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Chinese Embassy in India held the 1st Friendship Table Tennis Tournament for Diplomatic Missions in Delhi.



Chinese Embassy in India held the 1st Friendship Table Tennis Tournament for Diplomatic Missions in Delhi.



Chinese Embassy in India held a seminar on Chinese Language Studies.



Charge d'Affaires Li Bijian met with Mr. Ramen Deka, a Member of Indian Parliament, Lok Sabha and Chairman, India-China Parliamentary Group.



Deputy Director of the SASAC Ms. Huang Danhua visited India.



Charge d'Affaires Li Bijian met with Mr. Peng Yuxing, Vice Governor of Sichuan Provincial People's Government.

SCO Qingdao Summit

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XI JINPING HOLDS GROUP MEETING WITH HEADS OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE SCO NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARIES



On May 22, 2018, President Xi Jinping held a group meeting at the Great Hall of the People with heads of foreign delegations, who were in China for the 13th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) National Security Council Secretaries.

Xi Jinping pointed out that since

the establishment of the SCO, the member states have always taken the maintenance of regional security and stability as a priority, expanded cooperation fields, enriched cooperation practice, severely cracked down on the "three forces" including the "Eastern Turkistan" and actively prevented the spread and spillover of the negative effect of hotspot issues,

making important contributions to ensuring long-lasting peace, stability, development and prosperity of the region. After its membership expansion, the SCO enjoys greater potential for security cooperation and shoulders heavier responsibilities, bearing more expectations from people of all countries in the region and the

international community. The mechanism of the meeting of the National Security Council Secretaries should actively adapt to changes in the situation, practically perform its duties, and provide stronger support for the member states for maintaining national security and social stability.

Xi Jinping stressed that at present, the security situation in the region enjoys overall stability, but still faces severe challenges posed by the "three forces", drug trafficking and transnational organized crimes at the same time, which requires the member states to enhance awareness of potential crisis, think calmly, judge accurately and handle properly. The member states should grasp the strategic direction of security cooperation, continue consolidating strategic mutual trust, strengthen policy communication and coordination, adhere to fairness and justice, and jointly promote the peaceful settlement of hotspot issues through political and diplomatic means. The member states need to continue to uphold the common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security concept, and promote a security governance model that takes comprehensive measures

and addresses both symptoms and root causes, so as to push forward the SCO security cooperation to new stages. It is necessary for the member states to beef up the action capacity for security cooperation, build a more rigorous, sound and efficient law enforcement cooperation network, continuously promote security cooperation and jointly strengthen the construction of capacity to safeguard stability.

Xi Jinping pointed out that China will continue to integrate its own security with that of regional countries, and work with other member states to build a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice and win-win cooperation, in a bid to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Secretary of the National Security Council Nikolai Patrushev of Russia and Secretary of the National Security Council Damir Sagynbayev of Kyrgyzstan delivered speeches successively on behalf of the foreign delegations. They conveyed warm greetings from leaders of all countries to Xi Jinping, and thanked Xi Jinping for attaching great importance to the

security cooperation of the SCO member states. They expressed that various countries voiced support for the initiative proposed by China, as the presidency of the SCO, on promoting the implementation of leaders' consensus, jointly coping with the common challenges faced by the member states and safeguarding international peace and security. Under the auspices of China, the meeting of the National Security Council Secretaries deeply discussed issues of common concern of the member states, such as combating terrorism and the "three forces", enhancing information security and safeguarding social stability, which has further charted the course for enhancing security cooperation of the SCO and played an important role in preparing for the SCO Qingdao Summit. Under the new situation, the security cooperation of the SCO has increasingly demonstrated strong vitality. All countries stand ready to expand broad and close cooperation to enable the SCO to play a greater role in international affairs.

Guo Shengkun, Zhao Kezhi and others attended the meeting.

XI EXPECTS SCO QINGDAO SUMMIT TO BE A SUCCESS

Beijing April 23 (Xinhua) — China regards boosting the development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as one of its diplomatic priorities, President Xi Jinping said Monday, adding that he believes the upcoming SCO summit in the coastal city of Qingdao, Shandong Province, in June will be a success.

Xi made the remarks at a group meeting with foreign ministers from Russia, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, as well as with SCO secretary-general, and the director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Executive Committee.

The officials are in Beijing to attend the meeting of the SCO

Council of Foreign Ministers, scheduled for Tuesday.

The SCO, established nearly 17 years ago, has undergone an extraordinary development process and become a comprehensive regional organization with vast influences, Xi said.

Member countries have



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Kazakh Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldaev, Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Aslov, Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov, Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Rashid Alimov and director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) Executive Committee Yevgeniy Sysoyev in Beijing, capital of China, April 23, 2018. The officials are in Beijing to attend the meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers, scheduled for Tuesday. (Xinhua/Li Tao)

promoted cooperation in various areas and played constructive roles in regional and international issues, and therefore set an example of a new-type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice, and win-win cooperation, he said.

Currently, the SCO is proceeding steadily in six areas, namely politics, economy, security, people-to-people exchanges, external exchanges, and mechanism building, with comprehensive cooperation continuing to improve, he said.

Under the new circumstances, all the member countries need to remain true to their original aspirations and firmly advocate the “Shanghai Spirit”

of the SCO, give play to its advantages, fully release the potential of the SCO expansion, and forge ahead with all-round cooperation, Xi said.

The “Shanghai Spirit” features mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity and pursuit of common development.

Xi said China stands ready to work with other member countries to continue to support each other politically and provide the SCO wisdom and plans, safeguard regional security and stability, promote coordination levels and implementation capabilities, enhance cooperation on the Belt and Road

Initiative, gradually establish institutional arrangements of regional economic cooperation, and expand people-to-people exchanges and cultural cooperation.

Leaders of the SCO member countries will gather in Qingdao for a summit in just over one month, said Xi, adding that he believes the SCO Qingdao summit will be a success thanks to the joint efforts of all sides.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Erlan Abdyldaev, Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, and Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif spoke on behalf of the foreign ministers.

The leaders of all the member countries attach great importance to and look forward to the SCO Qingdao summit, and speak highly of China's efforts as the host country, the ministers said.

The SCO needs to stick to the "Shanghai Spirit" after expansion and

further intensify coordination and cooperation on regional and international affairs in line with the development of global situation, they said.

All member countries support the initiatives China has proposed in order to promote the SCO

development and enhance cooperation between the member countries, and are willing to cooperate with China to make joint efforts in preparations for the Qingdao summit to ensure the success of the meeting, the foreign ministers said.

XI EXPECTS DEEPENED JUDICIAL COOPERATION WITHIN SCO FRAMEWORK

Beijing, May 25 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping said he expects deepened judicial cooperation within the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to fight crime and resolve disputes more effectively.

Xi said this in a congratulatory letter sent to the 13th conference of presidents of supreme courts of SCO member countries held in Beijing Friday.

Xi said he hopes all sides will cooperate to fight crime and resolve disputes more effectively, and create a sound legal environment to facilitate Belt and Road construction and

promote regional development.

Xi said that as an important judicial cooperation mechanism of the SCO, the conference plays a significant role in boosting exchanges on the idea and system of the rule of law and deepening pragmatic cooperation in various fields among SCO member countries.

Xi stressed that China is establishing a system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, comprehensively advancing law-based governance and pursuing coordinated progress in law-based governance, law-based exercise of state power, and law-based

government administration.

The country is committed to promoting the integrated development of rule of law for the country, the government, and society while comprehensively advancing sound lawmaking, strict law enforcement, impartial administration of justice, and the observance of law by everyone, the president said.

China is creating a law-based, international and accommodating business environment and building a country of socialist rule of law, Xi said in the letter.

CHINESE STATE COUNCILOR CALLS FOR IMPROVED SCO COOPERATION IN DEFENSE, SECURITY

Beijing, April 24 (Xinhua) -- Chinese State Councilor and Minister of National Defense Wei Fenghe on Tuesday called on defense ministers from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries to implement consensus

reached by heads of state and continuously improve cooperation in defense and security.

Wei made the remarks while delivering a keynote speech at the 15th meeting of the SCO defense

ministers, which was held Tuesday in Beijing.

Wei called on SCO member countries to stick to the principle of treating each other as equals, helping each other and sharing weal and woe,



Chinese State Councilor and Minister of National Defense Wei Fenghe presides over the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) defense ministers in Beijing, capital of China, April 24, 2018. (Xinhua/Liu Fang)

so as to build a security pattern of joint building and shared benefits in defense and security cooperation.

"We should continue to uphold the 'Shanghai Spirit', and strengthen pragmatic cooperation in high-level exchanges, joint exercises, military culture, education and training," Wei said, adding that joint efforts should be made to fight against terrorism and safeguard regional and world peace.

The "Shanghai Spirit" features

mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity and pursuit of common development.

Defense ministers of SCO member countries said defense ministries and militaries should further enhance cooperation and work together to deal with threats and challenges.

They also signed notes of the meeting and a joint communique.

During the meeting, Wei met with defense ministers from Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and India, exchanging views on deepening bilateral military communication and cooperation.

Senior military officials from SCO member countries and representatives of SCO attended the meeting. The defense minister of Belarus was also present as a specially invited guest.

SCO FMS MEET IN BEIJING, PREPARE FOR SUMMIT IN JUNE

Beijing, April 24 (Xinhua) -- Foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries gathered in Beijing Tuesday and reached a series of consensus for the upcoming SCO

Qingdao summit.

"This meeting has made political preparations for the summit and laid a solid foundation for its success," said Chinese State Councilor and Foreign

Minister Wang Yi, who hosted the meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers.

Foreign ministers from the eight member states, namely China, India,



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (5th L) hosts the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers in Beijing, capital of China, April 24, 2018. (Xinhua/Chen Yehua)

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, signed 14 documents, including a meeting resolution.

They also reached consensus on deepening solidarity and mutual trust, boosting security cooperation, dovetailing development strategies, increasing pragmatic cooperation, strengthening people-to-people exchanges, and expanding the international influence of the SCO.

"The Qingdao summit, with joint efforts from all sides, will be a significant meeting, setting future directions and goals for the SCO and marking a milestone in its history," Wang said.

The summit will be the first of its kind after a membership expansion last June to include India and Pakistan.

"The fundamental reason why the SCO can keep growing is that its member states have been firmly sticking to the 'Shanghai Spirit', featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity and pursuit of common development," Wang said.

He called for taking the upcoming summit as an opportunity to review the "Shanghai Spirit," strengthen solidarity, mutual trust and all-round cooperation, and forge a closer community with a shared future.

The summit will ratify a five-year outline for the implementation of the Treaty on Long-term Good Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation to set the direction for SCO cooperation in the next phase, and approve a host of resolutions and cooperation deals covering areas including security, economy and trade, as well as people-to-people exchanges, according to Wang.

Foreign ministers from other SCO member states spoke highly of the work undertaken by China as rotating presidency of the SCO, and pledged to strengthen coordination with China for a fruitful summit.

CHINA TO ENHANCE COOPERATION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT SECURITY WITH OTHER SCO COUNTRIES



Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi (R) meets with Deputy National Security Adviser of India Rajinder Khanna, who is also head of a delegation attending the 13th meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Security Council Secretaries, in Beijing, capital of China, May 21, 2018. (Xinhua/Zhang Ling)

Beijing, May 21 (Xinhua) -- Chinese State Councilor Zhao Kezhi on Monday met with leading officials from six other member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), respectively,

pledging to enhance practical cooperation on law enforcement security.

They are in Beijing for the 13th meeting of SCO Security Council

Secretaries, focusing on issues including the regional security situation and priority of security cooperation among the SCO members.

While meeting with Damir Sagynbayev, secretary of the Security Council of Kyrgyzstan, Zhao, also minister of public security, said China is ready to work with Kyrgyzstan to implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state on pragmatic cooperation on cyber security and law enforcement capacity building.

Sagynbayev said his country is willing to enhance cooperation on law enforcement security and make new achievements in promoting bilateral ties with China.

During the meeting with Secretary of the Security Council of Uzbekistan Viktor Makhmudov, Zhao said he hoped the law enforcement agencies of the two countries would deepen cooperation on safeguarding national security, cyber security as well as ensuring the security of the Belt and Road Initiative projects.

Makhmudov said his country would work with China to safeguard the security interests of both countries and both peoples.

While meeting with A.A. Kahharov, secretary of the Security Council of Tajikistan, Zhao said

China would like to work with Tajikistan to combat forces of terrorism, separatism, and extremism, and enhance cooperation on drug control and law enforcement capacity building.

Kahharov said Tajikistan is willing to achieve more fruitful results in cooperation on law enforcement security with China.

During the meeting with Assistant to the President and Secretary of the Security Council of Kazakhstan Nurlan Yermekbayev, Zhao said he hoped the two countries could deepen the cooperation on national security and law enforcement training, as well as promote the integration of the development strategies as well as the cooperation on security.

For his part, Yermekbayev said his country would like to work with China to jointly build a community of common interest and shared future.

While meeting with Pakistan's National Security Adviser Naseer Khan Janjua, Zhao said China stands ready to maintain close coordination with Pakistan under the SCO framework, and enhance bilateral

cooperation on fighting transnational crime, anti-terrorism, and security issues along the China-Pakistan economic corridor.

China would consolidate all-weather friendship and deepen strategic cooperation with Pakistan, Zhao noted.

Naseer Khan Janjua said his country is willing to enhance cooperation on law enforcement security with China and ensure the smooth development of the Pakistan-China economic corridor.

During the meeting with Rajinder Khanna, deputy national security adviser of India, Zhao said China would work with India to strengthen high-level mutual visits, improve the cooperation mechanisms, enhance cooperation on anti-terrorism, and promote the healthy and stable development of bilateral ties.

For his part, Khanna said India stands ready to work with China to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and enhance cooperation on law enforcement security.

SCO QINGDAO SUMMIT TO ENLIGHTEN MEMBER STATES TOWARD SHARED FUTURE

Beijing, May 9 (Xinhua) -- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will hold a summit in June as leaders are expected to exchange ideas on dealing with global issues and roll out cooperation measures for the bloc's future when they gather in east China's coastal city of Qingdao.

The SCO, after 17 years, has grown into the world's most populous comprehensive regional organization. Its full members are China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

The SCO now accounts for over 60 percent of the Eurasian landmass, nearly half of the world's population and over 20 percent of global GDP.

Experts say the upcoming summit is widely expected to inject new drive into the development of



Russian student Zakir (R) and his sister Zaira, both studying in China University of Petroleum, display boards with Chinese and Russian handwritings of “Hello Qingdao” and “Hello SCO”, in Qingdao, the host city of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, in east China’s Shandong Province, May 3, 2018. (Xinhua/Guo Xulei)

regional organization toward a closer "community of shared future" for member countries.

BEDROCK SPIRIT

With a focus on carrying on the "Shanghai Spirit", the bedrock of the SCO, the Qingdao summit will enhance trust and solidarity between the member states and build a closer SCO community.

The "Shanghai Spirit," which features mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity and pursuit of common development, has become the spiritual bond of member states on building a community of shared future.

Member countries have been promoting win-win cooperation and shared development in various areas and played constructive roles in regional and international issues.

The SCO has never been simply a security group. The organization has also been devoting itself to the region's development by facilitating trade and investment, enhancing industrial cooperation and promoting people-to-people exchanges.

Meanwhile, the China-proposed cooperation framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which features many flagship projects on infrastructure, finance and people-to-people exchanges, heralds greater opportunities for development.

"The SCO and BRI offer mutual support and opportunities to each other, and the BRI concept has already been embedded into the SCO and are making positive progress," said Li Jianmin, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"From theory and planning to practical implementations, cooperation in the alignments of development strategies between China and other SCO member states has also come to a new stage, with a series of projects under steady progress," Li said.

SCO Secretary General Rashid Alimov described the bloc as "a paradigm of the peaceful co-existence of nations with different powers and various political systems



Aerial photo taken on April 16, 2018 shows the cityscape of Qingdao, the host city of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit, in east China's Shandong Province. (Xinhua/Guo Xulei)

and cultures."

"Within the group, no one dominates, wins or loses, and agreements are reached through negotiation and consultation," Alimov said.

"The 'Shanghai Spirit' bears similar elements embodied in the vision of a community of a shared future for humanity and the global governance principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration, and will continue to deliver strong vitality," said Li Yongquan, head of the China Society for Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies.

START OF NEW JOURNEY

About a year ago, China took over

the rotating presidency of the SCO.

During China's SCO presidency, more than 120 activities have been held as of the end of last month, covering a wide spectrum including politics, economy, security, people-to-people exchanges and external exchanges.

"Seventeen years on, both China and the SCO have undergone profound changes, and both have seen a rise in their international influence," said Zhang Lili, a professor with China Foreign Affairs University.

"While moving closer to center stage, China will make a greater contribution to the SCO development at the summit," the professor said.

The summit is expected to ratify a five-year outline for the implementation of the "Treaty on Long-term Good Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation" to set the direction for SCO cooperation in the next phase, and approve a host of resolutions and cooperation deals covering areas including security, economy and trade, as well as people-to-people exchanges.

Also, by touching on major international and regional issues, the summit will be an important chapter for the improvement of global governance and the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

At a meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers last month, the ministers noted that the world was



Aerial photo taken on May 7, 2018 shows the cityscape of Qingdao, the host city of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit, in east China's Shandong Province. (Xinhua/Guo Xulei)

rapidly developing and undergoing unprecedented change with the emergence of a multipolar world order, an increasingly globalised world economy and enhanced connectivity and interdependence between states.

They stressed the need to follow multilateral approaches for resolving the issues the world is facing, and respond to various threats and challenges by improving global governance based on a collective approach.

Li Yongquan said he believes that by offering constructive solutions to regional cooperation and global governance, the "SCO strength" will add vigor to humanity's progress.

CHINA FOCUS: SHANGHAI SPIRIT - STRONG MOMENTUM BEHIND STEADY SCO DEVELOPMENT

Beijing, May 22 (Xinhua) -- As the bedrock of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the "Shanghai Spirit" has showed strong vitality and will continue to promote solidarity among member countries and raise the organization's influence, a new report said.

The Shanghai Spirit is "the soul of the SCO" and the essential distinction of the organization from other international organizations, said a report on SCO development released Monday by the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China, together

with two other institutes.

The Shanghai Spirit of "mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations, respect for cultural diversity, and pursuit of common development" is the organization's principle for internal affairs.

Created in 2001, the SCO has not only focused on regional peace, security and stability, but also devoted itself to regional development by facilitating trade and investment, enhancing industrial cooperation, and promoting people-to-people exchanges.

The organization accounts for over 60 percent of the Eurasian landmass, nearly half of the world's population and over 20 percent of global GDP. Its founding members are China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

In June 2017, India and Pakistan were accepted as full members of the SCO at the Astana summit in Kazakhstan.

Apart from the eight member states, the SCO also has four observer states and six dialogue partners.

"The membership expansion was evidence for broader prospects for the development of the SCO," the report said.

After the enlargement, it will be

even more necessary to uphold the Shanghai Spirit and to internalize it as a code of conduct for all members, the report said.

The spirit is the underlying reason for the member states to overcome differences and identify with the organization, the report said.

As the soul and guiding concept of the SCO, the Shanghai Spirit has shown great vitality, and continued adherence to it will effectively maintain internal solidarity and raise the organization's international influence, said the report.

"It is safe to say that the sustained development would be opportunities instead of challenges for member countries, and boon instead of threat for the international community," the report said.

The report described the organization as a paradigm of cooperation among nations with different social systems, ideologies, development models, and cultures.

Steady development and

expansion of the SCO would not have been possible without the Shanghai Spirit as the "soul," said Yao Peisheng, former Chinese ambassador to countries including Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The spirit shares similar elements embodied in the vision of a community of a shared future for humanity and the global governance principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration, and will continue to deliver strong vitality, said Li Yongquan, head of the China Society for Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian Studies.

Since China took over the rotating presidency of the SCO last June, more than 120 activities have been held as of the end of June, covering a wide spectrum including politics, economy, security, people-to-people exchanges, and external exchanges.

In June, the 18th SCO summit will be held in the coastal city of Qingdao in east China's Shandong Province.

CHINA'S QINGDAO TO HOST SCO SUMMIT IN JUNE

Jinan, Jan. 25 (Xinhua) — East China's Qingdao City will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in June this year, the provincial governor of Shandong said Thursday.

"Shandong will take the opportunity to promote its international reputation," said Gong Zheng when delivering the government work report at the local parliamentary session.



Shandong is the birthplace of many ancient Chinese thinkers, including Confucius. In 2017, its GDP exceeded 7.2 trillion yuan

(about 1.1 trillion U.S.dollars).

The summit has China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,

Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan as full members.

2,000 VOLUNTEERS READY FOR SCO QINGDAO SUMMIT



Volunteers take an oath during a launch ceremony for the volunteer program for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, May 24, 2018. About 2,000 volunteers will offer services such as assisting with guests' arrival and departure, translation, and media requests during the 18th summit of the SCO. (Xinhua/Li Ziheng)

Qingdao, May 24 (Xinhua) -- About 2,000 volunteers are preparing for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in the east China city of Qingdao.

During the 18th summit of the SCO, scheduled to be held in June in the coastal city in Shandong Province, the volunteers will offer services such

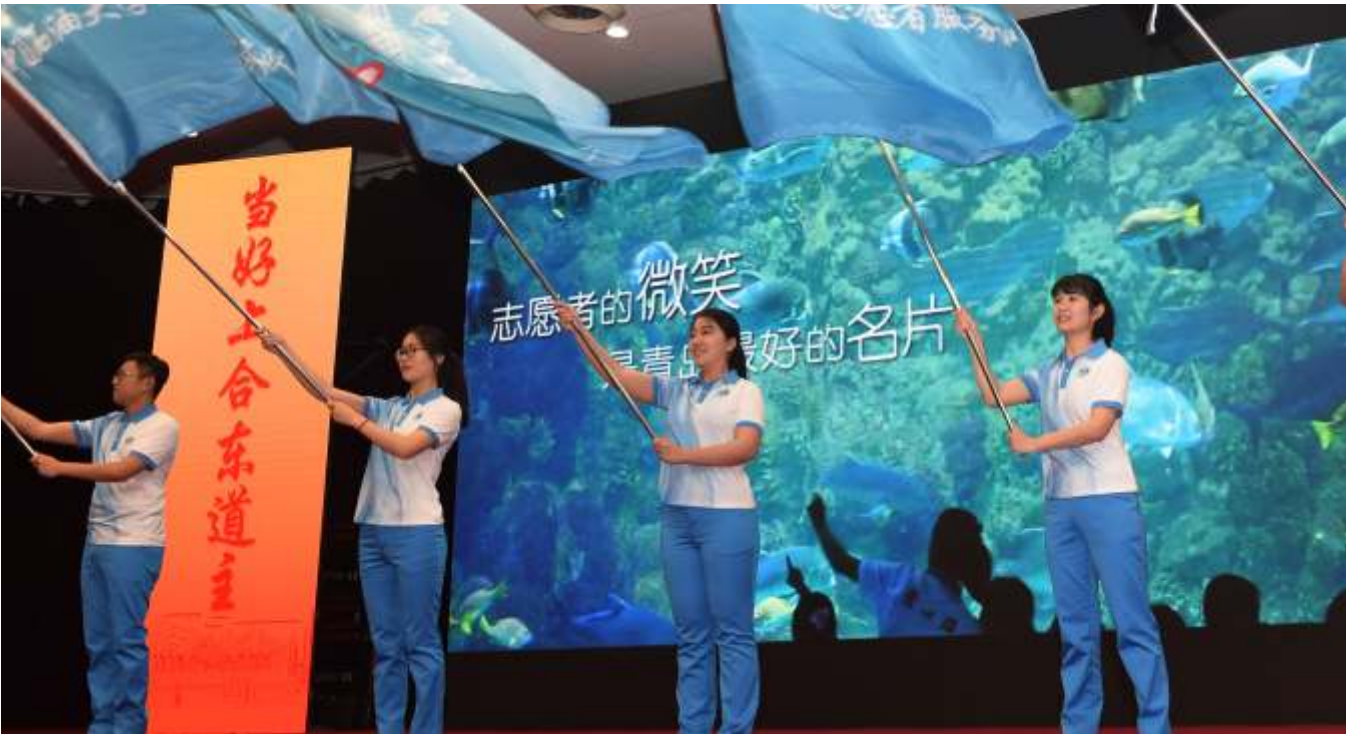
as assisting with guests' arrival and departure, translation, and media requests.

A launch ceremony for the volunteer program was held on Thursday, during which 700 volunteers took an oath.

Local authorities said the recruitment of volunteers, targeting ten universities in the city, began in

January 2018. More than 20,000 people have applied for the posts.

Xu Guohui, a teacher at Qingdao University, said the school has 310 student volunteers, and they have been undergoing various kinds of training since March in order to prepare for their roles.



Volunteers attend a launch ceremony for the volunteer program for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, May 24, 2018. About 2,000 volunteers will offer services such as assisting with guests' arrival and departure, translation, and media requests during the 18th summit of the SCO. (Xinhua/Li Ziheng)



Volunteers take an oath during a launch ceremony for the volunteer program for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, May 24, 2018. About 2,000 volunteers will offer services such as assisting with guests' arrival and departure, translation, and media requests during the 18th summit of the SCO. (Xinhua/Li Ziheng)

QINGDAO: HOST CITY OF 18TH SCO SUMMIT



Aerial photo taken on May 4, 2018 shows a night view of the Fushan Bay in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province. The coastal city will host the 18th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in June. (Xinhua/Zhang Cheng)



Aerial photo taken on May 4, 2018 shows the Zhanqiao Pier and the Qingdao Bay in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province. The coastal city will host the 18th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in June. (Xinhua/Guo Xulei)



Photo taken on May 23, 2018 shows a view of Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province. The coastal city will host the 18th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in June. (Xinhua/Zhang Cheng)



Children have fun at the Laoshe Park in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, May 23, 2018. The coastal city will host the 18th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in June. (Xinhua/Zhang Cheng)



People taste snacks in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, Feb. 17, 2018. The coastal city will host the 18th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in June. (Xinhua/Li Ziheng)



People have meal at a restaurant in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, May 18, 2018. The coastal city will host the 18th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in June. (Xinhua/Guo Xulei)



A couple pose for wedding photos on the Xinhao Mountain in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, May 2, 2018. The coastal city will host the 18th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in June. (Xinhua/Zhang Cheng)

External Affairs

XI MEETS MERKEL, CALLS FOR HIGHER-LEVEL CHINA-GERMANY TIES

Beijing, May 24 (Xinhua) -- President Xi Jinping Thursday told visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel that China will work with Germany to push bilateral ties to a higher level.

Xi welcomed Merkel on her 11th visit to China, hailing the great importance she has attached to bilateral ties.

Since the two countries launched an all-dimensional strategic partnership in 2014, bilateral ties have improved significantly with the cooperation width and depth reaching an unprecedented level, said Xi.

He said China and Germany must set an example of win-win cooperation, take the lead in promoting China-Europe ties, advocate the new type of international relations and override the ideological differences for cooperation.

"This should be the direction that bilateral ties will move to in the next stage," said Xi.

He called on both sides to maintain high-level exchange, enhance top-down planning on bilateral ties, encourage bilateral

cooperation in various areas and give full play to dialogue mechanisms.

"We welcome Germany to grasp opportunities arising from China's new round of reform and opening up," said Xi.

He said the two countries should expand industrial and market cooperation, driven by innovation, and jointly explore the third-party markets.

The two countries need to enhance cultural and people-to-people exchanges to consolidate the



basis of friendship, and jointly deal with global challenges, said Xi.

"We would like to promote global governance and multilateralism together with Germany within the multilateral frameworks," said Xi.

China appreciates Germany's support for the Belt and Road Initiative, and welcomes German enterprises' active participation, he said.

For her part, Merkel said she was glad to visit China soon after her re-election as German Chancellor in March.

Echoing Xi's comments on Germany-China ties, Merkel said China is an important member of the international community and an important trade partner of Germany.

As Germany-China ties have

entered into a new era, Germany is ready to take the new opportunities of China's reform and opening up to expand cooperation on trade and investment as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges, she said.

On European integration, Xi said China has always firmly supported Europe in choosing a path of integration. He added that China hopes the European Union will maintain unity, stability, openness and prosperity.

China is willing to work with the European side to advocate multilateralism and send more messages that are clear, predictable and confidence-boosting, for the development of international situation that is stable and conducive to all, Xi said.

Merkel said because the international situation has undergone

great changes, Germany and China must enhance communication and coordination on international affairs, intensify cooperation within multilateral frameworks such as the G20.

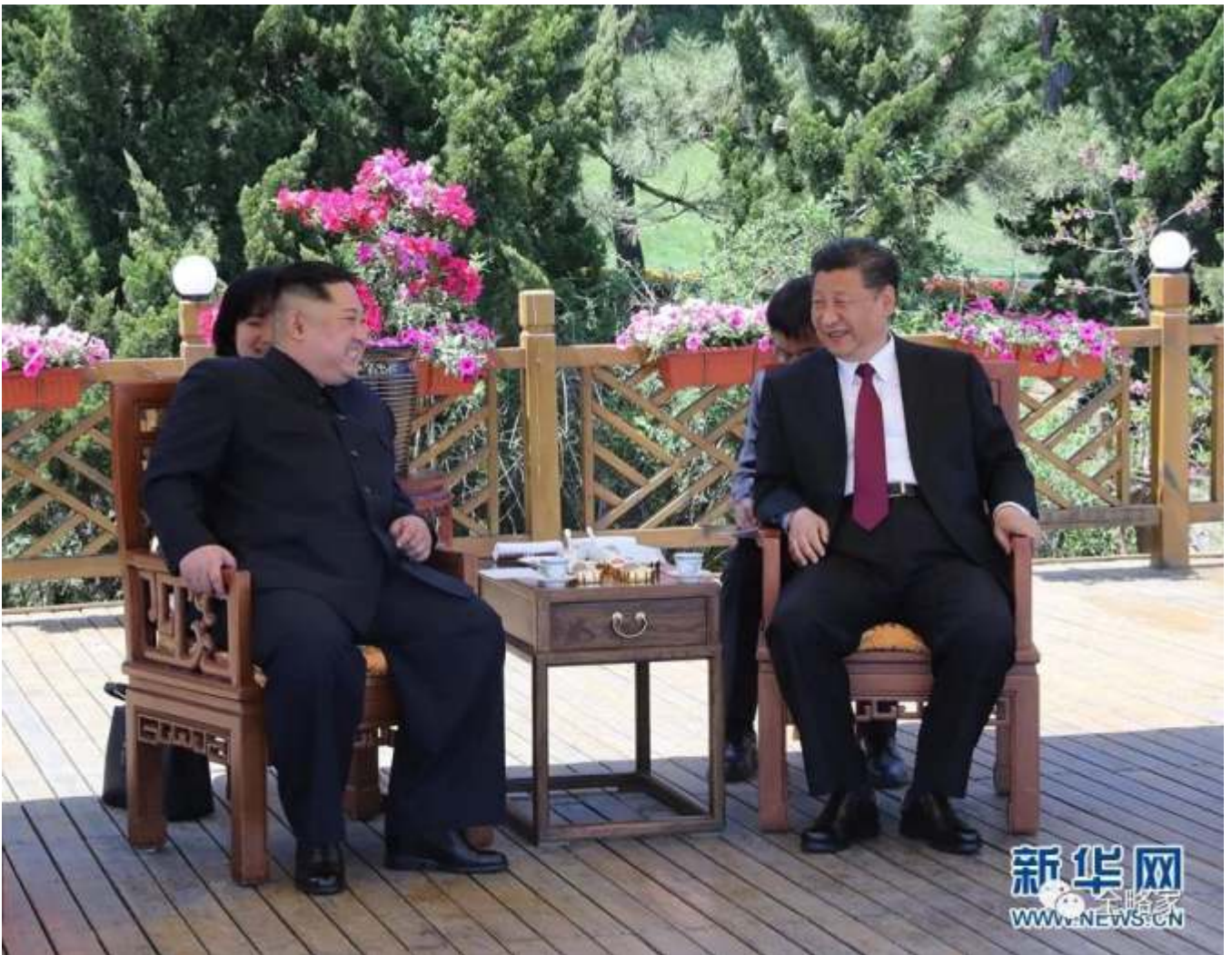
Germany backs Europe-China cooperation, she said.

The two sides also exchanged views on international trade, the Iran nuclear issue and other issues of common concern.

Merkel is paying an official visit to China on Thursday and Friday at the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

Also on Thursday, Li Zhanshu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, met with Merkel, calling for more cooperation between the two countries' legislatures.

XI JINPING HOLDS MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN OF THE WPK KIM JONG-UN OF THE DPRK IN DALIAN



From May 7 to 8, 2018, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and President Xi Jinping held a meeting with Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and Chairman of the State Affairs Commission Kim Jong-un of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in Dalian.

Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee Wang Huning attended relevant activities.

Dalian sees lush mountains, blue seas and drifting clouds in May. Xi Jinping held talks with Kim Jong-un and hosted a welcome dinner for him.

They took a stroll and attended a luncheon together. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, the top leaders of the two parties and the two countries had a comprehensive and in-depth exchange of views on China-DPRK relations and major issues of common concern.

Xi Jinping pointed out that Comrade Chairman made a special

trip to China to meet me again after 40-odd days at a crucial time when the Korean Peninsula situation undergoes profound and complex changes at present, which embodies the great importance that Comrade Chairman and the WPK Central Committee have attached to the relations between the two parties and the two countries, and to their strategic communication. I speak highly of it. Since the first meeting between Comrade Chairman and me, China-DPRK relations and the Korean Peninsula situation have made positive progress, and I am glad to see it. I am willing to hold the meeting with Comrade Chairman again to make joint efforts to push the healthy and stable development of China-DPRK relations, realize lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, and promote regional peace, stability and prosperity.

Kim Jong-un expressed that the DPRK-China friendship and the Korean Peninsula situation have achieved meaningful progress since March this year. These are the positive outcomes of the historic meeting between Comrade General Secretary and him. At the crucial period when the regional situation is developing rapidly at present, Kim Jong-un came to China again to meet with General Secretary and inform him of the situation, hoping to enhance strategic communication and cooperation with China, so as to promote the in-depth development of the DPRK-China friendship and boost regional peace and stability.

Xi Jinping stressed that Comrade Chairman and I achieved the historic first meeting in Beijing this March, during which we had a long and in-depth communication and reached principled consensus in four aspects on developing China-DPRK relations in the new era. First, the China-DPRK traditional friendship is the common and precious treasure of the two

countries. It is an unswerving principle and the only correct choice for both countries to well develop the China-DPRK friendly and cooperative relations. Second, both China and the DPRK are socialist countries, and bilateral relations are of major strategic significance. Both sides should enhance unity, cooperation, exchanges and mutual learning. Third, high-level exchanges between the two parties play an irreplaceably significant role in guiding bilateral relations. The two sides should maintain frequent exchanges, strengthen strategic communication, increase understanding and mutual trust, and safeguard common interests. Fourth, cementing the people-to-people friendship foundation is an important channel to advance the development of China-DPRK relations. The two sides should, by multiple means, enhance communication and exchanges between the two peoples to create a sound public opinion foundation for the development of China-DPRK relations. Under the joint efforts of the two sides, various consensus is being well implemented. Within a period of more than one month, I have met with Comrade Chairman twice, and maintained close communication. I stand ready to, together with Comrade Chairman, continue to guide relevant departments of the two sides to soundly implement the consensus we have reached and promote the continuous advancement of China-DPRK relations, so as to benefit the two countries and the two peoples and make positive contributions to the peace and stability of the region. Xi Jinping also extended sincere gratitude to Kim Jong-un for his great attention and earnest attitude demonstrated after a major traffic accident in the DPRK which resulted in casualties of the two countries' citizens.

Kim Jong-un expressed that comrade-like mutual trust and friendship between the elder generations of leaders of the two parties and the two countries form the close bond and solid foundation for the traditional friendship between the DPRK and China. Comrade General Secretary and he have inherited this fine tradition to hold the historic meeting with fruitful outcomes, and promoted the unprecedentedly vigorous development of DPRK-China relations. It is believed that the second meeting after more than a month will deepen mutual trust and push the DPRK-China friendly and cooperative relations to achieve even closer and comprehensive development in line with the demands of the new era.

When talking about the Korean Peninsula situation, Xi Jinping pointed out that Comrade Chairman and I have exchanged in-depth views and reached important consensus in this regard during the first meeting. Recently, Comrade Chairman has made active efforts in promoting dialogue and amelioration on the Korean Peninsula, which gained positive results. Under the joint efforts of all parties concerned, the momentum of dialogue and amelioration on the Korean Peninsula has been constantly consolidated in a direction that is conducive to promoting the political settlement. China supports the DPRK in adhering to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and supports the DPRK and the United States (US) in solving the Korean Peninsula issue through dialogue and consultation. The Chinese side is willing to continuously work together with all relevant parties to play a positive role in comprehensively promoting the process of peaceful settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue through

dialogue, and in realizing lasting peace and stability in the region.

Kim Jong-un spoke highly of General Secretary Xi Jinping's foresight and sagacity, and thanked China for its long-term and important contributions to realizing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and safeguarding regional peace and stability. Kim Jong-un expressed that realizing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula has been a consistent and clear stance of the DPRK. As long as relevant parties abolish their hostile policies and remove security threats against the DPRK, there is no need for the DPRK to be a nuclear state and the denuclearization can be realized. Kim Jong-un hopes that the DPRK and the US will establish mutual trust through dialogue, and that all relevant parties will take phased and synchronous measures in a responsible manner to comprehensively advance the political settlement process of the Korean Peninsula issue, and eventually achieve the denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim Jong-un briefed Xi Jinping on the situation of the recent domestic development and Party building in the DPRK.

Xi Jinping pointed out that the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee put forward a strategic line of concentrating all efforts of the whole Party and the country on socialist economic construction, and announced to discontinue nuclear tests and intercontinental ballistic missile test-fire and dismantle its northern nuclear test ground, which shows the great importance Comrade Chairman has attached to developing economy and improving people's livelihood and the resolute determination to safeguard regional peace and stability. China appreciates such gestures, and supports the DPRK in shifting its strategic focus to economic construction and supports the DPRK comrades in taking a development path suitable to their own national conditions.

Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Member of the Secretariat of the

CPC Central Committee and Director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee Ding Xuexiang, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee Yang Jiechi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and others attended relevant activities.

Member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, Vice Chairman of the WPK Central Committee and Director of the International Department Ri Su-yong, Member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, Vice Chairman of the WPK Central Committee and Director of the United Front Department Kim Yong-chol, Member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho, Alternate Member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and First Vice Director of the Propaganda and Agitation Department Kim Yo-jong and others attended relevant activities.

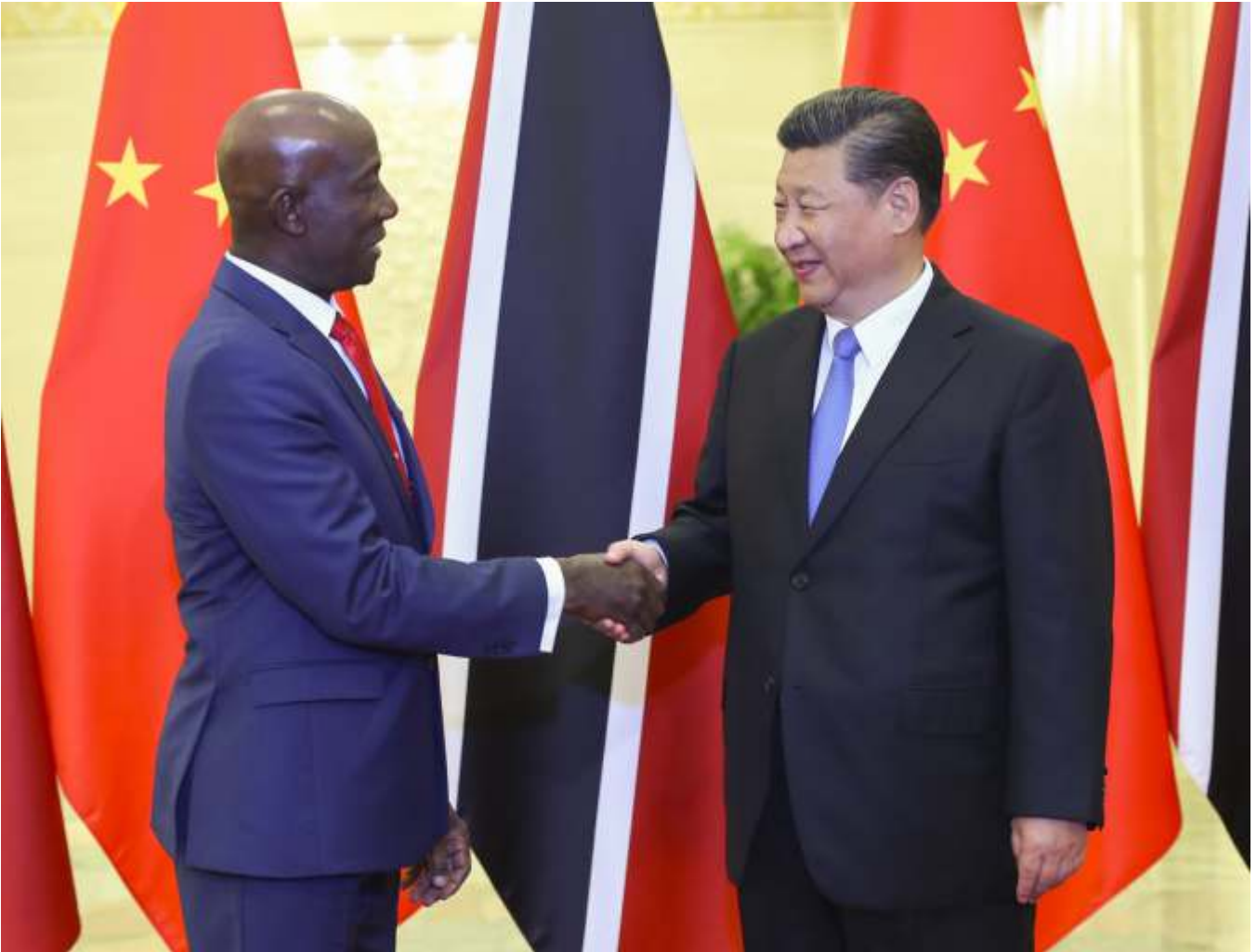
XI JINPING MEETS WITH PRIME MINISTER KEITH ROWLEY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

On May 15, 2018, President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister Keith Rowley of Trinidad and Tobago at the Great Hall of the People.

Xi Jinping commended Prime Minister Keith Rowley and the People's National Movement of Trinidad and Tobago led by him for their important contributions to promoting the development of their

relations with China for a long time. Xi Jinping stressed that China is comprehensively deepening reform and expanding opening up. While realizing its own development, China stands ready to realize common development with all countries based on the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. China remains committed to, together with all

countries, promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. In this historical process, China is willing to, based on the principle of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and common development, establish the comprehensive cooperative partnership with countries in the Caribbean region. Trinidad and Tobago is a major country in the



Caribbean region and an important cooperative partner of China in the region. Both countries share similar position and views on many aspects. Under the new circumstances, both sides should make joint efforts to realize new and greater development of bilateral relations at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

Xi Jinping emphasized that China and Trinidad and Tobago should reinforce the integration of development strategies and development plans, intensify exchanges at all levels, and deepen understanding and mutual trust. China is ready to strengthen cooperation in the "Belt and Road" construction with Trinidad and Tobago and help the country's

economic and social development. Both sides should enhance people-to-people and cultural exchanges to make bilateral friendship get deeper into the hearts of the people. China and Trinidad and Tobago should maintain close communication and coordination on climate change and other major global issues as well as the United Nations affairs, and firmly safeguard the common interests of both countries and developing countries. China will continue speaking boldly in defense of justice for Trinidad and Tobago and other Caribbean countries on multilateral occasions. It is hoped that Trinidad and Tobago will play an active role in promoting the overall cooperation between China and the Caribbean, as well as between China and Latin

American countries.

Keith Rowley expressed that President Xi Jinping's successful visit to Trinidad and Tobago in 2013 has laid a solid foundation for the long-term development of bilateral relations, for which they still remember so far. China's development achievements are admirable. Trinidad and Tobago also has a dream of pursuing development. All sectors in Trinidad and Tobago hope to conduct closer cooperation with China. As early as 1806, the first batch of Chinese people arrived in Trinidad and Tobago through the Maritime Silk Road. In the new period, Trinidad and Tobago stands ready to actively take part in the Belt and Road

Initiative advocated by President Xi Jinping, and expand scale of bilateral economy and trade and investment as well as people-to-people and cultural

exchanges, in a bid to assist in the development of relations between the Caribbean and China as well as between Latin America and China.

Yang Jiechi, Wang Yi, He Lifeng and others attended the meeting.

XI JINPING MEETS WITH BFA CHAIRMAN BAN KI-MOON



On May 15, 2018, President Xi Jinping met at the Great Hall of the People with Chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Ban Ki-moon.

Xi Jinping pointed out that the BFA, established at the beginning of this century, reflects the initial

aspiration of Asian nations to pursue strength through unity, jointly meet challenges and increase the influence of Asia. The mission and purpose of the BFA are to promote economic integration in Asia, and boost exchanges and cooperation between countries in the region and various

countries in the world, so as to achieve mutual benefit and win-win results. The establishment and development of the BFA coincide with China's reform and opening up process. It is hoped that the BFA could keep pace with the times, focus on Asia and emerging market

economies, pay attention to major practical issues of the world development, provide new ideas, new thinking and new methods for solving development problems, improving economic governance and realizing sustainable development, and play an active role in promoting the common development and prosperity of China and the world. As the host country, China will support the work of the Board of Directors of the BFA as always, and back the BFA to continue increasing its influence.

Xi Jinping stressed that at present, as international unstable and uncertain factors are increasing and new problems and challenges are emerging one after another, all Asian countries and the international community need to make right choices between opening up and isolation, innovation and conservatism, as well as between win-win results and zero-sum games. I have made it clear to everyone at the

BFA Annual Conference 2018 that economic globalization is an irreversible trend of the times, and the future and destiny of all countries in the world have never been as closely linked as they are today. Facing the problems in economic globalization, conformism will not be a solution while the way out is multilateral coordination.

Xi Jinping noted that the door of China's opening up will not be closed but will only become wider and wider. We will adapt to opening up and score development in an open environment. China will firmly support multilateralism, safeguard multilateral trade system, build an open world economy, and commit to promoting economic globalization to develop towards a more open, inclusive, universally beneficial, balanced, and win-win direction. I have announced a new round of initiatives for China's independent expansion of opening up at the BFA

Annual Conference this year, which will be implemented as soon as possible to bring greater development opportunities to Asia and the world.

Ban Ki-moon thanked the Chinese government for its strong support for the BFA. He said that under the current situation, the BFA should send out clear messages supporting globalization and free trade, and make full use of the "Belt and Road" initiative of China to promote Asia to maintain opening up and innovation and achieve better development. In the long run, the BFA should go beyond Asia on the basis of Asia and become an important platform for boosting the harmonious coexistence of the people of the world, in a bid to make efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Yang Jiechi, Wang Yi and others attended the meeting.

CHINA, GERMANY SEEK STRONGER COOPERATION AS MERKEL VISITS

Beijing, May 24 (Xinhua) -- China and Germany agreed in Beijing on Thursday to step up win-win cooperation and especially in emerging industries such as artificial intelligence and new energy vehicles.

The agreement was made between Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

In their talks at the Great Hall of the People, Li proposed giving full play to the role of bilateral institutional dialogues in various areas, make good arrangement for the new round of China-Germany inter-

governmental consultation, and enhance exchanges in such areas as finance, trade, investment and security.

Li welcomed German companies to invest in China, and expected Germany to offer fair and open environment as well as stable institution guarantee for Chinese investment in Germany and Europe.

Li called for stronger China-Germany cooperation in digitalization and innovation, proposing to cement cooperation in emerging industries such as artificial intelligence, new energy vehicle,

vehicle networking and autopilot, in a bid to foster a new engine of bilateral cooperation.

He called on both countries to combine development strategies, facilitate people-to-people exchanges as well as cultural, educational and tourism cooperation.

Chinese government supports the two countries to exchange interns, to learn from each other's professional skills, Li said.

China hopes to step up negotiation of a bilateral investment treaty with Europe, he said, vowing to



join with the European Union to advocate multilateralism and safeguard multilateral trade system, and promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.

As this year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up, Li said China will open its door wider to the world.

China will further expand market access, ease restrictions on foreign ownership of joint ventures in automobile and finance industries, enhance protection of intellectual property rights, and accelerate the establishment of a market environment that is in compliance with regulations and fair competition, Li said.

Merkel, who is on her 11th China visit as German chancellor, said her government highly values relations with China.

Germany is ready to enhance cooperation with China in such areas as trade, technology and autopilot, she said, adding Germany hopes to contribute to stronger EU-China ties, and supports to speed up negotiation of EU-China investment treaty.

Before their talks, Li held a welcome ceremony for Merkel.

They also attended a meeting of China-German Economic Advisory Committee after their talks, and had exchanges with enterprises of both countries on investment

environment, two-way openness, financial cooperation and protection of intellectual property rights.

Li called on Germany to treat Chinese companies as equal and trustworthy partners, and offer a more fair and easier environment for Chinese investment in Germany.

Merkel said she hopes the two countries would offer equal access for mutual investment of their enterprises.

Merkel is on an official visit to China on Thursday and Friday. Besides Beijing, she will also fly to Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong Province.

LI KEQIANG ATTENDS THE 7TH CHINA-JAPAN-ROK LEADERS' MEETING



On the morning of May 9, 2018 local time, Premier Li Keqiang attended the 7th leaders' meeting of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) at the State Guest House in Tokyo with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and President Moon Jae-in of the ROK, exchanging views on the cooperation among China, Japan and the ROK as well as regional and international issues.

Li Keqiang said that as three major economies in the world and

important partners in economic and trade cooperation, China, Japan and the ROK shoulder important responsibilities for boosting regional economic development, guiding the process of regional integration and safeguarding regional peace and stability. In the face of the current complex and ever-changing international political and economic situation, strengthening cooperation among China, Japan and the ROK not only meets the development needs of the three countries, but also accords

with the common expectation of countries in the region and the international community. The three sides should seize the opportunity to expand the integration of interests and strive to promote lasting peace and common prosperity in the region.

Firstly, the three countries should accumulate political mutual trust and create a sound atmosphere. The three countries share far more common interests than differences,

and the differences can also be managed, controlled and resolved with the wisdom of the Eastern people. We should face up to the history, look into the future, and develop a higher level of cooperation at the new historical starting point.

Secondly, the three countries should jointly safeguard free trade and promote regional economic integration. We must firmly safeguard the rules-based multilateral trade system and fight against protectionism and unilateralism. We should raise the level of regional economic integration and jointly promote the construction of an open, interconnected, inclusive and balanced Asian economic system. We should speed up the process of negotiation on the China-Japan-ROK free trade area, and promote the agreement on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership at an early date. We should lead and advance the formulation of the blueprint for the East Asia economic community and strengthen cooperation in the six major areas of trade liberalization and facilitation, production capacity and investment, infrastructure and connectivity, finance, sustainable development as well as people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

Thirdly, the three countries should forge the "China-Japan-ROK+X" mode to promote regional sustainable development. We should combine the advantages of the three sides, and implement joint projects in such fields as production capacity cooperation, disaster prevention and reduction, energy conservation and environment protection through the "China-Japan-ROK+X" mode, so as to promote better and faster development of countries in the region.

Fourthly, the three countries

should deepen people-to-people and cultural exchanges and consolidate the public opinion foundation. We should fully tap the cultural connotation of the historical traditions of the three countries and strengthen exchanges and cooperation in such fields as culture, education, tourism and media, so as to promote spiritual communication. We should expand personnel exchanges and strengthen youth exchanges.

Fifthly, we should encourage technological innovation, and push forward the work in poverty alleviation, environment protection and disaster resistance, so as to promote global inclusive growth.

Li Keqiang stressed that the three countries should work together to maintain regional stability and prosperity and make contributions to world peace and development. The three countries should promote the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind as well as jointly build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful Asia and world that enjoy lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity. The three sides should promote the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, adhere to the general direction of settlement through dialogue, the general goal of the denuclearization as well as the general principle of addressing both symptoms and root causes, and make positive contributions to the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue and to achieving lasting peace of the region. The three sides should promote the "Belt and Road" in accordance with the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, further strengthen policy communication and coordination and guide the enterprises in the three countries to carry out various forms of cooperation.

Shinzo Abe expressed that as three major trading nations in the world, the three countries all support free trade and open market, and should propose trading rules with high standards that match the 21st century. In terms of people-to-people and cultural exchanges, the three countries should take the holding of the Olympic Games and Paralympics in the three countries as opportunities to promote personnel exchanges, strengthen education and tourism cooperation, and promote the development of the region towards a more open and inclusive direction. The Japanese side congratulated on the successful talks of the leaders between the ROK and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), expressed its appreciation for the complete denuclearization commitment in the Panmunjom Declaration and its respect for the unremitting efforts made by the Chinese side on the Korean Peninsula issue. Japan, China and the ROK should jointly cooperate with the international community to push forward the process of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The promotion for future-oriented cooperation of the three countries is crucial for regional peace and prosperity.

Moon Jae-in said that the ROK-China-Japan leaders' meeting was held again after two and a half years. The three countries are inseparable cooperation partners. It is hoped that the leaders' meeting will be held regularly in the future to make it regularized and institutionalized. The ROK-DPRK leaders' talks have laid a sound foundation for the realization of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula as well as peace and stability. China and Japan have upheld the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and supported the talks between the ROK and the DPRK,

which has injected strength into the successful holding of the talks. China and Japan are indispensable in the process of realizing peace on the Korean Peninsula. The Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia will surely usher in peace and prosperity.

The three countries should enrich the content of practical cooperation, and promote cooperation in the areas that are closely related to the people's lives such as environmental protection, medical care, energy, and disaster resistance, so as to let the people of

the three countries enjoy tangible benefits.

Wang Yi and He Lifeng attended the meeting.

LI KEQIANG HOLDS TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE OF JAPAN

– Stressing to Strive to Achieve Long-term, Healthy and Stable Development of China-Japan Relations



On the afternoon of May 9, 2018 local time, Premier Li Keqiang held talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan at the State Guest House in Tokyo.

Li Keqiang expressed that China

and Japan are important and close neighbors as well as major economies in the world. The healthy and stable development of bilateral relations is related to the well-being of the two

peoples, and also to the peace, stability and prosperity of the world, especially to that of Asia. China-Japan relations had experienced twists and turns and gone through a

detour over previous years. Recently, Japan has released important and positive information on its relations with China, and there has been a sound momentum of improvement in bilateral relations. My visit this time aims to work with Japan to jointly bring China-Japan relations back to the normal track. I also hope that the two countries can meet each other halfway, and strive to maintain the long-term, healthy and stable development of relations between both countries.

Li Keqiang stressed that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship, which has affirmed various principles of the China-Japan Joint Declaration in the form of law, and clearly put forward the development of ever-lasting peaceful and friendly relations between the two countries. No matter how the situation develops and changes, the two sides should abide by all principles set forth in the four political documents between China and Japan, safeguard political foundation and properly manage and control contradictions and differences based on the spirit of taking history as a mirror while facing up to the future, so as to jointly open up the future of bilateral relations. The Japanese government and leaders have repeatedly expressed the willingness to face up to and reflect on history of the past. It is hoped that the Japanese side could fulfill its commitments with practical actions. On the Taiwan question, it is hoped that Japan can honor its promise and stick to the one-China principle. The two countries should jointly maintain the stable and sound situation in the East China Sea, so as to make it a sea of peace, cooperation and friendship. Both sides should proceed from the fundamental interests of the two peoples, adhere to the road of peaceful development, truly regard each other's development as

opportunities, and translate the political consensus of treating each other as cooperative partners instead of threats into actions, in a bid to make peaceful coexistence and everlasting friendship always become the main melody and the forward-looking direction of bilateral relations.

Li Keqiang pointed out that practical cooperation is an important engine and support for the development of China-Japan relations. China and Japan enjoy strong economic complementarities. The two sides should further exploit potential, enhance cooperation in such key areas as energy conservation and environment protection, scientific and technological innovation, high-end manufacturing, finance, sharing economy, health care and elderly care, discuss the "Belt and Road" cooperation and jointly explore third-party market. The two sides have reached principled consensus on the signing of a currency swap agreement. China has agreed to grant Japan the quota under the RMB Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (RQFII). The two sides should carry forward the tradition of people-to-people friendship, strengthen exchanges in culture, education, sports, media and youth as well as at local level, and further do a better job to make people-to-people bonds get closer.

Shinzo Abe expressed that Japan-China relations have achieved practical improvement since last year. Both sides have restarted Japan-China high-level economic dialogue and realized mutual visits between foreign ministers. Looking back over the past road and looking forward to the future, Japan will stick to a peaceful development path, and is willing to take Premier Li Keqiang's visit this time as an opportunity to inherit the spirits of the elder generations, continuously improve and push forward Japan-China relations and promote the implementation of the strategic and

mutually beneficial relations, in a bid to build a more mature relationship between both countries. Japan is ready to, together with China, enhance political mutual trust, maintain high-level exchanges and strengthen communication and coordination on international and regional issues. Japan will only maintain non-governmental exchanges with Taiwan in accordance with the Japan-China Joint Declaration. Japan supports China's reform and opening up, and is willing to continuously boost bilateral cooperation in key areas, jointly safeguard the free trade system, maintain rules-based, just and open multilateral system, and further expand exchanges and cooperation in such areas as investment, tourism, culture, food, disaster reduction and maritime exploration. The two countries need to jointly carry out cooperation in third-party market, and deal with global challenges together.

Both sides also exchanged in-depth views on the Korean Peninsula situation and other international and regional issues of common concern.

After their talks, Li Keqiang and Shinzo Abe jointly witnessed the signing of multiple bilateral cooperation documents in such fields as people-to-people and cultural engagement, medical and healthcare, service trade, third-party market cooperation and the establishment of a maritime and air liaison mechanism.

Prior to their talks, Shinzo Abe held a grand welcoming ceremony for Li Keqiang at the square of the State Guest House. Shinzo Abe greeted Li Keqiang when he arrived, and then leaders of both countries stepped on the reception stage. The military band played the national anthems of both countries. The national flags of both countries fluttered in the wind. Accompanied by Shinzo Abe, Li Keqiang reviewed the guard of honor.

Wang Yi and He Lifeng attended the talks.

LI KEQIANG HOLDS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT JOKO WIDODO OF INDONESIA

– Stressing to Promote China-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to New Stages



On the morning of May 7, 2018 local time, Premier Li Keqiang held talks at Bogor Presidential Palace with President Joko Widodo of Indonesia.

Li Keqiang first conveyed President Xi Jinping's warm greetings to President Joko Widodo. Li Keqiang expressed that China and Indonesia are important close neighbors to each other and natural cooperation partners sharing extensive common

interests. The successful meetings between the two heads of state for many times have promoted bilateral political mutual trust and practical cooperation to new highs. This year marks the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Indonesia. China stands ready to, together with Indonesia, make joint efforts and ride the tide, so as to promote bilateral relations for greater

development.

Li Keqiang pointed out that under the current world political and economic situation, China and Indonesia, both as major developing countries and important countries in the region, move forward hand in hand and jointly seek development, which is of strategic significance for not only the two countries and the two peoples, but also the region and

the whole world at large.

Li Keqiang puts forward specific suggestions for enhancing bilateral relations and the alignment of development strategies:

The first is to build three pillars of all-round cooperation at bilateral, regional and global levels under the framework of the China-Indonesia comprehensive strategic partnership to better support the development of bilateral relations.

The second is to deepen the integration of the "Belt and Road" initiative of China and "Global Maritime Fulcrum" vision of Indonesia, strengthen production capacity cooperation, and push forward the cooperation of two landmark projects, namely, Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway and the regional comprehensive economic corridors, in a bid to release economic and social benefits at an early date, bring the people of the two countries tangible interests and better achieve mutual benefit and win-win results.

The third is to deepen trade and investment cooperation, expand export of competitive and high-quality products to China such as palm oil, tropical fruits, and coffee of Indonesia, reinforce cooperation in fish processing, and encourage Chinese enterprises to expand investment in Indonesia. It is hoped that Indonesia will provide more policy support and convenience.

The fourth is to consolidate public opinion foundation of bilateral relations, intensify personnel exchanges and connectivity, enhance academic and youth exchanges, and promote cultural exchanges and mutual learning.

Li Keqiang stressed that this year

marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the strategic partnership between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). China is willing to, together with Indonesia, jointly push forward China-ASEAN cooperation for improvement and upgrade, promote the cooperation with the East ASEAN Growth Area, create the "4+1" new pattern for sub-regional cooperation together with the four countries in the Growth Area including Indonesia, and speed up the promotion of negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership as well as the building of the East Asia economic community, so as to facilitate economic integration in East Asia.

Joko Widodo warmly welcomed Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Indonesia, and expressed that it was the first visit paid by Premier after the establishment of the new Chinese government, which reflected the great importance China has attached to China-Indonesia relations. China is a strategic partner of Indonesia. Both countries have constantly deepened cooperation in various fields including economy, trade, investment and culture, and achieved mutual benefit and win-win results. Based on abiding by the international rules, Indonesia's cooperation with China not only conforms to the interests of the two countries and the two peoples, but also is of important significance to world peace and development. Joko Widodo thanked China's support to Indonesia's construction of the regional comprehensive economic corridors. Indonesia stands ready to accelerate the advancement of the project of Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway, and ensure the whole construction of the railway at an early date. China's market has great potential. Indonesia thanks China for expanding the import of palm

oil, tropical fruits, coffee and other agricultural products from Indonesia, and stands ready to, together with China, strengthen cooperation under the ASEAN-China framework as well as communication and coordination in international and regional affairs.

Both sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern.

Prior to the talks, Joko Widodo held a grand welcoming ceremony for Li Keqiang at the square of the Presidential Palace. When the motorcade of the Chinese delegation drove near the Presidential Palace, more than 15,000 local primary and secondary school students waved the national flags of China and Indonesia along the two sides of the street to cheer and extend regards, warmly welcoming the arrival of Chinese Premier. Joko Widodo greeted Li Keqiang at the drop-off point, and they went to the review stand together. The guard of honor saluted, and the military band played the national anthems of both countries. A 19-gun salute was fired. The national flags of both countries fluttered in the wind. Li Keqiang reviewed the guard of honor accompanied by Joko Widodo. Afterwards, leaders of both countries jointly planted the tree of China-Indonesia friendship.

After the talks, Li Keqiang and Joko Widodo jointly witnessed the signing of relevant cooperation documents between the two countries.

On the morning of the same day, Li Keqiang laid a wreath at Kalibata National Heroes Cemetery.

Xiao Jie and He Lifeng attended above activities.

WANG QISHAN MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALOYSIO NUNES OF BRAZIL



On May 14, 2018, Vice President Wang Qishan met at Zhongnanhai with Foreign Minister Aloysio Nunes of Brazil.

Wang Qishan conveyed President Xi Jinping's warm greetings to President Michel Temer of Brazil. He expressed that the foundation of exchanges between two countries lies in people-to-people exchanges, while guidance of heads of state is the key. As comprehensive strategic partners and major developing countries, the two countries share extensive consensus on international issues.

Both countries have distinctive economy and culture, enjoy profound people-to-people friendly feelings and make great achievements from cooperation in various fields. The constant development of China-Brazil relations endows bilateral cooperation with many new contents. Both sides should have a deep understanding of the position of China-Brazil relations set by the two heads of state, keep up with the times and give full play to the role of mechanisms including the China-Brazil High-level Coordination and Cooperation Committee, and

continuously translate cooperation potential into the well-being of the two peoples, in a bid to make contributions to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Aloysio Nunes expressed that Brazil pays high attention to its relations with China. Strengthening Brazil-China cooperation is not only conducive to the two sides, but also has global significance. Brazil stands ready to make joint efforts with China to break new ground for bilateral relations.

WANG YI MEETS WITH US SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



On May 23, 2018 local time, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who made a stop-over in Washington, D.C. on his way back from Argentina, held a meeting with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo of the United States (US). Both sides exchanged in-depth views on China-US relations and issues of common concern.

Wang Yi expressed that in the face of the complex and ever-changing international situation, it is of greater importance to maintain the healthy and stable development of

China-US relations. Both sides should jointly well carry out the following things:

First, the strategic leading role of the two heads of state should be brought into full play to determine the development direction of China-US relations. Teams of both sides should earnestly implement the important consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump, and at the same time, the two countries should well host the four high-level dialogues, strengthen strategic mutual trust, and reduce

strategic misjudgment, so as to ensure the steady and long-term development of China-US relations along the right track.

Second, bilateral mutually beneficial cooperation in a wide range of areas should be continuously deepened to ballast China-US relations. The nature of economic and trade cooperation between China and the US is mutual benefit and win-win results. It is hoped that both sides should speed up the implementation of the important consensus reached

through economic and trade consultation a few days ago. Both countries should solve trade imbalance by doing addition rather than reduction, open markets to each other and protect intellectual property rights.

Third, the differences and issues should be properly handled to pave the way for China-US relations. It is hoped that China and the US could meet each other halfway, respect each other's major interests, and manage, control and handle the differences in a constructive manner. The US side, in particular, should realize the severe harmfulness of those separatist forces advocating "Taiwan independence", and honor its commitments to adhering to the one-China principle and the three joint communiqués between China and the US, so as to safeguard the overall situation of China-US relations as well as the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait.

Fourth, cooperation in regional and international affairs should be expanded to push for expansion of China-US relations. Both sides should strengthen coordination on such issues as the Korean Peninsula issue and the Afghan issue, promote the political settlement of hotspot issues, and deepen cooperation in affairs

including counter-terrorism, cyber security, and combating transnational crime.

Mike Pompeo said that the US and China are two major countries with important influence and also the top two largest economies in the world. US-China relations are of great importance. The two countries have some differences, but also enjoy enormous opportunities in expanding cooperation at the same time. The US believes that US-China relations should not be zero-sum relations. The US is willing to make joint efforts with China to promote bilateral relations for constant improvement and development. President Donald Trump cherishes very much the good working relations and personal friendship with President Xi Jinping, and looks forward to continuing to keep close communication and contact with President Xi Jinping.

Mike Pompeo said that on the Taiwan question, the US side's stance of adhering to the one-China policy remains unchanged. As for the economic and trade issues, the economic teams of both countries have made constructive consultations not long ago. It is hoped that both sides will intensify their efforts to refine and implement relevant consensus, so as to benefit the two

peoples.

Both sides also exchanged views on the current Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. Wang Yi expressed that the essence of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is the security issue. China has always advocated that the US and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) should carry out direct dialogue and contact in this regard. China has always been paving the way and creating conditions for this. Wang Yi said that recently the deadlock that lasted for years in the Korean Peninsula situation has been broken, and we are embracing a historic opportunity to realize the denuclearization. We encourage the US and the DPRK to firm their determination to hold dialogue and realize the holding of the summit between top leaders of the two countries as scheduled, so as to prevent the positive changes in the Korean Peninsula situation from being interrupted again. China is ready to work with all parties to create a favorable environment and atmosphere to this end.

Mike Pompeo expressed that the US speaks highly of the efforts China made on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, and thanks China for playing an active role in US-DPRK dialogue.

China India Relations

INDIA'S PHARMA SECTOR PINS HOPE AFTER CHINA EXEMPTS IMPORT TARIFFS FOR 28 DRUGS

New Delhi, May 8 (Xinhua) -- India is committed to promoting its pharmaceutical exports to untapped markets, including China, said Indian companies at a three-day international exhibition of pharma and healthcare

(iPHEX) which kicked off on Tuesday.

The exhibition has been organized by the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) in which more than

650 delegates from 130 countries and regions are participating.

China has exempted import tariffs for 28 drugs, including all cancer drugs, from May 1, which was

seen as a good news for India's pharmaceutical industry and medicine export to China, as it would help in reducing trade imbalance between China and India in the future.

Leading Indian companies participating in Tuesday's event hailed and welcomed China's move saying it would benefit both sides, as it would address India's trade imbalance and also China would get quality drugs at much lesser prices.

Dr Dinesh Dua, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Nectar Lifesciences Ltd. based in Chandigarh city in northern India, said that he expected China, which is the second largest drugs market after the United States, would benefit a lot as Indian drugs prices are excellent.

Indian companies can do excellent business in the next years in China, which augurs really well for the Indian

pharmaceutical companies, he added.

Besides cancer drugs, Dua said, other drugs which India can export to China include "monoclonal antibodies" and also "chemo-therapeutic agents" which Indian companies are very successfully making for other countries at a fraction of cost which innovators are making available.

"The multinational companies (MNCs) are making available these generic drugs in China as local generic companies can't make them. India has proven to the rest of the world, so China will too greatly benefit by Indian pricing and quality of drugs coming in at a fraction of cost of the MNCs," Dua said.

According to official figures, during the 11 months from April 2017 to January 2018, the pharma exports were recorded at 10.76 billion U.S.

dollars in India. The exports are expected to grow by 30 percent over the next three years to reach 20 billion U.S. dollars by 2020.

Indian pharmaceutical sector is estimated to account for 3.1-3.6 percent of the global pharmaceutical industry in value terms, and 10 percent in volume terms.

India is believed to be the largest provider of generic drugs globally with the Indian generics accounting for 20 percent of global exports in terms of volume.

In India cost of production of pharmaceutical items is nearly 33 percent lower than that of the United States, labor costs are 50-55 percent cheaper than in western countries. And, also the cost of setting up a production plant in India is 40 percent lower than in the West.

SEVENTH CHINA INDIA FORUM HELD IN LANGFANG, N CHINA'S HEBEI

Langfang, May 18 (Xinhuanet) -- The Seventh China India Forum was held on Thursday in Langfang, Hebei Province. Over two hundred representatives from governments and enterprises of China and India attended this forum.

During the forum, Yang Zhe, president of China Fortune Land Development (CFLD) International, said that the company will actively promote the construction and operation of the industrial parks in

India and make a contribution to the China-India economic and trade cooperation.

Yang stressed the industrial parks will facilitate win-win development between China and India.

They will mainly function as comprehensive service platforms for the overseas business of Chinese companies, Yang said.

CFLD can provide various services for Chinese companies,

including site selection, information sharing, supportive facilities and investment promotion, he added.

The industrial parks can also increase local employment and promote construction of local infrastructure and modern industrial clusters, Yang said.

CFLD has currently launched several industrial park projects in Indonesia, Vietnam, India, Egypt, Brunei and Philippines.

2ND CHINESE HIGHER EDUCATION EXPO HELD IN KOLKATA, INDIA



Students participate at the second Chinese Higher Education Expo organized by the Consulate General of China in Kolkata in cooperation with the School of Chinese Language in Kolkata, India on May 10, 2018. (Xinhua/Tumpa Mondal)



Students participate at the second Chinese Higher Education Expo organized by the Consulate General of China in Kolkata in cooperation with the School of Chinese Language in Kolkata, India on May 10, 2018. (Xinhua/Tumpa Mondal)

INDIA, CHINA SHOULD COOPERATE FOR MUTUAL BENEFITS: ECONOMISTS

New Delhi, May 25 (Xinhua) -- As the two largest developing economies, India and China should work together for mutual benefits, said Indian economists prior to the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

V. Upadhyay, who specializes in development economics and works at the Delhi-based Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), told Xinhua that the two countries must work together.

"There are so many opportunities ... Already we have a very high level of trade relations between India and China," he said.

China has ample capital and high expertise in many fields, he said, so India can make use of what China has and is ready to offer.

"But in terms of geopolitical terms, if India takes China as a competitor, it won't hold good. In the long run that won't help us really much," he said.

Concerning the Western allegation that China is a developed economy, he said although the Chinese economy has seen a lot of progress, but if one looks at the per capita income of the Chinese people, it is quite low.

"A lot of people continue living in poverty in China, and there can't be any comparison between their living standard with those in European countries, the U.S. or Japan," he added.

Swati Yadav, a senior assistant professor in the department of

Economics at the Delhi University's Bhagini Nivedita College, said that while the Western world wants China to embrace the responsibilities of a developed country, China will remain the largest developing country.

"With the status of a developed country comes the responsibilities, especially with regards to the issue of climate change," she said, adding that China is still a developing economy with developed eastern coastal cities and poor western areas.

Swati said that India and China can together present a united front while discussing issues at the international organizations where bargaining needs to be done with the developed nations.

INTERVIEW: ECONOMIC COOPERATION KEY TO BETTER INDIA-CHINA TIES, SAYS RENOWNED EXPERT

Beijing, May 14 (Xinhua) -- Promoting economic cooperation is key to stabilizing and improving relations between India and China, the world's two biggest developing countries and two emerging economies, C. Raja Mohan, director of Carnegie India, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Both Chinese and Indian leaders want to keep bilateral ties sound and stable. "The challenge is to put the

understandings into specifics," Mohan said, referring to last month's informal meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two-day tete-a-tete in central China's Wuhan was widely applauded by scholars and experts, who said that the meeting provided a good chance for Beijing and New Delhi to further exchange views over long-term and strategic issues.

Bilateral ties can be improved by managing the "negative elements" and outweighing them with positive ones. "Political differences will remain, they must be balanced with economic relations," Mohan said.

"Increased trade, increased Chinese investment, more Indian companies going to China and vice versa, those are what gives you stability," Mohan said, calling for improved trade relationship, better

market access and investment conditions.

Last year, Indian exports to China went up by nearly 40 percent to 16.34 billion U.S. dollars, while overall bilateral trade hit a historic high of 84.4 billion dollars, up 20.3 percent year on year, according to statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce.

China is India's largest trading

partner. Both are the world's major economic engines and offer huge opportunities in bilateral trade.

Mohan said he feels that building strong people-to-people links offers a short-cut to better ties.

Both China and India should make travel easier while promoting cooperation in tourism and education. "These are easily done, not difficult

things to do," he added.

Mohan also suggested both countries cooperate in infrastructure projects in the region, saying "we can do projects in other countries, through which we can build some trust."

"Differences will not automatically disappear," Mohan said. "We need to cooperate. Increase the positive to reduce the negative."

INTERVIEW: COOPERATION IN INDIA-CHINA TOURISM ON THE RISE

Mumbai, May 12 (Xinhua) -- With China and India forging a closer partnership, tour operators are excited about the fast development of the China-India tourism market.

According to statistics of the Indian government, 250,000 Chinese visited India in 2017 while about 800,000 Indians visited China, said STIC Travel Group Chairman Subhash Goyal, adding "we as a company have explored and are trying to create a lot of awareness of the tourism potential of China."

Established in 1973 in New Delhi, the STIC has become one of the largest travel groups in India, representing about 20 of the world's best travel, aviation, tourism, cruise and hotel brands exclusively in the country.

India officially started providing E-Travel Visas to Chinese nationals in 2015, aiming to attract Chinese visitors by offering convenience for those who are willing to travel, visit or conduct business in India. As of February 2018, Chinese use of the e-visa ranks sixth in India, according to Goyal.

"This is a very small percentage

of the total number of Chinese visiting India," Goyal said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

He said he expected "e-visa utilization from China would be in the top 2-3 positions" but only if some problems could be resolved, including the e-visa payment that works only during standard Indian office hours.

The STIC started cooperating with Air China, China's state-owned flag carrier, as early as 2002 when the two companies signed the All India Passenger Sales Agreement. Meanwhile, the company has been handling other Star Alliance members, such as United Airlines of the United States, Ethiopian Airlines and Ukraine International Airlines.

"The advantage with Air China is that China and India are two of the world's most populated countries and also China is one of the fastest developing countries in the world," Goyal said.

Benefiting from business expansion of Air China in India, the STIC's profit has increased in recent years.

"With the launch of its Mumbai

operations (in 2015), Air China was the No.4 airline, operating on the ex-Mumbai to China route. Today, Air China has grown to No.2 in the same category, which is a testimony of its growth and progress in India," Goyal said.

Talking about cooperation in the future, Goyal said he saw tremendous opportunities between India and China "for the simple reason that China has become the factory of the world and India is the back office."

Researches suggest that in the next five years, the annual growth rate of the aviation markets in China and India is expected to reach 8.8 percent.

"I hope that one day there will be an open sky between our two countries and Air China will be flying to major India cities like Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Cochin with daily and double daily operations," Goyal said.

"I also feel that Indian carriers like Air India, Jet Airways, Indigo, Spicejet and Vistara Airlines etc. should fly all major cities in China like Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, and Guangzhou," he added.

CHINA'S POLICIES AND PRACTICES ON PROTECTING FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF

– THE STATE COUNCIL INFORMATION OFFICE OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA APRIL 2018

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Preamble

As a socialist country under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China adopts policies on freedom of religious belief based on national and religious conditions to protect citizens' right to freedom of religious belief, build active and healthy religious relationships, and maintain religious and social harmony. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, China, under the staunch leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping as the core, has advanced law-based governance in all respects, integrating religious work into the national governance system, employing laws to deal with all social relationships concerning religion, and improving the management of religious work under the rule of law. Religious believers and non-believers

respect each other, and live in harmony, committing themselves to reform and opening up and the socialist modernization, and contribute to the realization of the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

I. Basic Policies in Protecting Freedom of Religious Belief

China adopts policies on freedom of religious belief, manages religious affairs in accordance with the law, adheres to the principle of independence and self-management, actively guides religions to adapt to the socialist society, and unites religious believers and non-believers to the greatest extent.

Adopting policies on freedom of religious belief. Respecting and protecting freedom of religious belief is a basic policy of the CPC and the Chinese government. Every citizen enjoys the freedom to choose whether to believe in a religion; to believe in a certain religion or a denomination of the same religion; to change from a non-believer to a believer and vice versa. Believers and non-believers enjoy the same political, economic, social and cultural rights, and must not be treated differently because of a difference in belief. The state respects citizens' freedom to religious belief and protects their normal religious

activities. In exercising their right to free religious belief, believers should not interfere in the lawful rights of other people, or force others to believe in any religion. Believers should not discriminate against non-believers or believers of other religions. No one shall use religion to interfere in the lawful rights and interests of citizens. Believers should respect public order, customs, cultural traditions and social ethics in exercising their freedom of religious belief.

Managing religious affairs in accordance with the law. The state treats all religions fairly and equally, and does not exercise administrative power to encourage or ban any religion. No religion is given preferential treatment above other religions to enjoy special legal privileges. The state manages religious affairs involving national and social public interests in accordance with the law but does not interfere in the internal affairs of religions. The state protects citizens' right to freedom of religious belief, normal religious activities and the lawful rights and interests of religious groups, bans illegal religious activities, prohibits the dissemination of extremist thought and engagement in extremist activities in the name of religion, resists the infiltration of hostile foreign forces

taking advantage of religion, and fights against illegal and criminal activities under the guise of religion. Believers should abide by the Constitution, laws, rules and regulations of the country. Religious activities should be carried out within the bounds of the law. No religion should interfere in the implementation of administrative, judicial and educational functions of the state. No abolished religious and feudal privileges should be resumed. No activities which employ religion to endanger social stability, national unity and state security are allowed to be carried out.

Adhering to the principle of independence and self-management. Religious groups and religious affairs are not subject to control by foreign countries; this principle is enshrined in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese government supports all religions in upholding the principle of independence and self-management, allowing religious groups, clerical personnel and believers to manage religious affairs themselves in accordance with the Constitution and law. This principle is a historic choice made by Chinese religious believers in the Chinese people's struggle for national independence and social progress, as Catholicism and Protestantism, which were known as foreign religions in China, had long been controlled and utilized by colonialists and imperialists. The establishment of this principle conforms to the historical trend of the Chinese people's search for national independence and liberation, to the demands of the times to realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, and as a result religions in China have taken on an entirely new look, winning widespread understanding, respect and support of friendly religious believers around the world. Adhering to the principle

of independence and self-management does not mean the severing of normal connections between religious organizations in China and their foreign counterparts. The Chinese government supports and encourages all its religions to conduct international exchanges, to build, develop and consolidate friendly relations with religious groups overseas, to enhance mutual trust and eliminate misgivings, and to present a positive image based on independence, equality and mutual respect. The Chinese government will resolutely oppose and deal with foreign organizations and individuals engaging in activities which violate China's Constitution, laws, regulations and policies, their attempts to control China's religious organizations, to interfere in China's religious affairs and to subvert the Chinese government and socialist system under the guise of religion.

Actively guiding religions in adapting to the socialist society. Actively guiding religions in adapting to the socialist society means guiding religious believers to love their country and compatriots, safeguard national unity, ethnic solidarity, be subordinate to and serve the overall interests of the nation and the Chinese people. It also means guiding religious groups to support the leadership of the CPC and the socialist system; uphold and follow

The Chinese government supports all religions in upholding the principle of independence and self-management, allowing religious groups, clerical personnel and

the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics; develop religions in the Chinese context; embrace core socialist values; carry forward China's fine traditions; integrate religious teachings and rules with Chinese culture; abide by state laws and regulations, and accept state administration in accordance with the law.

II. Legal Guarantees for Freedom of Religious Belief

The socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics is continuously being improved, with enhanced implementation of the rule of law in protecting freedom of religious belief and increasingly standardized governance of religious affairs, providing stronger guarantees for the lawful rights and interests of its religious believers.

Freedom of religious belief is protected by the Constitution. According to Article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, "Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief. No State organ, public organization or individual may compel citizens to believe in, or not to believe in, any religion; nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe in, or do not believe in, any religion." Article 36 also stipulates that "No one may make use of religion to engage in activities that disrupt public order, impair the health of citizens or interfere with the educational system of the State," and that "Religious bodies and religious affairs are not subject to any foreign control." These stipulations serve as the constitutional basis for the State in protecting citizens' freedom of religious belief, administering religious affairs in accordance with the law, and building positive relations with and among religions.

Freedom of religious belief is protected by basic laws. China's Criminal Law, National Security Law, and Counter-Terrorism Law provide for the protection of citizens' freedom of religious belief. The principle of equal protection for all Chinese citizens is enshrined in the Election Law of the National People's Congress and Local People's Congresses, Organic Law of the People's Courts, Organic Law of the People's Procuratorates, Organic Law of the Urban Residents Committees, Organic Law of the Villagers Committees, Criminal Procedure Law, Education Law, Labor Law, Employment Promotion Law, and Trade Union Law. These laws stipulate that all citizens enjoy equal rights to vote and stand for election to people's congresses at all levels and to community-level self-government organizations, the right to equality before the law, the right to education, the right to work and to free choice of employment, and the right to join or organize trade unions in accordance with the law, irrespective of religious belief. The Law on Regional Ethnic Autonomy states that organs of self-government in ethnic autonomous areas shall guarantee citizens of all ethnic groups the freedom of religious belief. According to the Law on the Protection of Minors, minors enjoy equal rights to life, development, protection, participation and education in accordance with the law, irrespective of their religious belief. The Advertisement Law prohibits any advertisements that contain any information that discriminates against religions. The Criminal Law stipulates that workers of State organs involved in serious cases, which illegally deprive citizens of their right to freedom of religious belief, shall be investigated for criminal responsibility. The General Provisions of the Civil Law states that a lawfully established place of worship qualifying as a legal person

may register for the status of legal person to accept donations.

The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Administration of Activities of Overseas Non-Governmental Organizations Within China prohibits overseas NGOs from

Administrative regulations regarding religious affairs are improving. The revised Regulations on Religious Affairs released in September 2017 strengthen the protection of Chinese citizens' freedom of religious belief and the lawful rights and interests of religious groups, bring government's management of religious affairs under due procedures in accordance with the law, and add provisions on safeguarding national security and maintaining social harmony. The Regulations prescribe the rights and responsibilities of religious organizations, places of worship, and religious believers when establishing places for and holding religious activities, setting up and running religious institutions, applying for legal person status, publishing and distributing religious books and periodicals, receiving donations, managing religious property, conducting charity activities, and carrying out exchanges with other countries. The Regulations prohibit the commercialization of religions, and include additions concerning religious information services on the Internet. In addition, the Regulations also require local governments to provide public services to religious organizations, religious institutions,

and places of worship, and incorporate such sites into the overall local plans for land use and urban and rural planning. The Regulations forbid any organization or individual from creating disputes and conflicts between believers and non-believers and prohibit print publications and the Internet from disseminating information which discriminates against religious or non-religious citizens.

The religious activities of foreigners in China are protected in accordance with the law. The Rules on the Administration of Religious Activities of Foreigners in the People's Republic of China highlights China's respect for the freedom of religious belief of foreigners within the territory of the People's Republic of China, and its commitment to protecting the friendly relations, and cultural and academic exchanges with regards to religion between foreigners and Chinese religious groups. Foreigners may attend religious activities at temples, mosques, churches, and other sites for religious activities. They are also permitted to preach at places of worship when invited to do so by Chinese religious bodies at or above the provincial level. Foreigners may hold religious activities attended by foreigners at sites approved by government religious affairs departments at or above the county level. They may invite Chinese clerical personnel to perform baptisms, weddings, funerals, prayers, or other religious services. They are allowed to carry religious printed text, audio-video products, and other religious articles that conform to relevant regulations when entering Chinese territory. Foreigners who conduct religious activities within China shall abide by Chinese laws and regulations. They shall not establish religious organizations, set up religious offices and sites for religious

activities, run religious institutions, or recruit foreign students studying in China without authorization; nor shall they recruit followers, appoint clerical personnel from among Chinese citizens or engage in other missionary activities. The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Administration of Activities of Overseas Non-Governmental Organizations Within China prohibits overseas NGOs from illegally engaging in or sponsoring religious activities.

Religious extremism and violent terrorist activities are dealt with in accordance with the law. The Counter-Terrorism Law of the People's Republic of China states that China opposes all extremism that seeks to instigate hatred, incite discrimination and advocate violence by distorting religious doctrines or through other means, and forbids any discriminatory behavior on the grounds of region, ethnicity and religion. The Regulations on Religious Affairs prohibit any organization or individual from advocating, supporting or sponsoring religious extremism, or using religion to undermine ethnic unity, divide the country, or engage in terrorist activities. China takes measures against the propagation and spread of religious extremism, and at the same time, carefully avoids linking violent terrorism and religious extremism with any particular ethnic group or religion.

III. Conducting Religious Activities in an Orderly Manner

The major religions practiced in China are Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism, and Protestantism; with a total of nearly 200 million believers and more than 380,000 clerical personnel. China has numerous Buddhist and Taoist believers, but it is difficult to accurately estimate their

numbers as there are no set registration procedures which ordinary believers must follow as part of their religion. There are around 222,000 Buddhist clerical personnel and over 40,000 Taoist clerical personnel. The 10 minority ethnic groups, the majority of whose population believe in Islam, total more than 20 million, with about 57,000 clerical personnel. Catholicism and Protestantism have 6 million and 38 million followers in China respectively, with 8,000 and 57,000 clerical personnel. China also has many folk beliefs which are closely linked to local cultures, traditions and customs, in which a large number of people participate. There are approximately 5,500 religious groups in China, including seven national organizations which are Buddhist Association of China, Chinese Taoist Association, China Islamic Association, Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, Bishops' Conference of Catholic Church in China, National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China, and China Christian Council.

Conditions of places of worship have been notably improved. The State requires the registration of places of worship for group religious activities in accordance with the law, so as to provide legal protection and ensure that all activities are carried out in an orderly manner. At present, there are about 144,000 places of worship registered for religious activities in China, among which are 33,500 Buddhist temples (including 28,000 Han Buddhist temples, 3,800 Tibetan Buddhist lamaseries, and 1,700 Theravada Buddhist temples), 9,000 Taoist temples, 35,000 Islamic mosques, 6,000 Catholic churches and places of assembly spread across 98 dioceses, and 60,000 Protestant churches and places of assembly. Religious groups and places of

worship follow the unified tax regulations of the State, pay taxes and enjoy tax breaks accordingly. The government ensures that places of worship have access to public services such as running water, electricity, gas, heating, roads, communications, broadcast facilities, televisions, and medical services.

Religious texts and literature are published as prescribed by the law. The printing, publication and circulation of religious text, in different languages and editions, and printed works, audio-visual products and e-books that record, explain and/or annotate religious doctrines and canons, have met the diverse demands of citizens with religious beliefs from the various ethnic groups. Several large collections of religious classics, including the Chinese Buddhist Canon, the Chinese Taoist Canon and A Collection of Editions and Commentaries for the Laozi, have been compiled and published. Traditional sutra printing houses in Tibetan Buddhist temples have been well preserved and developed. There are now 60 such sutra printing houses, including the one in the Potala Palace, that can print 63,000 different sutras every year. Islamic classics, such as the Koran, have been translated and published in Chinese, Uygur, Kazakh, and Kyrgyz languages. The publication and circulation of the New Collection of Al-Wa'z Speeches series and other reading materials and magazines have exceeded 1.76 million copies. China has printed over 160 million copies of the Bible in more than 100 different languages for over 100 countries and regions, including 80 million copies printed in the Chinese language, 11 ethnic minority languages and braille for churches in China. A great many religious groups and places of worship have launched websites; and the Islamic Association

of China has a website in both Chinese and Uyghur languages.

The religious education system has been further improved. By September 2017, there are 91 religious schools in China whose establishment was approved by the State Administration of Religious Affairs (SARA), including 41 Buddhist, 10 Taoist, 10 Islamic, 9 Catholic and 21 Protestant schools. There are six national level religious colleges, namely, the Buddhist Academy of China, High-level Tibetan Buddhism College of China, Chinese Taoist College, China Islamic Institute, National Seminary of the Catholic Church in China, and Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. At present, more than 10,000 students study in these religious schools whose graduates total more than 47,000.

Social security for religious clerical personnel has been enhanced. The SARA and other relevant departments jointly issued the "Directives on Solving the Social Security Problem for Religious Clerical Personnel" in 2010, and again the "Notice of Further Solving the Social Security Problem for Religious Clerical Personnel" in 2011, which brought clerical personnel into the social security system. At the end of 2013, 96.5 percent of clerical personnel were covered by medical insurance, 89.6 percent by the old-age insurance, and all qualified personnel by subsistence allowance welfare. Almost all clerical personnel were covered by the social security system in China.

The religious activities of believers are being conducted in an orderly manner. All normal religious activities, including attending religious services, fasting, worshiping Buddha, praying, preaching, reciting scriptures, burning incense, attending Mass, being baptized or ordained, observing

extreme unction, holding memorial ceremonies, and celebrating religious festivals, which believers conduct at places of worship or in their own homes in accordance with customary religious practices, are protected by law, and no organization or individual may infringe on these rights. Traditional Tibetan Buddhist activities such as scripture study and debate, initiation into monkhood or nunhood, abhisheka (empowerment ceremony) and self-cultivation, and tests and degree promotions in lamaseries are held on a regular basis, while ceremonial activities are also held during important religious festivals. Muslim customs regarding food and drink, clothing, festivals, marriages and funerals are fully respected. The Islamic Association of China organizes for Muslims to go on pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia every year, with the number of participants exceeding 10,000 a year since 2007.

Activities that disturb the normal order in places of worship have been rectified. In accordance with the "Directives on Some Issues Relating to the Management of Buddhist and Taoist Temples", the SARA and other relevant departments have been conducting joint investigations since 2012 into the problem of religious revenue being used by businesspeople or "go public". In 2017, the SARA and 11 related departments issued "Guidelines on Further Controlling the Commercialization of Buddhism and Taoism", which prohibits commercial capital from being invested in religious revenues, to prevent normal religious activities from being affected by money-grabbing behavior. Relevant departments have intensified the management of the Internet regarding religious affairs, and swiftly dealt with the spread of illegal information concerning religions, effectively protecting the legal rights and interests of religious groups.

IV. The Role of Religious Groups Has Been Fully Developed

China encourages all religions to keep pace with the times and adapt to the socialist society, and contribute to economic growth, social harmony, cultural prosperity, ethnic solidarity and national unification.

Making efforts to interpret religious teachings and rules which conform to the national conditions and demands of the times. In the course of their development, religions in China have blended with traditional Chinese culture and adapted to the actual needs of social development. Chinese religious groups must conduct religious activities in the Chinese context, practice core socialist values, carry forward the fine traditions of the Chinese nation, and actively explore religious thought which conforms to the reality in China. While maintaining their basic beliefs, core religious teachings and etiquette system, the Buddhist and Taoist communities hold sermons, the Islamic community carries out work interpreting the classics, the Catholic community encourages the running of its religious work in a democratic manner, and the Protestant community conducts theological construction, all in an attempt to interpret religious teachings and rules to conform to the national conditions and demands of the times. The Buddhist community integrates patriotism with love of religion, focusing more on worldly concerns, promoting Buddhism to benefit all living creatures, public charity, and cultural exchange. The Taoist community is committed to promoting its religious principles such as "respecting the Tao and valuing morality", "Tao follows nature", "being quiet and serene", and "embracing simplicity and wisdom", to help carry forward and

promote traditional Chinese culture. The Islamic community focuses on interpreting the thoughts in its religious doctrine of patriotism, peace, unity, tolerance and the Middle Path, serving to form correct belief, discerning right from wrong, opposing secession, and resisting religious extremism. The Catholic community actively promotes the localization of churches, managing church activities and making decisions in a democratic manner. The Protestant community draws nourishment from traditional Chinese culture, helping to foster mutual respect and harmony between Protestants and believers of all faiths so as to allow Protestantism to better integrate into modern Chinese society.

Actively engaging in public charity activities. Since 2012, based on "Opinions on Encouraging and Regulating Religious Circles' Participation in Public Welfare Charitable Activities", religious groups have carried out an annual "Religious Charity Week"; with total donations exceeding one billion yuan. They have also held prayer services following the Wenchuan earthquake and other major disasters and incidents, utilized available resources to help the Sandu Shui Autonomous County, Guizhou Province to eliminate poverty, made donations to education in various forms, funded professional medical institutions to provide free services, subsidized medical treatment for disadvantaged groups, and carried out a range of activities to help the elderly and disabled by establishing nursing homes for the elderly and rehabilitation centers for the disabled. According to preliminary statistics, religious groups have established more than 400 nursing homes offering approximately 29,000 beds. They also advocate a "green environment" philosophy. Buddhist

and Taoist communities have called for environmentally friendly forms of burning incense and freeing captive animals, and have constructed eco-friendly temples.

Conscientiously resisting extremism. Faced by the challenge of religious extremism to the bottom line of human civilization, religious groups have taken a clear stand and drawn a line against extremists, fully advocating correct belief and behavior, and fighting resolutely against the use of terrorist violence and instigation of separatism in the name of religion. In January 2013, eminent monks, experts and scholars of Buddhism of Chinese tradition, Tibetan tradition and Theravada tradition convened a meeting to call on all Buddhists to become more active in preaching to their believers about the correct outlook on life and opposing extremist behaviors such as self-immolation or the incitement of others to do so, which violate Buddhist teachings and discipline. In May 2014, the China Islamic Association released a proposal entitled "Keep to the Middle Path and Steer Clear of Extremism", whereby well-known Islamic figures across the country condemned violent terrorist activities. In July 2016, the China Religious Culture Communication Association and the China Islamic Association held the International Seminar on the Islamic Middle Path in Urumqi, advocating the role of the Middle Path in opposing extremism. In December 2017, national religious groups jointly issued a proposal calling for religious communities to enhance their abilities to distinguish, guard against and resist the encroachment of cults, and maintain social harmony and stability.

V. Active and Healthy Religious Relations

Relations between the

Party/government and religious groups, society and religion, different religions within the country, religions of China and foreign countries, and religious believers and non-believers are properly handled in China. This has enabled active and healthy religious relations to take shape.

Harmony between the Party/government and religious groups. The CPC adheres to the principle of "uniting and cooperating politically, and respecting each other's beliefs" in the handling of relations with religious groups, and maintains good relations with religious circles. They have formed a consolidated patriotic united front. At present, approximately 20,000 prominent figures from the religious circles serve as deputies and members at all levels of people's congresses and committees of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and participate in the deliberation and administration of state affairs and exercising democratic oversight. Since 1991, Party and state leaders have held annual seminars before the Spring Festival with heads of national religious groups to listen to their opinions and suggestions. Mechanisms have been established between Party and government leaders and religious personages across the country to help enhance mutual understanding and friendship.

Social tolerance towards religions. Religious conflict and confrontation have rarely been seen in China since the introduction of Buddhism, Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism over the past 2,000 years. The state and the society have maintained an open mind towards diverse religions and folk beliefs, and respect both freedom of religious belief and diversity of folk beliefs. Religious groups carry on the

longstanding tradition whereby religions in China must be Chinese in orientation, and actively adapt to society. They also carry on the fine traditions of patriotism, unity, progress, service to society, harmony, and inclusiveness. Religious groups conscientiously safeguard national and social public interests, public order and good customs, and fulfill social responsibility. In 2016, Chinese religious groups organized peaceful prayer services across the country to commemorate the 71st anniversary of victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the Second World War, and call for the maintenance of ethnic solidarity, national stability and world peace.

Active exchanges and dialogues between different religions. Throughout history, different religions in China have blended together and drawn lessons from one another to become an integral part of traditional Chinese culture. In modern times, different religions respect and learn from each other, and take part in exchanges and dialogues, and a new realm of "five religions (Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism) working together to achieve harmony" has taken shape. National and local religious groups have established a mechanism of joint conferences to discuss issues concerning religious relations, creating modes of religious dialogue with Chinese characteristics and enhancing mutual understanding and friendship.

Extensive international religious exchanges. Chinese religious groups have established friendly relations with religious organizations in more than 80 countries based on the principles of independence, equality, friendship, and mutual respect, and played an active part in international

conferences involving diverse cultures, beliefs and religions. Chinese religious groups participate extensively in activities run by international organizations including the World Council of Churches, World Fellowship of Buddhists, Muslim World League, and World Conference on Religion and Peace, as well as conferences set up by the United Nations Human Rights Council, and bilateral and multilateral dialogues on human rights. Chinese religious groups have responded actively to the Belt and Road Initiative, working to promote closer ties between people and the linking up of cultures. Chinese Buddhist and Taoist communities have held four World Buddhist Forums and four International Taoism Forums respectively, which have become important international platforms for the communication of Buddhism and Taoism both at home and abroad. The China Islamic Association organized the China Islamic Culture Expo & Art Show in Turkey and Malaysia in 2012 and 2014 respectively. Chinese and American Protestant organizations held the Second China-USA Protestant Church Leaders Forum in Shanghai in 2013, and the China-U.S. Church Symposium in the U.S. in 2017.

In 2016, the China Islamic Association, China Christian Council, Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, Bishops Conference of Catholic Church in China and Union Evangelical Churches in Germany jointly hosted the China-Germany Inter-religious Dialogue - Peace & Sharing in Germany. Since China's adoption of reform and opening up in 1978, Chinese religious groups have sent more than 1,000 people abroad to study.

Harmony between religious believers and non-believers. Citizens who do not hold any religious belief

respect the freedom of others to practice religion, and do not discriminate against them; religious believers respect those who do not believe in any religion. In regions where the majority of citizens are non-believers, the legitimate rights of minority religious believers are respected and protected; in regions where the majority of citizens are religious believers, the legitimate rights of the minority who are non-believers are equally respected and protected.

Conclusion

Religion is an integral part of human civilization. Protecting freedom of religious belief, properly handling religious relations and adapting them to the times, and curbing religious extremism are common tasks facing all countries around the world. Considering the development of religions and changes in religious work, and learning from both positive and negative experiences at home and abroad, China has embarked on a road to success which enshrines freedom of religious belief in law, promotes harmonious religious relations, and encourages religious groups to play a positive role. According to General Secretary Xi Jinping's report at the 19th CPC National Congress held in 2017, China will fully implement the Party's basic policy on religious affairs, uphold the principle that religions in China must be Chinese in orientation and provide active guidance to religions so that they can adapt themselves to the socialist society. China will continue to respect and protect its citizens' freedom to religious beliefs, and strive to build the country into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and with a sound environment.

YOGA HELPS VILLAGERS COPE WITH ACHES, PAINS



The village has fewer than 100 permanent residents, but at least 60 of them are yoga enthusiasts. (Photo by Zhao Zhannan/for China Daily)

Healthier residents less likely to be overwhelmed with medical bills

Villagers in northern China are learning that yoga is not just for city slickers.

Lu Wenzhen, 52, is helping popularize the exercise form in an impoverished village in Hebei province, about 300 kilometers northwest of Beijing.

And since he first arrived in the village in 2016, more and more residents of Yugouliang are attending his daily yoga sessions.

Lu, who spent two decades as a

music teacher at a college in Shijiazhuang, the Hebei capital, was sent to Yugouliang by the government to help villagers pull themselves out of poverty. But he was disheartened at first as he found it difficult to turn the village's fortunes around for a variety of reasons beyond his control.

"The place has few natural resources and suffers from a shortage of groundwater. This scares away any potential investment," Lu said.

With stronger bodies, they will be able to work harder, save on medical expenses, and be in a better position

to emerge from poverty, he said.

But persuading residents who were out of touch with urban trends like yoga to try something new was no simple task.

Most of the initial responses from residents included: "What is yoga? Why would I do that? It must be something that people living in cities do, not we poor villagers."

Indeed, at the first yoga class Lu offered, only a half-dozen women showed up.

"I felt it would ease the aches and pains of my back," said Liu Ying, 75.



Lu Wenzhen leads residents of Yugouliang village in Hebei province during a yoga session. (Photo by Zhao Zhannan/for China Daily)



Two villagers practice yoga during a break from harvesting crops. (Photo by Zhao Zhannan/for China Daily)



Villagers practice yoga during a break from farming. (Photo by Zhao Zhannan/for China Daily)

News traveled fast around the small village, which is home to fewer than 100 permanent residents, mainly seniors and children.

“Several villagers, aged from 57 to 82, follow me to do yoga at least one hour a day,” Lu said, adding that the number has increased to about 60 people joining his daily sessions.

However, the yoga he teaches them is different from traditional yoga styles. To make the exercise easier and more practical, he teaches them physical movements that mimic their daily lives, such as tilling fields or pulling the handles of a bellows.

“Other than that, they can hold a variety of postures including handstands, headstands and even splits,” Lu said.

Based on yoga’s growing popularity in the village, Lu plans to develop it into a yoga-themed retirement community.

“They can practice yoga together and also enjoy fresh vegetables and a good environment in the village,” Lu

said, adding that the popularity of the exercise form has the potential to raise incomes in the village.



Lu performs a headstand at the village in Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province. (Photo by Zhao Zhannan/for China Daily)



A resident practices yoga at home in the courtyard. (Photo by Zhao Zhannan/for China Daily)



Lu Wenzhen leads residents of Yugouliang village in Hebei province during a yoga session. (Photo by Zhao Zhannan/for China Daily)

IN PICS: PADDY FIELDS IN CHINA'S XINJIANG



A farmer works at sunset in a field at Tuohaiyi Village of Chapchal Sibo Autonomous County under Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, May 21, 2018. (Xinhua/Hu Huhu)



Aerial photo taken on May 21, 2018 shows paddy fields at Tuohaiyi Village of Chapchal Sibo Autonomous County under Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. (Xinhua/Hu Huhu)

ACROSS CHINA: REGIONAL AID GRANTS

XINJIANG WOMEN JOBS, CONFIDENCE

Beijing May 19 (Xinhua) -- In a clean sewing workshop, 19-year-old Mihrigul Ahmattohti is sewing a tent part.

She is one of the best employees at a weaving plant in Hotan Prefecture, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, making 6,000 yuan (942 U.S. dollars) every month.

"Many of my women folks are jealous of me," she said with a smile, adding that the job gave her not only wages but also confidence.

Mihrigul was born in a local farmer's family. Her mother suffered a brain hemorrhage, and the farming income, including raising sheep, can barely support the family.

"Thanks to what my daughter has brought home, we are living a much better life," said Ahmattohti Rijap, father of Mihrigul.

Mihrigul works in Xinjiang Jinghe Textile Technology Company, an affiliated entity of the state-owned Beijing Fashion Holdings Co. set up as part of regional aid from the Beijing municipal government to help develop Xinjiang.

In 2016, Mihrigul and more than 50 Uygur schoolmates graduated from a vocational school in tailoring, and became the first group of the company's local workers.

To date, the company has recruited more than 600 local workers, many of whom are Uygur women from poor families.

"I did not know the world was so big and wonderful until I visited Beijing. Before that, the furthest place I had been to was the city proper of Hotan," said Nurnisahan Yasin, 20, who comes from rural Hotan.

The company provides training lessons, which gives local workers access to big cities like Beijing.

Nurnisahan remembers how her father cried at the time and felt so proud of her when she got her first salary of 3,200 yuan during her internship.

Nurnisahan's family used to have a car repair workshop. But since her father injured his spine last year, she has become the only breadwinner in her family of six.

Dong Jiaqi, deputy manager of the Jinghe company, said the average salary of local workers was more than 3,000 yuan, enough to ensure an entire family can cast off poverty.

According to Dong, the number of jobs will increase to 1,000 as a workshop expansion project will soon start.

The central government decided at the first central work meeting on Xinjiang in 2010 to set up a mechanism under which 19 provinces and major cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Guangdong Province, provide financial and technological support to Xinjiang.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, the 19 provinces and cities have invested 72.4 billion yuan to the region and offered more than 500,000 job opportunities to local residents, according to statistics.

The Chinese government plans to eradicate poverty by 2020.

Nurnisahan said her training experience in Beijing was unforgettable, largely because of the prosperity of the city.

The women workers often chat about their plans after work. "We want to work hard, earn money and have a look at the big world," Nurnisahan said.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012, the 19 provinces and cities have invested 72.4 billion yuan to the region and offered more than 500,000

TULIPS BLOOMING IN SNOW AT JIANGBULAKE SCENERY SPOT IN NW CHINA'S XINJIANG



Photo taken on May 25, 2018 shows tulips in snow at the Jiangbulake scenery spot in Qitai County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, May 25, 2018. A snowfall hit Qitai County on May 24. (Xinhua/Gao Jing)



Photo taken on May 25, 2018 shows tulips in snow at the Jiangbulake scenery spot in Qitai County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, May 25, 2018. A snowfall hit Qitai County on May 24. (Xinhua/Gao Jing)

TOURISTS VIEW HUKOU WATERFALL OF YELLOW RIVER IN NW CHINA



Tourists pose for photos at Hukou Waterfall of the Yellow River in Yichuan County, northwest China's Shaanxi provinces, May 18, 2018. (Xinhua/Zhao Jie)



Tourists view Hukou Waterfall of the Yellow River in Yichuan County, northwest China's Shaanxi provinces, May 18, 2018. (Xinhua/Zhao Jie)

XIHUANG TEMPLE MUSEUM OPENS TO THE PUBLIC



May 18th was the 42nd International Museum Day, and on that morning, the only original Tibetan Buddhist Culture Museum in Beijing, the Xihuang Temple Museum, held an opening ceremony and officially opened to the public.

On the opening day, a thangka exhibition entitled "Sakyamuni, Tsongkhapa, and Panchen Lamas Thangka Exhibition" was unveiled, displaying five Sakyamuni thangkas, 15 thangkas on the life of Tsongkhapa, and 11 thangkas about successive Panchen Lamas. Besides, a total of 130 works of art on new

material thangka, print, and dharma instrument were exhibited. Each piece is a Buddhist cultural relic with distinctive characteristics of the times they were made and unique regional styles, reflecting the essence and distinctiveness of Buddhist art. The exhibition shows the continuous innovation of thangka art from artistic techniques to materials used.

Xihuang Temple was built in the year 1651 and was a famous temple during the Qing Dynasty. The temple is composed of three courtyards and covers an area of more than 20,000 square meters. The tranquil mandala

courtyard forms the main part of the complex. The museum contains Buddhist pagoda relics, dharma instruments, Buddha statues, thangka paintings, and sutra scrolls. The museum is carrying out permanent exhibitions on the sixth Panchen Lama and Xihuang Temple itself. Temporary exhibitions include a thangka exhibition and Buddhist ceramic art exhibition.

With the opening of the Xihuang Temple Museum and its continuous innovation and development to display Tibetan relics, it will begin to play an even bigger role in helping

more people understand the historical relations between the local government of Xizang and the

Central Government and their joint efforts to uphold historical facts of national and ethnic unity. This will

also better promote the excellent traditions of Tibetan Buddhism and patriotism.

UNIQUE CULTURE OF LUOBA ETHNIC MINORITY IN XIZANG



With a population of over 3,000, the Luoba ethnic minority group, mainly living in Longzi county of southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, remains a mystery for many people.

Unique Luoba culture includes Luoba language, dresses, sword and sword dance.

Luoba dress was listed as a national intangible cultural heritage in 2008, said Zhaxi Yangjin, head of

Douyu Township of Longzi County in Shannan, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region.

The extensive use of black and white in color and decorating with sword are the distinctive features of the Luoba dress, said Zhaxi Yangjin.

Luoba dance is rooted in the people's lives, integrating hunting, farming and other culture of the Luoba people.

Speaking of the protection and promotion of the Luoba culture, Zhaxi Yangjin highlighted the government's policy to protect and develop the fine traditional cultures of ethnic minorities.

The inheritance of Luoba culture lies in children's education. Nowadays, the Luoba language has been promoted in local primary and middle schools, she noted.

TO TOUCH THE STARRY SKY IN DAMXUNG, XIZANG

Every April to July is the best season to view galaxies in the northern hemisphere. Photo shows the starry sky that seems so close enough to touch of Damxung County, about 160 kilometers away from Lhasa, Xizang.



HEAVENLY KINDERGARTENS BUILT IN REMOTE VILLAGES



Early morning on the plateau, the sapphire-like sky is reflected in a lake under snow-capped mountains. Four-year-old Drolma carries her schoolbag and sets off to school. Today, she got up even earlier than the livestock in her family's pen, and now holds her mother's hand as she scampers off to the "new home" at the entrance of the village.

The village kindergarten in Shentsa County, Nagqu Prefecture in Xizang, 4,850 meters above sea level.

As soon as she enters the kindergarten classroom, little Drolma cheerfully calls out, "Hello, Teacher!

Goodbye, Mama!" and runs to the middle of a group of children to play with her friends.

"In the old society before the 1950s, people wouldn't be able to read even at six or seven years old. Now, young children are able to read and count." Tashi Dhundrup, the oldest person in the village, exclaimed.

Shentsa County in Nagqu Prefecture is located in the northern part of the Tibetan Plateau. It has an average altitude of 4,700 meters and lies 600 kilometers away from Lhasa. It is spread over 20,000 square kilometers and has a population of

more than 20,000 nomads. Its high altitude, remote distance, and spread out population not only restrict the economic and social development of the County, but also affect the progress of people's way of thinking to a certain extent.

Since 2012, the CITIC Group, which is supporting Nagqu Prefecture, has done a lot to consistently improve people's livelihoods and ensure that the majority of people in Tibetan-inhabited areas share in the results of reform and development. In terms of education and the lack of a village-level kindergartens in Shentsa

County, CITIC Group invested 8.1797 million yuan through its subsidiary CITIC Securities, to assist in building village-level kindergartens in six villages, all over 4,850 meters above sea level.

In the past four years, the six kindergartens have enrolled 233 students, with 139 continuing on to primary school. 662,000 yuan from the Citizen Benefit Fund for the "Three Guarantees" (i.e. covering expenses for food, housing, and basic school needs) has benefited 156 rural families and helped 156 nomadic families get out of poverty. Even more gratifying is that bilingual education for kindergarten-age children in nomadic areas is now starting two to three years earlier.

After several years of cooperation from Aid Xizang corporations, workers, and local

residents, various educational assessment indicators show that Shentsa County now ranks among the best after ranking in the middle of the prefecture several years ago.

Aid Xizang worker Chen Renjie carries out research.

Chen Renjie, deputy secretary of the Shentsa County Party Committee, has been an Aid Xizang worker for three consecutive terms. In August 2012, Chen Renjie came to the County from Hangzhou. Faced with the vast Changthang Grassland, in a geographical location and cultural background that were almost isolated from the outside world, the thoughts "why aid Xizang", "what should be done in Xizang", and "what should I leave behind" often lingered in his mind. In less than three months, Aid Xizang workers visited nearly 40 of the 64 villages in the County to

understand the local living conditions and in particular to get first-hand information on early childhood education in these nomadic areas.

Whether under the hot sun or in pouring rain, parents in nomadic areas always carry their children on their backs when taking the livestock to graze, and children grow up alongside their animals. This sight made Aid Xizang workers feel worried. The distance between villages is not only vast but also blocked, and children between the ages of four and seven had to go to the county seat and township centers to attend kindergarten, a distance that was almost too far to complete. There were also hidden dangers on the road. Once, two students who attended primary school in the local township ran away from school because of homesickness. On their way home, they were washed away by the river



and never seen again.

So what can be done? Aid Xizang workers started thinking about ways to solve these problems. Driven by a strong sense of responsibility, the idea of "building kindergartens" gradually became clear in the mind of Chen Renjie. In 2012, the county's fiscal revenue was only 8 million yuan, which was far less than the collective economy of a developed village in eastern China. Early childhood education was also almost nonexistent.

In order to fill this gap, Chen Renjie wrote down detailed plans for building kindergartens with reliable data and specific, realistic examples. This happened to coincide with CITIC Securities' use

of the Aid Xizang platform to expand its Aid Xizang projects. Plan it well, and then do it. Taking responsibility for the nomads, for the children, and for education, Aid Xizang workers asked a design company and a construction unit from the Aid Xizang Program to build safe and comfortable kindergartens that respected local ethnic customs and characteristics. At the same time, in addition to building the school, they dealt with continuing problems like the schools' teaching contents, the three meals of a day, and teaching staff, all of which were part of the project of building kindergartens. Solving these issues, they were finally able to build kindergartens that would serve as examples for village-level kindergartens on the plateau.

Local children wear their best clothes at a ceremony for the completion of the Badrak Township Medog Village Kindergarten.

On the day that the Badrak Township Medog Village Kindergarten was completed, the sky was blue against a backdrop of snow-covered mountains, and children and their parents dressed in their best clothes as if for a festival, joyously participating in the opening ceremony. With the sound of firecrackers and warm applause from the audience in the background, a plaque announcing the Tibetan-Chinese Bilingual "Badrak Township Medog Village Kindergarten" shone in the sunshine.

SCENERY OF POTALA PALACE IN LHASA, SW CHINA'S XIZANG



Photo taken on May 24, 2018 shows the Potala Palace in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. (Xinhua/Chogo)



Photo taken on May 24, 2018 shows flowers at the Potala Palace in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. (Xinhua/Chogo)

BOOK REVIEW

Xi Jinping - The Governance of China-II

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

We hope you will find this book useful.

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

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FLIGHTS BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA

Schedule of China Southern Airlines Flights

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

Schedule of China Southern Airlines Flights (Summer Season)

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

China Eastern Time Table

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

Schedule of Air China Flights Between India and China

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

Address and Contact Numbers of Chinese Airlines

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



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