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Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui, paid a visit to Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Anoop Mishra.



Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui paid a visit to Congress deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Anand Sharma.



Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui paid a visit to the former Ambassador of India to China, Mr. Ashok Kantha.



Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui paid a visit to the Indian Express office.



Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui paid a visit to the Press Trust of India.



Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui and his wife Dr. Jiang Yili celebrated Diwali with Indian employees.

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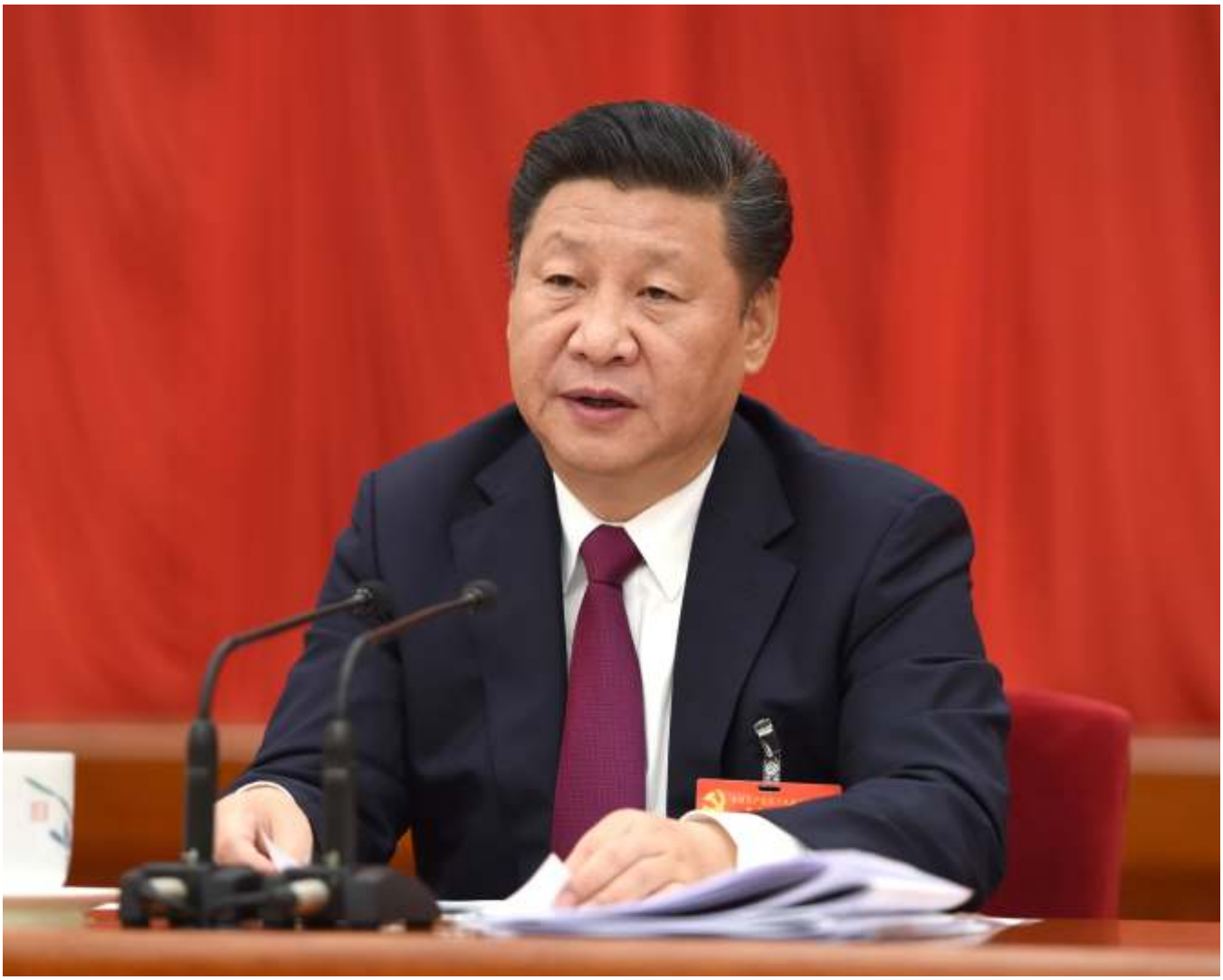
Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION OF 18TH CPC CENTRAL COMMITTEE HELD IN BEIJING



The Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee is held in Beijing, capital of China, from Oct. 24 to 27, 2016.

PARTY MEMBERS CALLED ON TO UNITE AROUND CPC CENTRAL COMMITTEE WITH XI AS "CORE"



Beijing Oct. 27 (Xinhua) — A key meeting of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has called on all its members to "closely unite around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core."

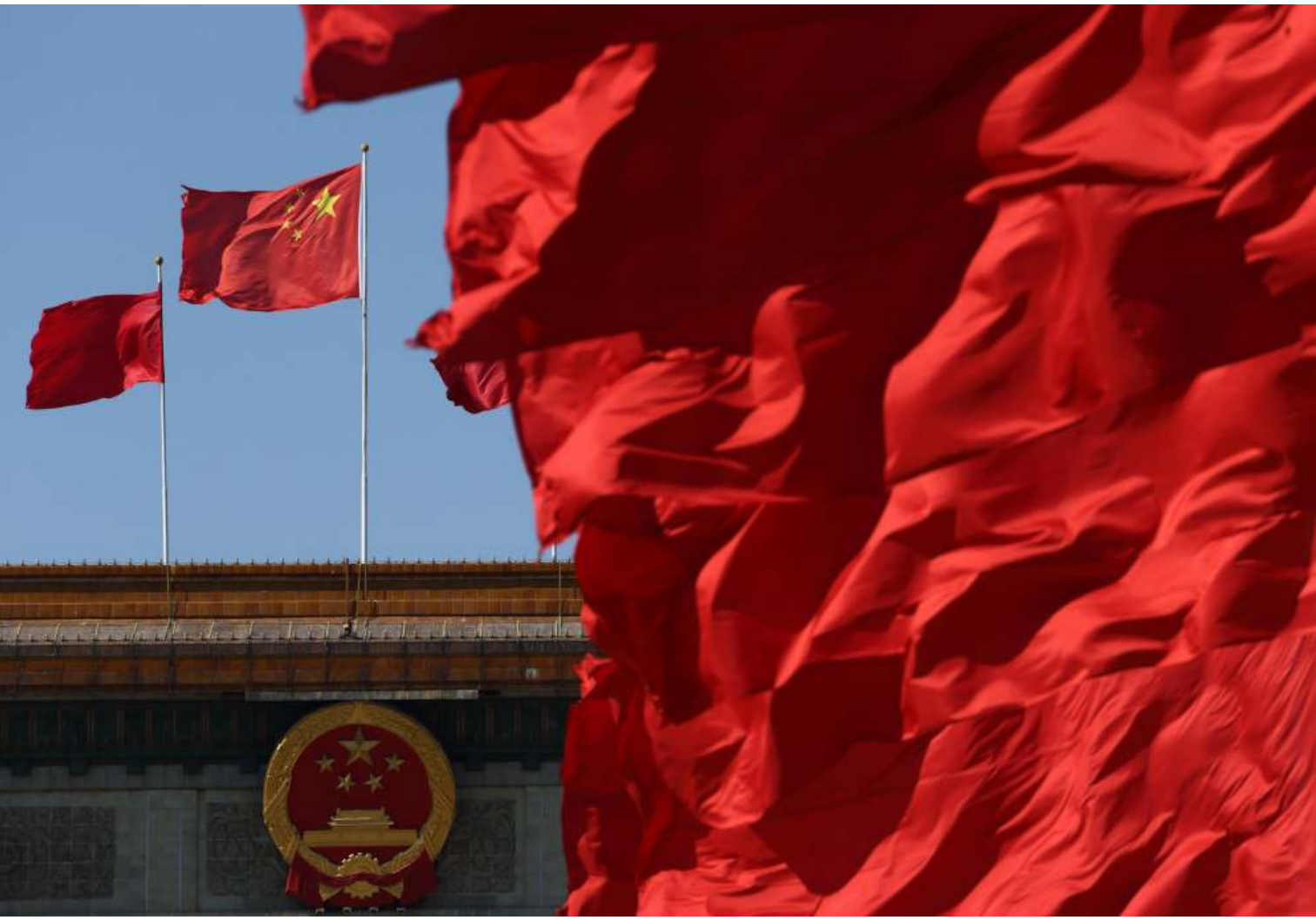
The call was included in a communique released Thursday after the sixth plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, which was held from Monday to Thursday.

Party members were told to resolutely safeguard the authority of the CPC Central Committee and its central, unified leadership while pushing forward the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party.

The communique also urged them to become more aware of the need to uphold political integrity, keep in mind the bigger picture, follow the CPC as the core of the Chinese leadership and act consistently with CPC Central Committee policy.

"Together we must build a clean and righteous political environment, and ensure that the Party unites and leads the people to continuously open up new prospects for socialism with Chinese characteristics," it said.

CPC TO HOLD 19TH NATIONAL CONGRESS IN 2ND HALF OF 2017



Beijing, Oct. 27 (Xinhua) — The 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) National Congress will be held in Beijing during the second half of 2017, according to a communique released Thursday after a key CPC meeting.

A resolution on convening the 19th CPC National Congress was deliberated and passed at the sixth plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee held from Monday to Thursday.

The 19th CPC National Congress is a major event in the political life of the Party and the state, the communique said

The entire Party shall comprehensively implement the spirit of the 18th CPC National Congress, as well as the third, fourth, fifth and sixth plenary sessions of the 18th CPC Central Committee, according to the communique.

In the lead-up to the 19th CPC National Congress, the Party shall rally and lead people of all ethnicities to forge ahead with firm confidence; perform various works of the Party and the state, particularly preparatory work for thought, theories and organization, economic and social development, as well as ideological work; and safeguard social harmony and stability, the communique said.

COMMENTARY: CPC UNITY WITH XI AS "CORE" VITALLY IMPORTANT

Beijing, Oct. 27 (Xinhua) — The core leadership is of vital importance to a country and a political party.

A key meeting of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has called on all its members to "closely unite around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core."

That "the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core" was formally put forward at the meeting, reflects the common will of the entire Party, the military and people of all ethnic groups in China.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, Xi, as the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, has led the Party, the military and the people in breaking new grounds and making great achievements in the great cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics and the Party.

In the new great practices, Xi has already become the core of the CPC Central Committee and the entire Party.

The CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi as the core is where the fundamental interests of the Party and state lie and a fundamental guarantee for the adherence to and strengthening of the CPC leadership.

It is also an urgent demand for the adherence to and the development of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

It will help ensure the authority of the CPC Central Committee, the Party's unity and unified leadership, and long-lasting stability and prosperity of the Party and state.

The call for Party unity around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core was included in a communique released after the sixth plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, which was held from Monday to Thursday.

Party members were told to resolutely safeguard the authority of the CPC Central Committee and its central, unified leadership while pushing forward the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party.

To put the Party's key decisions into practice, all Party members should be more aware of the need to uphold political integrity, keep in mind the bigger picture, follow the CPC as the core of the Chinese leadership and act consistently with CPC Central Committee policy.

"Together we must build a clean and righteous political environment, and ensure that the Party unites and leads the people to continuously open up new prospects for socialism with Chinese characteristics," the communique said.

The CPC meeting also approved two documents on the discipline of the Party, including the norms of political life within the Party under the new situation and a regulation on intra-Party supervision, moves that showcased the CPC Central Committee's strong resolve and commitment in practicing comprehensive and strict governance of the Party.

Such efforts will also ensure that the Party is capable of resisting corruption and withstanding risks, thus, safeguarding the authority of the CPC Central Committee and the Party's unity, advancement and purity.

The comprehensive and strict governance of the Party and a strong core of leadership are the key to China's development and the cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

With the unity of the CPC around the CPC Central Committee with Xi as the core, China will gain further impetus to realize its two centenary goals.

INTRA-PARTY DEMOCRACY IS VITAL TO CPC: COMMUNIQUE



Beijing, Oct. 27 (Xinhua) — Intra-Party democracy is vital to the Communist Party of China (CPC), and is fundamental to a positive, healthy internal political environment, according to a CPC communique issued Thursday.

The Party's various responsibilities concerning decision-making, implementation and supervision must be done in accordance with the democratic principles and procedures stipulated in the Party Constitution and regulations, according to the communique issued after the sixth plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee.

"No Party organization or individual should suppress or undermine intra-Party democracy," it said.

Party authorities at all levels must conduct thorough investigations and research, and solicit opinions from various sides before making any major decisions or arrangements, said the communique.

The rights of Party members to know, participate in and supervise and their rights in election must be ensured, it said, adding that all Party members should equally enjoy their rights stipulated in Party Constitution while performing obligations equally.

"No Party organization or member shall infringe upon the democratic rights of CPC

members," noted the document.

The communique required authorities to make it more convenient for Party members to express their opinions and create a "political atmosphere of democratic discussion within the Party."

Party members have the right to, responsibly, expose or report any Party organizations or members breaking the laws or flouting the Party's disciplines, it said.

CPC CENTRAL COMMITTEE WITH XI AS "CORE" LEADS CHINA TO CENTENARY GOALS



The Sixth Plenary Session of the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee is held in Beijing, capital of China, from Oct. 24 to 27, 2016.

Beijing, Oct. 27 (Xinhua) — The Communist Party of China (CPC) has called on all its members to "closely unite around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core," a call to action that many observers believe will give the country the impetus to realize its two centenary goals.The call was included in a communique released Thursday after the sixth plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, which was held from Monday to Thursday.

Party members were told to resolutely safeguard the authority of the CPC Central Committee and its central, unified leadership while pushing forward the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party.

That "the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core" was officially put forward at the meeting is "where the fundamental interests of the Party and state lie," said Liu Qibao, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the CPC Central Committee's Publicity Department.

It is also a fundamental guarantee for the adherence to and strengthening of the CPC leadership, Liu said after the meeting.

The strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi as the core is vital to China's targets to build an "all-round moderately prosperous society" for the CPC's centennial in 2021, and for it to become a "modern socialist country" in time for the PRC's centennial in 2049, said Liu Dongchao, a professor with the Chinese Academy of Governance.

The meeting approved two documents on the discipline of the Party, including the norms of political life within the Party under the new situation and a regulation on intra-Party supervision.

Liu Dongchao called the two documents "a perfection of the CPC's governance system, which will result in a better intra-Party political life," adding that the communique is "an embodiment of the Party's strengthened awareness of its responsibilities."

UPHOLDING AUTHORITY

The CPC has called on all Party members to firmly uphold the authority of the CPC Central Committee.

A leading core is vital to a country and a political party, the communique said, adding the entire Party should consciously maintain a high degree of consistency with the CPC Central Committee in thoughts, politics and actions.

Ensuring the authority of the CPC Central Committee and the proper execution of orders of the Party are concerned with the destiny of the Party and the state, according to the communique.

They are also concerned with the fundamental interests of the people of all ethnic groups in China, and they are important purposes of strengthening and regulating intra-Party political life, the communique said.

An overhaul of intra-Party political life was a pressing task for the CPC, if it was to weather the storm of challenges — the ruling status, reform and opening up, market economy and other external factors — it had to address the dangers rocking the boat, including the slacking of officials, incompetence, isolation from the people and corruption, it noted.

It said the CPC needs to be empowered to successfully purify, perfect, reform and upgrade itself, resist corruption and withstand risks, thus, safeguarding the authority of the CPC Central Committee and the Party's unity, advancement and purity.

Party organizations at all levels and all Party members, especially senior cadres, should conform to the CPC Central Committee and CPC theory, path, principle and policy, as well as decisions made by the CPC Central Committee.

Party organizations at all levels and all Party members should firmly follow what the CPC Central Committee advocates, firmly implement what the CPC Central Committee decides, and must not do what the CPC Central Committee prohibits, according to the communique.

The document also urged Party discipline to be thoroughly enforced with no exceptions made for any organizations or members.

Every individual or organization is equal before Party discipline and none enjoys any prerogatives, it said.

CORRUPTION FREE

The CPC vowed to tackle corruption in its promotion system, putting an end to the buying and selling of official posts and vote rigging.

According to the communique, requesting an official post, honor or special treatment is not allowed under any circumstances.

The communique also underscored that bargaining with Party organizations or disobeying decisions made by Party organizations is forbidden.

"No one should be allowed to consider Party officials as their private property," the document said, adding there should be no "personal favors" within the Party.

There will no longer be any place for corrupt officials to hide in the CPC, the communique noted.

In efforts to clean up Party politics, leading officials are banned from using their positions to seek benefits for friends and family. Family members and friends of leading officials will be banned from interfering in the work of leading officials, including personnel arrangements, the communique said.

Stating that building clean politics and opposing corruption was an important task in strengthening and standardizing political life within the Party, the meeting called for the building of a system that ensures officials dare not, will not and cannot be corrupt.

In addition, leading officials at all levels have no right to seek personal privilege, it said, adding that they should take the lead in implementing socialist core values and acting with integrity and self-discipline.

The Party will stick to the policy of "no restricted zones, full coverage and zero tolerance" in its fight against corruption, it added.

STRONGER SUPERVISION

The communique stressed supervision as the fundamental guarantee for exercising power properly, as well as a crucial measure for strengthening and regulating political life within the Party.

Unrestricted power or unsupervised Party members are not allowed to exist within the CPC, it said. "No prohibited zone or exception will be allowed in intra-Party supervision."

Intra-Party supervision should be carried out in accordance with regulations and by observing the principles of democratic centralism, top-down organizational supervision, democratic supervision from the bottom to the top, and peer review or critique, said the communique.

The mission of intra-Party supervision is to ensure the Party Constitution, its regulations and code of conduct are enforced effectively; to maintain Party unity and solidarity; and, primarily, to resolve Party leadership enervation and slackness in Party building and governance as well as discipline slackening, it said.

Supervision will ensure Party organizations perform their due duties, that all members play vanguard and exemplary roles and leading officials are loyal, clean and accountable.

The main targets of supervision are the CPC's top organs and officials, particularly senior officials, according to the communique.

Intra-Party supervision should focus on Party members' observance of the Party Constitution and rules as well as the country's Constitution and laws, adherence to the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, official's integrity and self-discipline, and impartial exercise of official power.

19TH CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS

The 19th CPC National Congress, a major event in the political life of the Party and the state, will be held in Beijing in the second half of 2017, according to the communique.

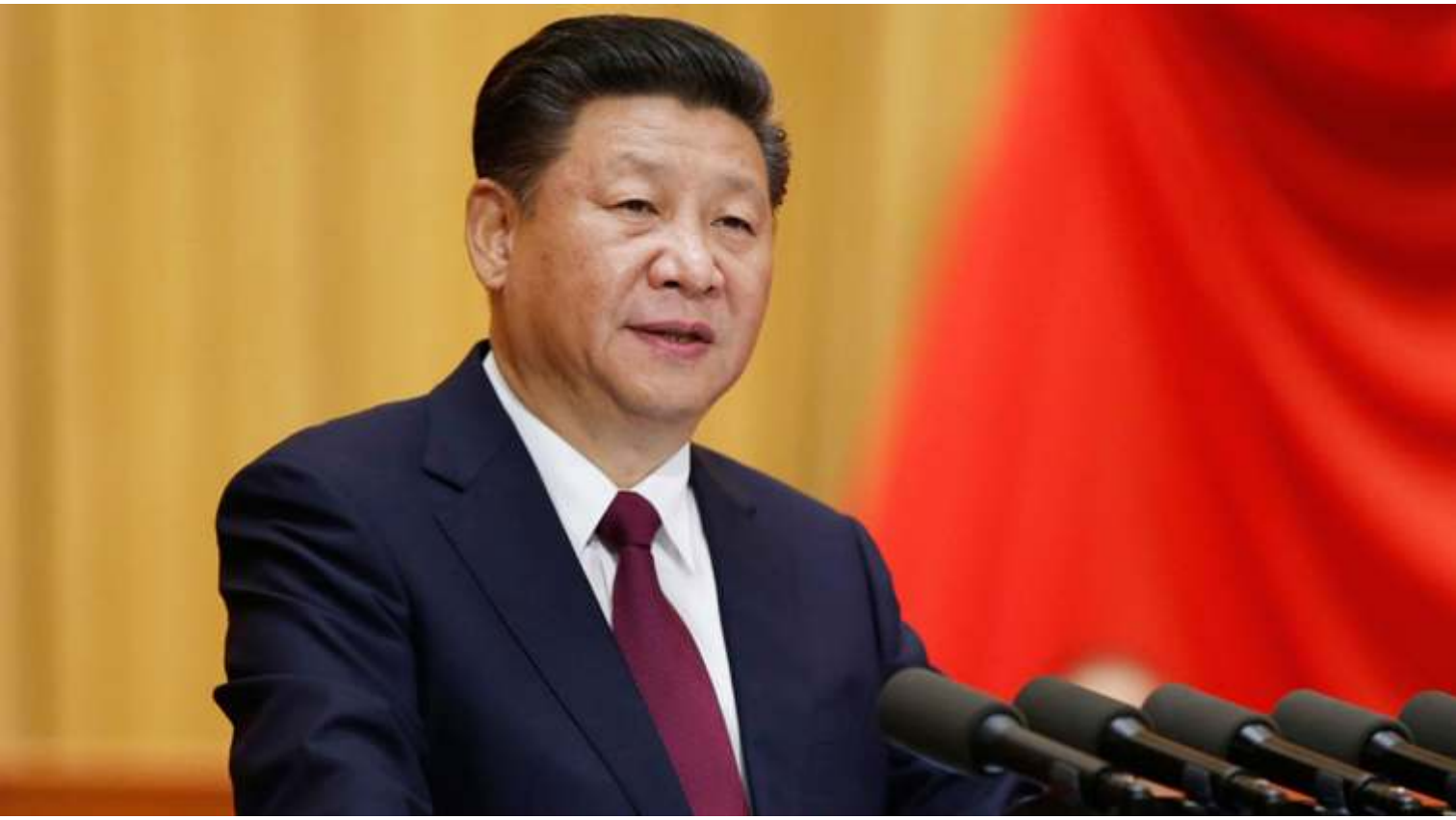
The entire Party shall comprehensively implement the spirit of the 18th CPC National Congress, as well as the third, fourth, fifth and sixth plenary sessions of the 18th CPC Central Committee, the communique stressed.

In the lead-up to the 19th CPC National Congress, the Party shall rally and lead people of all ethnicities to forge ahead with firm confidence; perform various jobs of the Party and the state, particularly preparatory work for thought, theories and organization, economic and social development, as well as ideological work; and safeguard social harmony and stability, the communique said.

Two new members have been added to the CPC Central Committee to fill vacancies, who are Zhao Xiangeng and Xian Hui, formerly alternate members of the CPC Central Committee.

The meeting also endorsed prior decisions to expel four former senior officials from the Party, including former Party chief of Liaoning Province and senior national legislator Wang Min, former Beijing deputy Party chief Lyu Xiwen, and former senior military officials Fan Changmi and Niu Zhizhong.

XI SPELLS OUT PARTY CODES ON STRICTER GOVERNANCE



Beijing Nov. 2 (Xinhua) — Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has stressed the imperativeness of regulating intra-Party political life and advancing supervision, calling the move "an important approach to promoting comprehensive and strict Party governance."

Xi made the remarks last week when explaining two related documents at the sixth plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee.

Xi's remarks and the two documents, namely the norms of political life in the Party under current conditions, and the regulation on intra-Party supervision, were publicized on Wednesday.

The norms, in 12 parts, stress consolidating ideals and beliefs, keeping to the Party's basic line, safeguarding the authority of the CPC Central Committee, and maintaining close ties with the people, among others.

The regulation, which consists of eight chapters and 47 articles, aims to uphold the CPC's leadership, strengthen Party building, promote the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party and maintain the Party's status and purity.

It stressed that self-supervision should be carried out in accordance with regulations and through the principle of democratic centralism.

The two documents, one setting requirements on intra-Party life and the other making rules on supervising the requirements' implementation, are vital to the CPC's drive of strict Party governance, said Xie Chuntao, a professor with the Party School of the CPC Central Committee.

Xie described the two documents, which were formulated

based on the CPC's past experiences, as "comprehensive, precise, targeted and organized" efforts on improving the strict governance of the Party.

TIME IS RIPE

Given new conditions and tasks, it is imperative and significant to introduce the norms and regulation, Xi said, adding the conditions are now ripe.

The two documents were introduced to supplement the layout of the CPC's "Four Comprehensives," a strategy to promote reform and opening up, refine the socialist modernization drive, as well as to adhere to and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, Xi said.

The "Four Comprehensives" are the comprehensive building of an all-round moderately prosperous society, deepening of reform, advancement of the rule of law and strict governing of the CPC.

In the past years, the third, fourth and fifth plenary sessions of the 18th CPC Central Committee studied and made arrangements for the first three "Comprehensives," and the sixth plenary session completed the picture by zeroing in on the fourth "Comprehensive," according to Xi.

The documents were also born out of a necessity to promote the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party, and to solve outstanding contradictions and problems within the Party, Xi said.

Political life in the Party has been good in general terms, but there are also prominent problems which remain in urgent need of addressing, Xi said.

The top CPC leader pointed out the questionable faith and loyalty of some Party members, including senior ones.

He cited a number of faults among such members, including lax discipline, detachment from the people, arbitrariness and inaction, acts of individualism, factionalism, money worshipping and violations linked to formalism, bureaucracy, hedonism and extravagance.

Nepotism and election fraud have endured while some Party officials sold positions of power, and bartered positions, Xi said, adding that power abuse, corruption as well as legal and disciplinary violations have been spreading.

In particular, a handful of senior Party officials, overcome by their political cravings and lust for power, have resorted to political conspiracies by working in ostensible obedience, while forming cliques to pursue selfish interests, he said.

He went on to list Zhou Yongkang, Bo Xilai, Guo Boxiong, Xu Caihou and Ling Jihua as examples of such behaviors, citing both their economic and political misdeeds.

ADVICE FULLY HEEDED

The drafting of the two documents began in March. In the eight months that followed, drafters conducted research, solicited opinion and made revisions.

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau convened several times to review the drafts.

Some retired CPC officials, non-Communist parties, leaders of the ALL-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and people with no party affiliation were asked to advise on the drafts.

It is the shared will of the entire Party and people of all ethnic groups to uphold the central and unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, and to establish and safeguard the core of the CPC leadership, Xi said, citing the feedbacks.

This will also help push forward the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party, enhance the Party's creativity, cohesion and abilities to fulfill missions, and guarantee the development of the Party and state remains on the right path, according to the feedbacks.

The sixth plenary session endorsed Xi as the core of the CPC Central Committee.

NEW NORMS NECESSARY

Xi, in particular, explained the correlation between the newly approved norms of political life within the Party under current conditions and the norms of intra-Party political life enacted in 1980.

He acknowledged the constructive role the 1980 norms

had played, saying that in the period following the end of the Cultural Revolution, the norms had helped terminate chaos and resume order, unite the Party, shift the focus of the Party agenda, and guarantee smooth progress of reform and opening up as well as the socialist modernization drive.

Moreover, calling the 1980 norms "ground-breaking," Xi noted that the principles and provisions featured are still relevant today, such as objectives and basic norms for intra-Party political life, a collective leadership system, opposition to arbitrary rule by any individual, upholding the Party's centralism and unity, abiding by Party code of conduct, and promoting intra-Party democracy, among other principles.

"All these principles still must be adhered to," Xi said.

However, some outstanding contradictions and problems the 1980 norms sought to address are no longer pressing today, whereas new ones have arisen, Xi said.

He added, the new norms are not a total replacement of the 1980 version, rather, new regulations targeting new problems and situations while adhering to major principles and provisions included in the 1980 norms.

SENIOR OFFICIALS CRUCIAL

Xi also accounted for an emphasis on senior officials in the two documents.

Management of officials, especially high-ranking ones, is imperative to strengthening Party building, Xi said, adding managing members of the CPC Central Committee, the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, and the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau, is crucial.

"When this group of people are managed well and play exemplary roles for the Party, many things get a lot easier," Xi said, asserting that regulating intra-Party political life and advancing supervision should start with them.

The regulation dedicates one chapter to supervision of the Party's central organization.

Members of the CPC Central Committee must observe the Party's political discipline and rules, and are obliged to voice opposition and report to the CPC Central Committee promptly if they spot misconduct that violates the Party Constitution or discipline, or compromises Party unity, the regulation stipulates.

Members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee must strictly follow the "eight-point" guideline against bureaucracy and extravagance, report important personal matters to the CPC Central Committee, educate and regulate their close relatives and people who work with them, according to the regulation.

The norms require plans for senior officials to implement the norms, guiding and pushing senior officials to set examples in observing and implementing the norms.

PLENARY SESSION OFFERS GLIMPSE INTO CPC'S INNER WORKINGS

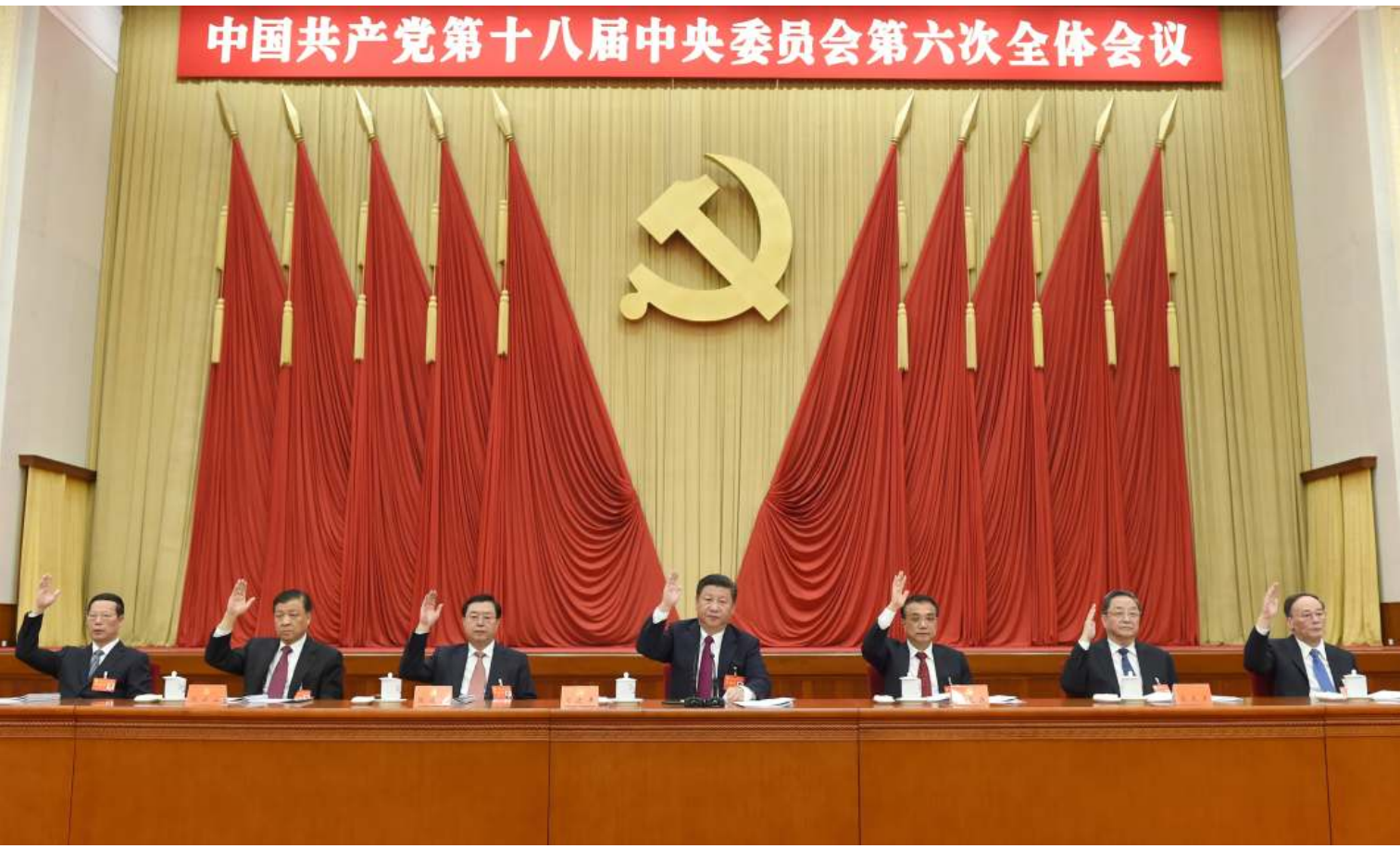
Beijing, Nov. 4 (Xinhua) — The biggest political party in the world by membership, the ruling party of the world's most populous country, and the architect for one of the fastest growing economies over the past three decades: the Communist Party of China (CPC) is all these and more.

Turning 95 this year, the CPC now boasts over 88 million members in the world's second largest economy. Since 1949, it has been the ruling party in China where it receives overwhelming support from the public while China's enviable development has left the rest of the world amazed.

As its success stories continue to roll out, the sixth plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee has offered an in-depth look into what goes on behind the scenes.

XI AS THE CORE

The endorsement of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, as the core leader was perhaps the most eye-catching move at last week's plenum.



In a communique released after the meeting that gathered high-ranking CPC officials in Beijing, the Party called on all its members to "closely unite around the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core."

Xi took the helm of the CPC in late 2012 when the Party held its 18th national congress. Since then, he has headed an array of leading groups overseeing economic development and national defense, among others, and launched a popular, nationwide anti-graft campaign that promised to bring down both "tigers and flies" — high and low-ranking corrupt officials.

Xin Ming, a professor with the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, said since Xi took the helm of the CPC, the Party has made profound achievements in reform, development, stability, internal and foreign affairs, national defense, Party governance and state administration.

The reason the CPC has always been endorsed by the public and won victory in revolutionary struggles lies in its core of strong leadership, which leads the Party and people to progress constantly, Xin said.

In an editorial published last month, the CPC mouthpiece the People's Daily also said Xi's core status is "of great importance to China and the CPC."

"The Party and its Central Committee ... need a core to bond the Party, to unite the people, to tide over the challenges and to continue to forge ahead," it read.

STRICT PARTY GOVERNANCE

Xi explained two documents on the discipline of the Party at the plenum, namely the norms of political life in the Party under the current conditions, an update from a 1980 document, and the regulation on intra-Party supervision.

The norms stress consolidating ideals and beliefs, keeping to the basic Party line, safeguarding the authority of the CPC Central Committee, and maintaining close ties with the people, among others. The regulation is aimed at upholding CPC leadership, strengthened Party building, strict governance of the Party and maintaining the Party's status and purity.

In his own comments, Xi said

the two documents, the full texts of which were published on Wednesday, are part of the Party's efforts to "fasten the cage of regulations" to curb corruption, by preventing old problems from recurring and new ones from spreading.

They are introduced to supplement the layout of the "Four Comprehensives," a strategy to promote reform and opening up, refine the socialist modernization drive, as well as to adhere to and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, he said.

The "Four Comprehensives" are the comprehensive building of an all-round moderately prosperous society, deepening of reform, advancement of the rule of law and strict governing of the CPC.

In the past years, the third, fourth and fifth plenary sessions of the 18th CPC Central Committee studied and made arrangements for the first three "Comprehensives," and the sixth plenary session completed the picture by zeroing in on the fourth "Comprehensive," according to Xi.

The documents are also born out of a necessity to promote the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party, and to solve outstanding problems within the Party, Xi said.

Xie Chuntao, a professor with the Party School of the CPC Central Committee, agreed.

The two documents, one setting requirements on intra-Party life and the other making rules on supervising the requirements' implementation, are vital to the CPC drive of strict Party governance, Xie said.

He said the CPC has always been a political party of tight discipline and strict governance ever since its inception.

The emphasis was again amplified after 2012 as Xi spearheaded a sweeping anti-corruption campaign which has seen scores of senior officials investigated and sentenced for graft.

According to a statement made by the Supreme People's Procuratorate in July, a total of 97 officials at the vice ministerial level and above were investigated by prosecutors over the past five years.

The list gets a lot longer when lower level officials are included.

In many cases, the Party's internal disciplinary body starts its own probe before the judiciary steps in.

"That's what the Party's been repeatedly stressing: that its own discipline is stricter than law," Xie said.

DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM

But the Party is not all about discipline. The norms of political life in the Party under the current conditions also stipulated to create within the Party "a political landscape, which integrates concentration with democracy, discipline with freedom, and unified will with ease of individual mind."

Democratic centralism has been taken by the CPC as a fundamental organizational principle.

The principle is reiterated in the newly published norms of political life in the Party under the current conditions, which says intra-Party democracy is vital to the CPC, and is fundamental to a positive, healthy internal political environment.

Party committees at all levels must adhere to the collective leadership system, the document says, adding all major decisions must be made after collective discussion and in line with the principle of majority rule.

According to Sun Xiaoli, a professor with the Chinese Academy of Governance, the democratic aspect of the principle involves the freedom of Party members to discuss and debate matters of policy and direction, while the leadership of the Party makes decisions based on the debate and discussion. This latter aspect represents centralism.

"Democracy and centralism are always closely linked," she said.

Her words were echoed by Wang Chuanzhi with the Qiushi Journal Press.

The essence of democratic centralism is democracy with leadership, Wang said.

"Only by finding and then maintaining a natural balance between centralization on the basis of democracy and democracy under centralized guidance will we be able to guarantee the smooth operation and effectiveness of democratic centralism," Wang said.

"Collective leadership, strict governance and democratic centralism, these are the lifelines of the CPC and what makes the Party what it is today," Xie Chuntao said.

China India Relations

MENG JIANZHU ,SPECIAL ENVOY OF PRESIDENT XI JINPING MEETS INDIAN LEADERS



Meng Jianzhu ,Special Envoy of President Xi Jinping ,meets with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9th November in New Delhi.



Meng Jianzhu ,Special Envoy of President Xi Jinping ,meets with India's Home Minister Rajnath Singh on 9th November in New Delhi.

CHINA, INDIA AGREE TO JOINTLY SAFEGUARD BORDER PEACE, TRANQUILITY



Hyderabad, India, Nov. 4 (Xinhua) — Senior officials of China and India agreed on Friday to push forward their talks on boundary issues so as to jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in their border areas.

At an informal meeting between Chinese and Indian special representatives on boundary issues in the southern Indian city, Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi said China is willing to maintain communication and dialogue at various levels, promote pragmatic cooperation of mutual benefit and properly handle sensitive issues with India.

While congratulating India on its successful hosting of the BRICS

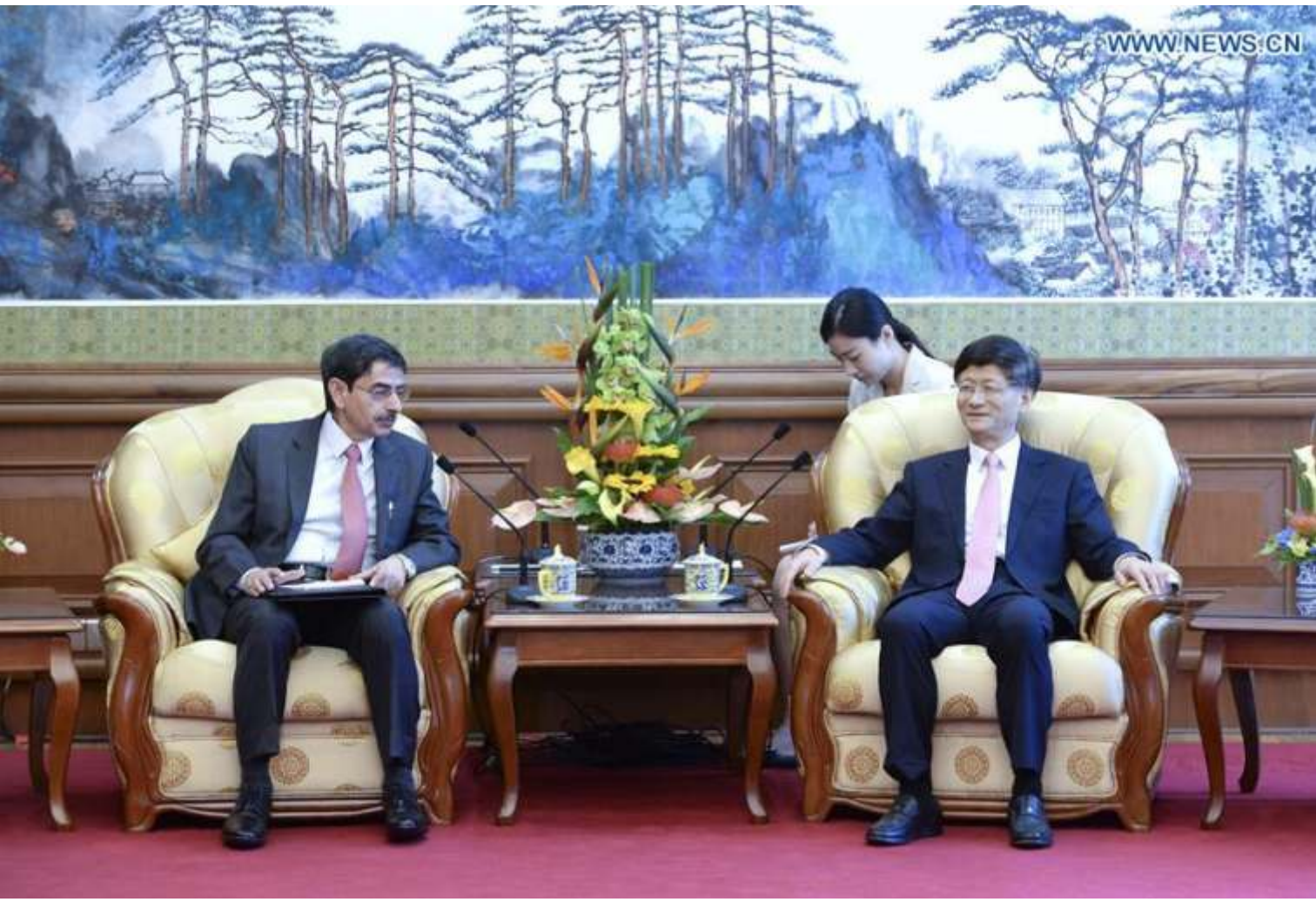
summit in Goa, Yang said China is ready to join hands with India to defend the interests of developing countries and boost international exchanges and cooperation in various fields.

For his part, Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval expressed India's willingness to maintain high-level exchanges of visits and strategic communication with China, and deepen their trade and cultural exchanges and cooperation.

New Delhi is also willing to properly manage and address differences with Beijing in order to promote mutual benefit and win-win, as well as common development of the two countries, he added.

India supports China in hosting the BRICS summit next year, and is ready to make joint efforts with China to contribute to the regional and world peace, stability and development, said Doval.

CHINA, INDIA AGREE TO STEP UP COUNTERTERROR COOPERATION



Meng Jianzhu (R), head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, meets with an Indian delegation led by R.N. Ravi, chairman of Joint Intelligence Committee of India, in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 27, 2016. (Xinhua/Zhang Ling)

Beijing, Sept. 27 (Xinhua) — China and India on Tuesday held their first dialogue on counter-terrorism and security.

The two sides exchanged opinions on the international and regional security situation and their respective anti-terrorism systems, mechanisms and legislation.

They also reached consensus on measures to strengthen cooperation and to jointly deal with security threats, according to a document issued after the meeting.

The dialogue was jointly chaired by Wang Yongqing, secretary-general of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and R.N. Ravi, chairman of Joint Intelligence Committee of India.

In his talks with Ravi, Meng Jianzhu, head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the CPC Central Committee, commended stable progress in Sino-Indian ties.

He said terrorism is a common enemy of the global community, adding that strengthened counter-terrorism cooperation between China and India was conducive to the interests of the people of both countries.

He voiced hope that the two sides could put to action counter-terrorism collaboration and protect regional security and that of the two countries.

Ravi, for his part, said India was willing to step up communication and cooperation with China in the field of counter-terrorism, so that the two sides could work together via unity and solidarity.

INDIA HOPES TO BOOST MILITARY COOPERATION WITH CHINA, JOINTLY UPHOLD BORDER PEACE, STABILITY: DM



Sun Jianguo (L), deputy chief of the Joint Staff Department of China's Central Military Commission, talks with Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar in New Delhi, India, Nov. 9, 2016. Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar said on Wednesday that India hopes to strengthen military cooperation with China and make concerted efforts to uphold peace and stability in border areas. (Xinhua/Li Ming)

New Delhi, Nov. 9 (Xinhua) — Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar said on Wednesday that India hopes to strengthen military cooperation with China and make concerted efforts to uphold peace and stability in border areas.

Parrikar made the comments during a meeting here with Sun Jianguo, deputy chief of the Joint Staff Department of China's Central Military Commission.

Sun is in India to attend the 8th meeting of China-India Defense and Security Consultation.

Parrikar said India and China have enjoyed a long history of friendship and his country values its ties with China. He called on the two countries and militaries to conduct more exchanges so as to further enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Sun Jianguo, for his part, said that the leaders of the two countries have met on many occasions in recent year and reached important consensus on enhancing bilateral strategic communication, deepening friendly and pragmatic cooperation and seeking common development.

"China adheres to a peaceful development path and also a defensive defense policy," the senior Chinese military official said, highlighting that China carries out the concept of "amity, sincerity, sharing in prosperity, and inclusiveness" in neighborhood diplomacy.

Under the guidance of their leaders, China and India have been making progress in various fields including defense and the two countries have been committed to advancing their strategic cooperative partnership, he said.

Hailing the good momentum of exchanges between the two militaries, Sun called for the two sides to further strengthen cooperation in various fields and properly manage and control differences, jointly uphold peace and stability in border areas for the benefit of the two countries and two peoples.

CHINA, INDIA PLEDGE TO ENHANCE MUTUAL TRUST, SAFEGUARD BORDER PEACE

New Delhi, Nov. 8 (Xinhua) — Senior defense officials from China and India vowed on Tuesday to enhance the strategic mutual trust and pragmatic cooperation between the two nations.

At the 8th meeting of China-India Defense and Security Consultation, Sun Jianguo, deputy chief of the Joint Staff Department of China's Central Military Commission, said China and India share broad common interests on international and regional affairs.

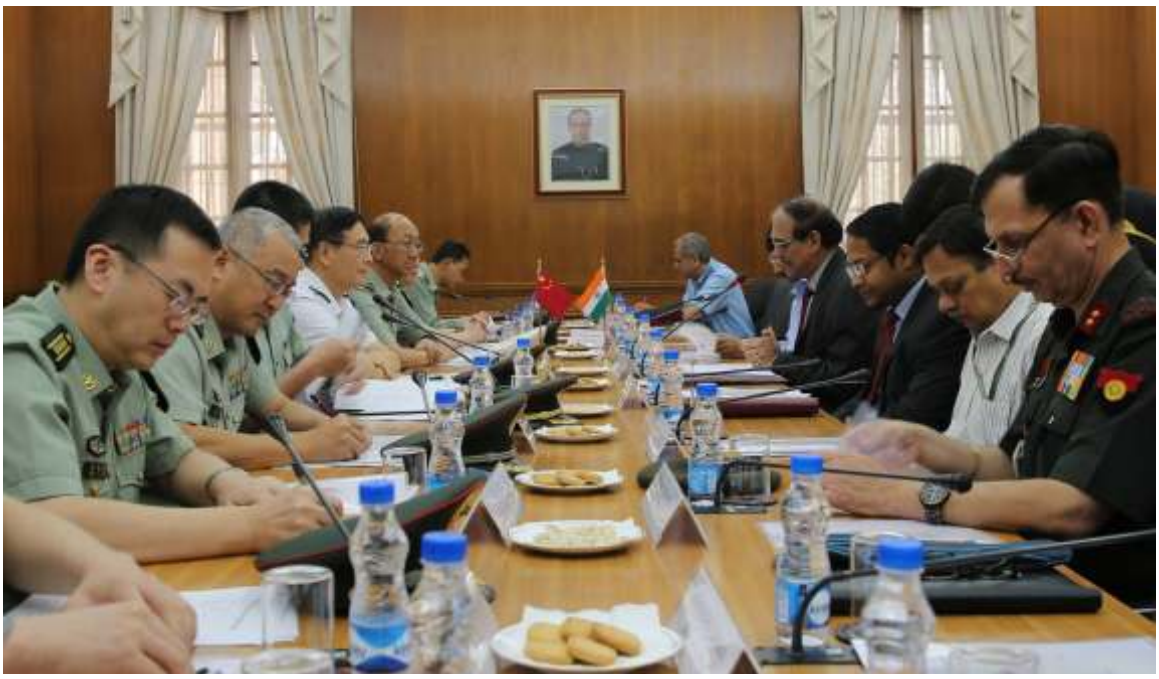
The annual dialogue is co-chaired by Sun and Indian Defense Secretary Shri G Mohan Kumar.

The leaders of both countries have maintained frequent exchanges of visits and reached consensus on the development of bilateral ties in recent years, Sun said.

The Chinese military is willing to join hands with India army to maintain the exchanges on border defense, improve the mechanism of communication and strengthen border management and control so as to safeguard peace and stability in their border areas, he added.

For his part, Kumar said the exchanges of visits and interactions between Chinese and Indian leaders have promoted the India-China strategic partnership of cooperation, which has also contributed to the common prosperity of the two countries as well as the world peace and development.

The Indian side is ready to take effective measures to boost communication and coordination between border guards with China, and properly manage and control disputes in order to ensure the border peace and tranquility.



Sun Jianguo (4th L), deputy chief of the Joint Staff Department of China's Central Military Commission, meets with Indian Defense Secretary Shri G Mohan Kumar (4th R) in New Delhi, capital of India, Nov. 8, 2016. Senior defense officials from China and India vowed on Tuesday to enhance the strategic mutual trust and pragmatic cooperation between the two nations at the 8th meeting of China-India Defense and Security Consultation. (Xinhua / Li Ming)



CHINESE, INDIAN ARMIES STAGE JOINT ANTI-TERROR DRILL



PUNA, India, Nov. 16 (Xinhua)— Chinese and Indian army troops started their joint anti-terror exercises in the Western Indian city of Puna on Wednesday.

Code named "Hand in Hand 2016," the drill involves 139 troops from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) units stationed in Tibet and the same number of Indian army troops.



During the drill, which is to last 11 days, the troops will be mingled and regrouped into two companies, and conduct exhibitions, training and exercises of joint counter-terrorism reconnaissance operations, removing improvised explosives and combating terrorists in semi-urban environment.

The soldiers will also stage some recreational and cultural activities during the intervals of their training to enhance friendship and communications.

This is the 6th joint anti-terrorism exercise held by the Chinese and Indian armies, and the third conducted in India.

External Affairs

FORGE AHEAD INTO THE FUTURE FOR PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
At Session I of the 24th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in Lima, Peru, Nov. 19, 2016. (Xinhua / Lan Hongguang)

Your Excellency President Kuczynski,
Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to join you here in the beautiful city of Lima for a discussion on the important subject of Asia-Pacific cooperation. I wish to start by expressing my sincere appreciation to President Kuczynski and the government of Peru for their preparation for this meeting. We expect this meeting to contribute to enhanced Asia-Pacific cooperation.

Currently, the world economy still finds itself in profound adjustment, with weak recovery and more divergent growth. Economic globalization has encountered setbacks, as evidenced by sluggish international trade and investment and rising protectionism. At the G20 Hangzhou Summit last September, the blueprint for strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive world economic growth was drawn. It embodies the spirit of partnership to jointly rise to challenges as well as the commitment to common development. As an important arena of the world economy, the Asia-Pacific is home to infinite hopes and also shoulders major responsibilities. APEC is a pioneer, leader and trailblazer of economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and the world at large, playing an important role in the economic development of the Asia-Pacific and beyond. Faced with new circumstances and challenges, we need to take vigorous measures, leverage the role of the Asia-Pacific as a growth engine and work for an innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive world

economy.

First, we need to stay committed to taking economic globalization forward. Now that economic globalization has entered a phase of adjustment, some people have become skeptical and others more hesitant. However, one ought to recognize that economic globalization represents the general trend of our times, as it meets the need for progress in productivity and serves the interests of all. Instead of coming to a stop because of the temporary difficulties, we need to continue our involvement in economic globalization. What is important is to combine it with our respective development practices, strive to ensure equity and justice, and steer it towards a more inclusive and mutually beneficial direction. We need to make it clear to the world with action that the commitment of the Asia-Pacific to economic globalization is unchanged and its confidence undiminished.

History has proven that protectionism will get nowhere. Eight years ago, at the critical juncture of our response to the international financial crisis, APEC leaders expressed in Lima their unanimous opposition to protectionism. Two years ago, we in Beijing solemnly reaffirmed our standstill commitment on protectionist measures. At this crucial stage of Asia-Pacific development, we need to work together for win-win outcomes, oppose all forms of protectionism and inject positive energy into economic globalization.

Second, we need to stay committed to increasing openness in the Asia-Pacific economy. Openness is the driving force for growth in the Asia-Pacific. We need to support the multilateral trading regime, prioritize trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and reinvigorate trade and investment. We need to effectively address the fragmentation of regional trade agreements, advocate openness and inclusiveness, and avoid close-door policy and exclusiveness.

Two years ago in Beijing, we launched the process to build a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). With the concerted efforts of various parties, the collective strategic study has been smoothly completed this year, marking a new phase in FTAAP development. To build the FTAAP will never be an easy task. It requires long-term efforts. We need to stick to our agenda and take more effective actions to realize the FTAAP at an early date, thus bringing about an Asia-Pacific economy with greater openness.

Third, we need to stay committed to breaking bottlenecks in regional connectivity. According to traditional Chinese medicine, pain is relieved with improved blood circulation. Connectivity will ensure smooth flow of blood in the Asia-Pacific economy. We need to take more collective and individual actions to implement the Connectivity Blueprint for 2015-2025 adopted in Beijing and promote connectivity in infrastructure, institutions and personnel flows. We need to have a multi-dimensional connectivity network and build a well-connected Asia-Pacific community.

China is making progress with the Belt and Road initiative. Featuring extensive consultation, joint participation and shared benefits among partners in the region, this initiative will contribute to enhanced connectivity in the Asia-Pacific. China will seek synergy in development strategies and cooperation initiatives with relevant parties so as to realize common development.

Fourth, we need to stay committed to blazing new trails in reform and innovation. Reform and innovation is vital for sustained prosperity. We need to prioritize reform and innovation, advance economic structural reform, and create impetus for the Asia-Pacific to lead the world economy. Targeted and effective measures are required to address crucial issues. We need to implement the Services Competitiveness Roadmap and deepen cooperation in the service sector to make up for this long-standing inadequacy. We need to seize opportunities in the new round of technological and industrial revolution and develop new growth areas in the internet and digital economy, blue economy and green economy.

Thanks to the strong support of member economies, the first APEC High-Level Urbanization Forum was successfully held in Ningbo, China, last June and adopted the Ningbo Initiative, charting the course for a new type of urbanization in the Asia-Pacific.

Colleagues,

Over the past 25 years since it joined the APEC, China has given priority to opening up to the Asia-Pacific. As the 2020 deadline of Bogor Goals draws near, we need to be more forward-looking in our cooperation and build consensus for a cooperation vision with a longer time frame. With a focus on development, China will work with other parties to increase openness, pursue regional economic integration and connectivity, advance reform and innovation, and jointly write an exciting chapter of Asia-Pacific cooperation.

Let us deepen Asia-Pacific partnership, pursue win-win cooperation and prosperity through openness and connectivity, and keep forging ahead to create an even brighter future for our region.

Thank you.

XI, TRUMP DISCUSS CHINA-U.S. TIES OVER PHONE

Beijing, Nov. 14 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday discussed China-U.S. relations with Donald Trump in a telephone conversation.

Xi congratulated Trump on his election as U.S. president and expressed his willingness to work with him.

Since the two countries established formal ties 37 years ago, bilateral relations have been continuously progressing, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples and promoting world and regional peace, stability and prosperity, Xi said.

Facts have shown that cooperation is the only correct choice for the two countries, he said.

As China-U.S. cooperation faces important opportunities and has huge potential, the two countries need to strengthen coordination, advance their respective economic development and global economic growth and expand exchanges and cooperation in various fields so as to bring more benefits to the two peoples and promote the smooth development of China-U.S. relations, said the Chinese president.

As the biggest developing country and the biggest developed country respectively and as the top two economies of the world, there



are many things in which China and the United States can and should cooperate, Xi said.

"I attach great importance to China-U.S. relations and am ready to work with the U.S. side to carry forward bilateral ties and to better benefit the two peoples and the rest of the world," he told Trump.

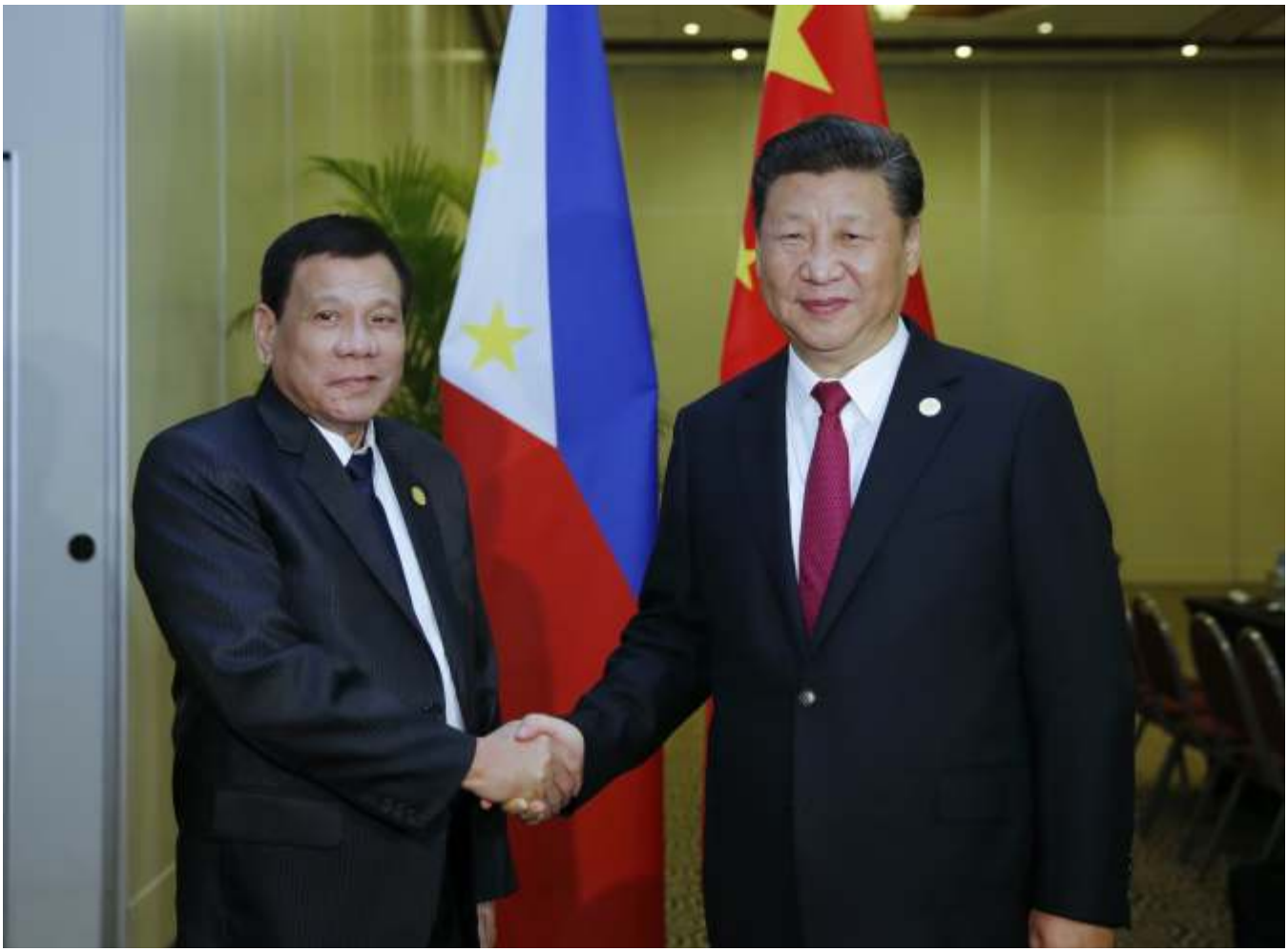
For his part, Trump thanked Xi for the congratulations and said that he agreed with Xi on his views about U.S.-China relations.

China is a great and important country with eye-catching development prospects, said Trump. The United States and China can achieve win-win results featuring mutual benefits, he added.

Trump voiced his readiness to work with Xi to strengthen U.S.-China cooperation and expressed his belief that U.S.-China relations will witness even greater development.

Xi and Trump also agreed to maintain close contact, establish a good working relationship and meet at an early date to exchange views on bilateral ties and other issues of common concern.

XI, DUTERTE AGREE ON FULL IMPROVEMENT OF TIES



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) holds talks with his Philippine counterpart Rodrigo Duterte in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 20, 2016. (Li Xueren/Xinhua)

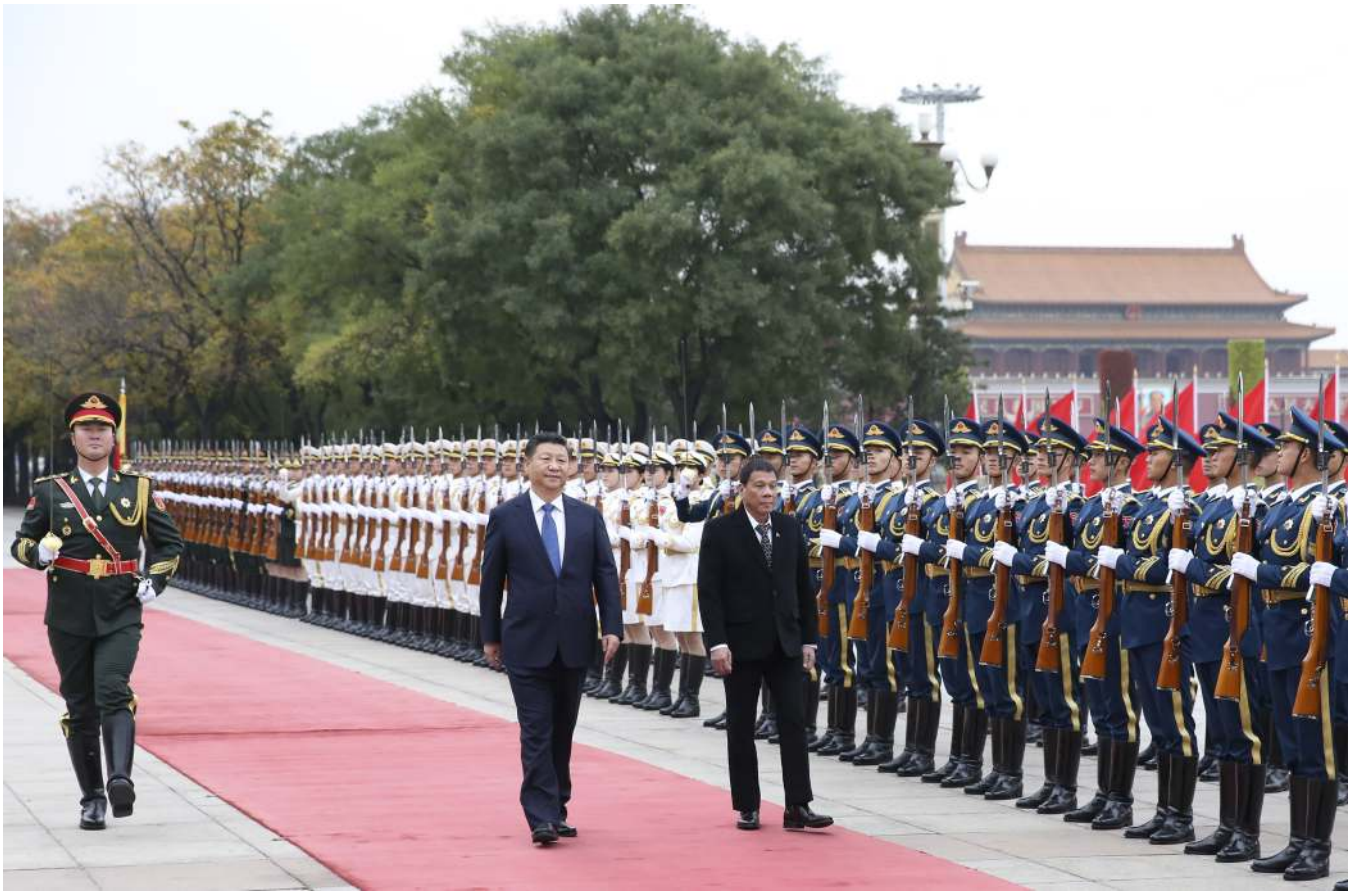
Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Philippine counterpart Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday agreed that the two countries will properly handle differences and achieve full improvement and greater progress in bilateral ties.

Calling the countries "neighbors across the sea," Xi said that though their relations have gone through twists and turns, the foundation of the China-Philippines friendship and the willingness to cooperate remain unchanged.

China highly values its relations with the Philippines, and is ready to work with the country to cement political trust and mutually beneficial cooperation, properly handle differences and become good partners, Xi said during talks with Duterte in Beijing.

He said managing differences in the South China Sea issue through dialogue and consultation was an important foundation for the healthy and stable growth of China-Philippines relations.

Both sides need to draw experiences from the past to open up promising prospects for the bilateral relationship, Xi stressed, calling on both sides to develop friendship and



cooperation while properly handling differences.

"China and the Philippines have had foundation for friendship for generations and no reason for hostility or confrontation. Both sides should spare no efforts to promote neighborly relations," Xi said.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China and the Philippines have largely managed their differences on the South China Sea issue through dialogue and consultation, Xi said. "It is political wisdom and a successful practice worth passing down as well as an important foundation for the healthy and stable growth of China-Philippines relations."

As long as both countries adhere to friendly dialogue and consultation, China and the Philippines can have candid exchanges on everything, manage differences well, carry out cooperation and shelve problems that are difficult to agree on, for a while, Xi said.

Duterte, who is on a four-day state visit from Tuesday to Friday, said his talks with Xi were historical and helped to improve and develop bilateral ties.

He believed his current visit will benefit the two peoples.

The last state visit between the two countries' top leaders was five years ago, when Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, paid a state visit to China in September 2011.

Beijing-Manila ties had deteriorated due to the South China Sea arbitration case brought by Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, against China.

Xi put forward four proposals in developing Beijing-Manila ties: to cement political trust, expand substantial cooperation, promote people-to-people exchanges and strengthen cooperation in regional and multilateral affairs.

He called on both sides to enhance high-level exchanges in a bid to guide the development of ties, and boost exchanges and cooperation between the two governments, parties, parliaments and localities.

China is ready to enhance cooperation with the Philippines under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, he said.

Xi urged both countries to integrate their development strategies in a comprehensive manner to seek mutually beneficial results.

China is willing to participate in the Southeast Asian nation's infrastructure construction, covering railways, urban rail transit, highways, ports and other areas, so as to benefit the Philippine people, according to Xi.

China is also ready to encourage Chinese businesses to invest more in the Philippines to help the country's economic growth, said the Chinese president.

China supports the efforts of the new Philippine government in fighting against drugs, terrorism and crime, and would like to conduct cooperation with the Philippines in these areas, Xi said.

He also called for stronger bilateral cooperation in fisheries, education, the press, culture and tourism.

Xi suggested the two sides hold activities next year to mark the 600th anniversary of the China visit of the king of Sulu, an ancient kingdom in the Philippine islands.

China hopes to enhance coordination with the Philippines in multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Xi said.

Duterte said China is a great country, and the long-lasting friendship between the Philippines and China is unbreakable.

He appreciated China's great achievements, adding the two countries' development strategies are highly compatible and there was huge potential for cooperation.

The Philippines appreciates China's strong support for its economic and social development and is willing to deepen bilateral exchanges at various levels, he said.

Duterte called on the two countries to cooperate in the fields of economy and trade, investment, agriculture, science and technology, manufacturing, infrastructure, disaster prevention and mitigation, tourism, aviation, media, drug controls, anti-terrorism, marine policing and culture.

He hoped the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank could play a bigger role in the Philippines' economic growth.

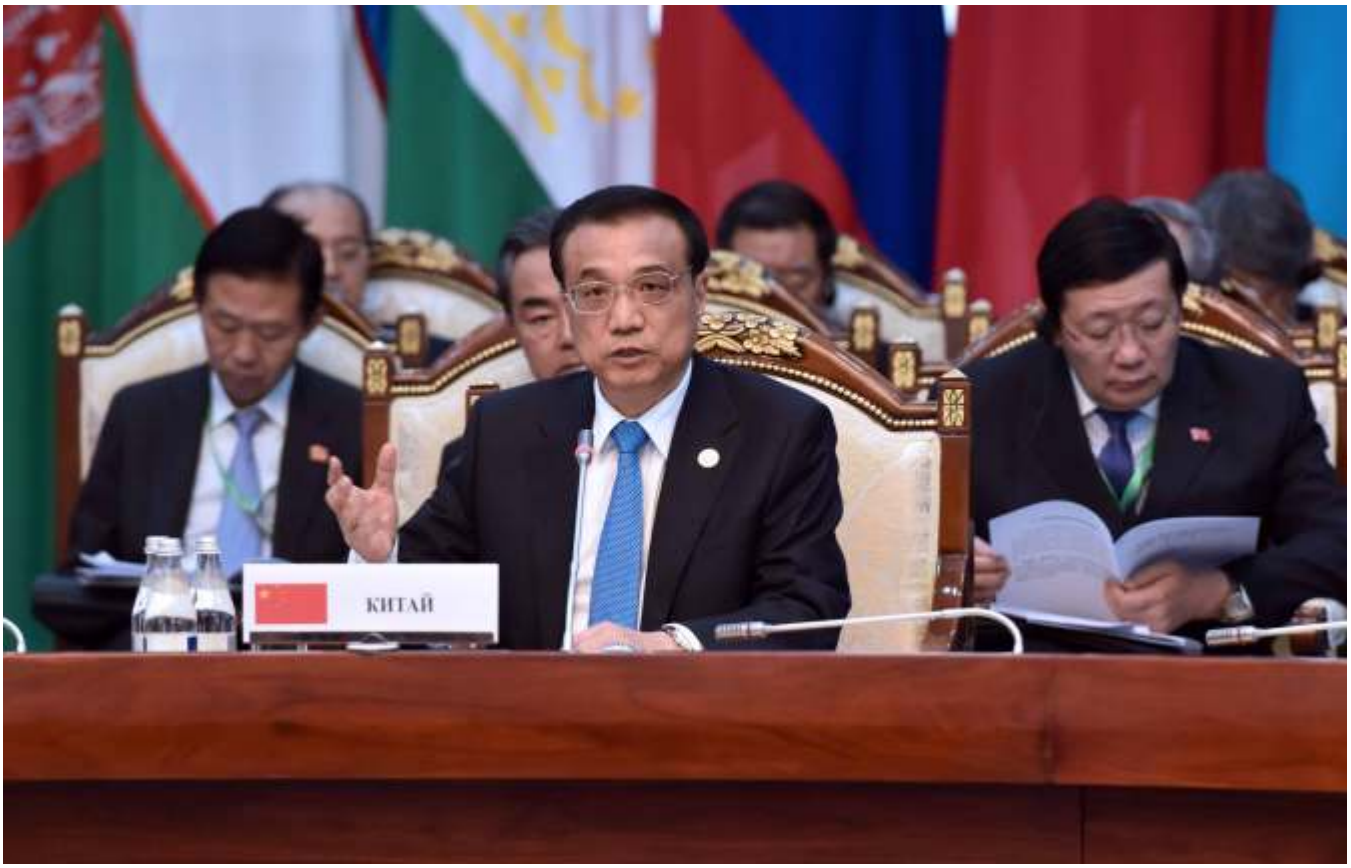
The Philippines is ready to enhance coordination with China in international and regional affairs and push forward closer China-ASEAN ties, said Duterte.

LI KEQIANG ATTENDS THE 15TH MEETING OF SCO COUNCIL OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS (PRIME MINISTERS)

At noon of November 3, 2016 local time, Premier Li Keqiang attended the 15th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Governments (Prime Ministers) at the conference center of Bishkek State Guesthouse.

Li Keqiang expressed that the SCO has maintained a sound momentum of development since its establishment 15 years ago. It not only plays an irreplaceable role in promoting regional stability and prosperity, but also makes positive contributions to pushing forward world peace and development. At the Tashkent Summit this year, President Xi Jinping, together with other leaders of SCO member states, has put forward a number of proposals and initiatives in terms of further promoting regional cooperation in various fields, marking a new step in the development of the SCO. Currently, the international situation is undergoing profound changes, therefore, only by working together can SCO member states realize common development and achieve long-term peace and stability in the region. Li Keqiang offered the following suggestions on the future development of the SCO:

First, create a safe and stable environment. SCO member states should follow the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, further reinforce coordination and collaboration in security areas,



advance the mechanism construction of regional anti-terrorism agencies and deepen information exchanges and law enforcement cooperation, so as to safeguard the safety of peoples, institutions, enterprises and personnel of SCO member states.

Second, build an integrative development pattern. All sides should strengthen the coordination and alignment of respective strategies for economic development. The "Belt and Road" Initiative proposed by China is now dovetailing with the construction of the Eurasian Economic Union. China is ready to work with other parties to advance the trade and investment liberalization and facilitation in the region and strengthen cooperation in fields such as customs, inspection and quarantine, as well as certification and accreditation. China is open to the construction of a SCO free trade area and other proposals, and is willing to work with all parties to complete the feasibility study on the free trade area and actively explore a more comprehensive, closer and more efficient regional economic cooperation framework.

Third, upgrade the level of production capacity cooperation. At present, the early harvest projects of production capacity cooperation between China and Kazakhstan are advancing smoothly. Large projects undertaken by Chinese enterprises, such as the power station in Uzbekistan, the oil refinery in Kyrgyzstan and the cement plant in Tajikistan, are under sound operation. An industrial park is now jointly being built by China and Uzbekistan. China is ready to make concerted efforts with other parties to build production capacity cooperation into an important pillar of regional economic and trade cooperation and forge a growth pole for regional economic development, so as to benefit the people of related countries.

Fourth, explore opportunities for innovation cooperation. China thoroughly implements the innovation-driven development strategy and extensively carries out mass entrepreneurship and innovation. China is willing to, together with other countries, reinforce the alignment and experience exchanges of innovation policies, facilitate cross-border e-commerce customs clearance, strengthen the capacity of logistics support and propel cooperation in such fields as innovation in environmental protection technology and green economy

among all sides.

Fifth, improve the region's financing mechanism. The SCO should take full advantage of the SCO Interbank Consortium, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Silk Road Fund, the China-Eurasia Economic Cooperation Fund, the BRICS New Development Bank and other platforms of investment and financing, to provide financing support for member states to accelerate economic development and carry out regional cooperation projects. China is willing to further enhance cooperation in currency swaps and settlement with all parties.

Sixth, consolidate the foundation of people-to-people and cultural exchanges. China stands ready to sign agreements with other parties on establishing and operating a SCO university and support its efforts in personnel training for SCO member states. China will offer more SCO Scholarships and Chinese Government Scholarships this academic year. The country is willing to continue organizing summer camps for primary and secondary school students from SCO member states, and holding a series of non-governmental exchange activities.

Li Keqiang pointed out that the SCO always upholds the principle of openness, and all parties should continue to strengthen cooperation with observer states and dialogue partners and expand communication and dialogue between the SCO and the UN as well as other international and regional organizations, so as to achieve multi-win and win-win results and jointly push for lasting peace and common prosperity in the world. China is willing to, together with all parties, carry forward the "Shanghai Spirit" and drive the SCO to score substantial achievements from cooperation in all fields, so as to better benefit the people of regional countries.

Present leaders gave positive affirmation on the series of progress the SCO has achieved in development and cooperation over the year, and expressed that all countries will jointly maintain security and stability in the region, beef up regional economic cooperation and strengthen the internal dynamism of the SCO, so as to make new contributions to regional peace and development.

Li Keqiang and attending leaders of SCO member states jointly signed and issued the Joint Communiqué, and approved multiple cooperation documents and resolutions covering such fields as trade, investment, finance, customs and agriculture,





including List of Measures by the SCO to Further Promote Project Cooperation 2017-2021, SCO Scientific and Technological Partnership and the Following Work on the Establishment of the SCO Development Bank and the SCO Development Fund (Special Account).

LI KEQIANG ATTENDS THE 5TH CHINA-CEEC SUMMIT

On the afternoon of November 5, 2016 local time, Premier Li Keqiang attended the 5th Summit of China and Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) at the National Library of Latvia in Riga. Leaders of 16 Central and Eastern European countries attended the summit, along with the EU, Austria, Switzerland, Greece, Belarus and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development as observers.

Li Keqiang stated that during the G20 Hangzhou Summit held in September this year, broad consensus was reached on moving "Towards an Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected and Inclusive World Economy", which has offered new ideas on uplifting the world economy and deepening international cooperation. The "16+1 cooperation" mechanism is a creative endeavor made by China and the CEEC to further friendship and cooperation. Since the Suzhou Summit last year, we have implemented the 1+6 cooperation framework in an all-round manner guided by the Midterm Plan on China-CEEC Cooperation. By upholding openness and inclusiveness and making solid progress, much has been achieved in this regard. Over 50 measures set out in the Suzhou Guidelines for China-CEEC Cooperation have basically been carried out.

Li Keqiang pointed out that the "16+1 cooperation" is a positive



factor for world peace and development, as well as a part of and beneficial supplement to China-EU cooperation, which is conducive to advancing the four major China-EU partnerships and the construction of the five major platforms as well as contributes to the balanced development of Europe and the European integration process.

Li Keqiang emphasized that the "16+1 cooperation" should stick to the prevailing trend of economic globalization. We should actively boost the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, keep the market open to each other, deepen regional economic cooperation, and jointly oppose trade and investment protectionism, so as to not only add momentum to self-development but also contribute to world economic recovery.

Li Keqiang expressed that the theme of the summit, "Connectivity, Innovation, Inclusiveness and Common Development", is both timely and relevant. Li Keqiang made following suggestions for the future development of "16+1 cooperation":

The first is to deepen cooperation on infrastructure and connectivity. China encourages reputable and competent enterprises to, through such forms as project contracting and PPP, participate in the construction of highway networks, port networks, power grids and Internet development of the CEEC. China stands ready to advance the construction of the Budapest-Belgrade railway and China-Europe Land-Sea Express, support the construction of transport corridors between Asia and Europe, and set up more logistic centers in the CEEC, so as to further enhance the CEEC's role as a transport hub on the Eurasian Land Bridge.

The second is to enhance financial cooperation to solidify the foundation for "16+1 cooperation". At the Business Forum earlier in the afternoon, I announced the official establishment of the China-CEEC Financial Holding Company. China has signed Memorandums of

Understanding with Poland and the Czech Republic on making financial contributions, and other Central and Eastern European countries are most welcome to take part. China supports to expand cooperation on local currency settlement, as well as supports financial institutions including the Silk Road Fund to, through diverse forms such as equity and bonds, provide financing for "16+1 cooperation" projects.

The third is to explore cooperation on green economy. China is willing to work with the CEEC to explore joint demonstration projects like processing bases of agricultural products and encourage cooperation on green agriculture between provinces and cities in China and the CEEC. China is also willing to step up cooperation on environmental protection, and expand the joint development of clean energy like wind electricity and solar energy.

The fourth is to further intensify people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation. We should fully exploit educational, cultural, tourism, health, local, youth and other cooperation mechanisms. This year is the Year of 16+1 People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges. China and the CEEC have held colorful activities. China supports the early establishment of a "16+1" coordination center on cultural cooperation, and will invite young people from the CEEC to receive training in China. It is hoped that the CEEC can adopt more visa facilitation measures and special arrangements for Chinese tourists. China supports designating 2017 as the Year of China-CEEC Media Cooperation.

Attending CEEC leaders expressed that the "16+1 cooperation" moves forward at a steady pace with vitality and remarkable achievements. The CEEC stand ready to, together with China, tap cooperation potential, enhance the capacity of mechanism building, stick to the parallel development of economic and people-to-people and cultural cooperation, deepen cooperation in infrastructure, production capacity, trade, finance, agriculture, technology and other areas, expand new cooperation patterns such as e-commerce, and expand local cooperation and people-to-people and cultural exchanges in technology, culture, education, health care, tourism and other areas, so as to realize connectivity, mutual benefit and win-win results, and push forward the mutual improvement and continuous development of CEEC-China relations and EU-China strategic partnership.

After the summit, China and the 16 Central and Eastern European countries jointly issued the Riga Guidelines for China-CEEC Cooperation and a joint statement on developing cooperation in infrastructure and equipment in the three port areas. Leaders of all countries jointly witnessed the signing of cooperation agreements between China and the 16 countries, covering various areas including connectivity, production capacity cooperation, infrastructure construction, people-to-people and culture exchanges, human resource and civil aviation cooperation.

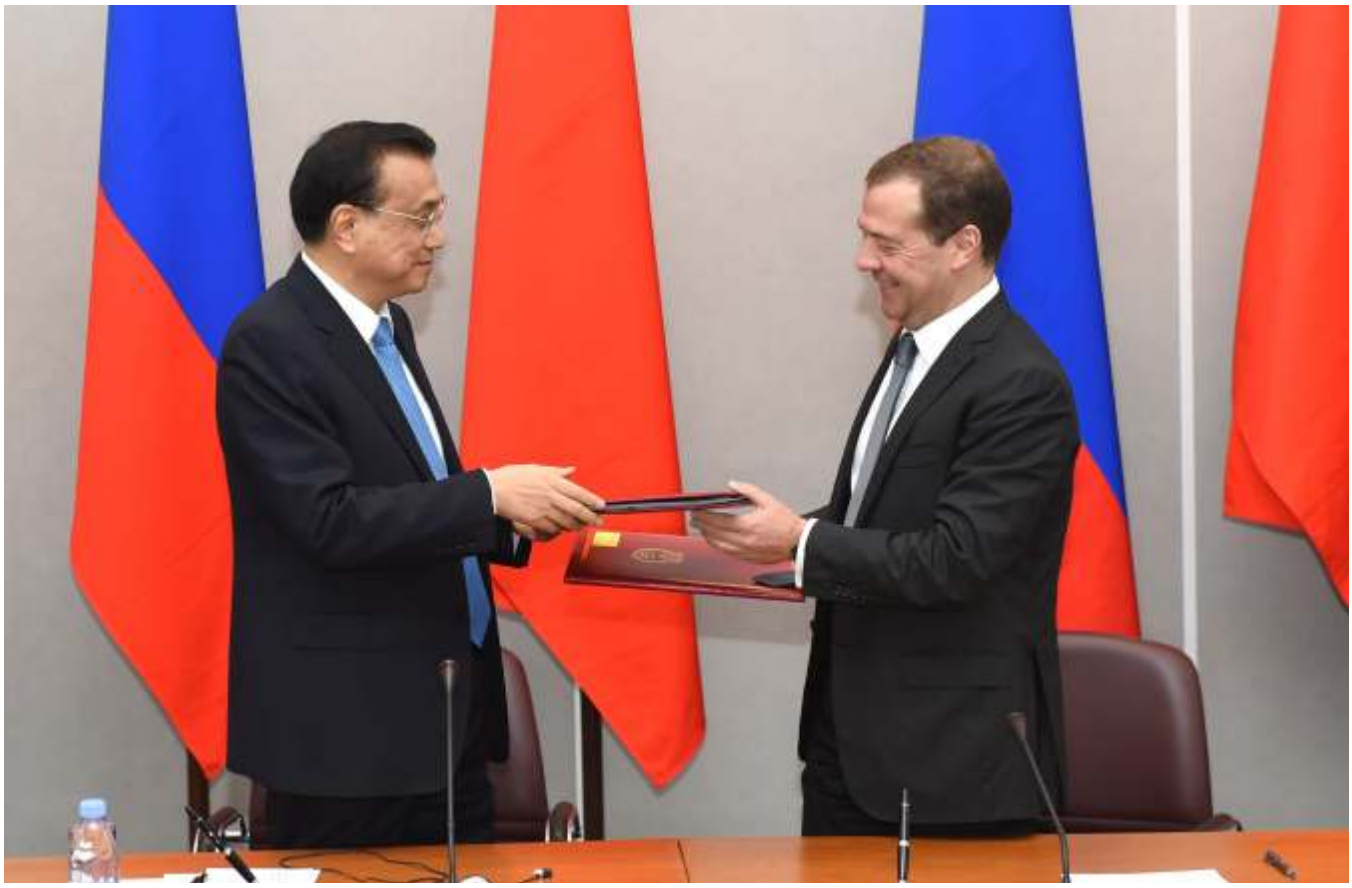
SPOTLIGHT: CHINA-RUSSIA COOPERATION BLOSSOMS IN ST. PETERSBURG

St. Petersburg, Nov. 6 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang Sunday arrived for a visit in the Russian city of St. Petersburg, which has witnessed more and more joint economic and cultural projects between the two countries as they are deepening cooperation in various fields.

In 2005, the 1.3 billion-U.S. dollar Pearl of the Baltic Sea project was launched in St. Petersburg's southwest Krasnoselsky district.

Shanghai Industrial Investment Co., Ltd. and seven other Chinese companies participated in the project, which has become China's largest non-energy investment project in Russia.

The Pearl of the Baltic Sea is a modern multi-functional residential







and commercial zone, with a total construction area of 1.94 million square meters.

More than 10 years later, the Pearl of the Baltic Sea has become a well-known local brand. At the project's 10-year anniversary ceremony, St. Petersburg Governor Georgy Poltavchenko said the Pearl of the Baltic Sea had broken local stereotypes of residential districts by creating an environment comfortable for living, work and leisure.

In 2015, China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) completed a 13.8 million-cubic meter dredging operation project in the Bronka port in St. Petersburg. The cost of the work was approximately 110 million dollars.

This is not only the first dredging project in Europe undertaken by China, but also an important part of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

The Belt and Road Initiative comprises the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and aspires to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient Silk Road routes.

In order to ensure the completion of the project, the CCCC gathered eight dredgers from five countries in the Bronka port. The CCCC managed to finish the dredging operation ahead of schedule, and the quality of work was highly estimated by Russia.

On July 3, 2016, Beijing Jiaotong University, in collaboration with St. Petersburg State Transport University and Moscow State University of Railway Engineering, created the China-Russia High-Speed Rail Research Center headquartered in St. Petersburg.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong said the center would accumulate knowledge from higher education and research institutions, well-known enterprises and experts from the two countries.

The center will focus on key issues of high-speed rail development, and develop the sharing of research results and joint training, she said, adding that it will also provide technical and intellectual support to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

On the same day, Beijing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine established the first legally recognized Chinese Medicine Center in Russia — also in St. Petersburg. It has already become very popular among local residents.

Cultural exchanges are also successful: Peking Opera and theatrical performances can be seen in the most famous theaters of St. Petersburg, notably Mariinsky and Alexandrinsky, and they are praised by the Russian audience.

In exchange, Russian theaters have successfully staged ballet and drama performances in China. Yulia Mylnikova, the Russian side director of the Confucius Institute in St. Petersburg State University, has noted that cultural exchanges have developed in parallel with the deepening of bilateral relations and have a great potential for further growth.



Moreover, hundreds of thousands of Chinese tourists visit St. Petersburg every year.

If one walks across the streets in the city, it's easy to notice that more and more shops, restaurants and sightseeing attractions have identification signs in Chinese.



During this year's Spring Festival — the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday season, the city government in collaboration with the Consulate General of China in St. Petersburg organized a plenty of thematic events.

Guo Min, consul general of China in St. Petersburg, said this is the best period of time in the history of relations between China and Russia.

The cooperation between Russia's local authorities and the Chinese Consulate General is in practical demonstration of such a success, Guo said.

YANG JIECHI ATTENDS RECEPTION FOR THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESTORATION OF THE LAWFUL SEAT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND DELIVERS A SPEECH



On October 25, 2016, State Councilor Yang Jiechi attended the reception for the 45th anniversary of the restoration of the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations (UN) and delivered a speech.

Yang Jiechi noted that on this day 45 years ago, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 2758 and decided to restore the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China in the UN. This epoch-making event signifies a notable enhancement of the universality, representativeness and authority of the UN, a significant increase in forces for peace and development and a new stage of China's diplomatic engagement. For the last 45 years, China has always been a constructor of world peace, contributor of global development, maintainer of international order and supporter of UN causes. China will firmly stick to the path of peaceful development, common development, cooperative development and multilateralism and join efforts with the UN and all countries to advance the noble cause of peace and development of mankind. China expects the UN to continuously play an essential and leading role in maintaining world peace, promoting common development, improving global governance and other aspects.

The reception was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and chaired by Foreign Minister Wang Yi. More than 400 people attended the reception including comrades in charge of relevant ministries and commissions of the State Council, envoys from various countries to China and representatives of UN agencies in China.

CHINESE FM MEETS TURKISH PRESIDENT, PM ON COOPERATION



Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) shakes hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during their meeting in Ankara, capital of Turkey, on Nov. 14, 2016. (Xinhua/Turkish Presidential Office)

Ankara, Nov. 14 (Xinhua) — Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Binali Yildirim here on Monday.

Erdogan said that Turkey attaches great importance to China-Turkey relations and is willing to maintain high-level exchanges to address issues concerning partnership through strategic cooperation.

"I'm pleased to see the consensus reached between Chinese President Xi Jinping and me in our previous meetings being effectively implemented," he said.

He also agreed to align China's Belt and Road Initiative with Turkey's "Middle Corridor" project, push ahead with major cooperation projects such as high speed railway construction and strengthen bilateral cooperation in fields such as tourism, culture and education.

The two countries need to deepen cooperation in security and anti-terrorism and support each other in efforts of safeguarding national sovereignty, security and stability, the president added.

In his meeting with Wang, Yildirim said that frequent high-level mutual visits have played a positive role in boosting bilateral relations between Turkey and China.

He expressed the hope that the two countries could bring their respective potential into full play through joint efforts to step up economic and trade cooperation and

accelerate strategic alignment.

The prime minister also pointed out the importance of building high-speed railways as a new Silk Road to promote China-Turkey friendship in the new era.

For his part, Wang said the visit is intended to implement the important consensus reached between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Turkish President Recep Erdogan, launching the mechanism for consultation between the Chinese and Turkish foreign ministers.

The Chinese side attaches great importance to China-Turkey relations and is willing to keep high level dialogues and strategic communication, Wang added.

He also expressed the hope that the two countries could uphold the spirit of the ancient Silk Road and make joint efforts to build the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, in order to make new contributions to promoting national development, revitalizing Eurasia and advancing human civilization.

The two sides should also deepen cooperation in security and anti-terrorism and enhance mutual strategic trust to pave the way for all-round cooperation between the two countries, Wang said.

Wang arrived in Ankara on Sunday at the invitation of his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu.

Belt and Road Initiative

SPOTLIGHT: BELT AND ROAD, A PROMISING INITIATIVE AIMED AT COMMON PROSPERITY



Beijing, Oct. 8 (Xinhua) — The Belt and Road Initiative unveiled three years ago has already delivered tangible results, contributing to global economic recovery and creating momentum for long-term global economic growth.

Proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, the initiative refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt that links China with Europe through Central and Western Asia by inland routes, and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road connecting China with Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe by sea.

The initiative offers both a long-term development vision and real benefits in the near future.

ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

Construction of the very first highway in Mongolia, a landmark project in the country under the Belt and Road Initiative, has been under way since May 2016.

The highway, linking the capital city, Ulan Bator, and the new international airport in Khushigt Valley, Tuv Province, has been hailed by then Mongolian Prime Minister Chimed Saikhanbileg as "a new milestone" in the history of infrastructure in Mongolia.

As a landlocked country, Mongolia shares borders with only two countries: China and Russia. Its ambitious Steppe Road plan, an infrastructure construction proposal to spur economic growth through cross-border transportation, is highly consistent with the Belt and Road Initiative, especially the construction of the China-Mongolia-Russia economic corridor.

The corridor is one of the six major international economic cooperation corridors under the Belt and Road Initiative.

In July 2015, China, Mongolia and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding on the construction of the economic corridor covering their countries.

In September 2016, Beijing released an outline of the plan for the corridor, marking the official implementation of the first outline of the multilateral cooperation plan.

While in Pakistan, infrastructure development is progressing rapidly thanks to the construction of the China-Pakistan economic corridor.

In April 2016, the reconstruction and upgrade work on the Pakistani section of the Karakoram Highway officially started. In May, construction of the Peshawar-Karachi Expressway (Sukkar-Multan section), the biggest transport infrastructure project under the China-Pakistan economic corridor, was officially launched. Meanwhile, a 64 km stretch of the M4 highway connecting Shorkot to Khanewal in Pakistan's Punjab province broke ground in August. It is Pakistan's first highway project financed by the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

The China-Pakistan economic corridor is regarded as the first chapter of the Belt and Road symphony. With the economic





corridor at the center and the Gwadar Port, transport infrastructure, energy and industrial cooperation being the four key areas, a "1+4" cooperation structure is gradually taking shape.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said on many occasions that the China-Pakistan economic corridor is a boon to the whole region and it will bring tangible benefits to the 3 billion people in China, Central Asia, South Asia and the Middle East.

MARITIME SILK ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Marking a milestone agreement for China-Greece collaboration, China's Cosco Shipping on Aug. 10 acquired a majority stake in Piraeus Port Authority through the Athens Stock Exchange.

The port is now ranked 39th globally up from 93rd in 2010 in terms of container capacity, and it can be considered a rising star partly due to its convenient geographic location, thanks to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Piraeus is expected to operate as a hub in Europe for the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, and to connect the Silk Road Economic Belt with the China-Europe Land-Sea Express Line, boosting economic growth in regions that the initiative covers.

Broad achievements have been scored since the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road was proposed by Xi three years ago.

In September, the 13th China-ASEAN Expo was held in China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The expo, with an aim to promote the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and forge a closer China-ASEAN community of common destiny, attracted more than 2,600 companies from 29 countries.

China and ASEAN mark the 25th anniversary of their dialogue relations in 2016. Trade between China and ASEAN rose to 472 billion U.S. dollars in 2015 from less than 8 billion dollars in 1991, with an annual growth rate of 18.5 percent.

By the end of May 2016, two-way investment had exceeded 160 billion dollars. Currently, China is ASEAN's largest trading partner, while ASEAN is the third-largest trading partner of China.

So far, more than 300 China-funded enterprises have been set up in 26 economic cooperation zones in eight ASEAN countries, investing a total of 1.77 billion dollars.

Abhisit Vejjajiva, a former prime minister of Thailand, has said that the Belt and Road Initiative would enhance people-to-people exchanges in countries along the route of the program, and it would also create vital opportunities for Thailand and other nations.

CHINA-EUROPE RAILWAY TO DRIVE CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE



Fifteen days after departing southwest China's Chongqing Municipality on Sept. 29, 139 parcels arrived in a processing center in Frankfurt for delivery to people across Germany.

The packages include storage boxes, stuffed toys and Chongqing local specialties. For safety reasons, they were sent from person to person, rather than as commercial goods bought online.

Though the parcels were few in number, their delivery marked the successful test of mail delivery via the China-Europe railway system. Cross-border e-commerce platforms such as DHGate.com have been notified to prepare for another test, during which their products will be sold and shipped to Russia and Germany via the railway.

UNSTOPPABLE TREND

The past few years have seen burgeoning sales in cross-border online shopping, but traditional sea and air postal routes have hampered its expansion.

China's total transaction volume in cross-border e-commerce reached 5.4 trillion yuan (810 billion U.S. dollars) in 2015, up 28.6 percent year on year, said a report issued by China e-Business Research Center.

Global trade growth has been slower than economic growth for four years, but cross-border e-commerce has grown quickly because it has reduced trade costs and streamlined the international trade chain, said Lu Pengqi, deputy head with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade at the 19th China International Fair for Investment and Trade in September.



According to the municipal railway authority, a parcel sent from Chongqing will arrive in Germany at least 20 days faster via China-Europe regular trains than by sea. The cost is just one-fifth of that by air, making the train highly cost-effective.

However, a 1956 convention passed by members of the Organization for Co-operation between Railways (OSJD), prohibited mail delivery through international railway cargo transport. In early June 2014, the OSJD finally deleted the related clause.

When the clause was eliminated, OSJD member states began coordinating for regular railway mail service. During a postal service forum this April in Chongqing, a declaration was made to guarantee international cooperation in mail service via the China-Europe railway and to provide road routes compatible with cross-border e-commerce.

WHY CHONGQING?

Following the declaration, Chongqing became China's first pilot city approved by the General Administration of Customs to run China-Europe railway mail service in May. The Chongqing-Xinjiang-Europe regular cargo trains were later assigned to carry out the service.

Chongqing is located at the intersection of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Yangtze River Economic Zone, two initiatives put forward by the Chinese government to boost infrastructure construction and the regional economy.

According to an official with the Chongqing Customs, as one of the earliest and most mature China-Europe railway systems, the Chongqing-Xinjiang-Europe railway transports nearly 50 percent of freight from China to Europe every year.

The import-export volume of cross-border e-commerce in the city exceeded 6 billion yuan last year, up from 60 million yuan two years ago.

The test run also highlighted innovation in management. Improved "smart" customs locks were used for monitoring parcels and facilitating clearance at departure, the transfer depot and exit. It was the first time the Chinese customs officials and postal service shared data.

The China-Europe railway mail service has adopted electronic customs clearance, rather than manual, allowing the parcels to remain unopened and stay on the same train for the entire trip.

HUGE POTENTIAL

"An unsound logistics system is the biggest barrier for the development of cross-border e-commerce," said Li Wen, general manager of a local cross-border e-commerce company. "But the China-Europe railway has the advantages of fixed operation times, fewer prohibited goods for transportation, and it is not affected by weather, which helps break the bottleneck in logistics."

There were 1,881 China-Europe cargo trains in service as of the end of June, but most China-Europe trains have long been underutilized, according to Yang Liqiong, deputy director of Chongqing Municipal Commission of Economy and Information Technology.

"International postal parcels have great potential to become a major cargo supply for the rail system," Yang said.

It is estimated that there will be around 5,000 cargo trains running between China and Europe annually by 2020, according to a development plan issued by the National Development and Reform Commission last week.

The development plan shows that the cargo train service system will consist of three routes — an east route, a central route and a west route. The routes will not only connect China with Europe, but also with East Asia and Southeast Asia. Some 43 transport hubs will be created along the three routes and 43 railway lines will be built.

"The realization of China-Europe rail postal service means a step further in economic and cultural communication between China and Belt and Road countries," said Li Muyuan from China Communications and Transportation Association.

The postal service accords with the spirit of the Belt and Road Initiative and will promote in-depth exchanges between China's inland regions and Eurasian countries, Li said.

FEATURE: CHINA'S METRO TECH TAKES IRAN ONTO FASTER TRACK



Tehran, Sept. 6 (Xinhua) — Busy wiring a semi-manufactured metro car, Siamak Ghasemi was too concentrated to notice that he was being photographed.

When realizing that half a minute later, the 36-year-old gave a bashful smile. "Please, let me tidy my coverall first."

"I first put on this coverall 10 years ago," said the young "veteran" worker of a Tehran-based factory under Tehran Wagon Manufacturing Co. (TWM), a joint venture between Iran and China's CNR Changchun Railway Vehicles Co. and NORINCO International Cooperation Co..

"China is cutting-edge in the development of subway and railway transportation. It always has great things to share with Iran," said Ghasemi, who was sent to China twice for training in 2007 and 2010.

"At the very beginning, we imported from China; then we learned to assemble; now, with China's help, things are getting more localized that we have our own production line," he told Xinhua.

Set up in 2003, the factory, now with some 960 Iranian workers and a Chinese team of about 30 people, can assemble 450 metro cars and 72 double-deck cars for intercity trains, and manufacture on its own 144 units of metro car-bodies, annually. The products are supplied to Tehran and other Iranian cities like Mashhad, Tabriz, Isfahan and Shiraz.

Metros are changing the daily life of Iranians. The Tehran Metro, for instance, carries some 4 to 5 million passengers per day. Five lines, all built by Chinese companies, are in service in the capital, and two more are under construction.

Roads in Tehran are usually fully jammed, largely as a result of the oil price being as low as some 0.4 U.S. dollars per liter and the common use of cheap second-hand cars.

"More and more people prefer to travel green now," Sadat Kharaj spoke to Xinhua while waiting at Chitgar, a station on Line 5's extension in western Tehran.

"I used to drive to work. That cost no less than one hour. But subway takes about half the time, and intervals are no more than 10 minutes," said the 40-year-old English teacher. "But still, I think we need more lines, more frequent trains and more metro cars."

Davood Shadmani, head of the TWM factory, is completely aware of such a demand.

"Iran has gained a lot from its Chinese partners. And the road ahead is clear: we hope more cooperation can be carried out as for the latest metro and railroad technologies that China masters," said Shadmani.



FEATURE: CHINESE E-COMMERCE SERVICES BRING WEALTH, OPPORTUNITIES TO "BELT-ROAD" COUNTRIES



Almaty, Aug. 15 (Xinhua) — Chinese e-commerce services has brought more wealth and opportunities to Kazakhstan and other countries encompassed in China's Belt and Road Initiative.

AliExpress, the global shopping portal of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, is becoming a new favorite among Kazakhstan's young generation between the age of 25 and 30.

TAKE FANCY TO ALIEXPRESS

Young people in Kazakhstan take a fancy to shopping on AliExpress, an online retail service made up of mostly small Chinese businesses offering products to international online buyers.

Mitet Zhumabaev, a citizen from Kazakhstan's largest city Almaty, told Xinhua that he got to know AliExpress by chance and found that millions of Chinese products were sold on the online shopping site. He frequently visits the website, saying that it's very easy and safe to use, and that he would buy products with good consumer reviews.

"AliExpress provides an excellent buying experience," Zhumabaev said, adding that the average delivery time for free shipping usually takes one or one and a half months, while express shipping normally takes less than two weeks.

Kazakhstan, which relied heavily on its energy and resources industries, has a less developed light industry and mainly depends on

imports to meet the needs for daily necessities.

However, thanks to cross-border e-commerce services, the Kazakh people can now purchase Chinese products with good quality and at an inexpensive price without leaving home.

AliExpress Country Station Director Liu Wei told Xinhua that AliExpress promoted its brands overseas mainly by word of mouth, and that it is a leading e-commerce website in Russia, Spain and Israel which enjoys great popularity.

AliExpress has become one of the top ranking online trading platforms in Kazakhstan, with clothes, home appliances and digital products being the favorites of local consumers, according to Alexa, a commercial web traffic data provider wholly owned by Amazon.com.

JOIN HANDS WITH CHINESE E-COMMERCE

The Belt and Road initiative, which comprises the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, was brought up by China in 2013. The initiative envisions a trade and infrastructure network that connects Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient Silk Road routes.

Over 70 countries and organizations have voiced support for and willingness to join the initiative.

In May, Kazakhstan's national sovereign wealth fund Samruk-Kazyna led the Kazakh telecom and post companies to sign a memorandum of understanding with Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba to promote cooperation in e-commerce, payment and logistics.

The central Eurasian country, which borders with China in the southeast and with Russia in the north, marks the start of the Silk Road Economic Belt outside China. Kazakhstan is trying to improve its infrastructure in order to become a transit hub that connects China and Europe, increase the efficiency of freight railroads and promote trade growth.

"Alibaba is optimistic about the outlook of Kazakhstan's potential in cross-border transportation and logistics," said Liu.

The "Khorgos - Eastern Gates" special economic zone, located near the border of China and Kazakhstan, is a logistics center built by the Kazakh government.

Hicham Belmaachi, Chief Operating Officer of the management company of the special economic zone, told Xinhua in an interview that the convenience of international trade will be augmented immensely if land ports in the special economic zone could forge closer cooperation with e-commerce platforms like Alibaba.

It takes only 15 days to send goods via land transportation from Khorgos to Europe, whereas traditional waterway shipping would take as long as 40 days.

Unlike other land ports, the land port in the Khorgos-Eastern Gates special economic zone is of a huge container yard, where products are gathered, classified and shipped to various Eurasian destinations, thus meeting the goal of faster speed and lower cost, according to Belmaachi.

Last year, the volume of freight traffic through Kazakhstan surged over the previous year. According to planning by Kazakh government, the volume of freight traffic processed through the Khorgos-Eastern Gates special economic zone will exceeds 4 million tons in 2020.

Belmaachi believes that the main challenge of trade inter-connectivity lies in ideology, technology and intergovernmental cooperation.

People need time to accept new stuff and new ideas, Belmaachi said. China's Belt and Road Initiative creates fresh opportunities of regional trade cooperation. "We look forward to cooperation with Chinese ports and e-commerce companies," he added.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH EWTP

In a recent Business 20 (B20) meeting, business leaders from the Group of 20 (G20) members completed a report on policy advice and will submit it to the upcoming G20 summit.

Among many suggestions proposed in the report, B20 leaders put forward the idea of electronic world trade platform (eWTP), a mechanism for public-private dialogue in cross-border e-trade development.

The new mechanism will improve the current trade framework and help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), developing countries, women and the young generation participate in the global economy, said Alibaba founder Jack Ma, chair of B20 SME

development taskforce.

Ma said that if the Belt and Road Initiative can facilitate free trade for these people, it will bring profound changes to the world economy.

The initiative represents China's responsibility as a big power and the second largest economy, Ma said, adding that it will not only bring new opportunities to SMEs, but will also enlarge the size of the middle class, and promote social stability and economic development.

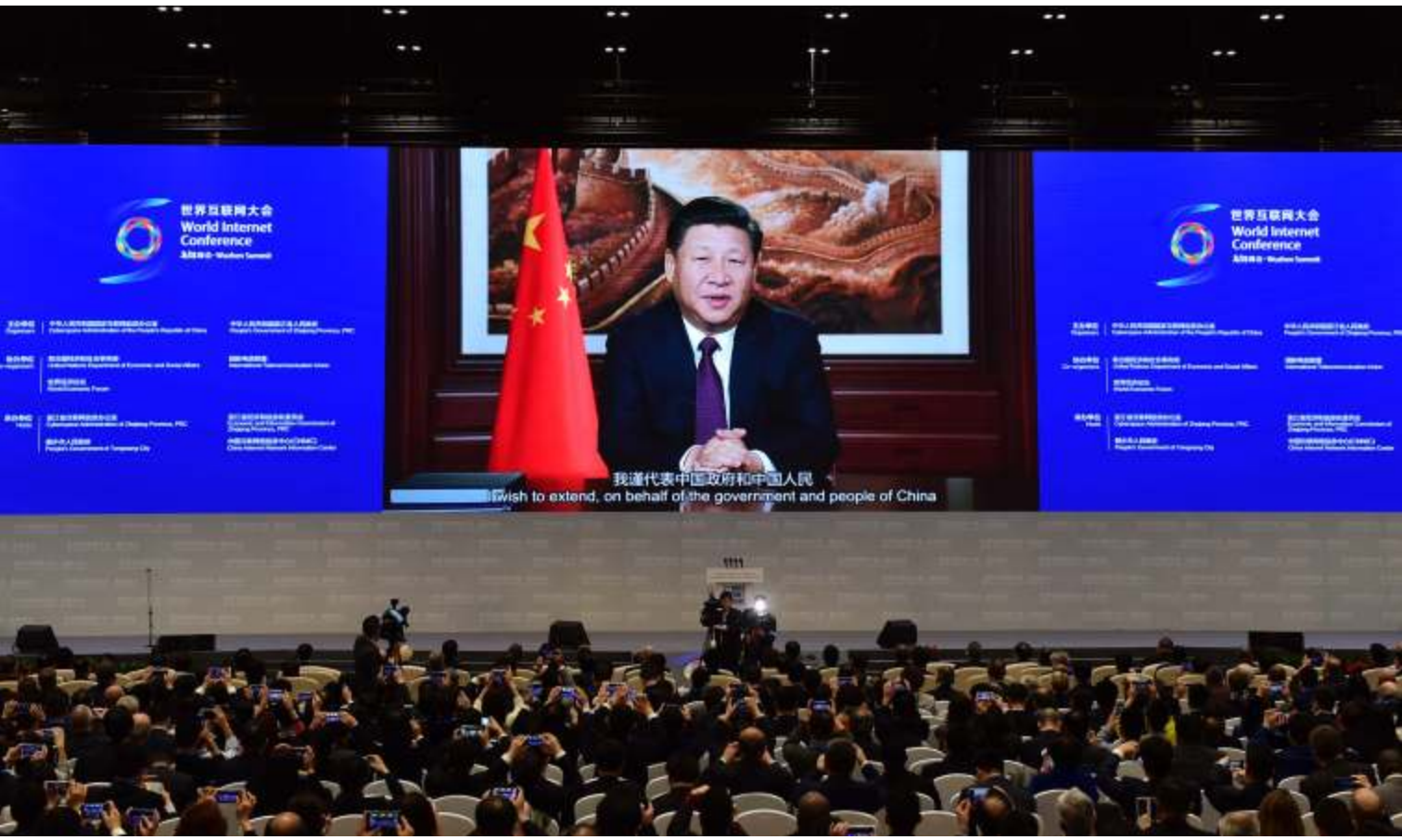
However, against the backdrop of a global economic slowdown and rising protectionism, the main challenge to implement the eWTP lies in the coordination of efforts by different countries.

Based on the operation and practice of AliExpress, Liu pointed out, the level of each country's cross-border logistics varies greatly, and depends mainly on the country's infrastructure and government support.

It's not easy to promote our business overseas, Liu said. But the "Belt-Road" countries are more likely to support our business, especially in areas of promoting logistics infrastructure and import policies optimization.

E-Commerce in China

THE THIRD WORLD INTERNET CONFERENCE HELD



Chinese President Xi Jinping gives a speech via video at the opening ceremony of the third World Internet Conference (WIC) in Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang Province, November 16, 2016 (XINHUA)

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for increased international cooperation in cyberspace governance and the building of a cyberspace community of common destiny.

Noting that Internet development has no boundaries, Xi said China is willing to work with the international community for the common welfare for all people, to uphold the concept of cyberspace sovereignty and to make the global cyberspace governance system fairer and more reasonable.

Xi made the remarks while giving a speech via video at the opening ceremony of the third World Internet Conference (WIC) in the riverside town of Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang Province.

Liu Yunshan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, attended the opening ceremony of the WIC and delivered a speech.

The Internet is changing the global economic and security situation, so that building a cyberspace community of common destiny is a pressing demand in an information-led world, Liu said.

China is willing to strengthen policy coordination and cooperation with other countries, Liu said, calling for the improving of cyberspace governance rules, respecting cyberspace sovereignty and safeguarding all countries' equal rights in developing, joining and governing cyberspace.

Liu also called for the building of a multilateral and transparent global Internet governance system, cooperation in Internet innovation, and network popularization, in a bid to make the Internet benefit all peoples of the world.

Cooperation should be strengthened in coping with cyberspace security challenges, in a bid to safeguard state security, public interests and citizens' legitimate rights, according to Liu.

Themed "Innovation-driven Internet Development for the Benefit of All¡ªBuilding a Community of Common Future in Cyberspace," the third WIC runs from November 16 to 18.

Over 1,600 Internet entrepreneurs, opinion leaders, experts, officials and heads from over 110 countries and regions as well as international organizations attended.



The 3rd World Internet Conference opens in Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang province, Nov 16, 2016.



SINGLES' DAY SALES BREAK RECORDS, AGAIN



Thirteen minutes after touching a screen, a buyer surnamed Huang in Foshan City, south China's Guangdong Province, received the juicer he ordered on China's largest e-commerce platform Alibaba, the first parcel delivered on the platform on this year's Singles' Day shopping spree.

Huang is one of the hundreds of thousands consumers staying up all night for online bargains on Singles' Day, China's annual online shopping fiesta.

As orders keep pouring in, sales on major e-commerce platforms across China quickly broke last year's records.

The first 10 billion yuan (1.47 billion U.S. dollars) was achieved in just six minutes 58 seconds on Alibaba, almost six minutes faster than last year. Just before 3:20 p.m., the number had surpassed 91.2 billion yuan, the whole-day sales volume for last year. At 6:55 p.m., the turnover expanded further to exceed 100 billion yuan.

By 8 p.m., flocks of customers had made 549 million orders on Alibaba's e-commerce platforms.

Other online platforms such as JD.com, Gome, and Suning.com all exceeded previous records in the first few hours.

Seen by many as China's answer to Black Friday in the United States, Singles' Day has grown into a huge battle for market share among Chinese e-commerce companies.

The born-in-China shopping spree has now spread its name worldwide, with Alipay, China's largest online payment platform, now available in over 200 countries and regions, supporting transactions in 18 currencies.

Hu Bingjie, 22, read the message, among many online queries, as it came in. "Can you speak English?"

A buyer in Thailand had ordered 25 items of children's clothing from Hu's store and was poised to pay a 355 yuan delivery fee, but wanted to pay cash on delivery instead.

"If you want direct delivery you have to pay in advance," Hu replied, using a translator.

While overseas consumers are getting more skilled at digging for bargains on Chinese websites, domestic shoppers enjoy a wider variety of foreign produce thanks to the publicity of Singles' Day in overseas media.

This year, JD has worked with global supermarket chain Walmart to offer Chinese buyers quality overseas products. It has also inked partnership with Japanese logistics firm Yamato to speed up cross-border delivery.

At this year's G20 meeting, Alibaba forged collaboration with



Canadian and Russian companies to expand its presence overseas. It also invested in Singapore Post to target consumers in Southeast Asia.

With easier access to overseas products, it is estimated that China's e-commerce market still has room to grow.

According to Internet industry research agency iResearch, China's online shopping market's sales volume was 1.1 trillion yuan in the second quarter, up 27.6 percent year on year. It is estimated the volume will exceed 1.5 trillion in the fourth quarter.

"E-commerce is leading the change in the global market," said Wang Jian, professor at the University of International Business and Economics. "The flow of global commodities through online purchases can help awaken the consumer market, which is good for the global retail industry."

The shopping spree sheds light on the huge purchasing power of Chinese consumers and the strong domestic demand leads to optimism over economic prospects, said Guo Tianyong, a professor with the Central University of Finance and Economics.

NUMBERS BEHIND CHINA'S SINGLES' DAY SHOPPING SPREE



Beijing, Nov. 12 (Xinhua) — Singles' Day, China's annual online shopping event on Nov. 11, smashed all previous records Friday as Chinese splurged across online market places.

Seen by many as China's version of Black Friday in the United States, Singles' Day has grown into a huge battle for market share among Chinese e-commerce companies.

Following are some of this year's figures:

— Orders worth 10 billion yuan (1.47 billion U.S. dollars) were placed in the first six minutes 58 seconds on Alibaba, China's e-commerce giant.

— China's 16 biggest e-commerce sites rang up 177 billion yuan in sales during the 24 hours, according to data provider Syntun.

— Alibaba was the largest winner, with a 68.2-percent market share, followed by JD.com and Suning.com.

— People from over 220 countries and regions worldwide bought items online, according to data from Alibaba.

— Some 82 percent of Singles' Day transactions took place on a mobile phone.

— Around 1.07 billion delivery orders were placed during the 24-hour period.

— More than 39,487 brands participated in this year's Singles' Day.

— Over 47 million customers bought products sold by international brands.



HIGH SPEED RAILWAY JOINS BATTLE TO DELIVER FOR SINGLES' DAY

Beijing, Nov. 11 (Xinhua) — High Speed Railway (HSR) trains are joining the battle to deliver goods for the Singles' Day (Nov. 11) shopping spree, in Beijing from Friday.

According to Beijing Railway Bureau (BRB), four daily trains will be running at 160 km per hour to carry goods from Beijing to Shanghai and Guangdong in the next 10 days, shortening each trip to 15 hours, including loading and unloading time.

"Each train has 15


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compartments, and can carry 340 tonnes of goods," said Zhang Jinchao, deputy director at the BRB logistics center. "A total of 1,837 tonnes of goods have been transported today, with one of the trains carrying goods sold on JD.com and delivered by SF express," Zhang said Friday.

According to BRB, the center expects to send around 13,500 tonnes of goods and receive 14,000 tonnes during the Nov. 11-20 period, both 80 percent increases compared with a year earlier.

HSR now covers over 500 cities in China, including major cities as well as counties in eastern and central China.

Since the first piece of HSR track was laid in the early 2000s, China's HSR network has seen average 30 percent annual growth in passenger trips, and the network exceeded 20,000 kilometers long as of September, according to China Railway Corp. The network is expected to reach 38,000 km by 2025.

Sales on Alibaba surpassed 10 billion yuan (about 1.47 billion U.S. dollars) in just six minutes 58 seconds after the Singles' Day began, almost six minutes ahead of last year, the company said.

According to China Express Association, over one billion packages are estimated to be transported for the Singles' Day shopping spree, double last year's figure.

Nearly 14 billion packages were delivered in China in 2014, exceeding the United States for the first time.

"People say that e-commerce in China is a miracle, but in my opinion, the fast development of express services in China is the real miracle," said Jack Ma, president of the nation's e-commerce giant Alibaba.

Online shoppers in China reached 447 million by June this year, according to a China Internet Network Information Center report.

"We are selling more goods and delivering them faster. Delivering goods was a headache during Singles' Day five years ago, but now shoppers can receive what they bought in two or three days," said Zhang Yong, Alibaba's CEO.

Cainiao, an express delivery platform using big data, has made it possible for goods to travel faster. Over 70 percent of packages in China use this platform.



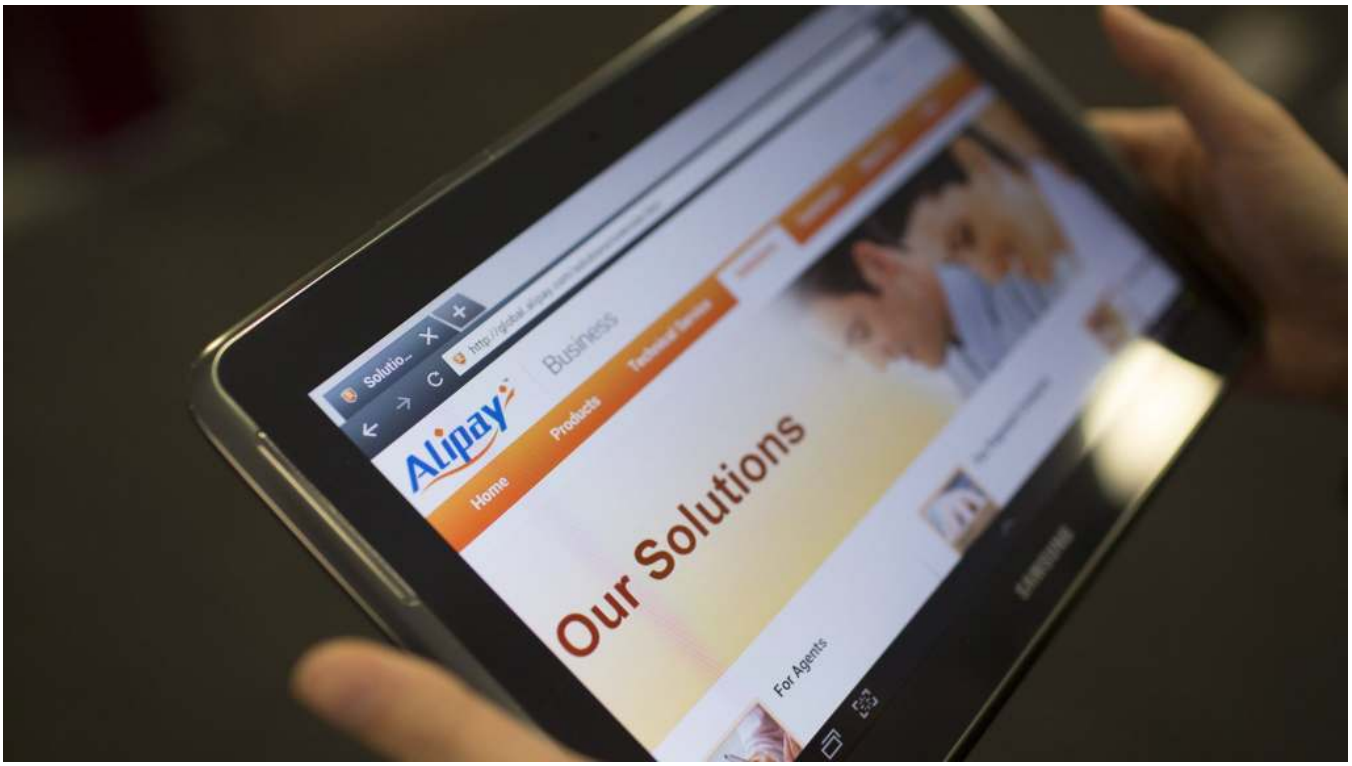
"If we don't try a new method and build a stronger logistics network, online retail will be hindered," said Tong Wenhong, Cainiao's CEO.

"Courier services have been renovating the delivery network. Cainiao uses big data to help courier companies optimize the process and improve delivery efficiency," added Tong.

Over 20 billion packages were delivered last year, using more than 2 million delivery staff. Aliresearch has predicted that the number of packages in China will reach 100 billion in the coming five to eight years.

Social logistics now accounts for nearly 11 trillion yuan (about 1.62 trillion U.S. dollars), accounting for 16 percent of GDP last year, according to the National Development and Reform Commission.

CHINA TOPS GLOBAL FINTECH RANKINGS



Alibaba's third-party payment platform Ant Financial tops the global ranking for the 100 best performing fintech companies, with micro-loan firm Qudian, wealth management company Lufax and insurance enterprise Zhong An entering the top five, according to a report by international accounting firm KPMG and investment firm H2 Ventures.

The firms are rated according to their capital raising volume and ratio, geographic and sector diversity, and consumer and marketplace traction.

"It is no surprise to see four Chinese companies in the top five. Fintech in China has seen rapid development, fuelled by the demand to address domestic needs," said James McKeogh, Partner with KPMG China. "It is likely that we will see more of these players move to the international markets in the future."

A total of eight Chinese fintech companies are on the list, a remarkable rise from just one company in the top 100 in the 2014 ranking.

"We have seen significant investment in China's fintech sector in recent years, and an increasing appetite for innovative products, supported by the rapid pace of technology development," according to Raymond Cheong,

another KPMG China Partner.

China pledged in October to improve supervision in online finance, including peer-to-peer platforms, to contain risks, improve competitiveness and increase risk awareness.

Companies related to lending and insurance are gaining larger share in the full Fintech 100 list, while the creation of value in new sub-sectors such as regulatory technology as well as data and analytics make the fintech sector more diverse, according to the report.



E-COMMERCE IN CHINA HEADING IN NEW DIRECTION



Beijing, Nov. 11 (Xinhua) — After eight years of wild growth, China's e-commerce industry is seeking new ways to prosper.

The Singles' Day online shopping bonanza, which happens in China on November 11 every year, showcases the rise of online retailing platforms such as Vipshop, JD and Alibaba.

While turnover of domestic e-commerce companies ballooned from 52 million yuan (7.6 million U.S. dollars) in 2009 to 91.2 billion yuan in 2015, traditional "bricks and mortar" retailers are losing ground.

British retailing giant Marks & Spencer announced on Wednesday that it will shut its 10 stores on the Chinese mainland and lay off more than 400 workers, the latest in a growing list of major western retailers such as Best Buy and Tesco to pull out of a difficult market.

Though e-commerce has seen explosive growth over the past eight years, widespread fraud now haunts online retailers that fail to take appropriate measures.

Just before Singles' Day, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce held talks with the country's 15 leading e-commerce companies, telling them that price fraud, false advertising, unfair competition, sales of fake and shoddy goods, as well as scalping were strictly prohibited.

Even for sales-record holder Alibaba, Singles' Day is a double-edged sword. The company's earnings and share price usually slump in the first quarter of the year after climbing to giddy half-year or full-year highs in November.

"E-Commerce should not develop like a campaign because the economy needs steady growth," said Zhang Li, an e-commerce expert with the Ministry of Commerce.

Zhang noted that generally speaking, e-commerce has a positive impact on the real economy and national economic development. "If it brings a negative impact, the investment-driven business mode should be blamed," she said.

Set to tap the country's growing e-commerce industry, a huge amount of capital has flooded into the sector, but the pace of consumption growth has failed to match the rapid expansion of online platforms. That has led to price wars between e-commerce companies, which have hurt traditional retailers.

A hopeful sign is that many e-commerce companies are reflecting on issues such as how to integrate online and offline marketing and the influence of Singles' Day on inventories.

Meanwhile, e-commerce has become rational and moved to abandon price wars, highlighting new trends such as respect for individuality, global connectivity and increased consumption. In addition, the Internet economy has given birth to intelligent logistics and cloud-based infrastructure.

Law-making for the e-commerce sector is also quickly developing. Insiders say that a draft law has been submitted to the country's top legislature and is expected to clear its first hurdle within the year.

"E-commerce can create value through services," Zhang said.

Alibaba's online marketplace Tmall launched Buy +, the world's first virtual reality (VR) shopping store Friday.

Buy + allows customers to shop and experience far away places with nothing more than a smart device, according to Alibaba. For example, shoppers can enjoy the Rainbow Bridge in Tokyo's Odaiba, or tour Times Square in New York in a 1965 vintage car, all while browsing the online marketplace on their cellphones.

Culture & Life

NEW HEAVY-LIFT CARRIER ROCKET BOOSTS CHINA'S SPACE DREAM

China on Thursday launched its new heavy-lift carrier rocket Long March-5.

The rocket, which looked much "fatter" than other rockets of Long March series, blasted off at 8:43 p.m. Beijing Time from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in south China's Hainan Province. The payload was sent into the preset orbit about 30 minutes later.

The State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND) later announced the complete success of the launch.

The launch was delayed for less than two hours from the previously scheduled time. Tian Yulong, chief engineer of the SASTIND, told Xinhua that as it was the first launch of Long March-5 in a new launch site, many parameters needed to be debugged and various systems needed to be matched with each other.

"It was normal preparation work to ensure a successful first launch," Tian said, adding that it caught up with the launch window.

The major targets of the mission are to verify the design and performance of the new rocket and test the rocket's flight program, according to China Aerospace Science and Technology



Corporation (CASC), the developer of Long March-5.

A congratulatory letter sent late Thursday night by the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the State Council and the Central Military Commission hailed the new rocket as the pinnacle of innovation in carrier rocket science and technology.

Its successful launch has propelled China to the forefront of the world in terms of rocket carrying capacity, and marks a milestone in China's transition from a major player in space to a major power in space, the letter said.

The Long March-5 is a large, two-stage rocket with a payload capacity of 25 tonnes to low-Earth orbit and 14 tonnes to geostationary transfer orbit, the largest of China's carrier rockets. Its carrying capacity is about 2.5 times that of the current main model Long March carrier rockets.

According to the CASC, the rocket uses two kinds of fuel, kerosene/liquid oxygen as well as liquid hydrogen/liquid oxygen, rather than highly toxic propellant, making it more environmental friendly and less expensive.

The rocket is about 57 meters long, with a takeoff weight of 870 tonnes and a thrust of 1,060 tonnes. It is equipped with eight liquid oxygen/kerosene rocket engines in four strap-on boosters, two liquid hydrogen/liquid oxygen engines in the first stage and two relatively small liquid hydrogen/liquid oxygen engines in the second stage.

Li Dong, designer-in-chief, said the rocket was the most complicated of the Long March series with over 100,000 components instead of tens of thousands of components in other Long March rockets. Scientists conducted over 7,000 tests during its 10 years of development.

With a 5-meter diameter core stage, Long March-5 is much thicker than China's previous carrier rockets with 3.35-meter diameter core stages.

Other launch sites in China are located in inland areas. Accordingly, transportation of rockets rely on railways, so that rockets cannot be too wide.

The heavy-lift rocket launched Thursday was taken to coastal Wenchang from the northern port city of Tianjin by ship in early September.

"It is not just a simple enlargement of the diameter, it raised new requirements of materials, manufacturing and equipment," said Lou Luliang, deputy designer-in-chief.

Lou said the new technology in Long March-5 would be used in other Long March series rockets in a bid to upgrade all rockets.

The heavy-lift rocket is a milestone for China to become a real space power in the world, said Li Dong.

Experts said the Long March-5 will also lay the foundation for future rockets with heavier payload capabilities.

The new rocket is of great significance as China's space program relies on the carrying capabilities of launch vehicle systems.

With the heavy-lift carrier rocket, China can build a permanent manned space station and explore the moon and Mars.

In 2017, China will launch the Chang'e-5 probe to the moon, which will bring lunar samples back to Earth aborad the Long March-5. The 20-tonne core module of its first space station will also be delivered by the rocket in 2018.

The rocket will launch the Mars probe around 2021.

It is the second launch from the coastal Wenchang center. On June 25, China's new generation medium-sized Long March-7 made its debut at the site.

On Sept. 15 China sent Tiangong-2 space lab into orbit, making a step closer to the dream of building the country's permanent space station.

On Oct. 17, the Shenzhou-11 spacecraft carried two Chinese astronauts to space. Two days later it docked with Tiangong-2.

The two astronauts will spend a month in the space lab and return to Earth, making it the longest-ever manned space mission of China.

Tian Yulong said at a press conference after the launch on Thursday that China is now developing a mega rocket with the capacity of sending up to 100 tonnes of payload to low-Earth orbit.

The mega rocket will probably make its maiden flight before 2030, Tian added.

OVERSEAS DESTINATIONS INCREASINGLY CATER TO CHINESE TOURISTS



Ibiza, an island off the east coast of Spain, welcomed 150 Chinese tourists this year, a rare scene for locals.

Encouraged by their arrival, Gloria Corral Joven, head of the local tourism bureau, led a team to Shanghai in mid-November to promote Ibiza as a destination to Chinese tourists.

"We're building a Chinese website, which will be open for the public early next year," Joven said.

Ibiza is one of 18 exhibitors from Spain, an emerging destination for Chinese tourists, to attend the Shanghai International Tourism Fair, which has just finished.

The fair attracts over 2,500 exhibitors from 106 countries and regions, and is one of the largest tourist events hosted in Asia.

"China is a very important market for Spain," Rafael Chamorro, an official from the Spain National Administration of Tourism, told Xinhua. "Our research shows that Chinese young people prefer customized, personalized travel routes, and we are designing such packages to cater to their needs."

Not only fledgling markets like Spain, but long-prevalent destinations such as New York are also working hard to attract Chinese tourists.

"See Your City," a campaign launched at the fair by NYC & Company, New York City's official



marketing organization, encourages visitors to visit scenic spots such as the Statue of Liberty and Fifth Avenue to create their own magical moments in the city.

Chinese tourist more than tripled in New York from 2010 to 2015, and the city is hoping to bring new incentives to draw more Chinese visitors.

"China has become the second largest overseas market for New York tourism. We hope to attract more Chinese by partnering with Shanghai as we celebrate the 'China-US Tourism Year' this year," said Fred Dixon, head of NYC & Company.

A SLICE OF THE TOURIST PIE

About 128 million Chinese flocked overseas last year, almost ten times the figure in 2001, according to a report by the Wuhan Branch of the China Tourism Academy.

The report showed that Chinese consumers spent a whopping 292.2 billion U.S. dollars overseas, about 23.2 percent of the world's outbound consumption in 2015.

This makes China a huge chunk of the global tourist pie.

Unlike the good old days when going abroad was simply a matter of collecting postcards from around the world, Chinese travelers are getting pickier when it comes to traveling and want more authentic experiences.

Slower, deeper experiences of local communities are becoming more appealing to young people, and sites with long histories also popular.

This is exactly how Ibiza is courting Chinese tourists.

Four of Ibiza's historical sites have UNESCO's World Heritage status, Joven said, adding that she believes such titles will attract more Chinese tourists in the future.

DIVERSIFIED NEEDS DISPLAYED

Better quality services are also being presented to attract Chinese tourists.

A report from Ctrip, a major travel service provider, revealed that the rise in disposable income of middle class families, increased air-travel capacity, and the loosening of visa requirements had further boosted growth in outbound tourism.

Safety, service and price are the three issues Chinese tourists care about most, the report said.

"Language is the biggest obstacle for Chinese visiting Spain, so we are working with China's Tencent at this year's fair to develop a translation app," Chamorro said.

To satisfy diversified travel needs, packages tailor-made for Chinese travelers were displayed at the fair, which ran from November 11 to 13.

For the upcoming Christmas and New Year season, Resorts World Sentosa (RSW), a popular Singaporean resort, offers four packages - including one that offers fine dining at RWS' multiple Michelin restaurants - for Chinese travelers that love fine food.

This comes after an official report on the Chinese tourism market from the Singapore Tourism Board highlighted food as a major factor for Chinese tourists.



RWS has even staged a Chinese-language musical adapted from the story of Mulan, a famous female warrior in ancient China.

As outbound travel has become increasingly popular among Chinese, China has become the market that the world's tourist industry dare not lose.

"China has been one of the most important markets for RWS, and we will continue to develop new premium products and offerings as well as explore more cross-border collaborations to present cutting-edge, world-class Mandarin entertainment for Chinese tourists," said Khoo Shao Tze, vice president for resort sales and entertainment at RWS.



SHANGHAI OFFERS FOREIGNERS EASIER ACCESS TO WORK PERMITS



Shanghai on Wednesday issued its first work permit since the city initiated a pilot program to simplify applications for work permit for foreigners.

Joaquim Nassar, the French dean of SJTU-ParisTech Elite Institute of Technology at Shanghai Jiaotong University, was the first recipient of the new work permit.

"The application process is very smooth, free of surprises," he said.

He said the application process went exactly as stated.

Wang Haiyan, section chief with the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Foreign Expert Affairs, said the new application process had cut the application formalities in half. Shanghai hopes the new process will help attract more top talent.

Shanghai was among the first group of Chinese cities to pilot the new process, on November 1. The program unifies the previous two permits, one for "foreign employees" and another for "foreign experts," into one single "foreigners' work permit."

For foreigners like Nassar, who is considered a top talent, can enjoy a "green path," which exempts the formalities of certain checks, such as a criminal record, job qualification and degree certificates. They also only have to wait five days to get a permit, compared with an average

of 10 days for others.

The pilot was first announced by the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs in early September, covering Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanghai, Anhui, Shandong, Guangdong, Sichuan and Ningxia, from October 2016 to March 2017.

The practice will be applied nationwide in April 2017.



ROBOTICS INDUSTRY BOOMS IN CHINA

"Please do not stand too close or my pretty face will be too big in your photos," Jia Jia told her "fans" at the 2016 World Robot Conference in Beijing.

Jia Jia is a typical oriental beauty with shiny hair, bright skin, a slender figure and a tender voice. More importantly, as China's latest interactive robot, she is considerate and humorous.

Aside from Jia Jia, many other robots have delighted the audience during the five-day robot conference that closed this week, such as humanoid robots that can read emotions or write traditional Chinese calligraphy, and robots that can perform medical operations, wait at tables or work in factories.

"If asked to use one word to describe the development of China's robotics industry, I would choose 'explosion,'" said Zhao Jie, director of the Robotics Institute of Harbin Institute of Technology.

Zhao said thousands of companies were established in dozens of robot industrial parks across China, with the number of employees growing rapidly.

China's robot shipments topped 68,000 sets last year, accounting for 26.7 percent of the global market. Asia has become world's largest supplier of industrial robots, taking up 60 percent of the global market.

According to the International Federation of Robotics (IFR), about



75 percent of shipments in the past five years were from China, the Republic of Korea, Japan, the United States and Germany. The average growth of China's robot market over the period stood at 17 percent per year.

"Not only the increasing market size, but I am also optimistic about the manufacturing and development of China's industrial robotics," said Wang Yu, a professor of engineering at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.



Wang said that after just one year, roughly one-third of industrial robots used in China were manufactured domestically, and the percentage is still climbing.

In addition to industrial robots, service robots have also received extensive attention. China's service robotics are leading the world in firefighting, disaster relief, health care and catering.

According to an IFR report, an estimated 94,800 professional service robots will be installed from 2013 to 2018, with total sales of 17.1 billion U.S. dollars. Medical and military robots accounted for 55 percent of the total sales.

Remebot, China's first neurosurgery robot, was a hit at the conference. The designers said that it was accurate to just one millimeter, and with its help, brain surgery that used to take hours could be done within 30 minutes.

Service robotics has become a major field of development in China's robotics industry, said Sun Bolin, honorary chairman of the product information working committee of the China Instrument Society.

Besides areas such as coal mining, power generation and oil exploitation, service robots can also accomplish much in anti-terrorism, criminal investigation and explosives handling, Sun said.

The National Natural Science Foundation of China announced plans at the conference to invest 200 million yuan (29.5 million U.S. dollars) to support the study of the basic theory and key technologies of robots that can work alongside people.

Chinese companies have also been engaged in cross-border mergers and acquisitions in the robot industry. In April, Wanfeng Technology Group acquired U.S. industrial robot manufacturer Paslin, giving Wanfeng access to advanced automated welding technology and clients that Paslin has developed over 80 years.

Many investment and finance institutions are also eyeing the future of China's robotics industry. "We are actively encouraging listed companies to participate in the industry either through capital contribution or technology acquisition," said Li Xiaoxue, deputy director of the China Association for Public Companies.

"China's robotics industry is transitioning from a follower to a frontrunner," Li said.



Tibet Today

CHINA INVESTS HEAVILY TO IMPROVE EDUCATION IN TIBET



Lhasa, Oct. 31 (Xinhua) — The central government has earmarked over 4 billion yuan (592 million U.S. dollars) to improve education in agricultural and pastoral areas in Tibet Autonomous Region.

According to the regional education department, since 2014, 1,034 compulsory education schools in 74 counties and districts have been allocated funding to support renovation work and equipment purchasing, among other projects.

Internet classes are accessed by 731 students in a primary school in Maizhokunggar County, where 42 teachers now also use electronic whiteboards during lessons.

Headmaster Tsedan Tashi said the new equipment and facilities have improved teaching quality and attracted more students.

The region plans to spend over 6.7 billion yuan from 2014 to 2018 to build 1.56 million square meters of school and grounds, as well as purchase 23,426 computers, 159,000 sets of desks and chairs, 93,000 beds for students, 2.7 million books and 119,000 sets of instruments.



TIBET LESS REMOTE AS WORLD'S HIGHEST ROAD TUNNEL OPENS



Chengdu, Nov. 10 (Xinhua) — Builders on Thursday finished work on the world's highest road tunnel on the Sichuan-Tibet highway.

The tunnel passes through the main peak of Chola Mountain which is 6,168 m above sea level, shortening the time from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, to Nagqu in Tibet by two hours, and avoiding the most dangerous section on the highway.

The tunnel, with two lanes in each direction, has been under construction since 2012. It will open to traffic in 2017.

The current 40-km precipitous mountain highway in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Garze takes over two hours to traverse, with dangers from avalanches and rockfalls not to mention the extreme cold and low oxygen level.

Built at a cost of 1.15 billion yuan (170 million U.S. dollars), the 7-km tunnel only takes ten minutes to go through.

The highway will be able to accommodate 4,000 to 5,000 vehicles a day, as compared with around 1,500 before.

"It has been the most difficult tunnel that China Railway ever built," said Yao Zhijun, chief engineer of the project.

Built in 1951, Sichuan-Tibet Highway was China's first highway in Tibet. There are now two more major highways — the Qinghai-Tibet highway and Xinjiang-Tibet highway.





TIBET'S GDP GROWTH UP 12 PERCENT





The economy of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region grew by 12 percent in the first nine months of this year, according to new official data.

The growth rate was 0.6 percentage points higher than that in the same period last year and 4.3 percentage points higher than the country's average, said the regional statistics bureau on Monday.

The gross domestic product (GDP) of Tibet reached 57.57 billion yuan (about 9.36 billion U.S.dollars) in the first nine months, it added.

The per-capita cash income of farmers and herdsmen in the region hit 4,244 yuan in the same period, up 14.8 percent year on year. The per-capita disposable income of urban residents increased 12.6 percent year on year to reach 14,525 yuan.

Some 10.85 million tourists went to the plateau region from January to September, an increase of



20.3 percent from the same period last year, according to the bureau.

Meanwhile, Tibet's tourism revenue surged 28.5 percent year on year to 13.25 billion yuan in the nine-month period.

China's GDP growth in the first nine months stood at 7.7 percent, in line with market expectations and above the government's full-year target of 7.5 percent.

Tibet's GDP has maintained double-digit growth annually for the past 20 years.

TIBET COVERED BY 88.2 MLN HECTARES OF GRASSLAND



Lhasa, Oct. 27 (Xinhua) — A census of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region shows that 88.2 million hectares of the area is grassland, but over 26 percent of it suffers from degradation.

The grassland in the region can produce 77.9 million tonnes of fresh grass each year and can carry over 32.13 million standard sheep per year, according to census results published by the regional agricultural and pastoral department earlier this week.

The census started in 2011 and makes use of a combination of technologies, including remote sensing, geographic information systems and global positioning systems.

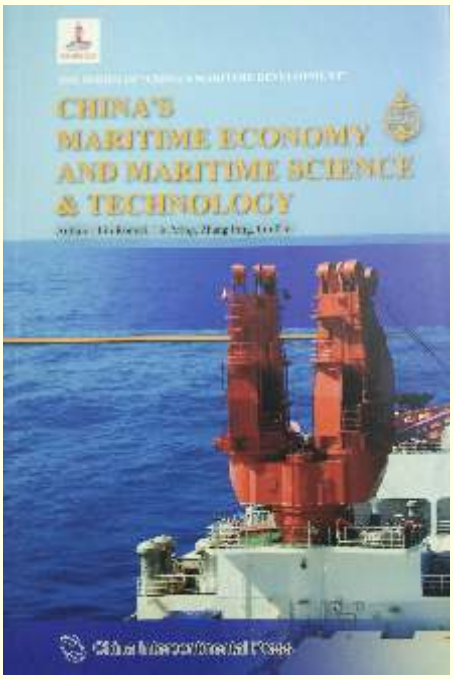
The census shows that 23.5 million hectares of grassland, 26.71 percent of the total, is suffering from degradation.

Qamba Qoizha, an official with the agricultural and pastoral department, said the census results will be used as a reference for the region's grassland protection measures.



BOOK REVIEW

China's Maritime Economy and Maritime Science & Technology



Ocean is the basic environment and resource repository for human survival and development and also an important bridge for all nations to enter global economy. With the rapid development of society and economy, land areas face increasingly greater challenges with regard to resources, energy, and space. Mankind has geared to the vast world of oceans for social and economic development. As a maritime power, China enjoys a wide range of interests and rights. With the formation opening-up economy, China's maritime strategic position has become continuously prominent. The maritime economy plays a more and more remarkable role in supporting national economy and social development.

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 Delhi IGI: Terminal-3 Kolkata NSCBI: Terminal-2
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	
Kunming-Kolkata	Flight Number MU555	Dep 2355	Arr 2345	Frequency Daily	Aircraft Boeing 737	

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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Web: http://hindi.cri.cn & hindi.china.com
CRI Hindi
cri_hindi
Hindi-CRI

Amazing Beijing

Beihai Park

Rating: AAAA
Introduction: Beihai Park is one of the oldest, largest, and best-preserved of all the ancient imperial gardens in China
Address: No. 1 Wenjin Street, Xicheng District, Beijing
Key words: Good for exploring | In close proximity of Tiananmen | Man made hill | Buddhist Dagoba | Great lakeside views



The Old Summer Palace

Rating:AAAA
Introduction: The Old Summer Palace blends some architecture styles like the European Revival of Learning era and the Chinese Daoism architectures and perfectly integrates several different architecture styles into one.
Address: No. 28, Quinghua west Road, Haidian District, Beijing.
Key words: Beautiful gardens | Qing dynasty architecture | Mixture of Chinese horticulture styles | Relaxing strolls







Jingshan Park

Rating: AAAA
Introduction: Jingshan Park is the best place in downtown Beijing to have a panoramic view of Beijing and the Forbidden City.
Address: 44 Jingshan West Street, Xicheng District, Beijing
Key words: Place of historic interest | Picturesque pavillions | Beijing top park | Great views

Fragrant Hills Park

Rating: AAAA
Introduction: Different scenic spots can be seen in different seasons: flowers in Spring, green trees in Summer, red leaves in Autumn and snow in Winter.
Address: No. 40, Fragrant Hill Maimai Street, Haidian District, Beijing
Key words: Tibetan buddhist temple | Mountain scenery | Impressive pagodas | Peaceful lake

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