NEWS FROM CHINA
Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui presented his Credentials to the Indian President, H.E. Pranab Mukherjee.

Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui attended 4th China India strategic economy dialogue.

Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui paid a visit to the Indian national advisor Ajit Doval.

Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui, paid a visit to the Vice President of the Congress Party, Mr. Rahul Gandhi.

Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui and his wife Dr. Jiang Yili attended a reception of 67th National Day of the People’s Republic of China.

Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui paid a visit to the family of Dr. Kotni’s relatives.
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Oct. 16, 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries to cement confidence as a “complicated, severe external environment” poses challenges to the emerging-market bloc.

Speaking at an annual BRICS summit in the western Indian state of Goa, Xi called for building up an open economy while warning against all forms of protectionism.

He asked the BRICS countries to implement the outcomes of the 11th summit of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies held in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou in September, and to strive for a strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive global growth.

The Chinese leader also made a
five-point proposal for the BRICS nations to join hands in tough times, including building an open world, mapping out a shared development vision, coping with the most pressing global challenges, safeguarding fairness and justice in the international community, and deepening partnerships within the bloc.

“We should contribute the wisdom and strength of the BRICS countries and jointly seek ways to respond to challenges,” Xi said.

OPEN ECONOMY, FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE

To address economic challenges, Xi proposed that the BRICS countries advance structural reforms, innovate growth patterns, and build up an open economy.

He warned against protectionism, saying the BRICS countries should take the lead in opening-up and international cooperation by prioritizing such sectors as economy and trade, financial circulation, infrastructure connectivity and people-to-people exchanges.

The president called for enhancing the representation and voice of emerging-market economies and developing countries in the process of global governance reforms, thus helping build new-type international relations of cooperation and mutual benefits as well as safeguarding fairness and justice.

The Chinese leader urged the five countries to strengthen coordination and communication in major international issues and regional hot issues, in a bid to jointly tackle global challenges such as natural disasters, climate change, infectious diseases and terrorism.

Xi asked the BRICS member countries to enhance cooperation and deepen their partnerships to seek common development, especially through the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) that were established in 2014.

“China is a staunch supporter and participant of the BRICS
mechanism, and takes the BRICS cooperation as one of its diplomatic priorities,” he said. “We believe the BRICS cooperation will forcefully promote world peace, stability and prosperity.”

As this year marks the 10th anniversary of the BRICS cooperation mechanism, Xi reviewed the development of the bloc over the past decade, saying the BRICS cooperation platform has grown into an international mechanism of major influence and has actively pushed forward the global economic governance reforms.

The five BRICS countries contributed to more than half of the global growth in the last 10 years, he noted.

Also Sunday, Xi announced that China will hold the rotating chair of BRICS next year and host its ninth summit in the southeastern Chinese city of Xiamen in September.

China expects to work with all parties concerned to implement the consensuses reached at previous summits, deepen their partnerships, and write a new chapter for the BRICS cooperation, Xi said.

Xiamen, a tourist resort on the southeast coast of China, is known for its mild climate and beautiful scenery.

Xi served as vice mayor of Xiamen in the 1980s.

GREATER COOPERATION EXPECTED

Leaders of the five countries discussed BRICS cooperation and other issues of common concern at the Oct. 15-16 summit, themed with “Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions.”

At the summit, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on the five nations to play a bigger role within major multilateral frameworks including the G20 and the World Trade Organization.

He also called for closer cooperation in such areas as economic and trade, investment, finance, agriculture, urbanization, infrastructure and security, and suggested stronger cooperation mechanism building in these areas.

South African President Jacob Zuma said his country hopes to beef up BRICS cooperation in the fields of water resources, digital economy, investment and financing, innovation, small and medium-sized enterprises, outer space, deep ocean, internet and people-to-people exchanges.

He said the BRICS nations should help draw more attention and support from the international community to vulnerable groups that are easily affected by climate change and economic crisis.

Brazilian President Michel Temer said that as the BRICS nations are facing similar challenges, they should make concerted efforts in overcoming the difficulties.

Brazil stands for trade and investment facilitation among the BRICS nations as well as a stronger cooperative partnership in finance, science and technology, environment and culture, so as to bring real benefits to their peoples, said Temer.

Noting that cooperation among the BRICS nations has played an important role in facilitating global economic recovery, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the five countries should well implement the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnerships adopted last year at the Ufa Summit and enhance cooperation in renewable energy, finance, trade, investment, e-commerce, health and education.

Putin also called for combined efforts from the BRICS countries in pushing forward the reform on global economic and financial governance.

After the meeting, the five leaders witnessed the signing of a number of cooperative documents on agricultural research, customs cooperation and diplomacy study and others. They also attended a joint press conference. The Goa Declaration was issued when the summit concluded.

Along with other BRICS leaders, Xi also attended a dialogue with representatives of the BRICS Business Council.

In a speech, he said the BRICS nations, affected by internal and external factors, have seen weak economic growth and are facing new challenges in their development.

Meanwhile, they still maintain a competitive edge in the areas of resources, market and labor, enjoying a bright development prospect, said Xi.
President Xi attended a dialogue with representatives of the BRICS Business Council.

The five leaders witnessed the signing of a number of cooperative documents on agricultural research, customs cooperation and diplomacy study and others.
The BRICS cooperation has entered into a new phase after 10 years of development, facing both challenges and opportunities, he said.

He encouraged business communities to seize these opportunities and actively participate in and promote economic cooperation among the BRICS nations, so as to shore up confidence, push for reform and innovation, boost pragmatic cooperation, and make greater contribution to creating a brighter future for common development of the BRICS nations.

During the dialogue, NDB President Kundapur Vaman Kamath reported to the five leaders about the operation of the bank.

The five leaders also took a group photo with captains of juvenile football teams from five BRICS countries.

BRICS ISSUES GOA DECLARATION PLEDGING ENHANCED ROLE

On Oct. 16, 2016, the emerging-market bloc of BRICS, which groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, issued here Sunday a joint declaration after a leaders’ meeting, looking to play a bigger role in and contribute more to the global governance system.

The Goa Declaration was a result of the eighth BRICS summit that was held on Oct. 15-16 in the western Indian state of Goa, under the theme of “Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions.”

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brazilian President Michel Temer, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Jacob Zuma attended the meeting.

The document said the BRICS members expressed satisfaction with the approval of the first batch of loans by the New Development
Bank (NDB), particularly in the renewable energy projects in BRICS countries, and with the NDB’s issuance of the first set of green bonds in RMB, as well as the initiation of BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) that has strengthened the global financial safety net.

Noting that BRICS countries represent an influential voice on the global stage, the leaders extended gratitude to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his contribution in the past 10 years and congratulated Antonio Guterres on his appointment as the next UN chief, pledging continuous support for the world body.

On the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the declaration urged developed countries to honor their commitments to achieve 0.7 percent of gross national income commitment for official development assistance to developing countries, adding that those commitments play a crucial role in the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

The five BRICS leaders, who just met last month in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou when China hosted the 11th summit of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies, welcomed the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda adopted during the Hangzhou Summit and committed to its implementation by taking bold transformative steps through both collective and individual concrete actions.

Commending China for the successful hosting of the Hangzhou summit and its focus on innovation, structural reform and development as drivers of medium and long term economic growth, the BRICS
leaders emphasized the importance of the implementation of the Hangzhou summit’s outcomes, which will foster strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, contribute to improved global economic governance, and enhance the role of developing countries.

The bloc pledged to enhance consultations and coordination on the G20 agenda, especially on issues of mutual interest to the BRICS countries, and promote issues of importance for the emerging market and developing economies.

The BRICS countries will continue to work closely with all G20 members to strengthen macroeconomic cooperation, promote innovation, as well as robust and sustainable trade and investment to propel global growth, improve global economic governance, enhance the role of developing countries, strengthen international financial architecture, support industrialization in Africa and least developed countries, and enhance cooperation on energy access and efficiency, said the document.

On the International Monetary Fund (IMF)’s reform, the bloc reaffirmed its commitment to a strong, quota based and adequately resourced IMF.

Noting that borrowed resources by the IMF should be on a temporary basis, the BRICS countries said they remain strongly committed to supporting the coordinated effort by the emerging economies to ensure that the 15th General Review of Quotas, including the new quota formula, will be finalized within the agreed timelines, so as to ensure that the increased voice of the dynamic emerging and developing economies reflects their relative contributions to the world economy, while protecting the voices of least developed countries, poor countries and regions.

The declaration welcomed the inclusion of the RMB into the Special Drawing Rights currency basket on Oct. 10, and urged advanced European economies to meet their commitments to cede two chairs on the Executive Board of the IMF.

On the security front, the bloc strongly condemned the recent attacks against some BRICS countries, and strongly condemned...
terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, while stressing that there can be no justification whatsoever for any acts of terrorism, whether based upon ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or any other reasons.

The bloc agreed to strengthen cooperation in combating international terrorism both at the bilateral level and at international fora, and called on all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism.

On environment protection, the BRICS countries welcomed the Paris Agreement and its imminent entry into force on Nov. 4. They urged developed countries to fulfill their responsibility toward providing the necessary financial resources, technology and capacity building assistance to support developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

They also emphasized that the comprehensive, balanced and ambitious nature of the Paris Agreement reaffirms the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances.

India, South Africa, Brazil and Russia conveyed their appreciation to China for its offer to host the Ninth BRICS Summit in 2017 and extended their full support, said the declaration.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the BRICS cooperation mechanism, which gathers the world's five major emerging economies.

The bloc's members have seen their cooperation growing over the past decade, especially the establishment of the NDB and the CRA in 2014.

Despite economic headwinds in the BRICS countries and external skepticism about whether the bloc is losing its power over recent years, the IMF said earlier this month in its latest issue of World Economic Outlook that in emerging market and developing economies, the 2016 growth will accelerate for the first time in six years.

PRESIDENT XI ATTENDS BRICS-BIMSTEC LEADERS' DIALOGUE

On Oct. 16, 2016, Chinese President Xi Jinping attended a dialogue between BRICS and BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) leaders on emerging economy cooperation in the western Indian state of Goa.

Noting that both groups belong to the big family of developing countries, Xi said the emerging-market bloc of BRICS that groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and the BIMSTEC that comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, share common desires in safeguarding world peace and regional security, as well as the common needs for economic development and improving people's livelihood and benefits.

The Chinese president noted that all of the BIMSTEC countries are China's good friends, good neighbors and good partners, and have maintained long-lasting friendship and close cooperation with China.

Facing both unprecedented opportunities and challenges, emerging-market economies and developing countries should join hands and make concerted efforts to enhance policy communication and coordination, complement each other's advantages and promote regional economic integration, Xi said.

He called for the alignment of the Belt and Road Initiative and the BIMSTEC programs, so as to advance infrastructure construction and connectivity, and strive for common development.

Meanwhile, the BRICS and BIMSTEC countries should also boost friendly exchanges at all levels in such fields as locality, media, think tank and youth, in order to nurture their deeply rooted partnerships, he added.
The Chinese president stressed that the G20 summit in Hangzhou last month has scored a series of fruitful results, which will play a positive role in promoting international development and cooperation, and will help propel the development of BIMSTC countries.

China will always prioritize cooperation with developing countries, inject fresh momentum into South-South cooperation, and open up new prospects for the mutually beneficial cooperation within Asia by upholding its neighborhood diplomacy featuring amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, Xi said.

China stands ready to make joint efforts with all parties to lift the dialogues and cooperation between BRICS members and other sides to new heights, guided by the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness, cooperation and win-win results, he said.

Other BRICS and BIMSTEC leaders also underlined the economic complementarity between their countries and vast cooperation potential.

Noting that the BRICS nations have made important progress in such fields as pursuing innovative development and eliminating poverty, the leaders called on both groups to strengthen cooperation in various areas including connectivity, trade and investment, maritime economy and people-to-people exchanges, so as to join forces for
development. They also voiced support for the two groups to learn from positive experiences, carry out closer cooperation in international affairs, improve global economic governance system and work together to address challenges, thus achieving common development.

COMMENTARY: BRICS GOA SUMMIT HERALDS MORE CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL GOVERNANCE, GROWTH

The BRICS summit in Goa, India has highlighted a greater role to be played by the emerging-market bloc in the global governance system and growth amid new challenges, with the bloc looking back on over a decade of fruitful cooperation.

Fully aware of its influence on the global stage, the bloc, which groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, has pledged continued contributions to the global governance system and growth in a joint declaration from the Oct. 15-16 summit held in the western Indian state of Goa.

To this end, the bloc is expected to work closely with the Group of 20 (G20) major economies on macroeconomic cooperation, innovation, sustainable trade and investment, global financial system reform, an enhanced role of developing countries, and industrialization in Africa and least
developed countries, among others.

The moves will serve to continue the momentum built at the G20 summit held in September in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, where the BRICS leaders last met.

While stressing the importance of and staying committed to implementing the G20 Hangzhou summit results, including the G20 Action Plan on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the bloc is also seeking its own further collaboration, encouraged by achievements made in the decade since the setting-up of its cooperation mechanism.

The five BRICS countries have contributed more than half of the global growth in the last decade. In seeking common development, it has worked to upgrade South-South cooperation to unprecedented levels, boasting effectiveness, win-win results, a greater role in the international arena and a larger say of developing countries.

The approval of the first batch of loans by its New Development Bank and the initiation of the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement strengthening global financial safety are recent examples of its lasting vitality.

On top of the latest growth expectations for emerging markets revised up by the International Monetary Fund, they would help dismiss downbeat speculations about the bloc’s vulnerability amid increasing uncertainties about the global economic recovery and growing anti-globalization sentiment in Western countries.

“We should contribute to the wisdom and strength of the BRICS countries and jointly seek ways to respond to challenges” posed by a “complicated, severe external
"We believe the BRICS cooperation will forcefully promote world peace, stability and prosperity," Xi said.

Safeguarding fairness and justice in the international community should also be on top of the BRICS agenda. Challenges including fighting climate change and terrorism call for the bloc's increased participation as well as a leading role in international efforts to ensure a favorable external environment for the development and growth in each country.
Meanwhile, the two countries should support each other in participating in regional affairs and enhance cooperation within multilateral frameworks including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the East Asia Summit, he added.

Meeting Modi in the western Indian state of Goa on the sidelines of the eighth summit of the emerging-market bloc of BRICS, which groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, Xi said the Chinese side is willing to work with India to carry on the positive momentum of last month’s Group of 20 summit in the Chinese city of Hangzhou and push for positive results of the BRICS summit in Goa, so as to send out a positive signal of confidence, solidarity and cooperation.

The Chinese president also called for joint BRICS efforts to deepen practical cooperation and elevate cooperation to higher levels, as well as to strengthen communication and coordination on major international issues so as to safeguard their common interests.

China, which will hold the rotating chair in 2017, is willing to work with India and other BRICS members to successfully host the ninth BRICS summit next year, Xi added.

For his part, Modi said it is in the two countries’ as well as the region’s common interests for India and China to maintain frequent high-level exchanges and strategic communication.

India and China have the
responsibility to join hands and turn the 21st century into an Asian century, said the prime minister.

India is willing to strengthen cooperation with China within multilateral frameworks including BRICS and the SCO, Modi said, adding that his country supports China in hosting the BRICS summit next year.

India is the last stop of Xi’s ongoing Asia tour, which has already taken him to Cambodia and Bangladesh.
Goa, India, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping met Russian President Vladimir Putin here Saturday, and the two sides vowed to advance bilateral ties and boost cooperation within multilateral frameworks.

Xi arrived in the western Indian state of Goa earlier in the day for the eighth summit of the emerging-market bloc of BRICS, which groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

He recalled that leaders of the five countries met last month on the sidelines of the 11th summit of the Group of 20 major economies in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, where they had an in-depth exchange of views on promoting BRICS cooperation and reached many important consensuses.

China, said the president, hopes that the BRICS summit in Goa will achieve positive results and inject new impetus into BRICS cooperation.

As China will hold the rotating chair of BRICS in 2017, Beijing stands ready to work with Russia and all other parties concerned to make a success of the ninth summit, he added.

Noting that both China and Russia are permanent members of the UN Security Council and major emerging-market countries, Xi said the two countries should strengthen coordination and cooperation within the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS and other multilateral frameworks.

The two sides, he added, should jointly promote a more just and reasonable international order and safeguard the interests of the emerging-market countries and developing countries.

Recalling that he and Putin held a fruitful meeting last month in Hangzhou and reached important consensuses on advancing the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination, he said the two sides should now earnestly push for their implementation.

Putin, for his part, said he is delighted to see that Russia and China have maintained close communication at high levels and in various fields, which is very important to consolidating bilateral ties.

Russia is committed to enhancing cooperation with China within multilateral frameworks and supports China in hosting the ninth BRICS summit next year, he added.

Calling China an important economic partner of Russia, Putin
said his country is willing to deepen cooperation with the Chinese side in such areas as energy, transport infrastructure, aviation manufacturing and space.

Moscow, he said, also supports the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union in aligning its development strategies with the China-proposed Silk Road Economic Belt initiative and carrying out cooperation with the Chinese side.

The two leaders also had an in-depth exchange of views on the Korean Peninsula situation and other global and regional issues of shared concern.

They agreed to maintain close communication and coordination to jointly safeguard peace and stability in Northeast Asia and the common interests of the two countries as well.

India holds the rotating chair of BRICS this year, and a summit has been scheduled for the weekend in the coastal state of Goa.

CHINA, S. AFRICA PLEDGE DEEPENED COOPERATION WITHIN BRICS, FOCAC
Goa, India, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) — China and South Africa on Saturday vowed to boost bilateral cooperation within the framework of the BRICS mechanism and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

The pledge came out of a meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his South African counterpart, Jacob Zuma, on the sidelines of the eighth BRICS summit in the western Indian state of Goa.

Leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are expected to discuss BRICS cooperation and other issues of common concern at the Oct. 15-16 summit themed “Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions.”

During the meeting, Xi praised the sound development momentum of bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership, saying China is ready to work with South Africa to push for concrete outcomes in mutually beneficial cooperation, sories.

The two sides should maintain high-level exchanges and deepen communication and cooperation between political parties, legislative bodies, armed forces and security sectors, said Xi.

He called for experience sharing on state governance as well as mutual understanding and support between the two sides on issues concerning each other’s core interests and major concerns.

On friendly and win-win cooperation, the Chinese president suggested the two sides make substantial progress on existing cooperative projects, including a railway corridor, a science and technology park, vocational training and local cooperation.

Xi called on the two sides to maintain close collaboration in international affairs and make concerted efforts to push forward the stable development of BRICS cooperation, so as to make greater contribution to world peace, stability and prosperity.

China supports South Africa in playing a bigger role in international and regional affairs, he noted.

Xi said China is firm in supporting African nations’ pursuit of development paths that suit their own national conditions and free themselves of external interference and control.

China is willing to work with African nations including South Africa to earnestly implement the consensus reached during the Johannesburg Summit of the FOCAC held last December, in a bid to promote win-win cooperation and common development, he added.

The five BRICS leaders just met last month in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou when China hosted the 11th summit of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies.

Zuma said South Africa highly appreciates the achievements of the Hangzhou Summit, especially the great attention paid to the development issues as well as the cooperation between the G20 and developing countries.

South Africa is committed to deepening its relations with China, he said, voicing appreciation for China’s support to South Africa in such areas as infrastructure construction and personnel training.

He said South Africa is ready to strengthen cooperation with China and Africa-China cooperation within the framework of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit.

Xi arrived in Goa on Saturday noon to attend the eighth BRICS summit. India is the final stop of his Southeast Asia and South Asia tour, which has taken him to Cambodia and Bangladesh.

XI SUGGESTS CHINA, NEPAL FORGE
COMMUNITY OF SHARED DESTINY

Goa, India, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping said here Saturday that his country is ready to align development strategies with Nepal and hopes to build the two neighbors into a community of shared destiny.

“China and Nepal are close neighbors linked by mountains and rivers,” Xi said in a meeting in the western Indian state of Goa with
Nepali Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal on the sidelines of the eighth summit of the emerging-market bloc of BRICS, which groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Since the two countries established diplomatic ties more than half a century ago, China-Nepal relations have withstood the vicissitude of the international situation and maintained sound and stable development, Xi said.

He called on the two countries to strengthen high-level contacts and political communication, and enhance mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns.

He also called for concerted efforts to carry out the consensuses the two sides have reached on beefing up cooperation on connectivity, free trade and energy and continue to push forward cooperation in their pursuit of development.

China is ready to support Nepal in its post-earthquake reconstruction, especially in restoring infrastructure, people's well-being and historical relics, he said.

China, he added, encourages its reputable businesses to invest in Nepal and take part in the construction of special economic zones and industrial parks in Nepal.

He also urged the two sides to strengthen cooperation in agricultural industrialization, water conservation, irrigation and hydropower generation.
On people-to-people exchanges, the president said the two sides should increase exchanges and cooperation in such areas as tourism, education, culture, youth, media and local affairs.

He also stressed the importance of maintaining coordination within the frameworks of the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

For his part, Dahal said the Nepal-China friendship is time-honored and unbreakable, for it is established on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and features mutual respect and trust.

Nepal highly appreciates the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness in China’s neighborhood diplomacy as well as China’s support for its peace process, post-earthquake reconstruction and national development, he said.

Nepal views China as a reliable development partner and is ready to develop a more comprehensive partnership with China, he added.

Dahal also conveyed Nepal’s willingness to participate in connectivity construction within the frameworks of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Moreover, Nepal is ready to enhance coordination with China within international and regional multilateral organizations, added the prime minister.

Nepal is a member of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), a regional mechanism which is aimed at connecting South Asian and Southeast Asian countries and also groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

On the margins of their summit in Goa, Xi and other BRICS leaders will hold dialogues with their BIMSTEC counterparts.

**CHINA, SRI LANKA VOW TO DEEPEN COOPERATION WITHIN BELT AND ROAD FRAMEWORK**

Goa, India, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Sunday, vows to deepen bilateral pragmatic cooperation within the Belt and Road framework.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the eighth BRICS summit in the western Indian state of Goa.

China-Sri Lanka relations have seen positive and healthy development momentum, said Xi, noting that China will work with Sri Lanka to carry forward the traditional friendship cultivated by generations.

Next year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties as well as the 65th anniversary of the signing of the Agreement on Rice for Rubber, he said, calling on the two sides to take the opportunity to cement traditional friendship and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, so as to lift bilateral ties to a new high.

In 1952, Sri Lanka withstood the pressure from the United States and other Western countries and signed the famous rice and rubber agreement with new China, and in doing so, opening a chapter in the history of friendly exchanges between the two countries.

To further their relations, Xi suggested the two sides maintain high-level contacts and political communication, and continue to show mutual support on issues concerning each other’s core interests.

China appreciates Sri Lanka’s support for and active participation
in the Belt and Road construction, said Xi.

He called on the two sides to deepen cooperation in the sectors of trade, port operation, infrastructure construction, port-vicinity industrial parks, production capacity and people's livelihood.

He said the two sides should continue to advance their mega cooperative projects such as the Colombo Port City and Hambantota Port.

Xi voiced hope that the two sides will make good preparations for the activities celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties and encourage more exchanges among all sectors of society, including local affairs, Buddhist community, youth, think-tanks and media.

The Chinese president also suggested the two sides expand cooperation in the fields of tourism, ocean, security and disaster preparedness and mitigation.

He said the two countries should enhance coordination within multi-lateral frameworks and continue to support each other in international and regional affairs.

For his part, Sirisena said the time-tested relations between the two countries have gained a stronger momentum under the new situation.

He thanked China's assistance for Sri Lanka's development as well as China's support to his country on the international arena.

Sri Lanka adheres to the one-China policy and is willing to strengthen coordination and communication with China in international and regional affairs, he added.
Sirisena said Sri Lanka is willing to speed up the implementation of relevant economic and trade agreements with China as well as cooperation on mega projects. He welcomed Chinese enterprises to increase investment in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is a member of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), a regional mechanism that is aimed at connecting South Asian and Southeast Asian countries and also groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand.

On the margins of the BRICS summit in Goa, Xi and other BRICS leaders held dialogues with the BIMSTEC leaders and representatives.

Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Myanmar’s State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi in the western Indian state of Goa, Oct. 16, 2016.
Goa, India, Oct. 16 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Myanmar’s State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi here Sunday, voicing hopes that the two countries can increase practical cooperation to press ahead with their comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

China is willing to join hands with Myanmar to carry forward their traditional friendship and expand mutually-beneficial cooperation in all fields, Xi told Suu Kyi on the sidelines of an annual summit of the emerging-market bloc of BRICS that groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa in the western Indian state of Goa.

Xi cited such areas for cooperation as some existing large projects, industrial parks, infrastructure construction, agriculture, water conservancy, education, medical care, tourism, Buddhism and local affairs.

The president said Myanmar has maintained a momentum of sound development recently, and he believes that the Myanmar people will make steady progress on its path of development that suits its own national conditions and will make new achievements in national development and construction.

The two leaders just met about two months ago when Suu Kyi paid an official visit to China.

Xi said the two sides should earnestly implement the consensuses reached in August on deepening their all-round strategic cooperation, strengthen strategic communication, and maintain high-level exchanges.

For her part, Suu Kyi said Myanmar and China enjoy a time-honored friendship, which has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples.

She said Myanmar sees China as its most important neighbor and it is of vital importance for the two sides to maintain frequent high-level exchanges.

The Myanmar side thanks China for its long-term support, Suu Kyi said, noting that her country stands ready to advance the bilateral ties and all-ranging cooperation, and expedite efforts to implement some relevant cooperation projects, which is in line with the long-term interests of Myanmar and China.

Suu Kyi was invited here to attend a dialogue between BRICS leaders and state leaders of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) countries at the BRICS summit.

The BIMSTEC, initiated to connect South Asian and Southeast Asian countries, comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

China India Relations

CHINA, INDIA AGREE TO STEP UP COUNTERTERROR COOPERATION

On Sept. 27, 2016, China and India on held their first dialogue on counterterrorism and security in Beijing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE ASIAN CENTURY BECKONS

by Luo Zhaohui (Chinese Ambassador in India)

My bond with India started when I was young. During my postgraduate study in Beijing University, I specialized in Indian culture and history under the renowned Sanskrit master Prof. Ji Xianlin and the art history professor Mr. Chang Renxia. Back then, I had a dream to go to India one day. My dream came true when I was posted in Delhi after joining the Foreign Ministry of China. Upon leaving India at the end of 1993, I had a second dream: to come back to India one day. Now 23 years later, I’m back
in India as Chinese Ambassador and my second dream came true.

Looking back at the past two decades, both India and China-India relations have made great strides. Today’s India still enjoys sound ecological environment. Walking around Delhi, I can still come across monkeys, squirrels and peacocks. But the city is cleaner and streets wider with new buildings rising up. Metros and highways remind people of the profound changes India has undergone. Statistics from the World Bank shows that India’s GDP grew from $284.2 billion in 1993 to $2.091 trillion in 2015. I congratulate India on the achievements it has made over the years.

Over the past 20 years, China-India relations have come a long way, improving in both breadth and depth. There has been a warming of political ties. This year, President Mukherjee paid a successful visit to China, and President Xi Jinping has met Prime Minister Modi twice, in Tashkent and Hangzhou. China-India business cooperation is booming. Two-way trade soared from $272 million in 1993 to $75 billion in 2015. People to people exchanges exceeded one million for the first time last year, and 11 pairs of sister provinces/cities have been established between the two countries. China and India enjoy close cooperation on international and regional affairs, with better coordination under the framework of multilateral regimes including the UN, G20, BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), etc, and strengthened cooperation on climate change, global governance, reform of international financial institutions and so on. Together, we have contributed significantly to the building of a fair and more equitable international order.

As the 15th Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to India, I will work with Indian friends from all walks of life to promote our relationship in the following aspects, so that it will live up to its true potential and make even greater strides going forward.

First, keep up the momentum of high-level exchanges. Frequent exchanges between our leadership have injected strong dynamism to our ties. President Xi Jinping will attend the BRICS Leaders’ Meeting in Goa and meet with Prime Minister Modi in a few days. This will be the ninth meeting between the two leaders since they took office, and the third one this year. It is important to maintain regular exchanges between senior officials of the government, military and legislature of our two countries, and give full play the existing mechanisms to enhance strategic communication and increase mutual understanding.

Second, align our development strategies. As the two largest developing countries, China and India share common ideas and complementary strategies of development. China is at a crucial stage of comprehensively deepening reform and economic restructuring. We are implementing programs such as the “Made in China 2025”, “Internet Plus” and “Mass Innovation and Entrepreneurship”. While 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”, “Smart Cities”. We need to align our development strategies and pursue common development.

Third, deepen business cooperation. We may actively explore a China-India regional trading arrangement and encourage cooperation on major projects. We look forward to new industrial cities built by Wanda Group and China Fortune Land Development Co. in India. Such projects will help create jobs and boost India’s development. We can work together in new and renewable energy and build up new areas of cooperation.
Fourth, promote people-to-people exchanges. The two countries can open more direct flights to improve connectivity. We shall continue to do a good job in religious exchanges, and properly arrange the pilgrims by Indian Yatris to Kailash Manasarovar in China's Tibet. Next month, a 200-member Chinese youth delegation will visit India and a Chinese art troupe will take part in the Delhi International Arts Festival.

Fifth, enhance international and regional cooperation. As two major developing countries and emerging economies, China-India relations have gone beyond bilateral scope. We have broad converging interests and face common challenges in Asia and beyond. We need to enhance cooperation in SCO, and work together to ensure success of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the BRICS New Development Bank, increase strategic communication and coordination on international and regional affairs and become global partners of strategic coordination.

Sixth, properly manage differences. As two large neighbors, it is natural that China and India do not see eye to eye on every issue. What we need to do is to focus on cooperation while properly handling differences. We shall reduce our differences by expanding the pie of cooperation and work for a healthier bilateral relations by addressing differences.

The combined population of China and India account for one third of the world’s total, our relationship is no doubt one of the most important bilateral relations in the world. When Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi paid a historic visit to China in 1982, I was working in the Asian Department of the Foreign Ministry of China. I still remember what Mr. Deng Xiaoping said when he met with PM Rajiv Gandhi, “Only when China and India have developed will a real Asian Century emerge”. I have high hopes and great optimism for the prospects of China-India relations!

MY TRYST WITH CHINA: TRACING ‘OUR’ FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME AND ITS CHINESE VERSION
BY PROFESSOR B R DEEPAK
RELEASED IN CHINA

Conceived under the framework of ‘Belt and Road’ initiative by China Publishing Group (CPG), one of the largest conglomerates of publishers in China having over 40 publishing giants including Zhonghua Shuju, Commercial Press, People’s Publishing House etc. was released on 22- August 2016 at the CPG headquarters in the glare of media and presence 19 awardees of this year’s Special Book Prize of China, of which Prof. Deepak himself has been a recipient of in 2011. Chairman of the CPG, Mr. Tan Yue and 50 other dignitaries from all walks of life graced the occasion.

The CPG has selected 20 influential China experts from Belt and Road countries and signed agreements with them for similar books. Professor Deepak’s Tryst with China is first in the series to be released. According to Professor Deepak the book is just not about his personal tryst, but more importantly, it traces all those footprints that vehemently advocated opening of the channels of communion and communications between India and China in the civilizational history of these two countries. ‘Our’ in the title
include all those scholar monks on both sides of the Himalayas during the height of the Buddhist glory and beyond; people like Ji Xianlin, Wu Xiaoling, Jin Kemu, Liu Anwu, Jin Dinghan, Huang Xinchuang, Lin Chengjie, Geng Yinzeng, Xue Keqiao, Wang Shuying, Yu Longyu, Jiang Jingkui etc. scholars on the Chinese side, and Tagore, Kotnis, P. C Bagchi, Tan Yunshan, Tan Chung, H. P Ray, Yap Rahman, Tansen Sen, Madhvi Thampi and many more on the Indian side who not only have kept the lamp of civilizational dialogue alight but have also kindled the light of reason for such a dialogue in the times of war, barbarity and geopolitics in the hearts and minds of many people on both the sides.

The book contains 9 chapters - Descent and Childhood; Degree College Kullu and Jawaharlal Nehru University; Peking University Days; Romance on the Volleyball Court; Beginning of a Marathon Affair; Return to Beijing: witnessing the Rise of China; Europe, Marriage and Family; Chinese Fervours in India; and Cross-Cultural currents between India and China. Though Professor Deepak as a narrator remains at the centre of the book, however, it remains a firsthand account of the gradual rise of China and the earthshaking changes that took place in China since the reforms of which Professor Deepak has been a witness. The Hindi version of the book would be published in India in coming days.
Dhaka, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday completed a two-day state visit to Bangladesh, during which the two countries agreed to upgrade their ties to a strategic partnership of cooperation.

The visit, the first by a Chinese head of state to the South Asian country in three decades, heralds a new era for cooperation between the two countries, which established contact through ancient silk routes more than 2,000 years ago.

A MILESTONE VISIT

President Xi’s “historic visit”, called by local newspapers, started with the highest tribute to a foreign president from the Bangladeshi side. Xi was received on Friday at the airport by his Bangladeshi counterpart, Abdul Hamid, and given a 21-gun salute. The host country dispatched fighter jets to escort Xi's plane after it entered Bangladesh’s airspace.

In Dhaka, posters with pictures of President Xi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Abdul Hamid, and...
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, are adorning all the major streets and junctions across the city.

During Xi’s visit, the two countries agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to a strategic partnership of cooperation, raising the bilateral relationship to a new level.

During his meeting with Hasina on Friday, Xi said the closer comprehensive partnership of cooperation the two sides forged in 2010 has yielded fruitful results, with bilateral cooperation advancing steadily in political, economic, cultural and security areas and on international and regional affairs.

After their talks, the two leaders witnessed the signing of a string of cooperation documents covering such areas as the joint building of the Belt and Road Initiative, production capacity cooperation, information and tele-communication, energy and power, diplomatic affairs, maritime affairs, disaster prevention and alleviation, and climate change.

They also pledged to map out new major cooperation projects, especially in such key areas as infrastructure construction, transportation, information and telecommunication and agriculture.

“Given the high-level political mutual trust and advanced cooperation in many areas between China and Bangladesh, the upgrade (of bilateral ties) was perfectly timed and proper, charting the course for future development of bilateral ties,” former Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh Chai Xi said.

ENHANCING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Xi’s visit to Bangladesh, one of the least developed countries listed by the United Nations, is also aimed at promoting South-South cooperation and inclusive development under the consensus reached at the G20 Hangzhou summit.

During the meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart, Abdul Hamid, Xi said the two sides agreed to make unremitting efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and push forward South-South cooperation.

The two sides have already shown similarity in their development goals and great potential for further cooperation.

During his talks with Hasina on
Friday, Xi said China stands ready to push forward bilateral practical cooperation by aligning the development strategies of the two countries, noting that China is striving for its “two centenary goals” while Bangladesh is pursuing its “Sonar Bangla” dream of national strength and prosperity.

The “two centenary goals” refer to China’s aspiration to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by the time the Communist Party of China celebrates its centenary in 2021 and turn the People’s Republic of China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, and harmonious by the time it celebrates its centenary in 2049.

Bangladesh, with its “Sonar Bangla” dream, aims to become a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041.

China is now the largest trading partner of Bangladesh, and Bangladesh is China’s third-largest trading partner and third-largest project contract market in South Asia with bilateral trade reaching 14.7 billion U.S. dollars in 2015.

China-made products, ranging from daily necessities to large machinery, can be found all over Bangladesh.

Industries such as communications and automobiles, in which China has technology and Bangladesh has great demand, hold vast potential for cooperation, said Jiang Jingkui, director of the Center for South Asian Studies at Peking University.

With China’s support, Bangladesh implemented in June the country’s largest-ever information and communication technology (ICT) project to connect nearly 20,000 government offices across the country.

The project, undertaken by companies including Huawei and China Machinery Engineering Corporation, has been considered a main project for building a digital Bangladesh by 2021.

“Xi’s visit signals the beginning of a new era and a new height for China-Bangladesh relations. There will be more and more fruitful cooperation in the development of highways, railways, energy, power and communication,” Chai said.

BELT AND ROAD OPPORTUNITIES

“Bangladesh, with its favorable geographic location and huge population, market potential and cooperation space, is an indispensable partner for China to advance the Belt and Road Initiative and production capacity cooperation in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region,” Xi said in a signed article carried by leading Bangladeshi newspapers on Friday.

The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by Xi in 2013, comprises the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. It is aimed at building a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient trade routes.

Bangladesh’s firm support for the Belt and Road Initiative and and the building of an economic corridor linking Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) have borne fruit.

The multipurpose road-rail Padma Bridge, being built by the China Major Bridge Engineering Company, is the largest and most challenging infrastructure project in Bangladesh’s history.

Once opened in 2018, it will significantly improve transportation in Bangladesh’s northeast and southwest regions and bolster the Bangladeshi economy by 1.5 percent according to the estimation of economists.

The bridge will also make it more convenient for neighboring countries to use Bangladesh’s seaports, and promote the country’s trade with China, India and Myanmar.

Chinese enterprises have also signed deals with Bangladesh to build a two-lane tunnel underneath the Karnaphuli River, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, and to carry out detailed engineering design for a four-lane expansion of a national highway.

“Infrastructure is crucial to Bangladesh’s development. The Belt and Road Initiative and the BCIM Economic Corridor will help improve air, rail and road transport for countries involved,” Jiang Jingkui with Peking University said.

Better infrastructure calls for greater investment. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), of which Bangladesh is a founding member, and the Silk Road Fund, among others, could serve as financial sources.

In June, the AIIB approved its first four loans, including one worth 165 million U.S. dollars for a power distribution system upgrade and
expansion project in Bangladesh.

“The Silk Road Fund, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank will help Bangladesh achieve its development goals. We expect closer China-Bangladesh cooperation under the Belt and Road framework,” said Xiang Junyong, research fellow with Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China.

CHINA, CAMBODIA TO FORGE AHEAD WITH COOPERATION, TIES

Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni in Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia, Oct. 13, 2016.

Phnom Penh, Oct. 14 (Xinhua) — China and Cambodia signed a joint communique here Thursday during Chinese President Xi Jinping’s ongoing visit to the Southeast Asian country, pledging to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and traditional friendship.

During his visit, Xi met with Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni and Prime Minister Hun Sen, respectively. The two sides conducted in-depth exchange of views on further deepening the bilateral comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership as well as international and regional issues of common concern, and reached broad consensus, said the document.

China and Cambodia agreed to accelerate the alignment of China’s Belt and Road Initiative and the 13th Five-Year Plan with Cambodia’s Rectangular Strategy and Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025, while working to raise bilateral trade volume to 5 billion U.S. dollars in
2017, the statement said.

A total of 31 cooperation documents were signed on a wide range of fields covering economy, technology, infrastructure, efforts to curb human trafficking, tax and maritime cooperation, among others, according to it. China pledged more investment and cooperation with Cambodia on such fields as energy, telecommunication, agriculture, industry and tourism.

The Cambodian side congratulated China on successfully hosting the Group of Twenty Summit in Hangzhou last month, and praised China’s active contribution to global economic growth and sub-regional development.

The two countries also agreed to further consolidate coordination under multilateral frameworks including the United Nations, Asia-Europe Meeting, East Asia cooperation and Lancang-Mekong Cooperation group while maintaining close and effective communication on issues concerning each other’s major interests, said the document.

The two sides believed that the South China Sea issue is not a problem between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which should be resolved peacefully through friendly consultations and negotiations by directly concerned sovereign states.

Meanwhile, China reaffirmed in the document its firm support to Cambodian’s efforts on maintaining national sovereignty, independence and political stability.

China and Cambodia should jointly safeguard and carry forward their traditional friendship forged and cultivated by Chinese and Cambodian leaders of previous generations, including Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai and Cambodian King Father Norodom Sihanouk, the statement said.

Under new international and regional situation, the two countries will enhance strategic communication, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation and constantly enrich their comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, so as to better serve...
their peoples and contribute to peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the whole world at large, it said.

Xi arrived here Thursday noon for a state visit to Cambodia. It is his first trip to the Southeast Asian nation as president. In 2009, he paid an official visit to the kingdom as vice president.

CHINESE PREMIER CALLS FOR JOINT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT UN

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang speaks during the general debate of the UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York Sept. 21, 2016. Premier Li called for joint efforts to address sustainable development, global challenges.
United Nations, Sept. 21 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday took the floor at the annual high-level debate of the UN General Assembly to expound China’s views on international affairs and proposals to promote sustainable development as well as address global challenges.

This was the first time for Li, who took office as Chinese premier in 2013, to address the 193-member General Assembly.

The theme of the general debate of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly is “The Sustainable Development Goals: a universal push to transform our world.”

Stressing that China attaches great importance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Li said the country played a role in promoting leaders of the Group of 20 (G20) to reach agreement on the sustainable development and map out an action plan during the G20 summit held in the east China city of Hangzhou in early September, which help to add new impetus into the global sustainable development efforts.

He called on the international community to jointly tackle the global challenges so as to build an innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive global structure of sustainable development.

The 2030 Agenda, endorsed and launched at the UN Summit for Sustainable Development last year, is a blueprint for eradicating poverty across the world for the years leading up to 2030.

Implementation of the Agenda, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, is high on the agenda of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly, which opened last week.

On behalf of the Chinese government, Li released the country’s national plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the UN Headquarters in New York on Monday when he chaired a roundtable on SDGs.

Li said it is in line with the common interests of the people all over the world and an important guarantee to achieve the SDGs to firmly safeguard the current international system with the United Nations as its core and the international relations norms on the basis of the UN charter.

The premier called on countries to support the United Nations and the Security Council in playing a leading role in international affairs and continue to better the global governance mechanism.

Countries should also stick to the general direction of seeking political solution to hot issues and building a global partnership featuring dialogue rather than confrontation, partnership rather than alliance, he said.

On the current economic challenges, Li said the world economy is facing problems of insufficient demand and prominent structural contradiction.

He suggested countries apply various policy tools to address the economic problems, combining both need-side management and supply-side reform as well as long-term and short-term policies.

All countries need to map out macro policies in a responsible manner and take measures to deal with the impacts brought by economic globalization, said Li.

He urged countries to firmly oppose protectionism in all forms and safeguard the free trade system represented by the World Trade Organization in order to promote the world economy to develop in the path of robust, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and strive to create an international environment that is conducive to reduce inequality and imbalance of global development.

International organizations need to first allocate newly-added assistance to developing countries and developed countries should carry out its promise of aid to developing countries in the hope of helping them explore a development path suitable for their national situation, said Li.

China’s economy has maintained a rapid growth since the reform and opening up policy adopted three decades ago, Li said.

In spite of serious internal and external challenges, the economy still maintains medium-to-high growth due to the innovation and reform, he said.

The first half of this year witnessed a growth rate of 6.5 percent of China’s economy, which is in the forefront in the world, said the premier, adding that China contributes 25 percent of the world economic growth.

He pledged that China will
continue to deepen its reform and follow the opening up policy, promote the construction of Belt and Road Initiative and international cooperation on production capacity so as to realize win-win.

As a big developing country with a population of 1.3 billion, China has earnestly carried out its due international obligations, Li said.

China has provided 400 billion RMB (some 59.9 billion U.S. dollars) to 166 countries and more than 30 international and regional organizations, and trained some 12 million personnel in various sectors for other developing countries, said Li.

Besides, China has become one of the first countries to deposit instruments of joining the Paris Agreement on climate change, Li said.

The country will also provide 300 million dollars in humanitarian aid to relevant countries and international organizations to address the refugee crisis, he added.

China stands ready to further deepen reforms and expand opening-up so as to work with the international community to build a better world in which each individual can enjoy the freedom from want, an opportunity to develop and be treated with dignity, said Li.

**PREMIER LI MEETS U.S. BIGWIGS ON BILATERAL TIES, COMMON CONCERNS**

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (on stage) addresses a welcoming dinner party organized by the Economic Club of New York, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and the U.S.-China Business Council in New York, Sept. 20, 2016.
New York, Sept. 21 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has met here with a group of leading figures in the U.S. economic, think-tank and media circles to deliberate on Chinese policies, discuss bilateral ties and exchange views on issues of common concern.

Remarks and statements made by Li, who was here for a series of United Nations conferences and engagement with a wide spectrum of Americans, have been well received, and deemed by local figures as conducive to promoting China-U.S. Relations.

REASSURING ABOUT CHINESE ECONOMY

On concerns about a slowing Chinese economy, Li said on late Tuesday that the Chinese economy needs and is capable of maintaining medium-to-high growth rate.

Li made the statement when addressing a welcoming dinner party organized by the Economic Club of New York, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, and the U.S.-China Business Council.

Faced with weak global economic recovery and waves of geopolitical conflicts, no countries can stay immune to these unstable and uncertain factors, Li told about 1,000 elites of American businesses.

China’s economy, which has been deeply integrated into the world, is slowing down, but still maintains stable growth, at an annual rate of 6.7 percent for the first half this year, which is not easy for an economy that has reached 10 trillion U.S. dollars, he said.

With an annual growth rate of 6 percent to 7 percent, China’s economy each year can add the volume equivalent to a medium-sized economy, Li said.

The Chinese economy still needs to grow at medium-to-high rates to deal with 14 million extra population of labor force in urban areas each year and China also needs to wage war on poverty which is still plaguing over 50 million Chinese people, the premier said.

China is capable of maintaining this medium-to-high growth rate, thanks to its ongoing efforts to restructure and upgrade its economy and the emergence of new growth driving forces and dynamics, Li reassured the audience.

FRICCTIONS JUST NORMAL, BUT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

Speaking to a welcoming dinner party organized by the Economic Club of New York, Premier Li also touched upon the economic and trade frictions between the two countries and calling upon the two sides to expand common interest and properly handle differences.

When bilateral trade and investment grow from nearly nothing to its current enormous volume, it is only inevitable that frictions might arise, said Li.

Frictions are not the dominating element in China-U.S. economic relations but just a minor part of cooperation, the premier said.

However, they should not be ignored, and the two sides should work to resolve their differences before they spread to others areas of the relationship, Li said.

“Our common interest is far greater than our misunderstandings and differences,” said the premier, adding that the ongoing bilateral investment treaty (BIT) negotiations between the two countries are a signal showing that the two sides would further open up to and make investment in each other.

The premier urges the U.S. side to take a pragmatic and flexible attitude and work with China to reach a mutually beneficial and win-win, high-level BIT.

On China’s business environment, Li said while complaints from some American business people impressed him, he also read a report by the U.S.-China Business Council which told a different story.

In its annual survey, the council found 90 percent of U.S. businesses operating in China were profitable, up from 85 percent in 2014. The Chinese premier also cited increased investment by U.S. enterprises in China.

China is still working to improve its business environment for foreign enterprises, and as part of its overall drive to further open up, China has streamlined procedures for foreign investment, said Li.

THE SKY CLEARS UP AFTER RAINS

Hours before the welcoming dinner party, Li met with a group of leading figures, including former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.
"It is a fact that China and the United States have both stable political relations and very close economic and trade cooperation," Li said in his opening remarks at the closed-door talks.

It’s both in line with the fundamental interests of the two peoples and conducive to world peace, development and prosperity for China and the United States, the largest developing country and the most advanced developed economy, to maintain stable political ties and a close economic relationship, said Li.

Acknowledging that it is unavoidable for the two countries to differ in certain areas due to different cultural backgrounds and national conditions, Li stressed the two sides should focus on mainstream and the general direction of bilateral ties.

"Though China-U.S. relationship has been through ups and downs in the past nearly four decades since the establishment of diplomatic ties, it has always turned out fine, just like the sky clearing up after rains," said Li. He also expressed the hope that those present at the meeting could help further promote the two nations' relationship with concrete actions.

Stressing that China will continue with its opening-up policy, Li said Beijing will work even harder to streamline the administration, delegate more power to lower levels, and protect intellectual property rights so as to create a better and more convenient business environment.

"China-U.S. investment cooperation enjoys great potential, and I believe the U.S. enterprises will see an ever-expanding market in China as well," the Chinese premier said.

Li also said he hoped that the United States could relax export restrictions on hi-tech products and that the two countries could reach a mutually beneficial BIT at an early date.

Calling the current anti-globalization trend "only a setback during the process of globalization," Li said the world needs to fix the flaws of globalization, instead of simply giving it up.

He also said that China, as a firm defender of free trade, will continue to promote free trade within the World Trade Organization framework.

APPRECIATION & APPLAUSE

Li’s remarks and statements have been welcomed with appreciation and applause among participants in the two events.

Barbara H. Franklin, former U.S. Commerce Secretary, said she very much appreciates the wide-ranging remarks and candid answers to the questions given by the premier.

“I am very pleased for the way the premier have stressed the need to continue build trade around the world," she added.

“Premier Li’s wonderful answers to the questions have given us an excellent overview to your government’s thinking on a range of critical policy issues,” said Carla A. Hills, chair of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.

The former U.S. Trade Representative hailed Li’s meeting with Obama on Monday as “continued evidence of our joint dedication to finding sound solutions to tough problems.”

“We look forward to much more collaboration in the days, weeks and months ahead,” Hills said after listening to the premier at the welcoming dinner party.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINESE PREMIER LI KEQIANG’S VISIT TO CANADA

Montreal, Canada, Sept. 24
(Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Saturday left for Cuba after wrapping up a fruitful visit to Canada with a string of promising outcomes and inspiring remarks.

The following is a summary of the achievements the two sides scored and the remarks the Chinese premier made during the visit, the first by a Chinese head of government to the North American country in 13 years.

IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS

A joint statement released Friday by the two sides listed 29
important agreements.

In solidifying a new chapter in their strategic partnership, the two sides held the successful inaugural meeting of the Annual Dialogue between the Chinese premier and the Canadian prime minister.

The two sides announced the goal of doubling bilateral trade by 2025 based on 2015 statistics.

The two sides acknowledged the interconnected nature of the two economies and the untapped potential of the China-Canada economic and commercial relationship, and agreed to launch exploratory discussions for a possible China-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The two governments also agreed to develop cooperation in third-party markets, in order to encourage and support enterprises of both countries to pursue economic development opportunities in those markets.

The two sides announced the goal of doubling two-way visits by 2025 based on 2015 statistics.

EXPERIENCE OF CANADA’S NATIONAL SPORT

On Friday, Li visited renowned Canadian ice hockey team Montreal Canadiens, and dropped the first puck for a training match.

Accompanied by his Canadian counterpart, Justin Trudeau, Li traveled to Bell Centre, and the two leaders were briefed about the history of the club, which was founded in 1909 and has won 24 National Hockey League championships.

In the team’s locker room, Li and Trudeau were presented with Montreal Canadiens jerseys emblazoned with their respective names and the number 1.

“It fits me well,” said Li, who added that with the jersey he became an honorary member of Montreal Canadiens.

Wearing the jerseys, Li and Trudeau then entered the rink, giving high fives with young players waiting for them.

Li said he was pleased to experience Canada’s national sport together with Trudeau in Montreal, the cradle of ice hockey.

Then the two leaders dropped
the ceremonial first puck for a training game of young players of Chinese origin and cheered from time to time the energetic moves of the children.

**QUOTABLE QUOTES**

“Signing an FTA with Canada will be a challenge for China as it will have to bear greater pressure than the developed countries,” Li said Friday at a business forum in Montreal. “However, China is willing to engage in FTA talks with Canada to press the low-end domestic enterprises to move up the ladder.”

For Canada, he said, the FTA will create more trade opportunities and facilitate joint efforts with China to explore third-party markets.

China is willing to strengthen mutual political trust and deepen practical cooperation in a bid to forge a “golden decade” for China-Canada ties, he added.

When meeting Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre and Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard Friday, Li called on Montreal and Quebec to continue to spearhead China-Canada cooperation at local levels.

“China and Canada have reached consensus on launching the feasibility study of the FTA. China welcomes Quebec to play a positive role in this process.”

During Thursday’s talks with Trudeau in Ottawa, Li said Canada should loosen up restrictions on the export of high-tech products to China in a bid to tap potential for bilateral economic cooperation.

“The exchange of visits within one month showed that China-Canada relations are entering a new stage... it’s rare in the bilateral ties, and conforms to the interests of both countries as well as the expectations of the international community.”

It is normal for the two countries with different national conditions and in different stages of development to have differences. What’s more important is to manage their differences, knowing that their common interests far outweigh differences, Li said Thursday at a joint press conference with Trudeau.

When meeting Canada’s Senate Speaker George Furey and Speaker of the House of Commons Geoff Regan Thursday, Li said the National People’s Congress, China’s legislature, is willing to strengthen the exchange of experience in law-making and rule of law, and facilitate communication with Canada’s Senate and House of Commons to help promote China-Canada relations and enhance understanding and friendship between the two peoples.

China appreciated the contribution Canadian Governor General David Johnston has made to the bilateral ties. Though far apart, China and Canada share deep friendship, and the visit has deepened mutual political trust and pushed forward substantial cooperation, Li said Thursday during a meeting with the governor general.
CHINESE PREMIER'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO CUBA FURTHER CONSOLIDATES TIES

Havana, Sept. 26 (Xinhua) — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Monday concluded his three-day official visit to Cuba, further consolidating the comprehensive strategic partnership as the two countries inked more than 20 cooperative deals in a wide range of areas.

This is the first official visit by a Chinese premier to the Caribbean country since Beijing and Havana forged diplomatic ties in 1960.

Li’s visit came after his participation in the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York and an official visit to Canada.

VISIT TO FIDEL CASTRO

Li visited Cuban revolutionary
leader Fidel Castro Sunday afternoon and the two exchanged views on bilateral ties, world peace, regional hotspot issues, food security and other issues of common concern.

Having conveyed the cordial greetings of Chinese leaders and the Chinese people, Li said China cherishes very much the traditional friendship between China and Cuba.

China is willing to cement political mutual trust and expand cooperation with Cuba so as to enhance the friendship between the two peoples, the premier said.

While noting that the world's political and economic landscape is currently experiencing complicated and profound adjustment, with old and new issues intertwined with each other and challenges emerging one after another, Li said, no matter how the international situations change, the China-Cuban relationship of comrade plus brother, featuring mutual respect, treating each other on an equal footing and pulling together, will not change.

Fidel Castro, who just celebrated the 90th birthday in August, said he is pleased to see the remarkable achievements China has scored in the past five decades, and expressed admiration to the Chinese people for their diligence and unyielding spirit.

Describing the current world situation as complex and ever changing, Castro said Cuba would like to safeguard world peace and increase cooperation and communication with China.

Fidel Castro visited China twice in 1995 and 2003 respectively. Chinese President Xi Jinping also visited the Cuban revolutionary leader during his visit to Cuba in 2014.

ENHANCED PRAGMATIC COOPERATION

During the visit, China and Cuba signed more than 20 cooperative agreements in areas including economic technology, finance, production capacity, telecommunications, environment protection, new energy and
inspection and quarantine, with the witness of Li and Cuban President Raul Castro.

In the talks with Raul Castro at the Palace of the Revolution, Li said China has firmly adhered to the policy of China-Cuba friendship, supported Cuba in following a socialist path and promoted bilateral pragmatic cooperation.

As both countries are facing the urgent task of development, China stands ready to focus on economic development when cooperated with Cuba, support Cuba’s industrialization process and conduct cooperation on infrastructure construction and industrial equipment production, Li said.

The Chinese premier also called on the two countries to expand trade and investment cooperation, share development experience and carry out more frequent people-to-people exchanges.

Raul Castro, President of the Cuban Council of State and Council of Ministers, said Cuba agrees with China on measures to develop bilateral ties and is willing to learn from China’s development experience.

Cuba looks forward to increasing high-level exchanges with China, and expanding down-to-earth cooperation with China, he said.

China is Cuba’s second-largest trading partner while Cuba is China’s biggest trade partner in the Caribbean region.

Beijing’s participation in the development of multiple sectors of the economy has been vital to Havana’s push to modernize the country’s socialist model.

Commercial exchanges between the two countries have grown consistently, with bilateral trade reaching some 2.2 billion U.S. dollars in 2015 and further expanding in 2016.

Bilateral trade and economy has been shifting from simple goods trade to cooperation covering areas of agriculture, production capacity, equipment production, health care, tourism and research and development.

During his visit, the premier also got on a Chinese-made Yutong Bus run by a local tourist company for a talk with the driver about the performance of the vehicle.

Yutong, a leading bus-maker in China, has occupied over 90 percent of the Caribbean country’s coach market since it entered the island in 2005. Currently there are more than 5,000 Yutong buses in Cuba with many uses.

Li encouraged the company to radiate more countries in Caribbean and Latin America and expand cooperation with local companies in these countries.

Also on Sunday, a conference of Chinese and Cuban entrepreneurs was held in Havana with the participation of more than 200 businessmen from both countries in areas of telecommunication, finance, agriculture and others.

MORE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES

Besides economic cooperation, both leaders called for more frequent cultural and people-to-people exchanges in the future.

Li and his wife Cheng Hong, accompanied by Cuban leaders and senior officials, watched a performance entitled Havana Night at the Grand Theater of Havana on Sunday night. Artists from both countries gave each other’s most unique and splendid performances to an audience of more than 1,000.

Both leaders agreed that such activities would help boost cultural exchanges and the friendship between the two peoples.

The performance was one of the featured shows within the Year of China-Latin America Cultural Exchange which fell in 2016.

People-to-people exchanges between the two countries have been in the interest of both peoples, and educational cooperation has been on the rise, said Chinese ambassador to Cuba Zhang Tuo.

In recent years, thousands of Chinese students have received scholarships from the Cuban government and have studied there the Spanish language, medicine, tourism, education and so on, according to Zhang. Meanwhile, the number of overseas Chinese students in Cuba at their own expense has also increased.

Cuba has become an important base for Spanish-language human resources training for China, while more and more Cuban people are becoming interested in learning the Chinese language, he said.
ECONOMIC WATCH: CHINESE ECONOMY STABILIZING IN DIFFICULT BALANCING ACT

by Zhang Zhongkai (Xinhua)

China's economy showed signs of stabilizing as GDP growth remained at 6.7 percent in the third quarter, although the government faces the challenges of balancing debt control and economic growth.

Official figures released on Oct.19,2016, kept China on track to meet the government's target of 6.5 to 7 percent growth for the year. The economy expanded 6.9 percent in 2015, the slowest pace in a quarter of a century.

GROWTH ON TRACK

“The general performance was better than expected, and the
national economy grew steadily with progress being made and quality improved,” said Sheng Laiyuan, spokesperson with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

As external demand remains soft, the stabilization in China’s economy is largely propped up by improving domestic demand, especially in the property and automobile sectors.

China’s industrial output growth slowed to 6.1 percent year on year in September, down from 6.3 percent in August, as weak global demand weighed on the world’s largest trader in goods.

Fixed-asset investment rose 8.2 percent in the first nine months of the year, while retail sales grew 10.7 percent year on year last month, marking a slight acceleration from August.

Private investment rebounded after a lengthy poor streak while property investment continued to accelerate in September.

As evidence that a rebalancing of China’s economy from being investment-led to consumption-driven is well underway, consumption contributed to 71 percent of economic growth, up 13.3 percent year on year, while the tertiary sector grew 7.6 percent year on year in added value, the fastest among all sectors.

Meanwhile, China's producer price deflation disappeared in September for the first time since early 2012, thanks to China’s efforts to cut excess capacity and promote supply-side structural reforms, especially in steel and coal, Sheng said.

The NBS said in a statement that the economy was in a critical period of transformation and upgrading, with old drivers of growth to be replaced by new ones, with many uncertain factors in the economy remaining, and that the foundations for sustained growth were not solid.

**RISKS UNDER CONTROL**

With GDP growth on track, the government has signaled a shift in policy focus away from stimulus and toward containing financial risks caused by easy credit.
China’s new lending boomed again in September with loans to households continuing to rapidly increase, official data showed Tuesday.

This pointed to a positive sign for property and auto demand but added concerns that consumers were following the same high-leverage path as corporates.

To deleverage the economy, the government rolled out a debt-for-equity swap program in early October to bring down the corporate leverage ratio, while over a dozen Chinese cities have introduced measures to cool overheated markets, which led to marked drops in sales.

These steps gave rise to concerns whether the government could balance reducing debt with sustaining growth, as less leverage almost always means short-term slower economic activity.

The property market restrictions are timely and effective and aim to stem speculative purchases while supporting real demand, with limited impact on the economy, Sheng said.

This round of property tightening will unlikely drag down the headline growth as sharply as from 2010 onwards, as housing investment has remained lukewarm in the past few quarters despite soaring property prices, Zhou Hao, Senior EM Economist Asia with Commerzbank, said in a research note.

While a drop in housing sales will add downward pressure on the economy, we do not really foresee a risk of sharp investment slowdown, and in the coming quarter China’s monetary policy will be less aggressive than estimated, Zhou added.

Expansionary fiscal policy is expected to be the major tools for the government to sustain economic growth, according to analyst estimates.

There might be continued policy support mainly in the form of infrastructure and public private partnership project approvals, said Tom Rafferty, Asia Economist with the Intelligence Unit with the Economist.

China’s economy grew 6.7 percent in the third quarter of 2016, holding steady with the second quarter and strengthening hope that the Chinese government will achieve its annual GDP target.

The figure, released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Oct.19, is within the government’s target range of between 6.5 and 7 percent for 2016.

On a quarterly basis, the economy increased 1.8 percent on the second quarter.

GDP expanded 6.7 percent year on year in the first three quarters of 2016 to reach 52.997 trillion yuan...
NBS spokesperson Sheng Laiyun said China's economy made progress and grew steadily as a result of expanded aggregate demand, supply-side structural reform, anticipated development and new economic drivers.

The structure of industry and demand continued to improve in the first three quarters. Wednesday’s data showed the added value of the tertiary sector accounted for 52.8 percent of the country's GDP, up 1.6 percentage points year on year.

Consumers contributed a staggering 71 percent to economic growth in the first three quarters, up 13.3 percentage points on the same period last year, while energy consumption per unit of GDP dropped 5.2 percent.

Agricultural production remained stable with 139.26 million tonnes of summer grain output, the second-best seasonal performance in history, with expectation of a good harvest this autumn.

Thanks largely to strong performance in the high-tech and equipment manufacturing sectors, the country's industrial output expanded 6 percent in the first three quarters. The growth rate was unchanged from the first six months, the NBS said.

Industrial output is used to measure the activity of large designated enterprises with annual turnover of at least 20 million yuan.

Retail sales of consumer goods grew 10.4 percent year on year in the first three quarters this year, accelerating from the 10.3 percent growth posted in the first half of the year, on the back of robust online sales.

Fixed-asset investment (FAI), which includes capital spent on infrastructure, property, machinery and other physical assets, grew 8.2 percent in the first three quarters year-on-year, though slowed by 0.8 percentage points compared with the first two quarters.

September FAI growth accelerated to 9 percent year on year, compared with 8.2 percent in August.

Investment in the property sector rose 5.8 percent year on year in the first nine months of 2016, higher than 5.4 percent posted in the first eight months, and 5.3 percent posted for the January-July period.
IMPLEMENTING REFORM KEY TO SUSTAINING CHINA’S GROWTH

China’s economy managed to end the third quarter on steady footing, but for strength to remain, the country needs to follow through on the wide-ranging reforms it has planned.

Official data showed China's economy grew 6.7 percent in the third quarter, holding steady from the second quarter and putting the government on track to hit the full-year target of between 6.5 and 7 percent.

The results once again dispelled worries of a hard landing for the world's second-largest economy, bringing relief for China and the rest of the world. With encouraging trends taking shape, China's growth has huge potential for more pleasant surprises.

Among the bright spots, the service industry accounted for 52.8 percent of GDP in the first three quarters, up 1.6 percentage points from the same period last year.

Consumption is assuming a more conspicuous role in growth, accounting for 71 percent of GDP growth in the first three quarters, evidence that China’s efforts to shift away from investment- and trade-led growth are bearing fruit.

In a sign of improving domestic demand, China’s producer prices rose in September for the first time in nearly five years, a broad positive for an economy struggling to tackle high corporate debt.

That being said, China's growth outlook still has multiple unknowns that will put policymakers to the test.

In addition to uncertainties in external markets such as Britain and the United States, the property sector, which has proved to be a significant growth driver so far this year, remains a major concern.

Over the week-long National Day holiday, dozens of Chinese cities announced property curb policies due to fears of asset bubbles. This raised concerns about whether the policy move would weigh on the broader economy if other drivers fail to pick up the slack.

Investment growth by private firms, which regularly contribute more than 60 percent of China’s GDP growth and provide over 80 percent of jobs, remained on the weak side.

In the first nine months, fixed asset investment by private companies increased 2.5 percent year on year, in contrast to the 21.1-percent growth by state firms.
In addition, high corporate debt in China has been a major threat to companies’ profitability and to broader financial stability. The country’s total debt surged after the 2008 global financial crisis and its debt-to-GDP ratio was reportedly around 250 percent by the end of 2015.

Aware of such problems, authorities have already outlined a slew of reform steps. To stimulate private investment, the government has opened up more industries and tried to attract investors through public-private partnership (PPP) projects.

On the debt front, the State Council earlier this month detailed a guideline on the long-discussed debt-for-equity swaps, pledging the scheme will be conducted in an “orderly” fashion as the country steps up efforts to tackle high corporate debt.

Other policies include cutting industrial overcapacity, overhauling state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and reducing taxes to lower financial costs.

While the reform roadmap is becoming clearer, the next crucial step is its delivery, as progress may stutter and stumble due to insufficient implementation and conflict of interests.

But with downward pressure still looming large, authorities at all levels should bear in mind that the future course of China’s economy in years to come will be decided by how well reforms are implemented.

OPTIMISM AMONG TRADERS AS CHINA’S CANTON FAIR OPENS

Guangzhou, Oct. 15 (Xinhua) — Chinese manufacturers and traders were optimistic about overcoming global economic headwinds as they turned up at the month-long Canton fair which opened its 120th session on Saturday at the southern city of Guangzhou.

The biannual event, formally known as China Import and Export Fair, is the country’s largest trade fair and gauges global demand for China’s export, which has been facing tremendous downward pressure due to rising cost, excessive capacity, and sluggish demand.

According to official statistics, in the first eight months of 2016, China’s foreign trade slid 1.8 percent from a year earlier, with exports dropping 1 percent and imports falling 2.9 percent.

But Chinese enterprises at the fair seemed to remain optimistic.

Zhang Qingfu, a senior executive of Haier Electronics Group Co. Ltd’s overseas operation, said the company has found new market with its “smart” electronics — devices controlled by mobile connection.

NYSE-listed Trina Solar expanded its overseas operation this year. It acquired a Dutch solar battery supplier and made investment in Thailand for a new
solar panel plant, said Liu Keyan, public relations director for Trina Solar.

“While the world economic outlook remains grim, we are confident to register a 10 percent growth of output this year, thus maintaining the lead in the global market,” Liu added.

At the previous session of Canton fair, held from April to May 2016, 185,596 overseas buyers were present and inked contracts worth 28.1 billion U.S. dollars.

Canton Fair’s spokesperson Xu Bing expects the attendance to continue to grow this autumn.

**CHINA'S ECONOMY TO HOLD STEADY IN 2016**

China's economic growth is expected to stay “around 6.7 percent” in the fourth quarter of 2016 and for the whole year as major indicators point to stabilization, a report showed on 29th September, 2016.

Investment, consumption and industrial output all improved in recent months due to government stimulus and recovering upstream industries, according to a report released by a financial research institute with the Bank of China (BOC).

“The downward pressure has been somewhat reduced, but the economy remains in a bottoming out process,” said the report.

The country’s GDP expanded 6.7 percent in the second quarter of 2016, still the lowest rate since the 2009 global financial crisis but within the government’s target range for 2016.

The government has cut interest rates, boosted infrastructure investment and carried out supply-side structural reforms to sustain growth and create new momentum.

Earlier data showed China’s rail freight volume returned to growth and industrial profits surged in August, reinforcing a message of economic stabilization.

This week, the Asian Development Bank upgraded its forecast for China’s 2016 growth from 6.5 percent to 6.6 percent, and to 6.4 percent growth from 6.3 percent for 2017.

The BOC report suggested authorities balance policies to support growth and prevent asset price bubbles, citing soaring home prices in big cities and surging monetary supply.

It called for a neutral and moderate monetary policy and faster fiscal spending.

In 2016, listed Chinese banks are expected to see net profits grow around 2.6 percent and the non-performing loan ratio rise slightly to around 1.7 percent, according to the report.

The banks’ total assets will increase approximately 10 percent and their liabilities will rise 9.5 percent this year, the report said.
CHINA SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES SHENZHOU-11 MANNED SPACECRAFT

Jiuquan Oct. 17 (Xinhua) — China on Monday successfully launched the manned spacecraft Shenzhou-11 that will dock with the space lab Tiangong-2.

The spacecraft, with two male astronauts on board, was launched at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China’s Gobi desert at 7:30 a.m. Beijing Time Monday atop a Long March-2F Y11 carrier rocket.

The spacecraft later entered the designated orbit.

The mission was declared a success by Zhang Youxia, commander-in-chief of China’s manned space program, about 19 minutes after the blast-off.

President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, sent a message of congratulations on the successful launch. Fan Changlong, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), read Xi’s message.

The mission of the orbiting space lab Tiangong-2 and the Shenzhou-11 manned spacecraft marks the first time that Chinese astronauts will stay in orbit for medium term, Xi, also CMC chairman, said in the message.
Xi urged staff of the mission to carry on their work to guarantee that designated targets will be realized. He also encouraged them to “constantly break new ground for the manned space program, so that Chinese people will take bigger steps and march further in space probe, to make new contribution to the building of China into a space power.”

Xi sent the message from the western Indian state of Goa where he attended the eighth summit of the emerging-market bloc of BRICS, which groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Premier Li Keqiang and Liu Yunshan, both members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, watched the live broadcast of the launch at the command center of China’s manned space program in Beijing.

A see-off ceremony for the two astronauts was held at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center ahead of the launch on Monday morning.

**SHENZHOU-11 ASTRONAUTS ENTER TIANGONG-2 SPACE LAB**

On Oct. 19, 2016, the two astronauts aboard the Shenzhou-11 spacecraft entered the space lab Tiangong-2 at 6:32 Wednesday morning Beijing Time, according to Beijing Aerospace Control Center (BACC).

Commander of the mission Jing Haipeng opened the hatch of Tiangong-2 and floated into the space lab, followed later by Chen Dong.

The two astronauts extended greetings to all the people of the nation in the space lab, and checked the status of the space complex formed by Shenzhou-11 and Tiangong-2.

Before entering the space lab, the two astronauts entered Shenzhou-11’s orbital compartment and removed their intravehicular mobility unit spacesuits to change into blue jumpsuits.

They will live in the space lab for 30 days before returning to Earth.

Shenzhou-11 was launched on Monday morning from northwest China’s Gobi Desert.

It approached Tiangong-2 and automatically docked with the space lab at 3:31 a.m. Wednesday.
The launch of a new manned space mission brings China closer to the establishment of a permanent space station, international experts say.

The launch marks a key step toward China’s plan to eventually operate a permanent space station, said Russia Today television.

The successful launch of the Shenzhou-11 spacecraft is another step forward to put China among leading players in space technology, said Alexander Zheleznyakov, a Russian expert on history of space flights.

China’s experimental space lab will help provide solutions for spacecraft of different functions to approach and dock, and for a long-term operation of life support system, said Zheleznyakov.

Igor Lisov, a prominent Russian space expert and an editor at the industry magazine Cosmonautics News, spoke highly of China’s launch of the manned space mission.

China can now test technologies for cargo spacecraft docking, life support system operation and water recycling to ensure a long-term continuous operation of its space station in the future with less dependence on replenishment from the Earth, he said.

If all goes well, China will launch the unpiloted Tianzhou-1 cargo ship next spring to autonomously dock with Tiangong-2. Tianzhou-1 will be capable of automatically transferring propellants, a crucial requirement for space station assembly and maintenance, according to a report by Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS).

“That will further their docking capabilities needed for the larger space station,” Johnson Freese, a professor at the Naval War College and an expert on China’s space program, was quoted as saying by the CBS.

“Tiangong-2 is supposed to be able to stay in orbit for two years or longer, so that’s taking them (Chinese) really close to 2019 or so. I think this will be their last big technology test phase before going to their large space station,” said Freese.

The steady progress of China’s space program has aroused criticism against the United States, who refused to cooperate with China in the International Space Station program and forced China to develop its own.

While the European Space Agency and Russia are cooperating with China, NASA of the United States is currently largely prohibited from doing so by law, said the Finland-based news website gbtimes.com.

With the current U.S.-led International Space Station expected to retire in 2024, China could be the only country with a permanent presence in space, said the National Broadcasting Company (NBC).

China has already signed an agreement with the United Nations opening the Chinese Space Station
Many consider picturesque Hangzhou a Paradise on Earth. Thanks to its numerous mountains, hills, rivers and lakes, Hangzhou is characterized as a beautiful urban landscape with unique Eastern flavor. When Marco Polo arrived in Hangzhou in the 13th Century, he declared it “the most beautiful and elegant city in the world.” A still-popular Chinese saying goes, “Heaven is above, and below are Hangzhou and Suzhou.”

Hangzhou is a pristine model of a beautiful city. It not only shines thanks to millennia-old landscapes and artistic conceptions, but continues sparkling because of careful maintenance, broad civility and warm humanity. Since ancient times, Hangzhou has been referenced in numerous poems and paintings, fueling its continuous...
appeal. It is under a global spotlight today as host of the G20 Summit. Tourists from all over the world are streaming into the city for its slow life tempo and exquisite landscapes.

Hangzhou is perhaps best known for West Lake, a body of water that has been immortalized in art and literature countless times. Stunning West Lake is surrounded by mountains on three sides. It is divided into five sections by three causeways. Numerous temples, pagodas, gardens, and artificial islands can be found within the lake area. Peaks tremble as they are reflected off the ripples of the crystal water. Several causeways stretch across the lake and many islets dot the water, creating a natural panoramic scroll of landscapes. It’s hard to tire of West Lake.

A UNESCO World Heritage site, West Lake has attracted generations of writers with its beautiful views and profound cultural legacy. It is also one of the most important sources of inspiration for Chinese garden designers. Even after its treatment by poets, writers, painters, craftsmen and horticulturists, the body of water remains highly inspirational for today’s creative people. Writers across the millennia recorded much of West Lake’s history as well as anecdotes about ancient Hangzhou. Modern writers continue to be enamored by West Lake. In terms of poetry, Bai Juyi, Su Shi, Xu Zhimo and Hu Shi wrote a heavy volume about West Lake. A myth tells the tale of a white snake falling in love with a man. It’s no surprise that Marco Polo preferred Hangzhou to his hometown of Venice. To me, Hangzhou is blessed to be home to something as miraculous as West Lake.

To capture the essence of West Lake, one has to adopt the right methods and approaches. However, it is a daunting task for a poet to define the indescribable, fast-changing creative power of Heaven and Earth. In my opinion, West Lake is a song as much as a poem. It symbolizes the harmonious relationship between man and nature. It is a great example of how generations of Hangzhou people have respected, protected and conversed with nature. West Lake is well deserving of being honored as World Cultural Heritage.

Since ancient times, Hangzhou
has been widely acclaimed as the Buddhist hub of southeastern China thanks to a large number of Buddhist temples built by eminent monks from both home and abroad and profound Buddhist culture. Buddhism in Hangzhou was introduced by Indian monk Huili in the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420), grew in the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589), and flourished in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) wherein master monks emerged, academic research boomed, temples mushroomed, and influence penetrated the core of Chinese spirit.

Of all the Buddhist temples in Hangzhou, Lingyin Temple is one of the most famous. Also known as Yunlin Temple, Lingyin has a history of nearly 1,700 years. It was one of the earliest houses of worship in Hangzhou, and is one of the 10 most famous Zen temples. Lingyin Temple is a must-visit for travelers interested in Chinese and Buddhist art and history. The temple, now esteemed as the most prestigious of Han-style Buddhism, is also a treasure trove of Buddhist art, quaint architecture, and exquisite carving, serving as a window of Buddhist culture. “A Buddhist World in Southeastern China” is another tagline Hangzhou has enjoyed.

Today’s Hangzhou is attempting to become an open, charming, exquisite and invigorating city where urban and rural people live together happily, with abundance and harmony. It is striding toward the goal of becoming an internationally renowned city. Hangzhou will continue to build a high-tech production base and a center for domestic and international tourism. It will continue fostering cultural creative industry, e-commerce, and financial services. It will enhance its overall strength, upgrade its eco-environment, and improve the life of every citizen. May the most beautiful and elegant city in the world continue shining brightly in the East.

(The author is a foreign correspondent for China Radio International.)
BIOGRAPHY PROJECT AIMS TO REVIVE BEIJINGERS' HUTONG MEMORY

Beijing, Oct. 13 (Xinhua) — Beijingers boast that under each brick of the ancient capital’s hutongs hides a story. They are not exaggerating.

In an ordinary house in a cramped hutong, or narrow alley, to the south of Tian’anmen Square, Wang Jinghu is penning a story about his great-grandfather Wang Fengqing, an eminent Peking Opera master.

Wang Jinghu, 62, a retired mechanical engineer, has no real connection to the performing art, but pride pervades his words when he talks about the achievements of his ancestors, such as an Imperial Yellow Jacket gifted to his great-grandfather by Empress Dowager Cixi of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

The Imperial Yellow Jacket, or “huangmagua,” was the highest honor a Qing emperor or empress could extend to officials or ordinary people.

Today, few people might know of what happened in the courtyard about a century ago, but Wang says the stories not only belong to his family but also to history of Peking Opera, which is considered as the quintessence of Chinese culture.

Wang’s great-grandfather Wang Fengqing made his name as “laosheng,” the role of an old man. His unique sonorous tenor won him fame. He was often invited to perform in the Forbidden City for the royal family with his elder brother Wang Yaoqing, who played the “huadan,” or young female role.

These two masters taught their pupils in the very courtyard where Mei Lanfang (1894-1961), one of the most famous Peking Opera artists in modern Chinese theater.

Wang Jinghu is writing for a biography project which collects
stories related to Shitou Community, part of Dashilar, one of the last few historical streets with a complete layout of hutongs, just south of the Forbidden City.

So far, two collections of “Stories of Hutong” have been printed, 500 runs of each. Wang’s writing is for the third episode.

BIography for the ordinary

The biography project was initiated in the summer of 2015 as part of efforts for community revitalization, according to Li Xiaohui, Communist Party secretary of the neighborhood’s residents’ committee.

The idea occurred to Li during a community revitalization training program that year.

“I was impressed by the teacher’s idea of a community cultural map. I was struck by how it was perfect for my community, as Dashilar is a place full of stories, but only a handful of people know about its history,” Li says.

Li organized more than 10 meetings, to collect the memories of the community’s elderly residents.

But who could write the stories? That was the problem, says Li. As most of the 3,000 residents have little more than a junior middle school education, so it was hard to find writers.

Some college students participated in this project but many left before it was complete. So, members of the residents’ committee took up the baton. They attended oral history lessons and learned the ropes of interview and writing.
Most of the stories in the first two collections are about ordinary residents, including a craftsman and a retired school teacher.

Wang Jinghu volunteered to be the writer when he found out that his great grandfather, who died in 1959 when Wang was only five years old, would be included.

Wang has handwritten more than 20 pages. The mechanical engineer is not unfamiliar with pens and ink, but “unlike engineering drawings, writing is not an easy job,” he says. “The pen didn’t seem to be a good match for me in the beginning, but everyday I am getting better.”

The job became even harder when Wang was faced with the lack of documents. He has used all that have been preserved in his home, but that is not enough to support the story.

So he has to find other alternatives, such as writings about or by other Peking Opera performers who were apprentices of his ancestors or kept close relations with them, just in search for any mention of his family.

Another source, however, is intangible and only exists in Wang’s memory, where the man would find himself sitting on the chair in that courtyard, listening to the stories about his ancestors by the elders in the family.

TANGIBLE THREAT

Hutong communities began to take shape in Beijing in the 13th century. Statistics in 1949 showed that about 1,300 alleys in the capital were called hutong, but habitually, hutong may also refer to other alleys that unnecessarily bear the name, such as “xiang” (lane) and “jie” (street). As an old adage says, there are as many unnamed hutongs in Beijing as there are hairs on a bull.

The centuries old architectural legacies faced threat of disappearance when urban development of the ancient capital accelerated amid the roar of bulldozers in the 1990s. Fortunately, the Beijing municipal government decided to leave the last hutongs in situ, thanks to calls for protection efforts.

However, the problems facing hutong preservation today are less about demolition than intangible heritage protection, which has become more imminent since hutongs were saved.

Non-material culture of hutong is fading with the encroachment of modern civilization and the flux of young people, who have moved to other places to find more convenient living conditions, such as central heating and private toilet.

“Indeed the physical complex has remained, but hutongs are much more than buildings,” says Li Xiaohui. “People and their lives are an integral part of hutong lives and history. That’s why we want to record their stories.”

REVITALIZATION

The biography project is supported by Wutong Community College, a non-profit organization focusing on community revitalization, which offers 5,000 yuan (about 700 U.S. dollars) for the first episode of the stories.

The group “wants to highlight the value of ordinary hutong residents in passing on Beijing’s traditions and culture,” says Li Jie, director and founder of Wutong.

“Their life stories, though perhaps uneventful, are reflections of the great changes ordinary Beijing residents have witnessed, and, thus, should not be ignored,” the director says.

“For the future generations of hutong residents, I think they should first know where they are from, then they can be aware of where they are going,” she says.

Xu Hua, a voluntary academic director of the biography project, says that it is very important to explore the stories behind hutongs, where both celebrities and common people once mixed, as “residents there are the epitome of Beijing’s culture and traditions.”

Xu sees the biography project as a very small step towards a more ambitious program — the oral history of hutong communities.

Xu believes an oral history program may help cultivate a sense of community among residents. “We may begin with personal or family history by helping people record their own stories and trace their family trees.”

Li Xiaohui, the community secretary, also wants to do more. She says that stories about hutongs, once the blood vessels of Beijing, are a valuable resource for the studies of Beijing’s history and culture.

She hopes one day the stories of her neighborhood can be put onto stage for visitors to Dashilar.

“When visitors can sit down in our hutong and listen to or watch our stories, they can take a piece of Beijing away with them.”
YANGCHENG MITTEN CRABS: AN EXQUISITE AUTUMN DELICACY

For centuries the mitten crabs have been considered a delicacy in China as well as other parts of East Asia. As the chilly wind begins to sweep across the country in October after the Mid-Autumn Festival, the season for savoring mitten crabs has come around, and the best ones are produced in the Yangcheng Lake.

Yangcheng Lake is a freshwater lake about three kilometers northeast of Suzhou City in Jiangsu Province, east China. It is the most famous area of origin for the Chinese mitten crabs.

The best time of visiting the lake is September and October in Chinese lunar calendar because the mitten crabs turn juicy during this period with special delicious flavor.

Taking a real bite of famous Yangcheng crab is becoming an increasingly expensive culinary experience. Normally a pair of crabs – one male and one female – served in Shanghai fancy restaurants cost about 300 yuan (47 U.S dollars) or more.

So many people prefer driving to Yangcheng Lake on their own trips and taste the delicacy in a crab house, a type of eatery run by local crab farmers, which offers a simple yet authentic dining experience.

Crab houses, surrounding the lakeside, usually consist of a three-story building which includes holding areas where live hairy crabs are transported by farmers from their cages and delivered to the chefs.

Traditionally, mitten crabs are simply steamed whole to preserve their delicate flavor and moisture. Nothing else is added, no additional ingredients or spices or other flavorings. They are then eaten with a dark vinegar dip which enhances the natural crab flavor.

What makes the crab such a prized delicacy is the abundant rich, creamy golden roe. If you are tasting the roe for the first time, the lushness will overwhelm your taste buds.

It tastes sultry and buttery, delivering a sense of being suspended in the momentary euphoria of gooey, sweet and warm lusciousness.
100-DAY CELEBRATION HELD FOR TWIN PANDA CUBS IN SW CHINA

Twin panda cubs are seen at their 100-day celebration at the Chongqing Zoo in Chongqing, southwest China, Oct. 20, 2016. A 100-day celebration was held in the zoo for twin panda cubs “Dashuang” and “Xiaoshuang” who were born on July 11 this year.

Visitors watch real time monitoring on twin panda cubs at the Chongqing Zoo in Chongqing, southwest China, Oct. 20, 2016. A 100-day celebration was held in the zoo for twin panda cubs “Dashuang” and “Xiaoshuang” who were born on July 11 this year.
Zookeepers make preparations for twin panda cubs’ 100-day celebration at the Chongqing Zoo in Chongqing, southwest China, Oct. 20, 2016. A 100-day celebration was held in the zoo for twin panda cubs “Dashuang” and “Xiaoshuang” who were born on July 11 this year.

A zookeeper feeds one of the twin panda cubs at the Chongqing Zoo in Chongqing, southwest China, Oct. 20, 2016. A 100-day celebration was held in the zoo for twin panda cubs “Dashuang” and “Xiaoshuang” who were born on July 11 this year.
Zookeepers take twin panda cubs to meet tourists at the Chongqing Zoo in Chongqing, southwest China, Oct. 20, 2016. A 100-day celebration was held in the zoo for twin panda cubs “Dashuang” and “Xiaoshuang” who were born on July 11 this year.

TIBET RECEIVES 21 MLN TOURISTS IN PAST 9 MONTHS

About 21 million Chinese and foreign tourists visited southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region in the first three quarters of 2016, up 20.4 percent year on year, authorities said on Oct. 18.

Tourism revenue during the past nine months increased by 25.9 percent year on year to 28.7 billion yuan (4.25 billion U.S. dollars), according to the regional tourism development commission.

During the annual Shoton (Yogurt) Festival held from September 1-7, the regional capital of Lhasa received over 2 million tourists, an increase of 17.4 percent year on year.

Citing booming revenue from various festivals, including the Tibetan New Year, the Peach Blossom Festival in Nyingchi Prefecture, the Mount Qomolangma Cultural Festival and the Tibet Tourism and Culture Expo, the commission said festival tourism has become a major boost for the development of the tourism industry in the region.

According to the region’s 13th five-year-plan (2016-2020), the regional government aims to receive over 30 million tourists in 2020, with an annual tourism revenue of over
LOW-OXYGEN ENVIRONMENT MAY PROMOTE LONGEVITY: TIBET STUDY

Chinese research has found that low-oxygen environments may promote longevity.

According to research by Zhang Yaping and Wu Dongdong at Kunming College of Life Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, elderly people from the Tibetan Plateau have a longer lifespan than elderly people in other regions of China.

Through examining 2010 census data, researchers found that the proportion of the Tibetan population over 60 years of age was significantly lower than that for the Han population.

However, among Tibetans there is dramatic rise in the ratio of proportion of people older than 91 years old. The proportion of individuals older than 100 years of age was also higher for male (but not female) Tibetans than for Han Chinese.

According to the research findings, published in Cell Research on September 9, elderly people living on the Tibetan Plateau tend to have a longer lifespan than elderly people living at lower altitudes, suggesting an association between hypoxia and longevity.

There have also been reports of a link between longer life expectancy and living in the high altitude Andean region in America, according to the researchers.

Genetic studies showed that low-oxygen environments can accelerate the evolution of aging-associated genes, which might offset the effect of aging and extend lifespan, the researchers said.

SEARCHING FOR SHANGRI-LA

Beijing, Sept. 23 (Xinhua) — Its mystic appeal has long endured, but what and where is Shangri-la? Laurence Brahm asked such questions during his first search for the lost mythical kingdom in 2002, but the answers he received were confused.

“A grand hotel,” said one.

“Paradise,” said another.

“A hidden country,” tried a third.

Some people even gave Brahm, a lawyer-turned-explorer, a question of their own, “Does it really exist?”

In search of an answer, 41-year-old Brahm and his team set off from Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, and headed north to Qinghai Province before finally trekking south through Yunnan Province. But the answers he wanted were nowhere to be found.

Shangri-la was first mentioned in British author James Hilton’s 1933 classic novel “Lost Horizon.” The allure of a mysterious and isolated place of permanent beauty, harmony, and spiritual resonance, enclosed deep in the Himalayas, as depicted in the book, has for decades inspired many around the world to search and explore, to find if such a place really exists, and where it could be discovered.

Brahm is one of these searchers. He put aside his job as a lawyer, organized a team and launched three expeditions between 2002 and 2004,
each lasting about nine months from spring to autumn, to look for clues about Shangri-la.

“I can say no search has ever been as in-depth as ours. We went to places that no foreigner had ever been to before and conducted countless field interviews with living Buddhas, monks, nomads, artists and tourists,” Brahm said.

Based on the expeditions, Brahm has written a trilogy of travelogues and made several documentaries. More recently, he put on a multi-media art exhibition, “Searching for Shangri-la”, in Beijing to share his stories, findings, thoughts and inspirations.

The exhibition is scheduled to last two months from Sept. 15 to Nov. 15 in the Three Shadows Photography Art Center in Caochangdi, a Beijing art district.

CONTINUOUSQUEST

In their second expedition, Brahm and his team dug deep into the origin of the Shangri-la myth.

After detailed research and analysis of “Lost Horizon,” they found that James Hilton had never visited Asia and largely based his writing on botanist and explorer Joseph Rock’s reports on western China for the National Geographic.

So in 2003, the team followed the footsteps of Joseph Rock along the ancient Tea Horse Road, which for centuries had served as a trade link between China’s Yunnan and Tibet, and several Asian countries, as well as providing a vital route for Buddhism to enter China.

They wanted to find the prototype that had inspired Hilton’s Shangri-la, only to discover that Shangri-la was most likely a misspelling of “Shambhala,” an ideal realm in Tibetan Buddhism, Brahm said. So the team embarked on a third expedition in 2004 - looking for Shambhala.

During their quest, they heard of the existence of a rare sutra that contained descriptions and prophecies regarding Shambhala and was preserved at Zhaxi Lhunbo Lamasery in Xigaze, Tibet.

Following clues in the sutra, the explorers finally arrived at the ruins of Guge, a powerful ancient kingdom founded around the 9th century that disappeared mysteriously in the 17th century, in Ngari Prefecture, the most isolated part of western Tibet.

Regretfully, Guge was no Shambhala either. But they learned...
that in a remote part of central Tibet, five to twenty five monks often gather to represent the kings of Shambhala and collectively meditate, visualizing Shambhala.

The practice helped Brahm realize that the search for Shangri-la or Shambhala’s actual location was not important. Shambhala was not something to be found; it was something to be created.

**SHANGRI-LA TO BE CREATED**

According to a prophecy in the sutra, about 2,500 years after the Nirvana of Sakyamuni, founder of Buddhism, the world is destined to enter the Age of Kali, or self-destruction, a time when short-sighted human greed results in vicious cycles of war, poverty and environmental destruction.

Ultimately, the last king of Shambhala dispatches warriors to rid the world of the forces of greed, anger and ignorance, establishing the order of Shambhala on earth.

“Shambhala is basically a balanced and sustainable world that shows respect for nature and for others,” Brahm said. “By projecting positive intention to change the circumstances around us, we create Shambhala. It begins with each individual’s intention and in the end, it will be our collective intention as individuals that will make a difference.”

Though having failed to find the physical place of Shangri-la or Shambhala, it seems that Brahm learned something unexpected on his expeditions, something more meaningful perhaps: that paradise is not some mythical place that does not exist, but Shambhala-like future can be created by humanity through change of perceptions and its actions.
A huge thangka painting of the Buddha is exhibited at the Drepung Monastery in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, Oct. 13, 2016. The ceremony is held to mark the 600th anniversary of the monastery’s founding. Built in 1416 on the outskirts of Lhasa, the Drepung Monastery is the largest monastery of Tibetan Buddhism’s Gelug Sect.
A ceremony is held to mark the 600th anniversary of the founding of the Drepung Monastery in Lhasa, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, Oct. 12, 2016. Built in 1416 on the outskirts of Lhasa, the Drepung Monastery is the largest and most influential monastery of the Gelug Sect, a branch of the Tibetan Buddhism.
Goethe, the great German poet, once said to his young friends, "Great merits are initiated from one's youth." This book presents an account of the youth's journey and heart-loving stories of 16 persons who in recent years have rendered their services abroad. They are common teachers, doctors, scholars, lawyers, dancers, programmers, violinists....

These stories fully mirror the point of value, the standard of morality and the heart-loving world of a group of youngsters, and also witness the warm humanity of the modern Chinese who take immense delight in helping those in distress and aiding those in peril. Through these matter-of-fact writings we can catch a glimpse of their young, fervent, pure, and lovesome souls and are deeply impressed by their joy and hesitation, honour and dream...

We hope you will find this book useful.
# FLIGHTS BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA

## Schedule of China Southern Airlines Flights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUTING</th>
<th>FLIGHT NO.</th>
<th>DEPARTURE TIME</th>
<th>ARRIVAL TIME</th>
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<td>19:50</td>
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## Schedule of China Southern Airlines Flights (Summer Season)

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## China Eastern Time Table

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### Schedule of Air China Flights Between India and China

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<th>FLIGHT DATES (SEP-DEC)</th>
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### Address and Contact Numbers of Chinese Airlines

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<td><strong>Air China</strong></td>
<td>Ground Floor, E-9 Connaught House, Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001</td>
<td>Tel: 011-43508888</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Unit No. 9/2, Queen’s Road, Bangalore 560001</td>
<td>Tel: 080-43587900</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ground Floor, C&amp;B Square, 127 Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (east), Mumbai 400069</td>
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<td><strong>China Eastern Airlines</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cathay Pacific</strong></td>
<td>G123, Tolstoy House, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi</td>
<td>Tel: 011-23321286/3332</td>
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CCTV News is the international English news channel of China Central Television. Drawing on unrivalled resources across China and a network of international correspondents, CCTV News offers unique insights to China and the world.
Badaling Great Wall is located in Yanqing County, 60 kilometers to the northwest of downtown Beijing. This section of the Badaling Great Wall has been open to tourists, comprising of 21 city units and enemy units. Badaling Great Wall was built along the ridges of mountains, looking precipitous from the external wall but gently sloped from the internal wall. It is a year-round travel destination. Badaling Great Wall scenic spot, on behalf of the Great Wall of China, was conferred with the World Cultural Heritage license by UNESCO.

**Featured Attractions:**

**Beacon fire towers**

The beacon fire towers, built at the top of the mountains beyond the Great Wall, were used as communication facilities in ancient times. Soldiers would burn smoke to report the arrival of enemies.
Xiamen City - Host City of next BRICS Summit