Young ladies of the Bai ethnic group performed their traditional dancing during the opening ceremony of the 5th Dali International Photography Exhibition in Dali, southwest China’s Yunnan Province on Aug. 1, 2013. The five-day exhibition, displayed more than 6,000 photography works through over 200 themed exhibitions.
Chinese Ambassador to India Wei Wei proposed a toast during an onboard reception of the “Peace Ark” hospital ship at Mumbai Port in India on Aug. 7, 2013.

Crew members prepared for the onboard reception of the “Peace Ark” hospital ship at Mumbai Port in India on Aug. 7, 2013.

Crew members of the “Peace Ark” hospital ship visited Dr. Dwarkanath Kotnis’ younger sister Manorama at Mumbai on Aug. 9, 2013.

On the evening of 25 July 2013, Major General Mr. Cai Ping, Military Attaché of the Chinese Embassy in India held a reception to celebrate the 86th anniversary of Chinese People’s Liberation Army at ITC Maurya Hotel, New Delhi. Chinese Ambassador Mr. Wei Wei and Director General of Military Intelligence Lieutenant General Mr. Singh were present.

Members of Indian Daksha Sheth Dance Company performed in Jinan, east China’s Shandong Province on Aug. 16, 2013.

Members of Indian Daksha Sheth Dance Company performed in Jinan, east China’s Shandong Province on Aug. 16, 2013.
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### INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHINESE VISA APPLICATION
I. CHINA-INDIA RELATIONS

Chinese Navy Hospital Ship Visits Mumbai

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army Navy hospital ship “Peace Ark” arrived at port of Mumbai on August 6 to start its six-day visit and provide medical treatment service here.

During their stay in Mumbai, the ship crew visited the Asvini Hospital and Brahmaputra class frigate of Indian navy. Sailors from the two countries played friendship football and basketball match, which enhanced mutual understanding and friendship between the two navies.

This is the sixth time Chinese Navy vessels visited India. The hospital ship sets sail from Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province on June 10 to carry out “Mission Harmony-2013”. By far, “Peace Ark” has visited four destinations including Brunei, Maldives, Gulf of Aden and Pakistan during the mission since June.

On August 12, the hospital ship, carrying out “Mission Harmony-2013” plan, ended its six-day visit to India’s biggest city and left for next stop — Bangladesh’s premier port and continued its providing of medical treatment service and military exchange there.

Some 4,000 square meters in size, the ship comprises seven offices for doctors and nurses...
and eight nurse stations, in addition to 300 beds. The medical equipment on the ship is on par with that in China’s top-level hospitals.

As an emergency medical support platform, the ship is independently designed and built by China. Its tasks include treatment and evacuation of injured and sick personnel on the sea and medical support for troops stationed at islands and atolls.

India Welcomes Chinese Navy Hospital Ship “Peace Ark”

On Aug. 8, 2013, India welcomed the visit by the Chinese People’s Liberation Army Navy hospital ship “Peace Ark”.

Speaking at the reception banquet on the board of the hospital ship, M.D. Suresh, Rear Admiral and Flag Official of Doctrine and Concept (FODC) of the Indian Western Naval Command, said “The colors of the sea and our uniform bring us together. On behalf of the Indian western naval command, we warmly welcome you to Mumbai.”

He also said the visiting hospital ship “Peace Ark” witnesses China-India friendship and cooperation, and it is very humanistic for “Peace Ark” to provide medical service to the people all over the world.

For his part, Shen Hao, deputy commander and president of the marine hospital ship, said “The friendship of China and India will not only serve the fundamental interests of the two nations, but also benefits the peace and stability of the world.”

The Chinese hospital ship’s visit to Mumbai aims at contributing to cooperation between the two sides in non-traditional security and promoting traditional friendship.
The Third Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs Held in New Delhi

The 3rd Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs was held at New Delhi on 23-24 July, 2013. The Chinese delegation was headed by Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of Chinese Foreign Ministry while the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Guatam Bambawali, Joint Secretary of East Asia Division of Ministry of External Affairs. Representatives from the Foreign and Defense Ministries of both sides attended the meeting.

The Meeting was held in a friendly, candid and constructive atmosphere. The two sides gave a positive evaluation on the peace and stability in the border areas since the last meeting and fully affirmed the important role played by the working mechanism. The two sides had an in-depth discussion on measures to improve the functioning of the working mechanism and to further promote peace and tranquility in the border areas.

The meeting achieved positive progress. Both sides reiterated that before final solution to the boundary question, they will jointly maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas, and will continue to contribute to it through dialogue and consultation.

During the meeting, the Chinese delegation also called on Indian Foreign Secretary Mr. Ranjan Mathai.
China Holds Dialogue with India on Central Asia

On August 12, 2013, Mr. Zhang Hanhui, Director-General of the Department of European-Central Asian Affairs of Chinese Foreign Ministry held dialogue with Mr. Ajay Bisaria, Joint Secretary of Eurasia Division of Ministry of External Affairs of India. Both sides exchanged views on the situation in Central Asia, China and India relations with Central Asia countries and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, etc.

On the same day, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping also met with Mr. Ajay Bisaria and exchanged views on China-India relations, Central Asia and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Indian Media Hype about China-India Border Dispute Benefits None

Wang Bowen

Beijing July 23 (Xinhua) — Indian media, which have traditionally focused heavily on the border disputes between New Delhi and Beijing, are now asserting again that Chinese troops have crossed the “border” between the two countries.

This came just a few months after similar reports soured to some extent the atmosphere of a visit by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to India.

Fortunately, Beijing and New Delhi, with political wisdom, made joint efforts to defuse the tensions timely, and the visit, part of Li’s maiden overseas tour since assuming premiership in March, turned out a big success.
Li and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, through candid talks and in-depth discussions, substantially enhanced strategic mutual trust, which is a valuable thing for two countries that fought a brief border war in 1962.

Looking back on Indian media hype about “Chinese border intrusions,” one has to admit such sensational reports are indeed harmful to the China-India relationship. Such reports have only served to further sow misunderstandings between Indians and Chinese even at a time when their leaders are working hard to manage their differences and to build a constructive relationship that can benefit both sides.

Back to the border disputes, it is worth noting that both Beijing and New Delhi have repeatedly said they are committed to maintaining peace and stability along the border before the issues are completely resolved.

The disputes, a historical hangover, were not created in one day, neither will they be resolved overnight. It is unwise to let isolated incidents along the border to negatively affect the promising China-India relationship.

China and India, as two major emerging economies, have much to gain by further deepening political and economic ties.

Despite sometimes frosty political relations, China has become one of India’s top trading partners. Both countries have agreed to increase their bilateral trade, standing at 66.5 billion U.S. dollars in 2012, to 100 billion dollars by 2015.

The two economies, with distinctive competitive advantages, can also work on more joint investment projects.

Beijing and New Delhi should build on the positive momentum yielded by Premier Li’s visit. After all, the right track forward for the two giant neighbors is to boost investment, expand trade and strengthen links so that both countries can benefit from the win-win cooperation.

As for media from both countries, playing up the border disputes is hardly a constructive way of doing things.

**Aircraft Carrier Creates No Waves for China-India Cooperation**

Lu Rui

India unveiled its first indigenously built aircraft carrier on Aug. 12, joining the elite club of nations capable of making such colossal warships.

Indian Defense Minister A. K. Antony hailed the launch of INS Vikrant as a
“crowning glory”, saying “India needs a strong navy to defend itself and will press ahead with developing its maritime capabilities.”

Pundits obsessed with geopolitical rivalry wasted no time in hyping the Indian feat as a threat to China, fanning speculations the two Asian neighbors would slide deeper into an arms race aimed at regional supremacy.

However, such conflict-obsessed fear-mongers have apparently ignored the larger picture. For starters, China and India, the world’s top two developing countries, have vast interests in common.

It is true India, already a regional heavyweight, has always held the dream of becoming a global power. It has been the world’s largest importer of weapons over the past few years.

Doomsayers also point to the high-profile support from the United States, which they assume is bent on containing China’s rise.

During their visits to India, then U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden suggested India play a bigger role in the Asia-Pacific region. Underneath the gloomy prophecy also lies the increase in the number of carrier-equipped naval forces in the region. Just days before the Vikrant’s launch, Japan launched a new helicopter carrier.

However, the normal buildup of defense capabilities is no cause of worry.

China and India are important trading partners, and they hold identical or similar stances on a wide range of regional and global affairs.

They have also recognized the world is large enough to accommodate the development of both of them.

China and India should have the vision to look beyond slanted interpretations and stick to the right path of cooperation.

With the Asia-Pacific region gaining more weight in the global landscape, their cooperation is particularly necessary.

Joining hands, they can make more contribution to the peace and prosperity of not only the region but also the world at large.
II. CHINESE ECONOMY

China's Current Economic Development

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), China’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth stood at 7.6 percent in the first half year of 2013, 7.5 percent in the second quarter from 7.7 percent in the first three months, totaled 24.8 trillion yuan (4 trillion U.S. dollars).

The latest GDP figures headed a string of other data. Industrial output increased 9.3 percent year on year in the first half of 2013, while the growth of fixed-asset investment, a measure of government and private spending on infrastructure, stood at 20.1 percent during the period, down 0.8 percentage points over the first quarter of the year.

The growth rates of imports and exports of China underwent a significant slowdown. According to the statistics of customs, in the first half of 2013, the import and export value of China amounted to 12.51 trillion RMB (equivalent to 1.9977 trillion USD), 8.6% up on a year-on-year basis after excluding currency factors.

Data showed that consumption contributed 45.2 percent, investment 53.9 percent and net exports 0.9 percent to first-half GDP growth.

In general, the Chinese economy has maintained steady growth since the beginning of this year amid complex and challenging domestic and international environments. The economic growth rate is at a reasonable range. The price and job opportunities remain stable. We always give balanced consideration for stable growth, inflation control, risk prevention, and the promotion for further reform, adjustment of economic structure, and benefit of the people.

While taking control of the policies and the overall trend, we will continue to deepen reform and opening-up, to actively promote the restructuring and upgrading of the economy and the change for government functions, so as to accumulate the dividends of the reform, the potentials of domestic demand, and the dynamisms of innovation, which will further enhance the internal strength for development and the ability to withstand risks.

For example, a series of new policies on regulations will inject new impetus into restructuring and stabilizing China’s economy and enhance endogenous driving force for the growth of its real economy in the long run.

The central authorities decided to eliminate a number of systematic obstacles in economic transformation and upgrading. They include exempting value-added tax (VAT) and profit tax for the micro and small-sized enterprises (MSEs).
This move will ease the tax burden of more than six million MSEs, save them 20 billion yuan in expenditure while creating jobs and raising income for tens of millions of people.

To coordinate with the tax policy, China will boost foreign trade and exports through gradually simplifying customs clearance processes by the scheme of “one-time declaration, one-time inspection and one-time clearance”.

In addition, China will boost foreign trade and exports through adjusting operational fees; encouraging financial support for profitable companies; facilitating the exports of private SMEs; providing zero tariffs for exporters in the service sector; increasing imports and maintaining a stable yuan exchangerate.

China will fully open the market of railway construction, helping private capital available to invest in inter-city and municipal railways.

The move could diversify financing channels and attract more social capital for construction projects after abolishing monopolies and investment barriers, analysts held.

Also, China’s central bank has canceled the ceiling limit for banks’ lending interest rates, scrapped the controls on bill discount rates to let the financial institutions make their own rates decision according to commercial principles.

China has the conditions and ability to achieve the main objectives of economic and social development this year, and also pays great attention to improving the quality and efficiency of development, going on a better and more far-reaching way of sustained and healthy development in the future.

Long Live China’s Boom

After three decades of 9.8% average annual GDP growth, China’s economic expansion has been slowing for 13 consecutive quarters – the first such extended period of deceleration since the “reform and opening up” policy was launched in 1979. Real GDP grew at an annual rate of only 7.5% in the second quarter of this year (equal to the target actually set by the Chinese government at the beginning of this year). Many indicators point to further economic deceleration, and there is a growing bearishness among investors about the outlook for China. Will China crash?

In fact, many other rapidly growing emerging economies have suffered – and worse than China – from the drop in global demand resulting from ongoing retrenchment in high-income economies since the 2008 financial crisis. For example, GDP growth in Brazil has slowed sharply, from 7.5% in 2010 to 2.7% in 2011 and to just 0.9% in 2012, while India’s growth rate slowed from 10.5% to 3.2% over the same period.

Moreover, many high-income newly industrialized
economies (NIEs) with few structural problems were not spared the effects of the 2008 crisis. South Korea’s GDP growth slowed from 6.3% in 2010 to 3.7% in 2011 and to 2% in 2012; Taiwan’s fell from 10.7% to 1.3% over this period; and Singapore’s plummeted from 14.8% to 1.3%.

Given this, China’s economic slowdown since the first quarter of 2010 has apparently been caused mainly by external and cyclical factors. Facing an external shock, the Chinese government should and can maintain a 7.5% growth rate by taking counter-cyclical and proactive fiscal-policy measures, while maintaining a prudent monetary policy. After all, China has high private and public savings, foreign reserves exceeding $3.3 trillion, and great potential for industrial upgrading and infrastructure improvement.

Indeed, China can maintain an 8% annual GDP growth rate for many years to come, because modern economic growth is a process of continuous technological innovation and industrial upgrading. Indeed, China can maintain an 8% annual GDP growth rate for many years to come, because modern economic growth is a process of continuous technological innovation and industrial upgrading.

China became one of the 13 economies after 1979. Because the country’s latecomer status explains its 33 years of rapid economic growth, the key to understanding its potential for further rapid growth in the future lies in estimating how large those advantages still are.

Per capita GDP, which reflects a country’s average labor productivity and its overall technological and industrial achievement, is a useful proxy to estimate latecomer’s advantage. That is, the per capita GDP gap between China and developed countries essentially reflects the gap between them in terms of overall technological and industrial
According to the most up-to-date estimate by the late economic historian Angus Maddison, China’s per capita GDP in 2008 was $6,725 in 1990 dollars, which was 21% of per capita GDP in the United States. That is roughly the same gap that existed between the US and Japan in 1951, Singapore in 1967, Taiwan in 1975, and South Korea in 1977 – four economies that are also among the 13 successful economies studied by the Growth Commission. Harnessing their latecomer’s advantage, Japan’s average annual growth rate soared to 9.2% over the subsequent 20 years, compared to 8.6% in Singapore, 8.3% in Taiwan, and 7.6% in South Korea.

If the latecomer’s advantage implied by the income gap between the four NIEs and the US enabled the NIEs to realize average annual GDP growth rates of 7.6%-9.2% for 20 years, China’s annual growth potential should be a similar 8% for the 2008-2028 period. To realize its potential growth as a latecomer, China needs, above all, to deepen its market-oriented reforms, address various structural problems, and develop its economy according to its comparative advantages.

**Foreign Minister Wang Yi: Chinese Economy Will Be Set onto a Track of Sustainable Development**

On Aug. 2, 2013, when addressing the opening session of the China-ASEAN High-Level Forum in Bangkok, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, a Chinese economy that enjoys long-term, sustained and sound development will make even more important and lasting contribution to the development of the region and beyond.

With regard to some doubts about China’s economic development, Wang Yi expressed that the Chinese economy has maintained a steady and sound growth. Its growth rate in the first half of this year was 7.6%, still at the top of all major economies in the world. Wang Yi said, China has enormous demand, a vast market, rich human resources, fast-developing science and technology as well as stable policies and a strong government. We have every ability, confidence and condition to achieve economic transformation and upgrading and set the Chinese economy onto a track of sustainable development. In the past 30 years and more, China’s rapid economic growth has delivered enormous dividends to the ASEAN countries. In the future, a Chinese economy that enjoys
long-term, sustained and sound development will make even more important and lasting contribution to the development of the region and beyond.

Wang Yi said, in the coming five years, China’s ODI will increase by 500 billion US dollars, its imports will reach 10 trillion US dollars and its outbound tourists will total over 400 million. In China, we say that “A water-front pavilion gets the moonlight first.” As China’s close neighbour, top investment destination by Chinese companies, third largest trading partner and a major tourist destination, ASEAN will undoubtedly benefit from China’s future economic development.

### Chinese Economy Stabilizes with More Positive July Factors

**Zhu Ningzhu**

A string of economic data in July came in better than expected, suggesting that the Chinese economy is stabilizing and recovering with more positive factors.

Surprisingly strong trade data was reported in the past month, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The total volume of foreign trade in July reached more than 354 billion U.S. dollars, an increase of 7.8 percent on the same period last year, showing the country’s foreign trade growing again, reversing June’s decline.

China’s consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, grew 2.7 percent year on year in July, lower than market expectations of an increase of 2.8 percent, and remained well below the government’s full-year target of 3.5 percent.

Industrial value-added output expanded 9.7 percent year on year in July, marking the highest growth in past five months and highlighting improved market expectations.

China’s PPI continued a downward trend in July, but at a slower pace for the first time since April.

Business insiders believe that China’s economy is showing signs of recovery, though time and more data on a longer term basis are
still needed to tell if the Chinese economy is solidly on the up again.

“The July figures are satisfactory,” said Huo Jianguo, President of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, a government think tank.

“Exports returned to the normal growth track and the sharp rebound of imports signals the easing of downward pressure on the Chinese economy,” Huo added.

In a bid to inject new impetus into restructuring and stabilizing China’s economy, the government had unveiled a series of new policies including encouraging public consumption, maintaining rational investment growth, and strengthening policy support for small and medium-sized enterprises.

“China’s recent measures to stabilize growth, restructure the economy and promote reforms have started to take effect,” said Yu Qiumei, a senior statistician with the NBS.

The world’s second-largest economy has been stuck in a protracted weak recovery, easing to 7.5 percent growth in the second quarter, the lowest since the third quarter of 2012.

The Chinese government has expressed confidence of meeting its 7.5 percent growth target this year and is supported by many factors in light of the encouraging July data.

7.5% GDP Growth “In Reach”

by Chen Jia and Zheng Yangpeng

China’s top economic planner expressed confidence in achieving the 7.5 percent gross domestic product growth target this year through hard work after the government decided to adopt further measures to stabilize market expectations and release enterprises’ vitality.

National Development and Reform Commission Minister Xu Shaoshi showed his determination on July 31 in an interview with Xinhuanet.com, one day after President Xi Jinping vowed to guarantee the year’s target by further clarifying the government’s policy stance for the second half of the year and confirming the direction of ongoing structural reforms.

Xu stressed the need to maintain “moderately abundant” monetary liquidity and efficiently make use of credit and fiscal capital to support the industrial economy.

“Policy fine-tuning will be likely at the right time,” he said.

“Diversified adjustments that take into consideration the different situations of regions, industries and enterprises will be taken in the second half” to strengthen enterprises’ confidence by maintaining growth within a reasonable range and preventing risks, Xu said.

For the next step of reform, the minister also pledged the nation would launch demonstration projects for private funds to invest in infrastructure construction and public services, as well as eliminate
unreasonable fees in banking services.

A statement from the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China’s Central Committee laid out its main strategies for the coming quarters on July 30. They include increasing public consultation, maintaining rational investment growth and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises.

It said economic growth in the first six months of the year was “stable” despite extremely complicated domestic and international conditions.

The country’s economy experienced 7.6 percent year-on-year GDP growth in the first half of the year. The second quarter growth slowed to 7.5 percent from 7.7 percent in the first quarter.

Lian Ping, chief economist at the Bank of Communications, said in the second half of 2013, it is unlikely to see a substantial economic rebound although the reforms may accelerate.

“Industrial enterprises may see better conditions in the second half if the investment in infrastructure construction and public services can support stable economic expectations while benefiting small-scale businesses,” said Lian.

He said the problem of excessive production capacity is still serious and that it is hard to boost domestic consumption or promote exports over a short period.

Yao Wei, chief economist in China with Societe Generale, a French financial group, said the Political Bureau’s meeting indicated little change from the balanced stance that has been communicated to the market in the past few weeks.

The top leadership signaled only modest policy easing, preferably in the form of economic restructuring and reform, Yao said.

“Excess credit growth will still be contained and there will be no large-scale fiscal stimulus. One implication is that capacity consolidation may speed up so that resources and capital can be freed up from inefficient sectors.”

According to a survey released on Wednesday by NetEase Annual Economist Conference, 71.25 percent of China’s economists are “cautiously optimistic” about the new leadership’s reform determination, while 23.75 percent said they are “optimistic”.

Half the number of economists surveyed said the largest problem for China’s economy is “overcapacity”, while the second largest concern, for about 24 percent of the respondents, is the existence of a property bubble. Nearly 65 percent said “average household income” should be the major indicator to measure realization of the “Chinesedream”.

Yu Yongding, a former member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the People’s Bank of China, warned at the conference that local government debt is an issue that policymakers should be “highly alert” to because the government actually “has no idea” of how large the debt exactly is.

Xu Shanda, former deputy director of the State Administration of Taxation, said at the conference he was glad to see the Political Bureau meeting held on Tuesday emphasize the key areas for reforms, but it did not mention “curbing the property market” as it always had done before.

“This is a very important message. Instead of restricting home purchasing, the meeting mentioned ‘unleashing’ demand, which showed a new and different approach,” Xu said.
China's Structural Tax Cuts Boost Economic Vitality

Beijing, July 31 (Xinhua) -- China's latest efforts to implement structural tax cuts will benefit its economic restructuring and promote steady growth, analysts have said.

Starting from Aug. 1, value-added tax (VAT) reforms, which replace the turnover tax with a value-added duty in transport and some service sectors, will expand nationwide from the current 12 provinces and municipalities to further reduce tax burdens on businesses.

Also effective on Aug. 1, China will suspend the VAT and turnover tax for small businesses with monthly sales of less than 20,000 yuan (3,236 U.S. dollars), which will benefit more than six million small companies and boost employment and income for tens of millions of people.

VAT refers to a tax levied on the difference between a commodity’s price before taxes and its cost of production, while turnover tax refers to a levy on a business’s gross revenues.

Bai Jingming, deputy head of the Fiscal Science Research Institute under the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said that expanding the pilot VAT reform is an important step in the reform of the fiscal and taxation systems.

“It calls for an improvement in the VAT system, as well as the adjustment of tax revenue distribution between the central and local governments,” Bai said.

The VAT reform was first introduced in Shanghai in January last year and was later expanded to another 11 regions, including the cities of Beijing, Tianjin and Shenzhen.

“The structural tax cuts will help alleviate tax burdens for businesses and individuals, boost business vitality and increase employment and incomes,” said Zhang Bin, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, a government think tank.

In the first five months of the year, the reform eased tax burdens by 40.6 billion yuan for 1.29 million businesses in the regions that first piloted the program, according to the State Administration of Taxation (SAT).

The tax break for small and micro-sized enterprises, which usually accept interest rates 10 to 30 percent above the guideline rate, will ease the credit crunch and inject vigor into job-generating small businesses, Zhang added.

Statistics from SAT showed that the tax break will reduce the tax burden for small and micro-sized enterprises by 20 billion yuan.
Analysts believe that the structural tax reductions do not simply mean cutting tax rates, but are a demonstration of the government’s determination to secure stable growth and restructure the economy amid a continuous economic slowdown and increasing risks in the financial market.

“The structural tax reduction will significantly boost economic growth and optimize the country’s economic structure,” said Liu Shangxi, deputy head of the Fiscal Science Research Institute under the MOF.

China’s economy has been stuck in a protracted slowdown, easing to 7.5 percent in the second quarter from 7.7 percent in the first three months.

The government has adopted a different approach by not launching a one-off fiscal and monetary stimulus package, but instead introducing a set of market-oriented reforms to boost the economy.

As part of the reforms, the structural tax cuts serve as an important role in “developing strategic and emerging industries, energy-saving businesses and the service sector by giving enterprises more access to credit and alleviating their tax burdens,” said Liu.

In the long run, the structural tax cuts will provide an equal institutional environment for healthy economic development, he said.

Look on the Bright Side

Chen Dongxiao

There are voices heralding the doomsday for China’s traditional development mode, the outbreak of a debt crisis, rigidification of the financial system, the vanishing of the demographic dividend, or a stagnation in reforms. These observers have one thing in common: growing pessimism about China’s economic prospects.

However, while these downbeat views of the Chinese economy and its development momentum may contain some element of truth, they are too narrow to show the whole picture.

First of all, China’s economic growth is depending less and less on investment and exports, as consumption and innovation emerge as the main drivers for growth, although it will take a few years to see the transition take effect. The country’s economic slowdown is an inevitable trend, since no country can stay on such a fast track forever. Even so, the Chinese economy is expected to maintain an annual growth rate of around 7 percent, even with the sluggish global recovery. What best serves the long-term interests of the Chinese people is an economy that boasts a more rational structure and establishes a better social and natural environment, even if it means a slower pace of growth.

Second, the government debt issue is starting to be addressed. China’s land-reliant financing has come to a dead end, and the financing vehicles of its local governments have run out of control. Some sound solutions are needed right now to avert Detroit-style
bankruptcies triggered by the piling up of debts. The key here is not to alleviate the burden of old debts, because the central coffers have enough resources to repay them all. What is needed is the efficient and proper management of financial revenues and expenditures by local governments in the future to prevent new debts being incurred before the old ones have been repaid.

The debt issue is now being tackled and straightforward proposals are being submitted on bond issuance by local governments. Also, GDP is no longer counted as the main yardstick for measuring the performance of officials. The central government has also called time and again for the liquidizing of sleeping funds, and issued a decree banning local governments from constructing new office buildings for the next five years.

Third, China has taken a substantive step to reform its financial system. On July 19, the People’s Bank of China announced its lifting of controls over lending rates, the first step in liberalizing interest rates, and demonstrating the central bank’s resolve to advance reforms and down-to-earth policy of cracking the harder nut first. The liberalization of interest rates and internationalization of the yuan are the key links in reform of China’s financial system, which has already started and will inject new vitality into the country’s real economy.

The lifting of the controls on lending rates, for instance, will surely drive commercial banks to lend more to privately owned small and medium-sized enterprises. Another example is the decision to create a free trade zone in Shanghai, a move that demonstrates the courage of the new leadership to push forward with reform and foretells the healthy prospects for China’s financial and economic reforms.

As for China’s demographic dividend and cost advantages, they are both waning. But there is a positive side to this. Thanks to its continual inputs into education and scientific research, China has seen a constant improvement in the quality of its labor force and continuous betterment of production efficiency. More importantly, it has raised its position in the global industrial value chain and its comprehensive competitive power is growing. The economic frictions between China and the developed world including the United States and some European countries are evidence of this. Instead of trade frictions over clothing, shoes and other labor-intensive commodities as was the case in the past, trade frictions in recent years have been over capital and technology intensive goods, such as photovoltaic, electromechanical and electronic products.

Finally, China launched its reform and opening-up in 1978 with a path-finding spirit that advanced through probing and experimenting step by step, as Deng Xiaoping, the architect of China’s reform, advocated. The experiences China has accumulated from practicing this method over three decades have proved advantageous.

If compared with the “shock therapy” practiced by the former Soviet Union, this strategy better suits Chinas’ complex reality and needs, because a step-by-step approach facilitates uncovering and finding solutions to problems. It is true that economic restructuring is closely related to political reforms. It should also be admitted, however,
that handling of the government-market relationship has always been a thorny issue to all countries.

As the situation stands, now that China’s new leadership has vowed to press on with another round of reforms, discussions and disputes over reforms should start from a long-term strategic point that benefits the country and its people. No path of reform will be a bed of roses, but the difficulties must be endured if the country is to successfully navigate this crucial stage of transition. There can be no doubt, however, about its potential for long-term growth.

All major economies are looking for ways to kick-start a new boom, and there is still ample room for cooperation between China and other major economies. The United States is hoping to create a new global pattern of investment and trade with the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. China is also enthusiastic about negotiations with the United States and some European countries over greater access to mutual investment, efforts that will result in the reduction of global trade and investment barriers. In addition, it is believed that the BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - will maintain their momentum of long-term development. A platform of cooperation was created at the summit of their leaders this year, and these countries will come to play an ever-bigger role in the global economy.

Therefore, China will maintain steady economic growth while making down-to-earth efforts to realize its economic restructuring to ensure a long-term sustainable development. So there is really no reason to be pessimistic about China’s economic prospects.

**China’s Economy Slows to Improve Endurance, Quality**

Beijing, July 30 (Xinhua) — China’s economic growth is poised to slow this year, with several leading economic indicators, including the PMI, dipping in the first half.

However, economists say the lower growth rates, despite making some investors jittery, are a welcome sign that Beijing’s leaders are more focused on the quality and endurance of the economy than the previous heady growth targets.

They say China’s growth, albeit slower, is still very robust compared to the world’s other economies.

In an update of its World Economic Outlook issued in April, the International Monetary Fund projected the world economy would grow at 3.1 percent this year.

It forecast China’s growth at 7.8 percent, much higher than the 5 percent forecast for emerging markets and developing economies as a whole, and the 2 percent growth for Japan, the United States and Europe.

British economist Jim O’Neill, best known for coining the “BRICs” acronym, pointed out that China’s economy was now more than half the size of the United States, which meant “if
China grows by 7.5 percent ... this would be equivalent of the U.S. growing by 4 percent.”

China’s growth rate and its wealth-creating potential still stands out against other major economies in the world, and it will remain a key engine for world economic recovery from a middle and long term perspective.

According to O’Neill’s estimate, if China grows by 7.5 percent annually in the next decade, it would be an economy of around 16 trillion U.S. dollars or more by 2020, allowing its GDP per capita to reach 12,000-13,000 dollars.

China’s current economic cooling stems from policy adjustments the government has rolled out, with an aim to deepen reform and lay foundations for future solid growth.

As the Financial Times reported, China’s slower growth is for real, and most of it has occurred as a result of government policies aimed at shifting the focus to better quality growth and not just growth for the sake of it.

Better quality growth calls for high quality decision making.

Striving to hit the right pitch of development, the government is unveiling a string of reform initiatives that are much more detailed, specific and well-targeted than before to stimulate domestic demand, improve economic efficiency and people’s livelihoods and promote urbanization.

The Associated Press said in a recent report that China’s government had ordered more than 1,400 companies to cut excess capacity, despite the slowing economic growth rate. The affected industries include steel, cement, copper and glass.

It said the recent move affirmed Beijing’s determination to push ahead with a painful economic restructuring.

The Financial Times said the Chinese government had unveiled a package of measures, dubbed a “mini-stimulus” by economists, to boost growth by eliminating taxes on small businesses, reducing costs for exporters and lining up funds for the construction of railways.

The measures aim to reduce the power of the government and give companies more space to operate, it said.

And positive changes have already occurred in some areas of the economy, thanks to the stimulus package.

The added-value of the country’s tertiary industry increased 8.3 percent year on year in the first half of this year.

The employment sub-index in HSBC Services’ PMI remained at a relatively high level of 52.6 in June.

Meanwhile, the country’s retail sales increased 12.7 percent year on year in the first half, according to the latest data released by the National Bureau of Statistics.

Against such a backdrop, some global investment agencies are beginning to rethink China’s economic slowdown to avoid overreaction and adjust their investment strategies to the new pace of China’s economic growth.

As Reuters said in an analysis, some investors have realized slower growth is a necessary precondition for a clean-up of China’s financial system and the state’s financial resources are considerable and can deal with the problem. Many of them believed it is time to jump back into the oversold Chinese market.
Official PMI Sends Signal of Stability

by Zheng Yangpeng in Beijing and Yu Ran in Shanghai

China’s official Purchasing Managers’ Index for the manufacturing sector picked up slightly to 50.3 in July from 50.1 in June, signaling a stabilizing trend in the country’s economy.

Zhao Qinghe, a senior economist with the National Bureau of Statistics, said it was the 10th consecutive month that the PMI has hovered around 50.5 since October 2012.

The sub-index for new orders in July rose 0.2 percentage point to 50.6, while that for new export orders was up by 1.3 percentage points from June to 49, according to the survey conducted by the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing.

A reading below 50 indicates a contraction of activity while one above shows expansion.

Most sub-indices increased from a month earlier. The sub-index for production moved up 0.4 of a percentage point from June to 52.4, while that for raw material inventories was up 0.2 of a percentage point from June to 47.6.

The sub-index for the purchasing prices of major raw materials surged 5.5 percentage points to 50.1 in July, while the employment sub-index edged up 0.4 of a percentage point to 49.1.

The business outlook sub-index rose 2.3 percentage points to 56.4, ending a falling streak for the previous three months and signaling that more companies are positive about their business prospects for the next three months.

Zhang attributed the rise in confidence to a series of “mini-stimulus” measures adopted since early July, including the removal of administrative approval procedures, tax breaks for micro businesses and accelerated spending on subsidized housing, urban infrastructure, high-speed rail and energy-saving industries.

The small enterprises’ index rose 0.5 of a percentage point to 49.4 in July, the second consecutive monthly gain for the index.
Guan Qingyou, assistant dean at the Minsheng Securities Research Institute, noted: “It is expected that manufacturing in July improved slightly and economic growth in the third quarter could stabilize.”

However, the final reading for a separate manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index released by HSBC Holdings Plc and Markit Economics on Thursday was 47.7, down from June’s 48.2. This was also the lowest over the past 11 months.

Analysts said the difference was mainly because of different sampling. The logistics federation increased the number of companies in its survey to 3,000 from 820 from January, while the HSBC report is based on responses from purchasing managers at more than 420 businesses and is weighted more toward smaller private companies.

“I think the official report does offer a slim hope that the economy is stabilizing at least, but it is still a bit early to conclude that things have turned around decisively,” said Yao Wei, China economist at Societe Generale in Hong Kong.

Despite a higher reading, most local manufacturers interviewed by China Daily still feel the outlook is poor.

“It has been a very bad half year for the company. Regular overseas orders fell sharply and clients ordered much less products per order,” said Li Zhongjian, manager of Wenzhou-based Zhejiang Tung Fong Lighter Industrial Co Ltd.

“It’s been impossible to make any money because of the situation this year. We’re just aiming to survive until the beginning of next year with enough cash to maintain business operations,” said Li.

Zhang Guanjin, general manager of Shaoxing Jinyong Textile Co Ltd in Zhejiang province, said increasing labor and material expenses forced the company to reduce the number of its employees from 150 in 2011 to currently fewer than 60.

Slowly but Surely

by Lan Xinzhen

For the past two years, China’s economy has slowed down. According to statistics released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on July 15, China’s gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 7.6 percent in the first half of the year. In the second quarter, the GDP growth was a mere 7.5 percent, the second lowest since the fourth quarter of 2010.

But skeptics be warned: The slower growth doesn’t mean you can dismiss China’s economy just yet. NBS spokesman Sheng Laiyun says China’s economic growth is stable and economic restructuring—that is, shifting China toward more consumption—was progressing steadily.

China is trying hard to reduce its dependence on investments and shift its economy to a growth mode that is more sustainable in the long run. Its growth rate is in line with the Central Government’s
expectations and plans to transform the economy.

Liu Yuanchun, Associate Dean of the School of Economics at Renmin University in Beijing, suggests that the harm to China’s economy does not stem from a slowdown but comes from rapid growth during the restructuring phase.

Therefore, the slowdown is a good thing for China’s long-term plans. Skeptics should look beyond the slowdown and pay more attention to the government’s ambitious economic reforms and restructuring instead.

A Temporary Slowdown

Statistics from the NBS show that China’s agricultural output experienced a steady increase in the first half year, and food security was secured by a summer grain crops harvest, which witnessed a 1.5-percent increase from the previous year. Industrial manufacturing saw steady growth; and corporate profits continued to increase. These figures suggest that China’s economy rests on a solid foundation. Statistics also show that during the same period, the per-capita disposable income of China’s urban residents registered a nominal increase of 9.1 percent year on year and the per-capita cash income of rural residents increased 11.9 percent, a clear indication that slower growth hasn’t dragged incomes down. Lian Pingyan, chief economist at the Bank of Communications, noted that concerns over a slowdown are exaggerated because figures like the employment rate and commodity prices were normal. Zhang Liqun, a research fellow from the Development Research Center under the State Council, China’s cabinet, believes that China had entered a period of moderate economic growth, one that is moving at an appropriate pace. “China’s economy is bottoming out and seeking a new balance,” said Zhang. Zhang said he is confident in the economy in both the short and long term since China is still in the midst of high-speed industrialization and urbanization. Throes of transformation. China has been harassed by environmental pollution and resource waste during the past three decades of unbridled economic growth. Since the new government came into power in March, plans for more sustainable economic development and upgrading have assumed more focus. As a result, plenty of red tape has been cut in a push to create more efficiency in the economy. In
two meetings held in April and May, the Central Government decentralized its power and put more decision-making capability in the hands of provincial and municipal governments.

Three economists at Barclays Capital coined the term Likonomics named after Premier Li Keqiang’s bold initiatives designed to maintain steady and healthy economic development, with less focus on raking in high GDP growth. Likonomics is composed of three parts—ending stimulus policies, deleveraging and structural reforms.

Pursuing the above three won’t be easy, and the road to economic transformation could be a bumpy one, if it isn’t already, with plenty of sacrifice to be made. When the transformation finally ends, China’s economy will obtain healthier and more sustainable development, says Zhang.

On June 20, the overnight interbank repo rate shot up to over 30 percent, and the overnight Shanghai Interbank Offered Rate surged 578 points to 13.44 percent, which caused a panic in the capital market. Rumors of a “cash crunch” spread far and wide, and China’s stock markets slumped the next day. Unexpectedly, the People’s Bank of China didn’t come to the rescue, a strategic choice on its part.

As the American economy shows signs of picking up, the Federal Reserve has begun to shake off quantitative easing monetary policies, and the world economy is speeding up its deleveraging. The central bank’s refusal to infuse more money into the banking system brings an end to expansionary monetary policies.

In fact, the Central Government has laid emphasis on steady credit growth for the real economy. Recently, Premier Li has reitered “activating the stock of money and credit,” implying an intention to cease the use of expansionary monetary policies.

Although the transformation underway has led to slower growth, the government has no intention of changing course. On July 9, at an economic symposium in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Li said, “Macro-control should focus on the pursuit of long-term benefits and ensure the economy is fluctuating within a reasonable range. That is to say, indexes like the economic growth rate and the employment rate shouldn’t break the bottom line, and price rises shouldn’t exceed the upper limit.”

Although Li didn’t offer specifics, experts say his “bottom line” refers to a minimum of 7.5-percent annual economic growth and at least 9 million new jobs for rural and urban residents. His “upper limit” refers to no more than a 3.5-percent rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) this year, as laid out in former Premier Wen Jiabao’s government work report in March.

At present, employment and consumer prices are stable. Statistics from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security showed the market offered 107 jobs per 100 job hunters in the second quarter, slightly lower than the 110 jobs in the first quarter. According to statistics from the NBS, the CPI rose 2.7 percent year on year.

There are concerns over whether China’s economy can stay above the “bottom line,” since the 7.6-percent growth in the first half is very close to it. Zhang Monan, associate researcher with the Economic Forecast Department of the State Information Center, suggests the ‘bottom line’ indicates the
government is more tolerant of a slowdown.

"Some people may ask whether the new government can help keep China's economy above the "bottom line." It's difficult to give an answer. But one thing is for sure: Reform means pain," said Zhang Monan.

Guan Qingyou, Deputy Director of Minsheng Securities Research Institute, argued that China should maintain its "bottom line" well into the future. "It's of significance to stabilize growth during economic transformation."

**Difficulties Ahead**

The first half of 2013 has been one of significant changes—some good, some bad—as China continues to upgrade its economy. For instance, many energy-consuming and high-polluting industries are undergoing technical renovations to prepare for the new economy. On the flip side, domestic consumption hasn’t been as robust as the government expected despite plenty of effort over the past few years to get Chinese consumers to open their wallets.

According to the NBS, the growth of total retail sales of consumer goods in the first six months grew 1.7-percentage slower than in the same period last year. Weak domestic consumption could put a dent in the country’s plans to build an economy more dependent on domestic spending.

In addition, import and export figures are hardly inspiring. Statistics from the NBS hint China’s import-export trade is also in the midst of a slowdown. In the first quarter, imports and exports totaled $975.25 billion, up 13.5 percent year on year; in the second quarter, it was $1.02 trillion, up 4.3 percent year on year, although in May, imports and exports only grew 0.3 percent. In June, the figure even slid to negative 2 percent.

Zheng Yuesheng, spokesman for the General Administration of Customs, said gloomy foreign markets cramped China’s export growth, and the substantial appreciation of the yuan in combination with rising labor costs made exports more expensive.

Statistics from the Bank for International Settlements showed that the yuan’s real effective exchange rate was 116.3 in late May, up 5.6 percent from the end of last year. At the same time, domestic labor costs keep going up. Several provinces and cities have increased their respective minimum wage standards so far this year. Of the 2,000 enterprises that participated in a monthly customs survey, at least 70 percent regularly said they were under mounting cost pressure, and the competitiveness of their products was eroding.

What’s worse, China’s trade environment is deteriorating due to frequent outside frictions. According to the Ministry of Commerce, 18 countries launched 22 anti-subsidy investigations against China in the first quarter. In May, the European Commission declared an anti-dumping and countervailing probe into some of China’s telecom equipment makers. On June 6, the commission announced an 11.8-percent anti-dumping duty on China’s photovoltaic products. All these investigations and duties slapped on Chinese products have greatly undermined the country’s international competitiveness.

**Economic Outlook**

The Central Government is scheduled to
hold a series of symposiums to gather economic data in July and unveil a number of reform policies in September. In the meantime, the outlook of China's economy over the next six months is mixed.

Economists predict growth of China's GDP in the second half of the year will remain more or less the same as the first. Li Daokui, Director of the Center for China in the World Economy at Tsinghua University predicted that the economy would grow 7.8 percent in the second half, a slight increase over the first half. A report released by China Investment Consulting on July 1 stated that China's GDP would grow 7.5 percent and 7.3 percent in the third and fourth quarters respectively, and the growth rate for the whole year would be 7.5 percent.

But Anbound Consulting, a renowned think tank for public policy in China, says in a report that the three pillars of the country's—investment, consumption and net exports—have not shown signs of any rebound.

In terms of investment, tight policies, high local debt and declining corporate profits will not get the economy back on a track of rapid growth. Additionally, great employment pressures, poor income prospects and restrictions on government spending have dimmed investment as a strong driver of economic growth. Finally, external demand for Chinese-made products is still weak.

“Given the above-mentioned reasons, the economic outlook for the second half is not so optimistic,” reports Anbound.

**III. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Kim Jong Un Meets with Vice President Li Yuanchao**

In the evening of July 25, 2013, Kim Jong Un, First Chairman of the National Defense Commission of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), met at the Garden Guesthouse in Pyongyang with Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao, who is visiting DPRK and attending commemorative activities of the 60th anniversary of the armistice of the Korean war.

Li Yuanchao first conveyed the message from President Xi Jinping to First Chairman Kim Jong Un.

Li Yuanchao said, Today we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the armistice of the
Korean War. It is to pay tribute to the outstanding sons and daughters of China and DPRK, who sacrificed their lives for their countries and homelands. Looking back at the history, we understand that peace for today has been hard-won and should be cherished. China-DPRK relationship is now in a new era between the past and the future. China is willing to work with DPRK to strengthen mutual trust and communication, to expand exchanges and cooperation in various fields, and to promote the sustained and stable development of China-DPRK relations.

Li Yuanchao said that as a close neighbour of the Korean Peninsula, China adheres to the denuclearization on the Peninsula, adheres to safeguarding peace and stability on the Peninsula, and adheres to resolving the related issues through dialogues and consultations. China is willing to work with all parties concerned to promote the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. China is committed to promoting the denuclearization process, achieving peace on the Peninsula, and realizing long-term peace and stability in Northeast Asia.

Kim Jong Un said that the party and the people of DPRK will always remember the martyrs of China and DPRK, who sacrificed their lives in the Korean War. The DPRK side spoke highly of China’s great achievements in developing the socialist cause. DPRK cherishes the traditional friendship with China and is willing to work with China to strengthen communication, to enhance cooperation and to promote the development of bilateral relations. DPRK is committed to economic development and improving people’s livelihood. It requires a stable external environment. DPRK supports China’s efforts to resume the Six-Party Talks and is willing to make joint efforts with all parties to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

On Jul. 25th, Li Yuanchao as well met with Kim Yong Nam, President of the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly of DPRK and Yang Hyong Sop, Vice President of the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly of DPRK, in Pyongyang.

**Innovations in China's Diplomatic Theory and Practice Under New Conditions**

Yang Jiechi

Since the successful conclusion of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) last year and the end of the annual sessions of the National People’s Congress (NPC) and the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) earlier this year, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary has, in light of new conditions and new tasks, focused on China’s long-term and strategic agenda with a keen appreciation of the evolving global environment and trends of development at home. Bearing in mind both the domestic and
international interests of the country and maintaining the continuity and consistency of its major diplomatic policies, it has promoted innovations in diplomatic theory and practice by keeping up with the trend of the times and pushing ahead with a pioneering spirit. With a good beginning made and an overall plan adopted, the Party Central Committee has put forth many important strategic ideas on China's external affairs as well as diplomatic policies and principles, and taken a number of major diplomatic initiatives which have not only created external conditions favorable for facilitating the work of the Party and the state across the board, but also enriched and developed the system of diplomatic theory with Chinese characteristics.

I. The new diplomatic initiatives as taken are strategic, overarching and innovative in nature.

Given close international attention on major policy direction of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary after the 18th Party Congress, Comrade Xi Jinping made his diplomatic debut by meeting the representatives of foreign experts working in China. Later, the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee held a collective study session on unswervingly following the path of peaceful development. On both occasions, Comrade Xi Jinping made important remarks on China's opening-up strategy and foreign policy, sending out a clear message that China's new collective central leadership is committed to reform and opening-up, the path of peaceful development and the strategy of win-win cooperation with the outside world while resolutely upholding China's core national interests.

Since the end of the annual NPC and CPPCC sessions this year, Comrade Xi Jinping and other Party and state leaders have paid visits to major countries, neighboring countries, emerging market economies and developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and North America, and hosted visits by dozens of foreign leaders. These activities of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy both at home and abroad have enabled Chinese leaders to meet more than one hundred foreign heads of state and leaders, which has effectively enhanced China's friendly exchanges and pragmatic cooperation with other countries.

Actively promoting relations with the major countries. Comrade Xi Jinping made Russia the first leg of his first overseas visit as China's President, which strengthened bilateral cooperation in the economy, trade, energy and strategic security and consolidated the basis of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination. Comrade Xi Jinping held meetings with US President Barack Obama at the Annenberg Estate in Los Angeles, during which the two sides agreed to work together to build a new model of major-country relationship based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation, thus charting the course and drawing the blueprint for growing China-US relations in the future. China and the United States also successfully held their fifth round of Strategic and Economic Dialogues, making good progress in implementing the agreement of the two presidents and advancing the building of a new model of major-country relationship. With other Chinese Party and state leaders visiting
External Affairs

European countries, China has played host to French President Francois Hollande and other European leaders, and worked steadily to open up new areas of mutually-beneficial and pragmatic cooperation between China and Europe.

Energetically working to stabilize and advance the friendly and good-neighborly relations in the surrounding areas. China's relations with its neighbors are, on the whole, moving towards a more favorable direction. While attending the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2013 and the state events held on its sidelines, Comrade Xi Jinping expounded on the new ideas in China's domestic and foreign policies, which promoted China's strategic trust with the relevant countries and elevated its relations with the neighboring countries. We have received visits by state leaders from neighboring countries, such as President Truong Tan Sang of Viet Nam, President Park Geun-hye of the ROK and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, strengthened bilateral ties with neighboring countries in areas including Southeast Asia and Central Asia, and consolidated our good-neighborly friendship and cooperation with them. With respect to such issues as Diaoyu Island and South China Sea, we have acted firmly to uphold our territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests while working hard to appropriately handle and resolve the disputes with the neighboring countries through dialogue and negotiation. On the Korean nuclear issue, while firmly committed to the goal of denuclearization on the Peninsula, we have actively reached out to relevant countries to move the situation on the Peninsula towards relaxation.

Vigorously working to strengthen friendship and cooperation with developing countries. Comrade Xi Jinping's successful visits to Africa and Latin America have fully reflected the great importance we attach to developing countries. By visiting Tanzania, South Africa and the Republic of the Congo, Comrade Xi Jinping set a precedent for a Chinese head of state to visit Africa during his first overseas trip. What is more, he met with over a dozen African leaders at a breakfast meeting, with fruitful results achieved in renewing friendship, enhancing mutual trust, advancing cooperation and identifying opportunities for common development. By visiting Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rica and Mexico and holding bilateral talks with leaders of eight Caribbean countries, Comrade Xi Jinping has enhanced China's political trust and result-oriented cooperation with them and brought China's overall cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean to a new high.

Deeply engaging in and shaping processes of multilateral diplomacy. When meeting leaders of international organizations, Comrade Xi Jinping stressed China's commitment to the advocacy and practice of multilateralism and the great value it places on the important role of the United Nations and other international organizations. China will honor its due international obligations and work in close cooperation with relevant international organizations in maintaining world peace and security, promoting human development and progress and addressing global issues and challenges. Fresh progress has been made in China's relations with major international organizations. Attending the Fifth BRICS Leaders' Meeting in Durban,
South Africa, Comrade Xi Jinping worked for closer communication and coordination with other major developing countries on global economic and political matters of great consequence and brought about progress in building BRICS mechanisms. The Summit issued the eThekwini Declaration and Action Plan, decided to establish a development bank and a contingent reserve arrangement among BRICS countries, thus providing a strong impetus to the establishment of a new international political and economic order that is fairer and more equitable.

The Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary has made innovative headway on the basis of past achievements. A sound and momentous beginning has thus been achieved in our diplomatic work. With the layout being more comprehensive and more balanced, China’s diplomacy under new circumstances displays such features as rich ideas, clear priorities, firm positions, flexible approaches and distinctive styles. This has not only aroused greater interest of all parties to further grow relations with China, which paves the way for sound diplomatic work in the latter half of the year and even the next five to ten years, but also boosted the morale of the Party, the army and the people, thus greatly galvanizing the enthusiasm of our Party and our people of all ethnic groups to work for the realization of the “two centenary goals” as set by the 18th Party Congress.

II. Innovations in diplomatic theory and practice have resulted in major achievements.

Confronted with a highly complex international situation, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary has carried forward the Party’s fine tradition of linking theory with practice, made courageous explorations by combining domestic affairs with foreign affairs and integrating Chinese features with the trend of the times, and achieved a series of major breakthroughs in diplomatic theory and practice within a very short period of time. Displaying a strong resolve for innovation, a broad, strategic and forward-looking global perspective, and a capacity to command the overall situation, the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary has provided a powerful guarantee in both theory and practice for innovative diplomatic work and better use of the important period of strategic opportunities.

1. Putting forth the important thinking of the Chinese dream with profoundly enriched contents with a view to boosting exchanges and cooperation between China and the rest of the world.

During his trips abroad or meetings with visiting foreign guests at home since the 18th Party Congress, Comrade Xi Jinping has spoken profusely to leaders and people of foreign countries on the important thinking of the Chinese dream, namely, to achieve the great renewal of the Chinese nation. Comrade Xi Jinping has emphatically pointed out that the Chinese dream is shared by the Chinese people of all ethnic groups and cherished by each and every individual in the country. The Chinese dream requires a peaceful and stable international and neighboring environment, and China is committed to realizing the dream through peaceful development. Since the Chinese
dream is closely linked with the dreams of other peoples around the world, China is committed to helping other countries, developing countries and neighboring countries in particular, with their development while achieving development of its own. China will share more development opportunities with other countries so as to facilitate their efforts to realize their dreams. China hopes to see win-win cooperation and common development with the rest of the world. While working to realize the Chinese dream, the people of China are desirous of realizing the world dream through concerted efforts with people around the world.

Comrade Xi Jinping’s comprehensive, profound and exquisite description of the Chinese dream is a continuation and development of the important thinking of China’s peaceful development in the new era. It has enhanced international understanding and recognition of China’s peaceful development strategy and received extensive appreciation and applause. Many foreign leaders and people from various sectors regard the Chinese dream as fully consistent with the dreams of their own countries and own peoples, and have expressed readiness to join the Chinese people in realizing the beautiful dream shared by the entire mankind. This fact has dealt a powerful blow to the attempts by certain international forces at distorting and smearing the Chinese dream.

The important thinking of the Chinese dream has not only energized our people’s determination and confidence in accomplishing the great renewal of the Chinese nation but also substantially boosted China’s appeal and influence in the world, enhanced our stature and voice in international affairs and given full expression to the strong synergy between our domestic and external agenda.

2. Putting forth the vision of building a new model of major-country relationship between China and the United States while striving to advance relations with other major countries.

To promote the building of a new model of major-country relationship between China and the United States and bring about sound interaction and win-win cooperation with major countries is an important thinking of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary concerning China’s relations with other major countries. The thinking is a strategic choice made based on a full review of the experience and lessons of history, a correct reading of the trend of the times and a need to integrate China’s interests with those of other countries. It is also the inherent requirement of the “two centenary goals” and the inevitable demand for our overall strategy of peaceful development.

China and the United States have reached important agreement on the building of a new model of major-country relationship. During their meetings at the Annenberg Estate, Comrade Xi Jinping and President Obama agreed that the two countries would work together to build a new model of major-country relationship that benefits both peoples and the people in the world. Comrade Xi Jinping summarized such a new model with three insightful sentences. First, non-conflict and non-confrontation. That requires the two sides to view each other’s strategic intention in an objective and sensible way,
stay as partners instead of adversaries, and properly handle their differences and disputes through dialogue and cooperation instead of taking a confrontational approach. Second, mutual respect. That requires the two sides to respect each other’s choice of social system and development path, respect each other’s core interests and major concerns, seek common ground while shelving differences, uphold inclusiveness and mutual learning, and make progress side by side. Third, win-win cooperation. That requires the two sides to abandon the zero-sum mentality, accommodate the other’s interests while seeking one’s own, promote common development while developing oneself, and continue to deepen the pattern of shared interests. Comrade Xi Jinping also pointed out that to implement the agreement on the building of a new model of major-country relationship, the two sides need to bring their dialogue and trust to a new level, take new steps in their pragmatic cooperation, establish a new pattern of major-country interaction, and explore new ways to manage their differences. The building of a new model of major-country relationship between China and the United States is an unprecedented endeavor that will inspire future generations. It is a historic innovation that has no ready experience to copy. As such, it may not be a plain sailing process. Nevertheless, as long as we size up the situation, focus on the goal, be firm in our determination and keep forging ahead, we will be able to achieve sound and steady growth of China-US relations.

Meanwhile, with active planning and facilitation, China’s relations with other major countries have also made fresh progress and breakthroughs. China and Russia have deepened strategic trust, scaled up business cooperation, made new breakthroughs in major energy cooperation projects, maintained close coordination on major international and regional issues and in global economic governance, and achieved new progress in growing their comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination. China and the European Union have expanded cooperation areas, deepened shared interests, and continued to elevate strategic relations and cooperation to new heights. We have also made active efforts and achieved notable results in developing friendship and cooperation with other major developing countries and major regional countries.

3. Putting forth the right approach to upholding justice and seeking interests with a view to enhancing friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries and developing countries.

To strike a balance between upholding justice and seeking interests is at the heart of traditional Chinese culture and a moral benchmark observed by the Chinese nation throughout the centuries. This important principle governs both personal conduct and China’s relations with other countries. Inheriting the fine traditions of Chinese culture and the diplomacy of New China and keeping in mind the new tasks in the new period of China’s relations with other developing countries and its neighbors, Comrade Xi Jinping underscores the need to adopt the right approach to upholding justice and seeking interests in growing relations with these countries. Politically, we should uphold justice and fairness as a guiding principle. Economically, we should pursue mutual benefit and common development. In growing relations with our neighbors and
other developing countries that have long been friendly towards China yet face daunting challenges in development, we will accommodate their interests rather than seeking benefits at their expense or shifting troubles unto them.

We will follow the right approach to upholding justice and seeking interests in strengthening relations with our neighbors and other developing countries. During his visit to Africa, Comrade Xi Jinping had sincere and cordial discussions with African leaders, in which he expounded on China’s Africa policy and stressed China’s commitment to cooperation with Africa with sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith. In particular, he emphasized the win-win nature of China-Africa cooperation. He reiterated that China will fully honor its commitment to Africa, attach no political strings to aid to Africa, help African countries translate their strength in natural resources into progress in development and achieve diverse, independent and sustainable development. Comrade Xi Jinping’s remarks struck a chord among African leaders and people. Many of them said that China’s help to Africa is sincere and aims at boosting Africa’s development and that Africa has full trust in China.

During Comrade Xi Jinping’s visit to Trinidad and Tobago and Costa Rica, a large number of major cooperation projects were agreed upon, which testifies to China’s sincerity in helping Central American countries to achieve development. Comrade Xi Jinping announced that China would provide preferential loans and special infrastructure loans to Caribbean countries having friendly ties with China, and this was warmly received. Comrade Xi Jinping’s visit to Mexico boosted bilateral business ties, and the two sides announced the upgrading of China-Mexico relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

4. Proposing stronger top-level designing and strategic planning in diplomatic work including the bottom line thinking with a view to resolutely upholding China’s core interests.

Comrade Xi Jinping has repeatedly called for stronger top-level designing and medium to long-term strategic planning for China’s diplomatic work. The Party Central Committee, demonstrating a long-term and broad vision and bearing in mind the underlying trend and major events, has stepped up such efforts by integrating China’s relations with the world’s major countries, its neighbors and other developing countries and multilateral diplomacy through a series of major initiatives. This has promoted an all-round growth of China’s relations with various parties, meeting our target of a good start and solid layout in our diplomatic work and setting the stage for the medium and long-term pursuit of our objectives.

The Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary attaches great importance to the details of implementing China’s foreign policy. It calls for the need to follow new trend in strategic planning, to make timely policy adjustments in light of shifting international developments and the changing external environment, and to properly address new issues and problems in our diplomatic work. We must keep in mind the bottom line, working for the best but preparing for the worst. Comrade Xi Jinping has stressed that while firmly committed to peaceful development, we definitely must not forsake our legitimate interests or compromise our core national interests. No country should expect us to swallow the bitter fruit that undermines our sovereignty, security and development interests. In our
diplomatic work, we will not dodge disputes or problems as there may be. Rather, we will endeavor to properly handle the differences and problems with relevant countries, while working to promote exchanges and cooperation in various fields to expand common interests and maintain good relations with neighboring countries and peace and stability in the region as a whole.

5. Putting forth the need for enhanced coordination in diplomatic work to ensure unified central leadership over the operations.

To better coordinate the country’s domestic and international agenda, the Party Central Committee attaches great importance to a holistic management of foreign affairs. It calls for balanced considerations, overall planning, unified command and coordinated implementation. It requires the central and local governments, non-governmental organizations and all foreign-related agencies to work together to form synergy, with each performing their respective functions. We should fully motivate all the parties involved and spark their creativity, and at the same time subject their activities to the unified management guided by national interests. Efforts should be made to ensure the smooth exercise of leadership by the Party Central Committee in decision-making, management and specific handling of foreign-related affairs so as to realize its strategic intentions in diplomatic work. In the past six months, by strengthening institution-building, sorting out relevant systems and mechanisms and formulating clear-cut regulations, the Party Central Committee has succeeded in improving the management of foreign-related work with stronger and better coordinated operations.

III. We must earnestly study and apply the achievements of innovations in diplomatic theory and practice to make new progress in diplomatic work.

China’s diplomatic work under new conditions, which got off to a good start, has proceeded from a stage of planning to one of all-round implementation. Taking stock of the overall developments, we find ourselves still in an important period of strategic opportunities in which much can be accomplished. Yet we also face complex and daunting challenges. The important achievements of innovations in diplomatic theory and practice made by the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary have not only laid a solid foundation for our diplomatic work in the immediate future, but also pointed out its correct direction. We should earnestly study and fully appreciate the essence of these innovations, draw inspirations from them and apply them in our diplomatic practice. We should build on the good beginning and forge ahead in a pioneering spirit. While continuing to improve on the strategic planning, we should give greater play to the leading role of leadership diplomacy, vigorously grow relations with other major countries, step up friendship and win-win cooperation with our neighboring countries and other developing countries and move the international order in a more just and equitable direction. We should work hard to popularize the new thinking and new ideas of Chinese diplomacy, implement the Party’s mass line and people-oriented diplomacy, and endeavor to make new progress in our diplomatic work, thus creating a more enabling external environment to make the Chinese dream, the great renewal of the Chinesenation, cometrue.

(The author is State Councilor and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Leading Group of the CPC Central Committee.)
On Aug. 15, 2013, State Councilor Yang Jiechi met with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov of Russia in Moscow.

They expressed that in March this year, President Xi Jinping paid a successful state visit to Russia and the heads of state of the two countries reached important consensus on further developing China-Russia comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. The China-Russia relationship is now forging ahead in the direction set by the two heads of state. The two countries enjoy frequent high-level exchanges. Various cooperation mechanisms are in effective operation. The exchanges and cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, military affairs and people-to-people exchanges enjoy a sound momentum and close communication and coordination have been maintained in major international and regional affairs. President Xi Jinping will attend the G20 St. Petersburg Summit and meet with President Vladimir Putin. It will be a big event for China-Russia relations in the second half of this year. China will provide full support to the Russian side for hosting the Summit. Both sides will make concerted efforts to push for the success of the Summit so as to yield new fruits in bilateral practical cooperation. Both sides will as well work with all other parties to ensure new progress of the SCO Bishkek Summit in promoting the Organization’s development and cooperation among member states.

They also exchanged views on Korean Peninsula situation, Iranian nuclear issue, Syria and other issues. They pledged that the two countries will strengthen coordination and cooperation, and work along with the international community to actively promote peace and open talks, in a bid to safeguard global and regional peace and stability.


Yang Jiechi expressed that in the new international situation, the UN, as a core
institution of global governance, should shoulder its lofty mission, to actively coordinate the efforts of the member states, to promote international cooperation, so as to jointly cope with various global challenges. China supports UN for firmly safeguarding international equity and justice, strengthening the unity among member states, and listening to the voices of developing countries. China will give full support to the work of the UN and the UN General Assembly President. Hope both sides will keep close communication and cooperation.

Ashe said that he will positively push the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly to take the promotion of development, especially the post-2015 development agenda, as a priority of its work and will make full efforts to safeguard unity among member states.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi Attends China-ASEAN High-Level Forum

On Aug. 2, 2013, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended and addressed the opening session of the High-Level Forum on the 10th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in Bangkok, capital of Thailand. Surapong Tovichakchaikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, was present.

Wang Yi said, relations with ASEAN have always topped China’s diplomatic agenda. This year marks the 10th anniversary of China-ASEAN Strategic Partnership. The bilateral relationship now stands at a key stage of building on past achievements to make new progress.

Over the past ten years, there have been many
“firsts” in China-ASEAN relations. China is the first major non-ASEAN country to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and it is the first to build a strategic partnership with ASEAN. China is also the first to launch Free Trade Area (FTA) negotiations with ASEAN, and the two sides together established the world’s largest FTA between developing countries.

Over the past 10 years, China-ASEAN trade has grown fast. Last year, two way trade reached 400 billion US dollars, a six-time increase, and China has become the largest trading partner of ASEAN. Our mutual investment is more than 100 billion US dollars, up by four times.

Over the past 10 years, China-ASEAN exchanges have greatly expanded. The number of mutual visits made by our peoples last year reached 15 million, up by four times, including 7.3 million visits by Chinese tourists, up by 2.6 times. China is the second largest source of inbound tourists for ASEAN. Every week there are over 1,000 flights between China and ASEAN, which are a lot more than the number of flights between China and Japan or between China and the Republic of Korea.

More importantly, China and ASEAN have stood together over the years and supported each other when we faced difficulties and challenges, at the time when SARS hit China, when a massive earthquake struck Wenchuan of China’s Sichuan Province, when Asian financial crisis and the Indian Ocean tsunami occurs. This has strengthened our brotherly friendship.

Wang Yi said, A review of the past reveals that in growing China-ASEAN relations, the most important foundation is the region’s peace and stability that we have jointly preserved, the most important consensus is to facilitate common development through cooperation, and the most important experience is to stick to the “Asian way” and the “ASEAN way” and resolve the differences through friendly consultation and equal-footed dialogue. We must keep to these valuable experience and consensus.

Wang Yi noted, looking ahead, China-ASEAN relations are blessed with growth opportunities and dynamism with vast potential and bright prospects. These opportunities and dynamism are first and foremost generated by China’s development. At present, the Chinese economy has maintained a steady and sound growth, is to speed up transformation and upgrading, and will set onto a track of sustainable development. In the past 30 years and more, China’s rapid economic growth has delivered enormous dividends to this region and the world at large. In the future, a Chinese economy that enjoys long-term, sustained and sound development will make even more important and lasting contribution to the development of the region and beyond.

Wang Yi stressed that China’s development constitutes the strengthening of a force for peace and friendship. China’s development brings benefits to the neighboring countries. It is an opportunity, not a threat.

Wang Yi pointed out that, as China-ASEAN relations going forward, the following two things are the most important:

The first is to deepen cooperation in all fields, to achieve win-win development. We
should step up efforts to build an upgraded version of China-ASEAN FTA, and advance regional economic integration. We should accelerate progress towards all-dimensional connectivity, and explore the possibility of an Asian investment and financing platform. We should actively engage in maritime cooperation, and make good use of the China-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation Fund. We should continue to enrich and improve the regional cooperation structure so that various mechanisms such as 10+1, 10+3 and EAS will complement and reinforce one another to secure the common interest of all countries in the region. We should enhance friendship among our peoples and promote friendly exchanges among our youth, think-tanks, parliaments, NGOs and civil organizations. China stands ready to strengthen exchanges with ASEAN countries in defense and security fields to jointly safeguard regional security and stability.

The second is to properly settle differences with peaceful means through equal-footed dialogue and friendly consultation. China and some Southeast Asian countries have disputes over territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, which are left over from history. On our part, we have always stood ready to solve the dispute through dialogue and direct negotiation. China has kept the door to dialogue and consultation open and pursued the prospects of win-win results. China will continue to do so in the future. We hope other countries concerned will show the same spirit, and work with us in the same direction, instead of taking any move that may complicate or aggravate the situation, still less misjudging the situation and making mistakes repeatedly.

Wang Yi said, during the recent East Asian foreign ministers’ meetings, China and ASEAN countries agreed to hold consultations on the formulation of COC under the framework of implementing the DOC. China is a responsible country and has strictly complied with its commitment in DOC implementation. We hope other relevant parties will also abide by all the provisions in the DOC. It is a gradual process to move from the DOC to COC. We will work with ASEAN countries to seriously discuss and steadily advance the COC process. We would like to work with all countries to make the South China Sea truly a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Over 300 representatives of various circles in ASEAN countries participated in the Forum.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi On Process of “Code of Conduct in the South China Sea"

On Aug. 5, 2013, when answering questions from the journalists, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that China and ASEAN countries have agreed to hold consultations on moving forward the process of the “Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC)” under the framework of implementing the “Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC)” to jointly safeguard regional peace
and stability of the South China Sea.

China has always taken a positive and open attitude to the formulation of COC, and at the same time, has noticed that there came out some different ideas from some parties concerned on how to promote the process of COC. China views as follows:

First, reasonable expectations. Some countries are talking about "quick fix", like reaching consensus on COC within one day. It is an attitude neither realistic nor serious. COC involves multilateral interests from different parties, and its formulation is a process of sophisticated and complex coordination.

Second, consensus through negotiations. We should refer to the experience of reaching DOC to move forward COC. To seek consensus as broadly as possible and to keep the comfort of all parties in mind. Wills of individual country or of a few countries should not be imposed on other countries, as an old Chinese saying, nothing forcibly done is going to be agreeable.

Third, elimination of interference. China and ASEAN countries tried several times to discuss on COC before, but got stuck due to some interferences. All parties concerned should do more to help moving forward the process of COC, and create the necessary conditions and atmosphere, not going the opposite way.

Fourth, step-by-step approach. The formulation of COC is stipulated in DOC. COC is not to replace DOC, much less to ignore DOC and go its own way. The top priority now is to continue to implement DOC, especially promoting maritime cooperation. In this process, we should formulate the road map for COC through consultations, and push it forward in a step-by-step approach.

China Vows to Deepen Friendship with Central Asian Countries

Ashgabat, July 19 (Xinhua) — The new Chinese government will continue its good-neighborly relations with Central Asian countries and further deepen strategic mutual trust and cooperation with them, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Friday.

Wang attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) foreign ministers’ meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, July 16, 2013.
Bishkek and paid official visits to Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan on July 12-19, in preparation for President Xi Jinping's visit to the region in September.

Xi's visit will be a historic event that will certainly push forward the ties between China and these three states as well as with all Central Asian states to a new stage, he said.

China and Central Asian countries, including Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, are friendly neighbors since ancient times.

Beijing will always support the path of development chosen by the Central Asian countries in line with their specific national conditions and endorse the measures undertaken by them to maintain stability and develop economy, Wang said.

The Chinese foreign minister said the leaders of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan said their countries regard China as a trustworthy friend and partner.

They appreciate China's long-time assistance and highly value Beijing's huge influence in regional and international affairs as a responsible world power, Wang said.

Leaders of the three countries also threw their firm support behind China to safeguard national reunification and combat the “three evil forces” of terrorism, separatism and extremism, he said.

Beijing is ready to unveil reciprocal cooperation with the three countries in economy and trade, energy, telecommunications among other fields.

Leaders of the three states expressed willingness to expand cooperation with China in the fields of economy and trade, railway, road, mining, agriculture and tourism, Wang added.

Meanwhile, China also exchanged views with other SCO members on ways to build the regional body into a community featuring common interests in politics, security and economics.

With the aim to inject new vitality into the regional bloc, the Chinese side also urged the SCO members to give full play to complementary advantages of their respective economies and promote pragmatic cooperation among them while boosting efforts to safeguard regional peace and stability.

The Chinese side also called for strengthened infrastructure cooperation among SCO members and enhanced efforts to promote trade and investment facilitation as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Leaders of Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and SCO foreign ministers said they will strengthen coordination with China within the SCO framework so as to promote mutually beneficial cooperation, safeguard common security and deepen friendship among their peoples.
Xi Urges Deepening Reform, Opening Up

Wuhan, July 23 (Xinhua) — President Xi Jinping has called for deepening China’s reform and opening-up efforts in order to maintain a healthy economy and achieve the goals set during the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Xi, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks during a tour of central China’s Hubei Province from July 21 to 23.

Xi called for maintaining “a spirit of reform and innovation” in every aspect of governance and economic development.

The president visited ports, enterprises, villages and residential districts, talking to people from different backgrounds and listening to their opinions on reform.

While visiting a port in Wuhan, Xi highlighted the development of China’s logistics industry, calling for further waterway development along the Yangtze River.

He stressed scientific innovation and personnel training in driving economic growth and encouraged workers to develop domestic brands that can be internationally competitive.

“The working class must shoulder this historic responsibility,” he said.

The president also called for more efforts in establishing a resource-conserving and environmentally-friendly society.

During the trip, Xi listened to reports on the progress of rural equity transactions, saying that the transfer of land must be done while respecting the will of rural residents, protecting farmland, ensuring food supplies and increasing rural residents’ incomes.

Xi vowed to promote urban-rural integration and build the country’s vast rural area into a hospitable place for rural residents.
Xi said reforms must be comprehensively deepened in order to help China cope with challenges, adding that authorities must strike a balance between reform, development and stability.

**Far Out, Way In**

**Minority students from remote places in Xinjiang flock to more developed regions for a short at better education**

In the vast and sparsely populated Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in China's northwest, more than half of the residents are members of minority ethnic groups with native languages other than Mandarin Chinese. Education is complicated by the region's linguistic, geographic and socioeconomic conditions.

“In my hometown, educational resources are scarce and dropout rates are very high,” said Merhaba, a 13-year-old Uygur girl from Kashgar Prefecture. “Almost all my cousins dropped out after middle school or even primary school. My brother and I are the only ones to go out of Kashgar for education.”

Merhaba is a student at No.66 Middle School in Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang. Her exam scores earned her admission to the elite junior high school in 2011. “Here, we have better teachers and better learning facilities,” she said.

**For a Better Future**

Launched in September 2000, a merit-based program has enabled students from remote areas in Xinjiang to attend prestigious high schools in developed cities in China’s east. The program offers students from Xinjiang free tuition, room and board.

In 2000, a total of 1,000 students were admitted to 12 key schools, and the number grew year by year. By 2012, as many as 8,330 students had been admitted to 85 elite schools in 44 eastern cities. Altogether 51,300 students have benefited from the program since its...
inception. Ninety percent are from minority ethnic groups.

In 2003, the Xinjiang Regional Government designated No.66 Middle School in Urumqi to groom promising students and help them make the even more difficult transition into schools in major cities in east China.

Now the school has more than 900 students, of which 90 percent are students from rural and pastoral areas. Fourteen-year-old Rhustan from Kashgar has been studying at the school for nearly two years. “The teaching quality here is a lot better and it makes it easier for us to gain knowledge,” said Rhustan, who speaks fluent English.

It’s not easy for a child to leave home and go to a faraway city to study at the tender age of 12, but Rhustan is mature for his age, and pragmatic and filial in equal measure. “Although they miss me a lot, my parents think it is the right decision for a better future and they are proud of me,” hesaid.

For Li Ji, though, studying in Urumqi is not getting easier, but much harder. The 14-year-old Han boy, also from Kashgar, is now in the eighth grade at No.66 Middle School.

“It was easy for me to score in the top three in my previous school in Kashgar, but here all the top students from different places in Xinjiang gather, and I have to work very hard to keep up.”

To enroll at No.66 Middle School, according to Li, candidates had to score more than 275 out of 300 on a selection exam. After three years’ study, the students must take yet another selection exam to enroll in key high schools in eastern cities. In the later exams, they have to score more than 690 out of 750 to qualify.

“It is a big challenge,” said Li. “I cannot make mistakes.”

ON THE ROAD: Students from remote Aksu Prefecture arrive at Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on August 23, 2012, before heading to high schools in east China.
Li’s dream is to become a policeman and he said he hopes to go to Shanghai for further studies. “After I graduate from university, I would come back to Xinjiang and make contributions to my hometown.”

Guliweina, a 13-year-old girl from Turpan, is a classmate of Li. She set up this school as the goal when she was in the sixth grade in the primary school in Turpan. Her elder sister is a graduate here and went to Beijing for senior high school. Now her sister is a student at the Communication University of China, located in the nation’s capital. “I admire my sister a lot and Beijing is my ideal place too,” said Guliweina.

**A Bigger Picture**

“In Urumqi alone, there are already four schools offering preparatory classes for students to attend high school in east China, with 10,000 students graduating each year,” said Meng Lang, Principal of No. 66 Middle School.

Meng revealed that in order to bring more children from rural and pastoral households into better schools, Xinjiang has opened junior middle school classes in eight cities including Urumqi, Shihezi, Karamay, Kuytun, Changji, Hami, Korla and Aksu.

Instruction is mainly in Mandarin and English. “Teachers here are dedicated, not only to teaching, but also to the breakdown of ethnic barriers,” said Meng. “Multilingual education is necessary. If they can write and speak in their own ethnic languages and Mandarin and English, that will help them better integrate with the outside world.”

Wuziguli, an eighth grader at No. 66 Middle School, started bargaining in Mandarin to get a higher price for the grapes in her father’s field in 2012.

“My family earned more than other families in my village because I can speak Mandarin fluently,” the little girl said with a smile.

“Children are the future,” said Meng. “If we want to reduce poverty in Xinjiang, we need to develop education. Education empowers people’s minds and that’s more important than anything else.”

“We are on our way to improving education for ethnic minorities, which is crucial for regional economic development,” said Tursun Ibrayim, head of the Education Department of Xinjiang.

Tursun said that the policy of sending Xinjiang’s high school students to study in eastern cities is welcomed by parents and children in the region. “Improving the quality of education among ethnic minorities is important to Xinjiang’s social and economic development,” said Tursun.

According to Tursun, raising the educational level of the Xinjiang population is no easy task for this underdeveloped northwest region, which accounts for nearly a sixth of the nation’s territory and has a population of over 21.3 million.

He noted that since 2003, more than 60 billion yuan ($9.77 billion) has been invested in education in Xinjiang. In 2013, the autonomous region will allocate another 2.6 billion yuan ($424 million) in compulsory education.

“Education for all is the wish of every parent, child, educator and government official in Xinjiang,” he said.
Green Commitment

Global Eco Forum held to promote sustainable development

by Yu Lintao

“Cool Guiyang welcomes you,” a phrase splashed across posters greeting visitors to the capital of southwest China’s Guizhou Province, is a testament to the city’s status as a self-proclaimed home to forestry and green living. Locals boast that Guiyang acts as a natural air conditioner to visitors during summer time, referring to the favorable eco-environment and pleasant climate. It was also this year’s summer resort for the environmentally conscious, as host to an international conference on ecological conservation from July 19 to 21.

The conference, the Eco-Forum Global (EFG) in Guiyang, was first launched in 2009. It is China’s first and only national-level forum focusing on the environment.

Designed to promote the sharing of knowledge and experience in the implementation of policies regarding green economic transformation and ecological security among international community members, the forum is well received by a global range of members. The 2013 annual meeting carried the theme of Building Eco-Civilization: Green Transformation and Transition and emphasized green industry, green urbanization and green consumption, attracting about 4,000 scholars, reporters, politicians as well as representatives from NGOs and multinationals.

During a media interview ahead of the event, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger hailed the forum as a platform that will affect the future of humanity.

Zhang Xinheng, head of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and Secretary General of the EFG, said that the upgrading of the forum to a national-level event this year shows China’s commitment to its international obligations in promoting ecological conservation.

As the Chinese Government has
incorporated building an eco-friendly society into its national development strategy alongside economic, political, cultural and social development, participants claim the forum is instructive of China’s future development trends.

**China’s Role**

Ever since the first Declaration on the Human Environment was released in 1972 at the UN Conference on Human Environment, people have begun to realize that industrial revolution in the past 300 years has generated not only great material prosperity, but also great damage to world resources and the environment. And in 1992 during the Rio Summit, the UN Conference on Environment and Development upgraded sustainable development as a strategy of joint development for humankind, integrating for the first time economic development with environmental protection.

“Although global achievements have been made in the provision of healthcare, education and the alleviation of poverty in the past 20 years, progress has been very slow in terms of goals set by the Rio Summit,” said Zhang. “And the world has been faced with increasing challenges in eco-security, climate change, biodiversity protection and sustainable development since then.”

Therefore, Zhang said, achieving sustainable development and eco-conservation is no longer an option—it is an inevitable course of human development.

As the world’s second largest economy and one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gasses, China’s progress in eco-friendly initiatives concerns the future of the human race. Thus the EFG came into being to build a bigger platform for the shift to green and inclusive growth in the post-Rio era.

“The Chinese leadership is changing views and adopting international perspectives,” said Patrick Haverman, Deputy Country Director of the UN Development Program in China. He added that such a forum is necessary because environmental problems cannot be solved by individuals or a single country.

Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and a special advisor to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the Millennium Development Goals, affirmed during an introductory report at the forum that China plays a key role in promoting economic globalization and global sustainable development. China’s achievement in reducing poverty has also contributed greatly to global development, he noted.

Participants lauded China’s leading role in south-south climate change cooperation.

Su Wei, Director of the Climate Change Department of China’s National Development and Reform Commission, said the country will continue to share its experience and consider setting up a south-south cooperation fund for climate change.

In one of these cooperation projects, China has promised to invest 200 million yuan ($32.6 million) since 2011 to help small island states and least developed countries tackle climate change.
Homemade Robot Lights Up Inventor’s Dream

by Xinhua Writer Yao Yuan

Beijing, Aug. 14 (Xinhua) — Does creating a moving, speaking robot need special skills, advanced equipment and a huge amount of cash? A Chinese farmer says all you need is a pile of scraps and a creative mind.

Standing in a cramped rental room in Beijing, the 2-meter-tall humanoid is the latest work of amateur inventor Tao Xiangli, following his feat of diving in his homemade submarine in 2009.

With the help of sensors and remote controls, the robot can perform simple movements with its head and limbs, including walking, shaking hands and mimicking human voices.

But the real surprise about the robot is that its creator is a primary school graduate who received no mechanical training or instructions while assembling the robot.

The 39-year-old from the eastern province of Anhui said the robot took about one year to build.

“Many components are daily objects I bought in a second-hand market,” Tao said, pointing to the robot’s helmet remolded from a kettle, its chest made of tea tin lids and ice skate blades as its arms. The most expensive object, according to Tao, is a video screen on the robot’s chest that cost him hundreds of yuan (dozens of U.S. dollars).

INVENTOR IN RENTAL HOUSE

Born into a farmer’s family, Tao became a migrant worker at the age of 14 and worked at construction sites, restaurants and karaoke lounges before realizing his passion for inventing.

He became known in 2009, when he dived in a Beijing lake inside a submarine he put together using gasoline barrels and other pieces of scrap.

However, being an inventor is not easy for a Chinese farmer.

“My family want me to find a stable and profitable job like a chef or a truck driver. They think what I’m doing is just fooling around,” Tao said.

Determined to stick to his path, Tao quit his karaoke job in 2010 and spent all his savings on inventing things. To save money, he lives in a 16-square-meter room in Beijing alone, after his wife returned home to run a store to feed their family.

So far, Tao has seven patents in China, but not one has been sold.

“No company wishes to buy them. They say buying the patent is not worth the money as their competitors can easily copy the devices after they are reproduced,” Tao said.

Apart from insufficient protection on intellectual property in China, Tao is also upset that his poor educational background and low status have made it hard for him to get support from the government.

The robot was therefore meant to be an impressive “resume,” which Tao hoped would attract investment for his other designs.

“I hope some entrepreneurs will notice me and are willing to invest. I’m almost 40 with a family to feed. I can’t live in a rental room for
therest of my life,” he said.

Tao said his next plan was to build a robot that can operate underwater but he was unsure whether he could get enough cash to get the project started.

“If I run short of money, I may have to sell this guy,” Tao said, patting the robot. “But I hope when we meet again, I will be rich and successful and can afford to buy him back.”

Rising from Blueprints

One-year-old Sansha is taking shape as a city

by Li Li

As China’s youngest city to administer about 2 million square km of islands, coastal areas and territorial waters in the South China Sea, Sansha in Hainan Province was established on July 24, 2012, as an important base to safeguard China’s sovereignty and serve marine resources development. It is the country’s smallest prefecture-level city by both population and land area, but the largest by water area and the southernmost.

Sansha gets its name from three island groups under its jurisdiction—Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha—and their surrounding waters in the South China Sea.

According to the Sansha Government, at the end of 2012, the city had a permanent population of 833 and only 233 of them, mainly fishermen, registered their households in Sansha. However, areas under the jurisdiction of Sansha have 80 percent of China’s undersea oil and gas resources, and 30 percent of China’s imports and exports travel through waters administered by Sansha.

On March 9, the China Marine Surveillance (CMS) stationed a detachment in Sansha. Its deputy head, Yang Zhong, said that the team will carry out regular patrols and observations including the management of maritime space and protection of marine and island ecology.

SALUTE: Residents attend a flag-raising ceremony on the Yongxing Island on July 23.
“It means the CMS has enhanced its administrative management over Sansha’s waters, and effectively covers the whole South China Sea,” said Zhang Weijian, an official with the CMS South Sea fleet.

Basic Construction

Upgrading infrastructure facilities was the top priority during Sansha’s first year.

Located on 2.13-square-km Yongxing Island, the largest in the Xisha Islands, the Sansha Government and local residents mainly rely on ships for fresh water and other necessities.

The ferry service between Hainan’s eponymous main island and Yongxing started in 1978 when the Qiongzhou 1 began to make irregular supply voyages for troops and police officers stationed in Yongxing. The ferry schedule has become busier over the years with the increase of Yongxing’s population and infrastructure needs.

The Qiongzhou 3 now makes four round trips between Qinglan Port in Hainan Island and Yongxing every month if weather permits. Traveling more than 180 nautical miles during a 15-hour trip, besides people, the ship transports fresh water, rice, vegetables and medicines to Yongxing.

The ship can carry up to 750 tons of freight and 200 passengers, a big improvement over the 400 tons of freight and 100 passengers carried by the Qiongzhou 2, replaced in 2007. More recently, construction and landscaping materials have become a larger part of its cargo.

“The infrastructure workload in Sansha is enormous as the city is so young. However, we have prioritized projects concerning people’s livelihood, environmental facilities and ecological restoration projects,” said Xiao Jie, Mayor of Sansha.
Investment in Sansha’s first 28 infrastructure projects totaled nearly 24 billion yuan ($3.91 billion), the Sansha Government reported last September. It invested nearly 340 million yuan ($55 million) in its first phase of port construction to create nine berths for unloading fish, ice and fuel.

On July 20, the first phase of Sansha’s sewage treatment plant and a garbage collection and transfer system completed construction. The sewage treatment plant cost more than 20 million yuan ($3.26 million). It will supply Yongxing with 1,800 cubic meters of water safe enough for showers and laundry. Two temporary sewage treatment facilities, with a daily capacity of 60 and 30 cubic meters, have also been put into use on Yongxing.

The Central Government and the Hainan Provincial Government have also pooled nearly 80 million yuan ($13 million) for a badly needed seawater desalination plant on Yongxing, which will process 1,000 cubic meters of seawater a day to supply fresh water to nearby islets, reefs and ships.

A 400-ton-capacity ship is under construction in Zhanjiang City, Guangdong Province, which will transport food from Yongxing to affiliated islets and return with waste. The ship might even provide ferry services to fishermen.

Last December, the Sansha Government also launched a tree-planting program on four islets and reefs to curb soil erosion. A total of 500 trees were planted on Yagong Islet in Xisha Islands in March.

A Better Life for Locals

According to newspaper International Tourism Island Business Daily based in Haikou, capital city of Hainan Province, Nansha Islands and their surrounding 820,000-sq-km waters are a prime fishery resource, with an estimated potential for 1.8 million tons a year of more than 20 kinds of valuable fish. Chinese fishermen have been exploring this area since ancient times.

Xiao said that before Sansha was established, infrastructure was nonexistent in many islets and reefs settled by fishermen. Docks, water, electricity and waste processing facilities did not exist, and without ferry services, fishermen had to transport key supplies themselves.

Since its establishment, Sansha has made great efforts to improve local residents’ living conditions.

Fishermen running an aquaculture farm in Meiji Reef in the Nansha Islands used to live aboard their ships due to harsh natural conditions. Newspaper Strait Metropolis Daily reported in January that a village was set up on
the reef last December for 53 fishermen and a 1,000-ton concrete platform being built in Sanya on the Hainan Island would be installed atop the reef for suites with bathrooms, generators, a gym and a vegetable garden.

In the first three months of this year alone, several fishery companies in Hainan won government consent to build deep-sea fish farms in islets and reefs in Xisha and Nansha islands. Local newspapers in the province reported that the total number of fishing cages in Sansha has shown exponential annual growth.

Sansha officially established its first power supply company on August 28, 2012. It started replacing Yongxing’s present 400-volt grid to a more reliable 10-kilovolt network in June and the upgrade is expected to be completed before November.

China Southern Power Grid, one of two state-owned power companies in China, drafted a plan to invest no less than 300 million yuan ($48.4 million) to build electricity systems over the next five years to turn Sansha into a model of low-carbon consumption. However, the planned grid will only cover Yongxing and Zhaoshu islands.

China Telecom, one of the country’s three major phone carriers, announced on June 27 that it had extended its 3G signal to cover seven larger reefs of the Nansha Islands and their surrounding waters, to serve military staff, fishermen and government vessels within the area. Deployment of the service network took only 49 days.

Photovoltaic (PV) manufacturer Yingli Solar has donated PV systems worth a total of 5 million yuan ($806,000) to 120 households on remote islets in Sansha. Installed in April, the PV systems can generate nearly 70,000 kwh of electricity per year.

Tapping the Potential

As part of Sansha’s efforts to boost its development, the city has introduced 13 doctorate holders from the State Oceanic Administration, universities and renowned research institutions to work in various local government departments.

Xiao awarded them letters of appointment on July 22.

Scholars of South China Sea studies, marine biology, environmental protection, land planning and fisheries will work as assistants to the heads of their respective departments for one year.
Local officials said that more talented people will be introduced to Sansha in coming years.

In a June interview with International Tourism Island Business Daily, Xiao said that he expects higher government authorities will make exceptions to household registration requirements to attract more long-term residents with diverse occupations.

The establishment of Sansha has generated the public’s interest in this area. The first group of Chinese tourists aboard a cruise ship sailed to Xisha Islands on April 28.

Some 240 Chinese passengers paid between 7,000 ($1,100) and 9,000 yuan ($1,500) for the four-day trip from the Hainan Island to two of the Xisha Islands for sightseeing.

Cruises can minimize visitors’ damage to the environment, which is important for Sansha, said Lu Zhiyuan, Director of the Hainan Provincial Tourism Administration.

With its maiden voyage a complete success, cruise tickets are being sold at major travel agencies and is scheduled to depart once or twice a month.

Xiao told magazine Outlook Weekly in May that Sansha has complied with the Central Government for better protection of relics along the ancient Marine Silk Route, a historical network of interlinking trade routes between China and Western countries, including shipwrecks carrying exported porcelain, and settlements established by Chinese inhabitants as early as 1,000 years ago.

“These heritage sites are important proof of Chinese ancestors’ early development of the South China Sea. Protecting them is significant for our studies on history and development of tourism,” Xiao said.

V. TIBET TODAY

Development Key to Address Tibet Issues: Yu Zhengsheng

Lhasa, Aug. 6 (Xinhua) — Top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng said development remains “fundamental and key” to addressing all issues related to Tibet.

Yu, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, made the comments during a six-day tour of Tibet Autonomous Region that started on Aug. 1.

During the tour, Yu promoted efforts to rule Tibet by law and seek a regional development path with Chinese and local characteristics.

He called for efforts to “achieve leapfrog economic and social development in Tibet and long-term stability” in the region.

During his talks with Buddhist monks and religious officials, he said the Dalai Lama’s so-called “high-degree autonomy” in “Greater Tibet” has “run counter to China’s Constitution, the law, and the fundamental interests of Tibetan Buddhism.”

Yu urged the Tibetan Buddhist circle to “have a clear understanding of the secessionist nature of the Dalai Lama clique and resolutely safeguard national unification,
Yu Zhengsheng, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), talks with local people of the Tibetan ethnic group at their home in Nagqu Prefecture, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Aug. 5, 2013. Yu, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made an inspection tour in Tibet from Aug. 1 to 6.

Yu Zhengsheng, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), greets an old woman of the Tibetan ethnic group in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Aug. 3, 2013. Yu, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made an inspection tour in Tibet from Aug. 1 to 6.

Yu Zhengsheng, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), speaks at the symposium for officials dispatched from across the country to work in Tibet and help with development in the region in Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Aug. 2, 2013. Yu, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made an inspection tour in Tibet from Aug. 1 to 6.

Yu Zhengsheng, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), talks with children at a welfare center for children in Nagqu Prefecture, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Aug. 5, 2013. Yu, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made an inspection tour in Tibet from Aug. 1 to 6.

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Science and Technology Contributes to Tibet Economic Growth

Doreen Wang

The application of new technologies has improved local people’s production and life in Tibet, the popularity rate of which has reached 85 percent. The contribution made by science and technology accounts for 35 percent of economic growth, and 42 percent of the agricultural and husbandry growth, according to the latest data by Science and Technology Office of the Tibet Autonomous Region, reported by Xinhua.

Zayein Wangmo, a researcher from the Science and Technology Office, said that the central government and Tibet local government have invested over one billion yuan in applied research and development of science and technology since 2008, improving research conditions rapidly.

In addition, the biology research institution has built 11 sci-tech innovation platforms successively, with more than 40 practical technologies and their varieties put into practice, 105 agricultural and livestock breeds fostered, and six new types of Tibet medicines developed.

It is reported that Tibet has increased its science and technology input in farming and animal husbandry, solving the key technical bottleneck of industrialization development in terms of highland barely, forage grass, yaks, sheep and Tibetan pigs.

Now, a new breakthrough has been made in breeding new variety of highland barely with the new variety of “Tibet Highland Barely 2000” officially approved.

In 2012, the demonstration area of new variety of highland barely has reached 45,500 mu (1mu equals to 0.0667 hectares), yielding 355.1-371.3 kg per mu, with year-on-year growth of 18.5 to 23.7 percent.

Guan Weixing, associate researcher of Tibet Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said that the "Tibet Highland Barely 2000", a new variety that has been bred by Tibet Academy of Agricultural Sciences for 19 years, will be planted as an example project in Lhunzhub County, an important agriculture county of Lhasa.

"Last year, the yield of ‘Tibet Highland Barely 2000’ had reached 300 kg per acre, while the ‘Tibet Highland Barely 320’, which we had planned before could reach 200 kg per acre at most,” said Lado, a resident of Lhunzhub County, who added that whole course technical guidance and training provided by the experts has made him understand the power of science and technology.

Tibet Economy Grows Fast in H1

Lhasa, July 27 (Xinhua) — The economy of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region grew 12 percent in the first half of this year, according to the regional statistics bureau.
The growth rate was 0.7 percentage points higher than in the same period last year and 4.4 percentage points higher than the country’s average, said the bureau.

The gross domestic product (GDP) of Tibet reached 32.96 billion yuan (about 5.34 billion U.S. dollars) in the first half, it added.

The regional economy has been growing in a steady, fast and sound way, said the Tibet Statistics Bureau. The region’s GDP has maintained double-digit growth annually for the past 20 years.

The per-capita cash income of farmers and herdsmen in the region hit 1,999 yuan in the same period, up 14.5 percent year on year. The per-capita disposable income of urban residents increased 12.9 percent year on year to reach 9,528 yuan.

Some 3.43 million tourists went to the plateau region from January to June, an increase of 21.8 percent from the same period last year, the regional tourism bureau said.

Meanwhile, Tibet’s tourism revenue surged 32.1 percent year on year to 3.2 billion yuan (517 million U.S. dollars) in the six-month period.

China’s GDP growth slowed to 7.6 percent in January-June of 2013, the weakest first-half performance in three years.

**Giving Ancient Lhasa a Facelift**

by Wang Huazhong and Da Qiong

Beijing, July 23 (Xinhua) — Six months’ work and $244 million have restored an ancient area of the city, as Wang Huazhong and Da Qiong report.

Small shops along Barkhor Street in Lhasa had not yet opened at 6 am, but new lamps, adorned with an auspicious Tibetan knot, Buddhist symbols and scripture texts, cast a warm glow over those who had risen early to pray.

The devotees moved around Jokhang Temple in a clockwise direction, chanting sutras that echoed each other.

The air smelled of night rain, local flowers, and the barley and pine branches that burned in the street.

Flower vendor Drolkar, from Doilungdeche county, said: “I grew the

Puntsog, from Lhundrub county, and his teacher spent 18 months restoring a 12-square-meter fresco in Lhasa’s Ramoche Temple.
galsang metog flowers myself. You can offer them at the temple or take some home. I’m very grateful for the recent clearance of the drainage area. Otherwise, I’d have no place to sell my flowers. Before, the sewage flooded the street when it rained.”

The old urban area of Lhasa, which sprawls from the center of Barkhor Street, has a rich traditional and religious flavor. It is home to 27 temples, including Jokhang Temple, which is a World Heritage Site, and 56 vintage courtyards.

The government has renovated 1,300-year-old Barkhor Street many times before; in 2002 alone, it spent 170 million yuan ($27.6 million) on improvements.

But the infrastructure still lagged far behind the needs of the burgeoning businesses, booming religious activities and people’s lives. More than 6 million tourists flock to the Tibet autonomous region annually and the population of the 1.33-square-km old town has risen to 80,000.

Before the latest renovations, cables intertwined like cobwebs hung over Barkhor’s 35 alleys. Power and water supplies were inadequate and inaccessible in many areas.

The city government started the latest renovation drive, the third in recent history, in late December, investing 1.5 billion yuan in the six-month project.

Its primary aims were: to protect the historic heritage, improve the lives of the locals, and conserve the culture, according to the feasibility study for the effort.

“The project’s main priority was to improve the civil infrastructure and eliminate safety hazards, such as fire risks,” the report said.

Infrastructure Update

Nyima Tsering, 79, was born and raised on Barkhor Street and remembers clearly how the place looked when he was a child.

He said the wind blew dust into the stalls along the narrow earth road during the hot summer. At the time, Nyima Tsering’s house was the property of Tashilhunpo Monastery and beggars gathered around it.

Previous renovations freed his six-member family from drinking water from a well, using a non-flush toilet and having to light candles for illumination, yet he said their lives had remained “not so convenient” until recently.

The courtyard in which he lives is home to several families, about 26 people in all, including seniors aged 80 and older. They all shared one water tap on the ground floor before the latest renovation was completed at the end of June.

Before that, water couldn’t even be pumped up to the second floor.

Because the pipes were just 20 cms in diameter, the drainage system failed to discharge sewage from many households. Foul water gushed out onto the street on rainy days, Nyima Tsering said.

In all, 199 courtyards are scattered along 35 alleys in the Barkhor Street area.

Tashi Dorje, a deputy in Lhasa’s city congress, said that in the old house-intensive district, sewage and the fires used for cooking and heating threatened the safety of the crowded courtyards.

The renovation project has helped change the situation, the project leaders said.

Now all the overhanging cables have been buried underground in 31 km of piping tubes and tunnels.
More than 17,000 households now have their own electricity meters, which means they no longer share the bill with other courtyard residents.

To date, 1.2 km of new water pipes have been laid and 7 km of existing pipelines have been renovated. About 650 truckloads of mud were cleared from the drainage intakes.

Forty-six fire hydrants were installed and 2,200 km of decayed or illegally connected cables have been removed.

Yet what satisfies Nyima Tsering most is that the road he travels every day to pray has been widened and flattened.

The surface of the new roadway on Barkhor Street uses anti-slip bluestones that absorb, rather than reflect, strong sunlight and a lane in the middle of the road has been paved with smooth stones for the worshippers who prostrate themselves along its length.

More than 1,000 new street and wall lamps, all bearing Tibetan designs, have also been installed.

The old lamp bulbs were shaped like flowers, but the new designs look like prayer wheels and incorporate many Tibetan elements, such as the greeting tashi delek, which means “good fortune”.

“The street was very busy and noisy. But now, I don’t have to turn up the TV volume much because of the new windows,” said Tsering lhamo.

The windows of her living room along Barkhor Street are double-glazed, insulating the house from noise and cold. A yellow wooden lattice painted with auspicious Tibetan signs hangs outside the window.

“I’m pleased to see that the old district has changed for good,” Nyima Tsering said. “My children will live a better life and the old district will become more beautiful.”

When the project was completed, the government of Chengguan district, where the renovation took place, conducted a survey to solicit public feedback on the quality of the work.

All the respondents from the 12 local communities said they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the results.

The old district is the original soul of Lhasa and a mirror that showcases the city’s charm and history.

Conserving Heritage

Wu Yingjie, deputy Party chief of the Tibet autonomous region, asked local authorities and builders to “take people’s living conditions as the top priority, and to make the
The protection of the culture and heritage one of the most important tasks” during the project.

The goal was “to help the old district of Lhasa spark vitality and dynamism against the backdrop of a new era”, he said.

According to the project administrators, the design department conducted surveys about the old buildings and asked Tibetan architects for their guidance so the area could be “rebuilt as it originally was”.

At a news conference, officials said, “The renovation rigorously abides by Tibetan culture in the choice of construction materials, range of colors and style.”

“We tried to save the original facades of the buildings as much as possible,” said Tsedar, deputy head of the restoration project. “We didn’t make major changes if minor alternations could meet the demand. We avoided using replacement elements and moving objects around.”

Structural engineer Liu Yu said before-and-after blueprints have been kept for each of the 172 buildings with unique and spectacular elements.

The Lhasa government has also invested 300 million yuan on nine major cultural protection projects, including an upgrade of the firefighting system in Jokhang Temple and the restoration of frescos and the statues of the Four Heavenly Kings in Ramoche Temple.

Family members taught Asong, from Gonggar county in Lhokha, to make clay figurines and he has practiced the art for 22 years. He joined the project and led apprentices on a six-month project to rebuild the Four Heavenly Kings.

“Only two other temples house statues of equivalent size to the Shakyamuni in Lhasa. One is Jokhang and the other is Ramoche Temple. I’m very honored to have the opportunity to restore statues at temples with centuries of history.”

He said the Four Heavenly Kings are the biggest statues in Lhasa: “Our restoration will make the statues last for a long time regardless of the cost,” adding that the Four Heavenly Kings have a human look and so allow the artists license to use their imaginations.”

Despite the requirement that we should follow the body scale of the deities strictly in accordance with descriptions, we can illustrate their characters in different ways,” he said. “We give the same deity different looks.

That’s the amazing thing about clay.” Erik Ziarczyk, a Belgian journalist who toured the old district, said he liked it very much. “I want to walk around more to see the little stores and I also want to have dinner there in one of those little restaurants,” he said. “It’s all very interesting.”

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Tibet Today

Tibetan Culture on Display During Shoton Festival

The Shoton Festival, which ended on August 5 in Lhasa, capital of Tibet, featured multiple displays of Tibetan culture, including opera performances and exhibitions of painted scrolls and Tibetan calligraphy.

The weeklong event, also known as the Yogurt Banquet festival, started with the “sunning of the Buddha” ceremony held in the 600-year-old Drepung Monastery.
Pious Buddhists walked around a 1,480-square-meter portrait of Buddha and prayed while excited tourists recorded the sacred rite with their mobile phones.

Situated at the foot of Mt. Gambo Utse, the Drepung Monastery is one of the most important monasteries in Tibetan Buddhism. The Shoton Festival originated in the monastery more than 1,000 years ago.

Losang Danba, deputy secretary of the Lhasa municipal committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), said the regional government spent more than 14 million yuan (2.28 million U.S. dollars) to widen roads leading to the monastery in order to make transport more safe and convenient.

Tibetan opera performances were also staged at the Norbu Lingka park during the festival, attracting more than 80,000 people each day.

Accompanied by lively drum beats, performers wearing masks painted with elaborate patterns danced passionately for their audiences.

Surrounding the stage, the viewers, most of whom were Tibetans, sat on their own rugs or stools and drank homemade butter tea and highland barley wine while watching performances by different troupes.

The 600-year-old Tibetan opera incorporates local literature, music, dance, painting and acrobatics, with stories mainly based on folklore and Buddhist scripture. The artform has long been a significant part of the Shoton Festival and was added to UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 2009.

“I bring my whole family to watch Tibetan opera during every Shoton Festival. The audiences are large and we have to come early in order to get seats,” said 62-year-old Soinam Zhaxi.

“The performers’ colorful costumes are very beautiful. Although I can’t understand what they are singing, their movements and expressions impress me. I can feel their sincerity and enthusiasm,” said Deng Xiaolong, a 24-year-old tourist from south China’s Guangdong Province.

Yangzom, a veteran actress with Lhasa’s Nyangrain Folk Opera Troupe, described her job as her life. “I’ll keep performing until I can no longer walk,” she said.

Tibetan operas used to be performed exclusively in open spaces in villages, farms and nobles’ yards on festive occasions, with the only instruments being drums and cymbals. But in modern times, many troupes have turned to stages and adopted modern technology to create new visual and acoustic effects.

“Moving to stages from squares is the future trend. It will help non-Tibetan viewers understand the opera and even help the ancient art form go global,” said Liu Wenfeng, a researcher with the Chinese National Academy of Arts.

Festival organizers also staged an exhibition dedicated to “thangkas,” or Tibetan painted scrolls with a history of more than 1,300 years.

An exhibition of Tibetan calligraphy was also featured at the festival, showcasing a 206-meter-long scroll recognized by Guinness World Records as the lengthiest work of Tibetan calligraphy.

The festival was originally a religious occasion, when local people would offer yogurt to monks who had finished meditation retreats. It has been held since the 17th century and is considered one of the most important festivals on the Tibetan calendar.

Tibet saw robust growth in tourism in the first half of the year, with the number of visiting tourists reaching 3.43 million, an increase of 21.8 percent from the same period last year. Its tourism revenues surged 32.1 percent year on year to 3.2 billion yuan in the period.

The plateau region typically experiences a three-month peak travel season starting from July.
Instructions for Chinese Visa Application

(Effective from September 1, 2013)

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The Visa Application Form should be filled out clearly with recently-taken color passport photo glued to or stapled on it. The size of the photo should be 48mmx33mm, with head width 21mm-24mm and head length 28mm-33mm, in white, light grey or light blue background. All other documents provided by the applicant together with the Application Form should be genuine, complete and accurate. Otherwise, the applicant shall take full consequences.

2. The Visa Application Form shall be signed by the applicant. In case the applicant is a person without or with limited capacity for civil conduct, the application form should be signed by his/her guardian on his/her behalf. If the form is filled out by entrusted travel/visa agent, both the applicant’s signature and the stamp of the agent are required.

3. The remaining validity of the passport should be at least six months and with at least two blank visa pages. For multiple-visa application, the remaining validity of the passport must cover the validity of visa and the duration of stay. For example, if applying for a visa with 6 months validity, multiple entries, and 30 days of each stay, the remaining validity of the passport should be at least 7 months.

4. When former Chinese national (including those who were born in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) holding either a foreign passport or a newly-issued passport, applies Chinese visa for the first time after gaining foreign citizenship, the original Chinese passport and a copy of its information page, or the old foreign passport and its information page and a copy of the previous Chinese visas are required.

5. Child with Chinese descent born either in China or in India applies for a Chinese visa for the first time, the Birth Certificate with his/her parents' names on, the original certificate for quitting Chinese nationality and its copy, and the statement written by his/her parents or guardian are required.

6. Child with Chinese descent born in a third country should make his/her first Chinese visa application in his/her resident country if the Birth Certificate and the certificate for quitting Chinese nationality as mentioned in Article 5 cannot be submitted.

7. The applicant from a third country should provide valid Indian visa or valid Residence Permit in India and its copy, and fill up the Additional Application Form. In case the applicant from a third country staying in India with a short-term visa, a note verbale (with details as follows: applicant’s name, passport number, occupation, purpose to go to China, duration of stay in China) by the Embassy or Consulate-General of his/her own country is required.

8. The applicant must be in India while making the application for a Chinese Visa. Otherwise, the applicant should take full consequences.
9. Different types of visas will be issued according to applicants’ different identities, purposes and activities. The applicant should not engage in activities incompatible with the type of visa he/she is holding in China. In case a change of purpose or activity is made, an application should be made for a corresponding type of visa. Otherwise, the applicant should take full consequences.

10. Fraud documents or information are forbidden. If cheating, the applicant will be rejected a Chinese visa and the travel/visa agency will be deprived of the qualification of applying for Chinese visa.

11. Ordinary passport holders should go to the Chinese Visa Application Service Centre (CVASC) wherever available.

12. The Chinese Embassy and Consulate-Generals do not accept applications by mail.

13. The normal processing takes about one to two weeks. The applicant should plan ahead. Excuses like air ticket procured and confirmed will not be accepted.

14. In case Urgent Service is provided at the approval of the Chinese Embassy or the Consulate-Generals, the applicant should pay Extra Fee accordingly.

15. Residents of consular districts should make their application to the Chinese Consulate-General. The consular districts of the Chinese Consulate-General in Kolkata covers Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. The consular districts of the Chinese Consulate-General in Mumbai covers Maharashtra and Karnataka.

16. Holders of following Chinese visas: D, J1, Q1, S1, X1, Z (hereinafter referred to as residence visa), shall apply for corresponding foreigner residence permit from the local Public Security Bureau at the level of county or above within 30 days upon entry into China.

17. Holders of following Chinese visa: C, F, G, J2, L, M, Q2, S2, X2 (hereinafter referred to as stay visa), shall stay in China with respective visa and stay within the duration period as indicated on visa.

II. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR VISA APPLICATION

For different purposes to enter China, the following documents are required:

1. **Visa Application for Carrying out Crew Activities (C visa)**
   1.1 Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.
   1.2 Valid passport and a copy of information page.
   1.3 The covering letter and guarantee letter issued by the foreign airlines or shipping company, or the invitation letter issued by the relevant units from China.
   1.4 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.
   **Note:** Non-regular scheduled flight, chartered flight, private plane must get the Aviation Permit before departure.

2. **Visa Application for Permanent Residence in China (D visa)**
   2.1 Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.
2.2 Valid passport and a copy of information page.
2.3 Original copy of the Certificate of Confirmation for foreigner’s Permanent Residence Status issued by the Ministry of Public Security of the People’s Republic of China.
2.4 Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place of destination in China, name, address and contact number of the inviting/contact company/person).
2.5 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

3. **Visa Application for Purpose of Non-business Exchanges and Visits (F visa)**
   3.1 Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.
   3.2 Valid passport and a copy of information page.
   3.3 One of the following documents: invitation letter, Confirmation Letter of Invitation (with the invitation letter attached) or conference notice issued by Chinese units, Chinese citizens or duly authorized Chinese institute.
   3.4 Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the invite company or person).
   3.5 For a multiple entry visa application, copies of previous Chinese visas (on one A4 paper) are required.
   3.6 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

4. **Visa Application for Transit (G visa)**
   4.1 Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.
   4.2 Valid passport and a copy of its information page.
   4.3 Airline (train, ship) ticket to the third country/territory with confirmed departure date and seats.
   4.4 Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting/contact company or person).
   4.5 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

5. **Visa Application for Journalist Activities (J1/J2 visa)**
   5.1 Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.
   5.2 Valid passport and a copy of its information page.
   5.3 Go through formalities in accordance with relevant China’s regulations or provisions governing the foreign news agencies stationed in China/foreign journalists interview activities, and submit the corresponding application documents.
   For foreign journalists going to China for profession-related purposes such as news coverage, interview or reporting, the invitation letter issued by duly authorized institute, application letter signed by the head of the foreign news agency (with details as follows: name list, arrival and departure time, places of interview, content to cover, introduction of the news agency, and name/address/contact number of the news agency) are required.
   5.4 Journalists, if apply for visa at the Chinese Embassy, can contact the Press Section of the Embassy in advance.
5.5 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

6. **Visa Application for Tourist Purpose (L visa)**

6.1 Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.
6.2 Valid passport and a copy of its information page as well as copy of previous Chinese Visas (on one A4 paper).
6.3 Invitation letter issued by Chinese company or citizen, the travel itinerary, personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting company / person, name and contact number of the applicant’s working unit in India).
6.4 If the applicant could not provide an invitation letter, the following documents are required:
   a. The travel itinerary.
   b. Round-trip air (train, ship) ticket and the hotel reservation sheet.
   c. Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting / contact company / person).
   d. Certification letter from the working unit of the applicant (with details as follows: name and contact number of the working unit, the applicant’s income statement), or
   e. Original copy of recent 6-month bank statement of the applicant.
6.5 If it is not the first time for the applicant to apply for Chinese visa for tourist purpose, the following information shall be covered in the personal statement: reasons for revisit, the places the applicant plans to visit this time and places he/she visited before.
6.6 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.
6.7 If the applicants travel in China on a group basis, the invitation letter issued by the travel agency is required.

7. **Visa Application for Business or Trade Purposes (M visa)**

7.1 Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.
7.2 Valid passport and a copy of information page.
7.3 Copy of one of the following documents:
   a. Invitation letter issued by the Chinese business or trade partner.
   b. Invitation letter or confirmation letter of Invitation issued by duly authorized Chinese institutes or relevant units.
   c. Invitation letter of Trade Fair.
   d. Business License or Certificate approving the establishment of enterprise which shows the applicant as the enterprise’s investor or owner.
7.4 For application of a multiple entry visa: copy of all previous Chinese visas (on one A4 sized paper) should be attached.
7.5 Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name,
address and contact number of the inviting company or person).

7.6 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

8. **Visa Application for Family Reunion or Short-term Family-visiting (Q1/Q2 visa)**

8.1 Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.
8.2 Valid passport and a copy of information page.
8.3 Invitation letter issued by family member of the applicant who is either a Chinese citizen residing in China or a foreigner with permanent residence permit residing in China, and Proof of family relationship (Kinship Certificate, Birth Certificate or Marriage Certificate).
8.4 In case the applicant enters China out of a fosterage reason, the authorization letter is required.
8.5 Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting person).
8.6 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

9. **Visa Application of Professional Talents (R1/R2 visa)**

9.1 Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.
9.2 Valid passport and a copy of information page.
9.3 Documents as required by relevant rules.
9.4 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

10. **Visa Application for Personal Matters in China (S1/S2 visa)**

10.1 Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.
10.2 Valid passport and a copy of information page.
10.3 Application for visiting foreigner who stays or resides in China working or studying, the invitation letter issued by the foreigner in China, and Kinship Certificate are required.
10.4 Document that required to explain personal matters such as marriage, Inheritance, adoption, etc..
10.5 Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting person).
10.6 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

11. **Visa Application for Study in China (X1/X2 visa)**

11.1 Application Form and Additional Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.
11.2 Valid passport and a copy of information page.
11.3 Original and a copy of Foreign Student Visa Application JW201 Form issued by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. Original and a copy of JW202 Form are required for the application of short-term study and further education which is less than six
months.

11.4 Original and copy of Admission Notice issued by the university or institute in China.

11.5 Foreigners who want to apply for Chinese Medical Internship should provide the original and copy of Application Form for Medical Internship and Admission Notice for training in practice issued by the university in China.

11.6 Original and copy of foreigner’s physical examination record.

11.7 Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting / contact institute or person).

11.8 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

**12. Visa Application for Work / Employment (Z visa)**

12.1 Application Form and additional Application Form with a recently-taken color photo glued to or stapled on.

12.2 Valid passport and a copy of information page

12.3 Invitation letter issued by duly authorized Chinese institute.

12.4 Original and copy of one of the following documents:

   a. Alien Employment License (work permit) issued by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People’s Republic of China.

   b. Confirmation Letter for Foreign Experts (Foreign Experts Certificate) issued by the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs of the People’s Republic of China.


   d. Registration Certificate of Permanent Representative Institute of Foreign Enterprise issued by the local Administration of Industry and Commerce.

   e. Temporary Commercial Entertainment Performance Permit issued by the Ministry of Culture of the People’s Republic of China.

12.5 Original Diploma and a copy of it.

12.6 The accompanying spouse and minor child of the applicant who applies Z visa should submit original and copy of the invitation letter issued by duly authorized Chinese institute and proof of family membership (Marriage Certificate, Birth Certificate).

12.7 Original and copy of foreigner physical examination record.

12.8 Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting / contact company or person).

12.9 Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy and Consulate-General.

**Note:** Visa Application Form of the People’s Republic of China, Physical Examination Record for Foreigners can be downloaded from the Chinese Embassy and Consulate Generals’ website.
Knowing more about Nanjing and Suzhou

Nanjing and Suzhou are top tourist cities in China.

Nanjing, known as the capital of ancient dynasties, is situated in the Yangtze River Delta, one of the largest economic zones of China. With a land area of 6,598 square kilometres, and a population of 8.16 million, it is the second-largest city in East China, after Shanghai. It is 300 km northwest of Shanghai, and 1,200 km southeast of Beijing. Besides a large number of historical and cultural sites, such as Ming City Walls, Zhonghua Gate, Xiaoling Mausoleum, Confucius Temple, Mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, etc., Nanjing also boasts of enthralling natural landscapes, such as Zijin Mountain, Qixia Mountain and Xuanwu Lake. The city will add another jewel to its popularity by hosting the 2nd Summer Youth Olympic Games from 16-28 August, 2014.

Suzhou, called as “heaven on earth”, is located in the southeast of Jiangsu Province, about 66 km to Shanghai and 192 km to Nanjing. The top attractions there are The Grand Canal, Lingering Garden, Humble Administrator’s Garden, Tiger Hill, Hanshan Temple Tongli, and Zhouzhuang Water Town, etc. The attractiveness of Suzhou is also evident in its performing arts (folk songs of Wu), Kunqu Opera and storytelling, as well as stele carving, calligraphy and painting. As a well-developed tourist destination, Suzhou offers plenty of modern tourist facilities ranging from high-ranking hotels & villas to youth hostels & economic inns. As of now there are over 150 star-rated hotels ready to welcome the tourists across globe.

A photo of Shennongshan Sightseeing Zone, located in Qinyang City, Henan Province of China. It is titled as the World Geological Park, state-level sightseeing area, national 4A scenic spot, National Macaque Nature Reserve and creative base for China Photographic Society.