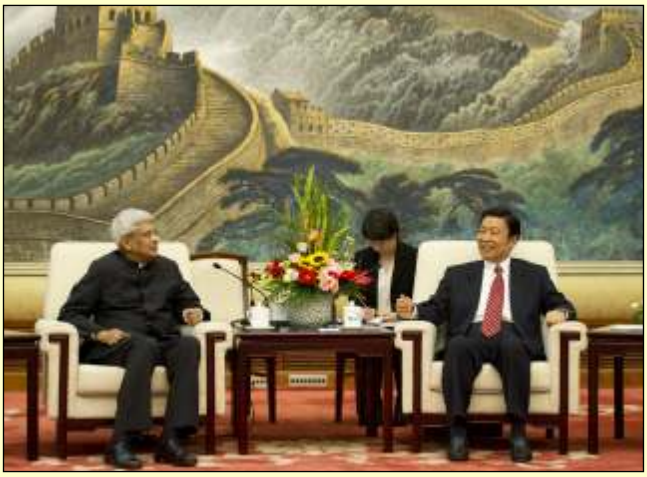
中国新闻

NEWS FROM CHINA

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Chinese President Xi Jinping met with U.S. President Barack Obama at the Annenberg Retreat, California, the United States on June 7, 2013.



Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, met with Prakash Karat, General Secretary of Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Beijing, China on June 19, 2013.



Chinese Film Festival was held from June 18 to 23, 2013 at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi. Mr. Cai Fuchao, Director of Chinese State General Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, Mr. Manish Tewari, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Wei Wei, and Mr. Jackie Chan, legendary Chinese actor attended the inaugural ceremony and screening of film Chinese Zodiac on June 18.



Lamp lighting ceremony was held at the Chinese Film Festival on June 18.



Mr. Jackie Chan sang the song *Country* at the Inaugural Ceremony of Chinese Film Festival at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi on June 18.



Chinese Ambassador Wei Wei met with Rahul Gandhi, Vice President of the Indian National Congress Party at Rahul's office on May 7, 2013. They expressed their willingness to further promote cooperation between the two countries.



Mr. Zhou Huaiyang, Professor of the School of Marine and Earth Science at Tongji University, waved as he came out of the Jiaolong manned deep-sea submersible after a deep-sea dive into the South China Sea on June 18, 2013. The Jiaolong manned deep-sea submersible carried him as crew member during a deep-sea dive.

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I. CHINESE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN VISITS

President Xi Jinping Arrives California for China-US Presidential Meeting with President Barack Obama

On June 6, 2013, President Xi Jinping arrived in California State of the United States of America. He will hold China-US presidential meeting with US President Barack Obama on June 7 and 8 at Sunnylands, the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Estate.

Around 6: 15 p.m. June 6 local time, Xi Jinping arrived by special plane at Ontario International Airport in California. Xi Jinping and his wife Mme. Peng Liyuan were greeted by California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and Mrs Brown as well as Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa and Mrs Villaraigosa.

Xi Jinping will have an extensive and in-depth exchange of views with Obama on bilateral relations as well as international and regional issues of mutual interest. It will be the first China-US presidential meeting since the new governments of the two countries took office.



Xi, Obama Meet for First Summit



Sunnylands, United States, June 7 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U.S. counterpart, Barack Obama, met Friday in this picturesque estate in Rancho Mirage, California, to exchange views on major issues of common concern.

Obama received Xi upon his arrival, and the two heads of state greeted each other.

At the beginning of the meeting, Xi thanked Obama for the invitation, saying that he was glad to hold talks with the U.S. president at Sunnylands.

"Sunnylands is close to the Pacific Ocean, and China is just on the other side of the

ocean," Xi said.

Xi recalled his visit to the United States last year when he said that the vast Pacific Ocean has enough room to accommodate the development of the two large countries of China and the United States.

"Today I meet here with President Obama to map out a blueprint for the development of China-U.S. relations and conduct cooperation across the Pacific Ocean," the Chinese president said.



More than four decades ago, Xi said, the then leaders of the two countries opened the door for China-U.S. interactions with political courage and wisdom, making a "handshake across the Pacific Ocean."

Since then, the Chinese president said, the China-U.S. relations, despite ups and downs, have achieved historic progress and brought huge benefits to the two peoples.

Noting that their relationship now stands at a new historic starting point, Xi said the two countries share important converging interests, from promoting each other's economic development and steady global economic recovery to addressing international and regional hot issues and global challenges.

That requires, he added, the two nations to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Xi stressed that China and the United States, under new circumstances, should have an in-depth review of their ties.

"What kind of a relationship do we need? What type of cooperation should China and the United States have to achieve win-win results? How can both countries work together to promote peace and development in the world? These questions are major concerns not only of the two countries and two peoples, but also of the whole international community," he said.

The Chinese president called on the two sides to work together to build a new type of relations between major countries in an innovative and active way to serve the fundamental interests of the two peoples and to promote development and progress of human society.

Xi said that he was looking forward to having extensive and in-depth exchanges with Obama on major strategic issues of common concern, so as to strengthen mutual understanding and promote comprehensive cooperation between the two countries.

"I believe with joint efforts of both sides, the summit will achieve important and positive results, and inject new vigor into the future development of China-U.S. relations," Xi said.

Obama, for his part, welcomed Xi's visit and said the U.S.-China relationship is important not only for the prosperity and security of the two countries, but also for the Asia Pacific region and the whole world.

"Our decision to meet so early, I think, signifies the importance of the U.S.-China relationship," the U.S. president said.

He said that the unusual setting in which the U.S. side is hosting Xi also reflects the importance they attach to the bilateral relationship.

The summit meeting provides an opportunity for both sides to have a more

extended conversation, to share their visions for their respective countries and to discuss the construction of a new model of cooperation between countries based on mutual interest and mutual respect, he said.

Obama said his country welcomes the continuing peaceful rise of China as a world power and in fact it is in the interest of the United States that China continues on the path of success.

"We believe that a peaceful, stable and prosperous China is not only good for Chinese but also good for the world and for the United States," he said.

Both the Chinese and the U.S. people want a strong and cooperative relationship, Obama said, adding that he is willing to work together with Xi to meet the global challenges.

"I'm very much looking forward to this (Xi's visit) being a strong foundation for the kind of new model of cooperation that we can establish for years to come," he said.

The summit is the first face-to-face meeting between the presidents of China and the United States since the two countries completed their latest leadership transitions.

Xi Jinping and US President Obama Hold Joint Press Conference

On June 7 local time, Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Obama held the first China-U.S. presidential meeting at the Annenberg Retreat in California, the U.S.. The two heads of state held a joint press conference after the meeting.



Xi Jinping said, I have just held the first meeting with President Obama. We exchanged candid and in-depth views on the respective domestic and foreign policies of our countries, the new type of relationship between the two great powers of China and the U.S. as well as some major international and regional issues of common interest, and reached important consensus.

Xi Jinping said, I have made it clear to President Obama that China will unswervingly adhere to the road of peaceful development, continue to deepen reform and opening up, make great efforts to realize the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation and strive to promote the just cause of peace and development for humankind.

By the Chinese dream, we seek to have economic prosperity, national rejuvenation and people's well-beings. The Chinese dream is about peace, development, cooperation and win-win results, and it is connected to the American dream and beautiful dreams of people all over the world.

Xi Jinping emphasized, I and President Obama both agreed that in order to meet the

objective needs of the rapid development of economic globalization and jointly weathering difficulties by various countries, China and the U.S. should blaze a new path different from that of conflicts and confrontation between great powers in history. Both sides agreed that we will build together a new type of relationship between great powers based on mutual respect, cooperation and win-win results for the benefit of the people of the two countries as well as of the world. The international community also expects for continuous improvement and development in China-US relations. A good cooperative relationship between China and the U.S. is conducive to world stability and peace.

Both sides agreed to strengthen dialogue and communication at various levels, and continuously enhance mutual understanding and trust. I and President Obama will continue to keep close contacts through exchange of visits, meetings, telephone calls and letters. I have invited President Obama to China for a new round of meetings. I and President Obama will try to realize exchange of visits as early as possible. Both teams will work close together to ensure that the new round of China-US strategic and economic dialogue, cultural and educational exchanges as well as high-level consultations will yield positive achievements. Minister of National Defense and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China will visit the U.S. at the invitation.

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in wide areas of economy and trade, energy, environment, humanity as well as local affairs, to deepen the pattern of an overall interest converging, to improve and develop bilateral military ties and push forward the construction of a new type of military relations, to reinforce the macro-economic policy coordination, to expand cooperation in the process of economic development of the two countries and to push for a forceful, sustainable and balanced economic growth in the Asian-Pacific region as well as the whole world.

With regard to the new type of relationship between the two great powers of China and the U.S., Xi Jinping stressed, human effort is the decisive force. I am fully confident of constructing a new type of relationship between China and the U.S.. Firstly, both sides have the political will to construct a new type of relationship between great powers. Secondly, cooperation between the two sides over more than 40 years constitutes a solid foundation for the further cooperation between the two countries. Thirdly, both sides have set up over 90 dialogue and communication mechanisms such as the strategic and economic dialogue, cultural and educational exchanges and high-level consultations, providing a mechanism guarantee for the construction of a new pattern of relationship between great powers. Fourthly, both sides have established over 220 pairs of sister provinces and states and sister cities. There are nearly 190,000 Chinese students in the U.S. and over 20,000 U.S. students in China, laying a profound foundation of public opinion favourable for the construction of a new type of relationship between great powers. Fifthly, there is enormous space for future cooperation between the two countries.

Xi Jinping pointed out that this endeavor is unprecedented and will inspire future generations. China and the U.S. need to constantly push forward the construction of a new type of relationship between great powers in the process of strengthening dialogue, enhancing mutual trust, developing cooperation and managing differences.

Xi Jinping stated, the Chinese nation and the American nation are both great nations, and the Chinese people and the American people are great peoples. As long as we maintain determination and confidence, as

long as we have wisdom and patience, as long as we stand high and look far, as long as we make specific progress and accumulate them over time, I am confident that we will succeed in achieving this cause.

Obama said that he and President Xi Jinping conducted constructive discussions on broad range of topics. He believed that President Xi Jinping has well summarized the discussions between the two sides. US and China need to understand each other's strategic goals. Bilateral military relationship is an area in which specific progress could be made as well as an example in promoting the construction of the new type of relationship between great powers. Should take measures to institutionalize and regularize the bilateral discussions. China continuing its peaceful rise is in the interests of the United States. If China is successful, it will help to drive world economy and put China in a position to work with the U.S. as equal partners in dealing with many global challenges. US-China cooperation rather than confrontation, makes it more possible to realize the goal of respective safety and prosperity. He and President Xi both recognize that now the two countries have the unique opportunity to take the bilateral relations to a higher level. He will commit himself not to miss this opportunity.

Responding to a question about cyber security, Xi Jinping emphasized that China is a victim of cyber attacks, China firmly supports cyber security. Both China and the U.S. share common concerns over cyber security. Both sides agreed to set up a working team and continue to discuss cyber security issues within the framework of the China-US Strategic Security Dialogue. Both sides should remove misgivings and conduct cooperation so as to make cyber security a new highlight in China-US cooperation.

Xi Jinping and Obama Hold the Second China-U.S. Presidential Meeting

On June 8, 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping held the second China-U.S. Presidential meeting with US President Barack Obama at the Annenberg Retreat, California. The two leaders informed each other of their domestic economic situation and policy, and exchanged in-depth views on economic relations between China and the U.S..

Xi Jinping expressed that China's GDP grew by 7.7 percent in the first quarter of this year, which is conductive to adjusting economic structure and improving the quality and efficiency of economic growth. We have full confidence in a long-term sustained and healthy economic development. Under the premise that optimistic economic prospects have been



fully foreseen in China, we also believe there are some risks as well as challenges. In general, these risks are controllable and we are taking targeted measures to prevent and eliminate them.

Xi Jinping said that the keynote of the current macro-policy of China is to seek improvement in stability. To be specific, macro-policy should be more stable, micro-policy should be more liberal, and social policy should serve as the base. China is speeding up the change of the economic development mode, making efforts to push forward new industrialization, informatization, urbanization and agricultural modernization, implementing the strategy of innovation-driven development and striving to boost domestic demand. Therefore, there is very broad space for development. The change of the economic development mode is at a critical stage in China. It will bring about enormous market potential as well as new growth points. China is fully capable of maintaining the sustained and healthy long-term economic development in the process of continuously overcoming difficulties and challenges. We have full confidence in it.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Barack Obama take a walk before heading into their second meeting, at the Annenberg Retreat, California, the United States, June 8, 2013.

Xi Jinping stressed that we must deepen the reform in order to advance the sustained and healthy economic development. Besides the short-term reform, we are studying the promotion of a comprehensive reform scheme for a medium and long term.

Xi Jinping pointed out that economic ties have always been an important cornerstone for China-US relations. As the first two largest economies of the world, China and the U.S. have forged economic ties characterized by highly complementary structure and profoundly converging interests. China-US cooperation is not only of benefit to the development of the two countries, but also of great significance to the world economic growth. We should enhance our awareness of opportunity, win-win results as well as innovation, deepen and expand bilateral economic cooperation and endeavor to tap new interest converging points and cooperation growth points.

Xi Jinping expressed that the Chinese side hopes the American side would adopt responsible macro-economic policy, pay attention to the spillover influence of its economic and financial policy, adhere to free trade, object to protectionism, relax the restriction of high technology exportation to China, provide a fair environment for the investments made by Chinese enterprises in the U.S., guarantee the safety of China's assets in the U.S., and work together with China to create a new pattern in China- U.S. economic relations.

Xi Jinping proposed that both sides should strengthen cooperation in such areas of overall and strategic significance to the economic development of both countries as

two-way investment, energy, infrastructure construction and regional cooperation.

Xi Jinping pointed out that it is for the common interests of the two countries to push forward together the construction of a more thorough global governance system which is better in line with the development requirements of the world productive force and better conductive to the common development of various countries of the world. China and the U.S. should continue to build and safeguard together the G20 mechanism, and realize the unification of the G20 development with the mutual benefit and win-win results of China and the U.S..

Xi Jinping said, this meeting is the first face-to-face contact and exchange between the two heads of state of China and the U.S. since the two countries completed their latest leadership transitions. Besides, it is a pioneering undertaking in the high-level exchanges between the two countries. Over the past two days, President Obama and I have had in-depth and candid exchanges on bilateral relations as well as major international and regional issues by centering round the subject of building together a new type of relationship between the two great powers of China and the U.S.. The talks went on smoothly and a series of important consensus have been reached. This meeting sends a positive message to the people of the two countries as well as the international community that China and the U.S. are firmly devoted to strengthening strategic communication, enhancing strategic mutual trust, pushing forward the construction of a new type of relationship between great powers, and jointly promoting the peace, stability and prosperity in the Asian-Pacific region as well as the whole world. This meeting has yielded fruitful results.

Xi Jinping stressed that under the new circumstances, China-U.S. relations should keep forging ahead and make progress, China-U.S. cooperation should be expanded and innovated, and the two countries should respect and be tolerant to each other. The two sides of China and the U.S. should always proceed from a strategic and long-term perspective, firmly seize the right direction of China-U.S. relations and open up a new type of relationship between great powers step by step.



U.S. President Barack Obama presents Chinese President Xi Jinping with a bench made of California redwood while they take a joint walk before heading into their second meeting, at the Annenberg Retreat, California, the United States, June 8, 2013.

Obama introduced the current situation of the American economy. He said that the broad economic ties between the U.S. and China are closely connected to the stability and prosperity of the two countries, and are sure to exert a significantly positive effect on world economy. The U.S. encourages Chinese enterprises to invest in the U.S., and is willing to take measures to relax the restriction of exportation of American high-tech products to China. The U.S. hopes to strengthen cooperation together with China in the fields

of economy, trade and energy.

As for intellectual property protection, Xi Jinping stressed that China places great importance to it, and believed that protection of intellectual property is not only a requirement for China to perform its international obligations, but also a requirement for China to build an innovation-oriented country and achieve its own economic and social development objectives. China observes its obligations to the international treaties and strengthens intellectual property protection by laws.

Xi Jinping pointed out that the issue of climate change is one of the common challenges in front of the two countries of China and the U.S. as well as the whole world. China pays high attention to it and is willing to carry out extensive and practical cooperation in this field together with the U.S., so as to make it a new cooperation growth point in China-U.S. relations.

Xi Jinping and Obama had a talk in a relaxed atmosphere while taking a walk at the Annenberg Retreat before the meeting. Obama presented a bench made of sequoia of California to Xi Jinping as a gift. Sequoia is a rare and precious tree species in California. When former US President Nixon visit.

China in 1972, he presented several sequoia saplings of California to China as gifts. From then on, California sequoia has been successfully introduced into some provinces and cities in China and become a symbol of China-U.S. friendship.

On June 7, Xi Jinping and Obama held the first Presidential meeting and the working dinner, exchanging views on their respective domestic development, the construction of a new type of relationship between the two great powers of China and the U.S. as well as some international and regional issues of common interest. Xi Jinping reiterated China's principle position on Taiwan issue.

Transpacific Cooperation

– State Councilor Yang Jiechi's Remarks on the Results of the Presidential Meeting between Xi Jinping and Obama at the Annenberg Estate

On June 8, 2013, State Councilor Yang Jiechi held a briefing on the meeting between President Xi Jinping and President Obama at the Annenberg Estate, introducing the results of China-US presidential meeting and answering the reporters' questions.

Yang Jiechi said that on June 7 and 8, President Xi Jinping had a meeting with President Obama at the Annenberg Estate in California, America at the invitation of President Obama. This meeting is not only the first face-to-face contact and communication between the two heads of state after the two



countries completed their leadership transition, but also a pioneering undertaking in high-level association between China and America.



Over the past two days, the two presidents have held two meetings, a working dinner and a walk together. The time of meetings and communication adds up to over eight hours. Their discussions cover a lot of subjects, ranging from their respective domestic situation and state governing experience, to China-US relations and international and regional issues, from political and security issues to economic and financial issues, from bilateral issues to some global issues of cyber security and climate change. In their discussions about cooperation without avoiding differences, they strive to be thorough and candid instead of trying to reach every aspect of a matter. It is unprecedented no matter in the time and quality of interaction, or the depth and breadth of communication, which reflects the great importance both sides attach to China-US relations, conforms to the requirement of the China-US relationship development in the new period and shows the strategic significance and global impact of China-US relations.

Through the meetings, the two heads of state enhance mutual understanding and trust, reach a series of important consensus, yield significantly positive results, point out the direction and plan the blueprint for the future development of China-US relations, as well as open up a new page of "transpacific cooperation" between China and America.



First, President Xi Jinping introduced to President Obama the governing idea and domestic and foreign policies of the Chinese government, reiterated that China will unswervingly adhere to the road of peaceful development, continuously deepen reform and open up the country, and strive to realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The Chinese dream aims to bring about economic prosperity, national renewal and

people's well-being. Therefore, it is a dream of peace, development, cooperation and win-win results, identical to the American dream and beautiful dreams of people in other countries. The realization of the Chinese dream requires a peaceful and stable international and neighboring environment. In the process of the realization of its own dream, China will make contributions to the peace, stability and prosperity of the Asian-Pacific region as well as the whole world.



President Obama also introduced its governing idea, governing objective and priority agenda to Xi Jinping.

Second, the two heads both emphasized the importance of China-US relations, believing that China and America could embark on a new road different from that of conflicts and confrontation between great powers in history against the background of rapid global economic development and jointly weathering difficulties by various countries. Both sides agreed to work together to construct a new pattern of relationship between great powers on the basis of mutual respect, cooperation and win-win results for the benefit of the people of the two countries as well as the world. The international community also expects for the continuous improvement and development of China-US relations. A good cooperation between China and America is conductive to world stability and peace.

Third, both sides agreed to strengthen dialogue and communication at various levels and continuously enhance mutual understanding and trust. Both sides will continue to maintain close contacts through reciprocal visits, meetings, dialogue and correspondence, make efforts to realize exchange of visits, and hold similar meetings in good time in China.

The two presidents spoke positively of the important role of such significant dialogue mechanisms as China-US strategic and economic dialogue, high-level consultations on cultural and educational exchanges in expanding cooperation and controlling differences. They will instruct the two teams to strengthen coordination and cooperation so as to enable the 5th round China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue as well as the 4th China-US High-level Consultations on Cultural and Educational Exchanges in this summer to yield positive and practical results. China's Minister of National Defense and Foreign Minister will visit America in good time on invitation.

Fourth, both sides agreed to continuously strengthen practical cooperation between the two countries in such areas as economy and trade, investment, energy, environment, humanity and local affairs and deepen the overall pattern of interest converging. They agreed to reinforce dialogue and cooperation on the issues of climate change and cyber security, and give full play to the role of the relevant working groups. Both sides stressed the importance of improving and developing bilateral military relations and their desire to push forward the construction of a new pattern of China-US military relations. China will attend the 2014 RIMPAC on invitation.

Fifth, President Xi reiterated China's

principled stand on Taiwan issue, stressing that Taiwan issue concerns the national feeling of 1.3 billion Chinese people and hoping that America would scrupulously abide by the three Sino-US Joint Communiqués, stick to the one-China policy, support the peaceful development of the relations across the Taiwan Straits with its practical action, and stop selling weapon to Taiwan.

Sixth, the two presidents exchanged views on the situation in the Asian-Pacific region and the interaction between China and America in that region. Both sides thought that the Asian-Pacific region is where China and America share the most interests and have the most frequent interaction. Common interests far surpass differences in the Asian-Pacific region between China and America. Both sides should strengthen communication and coordination, reduce friction, strive to form a pattern of benign interaction and bring about development opportunities to China and America and even the whole region.

Seventh, the two presidents agreed to continue to deepen China-US cooperation in bilateral agencies, maintain close coordination and cooperation on international and regional hot issues, further strengthen cooperation on global issues and play an active role in promoting world peace, stability and prosperity.

In a word, it is a meeting of strategic, constructive and historic significance, which will exert a significantly positive influence on the future development of China-US relations, and peace, stability and prosperity of the Asian-Pacific region even the whole world.



Yang Jiechi also answered questions from the reporters.

Some reporter asked: What is the core meaning of a new pattern of relationship between the two great powers of China and America? And what is the striving direction?

Yang Jiechi said that the two presidents agreed to make joint efforts to construct a new pattern of relationship between the two great powers of China and America on the basis of mutual respect, cooperation and win-win results. This is an importance consensus reached by the two sides based on the worldly affairs, national conditions as well as the future development of China-US relations, reflecting the political wisdom and historical responsibility of China and America to open up a new pattern of relationship between great powers without stepping on the traditional road of conflicts between great counties in history.

Just as President Xi has pointed out, both as countries that have an important impact on the world, China and America should play an exemplary role in dealing with relationship between major countries. President Obama expressed that America welcomes China's peaceful rise as a great power. A peaceful, stable and prosperous China will be not only in the interest of China and America, but also in the interest of the whole world. America hopes to maintain strong cooperative relationship with China as equal partners.

With regard to the connotation of the

new pattern of relationship between the two great powers of China and America, President Xi made a brilliant summarization with three sentences during the meetings:

First, seek no conflicts and no confrontation. This means to see each other's strategic intent from an objective and rational perspective, and insist on being partners rather than opponents. Properly handle contradictions and divergence through dialogue and cooperation rather than conflicts or confrontation.

Second, have respect for each other. This means to respect each other's social system and development road, respect each other's core interests and significant concerns and make common progress through seeking common points while reserving differences.

Third, conduct cooperation for win-win results. This means to abandon the zero-sum thinking, give consideration to the interests of the other side while pursuing its own interest, promote common development while seeking its own development and continuously deepen the interest converging pattern.

With regard to how to implement the principle of a new pattern of relationship between major countries into every aspect of China-US relations, President Xi put forward four suggestions: First, advance dialogue and mutual trust to a new level, institutionalize the practice of the meetings between leaders of the two countries in such multilateral occasions as the G20 and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and make good use of the over 90 existing inter-governmental dialogue and communication mechanisms. Second, open up a new situation of practical cooperation. America should take active measures to relax restrictions on the exportation of high-tech products to China, and advance a more balanced development of trade and investment structure of the two countries. Third, establish a new pattern of interaction between great powers. Both sides should maintain close coordination and cooperation on such international and regional hot issues as the situation of the Korean Peninsula and the Afghanistan issue, and strengthen cooperation in such areas as anti-piracy operation, transnational crime fighting, peacekeeping, disaster reduction and prevention, cyber security, climate change and space safety, etc. Fourth, explore new approach in controlling differences, and positively construct a new pattern of military relations compatible with the new pattern of relationship between the two great powers of China and America. President Obama actively responded to it and expressed that America places great importance to US-China relations and it is willing to construct together with China a new cooperative pattern between countries on the basis of mutual interest and mutual respect so as to cope with various global challenges together.

In general, China hopes that China and America will make joint efforts and steadfastly push forward the construction of a new pattern of relationship between great powers by following the direction pointed out by the two presidents.

Some reporter asked: Does the China-US Presidential Meetings cover such issues as cyber security, intellectual property protection and RMB exchange rate?

Yang Jiechi said that the two presidents held the second meeting this morning, mainly discussing the economic issues. The deepest impression left on me is that the two presidents both pay high attention to developing China-US economic relations, and they both believe there is enormous space and great potential for China-US economic cooperation.

During the meeting, the two presidents introduced their respective economic situation, macroeconomic policies, prominent problems in front of them as well

as the striving direction for the next step.

Both sides believed that China and America have forged an economic relationship characterized by highly complementary structure and deeply converging interests. By seizing the present moment when the two countries are adjusting economic structure and promoting economic growth, both sides should give further play to their complementary advantages, tap new cooperative growth points and promote China-US economic relations to a new level. This is of great importance to the economic growth of the two countries even the whole world.

Both sides agreed to make full use of such mechanisms as the strategic and economic dialogue, joint commission on commerce and trade as well as provincial and state governor forum, strengthen policy coordination and promote practical cooperation.

Both sides spoke positively of the 9th round of China-US Bilateral Investment Treaty Negotiation held recently, agreed to actively push forward negotiation and provide a fair, transparent and stable policy framework for two-way investment. China hoped that America will create a fair environment for investment by Chinese enterprises in America.

Both sides agreed to expand local economic and trade cooperation. Several minutes ago, I attended the meeting between President Xi and Governor Brown. Brown introduced the situation on the economic and trade exchanges and cooperation between California and China, which is really exciting. At present, California's export volume to China ranks the first among the various states in America. In the customs territory in Los Angles, 40 percent of the total volume of trade between China and America is transacted. "Trade and Investment Cooperation Joint Working Group between Provinces in China and California, America" established not long ago is the first institutional platform for promoting local economic and trade investment cooperation between China and America. It is believed that China-US local cooperation will have more bright prospects and yield more fruitful results.

Both sides vowed to maintain coordination and cooperation within the multilateral and regional economic framework of the G20 as well as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, adhere to trade and investment liberalization, oppose protectionism, improve global economic governance and promote a forceful, sustained and balanced regional and global economic growth.

Both sides agreed to properly handle economic and trade frictions through dialogue and cooperation.

Both sides agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation in the area of climate change and advance practical cooperation in this area through the climate change working group of the two countries. They also vowed to work together and with other nations via multilateral mechanisms, including the use of the expertise and institution of the Montreal Protocol, to gradually reduce the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and continue to include HFCs within the boundary of the related emission reports and calculation clauses of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

With regard to cyber security, China pointed out that the Chinese government pays high attention to cyber security and objects to any form of hacker and cyber attacks. China is also a victim of cyber attack and firmly supports cyber security. On the issue of cyber security, China and America face common challenges. Instead of being a source of mutual suspicion and friction between China and America, cyber security

should be a new highlight in the bilateral cooperation. Both sides agreed to strengthen dialogue, coordination and cooperation through the established network working group of the two countries, and through the main channel of the United Nations, to push forward the establishment of a fair, democratic and transparent international internet management mechanism and construct peaceful, safe, open and cooperative cyber space.

As for intellectual property protection, China stressed that the protection of intellectual property rights is not only a requirement for China in performing its international obligations, but also a requirement in constructing an innovation-oriented country and pursuing its own economic and social development. The Chinese government places great importance to the protection of intellectual property rights, and it will further improve the law and strengthen law enforcement, and render equal protection to the interests of enterprises from various countries in China.

With regards to RMB exchange rate, China said that RMB exchange rate is approaching an equilibrium interval, and China will continue to push forward the exchange rate forming mechanism reform. China also pointed out that the root of Sino-US trade imbalance lies in RMB exchange rate.

During the meetings, both sides also exchanged views on the issue of human rights. President Xi introduced China's view of human rights, and stressed that China has been paying attention to and promoting the development of the cause of human rights. China has made conspicuous achievements in its cause of human rights. With the economic and social development in China, the human rights cause will make greater progress.

Some reporter asked: President Xi Jinping has expressed in the opening remarks of the meeting that the major objective of this meeting is to carry out "transpacific cooperation". How did the two presidents define the interaction between China and America in the Asia-Pacific during the meeting?

Yang Jiechi said that the Asian-Pacific region is of particularly great significance to both China and America. For this time, the two presidents held the meetings in California known as "a door leading to Asia from America", which itself sends a positive signal that China and America are committed to dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific.

In April this year, during the annual meeting of Boao Forum for Asia, President Xi Jinping discussed together with the large numbers of distinguished guests from 43 countries and regions about the major program for the development of the Asian-Pacific region. Two months later, President Xi met with President Obama and visited the three countries of Latin America along the coast of the Pacific or close to it, which shows that China will continue to make constant efforts to promote transpacific cooperation, and is willing to work together with countries in and out of the region to safeguard peace and stability, push forward mutual beneficial cooperation and promote common development in the Asian-Pacific region.

Over the past 30 years, the situation in the Asia-Pacific has been generally stable and the economy has maintained rapid development. China and America should coordinate and cooperate with each other in order to maintain this favorable development momentum. Both sides believe that they should support the regional economic integration process in the Asia-Pacific and advance the construction of regional interconnection and interworking. Both sides vowed to strengthen coordination and cooperation within the regional multilateral framework.

Both sides believed that the two countries

should keep close communication and coordination on the situation of the Asian-Pacific region and hotspot issues, emergencies as well as their respective policies on the Asia-Pacific. The two presidents exchanged views on the North Korea nuclear issue. President Xi reiterated the principled stand of China, emphasized that China insists on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, persists in the safeguarding of peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and adheres to the solving of the North Korea nuclear issue and the peninsula issue through dialogue and negotiation. China will continue to make unremitting efforts towards it. China and America share identical principled stand and overall objective on the North Korea nuclear issue. It becomes imperative to resume dialogue as soon as possible. China is willing to maintain close dialogue and cooperation with America.

President Xi expounded to President Obama China's principled stand on the issue of Diaoyu Island as well as the South China Sea dispute, emphasizing that China will steadfastly safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity, meanwhile, China constantly proposes to handle and solve related issues through dialogue. It is hoped that the parties concerned will assume a responsible attitude, stop provocation and return to the track of properly handling and solving problems through dialogue as soon as possible.

Chinese President Voices Confidence in China-U.S. Cooperation

Palm Springs, United States, June 8 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping said here on June 8 that he is fully confident that there is a broad prospect for cooperation between China and the United States.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with Californian Governor Edmund Brown shortly before wrapping up a two-day meetings with his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama.

The two presidents met twice and took a walk together over the weekend at Sunnylands, a 200-acre picturesque estate in the Californian city of Rancho Mirage.



Xi thanked Brown and other state officials for their hospitality and arrangements in hosting the face-to-face meeting between him and Obama, the first since the two countries completed their latest leadership transitions.

Xi told Brown that he and Obama had in-depth, sincere and candid discussions on bilateral relations as well as international and regional issues of common concern, and reached important

consensus.

Both sides agreed to build a new type of major country relationship based on mutual respect, mutual benefits with win-win results and laid out a comprehensive blueprint for the future development of bilateral ties, Xi said.

Speaking positively of the achievements and efforts made by Californian state government in promoting cooperation and exchanges with China, Xi said local-level cooperation can consolidate societal basis for China-U.S. relations.

Both China and the United States have been making structural adjustments, maintaining economic growth and increasing employment, which provide numerous opportunities for cooperation, Xi said.

China is willing to expand economic cooperation and two-way investment with California and strengthen cooperation with the state in such fields as clean energy, information technologies, infrastructure construction and culture industries.

Brown said it is an honor of California to host the meetings between the Chinese and U.S. presidents.

He said the world needs China and the United States to build a new type of major country relationship, which is in the fundamental interests of the two countries and their people.

California wants to strengthen cooperation and exchanges with China to make greater contribution to the development of U.S.-China relations, the governor said.

Xi Jinping and His Wife Mme. Peng Liyuan Meet with US President Obama

On June 8, 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Mme. Peng Liyuan met with US President Barack Obama at the Annenberg Estate in California. The two sides had a warm and friendly talk.

The two heads of state agreed that the China-U.S. Presidential meeting this time is a great success. Both sides will make joint efforts to keep contacts, put into practice the consensus and achievements made during the meetings and push forward the continuous development of China-US relations.

Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan thanked Obama and the U.S. side for their warm reception and considerate arrangements for the meeting.

Obama also conveyed the greetings of his wife Michelle to Peng Liyuan and presented her the welcome letter in Michelle's own handwriting. In the letter, Michelle wishes that Peng Liyuan enjoys her visit in the U.S. and expresses that she is looking forward to visiting China together with her daughters in the near future.

China-Mexico Ties Face Unprecedented Opportunity

Mexico City, June 5 (Xinhua) — China and Mexico are facing an unprecedented opportunity for further development of their relations, visiting Chinese President Xi

Jinping said here on June 5.

In a speech at the Mexican Senate, Xi also called for concerted efforts to beef up the comprehensive cooperative partnership between China and Latin America.

As China and Mexico "are both moving onto a fast-track of economic and social development and embracing a promising future," there is "an unprecedented opportunity for our two countries to further advance bilateral relations," he noted.



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the Mexican Senate in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, June 5, 2013.

Against this propitious backdrop, Xi added, he and President Enrique Pena Nieto have just decided to elevate the bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership, "to the benefit of continued growth of China-Mexico relations at a higher level, in a broader scope and on a bigger platform, and usher our relations into a new stage of development."

The Chinese president raised a four-point proposal aimed at making good use of the opportunities and steering the two countries' partnership forward.

Firstly, China and Mexico should respect and trust each other, treat each other as equals and strengthen strategic coordination, he said.

The two countries, he added, should continue to understand and support each other on issues concerning their core interests, beef up exchanges and dialogue, enhance strategic mutual trust and safeguard their common interests.

Secondly, they should pursue win-win cooperation and promote common development, Xi said.

The two countries should each see the other's development as an opportunity for its own, and boost through cooperation their respective development and then their common development, he added.

He suggested that the two sides strengthen communication on development strategies and upgrade bilateral cooperation through expanding two-way investment, optimizing their trade structure and enhancing industrial connectivity.

Thirdly, the two countries should communicate and coordinate with each other and safeguard their common interests, Xi said.

He urge the two sides to "take an active part in global economic governance and work together for world economic recovery and growth and equilibrium of international forces."

"We should work together to promote democracy in international relations, jointly meet global challenges such as the international financial crisis, climate change and sustainable development, and safeguard the common interests of our two countries and developing countries in general," he added.

Fourthly, China and Mexico should learn from each other through exchanges and carry forward their friendship, the Chinese president said, calling for joint efforts to expand exchanges in such areas as culture, education, sports, media and tourism, and boost interaction between the two countries' young generations.

Noting that Mexico is an important player in Latin America, Xi said the deepening of China-Mexico ties will inject great impetus into the development of China's relations with the entire region.

Latin America "is embracing another golden period of development," he said. "We believe that a more prosperous Latin America and the Caribbean will benefit the world in general, China as well."

Blessed with "an important window of opportunity," China and Latin America should join hands to achieve "fresh and greater progress" in their partnership of comprehensive cooperation, he said.

On the political front, China and Latin America should treat each other as sincere friends and continue to understand and support each other on issues involving the core interests and major concerns of either side, Xi said.

In the economic arena, he added, the two sides should further explore their cooperation potential, create new cooperation patterns, and expand converging interests, so as to foster an enduring and stable partnership of mutually beneficial economic cooperation and trade.

They should also enhance cultural exchanges and build "an exemplary relationship of different civilizations living in harmony and reinforcing each other," Xi said.

The Chinese president also expressed the hope that the two sides will make concerted efforts to put in place a forum of China-Latin America cooperation at an early date.

"We are firmly convinced that a stronger partnership of comprehensive cooperation between China and Latin America will boost the development of both sides and will serve the peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the world," he said.

In addition, Xi said China has set the target for its future development and will continue to hold high in the course of development the banner of peace, development, cooperation and win-win outcome.

"We will continue the reform and opening-up program, promote common development and bring more opportunities to the world," said the Chinese president.

For his part, Ricardo Anaya Cortes, chairman of the Permanent Committee of Mexico's Congress of the Union, said both China and Mexico are major developing countries striving for the same goal of promoting national development and improving the well-being of the people.

The two countries, he said, are partners for mutually beneficial cooperation and common development, and should collaborate more closely for the sake of each other's development and world peace.

President Xi Jinping Holds Talks with Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago

On June 1, 2013, President Xi Jinping held talks with Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago in Port of Spain. Both sides exchanged views on

strengthening China-Trinidad and Tobago friendly cooperation and reached broad consensus.



Xi Jinping noted that the people of China and Trinidad and Tobago enjoy a time-honoured history of friendship. Trinidad and Tobago is one of China's most important cooperative partners in the Caribbean Region and the two sides have great potential for cooperation. Next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship between the two countries. China is willing to join hands with Trinidad and Tobago to look forward into the future and to push China-Trinidad and Tobago relationship for greater development.

First, to enhance exchanges of high-level visits and of government agencies, legislative bodies and political parties of the two countries. The foreign ministries of the two countries to held irregular consultations for timely communication with each other to promote mutual understanding and trust.

Second, to actively promote cooperation in the fields of infrastructure, energy and mining. To explore more cooperation in the fields of agriculture, fishery, science and technology, investment and financing, telecommunications and new energy.

Third, to expand people-to-people exchanges, to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in the fields of tourism and culture, especially creative industries, education, health, sports, journalism and personnel training, to support youth exchanges, to set up a Confucius Institute in Trinidad and Tobago at an early date, and to carry out celebrations for the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship between the two countries next year, so as to enhance understanding and friendship.

Fourth, to keep close cooperation in international affairs. Xi Jinping said that China fully understands the special situation and concerns of small island countries on the issue of climate change, and has always been supportive of their reasonable appeals in climate change negotiations. China will give positive consideration for providing energy-saving products to relevant Caribbean countries, to help them enhance their abilities to get adapted and to cope with the climate change.

Persad-Bissessar said that the friendship between Trinidad and Tobago and China has been getting firm as time goes by. The Chinese people first arrived in Trinidad and Tobago as early as more than two centuries ago, got rooted as part of the multiculturalism of Trinidad and Tobago. The people of Trinidad and Tobago thank China for the support and assistance over the years. Trinidad and Tobago is pursuing a strategy of economic diversification, hopes to strengthen exchanges with China and to promote cooperation in relevant fields. Trinidad and Tobago welcomes investment from Chinese businesses. Trinidad and Tobago is willing to actively carry out people-to-people

exchanges, to promote language training and to enhance cooperation on health care with China. Trinidad and Tobago welcomes Chinese citizens travelling to the country and proposes for a Caribbean music festival to be held every year in China. Trinidad and Tobago is willing to boost cooperation with China on major international issues and to join hands with China to meet global challenges. Persad-Bissessar expressed her belief that President Xi Jinping's visit will open up broad prospects for cooperation between the two countries and will surely help push the bilateral relationship for greater development.

The both sides as well exchanged views on China's relations with the Caribbean and Latin American countries, pledging joint efforts to push China-Caribbean, China-Latin America relations for new development.

Following the talks, the two leaders attended the signing ceremony of cooperation documents including the economic and technological cooperation agreement between the two governments and met the press.

President Xi Jinping Holds Talks with Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla

On June 3 local time, President Xi Jinping held talks with Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla in San Jose. The two heads of state expressed their satisfaction for the achievements of bilateral relationship over the past six years since the establishment of diplomatic relationship and decided to strengthen exchanges and cooperation to push the China-Costa Rica relationship for greater development.

Xi Jinping said that although China and Costa Rica has established diplomatic relationship for only six years, the relationship between the two countries has achieved substantial progress. Facts prove that it is in the fundamental interests of the two countries and the two peoples for China and Costa Rica to develop friendly cooperative relations based on the principles of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and common development. The China-Costa Rica relationship can absolutely be paradigm of friendly cooperation between countries of different sizes and different national conditions.

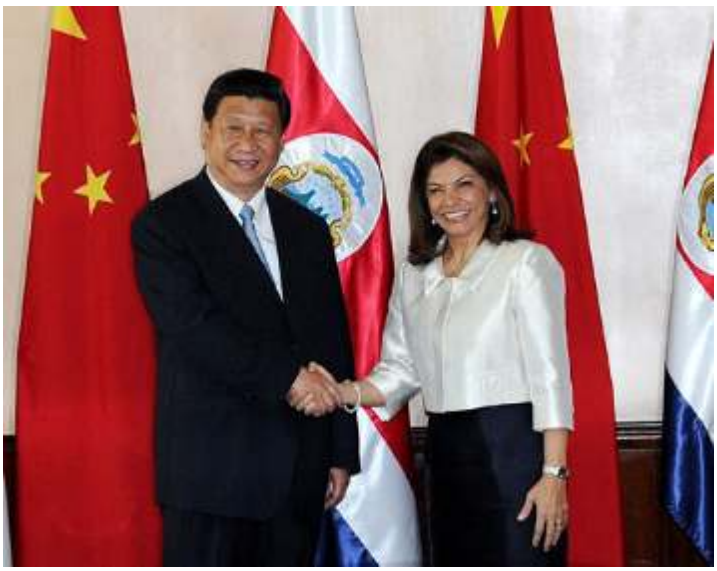
Chinchilla said that since the establishment of diplomatic relationship between Costa Rica and China, the two countries have witnessed frequent high-level exchanges and fruitful results from cooperation in various fields. It brings tangible benefits to both sides. Costa Rica hopes to deepen mutual trust, cooperation and friendship with China, and wishes the Chinese people will make continuous achievements in the process of realizing the Chinese dream.

The two heads of state exchanged views on the cooperation between the two countries and they reached broad consensus:

First, to enhance high-level exchanges and to consolidate political mutual trust. To promote friendly exchanges between the government agencies, legislative bodies and political parties of the two countries. To continue to provide firm support to each other on issues concerning each other's core interests.

Second, to continue to push forward practical cooperation. To expand the scope,

optimize the structure and enlarge the scale of trade based on the free trade agreement between the two countries with the guidance of government and the participation of enterprises. China supports Costa Rica in constructing a special economic zone, and Costa Rica welcomes Chinese enterprises investing in the country. The two countries will explore cooperation on clean energy.



Third, to deepen exchanges in the fields of culture, education, sports and tourism. To strengthen youth and local exchanges, implementing projects of students exchange and Confucius Institute. China will continue to train professional and technical personnels for Costa Rica. Costa Rica will simplify visa application procedure for the Chinese people, as a favourable measure for people-to-people exchange.

Fourth, to enhance cooperation on international affairs, especially to strengthen communication and coordination on climate change, sustainable development and other major issues. To push forward democracy in international relations and to work together to safeguard the interests of developing countries as a whole.

The two sides exchanged views on the relations between China and Latin American and Caribbean countries. They agreed to work together to set up a China-Latin America cooperation forum and will support each other to host China-Latin America agriculture ministers' forum, think tanks exchange forum and entrepreneur summit within this year. Costa Rica will hold the rotating presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States next year and will play an active role in promoting the overall cooperation between Latin America and China.

Following the talks, the two heads of state attended the signing ceremony of a number of cooperation documents including the economic and technological cooperation agreement between the two governments as well as the agreement on investment and financing for renovation and expansion of roads and refineries in Costa Rica. They jointly met the press.

Prior to the talks, Xi Jinping attended the welcome ceremony held by Chinchilla. All along the way to the Presidential Palace, thousands of local people and children were standing by the streets, waving national flags of Costa Rica and China to welcome distinguished guests from China. Upon their arrival at the square in front of the Presidential Palace, Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan were greeted by President Chinchilla and her husband. A welcoming team of Costa Rican children were at the site. Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan, accompanied by President Chinchilla, walked along the red carpet onto the inspection platform. The military band played the national anthems of the two countries. Costa Rican Legislative Assembly President, Supreme Court President, Supreme Electoral Tribunal President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and cabinet ministers were present at the welcome ceremony.

Chinese President Urges More Vigor for Ties with Caribbean Nations

Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping called in Port of Spain on June 2 for more vigor and cooperation to boost ties between China and Caribbean nations.

When meeting with Donald Ramotar, President of Guyana, Xi said Guyana is the first English-speaking Caribbean country to establish diplomatic relations with China, which laid a solid foundation for the bilateral relationship.



China is willing to enhance communication and cooperation between the two countries' governments, parliaments and political parties, and deepen cooperation in such fields as infrastructure, mining, agriculture, forestry and fishery, Xi said.

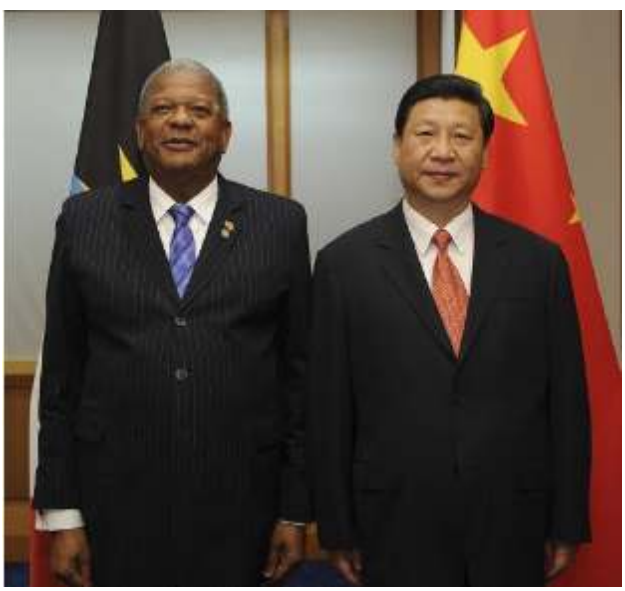
He pledged to carry out projects including airport, hydro-power generation plant and e-government in Guyana.

Xi also noted that China and Guyana share extensive common interests in the domains of climate change and the reform of the international system, urging close cooperation in multilateral sphere.

For his part, Ramotar spoke highly of China's development and its important contribution to safeguarding world peace and assisting developing countries.

Guyana looks forward to beefing up communication and cooperation with China so as to raise its level of development, the president said.

When meeting Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Xi said that Antigua and Barbuda is an important partner of China in the Caribbean region, and that China appreciates its support on issues concerning Beijing's core interests.



Xi said China values the cooperation proposals put forward by Antigua and Barbuda related to people's livelihoods and tourism, and is ready to exchange views with the Caribbean nation and learn from each other on environmental protection and

ecological conservation.

He said this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Antigua and Barbuda, calling on the two countries to use the occasion to lift their cooperation to a higher level.

Noting Antigua and Barbuda will hold the rotating chair of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly, Xi said China is willing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with the Caribbean country.

Spencer thanked China for its aid to his country and lauded the Asian nation for its efforts to develop relations with Antigua and Barbuda on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

He expressed hope the two countries can strengthen cooperation in economy, trade, culture and multilateral issues, adding that China's development will bring opportunities for his country and the Caribbean region at large.

When meeting with Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica, Xi described the country as China's good friend and partner.

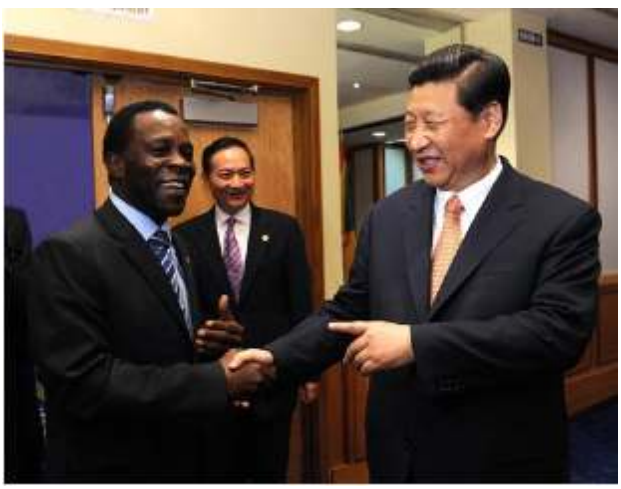


He urged the two countries to continue to transfer technologies and share experiences in such areas as agriculture and medical services, cooperate in the fields of economy and technology, explore clean energy, jointly cope with climate change, expand people-to-people exchanges and strengthen cooperation in personnel training.

Skerrit, for his part, thanked China for its assistance and expressed willingness to enhance cooperation with China in such fields as transport infrastructure, education and medical services.

Dominica appreciates China's position on climate change and its assistance to small island countries, the prime minister said, expressing hope that Dominica and China could support each other and enhance cooperation.

When meeting with Grenadian Prime Minister Keith Mitchell, Xi said China appreciates Grenada's support on issues concerning Beijing's core interests.



Bilateral relations have developed smoothly over the past eight years, Xi said, adding that the two sides should adopt a future-oriented perspective and continue to work together for a long-term, sound and stable development of bilateral ties.

The two countries, Xi said, should maintain high-level exchanges, consolidate political mutual trust, and improve cooperation in such sectors as infrastructure, agriculture, human resources, education,

culture and tourism.

Noting that bilateral cooperation has born rich fruit, Mitchell said the two countries are facing fine opportunities to further bilateral ties.

He said Grenada hopes to, based on the principle of mutual respect, cement its friendship with China and advance bilateral cooperation.

During a meeting with Bahamian Prime Minister Perry Christie, Xi said the Bahamas, boasting strong tourism, is an important offshore financial center and marine transportation hub in the world.



The country, the Chinese president said, is a key economic and trade partner of China in the Caribbean, and bilateral cooperation enjoys great potential.

China and the Bahamas, Xi suggested, should improve communication, deepen cooperation in trade and tourism, and enhance educational, cultural and people-to-people exchanges so as to lift bilateral ties to a new level.

For his part, Christie said intensified cooperation with China is crucial to his country's social and economic development.

Xi also met with Portia Simpson-Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica. Jamaica is a big power in the Caribbean and one of China's most important cooperation partners in the region, he said.

Xi suggested the two sides improve cooperation in infrastructure, agriculture, telecommunications and mining.



Recalling his visit to Jamaica four years ago, Xi said he was deeply impressed by Jamaican people's passion for the Chinese culture.

The Chinese people are also familiar with Jamaican great athletes, Xi said, adding that the two countries should improve exchanges and cooperation in culture, education, sports and tourism.

Simpson-Miller said Jamaica cherishes its friendship with China and appreciates Beijing's assistance.

Jamaica, she said, is ready to strengthen economic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges with China, and to conduct communication and mutual learning on sports and environmental protection.

Xi also exchanged views on China-Caribbean ties with the leaders. Noting that the Caribbean region is an important force in the international community, Xi said China-Caribbean cooperation has boosted their development and benefited their peoples.

China is ready to establish and develop

comprehensive cooperative partnership with countries in the region, Xi said.

Acknowledging that Xi's visit attests to the importance China has attached to the Caribbean region, the leaders said their countries are willing to join hands with China to advance Caribbean-China ties to a new phase.

China Pledges More Assistance to Caribbean Countries

Port of Spain, June 2 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged here on Sunday to scale up assistance to Caribbean nations in an effort to give fresh impetus to the cooperation between China and the region.

China will set up one or two demonstration centers in the next three years to showcase agricultural technologies, Xi said at a luncheon meeting with leaders of Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Guyana, Dominica, Barbados, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda, all of which are Caribbean countries with diplomatic ties with Beijing.

China will also send 100 medical staff to the Caribbean region, train 100 part-time postgraduate students and provide government scholarship for 1,000 students, Xi said.

As long as the two sides uphold the principles of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and common development, bring into play their respective advantages and expand bilateral cooperation, China and Caribbean nations can be good partners that respect and trust each other politically, benefit and complement each other economically, and learn from each other culturally, the Chinese president added.

Xi noted that the relations between China and Caribbean countries are becoming more mature and closer, adding the priority for the two sides now is how to make concerted efforts to seek common development for the benefit of the people.

The Caribbean leaders, for their part, thanked China for its long-term assistance and welcomed the new measures put forward by Xi, which they said would boost the development of Caribbean countries.

Caribbean countries value the opportunities brought by the development of China and want to beef up cooperation with the Asian country, they said.

II. CHINA-INDIA RELATIONS

Ambassador Wei Wei Holds an Appreciation Reception for the Successful Visit of Premier Li Keqiang to India

On the evening of May 29, 2013, Chinese Ambassador to India Wei Wei held an appreciation reception at Leela Hotel in New Delhi for the thoughtful arrangement and hospitality by the Indian side during the visit of Premier Li Keqiang to India from May 19 to 22. Ms. Ruchira Kamboj, Joint Secretary of Protocol Division, Ministry of External Affairs



(MEA), Government of India attended the reception as chief guest. Representatives from East Asia Division of MEA, Indian Council of World Affairs, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Confederation of Indian Industry, the Associated Chambers of Indian Commerce and Industry, Rajghat Samadhi Committee, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Hyderabad House, Hotel Taj Palace, media organizations and diplomats from the Chinese Embassy in India, altogether more than 100 people were present at the event.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Wei Wei said that Premier Li Keqiang's visit to India was the first leg of the first overseas visit since he took office in March. During the visit, Premier Li had held candid, friendly and fruitful meetings and talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and other Indian leaders. The two countries issued a joint statement and signed 8 agreements. This visit had converged strategic consensus, enhanced political mutual trust and expanded economic cooperation between the two countries, charting out the future development of China-India relations in all-round manner. It was a successful visit with great significance, far-reaching impact and fruitful results.



Ambassador Wei Wei extended sincere thanks to relevant government departments, organizations, communities and all people who contributed to this visit. He appreciated their diligent, delicate, professional and efficient work as well as support and collaboration given to Premier Li's delegation and the Chinese Embassy, which helped us to overcome many difficulties such as tight schedule and scorching heat. He wished the friendship between China and India flourish and blossom.

Ms. Kamboj appreciated the hosting of this reception by Ambassador Wei Wei. She was deeply touched. She emphasized that the significance of protocol work during high level visits was collaboration. She was impressed by the professionalism, diligence and devotion showed by the Chinese side. She also wished further development of the China-India relations.

During the reception, the Indian guests and Chinese diplomats exchange views in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

A Fresh Start for China-India Relations

Indian English Magazine *Diplomatist* published message from Ambassador to India Wei Wei on its Chinese Special Edition of May 2013. The full text is as follows:

China and India, both ancient civilizations in Asia and important neighbouring countries to each other, share a traditional friendly history for thousands of years. Now, they are regarded as the two largest developing countries and emerging market economies in Asia, sharing the similar historical mission to boost their social and economic development. There have been ups and downs through the history of China-India relations, but with the joint efforts of both sides, we have always been able to put the wheel of friendly history back to the right track and move forward.

The two countries are heading towards the right direction of developing bilateral relations

Last decade witnessed a great progress of China-India relations. The two countries are heading towards the right direction of developing bilateral relations, establishing the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, formulated a "Ten-pronged Strategy" to deepen cooperation, and signed "A Shared Vision for the 21st Century of China and India." The leaders of the two countries have maintained close contacts on dozens of bilateral and multilateral occasions, almost creating a record of meetings between top leaders in the contemporary history of international relations. The two sides have successively established a series of effective bilateral cooperation mechanisms and communication platform including "special representatives talks" on boundary questions, defense and security consultation, joint economic group on economic relations and trade, science and technology, financial dialogue, strategic economic dialogue, and so on. The two countries have actively carried out political dialogue and consultations at all levels, efficiently managed their disputes and differences and increased strategic mutual trust, while gradually finding out a pragmatic way of friendly co-existence between them. At the same time, we have witnessed increasingly closer exchanges and cooperation at all levels. Trade volume and mutual investment expanded rapidly; military contact made progress; people-to-people exchanges enjoyed sufficient increase; multilateral cooperation earned remarkable notice, all of which have accumulated positive energy to promote the China-India relations to a new level.

Next decade is a strategically important period of opportunities to develop China-India relations. The world today is undergoing a transition of political and economic pattern. Countries have become increasingly inter-connected and inter-dependent while China-India Relations have broad prospects for development. We should be more positive and inclusive, firmly grasp the general direction of bilateral relations, constantly enhance mutual political trust, strengthen strategic communication, deepen the integration of interests, properly handle differences and seek common development, expand the exchanges and cooperation between governments, political parties, parliaments, militaries, corporations and civilians so as to push forward China-India Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

As emphasized by leaders of our two countries, the world needs the common development of China and India and can provide sufficient room for the two

neighbours' development. We believe that our two countries, by enhancing cooperation, can expand our space for development, and increase common interests so as to facilitate a sustainable economic and social development and help the world order and system advance in a just and reasonable direction. This will promote better livelihood of more than 2.5 billion people in the two countries, which bears a great significance for the whole world.

Recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward a five-point proposal to promote China-India relations which in short is to maintain strategic communication; harness each other's comparative strengths and expand win-win cooperation; strengthen cultural ties; expand coordination and collaboration in multilateral affairs; accommodate each other's core concerns and properly handle problems and differences existing between the two countries. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh also said that developing good-neighbourly and friendly relations with China and realizing common development along with China is a priority of the India's foreign policy. India and China are cooperative partners instead of rivals. I believe that China-India relations have stood on a fresh start and will see greater and better development with the care and guidance of the leaders of the two countries, thus to bring greater benefits to our countries and peoples and make more contributions to the peace and prosperity of the region and the world at large.

Private Sectors to Form Think-Tank for Trilateral Cooperation among Nepal, China, India

Kathmandu, June 10 (Xinhua) — The business community of Nepal, China and India are going to form a joint think-tank body to accelerate trilateral cooperation, a Nepali business leader said here on June 10.

The representative organizations of the business community in three nations are working to declare such a body by the first week of September, 2013, according to Pradeep Jung Pandey, vice president of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI).

"Realizing that trilateral cooperation should be initiated from people-to-people level, the private sector representative bodies of three countries have reached an understanding for a think-tank organization to conduct through study on possibilities," businessman Pandey told Xinhua.

The possibility of the trilateral cooperation was much hyped during recent China visit of Nepal's former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal.

FNCCI has opened discussion over the formation of think-tank non-governmental organization with All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC) and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) recently.

FNCCI and ACFIC represent their respective countries in Nepal- China Non Governmental Aid Forum.

The proposed think tank body will seek mutual benefits for all three countries on infrastructure, culture, tourism and other areas.

III. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Xi, Putin Discuss Bilateral Ties, Korean Peninsula

Beijing, June 15 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin discussed bilateral ties and the situation on the Korean Peninsula in a telephone conversation Saturday.

Xi said the current China-Russia relationship is advancing to a higher level.

The two sides are actively implementing the important consensus and agreements reached at the leaders' summit in Moscow in March, Xi said.

High-level exchanges between Russia and China are becoming more frequent and cooperation between the two nations in the fields of investment, energy, culture, law enforcement, security, etc has gained positive headway, Xi said.

Beijing and Moscow have also conducted closer coordination and collaboration on international affairs, Xi said, adding that China supports Russia in hosting the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

Xi said he cherishes his personal friendship and mutual trust with President Putin.

China is ready to maintain close communication and cooperation with Russia on bilateral ties and major international and regional issues in the spirit of comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

Xi also briefed Putin on reconstruction efforts in Sichuan province's Lushan County after a strong earthquake jolted the region in April. Xi also once again voiced gratitude to Putin for Russia's support and aid.

Putin, on his part, said Russia-China ties have reached an unprecedented high in terms of the level of mutual trust and quality of cooperation.

The Russian president said that Xi's state visit to Russia in March strongly promoted bilateral ties.

To push forward Russia-China relations has long-term strategic bearings, Putin said.

Russia is willing to make joint efforts with China to put into action the main fruits of Xi's visit, he said.

Putin said he highly values the constructive friendly relationship between the two heads of state and is ready to continue regular exchanges with Xi, hoping to meet the Chinese president again during the G-20 summit in St. Petersburg later this year.

Putin wished China's construction cause smooth development.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Premier Li Keqiang Holds Talks with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia

On June 13, 2013, Premier Li Keqiang held talks with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia at the Great Hall of the People.

Li Keqiang said, China and Ethiopia have a long history of traditional friendship. Since the two countries established diplomatic relationship, the bilateral relations have

enjoyed smooth growth with fruitful cooperation. As both China and Ethiopia are developing countries and committed to developing their economies and improving people's livelihood, the two countries boast strong complementarity and huge potential for cooperation. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-Ethiopia comprehensive cooperative partnership. China is willing to work with Ethiopia to push bilateral friendly cooperation to a new level. The Chinese government supports competitive companies to work with the Ethiopian side in the fields of infrastructure, energy, natural resources, industrial parks, manufacturing and agriculture. Hope the Ethiopian side will continue to offer support through specific policies and further improve the environment for investment. China is ready to work with Ethiopia to keep frequent people-to-people exchanges, to deepen cooperation on education, culture and tourism and to enhance communication and coordination on international and regional hotspot issues, including reform of the United Nations Security Council, Somali and the Sudan-South Sudan issue, so as to promote regional and world prosperity and stability.

Li Keqiang said, Africa is always a trustworthy good friend and good partner of China, and both sides have offered sincere assistance and precious support for each other. In the new century, both sides have continuously made new achievements in cooperation within the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). No political strings are attached to China's aid within its ability to Africa and Chinese companies and citizens are required to comply with local laws and customs. We hope African countries will protect the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies and citizens and properly deal with problems through consultations. China will continue to firmly support peace, development and integration process in



Africa, to help African countries increase their self-development capabilities and make the China-Africa cooperation better benefit the peoples. Hope Ethiopia, as holding the rotating presidency of the African Union, will play the constructive role and make more contribution for the promotion of the China-Africa relations.

Hailemariam Desalegn noted that Ethiopia and China are long-time reliable cooperative partners. China has offered valuable support to Ethiopia for the national liberation and development, training a large number of professionals for the Ethiopian side. The Ethiopian side is deeply grateful for this and is willing to comprehensively deepen practical cooperation with China in all fields. Ethiopia welcomes Chinese businesses to invest in the country and is willing to protect Chinese interests and to offer necessary facilitation. As a sincere friend of Africa, China has played an important role in boosting African peace, stability and development. Ethiopia will make efforts for greater development of Africa-China relations.

Prior to the talks, Li Keqiang held a welcome ceremony for Hailemariam Desalegn at the Square outside the East Gate of the Great Hall of the People.

Deeper China-U.S.Cooperation to Drive Economic Growth

Beijing June 4 (Xinhua) — Stronger China-U.S. cooperation will drive economic growth in both countries, Premier Li Keqiang said on Tuesday.

If both countries work more closely to combine China's huge market and the leading technology of the United States, the cooperation will create a stronger impetus for economic growth and turn development opportunities into cooperative results, Li said at a seminar held with a delegation of U.S. business leaders and former senior officials.

The delegation, headed by President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Thomas Donohue, included former National Security Advisor Sandy Berger,former U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, former Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez and a group of senior business executives.

Li said China-U.S. relations are entering



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang shakes hands with President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Thomas Donohue during a seminar with a delegation of U.S. business leaders and former senior officials, in Beijing, capital of China, June 4, 2013.

an important period. President Xi Jinping's upcoming summit with U.S. President Barack Obama will chart a blueprint for a new type of bilateral relationship that features equality, trust, tolerance, cooperation and common prosperity, Li said.

Li called for both sides to respect each other on issues concerning their core interests, improve cooperation and play a positive role in safeguarding peace and stability in Asia and the world.

He said both countries' economies are in different stages of development but are still highly complementary.

Li said China is upgrading its economy and opening more widely to the outside world, while the United States is also restructuring its economy.

As the world's largest developing country, China's development is its biggest contribution to the world, Li said.

The premier said China will assume its responsibilities and work with the United States to make efforts to promote global economic recovery.

Li said he hopes the fourth China-U.S. business leaders' and former senior officials' dialogue, which ran from Tuesday to Wednesday in Beijing, will play a positive role in enabling both countries to deepen communication and expand pragmatic cooperation.

Donohue and several delegation members said the seminar will help U.S. businessmen more fully understand the Chinese government's policies and give them more confidence in deepening cooperation with China.

They said they will work with the Chinese side to contribute to the development of bilateral relations.

Several U.S. business leaders asked Li about China's reform and opening up, the development of its finance sector, energy security, the environment and China's energy cooperation with foreign countries.

Li asked the business leaders to continue to play a constructive role in promoting economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

China Commits to Win-Win Development in Pursuing National Interests

Singapore, June 2 (Xinhua) — China's hope for sustained peace and stability in this region and stress on dialogues and consultations for the sake of peace by no means denotes unconditional compromise, said Qi Jianguo, deputy chief of general staff of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China.

"Our resolve and commitment to safeguarding core national interests always stands steadfast," Qi said in a speech at the 12th Shangri-La Dialogue, a multilateral forum organized by the London-based think



Qi Jianguo, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, during the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, June 2, 2013

tank International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Qi said China upholds an open spirit of not only taking strides towards the world, but also welcoming the world to engage China, with the purpose of sharing resources and jointly creating a better future.

"For this end, we should discard cold-war mentality, go beyond the outdated zero-sum games, and refrain from building military alliances, setting imaginary enemies and taking actions against a third party," he said.

To realize prosperity, stability and development of Asia- Pacific region, one cannot merely rely on the efforts of a single nation, nor on expansion and plundering, even less on the obsession with use of force — the only way forward is to take cooperation as the overriding principle, Qi noted.

"We believe that win-win development entails sharing of interests, one should take the legitimate concerns of others' into consideration instead of only maximizing one's own interests," Qi said.

He stressed that countries, no matter big or small, are all equal, and they should respect each other and build win-win relationships.

The 12th Shangri-la Dialogue, which opened on May 31, gathered defense ministers, vice ministers, senior military officials and scholars from over 20 Asia-Pacific countries and regions, as well as countries in North America, Europe and the Middle East.

China Calls for Peace & Stability at 2013 Shangri-La Dialogue

Beijing, June 3 (Xinhuanet) — The 12th Shangri-la Dialogue, also known as the Asia-Pacific Security Summit, has concluded in Singapore. China's representative has insisted that its development is peaceful and poses no threat to the Asia-Pacific region.

Instead of focusing on conflicts, this year's Shangri-la dialogue has taken the theme of cooperation. That theme was evident in a speech delivered by Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo, deputy chief of general staff of the People's Liberation Army of China.

Qi Jianguo, Deputy Chief of General Staff, PLA, said, "China will always follow the road of peaceful development and remain committed to peaceful, open, co operative and mutually beneficial development. China's development and prosperity is a major opportunity rather than a challenge or even a threat to countries in the Asia-Pacific region. China seeks cooperation and mutual benefit, and just its own exclusive development."

China will always follow the road of peaceful development and remain committed to peaceful, open, co-operative and mutually beneficial development

Qi also said that China encourages dialogue and consultation to resolve disputes in the region, but it will not waiver in its determination to safeguard national interests.

"China's hope for sustained peace and stability in this region, and its stress on dialogue and consultation for the sake of peace by no means denotes unconditional compromise. Our resolve and commitment to safeguarding core national interests always stands steadfast."

In 2012, the US

officially laid out a strategy of rebalancing its presence in the region. One year on, its relationship with China has become a center of attention at the Dialogue. US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said the US welcomes the rise of a powerful and responsible China.

Chuck Hagel, US Defense Secretary, said, "We have interests here too, just as China and Russia and other nations have interests all over the world. We don't want miscalculations and misunderstandings. The only way you do that is to talk to each other. You got to be direct with each other. You have to share with each other. I think we are on track with that. We've made progress on that. I think we've made continued progress and we'll make more progress."

The Shangri-La Dialogue was launched in 2002. It aims to provide a platform for Asia-Pacific military and government officials to foster practical security cooperation in the region.

People-to-People Dialogue Urged to Boost China-SE Asia Ties

Nanning, June 4 (Xinhua) — Delegates from China and Southeast Asian countries are calling for more people-to-people communication at an ongoing conference in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Liu Qibao, head of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said China is willing to work with prosperity.

Organized by the China NGO Network for International Exchange (CNIE), a national non-profit social organization, the two-day conference is being attended by delegates from 11 Southeast Asian countries.

Liu's views were echoed by delegates attending the event. Political figures, scholars and entrepreneurs voiced strong support for more exchanges between China and Southeast Asia.

Ung Huot, former first prime minister of Cambodia, said people-to-people communication will create a win-win situation for China and Southeast Asian nations.

"Many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Cambodia are having exchanges with those in China. I strongly encourage this because it will contribute to our common prosperity," he said.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr., a senator from the Philippines, said people-to-people dialogue is an important way to solve conflicts.

He said it is necessary to enhance non-governmental exchanges between China and the Philippines in the areas of tourism, education and health care.

Sidney C Bata, director of the Ricardo Leong Center for Chinese Studies at Ateneo de Manila University, said Chinese culture has had a great influence on many Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines.

He said young people in the Philippines do not know China very well, adding that there is an urgent need for both countries to encourage communication among young people.

Exchanges between China and Southeast Asian countries have intensified since China and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries starting boosting political, trade and cultural ties in 2003.

Trade between China and ASEAN has exceeded 400 billion yuan (about 65 billion

U.S. dollars), making China ASEAN's biggest trade partner. ["However, people-to-people communication is still weak compared with frequent official contact between China and Southeast Asian nations," said Li Jinjun, vice minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and executive vice president of CNIE.

"It's necessary for us to strengthen direct contact among our people to enhance understanding and trust," he said.

Noppamest Suwannamai, a researcher at the Thai-Chinese Strategic Research Center in Bangkok, said uniting NGOs in China and Southeast Asia is a good way to enhance people-to-people communication.

But he said many NGOs do not have enough personnel and funds, adding that governments should step up efforts to boost communication between NGOs.

Zhang Xinsheng, honorary vice president of CNIE, said people-to-people dialogue should focus on local governments, women, young people and ethnic groups, adding that such contact will complement official contact.

The China-Southeast Asia High-level People-to-People Dialogue, which was held in the cities of Nanning and Fangchenggang, was held to enhance non-governmental exchanges between China and Southeast Asian countries.

Organized by the China NGO Network for International Exchange, a national non-profit social organization, the two-day event was attended by delegates from 11 Southeast Asian countries.

China-South Asia Expo Opens in Kunming

Kunmimg, June 6 (Xinhua) — The first China-South Asia Expo, aimed at boosting cooperation and development of the region, kicked off Thursday in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province.

With the theme of opening up to each other, pragmatic cooperation, mutual benefit and harmonious development, the expo is expected to serve as a platform for economic, technological and cultural exchanges between China and South Asian countries.

The five-day expo is expected to attract more than 1,200 exhibitors and buyers from 43 countries or regions, according to organizers.

There are 2,420 indoor exhibitor booths which are divided into four display areas, including a mechanical and electrical equipment zone and a biological resources section. There are also two outdoor display zones for furniture, large machinery and equipment.

South Asian countries are registered to



The first China-South Asia Expo, aimed at boosting cooperation and development of the region, opens on June 6, 2013 in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, attracting over 1,400 exhibitors from Asian countries and regions.

take up 748 booths, accounting for about one third of the total.

Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai and foreign leaders or senior officials from Malawi, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand attended the opening ceremony. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Secretary-General Ahmed Saleem was also present.

The event has been upgraded from the South Asian Countries Commodities Fair which was first held in Kunming in 2010.

The 21st Kunming Import and Export Fair opened simultaneously with the expo.



A buyer from Maldives chooses South Korean Jewelry at the first China-South Asia Expo in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, June 6, 2013. The five-day China-South Asia Expo opened here on June 6, attracting over 1,400 exhibitors from Asian countries and regions.

China, South Asia Jointly Weather Financial Crisis

Kunming, June 11 (Xinhua) — Trade officials from China and South Asian countries at the just-concluded 1st China-South Asia Expo proposed to strengthen cooperation and maintain economic growth amid the lackluster economic rebound.

The expo, which ran from June 6 to 10 in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, was held simultaneously with the 21st China Kunming Import and Export Fair.



According to statistics from the expos' organizing committee, transaction volume during both of the five-day fairs reached 17.47 billion U.S. dollars, up 116.5 percent compared with last year.

Macky Hashim, former president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), said many South Asian countries have made considerable economic development with the help of cooperation with China at a time when Western nations are struggling against economic woes.

Being complementary to each other

in various fields, China and South Asian countries should boost persistent cooperation in order to maintain the stability of the regional economic development, said Masood Khalid, ambassador of Pakistan to China.



Along with the increasingly close economic and trade relations between China and South Asian nations, the bilateral trade volume between China and these countries has increased from 34.7 billion U.S. dollars in 2006 to 93 billion U.S. dollars in 2012.

China has become an important trade partner and foreign investment source for South Asian countries while these nations are serving as China's major overseas project contracting markets and investment destinations.

Yu Ping, vice chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said China should further expand cooperative areas with South Asian countries.

Small and middle-sized enterprises should strengthen pragmatic joint work with South Asian countries in traditional fields while exploring emerging fields such as financing, environmental protection, and high-tech areas, according to Yu.

Ahmed Saleem, secretary general of the SAARC, said at the expo that senior officials from China and most SAARC member countries have attended the expo, indicating that they are very willing to take bilateral economic and trade relations to a higher level.\The SAARC will keep deepening regional economic cooperation with China and make full use of the abundant resources of both sides so as to help South Asian nations get rid of poverty and make the region a dynamic economic growth point, Saleem vowed.

Rafeeque Ahmed, president of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations, said it is necessary for China and India to develop their trade relations. India hopes to make joint efforts with China in infrastructure construction, skills training, as well as industrial research and development.

In recent years, Bangladesh has attracted many Chinese companies including Huawei, ZTE and Haier Group to invest and set up plants there under a series of preferential policies, according to sources with the Embassy of Bangladesh to China.

China has also implemented an exemption policy on tariffs on about 5,000 imported goods from Bangladesh such as leather products, textiles and electronic components.

Tariq Sayeed, president of the Planet Energy Limited (a Pakistani company), said more products from South Asian countries would be exported to Chinese consumers via the expo.

Sayeed expressed hope about further market expansion, more investment, and said transfer of labor forces between China and South Asian countries should be encouraged so as to realize sustainable and comprehensive development in the region.

IV. DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

China's Space Dream Crystallized with Shenzhou-10 Launch

Jiuquan, June 11 (Xinhua) — China successfully launched its fifth manned spacecraft on June 11 afternoon, sending three astronauts on the country's longest space trip.

With 10 astronauts and six spacecraft launched into space in a decade, China is speeding up on the path of exploration and building a home for Chinese in the galaxy.

At a see-off ceremony held hours before the launch, Chinese President Xi Jinping extended good wishes to the three astronauts.

"The mission's crew members carry a space dream of the Chinese nation, and represent the lofty aspirations of the Chinese people to explore space," said Xi.

The President later watched the launch at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, and shook hands with staff at the center after the successful launch.

Unlike the space trip of Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut who boarded the Shenzhou-5 spacecraft in 2003, of less than a day, the three astronauts will stay for half a month.

In its journey, Shenzhou-10 will dock with the orbiting space lab Tiangong-1 twice, once through automatic operation and the other manual, and a lecture will for the first time be given on board the assembled orbiter to a group of teenage students on the ground.

Compared with the previous nine Shenzhou spacecraft, the Shenzhou-10 is no longer experimental but considered an applicable shuttle system for transporting astronauts and supplies to orbiting modules.

"It is like developing a new type of car. You have to try it on roads of different conditions. Now trials are over and the car can be put into formal operation," said Zhou Jianping, chief engineer of China's manned space program.

On the other hand, the upgraded Long March-2F carrier rocket is technically the same as the one used with the Shenzhou-9 manned spacecraft.

"No alteration means that China's rocket technology is becoming mature," said Jing Muchun, chief designer of the carrier rocket.



The Long March-2F carrier rocket carrying China's manned Shenzhou-10 spacecraft blasts off from the launch pad at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China's Gansu Province, June 11, 2013.

This mission aims to further test technologies designed for docking and supporting astronauts' stay in space, as well as to use new technologies related to the construction of a space station, said Wu Ping, China's manned space program spokeswoman, at a press conference on Monday.

The Tiangong-1 space lab has been in orbit for about 620 days, and about three months are left before the designated end of its service.

The module is considered the first step toward China operating a permanent space station around 2020 and making it the world's third country to do so.



Chinese PresidentXi Jinping shakes hands with those participating in the program of Shenzhou-10 manned spacecraft and sends his warm greetings to them at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Jiuquan, northwest China's Gansu Province, June 11, 2013.

The nation is likely to launch a space station before 2016.

There are risks that the conditions of some components on Tiangong-1 might not be at their best since the module is near the end of its service and has gone through four docking tests, Wu said.

For Nie Haisheng, commander of the three-member crew and a second-time space traveler, this mission will be longer, with more experiments to be conducted, than his previous outing in 2006.

"It will be a new challenge with greater risks," Nie told the media on Monday.

However, he is looking forward to entering the space lab module. "My colleagues and I will work in a home for Chinese in space," he said.

For this mission, the manned space program also considered approaching the public.

In a lecture through a live video feed system, female astronaut Wang Yaping will introduce motion in a microgravity environment, surface tension of liquid, and help students understand weight, mass and Newton's Laws.

Wang will also interact with students and teachers on Earth and the lecture will be broadcast live.

Ordinary Chinese, especially science enthusiasts, are excited about the new mission.

"It is a festival for space fans," said Zhao Yang, a researcher with the China Science and Technology Museum, who just watched the Hollywood sci-fi blockbuster Star Trek Into Darkness on Monday.

He was very much interested in the lecture to be given in space, saying, "There might be an interesting introduction about the weightless condition."

For renowned science fiction novelist Liu Xinci, Tuesday's events reinforced his belief that he will live to see space travel become accessible for all common people.

He has a very vivid vision of future life.

"In the next century, human beings will

set foot on all planets in the solar system. People will inhabit the moon and Mars. A lot of people will work in space as space journeys will be as easy as flights."

COMMUNISTS IN SPACE

The three-member crew were all veteran Air Force pilots before being selected as astronauts. Nie is the first general visiting space while his teammate Wang Yaping is China's first space traveler born in the 1980s, a generation growing up in era of reform and opening up.

All of them are members of the Communist Party of China.

Yang Liwei, the country's first astronaut, once told Xinhua that Chinese astronauts might not pray like their foreign counterparts do before they set off on a space mission; however, Communism, as their shared faith, supports them.

"If the country has its own space station, Chinese astronauts, who are Party members, might set up a Party branch up there," Yang said.

Of the crew, 48-year-old Nie is commander of this mission, and responsible for the manual docking operation with the Tiangong-1 target orbiter.

Zhang Xiaoguang, 47, will assist the commander to accomplish the spacecraft's manual docking with Tiangong-1. Another job that Zhang will be doing in space is to film Wang's lecture lecture, which will be broadcast to middle and elementary school students in China.

Wang, 33, is the second Chinese female astronaut after Liu Yang in the Shenzhou-9 mission, which blasted off in June last year. Wang will be responsible for monitoring the conditions of the spacecraft, space experiments, operation of equipment and taking care of fellow crew members.

Senior Official Details China's Wildlife Protection Efforts

A top Chinese wildlife official on May 21, 2013 detailed how recent years have seen China intensify efforts to protect animals and promote biodiversity.

Speaking at a press conference on the eve of the International Day for Biological Diversity, Yin Hong, Deputy Director of the State Forestry Administration (SFA), said that the country, among the richest in wildlife species in the world, has attached great importance to wildlife protection.

There are more than 6,500 vertebrate species in China, representing about 10 percent of the world's total, data from the SFA showed.

Over 470 land-living vertebrates are native only to China, including the giant panda, golden monkey, South China tiger and Chinese alligator.

To better protect the country's biodiversity, China has constantly worked to improve its legal framework in the past few decades, Yin said.

The country's put the Law on the Protection of Wildlife into effect in 1988, laying down the basic principles for the conservation of precious and endangered species, as well as the protection, development and rational use of wildlife to safeguard the ecological balance.

The country has now built a fully fledged legal framework with a series of laws and

regulations made by both the central government and local-level governments.

Building nature reserves has played an important role in China's wildlife protection efforts.

SFA data showed there are currently more than 2,150 natural reserve areas covering 13 percent of the country's territory, giving effective protection to more than 85 percent of wildlife under national-level protection.

China included a total of 256 species in a catalog of national-level protected species released in 1988. It is illegal to slaughter or sell those species.

The country has also constructed natural protection districts, wetlands and forest parks to serve as the major battlefields to protect wild animals, according to Yin.

The SFA has set up more than 1,000 stations for wildlife disease monitoring around the country, which played a significant role during China's recent efforts to guard against the H7N9 bird flu.

China has also moved to expand the population of endangered species, cracked down on illegal slaughtering and sales of wildlife and intensified international collaboration in conserving endangered species and promoting biodiversity.

After decades of consistent effort, China's endangered species have reversed the trend of continuous decline and started rising steadily during the past 10 years, Yin said.

"Some extremely endangered species are stepping away from the danger of extinction," she said.

Her view is proved by changes in the number of giant pandas, an endangered species native only to China.

More than 2,000 giant pandas were living in the wild in the 1970s. The number dropped to 1,114 in the 1980s, according to two separate surveys.

A third survey conducted from 1999 to 2003 showed that the number had risen to 1,596.

An update on the number of giant pandas is not available as the country is currently conducting the fourth survey, which may last to 2014, according to Yan Xun, chief engineer of the wildlife conservation department under the SFA.

The number of crested ibises, a rare bird species, has risen from only seven in 1981 to more than 1,700 at present thanks to the country's protection and artificial breeding efforts.

The administration is going to vigorously push forward wildlife protection to contribute to safeguarding the biodiversity of China and the whole world, Yin said.

Regarding doubts over the link between China's legal ivory trade and the rising elephant poaching in Africa, Yan Xun, chief





engineer of the wildlife conservation department under the SFA, said there is "no necessary connection" between the two.

He said the reasons of rampant poaching are very complex, ranging from resources competition between people and elephants in some countries, wars to illegal trade.

"China has so far gained over 60 tonnes of ivory through international auctions," Yan said, adding the annual combined consumption of China's 37 legal processing companies was no more than 5,000 kilograms.

"China is very tough on ivory smuggling and illegal trade," he said.

The International Day for Biological Diversity, sanctioned by the United Nations, is marked around the world on May 22 each year.

Job Dilemma

by Yuan Yuan

Almost 7 million—this will be the number of college graduates in China in 2013, a year which promises to be the toughest job hunting season in Chinese history.



A job hunter applies for a job at a job fair in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, May 29, 2013. China will see a record-high 6.99 million people graduate from college this year according to official figures.

Never before has the nation had so many graduates competing for jobs, particularly when so few are available. The number of vacant positions offered by employers has shrunk by 15 percent. Without a doubt, the job market is white-hot.

As of April 19, less than 30 percent of graduating seniors in Beijing had signed contracts with employers. Shanghai faces a similar situation.

The title of "college student," once a shining halo for Chinese people in the 1980s and 1990s, is now virtually synonymous with "soon-to-be unemployed."

Harsh Reality

"In the late 1990s, the number of college graduates just exceeded 1 million. Now we have almost 7 million," said Xiong Bingqi, Vice President of the Beijing-based 21st Century Education Research Center.

The reason for such an increase lies in the expansion of college enrollment in the late 1990s as the government hoped to make more people have access to higher education. The expansion was also expected to boost consumer spending to fend off the impacts of the Asian Financial Crisis, as well as to ease

immediate pressure on the labor market.

Expanded enrollment finally gave 70 to 80 percent of high school graduates the chance to enter college. Figures from the Ministry of Education show that the number of college graduates already exceeded 6 million in 2009 and since then the number has grown steadily.

The bleak employment situation for college students has been a problem for years and is just becoming more prominent in 2013.

"While at the same time, the majors in colleges haven't changed that much as many colleges are not market-oriented and set up majors en masse," said Xiong.

In first-tier cities including Shanghai, Beijing, as well as Guangzhou and Shenzhen in Guangdong Province, where most graduates wish to make a living, young job hunters cluster in low-rent tenements in old parts of town or on the outskirts.

In 2009, Lian Si, a scholar at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing and then a post-doctoral fellow in Peking University, coined the term "ant tribe" based on three years of research of recent graduates.

"Now the living cost in such cities is even higher and with the displacement of such areas, it is much more difficult for the college graduates to find cheap accommodations," said Zhang Yi, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

For 25-year-old Fan Lihui, who just got his master in business administration, the situation is worse than previously imagined. "I lowered my salary expectation to 2,500 yuan ($407) a month, but I still couldn't get an interview," Fan told national broadcaster China Central Television.

In comparison, criteria drafted by netizens in early 2012 state that to be a white-collar worker in China, one needs to earn a monthly salary of no less than 20,000 yuan ($3,258), own an apartment with at least two bedrooms and a car worth around 150,000 yuan ($24,435).

The criteria, though lacking systematic social research and statistical analysis, to some extent, reflect China's public opinions on the financial requirements of leading a leisurely life amid soaring prices in everything from real estate to food. It also suggests that employability itself is closely tied to perceptions of socioeconomic status, said a report by Xinhua News Agency.

Yan Zhaolong, in charge of Nanjing Andemen Job Fair for Migrant Workers, is inundated with college students consulting him for opportunities as migrants. The job fair ended setting up a window specifically for graduates.

"I feel sad about this," said Yan, who is over 40 years old. "In my days, college students were people that we should admire. I never thought they could end up like this."

To Market

"If I could start college over..." prefaces an online photographic phenomenon. Students from Hangzhou Electronic Science and Technology University in Zhejiang Province stand in front of cameras holding papers written about their hypothetical second chances as freshmen.

Wishes include changing majors, reading more books, going to the lab more, taking part in more activities on campus, playing fewer computer games or going abroad for further study.

"I don't think the knowledge we've learned in college is of practical use and neither do my classmates," said a netizen who

calls himself Ballack, a Hunan University senior who still hadn't found a job as of May 26.

"College life is too easy as it is much easier to graduate than to be enrolled. You won't learn anything without self-control. The teachers won't care that much," said Liu Tongxue, a student at Shandong Normal University in Shandong Province who said that her contemporaries are self-centered yet fail to consider their individual competence for the most desirable employment opportunities.

Guo Hengyu, a sophomore at Suzhou University of Science and Technology in Jiangsu Province, has been hunting for a job since freshman year. "We have to prepare early and talk to the employers more to learn what kind of people they want. I'm worried what it will be like when I graduate."

Li Siyao, a graduate from Laizhou No. 1 Middle School in Laizhou, Shandong, who barely passed the college entrance exam by 37 points last year, eschewed university to attend a vocational school—Shandong Property Management College.

"I made this decision on the serious employment situation and I think this can only get worse in the following years," said Li. "I'd rather learn some vocational skills that can quickly be used in the market. For the degree, I can get that through self-taught exams if I want."

Postgraduates face an even worse situation, according to Tu Minxia, Director of the Guangzhou-Hong Kong-Macao Youngsters Research Institute.

"Many college students choose to stay in universities for further study to avoid the serious employment situation but find out things can only get worse. The job market is especially unkind to women with postgraduate degrees," said Tu.

The grim situation, though, dragged some students out of the ivy tower to face reality. Liao Weidong, a junior material chemistry major at Shanghai's Fudan University, one of the top universities in China, is already looking for work.

Liao goes off campus for his internship every weekend and always works until midnight. As a leader of the student union of the university, he frequently organizes students for mock job interviews and job-hunting lectures.

"Even though we come from a top university, we can't just take for granted that we will be well-received by the job market," said Liao.

Meng Xiangbo, a 23-year-old economics major at Anhui University in Anhui Province, opened a pet care shop near campus in 2012. It made about 70,000 yuan ($11,403) in its first year, and Meng plans to expand.

"Opportunities are everywhere as long as you can work hard," said Meng. "I think the future for college students to start up business is very promising."

But Meng also admitted that it is very hard for the college startups to get loans from the bank. He still hasn't told his parents that he is running his own business.

"In Chinese parents' eyes, the best choice is always to get a well-paid job in a decent company. Running one's own business would be regarded as risky and not on the right track," said Meng.

"The number of college students will be even more in the future, so we should deal with this at the root," said Ding Dajian, a researcher with the China Institute for Employment Research. "The core is to develop the private companies and make some preferential policies for college startups."

Short of Serious Reading

by Li Li

China lacks avid readers, according to a recently published survey of reading habits in 2012. The proportion of people surveyed who reported reading a paperback last year is only 55 percent, about 5 percentage points lower than in 1999.

The Chinese Academy of Press and Publications (CAPP) surveyed reading habits of 18,619 people in 28 provincial-level regions. About 31.3 percent of respondents were under 17 years old, and 26 percent were rural residents.

Chinese people's reading volume trails far behind many countries. Hao Zhensheng, CAPP President, said that South Koreans read an average of 11 books per year, Japanese read 8.5 and French read 8.4.

Only 1.3 percent of those surveyed said that they read a lot, and more than 50 percent admitted not reading enough books.

Forty-three percent of respondents reported "having no time because of busy work" and 35.8 percent "have no reading habit."

Other commonly cited reasons for insufficient reading include "watching too much TV," "not knowing what to read" and "cannot find interesting books."

Unaffordable Enjoyment

Leisure-time reading is losing popularity among adults and most people only read to advance their career opportunities, say researchers.

According to a report by Xinhua News Agency in April 2010, around 80 percent of books sold in China were textbooks. This preference for pragmatic reading was supported by the sales statistics of major bookstore chains in China as their bestselling categories were textbooks and study guides for certification exams.

Heavy academic burdens hinder Beijing students' after-school reading, says a report released by the China Youth and Children Research Center in April.

More than 1,400 students in the fourth to seventh grade were surveyed about their extracurricular reading habits. About 52



Children read books at a special reading area for children at the Yinchuan book center in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, May 26, 2013

percent electively read for about 30 minutes and about 12 percent read less than 15 minutes outside of regular studies, according to the report.

Lu Min, a researcher who led the survey, said that the research team found students didn't have much time for reading because they had to finish homework or attend after-school classes.

"The students don't take up a good reading habit. Therefore, during their limited spare time, they prefer to watch television, play online games or chat online," Lu said.

Only 35 percent of students read for at least an hour after school, and half of the total said that they prefer digital reading. The report says that half of students go to school libraries once a week while 7.7 percent never go.

Fragmented Reading

According to the CAPP poll, 97.9 percent of Internet users read books, periodicals or newspapers online at some time last year, compared with 96.4 percent in 2011.

Renowned writer Han Shaogong said that digital reading offers a fragmented style of reading that significantly reduces the amount of knowledge readers can absorb from a publication.

A China Youth Daily report explains the "fragmented reading" as with use of reading software or apps, people tend to start reading books without finishing, or even forget ever having read a book.

"Digital reading makes it convenient for people to read whenever and wherever they want, but other entertainment functions of digital devices often distract readers. I believe that people still have to rely on paperbacks if they want to really digest the contents of a book," said Jin Lihong, Vice President of the Changjiang Literature and Art Publishing House in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province.

Lu also said that when reading books on digital devices, students tend to give up reading when links to games, videos and other entertainment pop up.

"The multimedia terminals such as smartphones and iPads easily distract students' attention," Lu said.



A man reads at a bookstore in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on February 13.

The limitations of digital reading compared with holding a paperback are also echoed by the public in general. According to the CAPP poll, 74.4 percent of respondents aged 18 to 70 still prefer holding a paperback when reading a book.

Unworthy Books

According to a recent nationwide survey conducted by the China Youth Daily, more than 73 percent of 9,116 respondents said that there were too many trashy books on the

market.

Wang Feng, a Beijing resident, told China Youth Daily it is getting increasingly difficult to find books worth reading. Wang said that during his recent shopping trip in a bookstore, he found shelves filled with shoddy novels, self-help books promising personal success and guides to managing finances. No page-turners to be found.

"I believe the ancient proverb that one can always benefit from reading a book is no longer true. Many authors write nonsense and many others plagiarize, showing no respect for readers at all," said Wang.

Bai Ye, a senior research fellow with the Institute of Literature under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, blames Chinese people's loss of interest in reading on a deluge of trashy books on the market. He said that a large population has experienced difficulty in finding a worthy book to read.

Nearly 62 percent of respondents to China Youth Daily survey complained of publishing companies' obsession with making money. More than 55 percent said that the publishers lack independent thought, and more than 45 percent referred to a shallow reading culture. Almost 56 percent said that trashy books were "submerging" good ones.

Bai said that many publishing professionals lack good taste and use bestselling genres as their only guide in selecting titles. "They are manufacturers of trashy books as well as participants in a vulgar culture. It is a shame that some of them take pride in their actions," said Bai.

Li Mingsheng, a highly acclaimed author, said that many publishing houses weaned from government subsidies became totally profit-driven in selecting titles to publish, which resulted in the surge of trashy books.

Li said that to avoid the production of more trashy books, authors should not simply cater to some people's vulgar tastes, but that publishing professionals should give up profit-oriented operating guidelines and reviewers should recommend only truly excellent works to readers.

Rescuing Our Land

by Yin Pumin

The food safety watchdog of Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, said it would expand inspections on May 19 after detecting cadmium in eight samples of rice products.

The move aims to ensure only quality rice, rice noodles and related products are sold in the southern metropolis where the grain is a staple food, according to a statement released by the Guangzhou Food and Drug Administration.

"All packages of tainted rice and rice noodles have been sealed shut," it said.

From January to March, the administration checked 18 samples of rice from local markets and found eight had cadmium levels exceeding national food safety standards.

Cadmium is a highly toxic heavy metal used in pigments and batteries. Excessive cadmium intake can lead to kidney failure, lung impairment, bone diseases and cancer. Monitoring cadmium levels is a priority for many countries' grain production.

Cadmium-tainted rice products were found in two university cafeterias and two

restaurants in Guangzhou, with some samples reaching twice the national limit of 0.2 mg per kg. Their suppliers are based in Zhuzhou and Hengyang cities in central China's Hunan Province and Dongguan of Guangdong.

More tainted rice products were also found in Shunde District in Guangdong's Foshan, the local Nanfang Daily reported on May 21. Inspectors found nine batches of tainted rice during a district-wide inspection campaign.

Contaminated rice has long been a problem in China. A Nanjing Agricultural University research in 2011 found that around 10 percent of rice sold across the country contained excessive amounts of cadmium.

"Cadmium in rice usually comes from the soil where it grows, and the soil was polluted by mining and chemical waste," said Fan Zhihong, a food safety expert at Beijing-based China Agricultural University.



A young couple is picking vegetables in their own mini home garden. Green food has become the favorite of Chinese citizens these years.

Soil Pollution

Xu Xudong, Deputy Director of the Institute of Hydrobiology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said that rice with excessive cadmium indicates that soil pollution in China has affected grain quality and safety.

"We have been concerned that accelerated urbanization will increase demand for land," said Xu, warning that the nation's total arable land acreage could fall below the government's target for minimum availability of 120 million hectares. "But now, we should also worry about the damage from heavy metal pollution on cultivated land."

He said there could be immeasurable disaster if grain-producing areas are allowed to randomly introduce industries likely to bring heavy metal pollution in order to develop local economies, and called for immediate government measures to control soil contamination.

Pan Genxing, a soil scientist at Nanjing Agricultural University, said that the soil pollution in China is more severe than other countries, and the effect may last 30 years or worsen even further.

A Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) survey of 4.5 million square km of land indicates soil quality in more developed regions, such as the Pearl and Yangtze river deltas in south and east China and the Bohai Economic Rim surrounding Beijing and Tianjin, has deteriorated to different extents.

China is facing a grave situation in soil pollution of arable land, with problems including expanding use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, heavy metal contamination and pollution at mining and factory sites, said Zhou Yikai, an environmental medicine researcher at Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, Hubei Province.

In 2010, the MEP found 960 industrial companies out of 10,896 made use of heavy metals violating environmental standards, leading to mass pollution of arable land.

Another major cause of soil pollution is

the overuse of agricultural chemicals. Figures from the Soil and Fertilizer Institute under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) show that in half of the regions surveyed, the average level of nitrogen fertilizer use is 318 kg per hectare, far exceeding the internationally accepted limit of 225 kg.

Zhuang Guotai, Director of the MEP's Nature and Ecology Conservation Division, said that only 35 percent of fertilizer used by a typical Chinese farm actually contributed to the growth of crops, meaning the rest was washed into waterways or just left on the land.

According to Huang Hongxiang, a researcher with the CAAS' Institute of Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning, year-round planting requires the large-scale use of pesticides and fertilizers and this inevitably creates soil and water pollution.

"Some kinds of pesticides and fertilizers can cause heavy metal pollution so we should reduce or avoid using them altogether," Huang said.



A farmer in Youxian County, central China's Hunan Province, presents his rice on May 23, where three mills were found to have sold rice contaminated with cadmium, a toxic metal.

Control Efforts

A MEP report reveals that 21.5 percent of soil samples from 364 rural villages failed to meet national soil quality standards in 2011.

In Hunan, where mining and nonferrous metal production are prevalent, 715,000 hectares of land, or roughly 3.4 percent of the province's total area, are contaminated by heavy metals, a CAS report says.

Another study conducted by the Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR) in Hunan identified elevated levels of heavy metals in a 250 km by 10 km belt adjacent to the Dongting Lake, China's second largest freshwater lake. Nearby crops, reeds and shellfish were found to have been contaminated with cadmium.

In a serious case of heavy metal pollution in Liuyang of Hunan in 2009, cadmium-containing pollutants from a chemical plant affected more than 500 people and polluted the land within a radius of 500 to 1,200 meters of the plant.

In addition to health hazards, soil pollution also leads to a reduction in grain production.

According to an MLR report in January, heavy metal pollution alone results in the loss of 10 million tons of grain and the contamination of another 12 million tons annually, incurring 20 billion yuan ($3.21 billion) in direct economic losses each year.

Gao Shengda, Secretary General of the China Environmental Remediation Industry Alliance, said that the nation must develop targeted soil remediation techniques and bring in advanced technology from overseas.

Hou Yanlin, a soil scientist

with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), suggests the government establish a monitoring and early warning system for soil contamination so that it can evaluate how severe and widespread the pollution is.

In January, the State Council, China's cabinet, also publicized a circular on soil pollution that sets out a plan to contain the increasingly severe problem by 2015.

The circular ordered a thorough survey into soil conditions be conducted by 2015 and a system be established to protect arable land and sources of drinking water.

It proposed building a soil environment monitoring network to cover 60 percent of all arable land and drinking water sources that serve more than 500,000 people, so that regular surveillance will be possible for these regions.

Soil pollution, if not brought under control, will become irreversible in a couple of years, posing serious threats to food safety, human health and social stability

The State Council also required rigorous controls on newly polluted soil, which prioritize the prevention of soil pollution and treatment of contaminated land.

These efforts have been widely expected to pave the way for the establishment of a national soil protection system and significantly improve the quality of the country's soil by 2020.

Voices Heard

"Soil pollution, if not brought under control, will become irreversible in a couple of years, posing serious threats to food safety, human health and social stability," said Li Fasheng, a researcher with the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences.

Li believes that a soil protection law is urgently needed. "China has enacted laws against air and water pollution, but still lacks a policy framework and applicable laws to fight the contamination of the soil," he said.

The call has been heard by state leadership.

At the 2012 session of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country's top advisory body, Zhou at Huazhong University of Science and Technology proposed to speed up the legislation on the prevention and control of soil pollution.

Wu Qing, Director of Foshan-based Gujinlai Law Office, also focused her attention on the legislation of soil pollution prevention at the NPC annual session in March. More than 30 lawmakers echoed her call, Wu said.

In response to growing public expectations, the first draft of China's Soil Protection Law has been completed, according to a report by Legal Daily on May 2.

Jointly formulated by eight different ministries including the MEP, MLR, MOA National Development and Reform Commission and Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the legislation is meant to bring some form of management over the amount of toxins that are dumped into the soil, primarily farmland and urban industrial land where most of China's soil pollution is found.

According to the Legal Daily report, the MEP invited several NPC deputies and CPPCC National Committee members who are interested in the legislation process to a symposium at the end of April. During the symposium, officials introduced China's current soil situation and measures that will be taken for future protection.

In addition to facilitating soil protection efforts, people also pin high hopes on the new law to boost China's environmental transparency.

According to a 2006-10 MEP investigation, half of the arable farmland in south China had been totally ruined by toxic levels of heavy metal and organic pollutants, while 10 percent of farmland in the Yangtze River Delta region had lost production capability due to heavy metal pollution.

Despite this, the ministry refused to release all results of the investigation.

In January, Beijing lawyer Dong Zhengwei sent an application to the MEP asking the ministry to issue soil pollution data, as well as create detailed measures to handle the problem.

But the ministry said in February that the data are confidential and refused to release them. Dong was not satisfied and sent a second request.

The MEP issued its second response to Dong on May 5. It said that soil contamination is still being investigated and related data remain a state secret, adding that data will be released after further evaluation.

Ma Jun, Director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, said in an interview with Legal Daily that the public should have the right to be informed about the real situation as polluted soil may affect public health via food, crops and underground water.

Ma cited experience following the issuance of data on PM2.5, or airborne particles measuring 2.5 microns or less in diameter, as an example.

This year, real-time air-quality monitoring data detailing PM2.5 intensity in 74 major Chinese cities were made available to the public this year following complaints.

"The information must be in plain language, something made clear by the way the government handled the release of air-pollution information," Ma said.

Ma said that compared with air and water pollution, soil pollution is much more difficult to judge by the public, which is one reason why the government should publish the information to keep them informed.

"No matter what, a law on soil protection is urgently needed to make such obligations clear," said Hou from the MOA.

V. TIBET TODAY

Disabled Tibetans Get Jobs in Lhasa

A publicity and education campaign to maintain the rights of disabled people was held jointly by Tibet Disabled Persons' Federation, the Civil Affairs Bureau of Tibet Autonomous Region and other governmental units in Lhasa on May 19, the 23th National Handicapped Day. During the campaign, exquisite mats and embroideries caught the attention of many visitors.

"These seven mats are handmade by thirty seven teachers and staffs working in our mat factory," said Dorje, a 27-year-old mat-making teacher with hearing disorders.

Occupational guidance and vocational trainings are very crucial in exploiting the potentialities of the disabled persons. Regarding the vocational trainings, the Tibet Autonomous Region has provided trainings for them in sewing, Thangka paintings, hairdressing, color decoration of the house, computer, massage by blind people, khada making, embroidery and so on, according to

Gong Demin, vice chairman of Tibet Disabled Persons' Federation.

"The society should create fair employment opportunities for the disabled by exploiting their potentialities. In 2013, the Tibet Disabled Persons' Federation will continue to promote the social security system and service system for disabled persons and solve their livelihood issues. According to our plan, 1,000 disabled persons will receive occupational guidance and vocational training in 2013, and 300 of them are expected to find jobs," said Gong Demin.

Bank of Tibet Wins Big with Local Edge

Amid global economic woes and the fluctuating fortunes of China's economy, last year would hardly be considered the best time to launch a new bank, especially in a relatively remote area where only 3 million people live on a 1.2 million square kilometer plateau.

But against all odds, including bitter competition between eight established lenders in Lhasa, capital of the Tibet autonomous region, Bank of Tibet made its debut on May 22, 2012.

The new bank notched an 18 million yuan (2.9 million US dollars) profit in 2012 and a bad-debt ratio of nil, a figure that very few banks in China can boast of.

"We have experienced hardships and challenges," said Tian Wei, executive director of the bank.

In 2012, Tibet's GDP was 70 billion yuan, while the bank received 6.6 billion yuan in deposits and made 4.3 billion yuan in loans.

The loans were made to major infrastructure projects in the rail, hydropower and energy sectors, as well as to smaller local businesses engaged in traditional Tibetan medicine, farming and animal husbandry, which previously had difficulties obtaining funding.

The bank said it has started preparations to begin operations in other parts of the region, including the city of Shigatse, with four new branches due to open this year. By 2015, it will extend its operations to coastal provinces. "Our achievements are to some extent a result of the favorable financial policies Tibet enjoys," Tian said.

Though major State-owned commercial, policy or development banks boast extensive networks, products and talented staff, Tian insists Bank of Tibet has its own unparalleled competitive edge.

He said that banks operating across China allocate most investment and loans to developed, coastal regions, where "returns are guaranteed and healthy".

Tian said Bank of Tibet would leverage its understanding of the local market to ensure it was better positioned to serve local people.

A desire to improve local people's access to banking services is also the driving force behind Bank of Tibet's plan to develop a loan center for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Asong, the owner of a ghee blender manufacturer in Lhasa, said he used to borrow from a State-owned bank, which took at least a month to process his loan applications, and gave him only three years to make repayments.

"The autonomous region now has its own bank, which we should surely support," said Asong, who added that he likes the fact that

the bank's staff can converse with him in either Mandarin or Tibetan.

His application for a 5 million yuan loan was approved within a week.

According to Tian, one target group of his loan center is the more than 100,000 shops in Lhasa, which account for more than 40 percent of civilian deposits in Lhasa.

Meanwhile, Bank of Tibet is discussing with chambers of commerce from other parts of China the possibility of providing loans to member of the chambers, if the chambers act as guarantors.

In the near future, the bank also aims to provide mobile banking services such as "banks on horseback", "motorbike banks" and "car banks" to very remote parts of the autonomous region.

Tibet Launches Wildlife Field Survey

A wildlife field survey is under way in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. The four-year survey will result in the creation of a database for wildlife living in the region, as well as a comprehensive evaluation of the region's wildlife resources, technical director Liu Wulin said on 20 May.

The survey will focus on the distribution, habitats and populations of wildlife in Tibet, as well as habitat protection and wildlife breeding, Liu said.

Survey experts have divided the region into 19 geographical units consisting of all wildlife and their habitats, which include forests, grasslands, meadows, wetlands and deserts.

"Our survey will involve a total of 153 species. After the survey, the number and distribution of Tibetan antelopes and wild yaks will become clearer," Liu said.

The survey is the second of its kind to be conducted in Tibet. The first wildlife survey was conducted from 1998 to 2001, according to Liu.

The first survey gave scientists an initial understanding of the population, distribution and habitats of 83 species.

Tibet has 795 species of vertebrates, 141 of which are under national- or regional-level protection.

Distinctive Buildings Renovated in Old City of Lhasa

Over 172 distinctive Tibetan buildings are renovated with unique protection schemes to keep their original appearance in the old city of Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

"Each building has its own blueprint of renovation to well protect its distinctive features," said Liu Yu, a construction engineer in charge from Tianjin Real Estate Appraise Survey & Design Institute on May 16.

At present, parts of the buildings are covered by protective screenings and scaffoldings in the old city of Lhasa radiated out from Barkhor Street, the most famous street for pilgrimage and business for the locals.

The final effect of renovation is unable to see right now.

During a recently held press conference, the protection project is open to the local residents, including how to keep the original appearance of the historical buildings and how to strictly follow the traditional Tibetan culture.

"In order to realize keeping the original appearance, photos of the historical buildings were taken and recorded, providing a reference and contrast method before the project started," said Ma Xinming, secretary of the publicity department of Lhasa.

"At present, the 172 historical building including 21 courtyards are renovated according to the effect picture of the designing scheme," said Liu Yu. "The final effect will be showed to the public after the project is completed."

The top official of Lhasa Cultural Relics Bureau is in charge of site supervision and coordination to solve the problems occurred in time in the course of construction.

Development Brings Well-being to Tibetans

Tibet's peaceful liberation was marked by the signing of the Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, also known as the 17-Article Agreement between the central government and the former local government of Tibet on May 23, 1951. Sixty-two years have passed, no one denies the rapid development Tibet has made and the well-being it has brought to the Tibetan people.

In terms of the social system, since its peaceful liberation Tibet has abolished feudal serfdom, implemented regional ethnic autonomy and established socialism featuring people's democracy. The former serfs and slaves have since become masters of their own country and society. They enjoy both the right to equally participate in the administration of state affairs and to handle local and ethnic affairs on their own.

Lodro, a 79-year-old man described his suffering in old Tibet: "I experienced the cruel torture of face-slapping by whips. My father had his eyes gouged out and died later. We did not have enough food to eat and decent clothing to cover our bodies. How life has changed." Now Lodro has moved into the nursing home and been taken care of by the working staff. He is in good health and enjoying his life.

Regarding the economic development, before the peaceful liberation, Tibet's economy was in a state of stagnation, and people lived in dire poverty. Since the peaceful liberation however, the economy has developed with each passing day.

According to the statistics from the Minister of Industry and Information



Technology of TAR, Tibet had gained an industrial added value of 2,064 million yuan (about US$331.27 million) during the first half year of 2012 with an increase of 12.7 percent. The increment speed of industry was 1.4 percent over the whole region's GDP, 0.7 percent higher than that of China's Western Region Industry and 2.2 percent higher than that of the whole country.

In regard to the ethnic culture, the central and regional governments always attach great importance to inheriting, protecting and developing the traditional culture of the Tibetan ethnic group. The learning, use and development of the Tibetan language are protected by law, and the Tibetan script has become the first ethnic-minority script in China that has international text coding standards for information exchange.

In addition, Tibet's radio, TV, press and publication have also grown rapidly. Tibet now has 10 professional art performing troupes, 500-odd amateur art performing and Tibetan opera teams, and 19 folk art performing groups at the county level. A large number of traditional festivals have been inherited and revived.





Religious belief freedom is always a target for people who have ulterior motives. According to a white paper published by the Information Office of the State Council on July 2011, freedom of religious belief of all ethnic groups is well respected and protected in Tibet. All religions, all religious sects are equal in Tibet.

The Living Buddha reincarnation system, unique to Tibetan Buddhism, is fully respected. People are free to learn and debate Buddhist doctrines, get ordained as monks and practice Buddhist rites. Academic degrees in Buddhism are also promoted. According to the previous report by the China Tibet Online, a total of 26 young representatives of Tibetan Buddhism from Tibet had been sent to study in Guangdong Province in 2012.

Many exchange tours have been organized for lama students in the eighth grade to pursue the advanced Tibetan Buddhism degree from the Buddhism College of China to east China's cities such as Shanghai and Hangzhou.

Therefore, Tibet's development is so closely linked to the well-being of its people as numerous historical facts have proved that only development can bring well-being and prosperity to the Tibetan people.

Beijing and Xi'an Awaiting You



▲ Fam tour group picture in front of the Bird's Nest

Beijing and Xi'an are among the most famous tourist cities in China.

To help the Indian tourism fraternity better understand the two great cities attracting numerous tourists from home and abroad, China National Tourist Office (CNTO), New Delhi and Air China Delhi/Bangalore Office successfully organized a familiarization trip from 2-8 June, 2013. It is also part of the campaign of Beautiful China Tours recently launched by China National Tourism Administration.

Over 20 travel agents and journalists from Delhi, Bangalore and Kolkata participated in this trip. From the Great Wall to Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses, from the Forbidden City to Great Goose Pagoda, from Qianmen Pedestrian Street to Yuanjia Village near Xi'an City, from classic acrobatics in Beijing to Tang（唐） - style musical dance in Xi'an, they had fully experienced the true connotation of Beijing and Xi'an tourism: ancient and modern, humanism and nature, tradition and fashion.



▲ Great Wild Goose Pagoda, Xi'an



▲ Tang-style musical dance, Xi'an

Beijing and Xi'an are awaiting you to explore now.

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The Long March-2F carrier rocket carrying China's manned Shenzhou-10 spacecraft blasted off from the launch pad at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Jiuquan, northwest China's Gansu Province on June 11, 2013.

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