Ambassador Luo Zhaohui and his wife Dr. Jiang Yili met with Ms. Joyoshi Das Gupta, District Magistrate of Darjeeling.

Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, Chairman of the Indian Parliamentary Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Mr. Aveek Sarkar, Vice Chairman of ABP Group.

Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Mr. Varun Gandhi, a member of Lok Sabha.

Counselor Jiang Yili visited the Kingdom of Bhutan.

The Sunshine School of the Chinese Embassy celebrated Children's Day with international schools of New Delhi.
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2017年5月14-15日  中国·北京
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FORUM

14-15 MAY 2017 BEIJING, CHINA
Beijing May 14 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping said Sunday the Belt and Road should be built into a road of peace, prosperity, opening up, innovation and connecting different civilizations.

He proposed the five guiding principles for the pursuit of the Belt and Road initiative while delivering a keynote speech at the opening of the two-day Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing.

“The ancient silk routes thrived in times of peace, but lost vigor in times of war. The pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative requires a peaceful and stable environment,” said Xi.

“We should foster a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation; and we should forge partnerships of dialogue with no confrontation and of friendship rather than alliance,” he said.

He called for fostering the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and creating a security environment built and shared by all.

The president urged the Belt and Road to be built into a road of prosperity.

“In pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative, we should focus on the fundamental issue of development, release the growth potential of various countries and achieve economic integration and interconnected development and deliver benefits to all,” he said.

**Stressing infrastructure connectivity**, Xi called for promoting land, maritime, air and cyberspace connectivity, focusing on key passageways, cities and projects, and connecting networks of highways, railways and sea ports.

He called for joint efforts to improve trans-regional logistics network and promote connectivity of policies, rules and standards so as to provide institutional safeguards for enhancing connectivity.
“We should build an open platform of cooperation and uphold and grow an open world economy,” Xi said.

“We should jointly create an environment that will facilitate opening up and development, establish a fair, equitable and transparent system of international trade and investment rules and boost the orderly flow of production factors, efficient resources allocation and full market integration,” he continued.

China welcomes the efforts made by other countries to grow open economies, participate in global governance and provide public goods, he said.

“Together we can build a broad community of shared interests,” he said.

Xi also underlined the role of innovation in pursuing the initiative.

“We should pursue innovation-driven development and intensify cooperation in frontier areas such as digital economy, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and quantum computing, and advance the development of big data, cloud computing and smart cities so as to turn them into a digital silk road of the 21st century.”

Xi urged efforts to strengthen cooperation in ecological and environmental protection and build a sound ecosystem so as to realize the goals set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“We should ensure that when it comes to different civilizations, exchange will replace estrangement, mutual learning will replace clashes, and coexistence will replace a sense of superiority,” he said.

Xi called for establishing a
multi-tiered mechanism for cultural and people-to-people exchanges, building more cooperation platforms and opening more cooperation channels.

The forum, the highest-level international meeting since Xi proposed the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, gathers 29 foreign heads of state and government leaders as well as delegates from some 130 countries.

PRESIDENT XI’S SPEECH AT OPENING OF BELT AND ROAD FORUM

Work Together to Build the Silk Road Economic Belt and The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People’s Republic of China at the Opening Ceremony of The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, 14 May 2017

Beijing, May 14 (Xinhua) — Following is the full text of the keynote speech given by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the opening ceremony of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation:

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
Heads of International Organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

In this lovely season of early Summer when every living thing is full of energy, I wish to welcome all of you, distinguished guests representing over 100 countries, to attend this important forum on the Belt and Road Initiative held in Beijing. This is indeed a gathering of great minds. In the coming two days, I hope that by engaging in full exchanges of views, we will contribute to pursuing the Belt and
Road Initiative, a project of the century, so that it will benefit people across the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

Over 2,000 years ago, our ancestors, trekking across vast steppes and deserts, opened the transcontinental passage connecting Asia, Europe and Africa, known today as the Silk Road. Our ancestors, navigating rough seas, created sea routes linking the East with the West, namely, the maritime Silk Road. These ancient silk routes opened windows of friendly engagement among nations, adding a splendid chapter to the history of human progress. The thousand-year-old “gilt bronze silkworm” displayed at China's Shaanxi History Museum and the Belitung shipwreck discovered in Indonesia bear witness to this exciting period of history.

Spanning thousands of miles and years, the ancient silk routes embody the spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit. The Silk Road spirit has become a great heritage of human civilization.

— Peace and cooperation. In China’s Han Dynasty around 140 B.C., Zhang Qian, a royal emissary, left Chang’an, capital of the Han Dynasty. He traveled westward on a mission of peace and opened an overland route linking the East and the West, a daring undertaking which came to be known as Zhang Qian’s journey to the Western regions. Centuries later, in the years of Tang, Song and Yuan Dynasties, such silk routes, both over land and at sea, boomed. Great adventurers, including Du Huan of China, Marco Polo of Italy and ibn Batutah of Morocco, left their footprints along these ancient routes. In the early 15th century, Zheng He, the famous Chinese navigator in the Ming Dynasty, made seven voyages to the Western Seas, a feat which still is remembered today. These pioneers won their place in history not as conquerors with warships, guns or swords. Rather, they are remembered as friendly emissaries.
leading camel caravans and sailing treasure-loaded ships. Generation after generation, the silk routes travelers have built a bridge for peace and East-West cooperation.

— Openness and inclusiveness. The ancient silk routes spanned the valleys of the Nile, the Tigris and Euphrates, the Indus and Ganges and the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers. They connected the birthplaces of the Egyptian, Babylonian, Indian and Chinese civilizations as well as the lands of Buddhism, Christianity and Islam and homes of people of different nationalities and races. These routes enabled people of various civilizations, religions and races to interact with and embrace each other with open mind. In the course of exchange, they fostered a spirit of mutual respect and were engaged in a common endeavor to pursue prosperity. Today, ancient cities of Jiuquan, Dunhuang, Tulufan, Kashi, Samarkand, Baghdad and Constantinople as well as ancient ports of Ningbo, Quanzhou, Guangzhou, Beihai, Colombo, Jeddah and Alexandria stand as living monuments to these past interactions. This part of history shows that civilization thrives with openness and nations prosper through exchange.

— Mutual learning. The ancient silk routes were not for trade only, they boosted flow of knowledge as well. Through these routes, Chinese silk, porcelain, lacquerwork and ironware were shipped to the West, while pepper, flax, spices, grape and pomegranate entered China. Through these routes, Buddhism, Islam and Arab astronomy, calendar and medicine found their way to China, while China’s four great inventions and silkworm breeding spread to other parts of the world. More importantly, the exchange of goods and know-how spurred new ideas. For example, Buddhism originated in India, blossomed in China and was enriched in Southeast Asia. Confucianism, which was born in China, gained appreciation by European thinkers such as Leibniz and Voltaire. Herein lies the appeal of mutual learning.

— Mutual benefit. The ancient silk routes witnessed the bustling scenes of visits and trade over land and ships calling at ports. Along these major arteries of interaction, capital, technology and people flowed freely, and goods, resources and benefits were widely shared. The ancient prosperous cities of Alma-Ata, Samarkand and Chang’ an and ports of Sur and Guangzhou thrived, so did the Roman Empire as well as Parthia and Kushan Kingdoms. The Han and Tang Dynasties of China entered the golden age. The ancient silk routes brought prosperity to these regions and boosted their development.
History is our best teacher. The glory of the ancient silk routes shows that geographical distance is not insurmountable. If we take the first courageous step towards each other, we can embark on a path leading to friendship, shared development, peace, harmony and a better future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

From the historical perspective, humankind has reached an age of great progress, great transformation and profound changes. In this increasingly multi-polar, economically globalized, digitized and culturally diversified world, the trend toward peace and development becomes stronger, and reform and innovation are gaining momentum. Never have we seen such close interdependence among countries as today, such fervent desire of people for a better life, and never have we had so many means to prevail over difficulties.

In terms of reality, we find ourselves in a world fraught with challenges. Global growth requires new drivers, development needs to be more inclusive and balanced, and the gap between the rich and the poor needs to be narrowed. Hotspots in some regions are causing instability and terrorism is rampant. Deficit in peace, development and governance poses a daunting challenge to mankind. This is the issue that has always been on my mind.

In the autumn of 2013, respectively in Kazakhstan and Indonesia, I proposed the building of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, which I call the Belt and Road Initiative. As a Chinese saying goes, “Peaches and plums do not speak, but they are so attractive that a path is formed below the trees.” Four years on, over 100 countries and international organizations have supported and got involved in this initiative. Important resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly and Security Council contain reference to it. Thanks to our efforts, the vision of the Belt and Road Initiative is becoming a reality and bearing rich fruit.

— These four years have seen deepened policy connectivity. I have said on many occasions that the pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative is not meant to reinvent the wheel. Rather, it aims to complement the development strategies of countries involved by leveraging their comparative strengths. We have enhanced coordination with the policy initiatives of relevant countries, such as the Eurasian Economic Union of Russia, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, the Bright Road initiative of Kazakhstan, the Middle Corridor initiative of Turkey, the Development Road initiative of Mongolia, the Two Corridors, One Economic Circle initiative of Vietnam, the Northern Powerhouse initiative of the UK and the Amber Road initiative of Poland. We are also promoting complementarity between China’s development plan and those of Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Hungary and other countries. China has signed cooperation agreements with over 40 countries and international organizations and carried out framework cooperation on production capacity with more than 30 countries. During the forum, a number of cooperation agreements on policy connectivity and action plans will be signed. We will also launch Belt and Road cooperation initiative on trade connectivity together with some 60 countries and international organizations. Such policy connectivity will produce a multiplying effect on cooperation among the parties involved.

— These four years have seen enhanced infrastructure connectivity. Building roads and railways creates prosperity in all sectors. We have accelerated the building of Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway, China-Laos railway, Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway and Hungary-Serbia railway, and upgraded Gwadar and Piraeus ports in cooperation with relevant countries. A large number of connectivity projects are also in the pipeline. Today, a multi-dimensional infrastructure network is taking shape, one that is underpinned by economic corridors such as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor and the New Eurasian Continental Bridge, featuring land-sea-air transportation routes and information expressway and supported by major railway, port and pipeline projects.

— These four years have seen increased trade connectivity. China has worked with other countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative to promote trade and investment facilitation and improve business environment. I was told that for Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries alone, customs clearance time for agricultural produce exporting to China is cut by 90%. Total trade between China and other Belt and Road countries in 2014-2016 has exceeded US$3 trillion, and China’s investment in these countries has
surpassed US$50 billion. Chinese companies have set up 56 economic cooperation zones in over 20 countries, generating some US$1.1 billion of tax revenue and 180,000 jobs for them.

— These four years have seen expanded financial connectivity. Financing bottleneck is a key challenge to realizing connectivity. China has engaged in multiple forms of financial cooperation with countries and organizations involved in the Belt and Road Initiative. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has provided US$1.7 billion of loans for 9 projects in Belt and Road participating countries. The Silk Road Fund has made US$4 billion of investment, and the 16+1 financial holding company between China and Central and Eastern European countries has been inaugurated. With distinctive focus, these new financial mechanisms and traditional multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank complement each other. A multi-tiered Belt and Road financial cooperation network has taken an initial shape.

— These four years have seen strengthened people-to-people connectivity. Friendship, which derives from close contact between the people, holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. Guided by the Silk Road spirit, we the Belt and Road Initiative participating countries have pulled our efforts to build the educational Silk Road and the health Silk Road, and carried out cooperation in science, education, culture, health and people-to-people exchange. Such cooperation has helped lay a solid popular and social foundation for pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative. Every year, the Chinese government provides 10,000 government scholarships to the relevant countries. China’s local governments have also set up special Silk Road scholarships to encourage international cultural and educational exchanges. Projects of people-to-people cooperation such as Silk Road culture year, tourism year, art festival, film and TV project, seminar and think tank dialogue are flourishing. These interactions have brought our people increasingly closer.

These fruitful outcomes show that the Belt and Road Initiative responds to the trend of the times, conforms to the law of development, and meets the people’s interests. It surely has broad prospects.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

As we often say in China, “The beginning is the most difficult part.” A solid first step has been taken in pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative. We should build on the sound momentum generated to steer the Belt and Road Initiative toward greater success. In pursuing this endeavor, we should be guided by the following principles:

First, we should build the Belt and Road into a road of peace. The ancient silk routes thrived in times of peace, but lost vigor in times of war. The pursuit of the Belt and Road Initiative requires a peaceful and stable environment. We should foster a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation; and we should forge partnerships of dialogue with no confrontation and of friendship rather than alliance. All countries should respect each other’s sovereignty, dignity and territorial integrity, each other’s development paths and social systems, and each other’s core interests and major concerns.

Some regions along the ancient Silk Road used to be a land of milk and honey. Yet today, these places are often associated with conflict, turbulence, crisis and challenge. Such state of affairs should not be allowed to continue. We should foster the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and create a security environment built and shared by all. We should work to resolve hotspot issues through political means, and promote mediation in the spirit of justice. We should intensify counter-terrorism efforts, address both its symptoms and root causes, and strive to eradicate poverty, backwardness and social injustice.

Second, we should build the Belt and Road into a road of prosperity. Development holds the master key to solving all problems. In pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative, we should focus on the fundamental issue of development, release the growth potential of various countries and achieve economic integration and interconnected development and deliver benefits to all.

Industries are the foundation of economy. We should deepen industrial cooperation so that industrial development plans of different countries will complement and reinforce each other. Focus should be put on launching major projects. We should strengthen international cooperation on production capacity and equipment manufacturing, and seize new development opportunities
presented by the new industrial revolution to foster new businesses and maintain dynamic growth.

Finance is the lifeblood of modern economy. Only when the blood circulates smoothly can one grow. We should establish a stable and sustainable financial safeguard system that keeps risks under control, create new models of investment and financing, encourage greater cooperation between government and private capital and build a diversified financing system and a multi-tiered capital market. We should also develop inclusive finance and improve financial services networks.

Infrastructure connectivity is the foundation of development through cooperation. We should promote land, maritime, air and cyberspace connectivity, concentrate our efforts on key passageways, cities and projects and connect networks of highways, railways and sea ports. The goal of building six major economic corridors under the Belt and Road Initiative has been set, and we should endeavor to meet it. We need to seize opportunities presented by the new round of change in energy mix and the revolution in energy technologies to develop global energy interconnection and achieve green and low-carbon development. We should improve trans-regional logistics network and promote connectivity of policies, rules and standards so as to provide institutional safeguards for enhancing connectivity.

Third, we should build the Belt and Road into a road of opening up. Opening up brings progress while isolation results in backwardness. For a country, opening up is like the struggle of a chrysalis breaking free from its cocoon. There will be short-term pains, but such pains will create a new life. The Belt and Road Initiative should be an open one that will achieve both economic growth and balanced development.

We should build an open platform of cooperation and uphold and grow an open world economy. We should jointly create an environment that will facilitate opening up and development, establish a fair, equitable and transparent system of international trade and investment rules and boost the orderly flow of production factors, efficient resources allocation and full market integration. We welcome efforts made by other countries to grow open economies based on their national conditions, participate in global governance and provide public goods. Together, we can build a broad community of shared interests.

Trade is an important engine driving growth. We should embrace the outside world with an open mind, uphold the multilateral trading regime, advance the building of free trade areas and promote liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment. Of course, we should also focus on resolving issues such as imbalances in development, difficulties in governance, digital divide and income disparity and make economic globalization open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all.

Fourth, we should build the Belt and Road into a road of innovation. Innovation is an important force powering development. The Belt and Road Initiative is new by nature and we need to encourage innovation in pursuing this initiative.

We should pursue innovation-driven development and intensify cooperation in frontier areas such as digital economy, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and quantum computing, and advance the development of big data, cloud computing and smart cities so as to turn them into a digital silk road of the 21st century. We should spur the full integration of science and technology into industries and finance, improve the environment for innovation and pool resources for innovation. We should create space and build workshops for young people of various countries to cultivate entrepreneurship in this age of the internet and help realize their dreams.

We should pursue the new vision of green development and a way of life and work that is green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable. Efforts should be made to strengthen cooperation in ecological and environmental protection and build a sound ecosystem so as to realize the goals set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Fifth, we should build the Belt and Road into a road connecting different civilizations. In pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative, we should ensure that when it comes to different civilizations, exchange will replace estrangement, mutual learning will replace clashes, and coexistence will replace a sense of superiority. This will boost mutual understanding, mutual respect and mutual trust among different countries.

We should establish a multi-tiered mechanism for cultural and people-to-people exchanges, build more cooperation platforms and
open more cooperation channels. Educational cooperation should be boosted, more exchange students should be encouraged and the performance of cooperatively run schools should be enhanced. Think tanks should play a better role and efforts should be made to establish think tank networks and partnerships. In the cultural, sports and health sectors, new cooperation models should be created to facilitate projects with concrete benefits. Historical and cultural heritage should be fully tapped to jointly develop tourist products and protect heritage in ways that preserve the distinctive features of the Silk Road. We should strengthen exchanges between parliaments, political parties and non-governmental organizations of different countries as well as between women, youths and people with disabilities with a view to achieving inclusive development. We should also strengthen international counter-corruption cooperation so that the Belt and Road will be a road with high ethical standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

China has reached a new starting point in its development endeavors. Guided by the vision of innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development, we will adapt to and steer the new normal of economic development and seize opportunities it presents. We will actively promote supply-side structural reform to achieve sustainable development, inject strong impetus into the Belt and Road Initiative and create new opportunities for global development.

— China will enhance friendship and cooperation with all countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. We are ready to share practices of development with other countries, but we have no intention to interfere in other countries' internal affairs, export our own social system and model of development, or impose our own will on others. In pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative, we will not resort to outdated geopolitical maneuvering. What we hope to achieve is a new model of win-win cooperation. We have no intention to form a small group detrimental to stability, what we hope to create is a big family of harmonious co-existence.

— China has reached practical cooperation agreements with many countries on pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative. These agreements cover not only projects of hardware connectivity, like transport, infrastructure and energy, but also software connectivity, involving telecommunications, customs and quarantine inspection. The agreements also include plans and projects for cooperation in economy and trade, industry, e-commerce, marine and green economy. The Chinese railway authorities will sign agreements with their counterparts of related countries to deepen cooperation on China-Europe regular railway cargo service. We will work to launch these cooperation projects at an early date and see that they deliver early benefits.

— China will scale up financing support for the Belt and Road Initiative by contributing an additional RMB 100 billion to the Silk Road Fund, and we encourage financial institutions to conduct overseas RMB fund business with an estimated amount of about RMB 300 billion. The China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China will set up special lending schemes respectively worth RMB 250 billion equivalent and RMB 130 billion equivalent to support Belt and Road cooperation on infrastructure, industrial capacity and financing. We will also work with the AIIB, the BRICS New Development Bank, the World Bank and other multilateral development institutions to support Belt and Road related projects. We will work with other parties concerned to jointly formulate guidelines for financing the Belt and Road related development projects.

— China will endeavor to build a win-win business partnership with other countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, enhance trade and investment facilitation with them, and build a Belt and Road free trade network. These efforts are designed to promote growth both in our respective regions and globally. During this forum, China will sign business and trade cooperation agreements with over 30 countries and enter into consultation on free trade agreements with related countries. China will host the China International Import Expo starting from 2018.

— China will enhance cooperation on innovation with other countries. We will launch the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, which consists of the Science and Technology People-to-People Exchange Initiative, the Joint Laboratory Initiative, the Science Park Cooperation Initiative and the Technology Transfer Initiative. In
In the coming five years, we will offer 2,500 short-term research visits to China for young foreign scientists, train 5,000 foreign scientists, engineers and managers, and set up 50 joint laboratories. We will set up a big data service platform on ecological and environmental protection. We propose the establishment of an international coalition for green development on the Belt and Road, and we will provide support to related countries in adapting to climate change.

— China will put in place the following mechanisms to boost Belt and Road cooperation: a liaison office for the Forum’s follow-up activities, the Research Center for the Belt and Road Financial and Economic Development, the Facilitating Center for Building the Belt and Road, the Multilateral Development Financial Cooperation Center in cooperation with multilateral development banks, and an IMF-China Capacity Building Center. We will also develop a network for cooperation among the NGOs in countries along the Belt and Road as well as new people-to-people exchange platforms such as a Belt and Road news alliance and a music education alliance.

The Belt and Road Initiative is rooted in the ancient Silk Road. It focuses on the Asian, European and African continents, but is also open to all other countries. All countries, from either Asia, Europe, Africa or the Americas, can be international cooperation partners of the Belt and Road Initiative. The pursuit of this initiative is based on extensive consultation and its benefits will be shared by us all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

An ancient Chinese saying goes, “A long journey can be covered only by taking one step at a time”. Similarly, there is an Arab proverb which says that the Pyramid was built by piling one stone on another. In Europe, there is also the saying that “Rome wasn’t built in a day.” The Belt and Road Initiative is a great undertaking which requires dedicated efforts. Let us pursue this initiative step by step and deliver outcome one by one. By doing so, we will bring true benefit to both the world and all our people!

In conclusion, I wish the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation a full success!

Thank you!

WORLD LEADERS APPROVE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, OUTCOME LIST FOR BELT AND ROAD COOPERATION

Beijing, May 15 (Xinhua) — Participants in the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation adopted a joint communique and released an outcome list on Monday.

The roundtable summit was part of the two-day forum held on Sunday and Monday and attended by 30 heads of state and government leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The forum is the most important meeting on the Belt and Road Initiative since Xi first made the proposal in 2013. It is also the largest-scale and highest-level international gathering initiated by China.
Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation
Beijing, May 15 (Xinhua) — The Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held Monday in Beijing. A joint communique was issued after the summit.

Following is an English version of the joint communique:

Joint Communique of the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

1. We, President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China, President Mauricio Macri of the Republic of Argentina, President Alexander Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus, President Michelle Bachelet Jeria of the Republic of Chile, President Milos Zeman of the Czech Republic, President Joko Widodo of the Republic of Indonesia, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya, President Almazbek Atambayev of the Kyrgyz Republic, President Bounnhang Vorachith of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte of the Republic of the Philippines, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, President Doris Leuthard of the Swiss Confederation, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the Republic of Turkey, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan, President Tran Dai Quang of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama of the Republic of Fiji, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of the Hellenic Republic, Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary, Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni of the Italian Republic, Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia, Prime
Minister Jargaltulgyn Erdenebat of Mongolia, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Prime Minister Beata Szydlo of the Republic of Poland, Prime Minister and President-elect Aleksandar Vucic of the Republic of Serbia, President of the Government Mariano Rajoy Brey of the Kingdom of Spain, and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, attended the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on 15 May 2017 in Beijing. We also welcome the participation of Secretary General Antonio Guterres of the United Nations, President Jim Yong Kim of the World Bank Group, Managing Director Christine Lagarde of the International Monetary Fund. The Leaders Roundtable was chaired by President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China.

**General Context**

2. We are mindful that the world economy is undergoing profound changes, presenting both opportunities and challenges. This is an era of opportunity, where countries continue to aspire for peace, development and cooperation. The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the set of Sustainable Development Goals at its core provides a new blueprint of international cooperation.

3. In this context, we welcome bilateral, triangular, regional and multilateral cooperation where countries place emphasis on eradicating poverty, creating jobs, addressing the consequences of international financial crises, promoting sustainable development, and advancing market-based industrial transformation and economic diversification. We note with appreciation that various development strategies and connectivity cooperation initiatives have been put forward, providing broad space for strengthening international cooperation.

4. We further recognize the challenges that the world economy faces. While it is currently experiencing modest recovery, downside risks remain. The growth of global trade and investment remains tempered, and the rules-based multilateral trading regime is yet to be strengthened. All countries, especially developing ones, still face common challenges of eradicating poverty, promoting inclusive and sustained economic growth, and achieving sustainable development.

5. Noting that the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (The Belt and Road Initiative) can create opportunities amidst challenges and
changes, we welcome and support the Belt and Road Initiative to enhance connectivity between Asia and Europe, which is also open to other regions such as Africa and South America. By providing important opportunities for countries to deepen cooperation, it has achieved positive outcomes and has future potential to deliver more benefits as an important international initiative.

6. We also emphasize the opportunities which can be created by communication and coordination among other global, regional and national frameworks and initiatives for promoting cooperation in connectivity and sustainable development, such as 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, Ancient Civilizations Forum, APEC Connectivity Blueprint, ASEAN Community Vision 2025, Asia-Europe Meeting and its group on path-finder of connectivity, Caravanserai Customs Initiative, China and Central and Eastern European Countries Cooperation, China-Europe Land-Sea Express Route, East-West Middle Corridor Initiative, EU-China Connectivity Platform, EU Eastern Partnership, Eurasian partnership based on the principles of equality, openness and transparency, Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, Main Directions for Economic Development of the Eurasian Economic Union until 2030, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Trans-European Transport Networks, Western Balkans 6 Connectivity Agenda, WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

7. We reaffirm our shared commitment to build open economy, ensure free and inclusive trade, oppose all forms of protectionism including in the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. We endeavor to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system with WTO at its core.

Cooperation Objectives

8. We stand for enhancing international cooperation including the Belt and Road Initiative and various development strategies, by building closer collaboration partnerships, which include advancing North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation.

9. We reiterate the importance of expanding economic growth,
trade and investment based on level-playing field, on market rules and on universally recognized international norms. We welcome the promotion of industrial cooperation, scientific and technological innovation, and regional economic cooperation and integration so as to increase, inter alia, the integration and participation of micro, small and medium enterprises in global value chains. Attention should be paid to tax and fiscal policies, prioritizing growth and productive investment.

10. We stand for strengthening physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity among all countries. The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and middle-income countries deserve special attention to remove bottlenecks of development and achieve effective connectivity.

11. We endeavor to expand people-to-people exchanges, promote peace, justice, social cohesion, inclusiveness, democracy, good governance, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and women empowerment; work together to fight against corruption and bribery in all their forms; to be more responsive to all the needs of those in vulnerable situations such as, children, persons with disabilities and older persons; and help improve global economic governance, and ensure equal access by all to development opportunities and benefits.

12. We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through taking urgent action on climate change and encouraging all parties which have ratified it to fully implement the Paris Agreement, managing the natural resources in an equitable and sustainable manner, conserving and sustainably using oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands, protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife, combating desertification and land degradation so as to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions in a balanced and integrated manner.

13. We encourage the involvement of governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and citizens in fostering and promoting friendship, mutual understanding and trust.

Cooperation Principles

14. We uphold the spirit of peace, cooperation, openness, transparency, inclusiveness, equality, mutual learning, mutual benefit and mutual respect by strengthening cooperation on the basis of extensive consultation and the rule of law, joint efforts, shared benefits and equal opportunities for all. In this context we highlight the following principles guiding our cooperation, in accordance with our respective national laws and policies:

a) Consultation on an equal footing: Honoring the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law including respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries; formulating cooperation plans and advancing cooperation projects through consultation.

b) Mutual benefit: Seeking convergence of interests and the broadest common ground for cooperation, taking into account the perspectives of different stakeholders.

c) Harmony and inclusiveness: Acknowledging the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognizing that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to sustainable development.

d) Market-based operation: Recognizing the role of the market and that of business as key players, while ensuring that the government performs its proper role and highlighting the importance of open, transparent, and non-discriminatory procurement procedures.

e) Balance and sustainability: Emphasizing the importance of economic, social, fiscal, financial and environmental sustainability of projects, and of promoting high environmental standards, while striking a good balance among economic growth, social progress and environmental protection.

Cooperation Measures

15. We affirm the need to prioritize policy consultation, trade promotion, infrastructure connectivity, financial cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, and we highlight concrete actions, in accordance with our national laws and regulations and international obligations where applicable, such as:

a) Pursuing dialogue and consultation in order to build synergies in development strategies among participating countries, noting the efforts to strengthen cooperation in coordinating development of the Belt and Road Initiative with other plans and initiatives as mentioned in Paragraph
6 and to promote partnerships among Europe, Asia, South America, Africa and other regions.

b) Conducting in-depth consultation on macroeconomic issues by optimizing the existing multilateral and bilateral cooperation and dialogue mechanisms, so as to provide robust policy support for practical cooperation and the implementation of major projects.

c) Strengthening cooperation on innovation, by supporting innovation action plans for e-commerce, digital economy, smart cities and science and technology parks, and by encouraging greater exchanges on innovation and business startup models in the Internet age in respect of intellectual property rights.

d) Promoting practical cooperation on roads, railways, ports, maritime and inland water transport, aviation, energy pipelines, electricity, fiber optic including trans-oceanic cable, telecommunications and information and communication technology, and welcoming the development of interconnected multimodal corridors, such as a new Eurasian Land Bridge, Northern Sea Route, the East-West Middle Corridor etc., and major trunk lines to put in place an international infrastructure network over time.

e) Maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development by taking into account international standards where applicable, and by aiming at harmonizing rules and technological standards when necessary; fostering a favorable environment and predictability for infrastructure investment by private capital; promoting public-private partnership in areas that create more jobs and generate greater efficiency; welcoming international financial institutions to increase support and investment for infrastructure development.

f) Deepening economic and trade cooperation; upholding the authority and effectiveness of the multilateral trading system, and working together to achieve positive outcomes at the 11th WTO ministerial conference; promoting trade and investment liberalization and facilitation; enabling the general public to benefit from trade.

g) Expanding trade by nurturing new areas of trade growth, promoting trade balance and promoting e-commerce and digital economy, welcoming the development of free trade areas and signing of free trade agreements by interested countries.

h) Advancing global value chains development and supply chain connectivity, while ensuring safer work places and strengthening social protection systems; increasing two-way investment, and enhancing cooperation in emerging industries, trade and industrial parks and cross-border economic zones.

i) Enhancing cooperation in ensuring the protection of the environment, of bio-diversity and of natural resources, in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, in promoting resilience and disaster-risk reduction and management, and in advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency.

j) Regarding the process of customs clearance, strengthening cooperation on information exchange and on developing mutual recognition of control, mutual assistance of enforcement, and mutual sharing of information; enhancing customs cooperation with a view to facilitating trade including by harmonizing procedures and reducing costs, and in this regard, strengthening cooperation in protecting intellectual property rights.

k) Jointly working on a long-term, stable and sustainable financing system; enhancing financial infrastructure connectivity, by exploring new models and platforms of investment and financing and improving financial services; assessing the opportunity to better serve local financial market; and encouraging development-oriented financial institutions to play an active role and strengthen cooperation with multilateral development institutions.

l) Contributing to a stable and equitable international financial system; promoting openness and connectivity among financial markets, including through mutual cooperation on payment systems and the promotion of financial inclusion; encouraging financial institutions to establish commercial presence in relevant countries and regions; promoting bilateral local currency settlement and cooperation agreements, and facilitating the development of local currency bonds and stock markets; encouraging dialogues to enhance financial cooperation and fend off financial risks.

m) Promoting people-to-people exchanges and bonds by deepening practical cooperation on education, science, technology, sport, health,
think-tank, media, capacity building including through internships.

n) Encouraging dialogues among civilizations, cultural exchanges, promoting tourism and protecting the world’s cultural and natural heritage.

Our Vision for the Future

16. Our joint endeavor on the Belt and Road Initiative and seeking complementarities with other connectivity initiatives provide new opportunities and impetus for international cooperation. It helps to work for a globalization that is open, inclusive and beneficial to all.

17. We reiterate that promoting peace, mutually-beneficial cooperation, and honoring the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law are our shared responsibilities; achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and development, and improving people’s quality of life are our common goals; creating a prosperous and peaceful community with shared future for mankind is our common aspiration.

18. We congratulate China on successfully hosting the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.
Beijing, May 16 (Xinhua) — The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) concluded here Monday, and officials and experts said the forum has strengthened international trade ties and sounded a call against protectionism.

The forum has strengthened international trade ties and sought new channels of distributing goods to bring about mutual benefit for all, said Ignacio Martinez Cortes, head of the Research Laboratory for Trade, Economy and Business.

“It is also a call against protectionism,” Martinez Cortes said in an interview with Xinhua in Mexico.

China’s new commercial strategy will allow Latin America and the Caribbean to join this drive of “opening up, inclusiveness and mutual benefits,” said the Mexican expert on China affairs when talking about the two-day forum held in Beijing.

The Belt and Road Initiative breaks with both regionalism and corporate-driven global supply chains and will benefit Latin America in the two fields of raw materials and added-value technologies, he said.

The initiative “is the gateway” to international free trade and sustainable development, and also “more focused on investment, infrastructure and development, instead of just on trade,” he said.

“Through this initiative, China is offering new channels, which is focused on strengthening partnerships and on the success of sustainable development,” the expert said.

The Belt and Road Initiative was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013 with an aim to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along and beyond ancient trade routes.

“In his opening speech President Xi highlighted the importance of infrastructure investment both from a historical and contemporary point of view,” said Marius Schad, an emerging market analyst of HSH Nordbank.

“The forum serves as a multilateral platform to bring the countries and organizations around the Belt and Road Initiative together and will intensify their cooperation,” Schad said.

He quoted Xi’s use of a well-known Chinese proverb that says it takes many small steps to cover a journey. “The initiative targets the benefits of infrastructure spending and its role for economic prosperity,” the analyst said.

“But only their implementation and finalization will foster economic growth. Therefore, a consequent implementation of infrastructure
investments, cross-border cooperation and convincing multilateral commitments are essential for long-term success,” Schad said.

“Consequently, the next steps within the Belt and Road Initiative are expected to center around the realization of concrete projects,” he added.

The forum was an important milestone in the global popularization and implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, said Gerishon Ikiara, a lecturer of international economics at the University of Nairobi.

The joint communiqué made at the end of the forum highlighted the importance of the forum in the implementation of the initiative, he said.

The forum was a major boost to the Belt and Road Initiative in terms of gathering international support for it. One of the outcomes of the forum was the broad agreement from the participants that the Belt and Road project was an important platform for rapid global infrastructural and trade development where all countries can participate, contribute and benefit as equals, he said.

This indicated that the forum participants appreciated the fact that the initiative, though started by China, allows many countries to participate and contribute in various ways so that all participants will benefit from it, he said.

The participants agreed to promote international cooperation on the implementation of providing financial, technological and other resources required in the implementation of the mega projects under the initiative, such as the development of transport links via waterways, railways, roads and others.

The forum participants also agreed that they would jointly try to deal with challenges facing the global economy, he said.

The Belt and Road Initiative is expected to make tremendous gains from its ongoing and expanded implementation, he said. Africa has suffered greatly from poor and inefficient infrastructure which has rendered Africa a weak partner in global trade.

Currently, Africa accounts for less than 3 percent of global trade largely due to poor and inadequate infrastructure which makes the country’s exports lack global competitiveness due to high unit costs of exports and imports, he said.

The projected expansion and modernization of land and sea routes are expected to change this, Ikiara said, adding that already modernized ports in Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and other parts of the continent are having a visibly significant impact.

The rapidly increasing railway transportation through the development of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) projects mainly supported by China in countries like Kenya and Ethiopia, which are participants in the Belt and Road Initiative, is demonstrating the transport revolution to be witnessed in Africa in the coming decade.

The Ethiopian SGR is already operational while phase one of the Kenyan SGR, Mombasa to Nairobi, is scheduled to be launched on June 1, he said.

Africa is expected to benefit from increased trade opportunities.

Over 100 countries and international development organizations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund participated in the forum in Beijing.

This sharp increase in the number of countries participating in the initiative will open more opportunities for trade, availability of financial resources and technical capacities required for faster implementation of the related infrastructural projects, he said.

It is expected that the Beijing forum will lead to more of these resources for Africa, he said.

Africa is also expected to benefit considerably from China’s pledged resources in the coming years. Other benefits are China’s supported financing of anti-poverty and improved health care projects, he added.

As the forum concluded in Beijing on Monday, Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Stepan Kubiv, the head of the Ukrainian delegation to the BRF, said that Ukraine is willing to deepen all-round cooperation with China.

Ukraine and China enjoy vast opportunities for expanding their cooperation in such fields as aircraft construction, machine building, space and agriculture, Kubiv was quoted by his press service as saying during the meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai in Beijing.

The just-concluded BRF has again demonstrated China’s commitment to building an open economy, ensuring free and inclusive trade worldwide and sharing the benefits with other countries.
Belt and Road Forum Points Clear Way for Future Cooperation: Chinese State Councilor

Beijing, May 17 (Xinhua) — Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi said Wednesday the just concluded Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation outlined the roadmap for the success of the Belt and Road Initiative and pointed a clear way for future cooperation.

Yang said in an interview that the forum, which was held in Beijing on Sunday and Monday, clarified an assortment of projects that would be implemented within the framework of the initiative. The forum yielded a list of outcomes, which included 76 consensuses comprising more than 270 detailed results in five key areas, namely policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity.

“The grand blueprint of the Initiative is being converted into a clear roadmap,” said Yang.

Yang said forum was the largest multilateral diplomatic activity that was proposed and held by China since the founding of the People’s Republic of China. The forum sent a positive signal for all parties to work together to build a community of shared future, which would be extremely important for China and the world.
Yang said that China did not have selfish motives nor pursue selfish interests, and hosted the forum with an open, inclusive, democratic and transparent attitude.

He said the forum consisted of an opening ceremony, a round-table summit and high-level meetings to ensure all parties had the opportunity to fully take part in the forum.

Yang said he believes the broad and in-depth participation of all parties involved into the initiative will contribute hugely to China and world development.

Twenty-nine foreign heads of state and government attended the forum. Other delegates included officials, entrepreneurs, financiers and media from over 130 countries and regions, which are home to more than two thirds of the world’s population and their combined gross domestic product accounts for 90 percent of the world’s total.

MILLENNIAL ROAD STAGED IN BEIJING FOR BELT AND ROAD FORUM

Performers sing during the Millennial Road, a performance for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, at the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, capital of Beijing, May 14, 2017. (Xinhua/Wang Ye)
Performers dance during the Millennial Road, a performance for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, at the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, capital of Beijing, May 14, 2017. (Xinhua/Pang Xinglei)

Performers attend the Millennial Road, a performance for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, at the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, capital of Beijing, May 14, 2017. (Xinhua/Wang Ye)
Performers dance during the Millennial Road, a performance for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, at the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, capital of Beijing, May 14, 2017. (Xinhua/Wang Ye)
LIST OF DELIVERABLES OF BELT AND ROAD FORUM

Beijing, May 15 (Xinhua) — Following is the full text of the list of deliverables of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held on Sunday and Monday in Beijing.

List of Deliverables of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the important cooperation initiative of building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. To date, steady progress and fruitful results have been achieved in the implementation of the Initiative. The international community has welcomed the Initiative and its positive impact. China hosted the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) in Beijing on 14-15 May 2017. The BRF is a major international event for countries and parties concerned to engage in consultation on building the Belt and Road and sharing the benefits. It is also an important platform for the participating parties to strengthen cooperation and synergize their development strategies. Before and during the BRF, national governments, local authorities and enterprises reached a number of cooperation agreements, policy measures and practical results. The Chinese side has put together a list of major deliverables of the BRF, which includes 76 items comprising more than 270 concrete results in five key areas, namely policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity.

I. Synergize Connectivity of Development Policies and Strategies

1. The Chinese government signed memoranda of understanding on Belt and Road cooperation with the governments
of Mongolia, Pakistan, Nepal, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Timor-Leste, Singapore, Myanmar and Malaysia.


3. The Chinese government signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Formulating China-Hungary Cooperation Plan with the government of Hungary, and signed bilateral cooperation plans to jointly build the Belt and Road with the governments of the Lao PDR and Cambodia.

4. The relevant departments of the Chinese government signed Belt and Road cooperation documents with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the World Economic Forum, the International Road Transport Union, the International Trade Center, the International Telecommunication Union, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the International Development Law Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Maritime Organization.


7. The Ministry of Finance of China endorsed the Guiding Principles on Financing the Development of the Belt and Road with the ministries of finance of relevant countries.

8. The relevant departments of the Chinese government issued the following documents: Building the Belt and Road: Concept, Practice and China’s Contribution, Vision and Actions on Promoting Energy Cooperation on the Belt and Road, Vision and Actions on Jointly Promoting Agricultural Cooperation on the Belt and Road, Guidance on Promoting Green Belt and Road and Vision for Maritime Cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative.

9. The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will be held regularly, and an Advisory Council and a Liaison Office will be set up.

10. The National Development and Reform Commission of China will establish the Facilitating Center for Building the Belt and Road. The National Development and Reform Commission of China has launched the official Belt and Road portal on the Internet and the Marine Silk Road Trade Index.

II. Deepen Project Cooperation for Infrastructure Connectivity

1. The Chinese government signed the agreements on international transportation and strategy coordination with the governments of Uzbekistan, Turkey and Belarus.

2. The Chinese government signed the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy with the government of Thailand.

3. The Chinese government signed the Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Water Resources with the government of Malaysia.


5. The Ministry of Commerce of China signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Cooperation in the Field of Infrastructure with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport of Cambodia.
6. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Information Technology with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Afghanistan.

7. The Ministry of Transport of China signed the memoranda of understanding on transport cooperation with the relevant government departments of Cambodia, Pakistan and Myanmar.

8. The Ministry of Water Resources of China signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Water with the Ministry of the Environment of Poland.


10. The State Oceanic Administration of China signed the Protocol on Establishment of Joint Ocean Observation Station with the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia.

11. CHINA RAILWAY signed the Agreement for Further Cooperation on China-Europe Container Block Trains among Railways of China, Belarus, Germany, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Poland and Russia with railway companies of relevant countries.

12. The China Development Bank signed the Key Financing Documents on Indonesian Jakarta to Bandung High-Speed Railway Project with PT Kereta Cepat Indonesia, and financing cooperation agreements on port, electricity and industrial park with relevant institutions of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Lao PDR and Egypt.

13. The Export-Import Bank of China signed the loan agreements on the modernization and reconstruction of Hungarian-Serbian Railway Line for Belgrade Center-Stara Pazova Section with the Ministry of Finance of Serbia, on road projects with the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Cambodia, the Ministry of Finance of Ethiopia and JSC “KazAutoZholt” of Kazakhstan, on urban railway line project with the Ministry of Finance of Viet Nam, on telecommunication project with Telekom Srbija of Serbia, on bridge project with the Ministry of Finance of Mongolia, on airport development project with Yangon Aerodrome Company of Myanmar, and on inland container depot project with the National Treasury of Kenya.

14. The Global Energy Internet Development Cooperation Organization signed the memoranda of understanding on energy cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations, the League of Arab States, AU and the Interconnection Power Grid Authority of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

III. Expand Industrial Investment, Enhance Trade Connectivity

1. The Chinese government signed the economic and trade cooperation agreements with the governments of 30 countries, namely, Pakistan, Viet Nam, Cambodia, the Lao PDR, the Philippines, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Mongolia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Fiji, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Maldives, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Afghanistan, Albania, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Syria, Tajikistan, Nepal and Serbia.

2. The Chinese government signed the China-Georgia Free Trade Agreement with the government of Georgia.


4. The Chinese government signed the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters with the government of Afghanistan.

5. The Ministry of Commerce of China and the relevant agencies of more than 60 countries and international organizations jointly issued the Initiative on Promoting Unimpeded Trade Cooperation along the Belt and Road.


8. The Ministry of Commerce of China signed the Outline of the Medium and Long-Term Development Plan for Investment, Economic and Technological Cooperation with the Ministry of Development Strategy and International Trade of Sri Lanka, the Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, the Cooperation Plan on Promoting SME Development with the Ministry of Economy of Kyrgyzstan, the memorandum of understanding concerning SME cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, and the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Electronic Commerce with the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam.

9. The National Development and Reform Commission of China signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Promoting the Major Projects under Industrial Capacity and Investment Cooperation with the Ministry of Economy of Kyrgyzstan, and signed the Framework Agreement on Enhancing Industrial Capacity and Investment Cooperation with the Ministry of Economy of the UAE.

10. The Ministry of Agriculture of China signed the Memorandum on Determining the Action Plan on Agricultural Trade and Investment with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Serbia, the Strategic Action Plan on Agricultural Cooperation with the Ministry of Agro-Industry of Argentina, the Five-Year Plan on Improving the Level of Agricultural Cooperation (2017-2021) with the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile and the Three Year Action Plan on Agricultural Cooperation (2018-2020) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt.

11. The General Administration of Customs of China signed customs cooperation documents with the customs authorities of Kazakhstan, the Netherlands and Poland to deepen cooperation on mutual exchange of information, mutual recognition of inspection results and mutual assistance in law enforcement.

12. The General Administration of Customs of China signed a cooperation document with the International Road Transport Union to promote construction of international logistics corridors and implementation of the Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets.

13. The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China signed cooperation agreements on inspection and quarantine with the relevant departments of Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Norway, Ireland, Serbia, the Netherlands, Argentina, Chile, and Tanzania, signed cooperation agreements in the field of NQI (National Quality Infrastructure, including standard, metrology, certification and accreditation) with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the relevant government departments of Ukraine and Azerbaijan, and signed the Joint Initiative on Strengthening Standards Cooperation and Building the Belt and Road with the relevant agencies of Russia, Belarus, Serbia, Mongolia, Cambodia, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Greece, Switzerland, Turkey and other countries.

14. The Export-Import Bank of China signed loan agreements on industrial park projects, projects of power transmission and distribution, wind power project, water projects, dam project, satellite project, hydraulic factory projects with the relevant government departments of Belarus, Cambodia, Ethiopia, the Lao PDR, Kenya, Mongolia and Pakistan, loan agreements on power grid upgrading project, thermal power project, coal mine modernization project, tyre factory project, with relevant companies of Egypt, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia, and signed the
Strategic Cooperation Framework Agreement regarding Lines of Credit with the Philippine Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company.

15. The China Development Bank signed financing cooperation agreements on chemical, metallurgical and petrochemical industries with relevant institutions of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Indonesia and Malaysia.

16. The China International Import Expo will be held from 2018.

IV. Enhance Financial Cooperation, Promote Financial Connectivity

1. The Silk Road Fund will expand by RMB 100 billion.

2. China encourages financial institutions to conduct Overseas Fund Business in RMB with the estimated amount of about RMB 300 billion, providing financing support for the Belt and Road Initiative.

3. The National Development and Reform Commission of China will set up the China-Russia Regional Cooperation Development Investment Fund, with a total scale of RMB 100 billion and the initial scale of RMB 10 billion to promote cooperation between China’s Northeast and Russia’s Far East.

4. The Ministry of Finance of China signed the memoranda of understanding on collaboration on matters of common interest under the Belt and Road Initiative with the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, the New Development Bank and the World Bank Group.

5. The Ministry of Finance of China will establish the Multilateral Development Finance Cooperation Center together with the multilateral development banks.

6. The China-Kazakhstan Production Capacity Cooperation Fund came into operation, and the framework agreement of cooperation was signed regarding full support of Chinese telecom companies’ participation in the “Digital Kazakhstan 2020” Program.

7. The Silk Road Fund and the Interbank Association of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization agreed on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Basis of Partnership. The Silk Road Fund and the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of Uzbekistan signed the cooperation agreement.

8. The China Development Bank will set up the Belt and Road Multi-currency Special Lending Scheme for Infrastructure Development (RMB 100 billion equivalent), the Belt and Road Multi-currency Special Lending Scheme for Industrial Cooperation (RMB 100 billion equivalent), and the Belt and Road Multi-currency Special Credit Lines for Overseas Financial Institutions (RMB 50 billion equivalent).

9. The Export-Import Bank of China will set up the Belt and Road Multi-currency Special Lending Scheme (RMB 100 billion equivalent) and the Belt and Road Multi-currency Special Lending Scheme for Infrastructure Development (RMB 30 billion equivalent).

10. The China Development Bank signed Subscription Agreement for the Sino-French SME Fund II with Bpifrance, and signed Memorandum of Understanding on Sino-Italian Co-Investment Fund with Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, and conducts financing and bond underwriting cooperation with the Tejarat Bank of Iran, Banque Misr of Egypt, Hungarian Development Bank, Metrobank of the Philippines, Ziraat Bank of Turkey, Raiffeisen Bank International of Austria, Canadia Bank of Cambodia, and Maybank of Malaysia.

11. The Export-Import Bank of China signed framework agreements regarding lines of credit with Export-Import Bank of Malaysia, Export-Import Bank of Thailand and other Asian EXIM Bank Forum members, and will conduct practical cooperation in areas of on-lending and trade finance.

12. China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation signed cooperation agreements with the export credit agencies in Belarus, Serbia, Poland, Sri Lanka and Egypt, signed framework agreements with the relevant government departments, including the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation of Egypt, the Ministry of Finance of the Lao PDR, the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Cambodia, the Investment Coordinating Board of Indonesia, Polish Investment and Trade Agency, National Treasury of

13. The People’s Bank of China and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will jointly set up “the IMF-China Capacity Building Center” to provide training to the countries along the Belt and Road.

14. The Export-Import Bank of China and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization signed a joint declaration on enhancing cooperation on sustainable industrial development in the countries along the Belt and Road.

15. The Asian Financial Cooperation Association has been officially established.

16. The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and major commercial banks in Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Austria and other countries along the Belt and Road will jointly launch the Belt and Road Action Plan for Banking Cooperation, and establish a regular cooperation and exchange mechanism for banks along the Belt and Road.

V. Invest More in People’s Livelihood, Deepen People-to-People Exchange

1. The Chinese government will increase its assistance to the developing countries along the Belt and Road. The total assistance over the next three years will be no less than RMB 60 billion.

2. The Chinese government will provide RMB 2 billion emergency food aid to the the countries along the Belt and Road. China will provide replenishment of US$1 billion to the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund to initiate the “China and United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Cooperation Initiative”, and to support the implementation of 100 Happy Home Projects, 100 Anti-Poverty Projects, 100 Health Recovery Projects and other projects in the relevant countries. China will provide relevant international organizations with US$1 billion to jointly promote the implementation of international cooperation projects benefiting the countries on the Belt and Road, including 100 Refugee Assistance Projects covering food, tents, portable houses, etc, setting up “Refugee Scholarships”, providing 500 refugee youngsters with education opportunities and financial support to 100 refugee athletes to participate in regional or international games.

3. The Chinese government signed the Executive Program of Cultural Agreement for the Years 2017-2020 with the government of Lebanon, and the Agreement on the Reciprocal Establishment of Cultural Centers with the government of Tunisia, and the Agreement on the Reciprocal Establishment of Cultural Centers with the government of Turkey.


5. The Chinese government signed the Governmental Tourism Cooperation Agreement with the government of Poland.

6. The Chinese government proposes to launch the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, including the Science and Technology People-to-People Exchange Initiative, the Joint Laboratory Initiative, the Science Park Cooperation Initiative and the Technology Transfer Initiative.


8. The Ministry of Education of China signed agreements on education cooperation with the relevant departments of Russia, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia and Laos, signed the Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Higher Education
Qualifications and Degrees with Cyprus and established a music education alliance with the countries along the Belt and Road.

9. The Ministry of Science and Technology of China signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Young Scientist Exchange with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport of Mongolia, the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for the Establishment of Science Park and Innovation Infrastructure Development in Mongolia with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport of Mongolia, and the Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Funding to Research and Development Projects with the National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary.

10. The Ministry of Environmental Protection of China issued the Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Cooperation Plan, established the Big Data Service Platform on Ecological and Environmental Protection, and announced the Joint Initiative to Establish the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road with the United Nations Environment Programme.

11. The Ministry of Finance of China will establish the Research Center for the Belt and Road Financial and Economic Development.

12. The National Health and Family Planning Commission of China signed health cooperation agreements with the health authorities of the Czech Republic and Norway.

13. The National Tourism Administration of China signed tourism cooperation agreement with the National Tourism Development Committee of Uzbekistan, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Furthering Tourism Cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism of Chile, and signed the Implementation Plan for Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation with Ministry of Tourism of Cambodia.

14. The State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of China signed cooperation documents with Radio and Television Supreme Council of Turkey and the General Commission of Audiovisual Media of Saudi Arabia. China Central Television will set up the “Belt and Road News Alliance” with mainstream media of relevant countries.

15. The State Council Information Office of China signed the memoranda of understanding on media cooperation exchanges with the Ministry of Information of Cambodia, the Department of Information of Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, the National Media Council of the UAE, the Ministry of Information of Palestine and the Department of Communication and Relations with Citizens in the Council of Ministers of Albania.

16. The State Council Information Office of China signed the memoranda of understanding on plans to promote think tank cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Palestine and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania.

17. The China Development Bank will set up the Experience Sharing and Capacity Building Cooperation Program for Belt and Road Partners, and the Belt and Road Scholarship.

18. China NGO Network for International Exchanges and over 80 Chinese NGOs jointly launched the Chinese Social Organizations’ Action Plan for Stronger People-to-People Connectivity along the Belt and Road (2017-2020). China NGO Network for International Exchanges and over 150 civil organizations jointly set up the Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network. Silk Road Think Tank Association (SRTA) launched the International Think Tank Cooperation Program on Enhancing People-to-People Connectivity along the Belt and Road.

19. The Development Research Center of the State Council of China signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation Jointly Building the Belt and Road Initiative with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The Silk Road Think Tank Network (SiLKS), with over 50 international members and partners, released the Silk Road Think Tank Network Declaration on Joint Action.

XI JINPING HOLDS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT TRAN DAI QUANG OF VIET NAM, AGREEING TO JOINTLY ELEVATE CHINA-VIET NAM COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO NEW HIGHS

On May 11, 2017, President Xi Jinping held talks with President Tran Dai Quang of Viet Nam in the Great Hall of the People. The two heads of state agreed to maintain the positive development momentum for bilateral relations, push forward cooperation in various areas, and elevate bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership to new highs, so as to bring more tangible benefits to both countries and their peoples.

Xi Jinping pointed out, China and Viet Nam, linked by mountains...
and rivers, are close neighbors and also partners who share the same ideals and follow the same path. China firmly supports Viet Nam to follow its own socialist road conforming to its national conditions. China will also uphold the policy of building friendship and partnership with neighboring countries and remain committed to the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness to constantly promote the sound, stable and forward-looking development of China-Viet Nam relations.

Xi Jinping stressed China and Viet Nam should maintain high-level exchanges and keep timely connect on bilateral relations and issues of common concerns to steer the direction for the steady development of bilateral relations. Making full use of the China-Viet Nam Steering Committee on Bilateral Cooperation and other mechanisms, the two sides should strengthen the docking of development strategies, promote the construction of cross-border economic cooperation zones and deepen cooperation in such areas as production capacity, infrastructure construction, investment and trade to serve respective economic and social development. We should expand people-to-people and cultural exchanges, actively conduct cooperation in education, medical care, youth and cultural industries, and enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples to cement the public opinion foundation between China and Viet Nam. We should advance maritime cooperation, accumulate consensus gradually, broaden common interests and meanwhile manage our differences through bilateral dialogues. Both sides should strengthen coordination and collaboration under such multilateral frameworks as the UN, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, China-ASEAN and Lancang-Mekong cooperation programs.

Xi Jinping pointed out that under the current circumstances, the upcoming Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will be conducive to synergizing consensus of all parties, deepen international cooperation and promote globalization towards a more open, inclusive, mutually beneficial, balanced and win-win direction. Viet Nam is an important country along the “Belt and Road”. It is hoped that China and Viet Nam will take this forum as an opportunity to advance the docking of development strategies, promote practical cooperation in all fields to realize common development and prosperity.

Tran Dai Quang noted that consolidating China-Viet Nam traditional friendship and promoting its sustained, healthy and stable development of bilateral relations not only conform to the fundamental interests of the two peoples, but also are conducive to the peace and stability in the region. That is an unwavering diplomatic way and a prior direction chosen by Viet Nam. The Communist Party of Viet Nam, the government and the people always remember the great support offered by the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Chinese government and its people for the country’s cause of national liberation and socialist construction. Viet Nam is willing to, together with China, strengthen and deepen the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership in accordance with the spirit of being good comrades, partners, neighbors and friends as well as the principle of seeking long-term stability, good-neighborliness and comprehensive cooperation while looking into the future. The two sides should maintain high-level visits, give play to the exchanges and cooperation mechanism of the two countries, and expand practical cooperation in economy, trade, agriculture, environment, infrastructure, tourism, people-to-people and cultural engagement, security and other areas, as well as within the “Belt and Road” construction initiative, and learn from each other in the cause of renovation, development and poverty reduction. Both sides should properly settle disputes, and promote maritime cooperation. Speaking highly of China’s great achievements in economic and social development, Viet Nam wishes the 19th CPC National Congress a great success. Viet Nam supports China to play a more important role in international and regional affairs.

Following their talks, the two leaders witnessed the signing of a number of bilateral cooperation documents covering such areas as diplomacy, economy, technology, e-commerce, infrastructure construction, and education.

After the signing ceremony, the two leaders and their spouses jointly visited the photo exhibition Vietnam in Chinese Photographers’ Eyes.

Prior to the talks, President Xi Jinping held a welcoming ceremony for Tran Dai Quang at the square outside the East Gate of the Great Hall of the People. Xi Jinping’s wife Mme. Peng Liyuan, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the
On May 15, 2017, President Xi Jinping met at the Great Hall of the People with President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines, who was in China for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF).

President Xi Jinping pointed out that the Philippines is a friendly neighbor of China and also an important partner in the joint construction of the “Belt and Road” project. It is the right path for the development of China-Philippines relations by adhering to good neighborliness and friendship as well as achieving win-win cooperation.
China is willing to, together with the Philippines, promote the docking of bilateral development strategies, and push for more achievements on the road of common development, so as to better benefit the two peoples.

Xi Jinping stressed that leaders of both countries should strengthen exchanges over some major issues involving bilateral relations and guide them on the right track toward a sound and stable development. Both countries should deepen practical cooperation, enhance cooperation in infrastructure construction, combating transnational crimes at sea, joint maritime search and rescue, poverty alleviation, people’s livelihood as well as drug control, and promote the implementation of cooperation in key areas as soon as possible or the phased achievements in these areas. Both countries should intensify cooperation and exchanges in such areas as legislative institutions, local governments, culture, youth, tourism and personnel exchanges. China supports the Philippines to take the rotating presidency of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). China will strengthen communication and cooperation with ASEAN countries, deepen the common interests in political security and economy, and expand people-to-people cultural exchanges, in a bid to elevate China-ASEAN relations to new highs.

Rodrigo Duterte congratulated on the successful hosting of the BRF, and said that the “Belt and Road” initiative will effectively promote the connectivity and economic growth in Asia and will also bring job opportunities and prosperity to the Philippines. Currently, the friendship between the Philippines and China has been strengthened and both are important trade partners to each other. The two countries have resumed dialogues in various fields. The Philippine side thanked China for its support in politics, economy, trade, drug control and other fields. The Philippines is willing to, together with China, maintain close contacts, deepen and expand mutually beneficial cooperation, and promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges, so as to enhance the bond of bilateral relations. The Philippines will be committed to strengthening ASEAN-China cooperation.

After the meeting, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of multiple cooperation documents in the fields of economy, technology, infrastructure, human resources, energy, press and publication.

Wang Huning, Wang Yang, Li Zhanshu and Yang Jiechi and others attended the meeting.

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**XI SAYS CHINA, RUSSIA PLAY ROLE OF “BALLAST STONE” IN WORLD PEACE, STABILITY**

Beijing, May 14 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping said Sunday that China and Russia have played their due role in safeguarding regional and global peace and stability.

The two countries, which have been committed to seeking political solutions to the Syrian conflict and the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue, have played the role of “ballast stone” in safeguarding regional and global peace and stability, Xi said while meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

Hailing sound development of China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination, Xi said developing and deepening bilateral ties are the strategic choice for the two countries.

He called for all-out efforts to promote and safeguard the bilateral relations despite changes in the international arena.

The two countries should deepen cooperation in economy and trade, energy and other traditional areas, while exploring new areas for cooperation, like innovation and technology, for higher-level pragmatic cooperation, Xi said.

He also said the two countries
should enhance strategic coordination, jointly promote sustainable and stable growth in the world economy, work toward peaceful solutions for international and regional hot-spot issues, and improve international governance systems to inject “positive energy” into world peace and stability.

Progress has been made since China and Russia agreed to align development of the Belt and Road Initiative with the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) two years ago, and pragmatic cooperation should be pushed forward for tangible outcomes, Xi said.

The two countries’ active communication and coordination as well as mutual support on major international issues have become important stabilizing factors for the international community, Putin said.

He noted Russia is willing to work with China to align the EEU with the Silk Road Economic Belt and deepen bilateral cooperation in areas including education, energy, manufacturing, sports, tourism and trade.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang also met Putin on Sunday saying that China is willing to promote cooperation with Russia in areas including finance, local exchanges, agriculture, energy and civil aviation.

He called on the two sides to create new cooperation pattern led by big projects and joined by small- and medium-sized and innovation-based enterprises.

Putin said Russia is willing to promote cooperation with China in big projects in areas such as energy, transport and aviation, as well as expand people-to-people communication.

XI JINPING MEETS WITH PRIME MINISTER LARS LOKKE RASMUSSEN OF DENMARK

On May 4, 2017, President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen of Denmark at the Great Hall of the People.

Xi Jinping pointed out that to develop a healthy, stable and sustainable China-Denmark comprehensive strategic partnership not only conforms to respective national interests, but also is conducive to advancing China-Nordic cooperation and the comprehensive development of China-Europe relations. 2016 is a year of progress for China-Denmark comprehensive strategic partnership, in which both sides made overall planning for bilateral cooperation in various fields, and jointly pushed bilateral relations for healthy and rapid development under a new situation. The two countries should enhance top-level design to forge 2017 a year of harvest for bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership.

Xi Jinping stressed that both sides should well plan the development direction of China-Denmark relations from a strategic height and long-term perspective, respect each other’s core interests and major concerns, strengthen bilateral personnel exchanges at high level and all levels, and intensify exchanges between the two governments, legislative institutions, political parties, local regions and non-governmental levels. The two sides should, focusing on such major areas as circular economy, energy conservation, environmental protection, food safety, agricultural science, utilization of renewable energy and urbanization, carry out a new type of cooperation featuring hi-tech and high-added value, and actively explore the cooperation fields and methods within the “Belt and Road” framework. Both sides should continuously enhance practical cooperation in fugitive repatriation, asset recovery, and social communication and mutual learning, as well as deepen people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation in tourism, cooperative research on giant panda, football, and other fields. Both sides should reinforce coordination within the UN, the Arctic Council and other multilateral frameworks, and expand Arctic cooperation.

Xi Jinping pointed out that China always supports the European integration process and stands ready
to, together with Europe, forge the four major China-EU partnerships featuring peace, growth, reform and civilization. The Chinese side is willing to enhance communication with Denmark and other Nordic countries, in a bid to constantly push China-Nordic cooperation for new achievements.

Lars Lokke Rasmussen expressed that China enjoys rapid economic and social development, and plays an important role in the UN peacekeeping operation, climate change and other international affairs. Since the establishment of Denmark-China comprehensive strategic partnership in 2008, bilateral relations have achieved substantial development. Denmark adheres to the one-China policy. Extensive bilateral cooperation based on mutual benefit and win-win results has achieved positive outcomes. Denmark stands ready to make joint efforts with China to deeply tap cooperation potential in health care, food, education, culture, tourism, football and other fields, elevate Denmark-China economic and trade cooperation as well as people-to-people and cultural exchanges to new highs, and inject new impetus into bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership. Denmark is willing to, together with China, intensify communication and coordination in international affairs, strengthen bilateral cooperation in sustainable development, and jointly safeguard the global free trade system, so as to push Europe-China relations for in-depth development.

Yang Jiechi and others attended the meeting.
On the afternoon of May 15, 2017, Premier Li Keqiang met with UN Secretary-General António Guterres at the Great Hall of the People, who was in China for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

Li Keqiang noted that as a founding member of the UN and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China always firmly maintains the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and upholds the authority of the UN and its Security Council as well as its core role in such fields as safeguarding world peace and security and promoting development. China is willing to play its role as a major responsible developing country through the UN and other platforms and make unremitting efforts for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for the promotion of world peace, stability, development and
Li Keqiang noted that peace, development and cooperation have become consensus of all mankind in the modern world, and globalization is an irreversible historical trend. Problems emerged in the process of globalization should be addressed in the process of development. China supports the process of globalization and trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. It is believed that human beings have the wisdom and all countries have the capabilities to drive forward the globalization in an open, inclusive, shared and universally-beneficial way.

António Guterres noted that as a key pillar of the fair and orderly advancement of multilateralism, free trade, and the process of globalization in modern world, China has offered great supports to all works of the UN, including peacekeeping operations. The UN is willing to enhance cooperation with China to synergize the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with China's development strategies and initiatives in a better way, in a bid to promote world peace and stability in the process of the sustainable development.

State Councilor Yang Jing attended the meeting.

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**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Luo Zhaohui at the United Service Institution of India**

**In My Eyes: India, Indians and India-China Relations**

Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Luo Zhaohui at the United Service Institution of India

May 5, 2017, New Delhi

Lieutenant General P.K. Singh, Director of USI,
Shri. Kanwal Sibal, Ambassador and Former Foreign Secretary of India,
Dear Friends,

Namaste (Good Morning)!

It’s my great honor to come to the United Service Institution (USI) and meet with friends here. USI is one of the major, most influential Indian think tanks with the longest history. I want to thank General Singh for his invitation and gracious remarks.

Last month, I visited Assam and paid special homage to the Second World War cemetery of Chinese soldiers at Tinsukia district. Among the over 400 soldiers buried there, only one name can be found on the tombstones. And that cemetery is only one of many. From 1942 to 1945, Chinese soldiers fought side by side with the British and Indian army and more than 100,000 of them sacrificed their precious lives in foreign soil. Even today, their families, if any, don’t know where they are buried. This is what being a soldier is all about.

Being a soldier means devotion, sacrifice and defence of peace. I am a career diplomat, and there is much in common between a diplomat and a soldier: being a diplomat also means sacrifice, discipline, and pursuit of peace. On this occasion, I want to salute all the soldiers.

I’m from China, a neighbor of India. Our two countries have
thousands of years of friendship and practical common interests, and sometimes, differences and grievances.

First of all, let me share with you how the Chinese look at India and Indians. First, speaking of India, people in China may immediately think of the long history of exchanges and profound integration of our two cultures. The Indus River civilization, Buddha and the ancient Silk Road will crop up in mind. In 67 A.D., the Ming Emperor of China’s Eastern Han Dynasty dreamed of a golden man and was told by his advisor that it was the Buddha. So the Emperor sent envoys to invite the Buddha to his land. On the way, the envoys met two Indian monks carrying Buddhist sutras on the back of a white horse. They returned to the capital city of Luoyang, and built the first Buddhist temple in China—The White Horse Temple. Of course, this episode was not the first record of historical contact between China and India. Our two countries had been in touch for hundreds of years before that.

In 2003, Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee visited the White Horse Temple and donated for the construction of an Indian style Buddhist Hall with good intention, which became a new symbol of China-India friendship.

At the time when Golden Gupta Dynasty ruled India, there were Hindu temples in China’s Quanzhou city, the starting point of the Maritime Silk Road. They attested to the large presence of Indian merchants in Quanzhou at that time as well as the prosperity Quanzhou enjoyed due to the Maritime Silk Road.

Not long ago, I visited Ajanta Caves, which inspired the Dunhuang Grottoes, Yungang Grottoes and Longmen Grottoes in China, and whose styles of caves, sculptures and frescos had great influence on China. China’s history books are full of stories of eminent monks like Xuanzang, Faxian and Bodhidharma traveling through the Silk Road and serving as bridges between Chinese and Indian cultures. Our two countries have jointly produced the film Kongfu Yoga, and I’m facilitating the co-production of a new movie, the Bodhidharma. Monk Bodhidharma went to China at the beginning of the 6th Century A.D. and originated the Zen Buddhism and Shaolin martial arts. Before the 18th Century, no country had a larger impact on Chinese culture than India.

Secondly, there is a high degree of similarity between the history of China and India, signaling a special link between the two countries. Both
are among the four ancient civilizations. Confucius lived during the Spring and Autumn Period of China, while Buddha emerged in India at about the same time, and Buddha was 10 years older than Confucius. The first Emperor who unified China was Qin Shi Huang, the First Emperor of Qin Dynasty, while the first Emperor that unified India was Ashoka. They also lived around the same period. When China was enjoying strength and prosperity under the rule of Tang Dynasty, India was experiencing the Golden Age of Gupta Dynasty. And the Mughal period of Indian history ran in parallel with the heyday of Qing Dynasty. After that, China and India became semi-colony or colony, and then gained independence and liberation at almost the same time. This degree of similarity of history shows the similarity between our civilizations, and economic development level, as well as the closeness of our exchanges. That’s why we put forward the “Panchsheel” together.

Thirdly, there is a well-known tourism promotion slogan about India-Incredible India. For the Chinese people, India is a country with long history and profound civilization, wonderful landscapes and unique culture. Chinese people believe the Indian people are intelligent, good at maths and logical analysis. They think everyone here is an IT genius, good singer and dancer. This is a tradition derived from the ancient Upanishad. Almost all the major religions, including Brahmanism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Sikhism etc., can trace their origin back to India. There were also many prominent historical figures in India, like Rama, Buddha, Sankaracharya, Akbar, Mahatama Gadhi, Tagore, etc. In recent years, as India promotes Yoga across the world, Yoga is becoming highly popular among Chinese white collar workers. A Yoga college and many Yoga organizations are founded in China. There are many Yoga practitioners among Chinese diplomats in the China Embassy in India. Indian cuisines are popular in China and famous for their spicy, hot and curry taste, particularly Tandoori chicken and Chapati.

In a word, speaking of India, all that comes to mind of a Chinese are the good things.

For me, India is like my second hometown. Before joining the Foreign Service, I was doing research on India in a Chinese think tank. The opportunity to go to India was the only reason inspiring me to become a diplomat. Indeed, under the circumstances in the 1980s, becoming a diplomat seemed to be the only way to come to India. I was first posted in India in the late 1980s, and since then, I personally witnessed and took part in many major events in the China-India relations. My wife Dr. Jiang Yili was the first Chinese to get PhD from Delhi University.

Friends,

I would like to share with you the Chinese perspective on India’s development and China-India relationship.

The ecological environment is as good as what it was during my first posting in India more than 20 years ago. Delhi becomes cleaner with wider streets and new high risings. The subway and highway impressed me with the rapid and tremendous changes taking place in India. I have visited Maharashtra, Assam, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Bihar, where I saw remarkable progress in local infrastructures. According to the latest statistics, India’s GDP has reached 2.2 trillion US dollars, ranking the 6th largest economy in the world. India is also the fastest growing economy. I would like to congratulate you on what India has achieved.

I’m also glad to see that China has contributed its share to India’s development. The China-India bilateral trade volume is now over 70 billion US dollars. Cumulative Chinese investment in India was nearly 5 billion US dollars. Over 500 Chinese companies have established themselves in India. Over 1 million people traveled between our two countries last year. There are 80 flights between our two countries every week.

Today, China is the second largest economy in the world, with a GDP of 11 trillion US dollars. China’s development also benefited from India’s participation.

We sincerely hope that India can become more developed, as it not only benefits Indian people but also creates more opportunities for China’s development. Some people in the West misread China and tend to think that the “Dragon” and the “Elephant” are inevitable rivals, and that China would not like to see India developing. This conception is wrong. We hope to see India develop well and we are more than happy to help India develop to achieve common development.

That is why we attach great importance to the China-India relations. Only with sound bilateral relations can we promote development, and create more
facilities for our common development. Essentially, the growth of bilateral relations and common development are inseparable.

First, we need to synergize development strategies. As the two largest developing countries, China and India have similar visions and complementary strategies of development. We both support globalization and free trade. China is at a crucial stage of comprehensively deepening reform and economic restructuring. We are implementing programs such as “Made in China 2025”, “Internet Plus”. India is also at a critical juncture of reform and development, and Prime Minister Modi has put forward such initiatives as “Make in India”, “Digital India”, and “Smart Cities”. We need to synergize our development strategies and pursue common development.

Second, we need to continue to deepen practical cooperation in the economic and trade area. We may actively explore building a China-India Free Trade Area or Regional Trading Arrangement, and encourage cooperation on major projects. We look forward to the new industrial cities to be built by Wanda Group and China Fortune Land Development Co. (CFLD) in India. These projects will help create local jobs and boost India’s development. We can work together in new and renewable energy and foster new areas of cooperation.

Third, we need to continue the close exchanges in political, people-to-people and cultural fields. We should give full play to the role of high level exchanges in guiding bilateral relations. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi will have opportunities to meet each other on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit, G20 Summit and BRICS Summit this year. We may also further expand exchanges between youths and local governments. China will receive a 200-member youth delegation from India next month.

Fourth, we need to properly manage differences. As two large neighbors, it is natural that we have some differences. Even family members may have problems. What we need to do is to properly manage the existing issues while actively resolve newly emerged problems. We shall reduce differences by focusing on cooperation and work for a healthier bilateral relationship by addressing differences.

Fifth, we need to set a long term vision for the China-India relations. Here’s my suggestion. Firstly, start negotiation on a China-India Treaty of Good Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. Secondly, restart negotiation of China-India Free Trade Agreement. Thirdly, strive for an early harvest on the border issue. Fourthly, actively explore the feasibility of aligning China’s “One Belt One Road Initiative” (OBOR) and India’s “Act East Policy”.

Friends,

The OBOR and regional connectivity could provide China and India with fresh opportunities and highlights for the bilateral cooperation. The OBOR is a major public product China has offered to the world. It is a strategic initiative aimed at promoting globalization and economic integration.

India has initiated a host of attractive reform and open-up policies, such as “Make in India”. On the diplomatic front, India has put forward the “Act East Policy”, “Spice Route” etc, and a number of regional connectivity initiatives, as well as vigorously pushed forward the BIMSTEC. As close neighbors, China and India could be natural partners in connectivity and the OBOR.

Now the GDP of India is roughly that of China in 2004, some 13 years ago. China leads India by 13 years mainly because we started reform and opening-up 13 years earlier. India has its advantages, such as a large number of English speaking population, the population dividend, a booming market, a sound legal system, as well as its leading role in IT, bio-pharmaceuticals and Bollywood, to name just a few.

Compared with China, India has a few disadvantages. Globally, the current trend of anti-globalization and anti-free trade is not in line with India’s open-up efforts. India’s neighboring environment is different from that of China. China’s reform and opening-up benefited from its proximity to developed economies like Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore. Shenzhen grew into a major metropolis mainly thanks to its closeness to Hong Kong. China and India differ in political systems and China enjoys stronger policy consistency. India’s political system has its own advantages but sometimes may cause fluctuations in its policies or at least in its pace of development. As soon as China set reform and opening-up as its center task, the whole nation is in full sail. China’s accession to the WTO is a typical example where domestic development and reform are boosted through external factors. After I came to India, one of my
impressions is that some bureaucrats of India, to a certain extent, could not catch up with the pace of its politicians. Some policies are implemented too slowly. At the same time, Pradeshes are keener on attracting investments and expanding trade relations with foreign countries.

In this context, like the Indian initiatives, China’s OBOR focuses on improving regional connectivity and economic cooperation, especially infrastructure building. It can meet the need of the countries along the OBOR and provide India and other regional countries with important opportunities. We have noted that India is relatively positive to the BCIM Economic Corridor, and hosted the third meeting of the BCIM Economic Corridor Joint Study Group not long ago. As a founding member of AIIB, India has appointed the Vice President to the Bank. Just a few days ago, the AIIB granted funds for the projects under India’s “Power for All” in Andhra Pradesh.

However, India still has reservations over the OBOR, saying that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passes through the Pakistan-Controlled-Kashmir, raising sovereignty concerns. China has no intention to get involved in the sovereignty and territorial disputes between India and Pakistan. China supports the solution of the disputes through bilateral negotiations between the two countries. The CPEC is for promoting economic cooperation and connectivity. It has no connections to or impact on sovereignty issues. China and India have had successful experience of delinking sovereignty disputes with bilateral relations before. In history, we have had close cooperation along the ancient Silk Road. Why shouldn’t we support this kind of cooperation today? In a word, China is sincere in its intention to cooperate with India on the OBOR, as it is good for both of us.

Some Indian media say that China always puts Pakistan first when handling its relations with South Asia countries. I want to tell you this is not true. Simply put, we always put China first and we deal with problems based on their own merits. Take Kashmir issue for example, we supported the relevant UN resolutions before 1990s. Then we supported a settlement through bilateral negotiation in line with the Simla Agreement. This is an example of China taking care of India’s concern. Today few Indian friends remember this episode, or they have chosen to forget it. On Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) issue, we do not oppose any country’s membership, believing that a standard for admission should be agreed upon first. On promoting India-Pakistan reconciliation, we hope that both sides could live together in peace, because this is conducive to regional stability in the interests of China. The development of China, India, Pakistan and the stability of the whole region call for a stable and friendly environment. Otherwise, how could we open up and develop? That’s why we say we are willing to mediate when India and Pakistan have problems. But the precondition is that both India and Pakistan accept it. We do this only out of good will. We do hope that there is no problem at all. When the Mumbai Terrorist Attack on November 26, 2008, took place, I was Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, and I did a lot of mediation at that time.

Friends,

Now I want to move on to the topic of China-India counter-terrorism cooperation. Last November, Mr. Meng Jianzhu, Special Envoy of President Xi Jinping and Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Committee of the CPC Central Committee visited India. He met with Prime Minister Modi and Minister of Home Affairs Singh. The two sides had in-depth communications on counter-terrorism and security cooperation. Before that, the two sides held the High-level Security and Counter-terrorism Meeting, opening a new chapter in law enforcement and security cooperation between our two countries. I attended all the meetings and was great encouraged.

China has been a victim of terrorism. In the 1990s, the Taliban trained East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) elements. Then the ETIM elements took hide along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border area, threatening security and stability of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China. As a UN sanctioned terrorist group, ETIM is still creating trouble for us today, and we are ready to step up counter-terrorism cooperation with India and Pakistan. While I was Ambassador to Pakistan, I got to realize that Pakistan also suffered seriously from terrorism. Back then, my 9-year-old daughter was with me in Pakistan. Every time we returned China for holiday, upon arriving at the Beijing Airport, she would let out a sigh of relief, saying that finally she could hang out freely. What I want to say is, first, China strongly opposes terrorism; second, China is ready to work with India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the international community in fighting terrorism, and believes that terrorism knows no borders; third, countries need to have compatible policies, consensus and actions in fighting terrorism.

Thank you.
Chairman Sudheendra Kulkarni, Distinguished Ambassadors and Scholars, Dear Friends,

Namaste and Good Morning!

First of all, on behalf of Ambassador Luo Zhaohui and Consul General Zheng Xiyuan, I’d like to thank the Observer Research Foundation (Mumbai) for the invitation and congratulate you on the opening of the conference. I want to send my special regards to Shri Kulkarni, organizer of the conference. Without your courage, vision, popularity and coordination, we wouldn’t have had this great event.

President Xi Jinping will host the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation from 14th to 15th May in Beijing. Leaders from 28 countries and the UN Secretary-General will attend the forum. Delegates of various social sectors from 110 countries 61 international organizations will also participate in related meetings under the framework of this Forum. This Forum features cooperation and win-win results. Delegates will review past achievements and charter the future course to realize an early harvest of the Belt and Road Initiative. The event will usher in a new stage and leave a deep mark in
China India Relations

history.

I notice that recently Indian media, scholars and think tanks have paid more attention to the Belt and Road Initiative, and also had some debates. The core questions they raise are: whether India should join the Belt and Road Initiative, and is the Belt and Road Initiative good or bad for India.

In this context, I’m glad to have an in-depth exchange of views with you on the Belt and Road Initiative and share with you my own observations on your concerns.

First of all, from a historical and cultural perspective, India has always been on the Belt and Road.

Not long ago, I visited the ruins of the ancient Nalanda University and Xuanzang Memorial Hall in Rajgir in Bihar. Master Xuanzang is well known in both India and China. He set out from Chang’an City of China, went through the Xinjiang region of China, Central Asia, Afghanistan, Kashmir and finally reached Nalanda University. Xuanzang stayed and studied in India for 17 years, travelled across India and returned along the Silk Road to China.

Xuanzang wrote a book titled Report of the Regions West of Great Tang, which gives a precise depiction of local conditions, customs and religious environment of dozens of kingdoms in the Indian subcontinent. The book is incredibly accurate. Xuanzang contributed greatly in today’s reconstruction of Indian history and the study of ancient Silk Road.

A hundred years before Xuanzang, guru Bodhidharma from southern India came to China by the maritime Silk Road. He developed Chinese Zen Buddhism and played an important role in the flourishing of Buddhism in China. The Shaolin Temple where he worked as Abbot is well known among Indian friends as it is the cradle of Chinese Kongfu.

Over 600 years ago, the envoy of Chinese Ming Dynasty Zhenghe had led an expedition fleet to the West for 7 times and berthed in Calicut of Kerala Pradesh for 6 times. In the not faraway Cochin, local people are still building and using fishing nets learned from Zhenghe and his fleet. These Chinese fishing nets are not only means of livelihood for local people but have become landmark tourism sites.

Buffalo, cotton, spinach, Buddhism, Gandhara arts, Indian astronomy, medicine and science had been spread to countries along the ancient Silk Road including China. Similarly, China’s silk, porcelain, peach, pear, tea, art of printing, gunpowder and paper had vastly enriched Indian people’s life and changed India’s economic and social history.

In the more than ten centuries before the western colonists invaded India and China, Chinese, Indian and Arabic merchant ships were navigating intensively between South China Sea, East China Sea and Indian Ocean and huge flow of people, information and trade occurred with the help of monsoon. This is the prelude of today’s globalization. China and India are the pioneers of economic globalization.

Today’s Belt and Road Initiative is stretching in two directions, the land and the sea, roughly similar to the ancient Silk Road network. The Belt and Road Initiative is the inheritance and upgrade of the ancient Silk Road, as well as the revival of the ancient Silk Road and Asia. Both India and China are the major founders and contributors of the ancient Silk Road, and forged the Silk Road spirit of peaceful cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning, mutual benefit and win-win results. The two countries should resume the common efforts and continue to work to revive the Silk Road.

Second, from the perspective of reality, India has already closely linked to the Belt and Road Initiative.

Before the Belt and Road Initiative was put forward, China, India and other countries have reached consensus on the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor, established inter-governmental cooperation mechanism and held a series of meetings. The BCIM Economic Corridor is listed as one of the six land economic corridors of the Belt and Road Initiative. The new round of Joint Working Group meeting on BCIM Economic Corridor will be held at the end of this month in Kolkata.

In 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative as well as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which aims to provide financial support for the infrastructure construction in the countries along the routes of the Belt and Road Initiative. India gave positive response to China’s proposal and held the second round of negotiation working group meeting in Mumbai. India contributed 8 billion US dollars and
became the second largest shareholder at the AIIB.

Last month, the unanimous adoption of Resolution 2344 on Afghanistan issues by the U.N. Security Council called for consensus on assisting Afghanistan and strengthening regional economic cooperation through the Belt and Road Initiative. The resolution urged all parties to provide security safeguard for the Belt and Road Initiative, strengthen the synergy of development strategy and push the cooperation of connectivity. The U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific and the United Nations Development Programme both signed cooperation agreements with China on the Belt and Road Initiative.

China is strongly pushing for the integration of the development strategies between the Belt and Road Initiative and Shanghai Cooperation Organization and its member states. India will be an official member state of SCO, it will be bound by the obligation of documents and treaty and contribute to the development of SCO in the future. China welcomes and congratulates India’s membership. The Joint Communiqués of Meeting of Council of Heads of SCO Members indicated that “the leaders reiterated their support to the initiative of the Silk Road Economic Belt and agreed to continue the efforts to implement the initiative as one of the approach of creating advantage for Regional economic cooperation”.

Third, the Belt and Road Initiative does not refer to just one “Belt” or one “Road”, it is a network of regional cooperation and systematic project with global significance.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a general term of Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, which were announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his respective visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia at the end of 2013.

This magnificent Initiative may be briefly summarized from number “1” to number “8”

“1”: Jointly build one community of shared interests, development, responsibility and destiny. The community will be different from European Union which is characterized by transfer of sovereignty and high-level institutionalization, but is based on respect for sovereignty of countries, uphold the principles of openness, equality and a step-by-step approach, and accommodate each other’s comfort level, in order to achieve regional integration, lasting peace and prosperity.

“2”: Take Asian and European continents and their adjacent seas as the core, land and sea as the two wings, and plug two wings for the Asia “Garuda”.

“3”: The Initiative should be jointly built by consultation to meet the interests of all. It was initiated by China, but will not be monopolized by China. The relation between China and other countries concerned is not that between donor and recipient. It is different with the Marshall Plan in nature.

“4”: The Belt and Road Initiative will have a direct influence on 4 billion people in Eurasia. Over 40 countries have signed the Belt and Road Initiative cooperation agreements with China. At the Forum in May this year, another over 40 countries and international organizations will discuss and sign cooperation agreements with China. So far, the Belt and Road Initiative has been supported by over 100 countries and international organizations, including developing countries such as Mongolia, Nepal, Malaysia, as well as developed ones such as UK, Germany and France.

“5”: To promote policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds are the five major goals of the Belt and Road Initiative.

“6”: The Belt and Road Initiative will focus on developing six economic corridors: new Eurasian Land Bridge, China-Mongolia-Russia, China-Central Asia-West Asia, China-Pakistan, Bangladesh-China-India-Indochina Peninsular economic corridors.

“7”: The Initiative mainly covers 7 plates: Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, West Asia and North Africa, Russia, Europe and other areas. The Initiative is open to all sharing similar goals. It mainly focuses on the Euroasian continent, yet is not limited to the area of the ancient Silk Road and Euroasian countries. Recently, president Xi Jinping welcomed the participation of the U.S. in the Belt and Road Initiative during his meeting with President Trump. China has also inked a cooperation agreement on the Initiative with New Zealand, a remote South Pacific nation.

“8”: Facilities connectivity, industrialization, exploration of
energy sources, economic and trade cooperation, financial cooperation, cultural exchanges, environment protection and maritime cooperation are 8 priority areas for implementing the Initiative.

Fourth, the idea of The Belt and Road Initiative is not something coming out of the blue. It is a well-perceived initiative of lasting importance based on many years of practice. It will not only benefit China, but also countries along the routes.

The Silk Road is a historical and cultural heritage shared among countries in the Eurasia continent. During the past decades, the United Nations system, Turkey, the United States and Japan all have put forward regional cooperation initiatives related to Silk Road. But they all have limitations. Many people of vision and countries along the routes hope to revitalize the ancient Silk Road, to expand it and make the Silk Road shine again. China is located along the main section of the ancient Silk Road, the very word “Silk Road” was proposed by Mr. Richthofen from Germany after his survey in China. Therefore, it is a logical and well-deserved move for China to put forward such an initiative named after the Silk Road for a new-type of regional cooperation.

After the cold war, Asian regional cooperation and inter-regional cooperation began to take off, new mechanisms emerging such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization, the Asia Europe Meeting, China-Japan-ROK East Asia Cooperation and Shanghai Cooperation Organization. These mechanisms have played their respective roles and are complementary to each other. However, they are compartmentalized and fragmented and regional countries have always been yearning for large scale and in-depth cooperation across Europe, Asia and Africa by connecting all kinds of regional cooperation mechanisms. The Belt and Road Initiative meets this need.

For a long time, the eastern and western wings of the Eurasia continent have been rich, and the coastal areas of countries are also relatively richer. This is the result of colonial rule by the West and in line with economic rules. This has caused the economic “cave-in” of the interior of Eurasia continent and the inland areas of countries. Regional economic imbalance is thus created and worsened. How to bring the advantages of the inland areas, optimize the distribution of economic elements and fundamentally solve problems like poverty and extremism in Asia? The Belt and Road Initiative is no doubt a useful attempt.

Asia is rich in savings and strong in demand for investment. At the same time, Asia faces a financing gap in infrastructure construction up to 1.7 trillion US dollars per year. However, the financing resources available from the treasury of regional countries and multilateral financial institutions can only meet less than 15% of the need. The Belt and Road Initiative and the associated AIIB and the Silk Road Fund are an attempt to foster new demands by providing effective supply, accelerating infrastructure building, and turning the savings into effective investment. This way, new driving forces for economic growth can be formed and world economy can be rebalanced.

To get rich, you need road and bridge. There have been connectivity projects across the Eurasia for decades, but there are still a lot of unfinished roads and institutional hindrance to cross-border transportation. For example, China and India, each with over 1.3 billion people, are still not connected by railways. The Stilwell Road built during the Second World War does not play its due role, there are only 40 plus direct flights between the two countries each week, considerably less than the 1000 direct flights per week between China and South Korea. New Delhi and Islamabad are not far apart, but it is more expensive to transport containers by land between the two cities than from Mumbai to London by sea, and takes almost the same time. The Belt and Road Initiative takes connectivity as its priority, and aims at speed up connectivity of transportation networks by land, sea and air, as well as that between the pipelines, power grids, telecommunication, satellites and internet within Eurasia and with other regions to reduce transaction and people exchange costs, so that products from the inland areas can sell a good price and children from the countryside can have better access to quality education, medical services and internet connection.

In China’s case, during the early years of reform and opening up, cities in the eastern coastal area took the lead and got rich first, the focus of trade and investment cooperation was that with developed countries, while priority was given to introducing foreign investment. Today with China’s economy entering the new normal, we need fully unleash the geographical and resource potential of middle and western China and realize balanced
and coordinated development of different regions. There is a need to do more business with developing countries and balance inbound and outbound investment, and push for domestic reform by more in-depth and larger scale opening up. The Belt and Road Initiative meets a host of internal and external needs and is conducive to the upgrading of China’s economy and long term stability of frontier regions.

China is a responsible major country. As China develops, it is willing and able to provide more public goods to neighboring countries and the international community. All are welcome to ride on the fast train of China’s growth.

China is not just talking the talk in promoting the Belt and Road Initiative. We take our commitments seriously and put in a lot of real work. China’s direct investment to countries along the Belt and Road Initiative routes exceeds 50 billion US dollars, a number of landmark projects, like the Jakarta-Bandung high speed railway, Budapest-CBelgrade railway, Laos-China railway, China-Myanmar gas pipeline and Egypt Suez economic and trade cooperation zone have been launched. Not long ago, the first rail freight train succeeded in setting off from Yiwu City of Zhejiang Province in China to London. In 2016, China’s trade in goods with countries along the Belt and Road Initiative routes was nearly 1 trillion US dollars, and its growth rate overtook that of China’s overall foreign trade. Chinese businesses have established 56 economic and trade cooperation zones in over 20 countries along the routes, with a total investment of over 1.5 billion US dollars, contributing almost 1.1 billion US dollars tax revenue and 180000 jobs to the host countries.

China contributes nearly 30 billion US dollars of founding capital of AIIB, 40 billion US dollars to the Silk Road Fund and 41 billion US dollars to BRICS New Development Bank. We are putting in solid money and the projects invested have yielded concrete benefits to people in the countries concerned.

Fifth, the Belt and Road Initiative doesn’t affect India’s territorial and sovereignty interests and will benefit South Asian countries, including India, in the long run.

Some Indian friends say that they are not against the Belt and Road Initiative and they support connectivity, yet as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor surpasses the northern Kashmir, the Indian side has serious concern over related territorial sovereignty issue.

My point is if this is the only reason that affects Indian friends’ will to join the Belt and Road Initiative, this concern could be resolved.

Reason 3: China has no intention to interfere in the territorial and sovereignty disputes between India and its neighbors. The Belt and Road Initiative and CPEC aim at promoting economic cooperation and connectivity, it is not related with or affecting sovereignty disputes. China’s position on the Kashmir issue has not changed either.

I sincerely hope that Indian friends study carefully the Agreement Between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of Pakistan on the Boundary Between China’s Xinjiang and the Contiguous Areas the Defense of Which is Under the Actual Control of Pakistan signed in 1963. The title and content of this Agreement have fully accommodated India’s concern.

The Article 6 of this Agreement is read as following: The two Parties have agreed that after the settlement of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, the sovereign authority concerned will reopen negotiations with the Government of the People’s Republic of China, on the boundary as described in Article Two of the present Agreement, so as to sign a formal Boundary Treaty to replace the present agreement...

Reason 4: CPEC is an economic project focusing on development and prioritizing energy and transportation infrastructure, which is the dire need of Pakistani people. Currently, the 18 early harvest projects are progressing smoothly and have so far created 13,000 jobs for local people. Pakistani people would be lifted out of poverty and
power shortage, and enjoy more open and better life. CPEC serves the common interests of regional countries to address both the symptoms and root causes of terrorism and extremism. This is also India’s expectation, isn’t it?

Reason 5: CPEC is open, transparent, market-driven and international, in compliance with economic logic and legal procedures. Some friends have already suggested that CPEC could extend to India in the future, and BCIM Economic Corridor could be connected with India’s North-South Transport Corridor.

Sixth, China and India may well cooperate on the Belt and Road Initiative related areas and jointly build an “Asian Age”.

China and India have established the strategic partnership for peace and prosperity and a closer developmental partnership. China always adheres to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and respects the reasonable concerns and interests of the Indian side. India plays an important role in the process of global multi-polarization, and China welcomes India to play a bigger and more constructive role in regional as well as global affairs. The sky and ocean of Asia is big enough for the dragon and elephant to dance together, which will bring a true Asian Age.

The Belt and Road Initiative focuses on development, aims for global multi-polarity and democracy by multilateralism, regionalism instead of alignment and sphere of influence. This concept is in line with Indian diplomacy.

In today’s world where anti-globalization, protectionism and isolation are on the rise, the Belt and Road Initiative could serve as the new force for openness, cooperation and free trade. It is a typical model of sharing economy, which could help India to integrate further into global industrial and value chain.

India is promoting “Act East”, “Think West”, “Sagarmala Project”, “Diamond Quadrilateral” and the “North South Transport Corridor”, which has connectivity as its core. If those policies could be connected with the Belt and Road Initiative, will certainly achieve the effect of “one plus one equals more than two”.

India has lot of remarkable tourism resources, and many of them are related with Buddhism and Maritime Silk Road. Experts and businessmen suggest that if China and India could jointly develop quality tourist route, build on infrastructure and promotion, the number of Chinese tourists to India would be more than two hundred thousand as of now, or even more than two million since China’s outbound tourism is 120 million last year. On average, a Chinese tourist would spend 2,300 US dollars overseas and that would be a huge benefit of Silk Road tourism for India.

Both China and India are actively participating in the new round of global industrialization and developing new manufacturing industry. An important part of the Belt and Road Initiative is industrial capacity cooperation, which includes financial support measures. Recently China has signed industrial capacity cooperation agreements with more than 10 countries along the Belt and Road Initiative route. One of them is with Kazakhstan which involves 51 projects with a value of 26.8 billion US dollars. China has also established many investment funds with central Asia and West Asia countries. China banks successfully issued the Belt and Road Initiative bonds in some countries to finance key projects.

Chinese companies have supported and participated in the “Make in India” with a total investment of 5 billion US dollars so far. But there is much to explore considering the amount with other countries as well as investment potential between China and India. If India would join the Belt and Road Initiative, it will be a huge boost for our capacity investment and financial cooperation, and there will be more and better solution for trade deficit which is India side concerns.

India has its own “Project Mausam” and “Spice Route”, which could be complementary with the Silk Road. China is willing to study and participate in how the projects could integrate with the Belt and Road Initiative, and enhance the people-to-people exchanges between China and India as well as countries along the way.

Three years since its inception, the Belt and Road Initiative has received more appreciation and progress than expected. It is not a China-Only initiative, but an international agenda and multilateral action. Under the framework of the Initiative, there have been a series of new platforms, models, rules and projects of cooperation. If you join early, you would benefit earlier and effectively express your concerns.

For example, the international freight transport between Lanzhou,
China and Kathmandu, Nepal was opened last year. The combined railway-highway transportation took only 10 days, and the cost is close to sea transportation. If it further connected to India in the future, the social and economic benefits would be even greater. The Chinese side has proposed to build China-India-Nepal Economic Corridor and the Himalaya Economic Rim, and we look forward to positive response from the Indian side.

As something new, the Belt and Road Initiative is bound to face obstacles and challenges, including how to align the interests of different countries, political and security risks in countries along the route, investment return and financing method for major projects, competition and cooperation between different platforms, future mechanism construction and so on. China and related countries are fully aware of these problems. We will have in-depth discussion at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and try to solve them through Asian people's wisdom. Confidence will overcome suspicions, and there will be more solutions than problems. The Belt and Road Initiative will only advance rather than fall back. The Belt will be build wider, and the Road be made broader.

When the idea of AIIB was first proposed, there were many doubts and obstacles. Western countries believe that developing countries are unable to build a modern, international and high-standard multilateral financial institution. But what happened next? Those western countries rushed to join, and there are still 25 countries on the waiting list.

India is an important partner of the Belt and Road Initiative. It was, remains and will be so in the future. I used to take charge of the Belt and Road Initiative affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. When the idea of the Initiative was initially put forward and before Vision and Actions of the Belt and Road Initiative was released, the Chinese side briefed the Indian side thoroughly through diplomatic channel. Through high-level dialogues, diplomatic consultations and academic discussions, the Chinese side introduces to the Indian side the origin, content and influence of the Belt and Road Initiative. Without hesitation, the Chinese side sincerely invites the Indian side to join many the Belt and Road Initiative forums in the first place, including the Forum to be held next month.

India is a country with distinctive character and China always respects India's independent diplomatic choices. China is willing to discuss all problems and possibilities with India on the basis of mutual benefits. In May 2015, President Xi conveyed to Prime Minister Modi that the two sides can enhance communications on initiatives of the Belt and Road Initiative, AIIB as well as India's Act East policy, find out where our interests converge, synergize each other's policies, discuss mutually beneficial cooperation models, and enhance common development. The two countries need to link our development strategies even closer and be complimentary for our economies on a higher level. As the double engine for regional and global economic growth, we need to work together to push forward regional integration and contribute to global economy. Prime Minister Modi also said that India and China are providing support and assistance to South Asian countries. China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative, India also values connectivity in South Asia which would facilitate regional development and prosperity. In this regard, India would like to strengthen cooperation with China in the field.

A close look at the speech by President Xi at Davos World Economic forum and the one by Prime Minister Modi at Raisina Dialogue this year indicate that they share strikingly similar views on globalization. Both leaders believe that globalization will not end, but instead, countries need to adapt to globalization. To confine oneself in a cage or build walls is certainly no way out.

The Belt and Road Initiative and connectivity is not only the cause of country leaders and knowledgeable men, but also has witnessed lots of common people participating. I have noticed recent news saying that a 61-year-old postman named Tamang in Sikkim has been going through the Nathula Pass in the bordering area between China and India to exchange mailbags every day for 25 years under all weather conditions. He is a civil envoy promoting China-India friendship and connectivity.

All these serve as a solid foundation and provide enough room for our discussion today. I do hope that the discussion today as well as those in the future, will be worthy of the trust bestowed by this great era and our peoples.

Thank you.
Beijing, May 6 (Xinhua) — For centuries, the ancient Silk Road has been floating in the long river of history like a golden silk ribbon. Now, high-speed railways and roads have replaced the once busy camels and horses, transforming the old silk road, under the Belt and Road Initiative, into a fast lane connecting Asia and Europe.

SILK ROAD DREAM OF UZBEK “ZHANG QIAN”

Uzbek young man Munisov Zarkamol lived in Samarkand, a 3,000-year-old city nicknamed the “Pearl of the Orient” on the ancient Silk Road.

From childhood, Zarkamol has been obsessed with China and the Chinese culture thanks to his mother. After studying day and night for almost a decade, he got enrolled at Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages in 2011 and chose the Chinese language as his major.

The learning process was not easy. Zarkamol remembered that he couldn’t tell the difference between two Chinese characters with similar sounds in his first listening class. However, after years of patient tutoring by his Chinese teachers, he managed to conquer the language obstacles one by one.

From his first speech in Chinese, first song in Chinese, first stage role as the famous Chinese diplomat of the Han Dynasty Zhang Qian, to his first tasting of Chinese food, first
experience with Chinese customs, Zarkamol has been intrigued by the rich Chinese culture, and aspired to learn more.

In 2015, the young man took part in the 14th “Chinese Bridge” Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students and made it to the final round as one of the top ten contestants. After the competition, he was offered an opportunity to study International Relations and Diplomacy at Shanghai University with a Confucius Institute scholarship.

Coming from Samarkand and having such a close relationship with China, Zarkamol has a long-time dream of becoming a civil diplomat connecting Uzbek and Chinese people, just as Zhang Qian did 2,000 years ago.

With the implementation of China’s Belt and Road Initiative, his dream is coming true.

IRANIAN GIRL’S CHINA DREAM

Similar to Zarkamol, Iranian girl Nasim Kharkanghamsari’s interest in China was aroused by her father during her childhood. “He would point to the Silk Road, and told me that Iran and China have been friends since ancient times...I would frequently envision ancient people with long gowns and Mandarin jackets riding camels and walking in the desert, carrying spices,” she said.

Eight years ago, after Nasim graduated from high school, the only university in Iran which has a Chinese major was recruiting students, once in three years. She immediately signed up for it and was enrolled.

“It’s like everything was arranged by destiny, just like that. Fate matched me up with the Chinese language,” she said.

Four years of college passed by quickly, and Nasim graduated. Her Chinese improved a lot and she found a pretty good job. However, she still felt something missing in her life.

“I asked myself many times: Is this the life I want? Where is the Silk Road I had dreamed of? I wanted to truly follow the route, learn skills, and shoulder the responsibility and mission of a cultural envoy. I was unable to find inner peace.”

After convincing her parents,
she applied for a Confucius Institute scholarship and prepared to go to China for further study. During the pursuit of her “China dream,” something surprising happened. A young man of a higher grade expressed his love to Nasim, and decided to go to China with her. They are now happily married in China. “I wish to thank the Silk Road and the Chinese language as they have given me this life and love,” Nasim said.

Belt and Road in Eyes of Locals in Participating Countries

Beijing, May 12 (Xinhua) — At the port of Gwadar in southwest Pakistan, Afchad runs a 30-square-meter Chinese convenience store. Dry noodles, sauces, and cans are stacked at the corner, and various snacks are displayed in glass cabinet, including spicy tofu cooked gluten, a popular Chinese specialty food.

A lot of Afchad’s clients are Chinese, who are the builders of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a cooperation program under the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China in 2013. Thanks to the project, Gwadar, once a coastal fishing town, has now been drawing investors in flocks. The implementation of the initiative has brought significant changes for the daily life of Afchad and other people in Gwadar.

From Querying to Chasing

For those who live in Kantone, a small village in Myanmar, long-awaited electricity has become a reality, due to a copper mine project facilitated by the Belt and Road...
Initiative.

“We watch TV everyday; we have air conditioners. These were completely unimaginable in the past,” said Pu Maung, a local resident.

However, villagers were not cooperative at the beginning.

The Letpadaung copper mine project in Monywa, Myanmar, was launched in 2012 by China’s Wanbao Mining Copper Ltd. Its construction had been repeatedly interrupted by protests from some local people dissatisfied with the land takeovers and concerned over potential environmental impact.

Wanbao made great efforts to win over the local people’s understanding and support, sooth concerns, solve problems and offer a series of measures benefitting their livelihood. The copper mine was finally put into operation in March 2016.

Now, all the 33 villages near the site of the copper mine, no matter relocated or not, have electricity. This is not usual in Myanmar, where frequent blackouts occur due to a lack of electricity, even in big cities.

In order to help villagers overcome poverty, the Chinese company also taught them job skills, and provided start-up capital for some villagers to set up brick factories, cement plants, chicken farms and trailer teams.

Wanbao has also hired a mobile medical team from Yangon to provide medical services to the local communities.

In recent years, villagers have seen their income significantly increased and medical services and infrastructure greatly improved. Those who used to oppose the Letpadaung project now compete to work for it. A position at the copper mine may attract as many as 100 applicants.

FROM SURVIVAL TO PROSPERITY

“Thanks” has been the word repeated many times by Pablo Cordova during his chat with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Nov. 18, 2016.

“I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. President for your country’s aid to Ecuador,” the 52-
A year ago, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit the South American country and killed more than 600 people, marking it the worst in 70 years.

The quake flattened the hotel where Cordova worked in Portoviejo, a city in the western Manabi province. He had been trapped under debris for 46 hours before being rescued thanks to an ECU-911 call.

The nationwide ECU-911 system, constructed by a subsidiary of China Electronics Corp., is a relief command center in response to disasters. But in daily life, it works as a security network as well. Currently, there are 16 ECU-911 centers across the country.

For Cordova of Ecuador, Chinese technology saved his life; for Lotfy Rajae of Tunisia, Chinese technology is the start of his entrepreneurship and the foundation of his successful career.

Twenty-six years ago, Rajae was 18 and had learned some mechanical repairing skills from his father. He was recruited by Sinohydro Corp., a Chinese state-owned enterprise.

“Chinese mechanics are highly skilled. I learned from every one of them and gradually became an expert mechanic myself,” Rajae said. The engineering computation methods he had learned from his Chinese colleagues laid a solid foundation for his career, he added.

Rajae now owns diversified properties in Tunisia, including the just-opened Forest Club, which covers more than 20,000 square meters and boasts various sports facilities. His business covers real estate development, municipal projects construction, auto trading and advertising.

In 2015, Rajae and Sinohydro succeeded in a joint bidding for a construction project of a large dam in the west of Tunisia. After starting out as a mechanic, Rajae had risen through the ranks to become a partner of Sinohydro.

“Sinohydro is just like my mother; without it, I would never be who I am today,” Rajae said.

FROM CONNECTIVITY TO RECIPROCITY
Eying neighboring China as a big consumer, an increasing number of Russian fishermen have exported seafood, such as king crabs and lobsters, to China over the past few years, said Kareyev, a fisherman who has been working in Vladivostok for years.

Vladivostok is the administrative center of the Primorsky region in the Russian Far East. The Belt and Road Initiative has been welcomed by the region’s government, governor Vladimir Miklushevsky told Xinhua.

The region and China share a common borderline stretching as long as 1,100 km. Two transit corridors — one linking the Nakhodka Port with China’s Heilongjiang Province and the other connecting the Zarubino Port with China’s Jilin Province — are under construction in order to connect Asia with Europe, boost products and personnel exchange and promote economic development.

The checkpoint on the border between China’s Suifenhe city in Heilongjiang Province and Russia’s Pogranichny town in Primorsky is crowded with Russian freight trucks, which cannot wait to enter China loaded with wood, seafood, oil and other products.

Sergey, one of the truck drivers at the checkpoint, told Xinhua that he usually makes one round trip per day in winter, and two when it gets warmer.

For Kazakh freight driver Daulet, here is something to his great excitement: the overhaul of an old bumpy road from Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan to Horgos, a border city in China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

“The eight-to-nine-hour drive from Almaty to Horgos would be shortened to five or even four,” Daulet said, noting that he wants to drive to Xinjiang when the project is completed.

The road is part of a trans-regional highway that links Lianyungang in East China’s Jiangsu Province and St. Petersburg, Russia. It’s an infrastructure project under the Belt and Road Initiative. It also links the European road network.

Stronger transport ties have enabled a more stable goods supply for Kazakh merchants and a greater selection of food products in the supermarkets. Agricultural products imported from China, such as leeks, cowpeas and garlic shoots have been diversifying the Kazakh people’s winter diet, which used to include only cabbages, potatoes and carrots.

At the other end of the transport link, the Chinese people are getting familiar with Kazakh specialties such as camel milk and horse meat sausages. The expansion of modern infrastructure service under the Belt and Road Initiative is improving the income of local residents in participating countries.
BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR WHOLE WORLD — EXPERTS

by Naim-Ul-Karim

Dhaka, May 14 (Xinhua) — The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China provides opportunities for the whole world to promote peace and prosperity, experts in Bangladesh said Sunday.

The initiative will surely bolster cooperation and stability, and help Asia become the world’s new economic center of gravity, the experts said.

While protectionism keeps rising in some countries, China has proposed the Road and Belt Initiative which emphasizes open trade, Muhammad Mahmood, former head of the School of Economics and Finance of Victoria University, told Xinhua.

The Belt of Road Initiative will greatly contribute to open trade, key to economic prosperity, which will stimulate growth and peace, and which will lead to a win-win situation for all, Mahmood said.

The initiative, proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, aims to build trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes over land and sea.

The Belt and Road should be built into a belt and road for peace, as the pursuit of the initiative requires a peaceful and stable environment, Xi said as he addressed the opening of the Belt and Road Forum for
International Cooperation on Sunday in Beijing.

“We should foster a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation; and we should forge partnerships of dialogue with no confrontation and of friendship rather than alliance,” Xi said.

“President Xi also expressed his willingness to work with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the BRICS New Development Bank and the World Bank to support Belt and Road related projects. Countries like Bangladesh will immensely benefit from joining in the initiative,” he added.

Bangladeshi experts, who highly lauded China’s contribution to socioeconomic development of the world, said the initiative of reviving the ancient Silk Road through a network of roads and maritime waterways will surely be a boon for cooperation between China and the rest of the world.

President Xi said in his speech at the opening of the forum that China will contribute an additional 100 billion yuan (about 14.5 billion U.S. dollars) to the Silk Road Fund.

Mahbubur Rashid, a senior journalist of The Financial Express, Bangladesh’s well-known English financial daily newspaper, said the Belt and Road Initiative will help the developing countries.

He said China’s peaceful development is a blessing and opportunity for countries which face extreme difficulties given the rising protectionism in some countries.

“The Belt and Road Initiative is a ray of hope for the countries like Bangladesh which are in dire need of fund to develop mega infrastructures to maintain economic growth,” he added.

Gowher Rizvi, an adviser to the Bangladesh prime minister on
international affairs, said recently that China has been immensely supporting Bangladesh in its economic development.

Participation in the initiative enables Bangladesh to expedite its connectivity vision in order to realize its sub-regional development aspirations, Gowher said.

Rehman Sobhan, chairman of Bangladesh’s leading think-tank Centre for Policy Dialogue, said he is witnessing recombination of economic and financial power in Asia.

“This means the whole concept of the initiative, of constructive infrastructure, is not some sort of imaginative concept. It is really grounded in certain objectives such as economic and financial realities,” Rehman said.

“Huge resources are readily available with China and beyond. Asia is now poised to create a more integrated global order, the center of which is in Asia,” he added.

According to the experts, countries on the Belt and Road, especially those with underdeveloped infrastructure, low investment rates and per-capita income, could experience a boost in trade flow and benefit from infrastructure development.

YOUNG KAZAKH BUILDING A CAREER ON MODERN SILK ROAD

Urumqi, May 5 (Xinhua) — “There are two imported things in my company, one is the oil, the other is me,” said Miras Kilybayev, deputy director of Jinsi Oil in the bonded zone of Alataw Pass bordering Kazakhstan in China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The Kazakhstan businessman, 25, works for one of the largest agricultural companies in his country. Last year, he was sent to
China to expand the company’s business.

“The whole world is looking at the Chinese market, so we can’t afford to ignore it,” he said.

Kilybayev learned Chinese at Tsinghua University and chemical engineering at Beijing Institute of Technology from 2008 to 2014. After graduation he returned to Kazakhstan, but deep down, he knew he would come back to China.

“The first time I was in China, I bought a bottle of local cooking oil from a supermarket. It tasted different and made me homesick,” said Kilybayev who speaks not only Kazakh and Chinese, but also English and Russian.

According to him, farmers in Kazakhstan follow traditional farming methods, use non-GMO seeds, and seldom add fertilizers.

“Low yields guarantee high quality, especially in the northern province, where my company manages 20,000 hectares of arable land,” Kilybayev said.

At its first factory — also the first foreign-funded enterprise — established in the bonded zone, Kilybayev’s company received support from the local government: from streamlined approval procedures, low-cost office space to considerable subsidies.

The oil refinery, with a total investment of 20 million yuan (2.9 million U.S. dollars), went into operation in July last year. Crude cooking oil is transported by train from Kazakhstan. Customs duties and value-added taxes are exempted in the bonded zone.

“It’s like producing in my own country,” Kilybayev said.

The daily output has risen to nearly 100 tonnes. Demand is also increasing rapidly, thanks to local
government connections with Chinese distributors.

“Our products are on the shelves across Xinjiang, including the regional capital Urumqi. In June, we will enter Guangdong and Jiangxi provinces in south and east China,” Kilybayev said.

The Alataw Pass is one of the busiest land ports on the modern Silk Road. Last year, a total of 1,727 China-Europe and China-Central Asia freight trains passed through the port, an increase of 35 percent year on year, with the volume of goods transported exceeding 1.3 million tonnes, said Yang Yonghong, head of Alataw Pass train station.

More foreign products, including agricultural products from Kazakhstan, are now transported to China by rail.

Nine Chinese cities, including Chengdu, Chongqing, Xi’an and Yiwu, have launched China-Europe trains travelling via the Alataw Pass, which makes Kilybayev optimistic about in his company’s future.

“We have recently decided to open a flour mill and a poultry farm next to the refinery to bring more quality agricultural products from Kazakhstan,” he said.

“I will be living in China longer than I originally expected, but my fiancee will be coming so I won’t be lonely,” said Kilybayev, who is getting married this August.

Culture & Life

SCENERY OF URUMQI IN NW CHINA’S XINJIANG

Photo shows night scene of Urumqi, capital of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. (Xinhua/Jiang Wenyao)
Tourists buy musical instruments at the Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar in Urumqi, capital of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, April 24, 2017. (Xinhua/Wang Fei)

FOREIGN STUDENTS EXPERIENCE CHINESE TEA CULTURE IN E CHINA

Foreign students pick tea leaves in Haiqing Township of Qingdao, east China’s Shandong Province, May 7, 2017. Ninety foreign students of China University of Petroleum and Shandong University of Science and Technology took part in an activity Sunday to experience traditional Chinese tea culture. (Xinhua/Liu Jishun)
Foreign students learn Chinese tea art in Haiqing Township of Qingdao, east China’s Shandong Province, May 7, 2017. Ninety foreign students of China University of Petroleum and Shandong University of Science and Technology took part in an activity Sunday to experience traditional Chinese tea culture. (Xinhua/Liu Jishun)

Foreign students pick tea leaves in Haiqing Township of Qingdao, east China’s Shandong Province, May 7, 2017. Ninety foreign students of China University of Petroleum and Shandong University of Science and Technology took part in an activity Sunday to experience traditional Chinese tea culture. (Xinhua/Liu Jishun)
GIRL RECORDS OLD STREETS WITH OIL PAINTINGS IN CHONGQING

Lu Wei creates a picture of an old street in Yuzhong District of Chongqing, southwest China, May 13, 2017. Chongqing girl Lu Wei, 23, is fond of oil painting and history. She made a plan to record the old streets with oil paintings in Chongqing. (Xinhua/Wang Quanchao)
A helicopter tour service will be launched in Lhasa, capital of the Tibet autonomous region, in August to allow tourists to view the plateau landscape from the sky.

Tourism companies have been considering aerial tours in Lhasa for years, but the Potala Tourism and Culture Group is the first to get approval for flights in a designated airspace.

The airspace covers a part of Lhasa and the Namtso Lake area, 240 kilometers from the capital, according to Dawa Phuntsok, president of the tour group.

The lake, called Heavenly Lake in the Tibetan language, is one of three holy lakes in Tibet.

Tours will be provided by four Eurocopter H125s and two Bell 505s. The first two helicopters will be delivered in June, with the first flight scheduled for August, Dawa Phuntsok said.

Twenty-one pilots from the Tibetan ethnic group - including seven women - along with seven helicopter maintenance specialists, received eight months of training in Jiangsu and Yunnan provinces.

Meanwhile, a general aviation airport covering an area of nearly 4 hectares is under construction in Lhasa’s Tsechogling Valley. It will be able to accommodate 30 helicopters and is expected to be operational in late July, he said.

Liu Jie, vice-president of Ruoer General Aviation Development Group - the Nanjing-based company responsible for purchasing the aircraft and arranging pilot training - said helicopter services are
necessary in Tibet, as “air tours are more time-efficient and convenient than land transportation”.

“Using helicopters for travel services, as well as for medical rescue, is essential for Lhasa to be an international tourism city,” Liu said.

PAINTING RESTORATION LAUNCHED IN MAJOR TIBETAN BUDDHIST MONASTERY
Painting restoration on a prominent Tibetan Buddhist monastery in northwest China’s Gansu Province had begun May 3, local authorities said Monday.

The restoration of paintings on timber in four of the halls at Labrang Monastery is expected to be complete by the end of 2017, according to Sonam Je, relic protection manager at the monastery.

This is the first time the paintings have been restored since the monastery was built, Sonam Je said.

Workers will repaint the damaged paintings using the original processes and materials.

The project, involving 16 buddhist halls at the monastery, is part of a wider 300-million-yuan (43 million U.S. dollars) plan, which began in 2012, he said.

Labrang Monastery, built in 1709, has six Buddhist colleges and 48 Buddha halls. Located in Xiahe County in the Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Gannan, Gansu, the monastery is one of the six great temples of the Gelug Sect of Tibetan Buddhism.

Sprawling an area of more 800,000 square meters, Labrang Monastery is famed for its architecture. It has been a national cultural protection site in 1982.
WORLD’S LARGEST GROUP OF WILD YELLOW PEONY FOUND IN TIBET

The world’s largest group of yellow peony was recently discovered in Tsagong Valley, Mailing County, the only place in Tibet where wild yellow peony grows.

Yellow peony is one of the world’s endangered rare plants, and is a second class national protected plant in China. There are currently only around 10,000 wild yellow peonies in the world, of which over 5,000 are growing in Tsagong Valley.

BOOK REVIEW

Natural Wonders in China

China is located in east Eurasia and on the Pacific west coast, covering 9.6 million sq. km of land and 3 million sq. km of sea. It stretches across four time zones east to west and covers 5,500 km north to south, while the elevation gap between its highest peak and lowest point reaches nearly 9,000 meters. The great geographical differences and contrasts have made this land both dynamic and magnificent. There are snow-capped mountains, glaciers, evergreen rain forests, desolate gobis and deserts, vibrant lakes and coasts, spectacular valleys and waterfalls, and boundless grasslands and wetlands. In China, almost all types of natural scenery that exist in the world can be found, and this book intends to help you learn something about its beauty.

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

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