary advantages, the five countries stand ready to accelerate the LMC to constantly grow from strength to strength as well as enhance cooperation in such fields as water resources, connectivity, agriculture and people-to-people and cultural engagement, in a bid to boost peace, stability and sustainable development of the region.

The Five-Year Plan of Action of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (2018-2022) and the Phnom Penh Declaration of the Second Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting were issued at the meeting.

After the meeting, Li Keqiang and leaders of other countries jointly attended the handover ceremony of the succession of Laos as the next co-chair of the LMC.

LI KEQIANG HOLDS TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER HUN SEN OF CAMBODIA



On the morning of January 11, 2018 local time, Premier Li Keqiang held talks with Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh.

Li Keqiang expressed that China and Cambodia are close neighbors that enjoy profound traditional friendship. China has always respected Cambodia's sovereignty and independence and firmly supported Cambodia to stick to a development path that suits its national conditions. China stands ready to take the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries as an opportunity to continue intensifying high-level exchanges and deepening practical cooperation in various fields, and enhancing people-to-people and cultural exchanges with Cambodia. At the same time, China will provide assistance for Cambodia to develop economy, particularly in improving people's livelihood, within its capacity and join hands to build a community with a shared future with strategic significance for China and Cambodia.

Li Keqiang stressed that China is willing to better align development strategies with Cambodia and take the joint building of the "Belt and Road" as an opportunity to well grasp important cooperation projects of capacity and investment. Both sides should strengthen cooperation in special economic zone, transportation infrastructure construction, agriculture and deep processing of agricultural products and tourism, expand cooperation in

science, education, culture, health as well as at local level and well host series of activities celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of China-Cambodia diplomatic relations to make the public opinion foundation of China-Cambodia friendship more solid.

Li Keqiang congratulated Cambodia on the successful hosting of the second Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting and pointed out that friendly cooperation between China and Cambodia benefits the people of the two countries and the region. China is willing to, together with Cambodia, continue maintaining close coordination and communication within the LMC mechanism and the framework of cooperation between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and make contributions to the development and prosperity of the region.

Hun Sen welcomed Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Cambodia on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and China. He expressed that Premier Li Keqiang's visit will surely further consolidate traditional friendship between Cambodia and China and promote Cambodia-China comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and the LMC to a new level. China is Cambodia's friendly cooperation partner. Both sides enjoy high-degree political mutual trust, active practical cooperation in various fields and profound traditional friendship between the two peoples. Cambodia thanks China for its long-term and firm support and assistance to the country and wishes the Chinese people to realize the "Two Centenary Goals" at an early date. Cambodia is satisfied with the progress of major projects in highways, ports and construction of special economic zones of the two countries and stands ready to further expand cooperation in infrastructure, agriculture, tourism and people's livelihood. It is the Cambodian government and people's consensus to consolidate and develop Cambodia-China friendship. The Cambodian side will continue firmly supporting China's legitimate stance on the issues concerning China's core interests. Cambodia is willing to jointly well host the activities celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations with China and carry forward Cambodia-China traditional friendship.

After the meeting, Li Keqiang and Hun Sen jointly witnessed the signing of 19 bilateral cooperation documents regarding the areas of politics, economy and trade, health, forestry, agriculture and people-to-people and cultural engagement. The two sides also issued the Joint Communiqué between China and Cambodia.

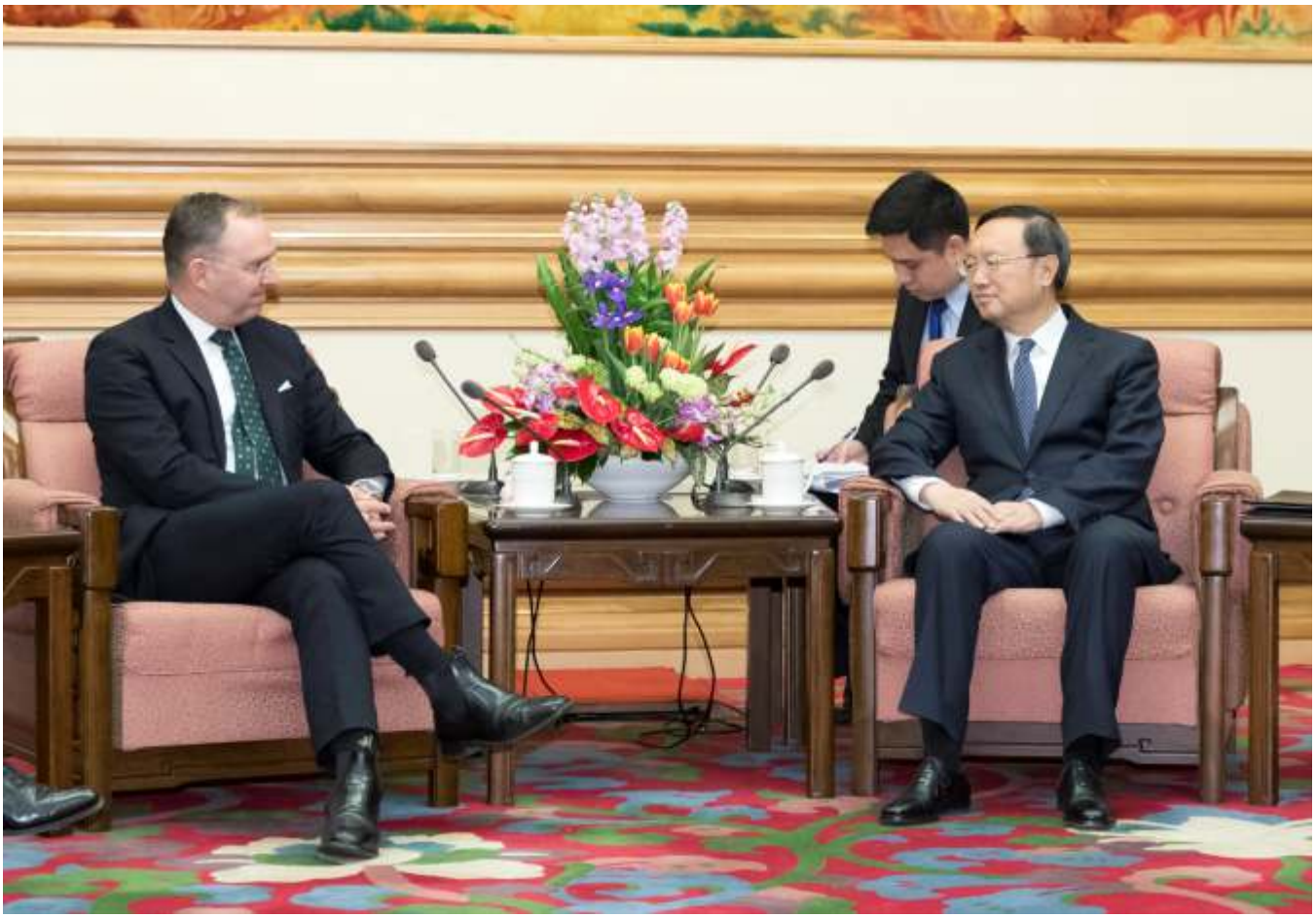
Before the meeting, Hun Sen held a grand welcome ceremony for Li Keqiang at the Peace Palace. When the motorcade drove near the Peace Palace, local primary and middle school students waved the national flags of China and Cambodia and flowers along the two sides of the street to warmly welcome Chinese distinguished guests. Hun Sen shook hands warmly with Li Keqiang. The leaders of the two countries stepped on the review stand together. The military band played the national anthems of both countries. The national flags of the two countries stood out clearly against the white marble. Li Keqiang inspected the guard of honor accompanied by Hun Sen.

On the morning of the same day, Li Keqiang laid a wreath at the Independence Monument of Cambodia and the statue of King Father Norodom Sihanouk.

YANG JIECHI MEETS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR TO THE UK PRIME MINISTER MARK SEDWILL

On January 11, 2018, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and State Councilor Yang Jiechi met in Beijing with National Security Advisor to the UK Prime Minister Mark Sedwill.

Yang Jiechi expressed that China-UK comprehensive strategic partnership enjoyed stable development over the past year. Both China and the UK are important countries, and the enhancement of cooperation between both countries not only conforms to bilateral interests, but is conducive to regional and world peace and development. The two sides should actively implement the consensus of the leaders of the two countries, cement high-level exchanges, consolidate



political mutual trust and deepen practical cooperation in the "Belt and Road" and other areas, in a bid to continuously enrich the connotation of the "golden era" of relations between the two countries.

Mark Sedwill congratulated on the complete success of the 19th CPC National Congress, and expressed that both the UK and China are at a critical period of national development at present. The UK is willing to further deepen cooperation with China, so as to promote the "golden era" of bilateral relations for new progress.

THE 1ST CHINA-AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' DIALOGUE CONVENES

On December 26, 2017, the 1st China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue was held at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. Foreign Minister Wang Yi presided over the dialogue. Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani of Afghanistan and Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif of Pakistan were present.

Wang Yi expressed that Afghanistan and Pakistan are China's traditional friendly neighboring countries and strategic cooperation partners. The three countries are connected by mountains and rivers, and share integrated interests as well as people-to-people and cultural connectivity. At present, Afghanistan is at the crucial phase of transition,

and shoulders heavy responsibilities of political reconciliation and economic reconstruction. Pakistan has entered into a critical stage of safeguarding stability and pushing forward development, which requires a sound external environment. China is actively promoting the construction of the "Belt and Road". Regarding Afghanistan and Pakistan as important cooperation partners, China is willing to make positive efforts for the stability, security and development of Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as the region. In this context, trilateral cooperation among China, Afghanistan and Pakistan emerged at the moment. It will strongly promote coordination and cooperation among the three sides and safeguard trilateral common interests.

Wang Yi noted that the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) put forward to build a community with a shared future for mankind, and stressed that China will deepen relations with neighboring countries in accordance with the concept featuring affinity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness and the policy of forging friendship and partnership with its neighbors to actively promote international cooperation of the "Belt and Road". It injects fresh and strong impetus into strengthening trilateral cooperation among China, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue should abide by the principles of mutual respect, equal consultation, friendly cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win results, scientific and practical manner, and gradual improvement, and commit to realizing the goals as follows: The first is to help Afghanistan and Pakistan improve and develop their relations, injecting positive energy into the establishment of mutual trust as well as the deepening of cooperation between both countries. The second is to support peaceful reconstruction and reconciliation process of Afghanistan, so as to realize an extensive and inclusive political reconciliation led and owned by the Afghan people at an early date. The third is to enhance trilateral security cooperation to jointly combat terrorism in any form. The fourth is to push forward international cooperation of the "Belt and Road" and discuss the effective approaches of connectivity and economic integration of the three countries.

Salahuddin Rabbani and Khawaja Muhammad Asif congratulated on the successful convening of the 19th CPC National Congress, expressed that Afghanistan and Pakistan highly agree with the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind proposed by President Xi Jinping, and expected that China will make greater contributions to the world peace and development. The two countries thanked China for its long-term efforts to help the development of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and promote regional stability. They appreciated China's initiative of holding this Foreign Ministers' Dialogue of the three sides and agreed to propel trilateral cooperation centering on three major themes including political mutual trust and reconciliation, development cooperation and connectivity and security cooperation and counter-terrorism under this mechanism. Salahuddin Rabbani and Khawaja Muhammad Asif expressed that China is a traditional friendly neighboring country of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The two countries are both committed to developing good neighborly and friendly relations with China and thank China for its positive role in helping Afghanistan and Pakistan establish mutual trust and improve relations. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan oppose terrorism in any form and support the three countries to reinforce coordination and cooperation in counter-terrorism. The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping is conducive to promoting common development of the countries in the region. They stand ready to take this dialogue as an opportunity to push forward connectivity and practical cooperation among the three countries under the framework of the "Belt and Road".

The dialogue has issued the Joint Press Release of the 1st China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue.

After the dialogue, Foreign Ministers of the three countries jointly met the Chinese and foreign journalists.

China India Relations

CHINESE DELEGATION INTRODUCES 19TH CPC PARTY CONGRESS IN INDIA

New Delhi, Jan. 6 (Xinhua) -- A Chinese delegation has introduced the achievements of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to political communities in India.

During the four-day visit that ended on Saturday, the delegation, headed by Meng Xiangfeng, deputy director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, met with leaders of the ruling Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP), the opposition Congress party and other left-wing parties.

The delegation briefed the Indian politicians and people from various communities in Delhi and Mumbai on the spirit of the 19th CPC party congress.

The India side spoke highly of the achievements and significance of the CPC congress, saying they were ready to join hands with China to further cooperation of mutual benefit, and promote healthy and steady development of bilateral ties, so as to contribute to peace, stability, development and prosperity in the region and the whole world.

Mr. Luo Zhaohui
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中国共产党第十九次全国代表大会专题介绍会
Thematic Briefing on the 19th National
Congress of the Communist Party of China

REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR LUO ZHAOHUI AT CII SEMINAR ON CHINA-INDIA RELATIONS

(JANUARY 3, 2018, CLARIDGES HOTEL, NEW DELHI)

Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog,
Shri Tarun Vijay, Chairman of CII India-China Parliamentary Group
Mr. He Yafei, Former Vice Foreign Minister of China,
Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaste!

It's my great pleasure to be here to share my thoughts on China-India relations. I agree with what Mr. Vijay, Mr. Kant and Mr. He Yafei have said. We attach great importance to the China-India relations as well as today's function.

As I know, Shri. Tarun Vajay, and CII have shown their strong interest in promoting China-India economic and people-to-people relations for a long time. You've done a great job to organize today's seminar. This is the very first function in the New Year I have attended. I really appreciate your efforts.

In the year of 2017, tremendous changes took place in China. China's GDP reached 12.3 trillion USD, with per capita GDP reaching 9000 USD. More that 10 million rural people were lifted out of poverty. In particular, the 19th National Congress of Communist Party of China was successfully concluded in Beijing, during which the CPC Constitution was amended to include Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era as a new component of the Party's guide for action. The 19th National Congress also outlines Chinese diplomacy in the new era to promote the construction of a community of shared future for mankind and a new type of

international relations.

In the year of 2017, the China-India relations also witnessed remarkable progress. The two-way trade volume reached 69 billion USD from January to October. The two-way personnel exchanges reached 1 million. Of course, we also handled the Doklam incident in a mature manner. We should draw lessons from it and prevent it from happening again.

Last September, President Xi and Prime Minister Modi met in Xiamen, and agreed to turn the page and look forward. They set the direction for bilateral relations and the guideline for future cooperation between two countries.

You may have taken note that Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and the new member of Political Bureau of the CPC and State Councilor Yang Jiechi, visited India within ten days last month. The main purpose of the visits is to implement the importance consensus reached by our leaders in Xiamen.

During their visits, they had in-depth discussions with their Indian counterparts, called on Indian President and Prime Minister respectively. Both sides agree that the China-India relationship should be comprehensive, enduring and strategic in nature. China and India should treat each other as opportunity and partners, rather than challenges and opponents, so as to allow the Dragon and the Elephant dance together, and make One plus One Eleven.

On future cooperation, I would like to highlight the following points:

First, we should deepen economic cooperation. We are both developing countries with reform and opening up as our national policies. China is talking about Chinese Dream and Two Centenary Goals. In the following three years, China will focus on poverty-elimination and environmental protection. Our Indian friends are talking about the New India and Make in India. We should exchange and share our experiences in governance.

In the past few years, we have

reached lots of consensuses on promoting economic cooperation on high-speed railway, industrial parks and smart cities. We should implement these consensuses.

More than 500 Chinese companies are doing business in India. The Chinese side will continue to encourage more Chinese companies to invest in India. We hope and believe that Indian's business environment would become easier and more friendly.

Secondly, we should strengthen the exchanges of media and culture. Media plays a very important role in helping people know each other. China-India Media Summit should be held as soon as possible. More and more India journalists are visiting China. Last year, the Indian movie Dangal got a nice box office in China. President Xi mentioned this movie twice when meeting with Prime Minister Modi. Yoga is very popular in China. These all could add more color to the long-standing cultural relations between our two countries.

Thirdly, we should strengthen communication and coordination on international and regional affairs of mutual interests. Against the backdrop of the waves of anti-free trade, anti-globalization, protectionism and populism, China and India share common positions on many international and regional issues. We could work together in the areas of climate change, counter-terrorism and connectivity.

Fourthly, we should deal with differences properly. Frankly, China and India have boundary issues as well as other differences. Despite these differences, we should strengthen strategic communication through dialogues and consultations at different levels. By this way, we could further foster mutual trust.

Fifthly, we should set some long-term visions for the China-India relations. As I mentioned on many occasion, we can consider negotiating Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation between China and India, restarting the negotiations of China-India Free Trade Agreement, striving for early harvests on boundary issues, and actively exploring the strategic synergy between China's Belt and Road Initiative and India's Act East Policy.

Friends, I firmly believe that China-India relations will have a new look with bright future in the New Year. I have expectations for it and I have faith in it.

Thank you all.

NEW VISTAS FOR INDIA-CHINA ECONOMIC AND TRADE PARTNERSHIP

Mr Li Baijun, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of Chinese Embassy in India

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New Vistas for India-China Economic and Trade Partnership

ET CONTRIBUTORS | Jan 02, 2018, 05.41 PM IST

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Following the principles of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, we will use three "keys" to unlock the potential of the inseparable, balanced and mutually beneficial China India economic and trade cooperation in the "new era".

Li Baijun, Economic and Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of China, Delhi

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China concluded in October. In the meeting, Comrade Xi Jinping,General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and President of the People's Republic of China (PRC), reviewed the achievements of the past 5 years and charted a new course for China's future political, economic, cultural and social development. Moreover, President Xi's report pointed out the right direction for developing China-India economic and trade relationship. In the future, followingtheprinciples of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, we will use three "keys" to unlock the potential of the inseparable, balanced and mutually beneficial China India economic and trade cooperation in the "new era".

The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was concluded in October. In the meeting, Comrade Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and President of the People's Republic of China (PRC), reviewed the achievements of the past 5 years and charted a new course for China's future political, economic, cultural and social development. Moreover, President Xi's report pointed out the right direction for developing China-India economic and trade relationship. In the future, following the principles of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, we will use three "keys" to unlock the potential of the inseparable, balanced and mutually beneficial China India economic and trade cooperation in the "new era".

First, build key relationships- to become trading partners based on equality and mutual benefit. As mentioned in the report of the 19th CPC National Congress, China remains firm in its commitment to building a community with a shared future for mankind and forging a new form of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win-win cooperation. This is the principles China adheres to in attaining peaceful development and participating global governance. China and India are good neighbors, friends and trading partners. Since 2014, after President Xi visited India, the two leaders have met more than 10 times on various occasions, reached important consensus and charted the right direction for China-India economic and trade cooperation. In the BRICS Xiamen Summit this September, President Xi stressed the importance of "the dragon and elephant dancing together" and avoiding conflicts. Prime Minister Modi also emphasized that with good bilateral relationship, 1 plus 1 could equal 11. To achieve this, we should further our practical cooperation, utilize intergovernmental and inter-corporate cooperation mechanisms to improve our economic strength and competitiveness.

With the economic and trade mechanisms like JEG, SED and China-India Financial Dialogue playing more important roles, our strategic synergy will be enhanced, trade and investment will be facilitated, bilateral trade will be more balanced and massive project cooperation will be more active. All these will lead to a spectacular future for our economic development. Meanwhile, we should also strengthen our cooperation and coordination in WTO, RCEP and other multilateral mechanisms to promote globalization and protect the overall interests of developing countries and foster more inclusive, equal and mutually beneficial economic and trade relations.

Second, focus on key issues- to build a more balanced trade structure. It is stressed in the 19th CPC National Congress that China would pursue open, innovative, and inclusive development that benefits all, that China would not close its door to the world but would only become more open. For a long time, the imbalanced trade between China and India has been a stubborn obstacle holding back our economic and trade relations. I'm very happy to see that with joint efforts from both sides, our trade volume may exceed 80 billion dollars this year, reaching a 5 year high. More importantly, China's import from India has increased more than 20% while export to India remains nearly the same.

In 2018, China will host the first China International Import Exposition. This is the first large scale import themed exposition and an innovation in international trade development. We welcome the Indian businesses to showcase Indian products in the event along with goods from all over the world. We believe this will open new channels for Indian goods entering Chinese families. We will work on expanding our cross-border trade, import more agricultural products from India, and promote build-to-order business models. We hope to finish FTA to enhance the level and scale of our trade, increase our import from India, opening our market wider and achieve more balanced trade with India.

Third, develop key areas-to build a mutually beneficial investment system. As emphasized in the 19th CPC National Congress report, China would give equal importance to "bringing in" and "going global," following the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration; and be more open and cooperative to enhance innovation capacity. With these efforts, we hope to break new grounds in opening China further through links running eastward and westward, across land and over sea. China has always made out-bound investments with the belief of creating mutual benefits.As statistics show, from 2012 to 2016, Chinese corporations have paid more than 13.7 million USD in taxes, created over 1 million jobs, and made contributions to host nations and the world economy. In recent years, many economic and trade agreements in industrial park and cooperation on production capacity have been signed between China and India, establishing great platforms for investment cooperation. A group of famous Chinese corporations like Alibaba, Fosun, SAIC Motor, China Fortune Land Development have come to invest in India. These corporations not only provided funding and technical support for

"Make in India" and "Start-up India", reduced trade deficit between the two countries, but also provided jobs and tax revenue for their host states. They are highly recognized by the state governments. On November 16th, I attended the Haier's Industrial Park?Pune?Inaugural Ceremony. During the event, I had an in-depth discussion with Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He praised the progress Haier has made in Maharashtra and called it a great epitome of foreign enterprises participating "Make in India".

This year, in World Bank's ease of doing business index, India's ranking jumped from 130th to 100th, making one of the biggest improvements among all the countries. This will further encourage Chinese corporations to invest more in India Riding on this trend, we should work harder to optimize investment environment, push forward the revision of bilateral agreements like investment protection agreement and agreement for the avoidance of double taxation. This will create a better investment environment for corporations, regulate Chinese corporation's investment in India and realize the social responsibilities of the corporations. Moreover, we should encourage Indian corporations to invest in China in areas with comparative advantages, like Pharmacy and IT. In this way, we can create a friendly, complementary and mutually beneficial two-way investment system.

As a ancient Chinese poem goes, a thousand sails pass by the shipwreck, ten thousand saplings shoot up beyond the withered tree--new things come to the fore while old things perish. As H.E. Ambassador Luo Zhaohui said time and time again, China-India relations cannot afford to wander, stall or go backwards. We need to move in the right direction and implement the consensus our leaders reached in Xiamen Summit. We should focus on cooperation instead of differences, solve problems to create a more healthy bilateral relationship. I believe, with the guidance of our leaders and the guiding principles of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, China and India economic and trade cooperation will bring real benefits to our governments, business communities and ordinary people. It will become the bedrock and thruster of our bilateral relationship. With the development of this relationship, the day when "China and India speak in one voice, and the world listens" will come soon.

Culture & Life

NEW YEAR ELEMENTS IN CHINA'S TRADITIONAL CULTURE

Recently, China issued a set of zodiac stamps to celebrate the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dog.

The theme for this round of zodiac stamps is "happy family," and the new stamps depict Chinese domestic dogs.

The year 2018 marks Chinese "Wu Xu Year," the Year of the Dog.

In fact, not only zodiac stamps, elements of Chinese New Year can be found in many forms of Chinese folk arts.

Zodiac stamps for Year of the Dog

China Post says the first stamp depicts a male dog with its chin up and its eyes straight ahead. Its two ears point upward, while its hind legs are forcefully thrust against the ground, ready to pounce on any intruders.

The second stamp shows a brown bitch lovingly gazing at its puppy. The black puppy holds its head up high and tries to stand straight. The mother and the puppy stand side by side, demonstrating maternal love.

The two stamps are connected, signifying a peaceful, harmonious family, and a prosperous, flourishing nation.

New Year Painting is a unique art form in Chinese folk culture, which is used to decorate doors, walls and windows on the Chinese New Year to invite heavenly blessings.

The art of paper-cutting in China may date back to the second century AD, since paper was invented by Cai Lun in the Eastern Han Dynasty(25-220 AD) in China. As paper became more affordable, paper-cutting became one of the most important of Chinese folk arts.

Usually, the artworks are made of red paper, as red is associated with festivities and happiness in Chinese culture, but other colors are also used. They often appear at Spring Festival, weddings and childbirth, and always symbolize luck and happiness.

It is a tradition for Chinese to paste couplets on walls to solicit good luck during the Spring Festival.

A customer shows a first day cover with the newly issued zodiac stamp in Xicheng District of Beijing, capital of China, Jan. 5, 2018. China Post issued a set of special zodiac stamps for the Year of Dog with two different designs Friday. The Year of Dog, or Chinese traditional lunar New Year of this year, starts from Feb. 16. (Xinhua/Li He)

Photo taken on Dec. 24, 2017 shows Jiajiang New Year Paintings in Jiajiang County of Leshan City, southwest China's Sichuan Province. (Xinhua/Wang Di)

Folk artist Kan Zongqin makes dough modellings in Shizhong District of Zaozhuang, east China's Shandong Province, Dec. 24, 2017. Kan made dough modellings of 12 zodiac animals to greet the upcoming Chinese lunar new year, which falls on Feb. 16, 2018. (Xinhua/Sun Zhongzhe)

Jia Shurong (L), a paper cutting artisan, teaches a girl at Hengqu experimental middle school in Luanxian County, north China's Hebei Province, Dec. 29, 2017. The local government has encouraged schools to open paper cutting class to teach the youth traditional cultures. (Xinhua/Mu Yu)

Students practice paper cutting at Puyu School in north China's Tianjin Municipality, Jan. 3, 2018. Intangible cultural heritage lessons, such as Yangliuqing new year painting, paper cutting and traditional drum performance, were introduced into the school. (Xinhua/Liu Dongyue)

Students present couplets written by themselves at No.2 Experimental Primary School in Changxing County, east China's Zhejiang Province, Dec. 29, 2017. Various activities were held at the primary and middle schools in the county to greet the upcoming New Year. (Xinhua/Xu Yu)

NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS HELD ACROSS CHINA

Primary school students experience the tea ceremony during an extracurricular activity in Handan, north China's Hebei Province, Dec. 31, 2017, to greet the upcoming new year. (Xinhua/Wang Xiao)

Primary school students wearing traditional festival dress pose for photo during an extracurricular activity in Handan, north China's Hebei Province, Dec. 31, 2017, to greet the upcoming new year. (Xinhua/Wang Xiao)

DRUMMERS REHEARSE FOR UPCOMING SPRING FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS IN NORTH CHINA

Drummers rehearse for the upcoming Spring Festival celebrations in Xinjiang County of Yuncheng City, north China's Shanxi Province, Jan. 8, 2018. (Xinhua/Gao Xinsheng)

Drummers rehearse for the upcoming Spring Festival celebrations in Xinjiang County of Yuncheng City, north China's Shanxi Province, Jan. 8, 2018. (Xinhua/Gao Xinsheng)

AERIAL VIEW OF HISTORICAL SITES ACROSS CHINA

Stitched aerial photo taken on Aug. 24, 2017 shows the Nanputuo Temple in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province. Photographers with Xinhua News Agency showed you historical sites across the country with drones. (Xinhua/Li Xin)

Aerial photo taken on Sept. 12, 2017 shows Huangyangjie scenic spot in Jinggangshan, east China's Jiangxi Province. Photographers with Xinhua News Agency showed you historical sites across the country with drones. (Xinhua/Cai Yang)

Aerial photo taken on April 17, 2017 shows the Lijing Gate in Luoyang, central China's Henan Province. Photographers with Xinhua News Agency showed you historical sites across the country with drones. (Xinhua/Jin Liangkuai)

Aerial photo taken on May 16, 2017 shows Tengwang Pavilion in Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province. Photographers with Xinhua News Agency showed you historical sites across the country with drones. (Xinhua/Wan Xiang)

Aerial photo taken on Dec. 5, 2017 shows the Bell Tower in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province. Photographers with Xinhua News Agency showed you historical sites across the country with drones. (Xinhua/Tao Ming)

Aerial photo taken on Sept. 1, 2017 shows Yongtai ancient town in Sitan Township of Jingtai County, northwest China's Gansu Province. Photographers with Xinhua News Agency showed you historical sites across the country with drones. (Xinhua/Fan Peishen)

Aerial photo taken on June 16, 2017 shows temples on Jiuhua Mountain in Qingyang, east China's Anhui Province. Photographers with Xinhua News Agency showed you historical sites across the country with drones. (Xinhua/Guo Chen)

Aerial photo taken on Sept. 17, 2017 shows Jianmen Pass scenic spot in Jiange County of southwest China's Sichuan Province. Photographers with Xinhua News Agency showed you historical sites across the country with drones. (Xinhua/Liu Chan)

Aerial photo taken on Aug. 20, 2017 shows Laojun Mountain in Luanchuan County of Luoyang, central China's Henan Province. Photographers with Xinhua News Agency showed you historical sites across the country with drones. (Xinhua/Wang Jianhua)

CAMEL FAIR HELD IN BANNER, INNER MONGOLIA

A girl of Mongolian ethnic group poses for photo with a camel in Sunite Right Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Jan. 9, 2018. A camel fair, a local traditional festival including camel race and camel beauty contest, was held in the Banner on Tuesday. More than 200 camels took part in the fair. (Xinhua/Lian Zhen)

Herdsmen take a camel-sled to attend the camel fair in Sunite Right Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Jan. 9, 2018. A camel fair, a local traditional festival including camel race and camel beauty contest, was held in the Banner on Tuesday. More than 200 camels took part in the fair. (Xinhua/Peng Yuan)

Herdsmen ride camels to take part in a camel beauty contest in Sunite Right Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Jan. 9, 2018. A camel fair, a local traditional festival including camel race and camel beauty contest, was held in the Banner on Tuesday. More than 200 camels took part in the fair. (Xinhua/Peng Yuan)

Riders compete in a horse racing in Sunite Right Banner, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Jan. 9, 2018. A camel fair, a local traditional festival including camel race and camel beauty contest, was held in the Banner on Tuesday. More than 200 camels took part in the fair. (Xinhua/Lian Zhen)

Xizang Today

FARMERS' NEW YEAR CELEBRATED IN CHINA'S TIBET

Villagers dance to celebrate farmers' New Year in Chusong Village of Nyarixung Township in Xigaze City, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Jan. 17, 2018. In Xigaze and other farming regions of Tibet, people celebrate New Year on the 1st day of the twelfth month of the Tibetan lunar calendar. According to local farming tradition, spring ploughing season always begins as the fall of New Year, thus celebrating one month earlier is to meet the needs of local agriculture. (Xinhua/Jigme Dorje)

Villagers serve wheat porridge to elders in Chusong Village of Nyarixung Township in Xigaze City, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Jan. 17, 2018. In Xigaze and other farming regions of Tibet, people celebrate New Year on the 1st day of the twelfth month of the Tibetan lunar calendar. According to local farming tradition, spring ploughing season always begins as the fall of New Year, thus celebrating one month earlier is to meet the needs of local agriculture. (Xinhua/Jigme Dorje)

Villagers compete in a tug of war in Chusong Village of Nyarixung Township in Xigaze City, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Jan. 17, 2018. In Xigaze and other farming regions of Tibet, people celebrate New Year on the 1st day of the twelfth month of the Tibetan lunar calendar. According to local farming tradition, spring ploughing season always begins as the fall of New Year, thus celebrating one month earlier is to meet the needs of local agriculture. (Xinhua/Jigme Dorje)

Women dress up to celebrate farmers' New Year in Chusong Village of Nyarixung Township in Xigaze City, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Jan. 17, 2018. In Xigaze and other farming regions of Tibet, people celebrate New Year on the 1st day of the twelfth month of the Tibetan lunar calendar. According to local farming tradition, spring ploughing season always begins as the fall of New Year, thus celebrating one month earlier is to meet the needs of local agriculture. (Xinhua/Jigme Dorje)

INCOME OF FARMERS AND HERDSMEN IN TIBET REACHES RECORD HIGH

The disposable income of farmers and herdsmen in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region in 2017 reached a record 10,367 yuan (1,595 US dollars) per capita, an increase of 14% over the same period of previous year and much higher than the growth of the region's GDP and income of urban residents in the same period.

Suffering from the high altitude and extreme cold weather, infrastructure in Tibet's rural and pastoral areas are poor and income of farmers and herdsmen was only 5,697 yuan (876 US dollars) per capita by the end of 2012.

Since 2012, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has provided a series of preferential policies to vigorously improve production and living conditions in rural and pastoral areas and livelihood of people in Tibet. The income of farmers and herdsmen has enjoyed double-digit high growth.

Also, the number of poverty-striven people in rural and pastoral areas in the region has dropped from 1,030,000 in the end of 2012 to 479,000 today.

Last year, Tibet saw 140,000 people escape out of poverty

OLDEST BUDDHIST STELE DISCOVERED IN TIBET

Lhasa, Jan. 8 (Xinhua) -- Archeologists in Tibet Autonomous Region believe the ninth century Purang stele to be the oldest in the region.

Shargan Wangdue, of Tibet Cultural Relics Protection Institute, said the stele was discovered in Ngari prefecture in northern part of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

The stele is 1.85 meters tall, inscribed with the image of a standing buddha.

On its left side are 24 lines of old Tibetan language. On its right side are 19 lines of buddhist prayers.

Shargan Wangdue said most scholars agree that the stele was set up in 826 or 838, during the period of Tubo kingdom.

"This stele shows Buddhism was already being practiced during the Tubo period in western part of Ngari," Shargan Wangdue said.

MOUNTAIN WARDEN'S NEW YEAR IN HOH XIL

On Monday, Chuenpen Tashi, a mountain guide, celebrated New Year's Day in Hoh Xil, high in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yushu in northwest China's Qinghai Province.

It was Tashi's first New Year in Hoh Xil since it became a World Heritage Site last year. The name Hoh Xil means "beautiful young woman, blue mountain" in Mongolian.

"The past years were just like a dream to me, and the once bloody Hoh Xil has now entered the best of times," said Tashi, 35. "The year 2018 will be a new beginning, and as a warden here, I will try my best to protect the clean soil under my feet."

The area listed by the UNESCO covers some 6 million hectares at an average altitude of over 4,600 meters, making it an ideal habitat for Tibetan antelope.

Years of care have allowed the wild animal populations to grow, but also brought hardships for Tashi's family. In 1994, his uncle was killed by poachers, and four years later, his father died while patrolling the mountain.

Over 70 people work Hoh Xil National Nature Reserve and over 90 percent of them are Tibetan.

In the 1980s, Hoh Xil was plagued by poachers who hunted Tibetan antelopes for their hides, which were made into shahtoosh shawls.

"During the craziest period, poachers drove trucks into Hol Xil, and slaughtered wild animals," said Luo Yanhai, deputy head of the forestry police bureau. "Wild animals were skinned and their bodies discarded everywhere."

At the end of the 20th century, the number of Tibetan antelope in Hoh Xil had decreased from more than 200,000 to less than 20,000.

"In the past, the budget was tight, so when we patrolled, we lived in tents and lit candles," said Tashi. "The tents were often attacked by bears."

During the arduous patrols, the patrollers ate instant noodles and pancakes. Due to the high altitude, they had to use pressure cookers to cook the noodles.

"In winter, we would take high-calorie food like butter, but due to the cold, they froze easily," Tashi recalled.

"Daily patrols are our routine," he said.

The population of the Tibetan antelope has increased and Hoh Xil currently has more than 60,000 antelopes.

SCENERY OF YAMZBOG YUMCO LAKE IN SW CHINA'S TIBET

Tourists visit the Yamzbog Yumco Lake in Nagarze County of Shannan City, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Dec. 31, 2017. The Yamzbog Yumco Lake is one of the region's three largest sacred lakes. (Xinhua/Liu Dongjun)

Photo taken on Dec. 31, 2017 shows the scenery of the Yamzbog Yumco Lake in Nagarze County of Shannan City, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. The Yamzbog Yumco Lake is one of the region's three largest sacred lakes. (Xinhua/Liu Dongjun)

TIBET SEES EXPANDING GRASSLAND

Lhasa, Dec. 25 (Xinhua) -- The grassland coverage in Tibet Autonomous Region has been increasing, said the regional agricultural department.

The natural grassland coverage rate in 2017 was around 45.2 percent, up 2.5 percentage points from the figure in 2010, the regional agricultural and herding department said.

Herding has been banned on 8.6 million hectares of grassland in Tibet, about 10 percent of the total area of natural grassland in the region. The ban was introduced to tackle problems of degradation and grassland retreat.

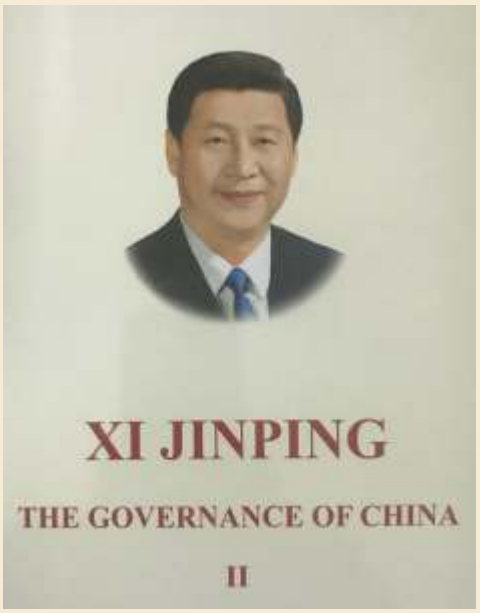
Last year, a total of 3.2 billion yuan (about 480 million U.S. dollars) was used to pay local herders to protect the grassland and limit herding. This year, the central government allocated 3.26 billion yuan to compensate the herders.

The number of cattle is limited to 18 million, down from 23 million in 2010, said Xiao Changwei, deputy director of the department.

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.



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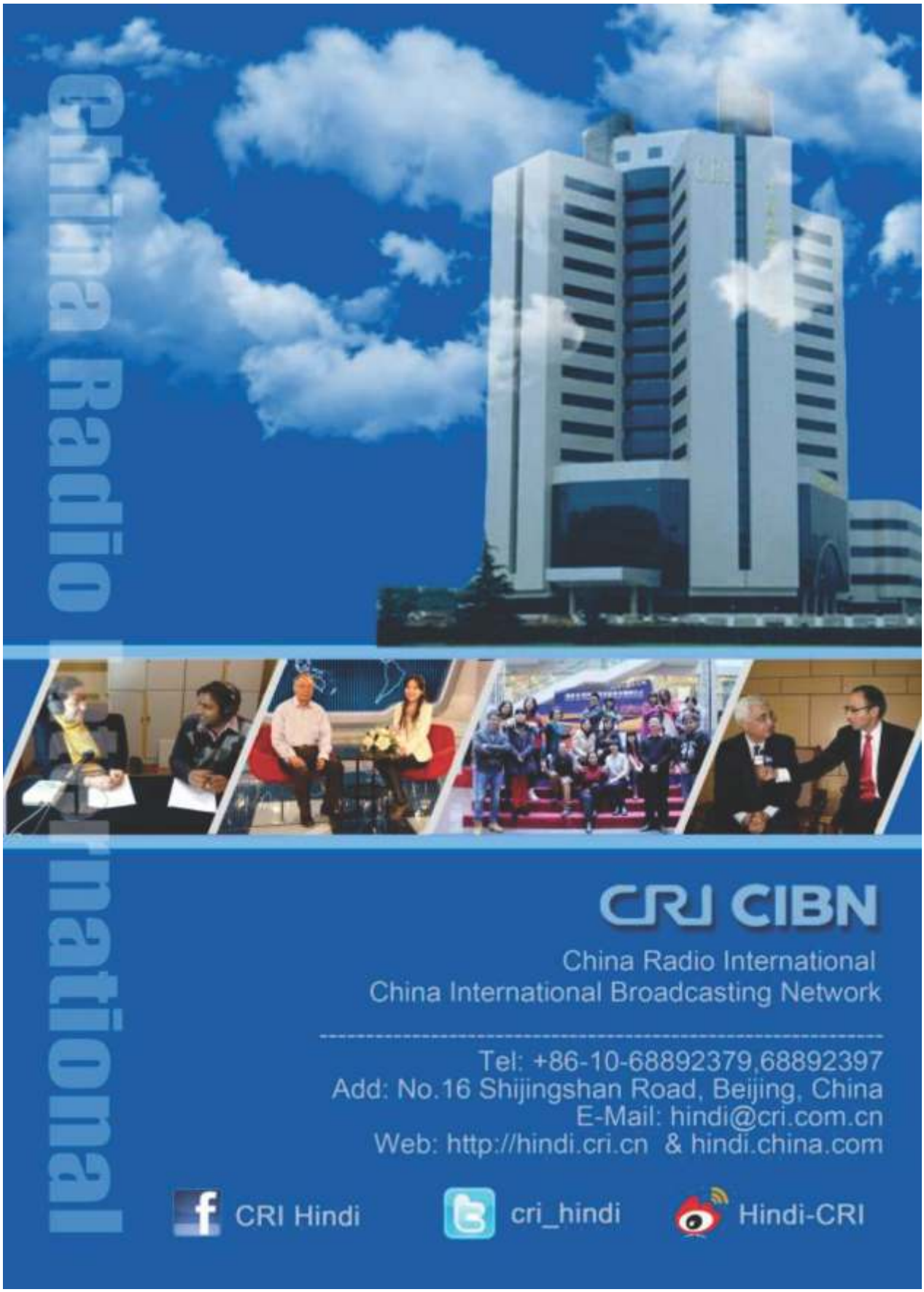
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Chinese red lanterns hanging in a street for the new year celebrations.

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