NEWS FROM CHINA

2017 HAPPY NEW YEAR
Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui visited Maharashtra and met with Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis.

Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui attends the unveiling ceremony of the Restoration Project of Chairman Mao Zedong’s condolence message to Dr. Kotnis.

Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui visited Rajasthan and met with Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje.

Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui and his wife visited Delhi University.

Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui met with Minister of State for External Affairs of India Shri. M.J. Akbar and exchanged views on China-India relations.

Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui held discussion with Hindustan Times and Mint.
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Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 18 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday laid out his plan to lead global efforts in charting the course of economic globalization.

Xi’s address at the 2017 World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos, Switzerland beamed the much-needed confidence into the global economy amid grave concerns over rising protectionism and uncertainties in the wake of Brexit and the election of next U.S. President Donald Trump.

CLARIFYING GLOBALIZATION

Though economic globalization has created new problems, this is no justification to write economic globalization off completely, said Xi, the first Chinese head of state to attend Davos meetings.

“Rather, we should adapt to and guide economic globalization,
cushion its negative impact, and deliver its benefits to all countries and all nations,” Xi told the audience led by WEF founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab.

The Chinese president warned that any moves to turn back to protectionism runs against historical trend.

“Whether you like it or not, the global economy is the big ocean that you cannot escape from. Any attempt to cut off the flow of capital, technologies, products, industries and people between economies, and channel the waters in the ocean back into isolated lakes and creeks is simply not possible,” said Xi.

“No one will emerge as a winner in a trade war,” Xi said.

The president called on the international community to face up to the problems caused by the globalization instead of dodging them.

“In the face of both opportunities and challenges of economic globalization, the right thing to do is to seize every opportunity, jointly meet challenges and chart the right course for economic globalization,” he said.

The president pointed out the rise of China as the world’s second largest economy is the result of its integration into the vast ocean of the global economy.

“We have had our fair share of choking in the water and encountered whirlpools and choppy waves, but we have learned how to swim in this process. It has proved to be a right strategic choice,” he noted.

Honson To, Chairman at KPMG China, said Xi presented a clear case for an urgent and courageous response from global leaders.

“I was deeply moved by the strong sense of China’s purpose as a responsible leader on the world stage,” he said.

“I think it is very crucial that the Chinese President Xi clarified the concept to the world, to continue to promote globalization, to promote global development,” said Justin Yifu Lin, the former Chief Economist of the World Bank.

A SOLID PLAN

Analyzing the root causes of the sluggish global economy and the problems for which globalization has been made the scapegoat, Xi pointed to a lack of robust driving forces for global growth, inadequate global economic governance, and uneven global development.

He stressed the importance of developing a dynamic innovation-driven growth model, a model of open and win-win cooperation featuring a well-coordinated and inter-connected approach, and a model of fair and equitable governance in keeping with the trend of the times, and a balanced, equitable and inclusive development model.

“China aims to tackle the problems of inequality, exclusiveness and inefficiency in the previous globalization process and provide better global governance products for the world,” said Fan Yongpeng, an associate professor with the China Institute of Fudan University.

“Since the G20 Hangzhou summit this year, we have heard more of China’s sober, rational and constructive voice at a time when no one is willing to take on a leading role,” Fan said.

Xi pledged that China’s development will continue to offer opportunities to business communities in other countries.

In the coming five years, China is expected to import 8 trillion U.S. dollars of goods, attract 600 billion dollars of foreign investment, and make 750 billion dollars of outbound investment, said the president, adding that Chinese tourists will make 700 million overseas visits.

China, he said, will advance the building of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific and negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership to form a global network of free trade arrangements.

On the progress of the Belt and Road Initiative, envisioned as an infrastructure and trade network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes, Xi told the audience that China’s circle of friends is growing bigger and the initiative has delivered significant benefits.

Over 100 countries and international organizations have given support to the initiative, and more than 40 have signed cooperation agreements with China, said Xi, who put forward the initiative in 2013.

Meanwhile, Chinese investment along the routes has surpassed 50 billion dollars in the past three years with a number of major projects being launched in the countries along the routes, spurring the economic development of these countries and creating many local jobs, Xi noted.
China plans to host a Belt and Road forum for international cooperation in Beijing this May to brainstorm on interconnected development as part of China’s efforts to make globalization more inclusive and beneficial to all, the president announced.

**CHINA ASSUMING A LEADING ROLE**

Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF told Xinhua in an exclusive interview that in a time when the world is facing the danger of de-globalization and disintegration of global cooperation, the voice of China as “a strong geo economical and geopolitical power” is “particularly important.”

“I think it is very important to have China represented as a responsible and responsive leadership country in the world,” Schwab said.

Swiss President Doris Leuthard noted the “difficult situation” that the world is facing, and expressed her expectation that China would “show its world power status and how it can be a factor of stability.”

Recalling Xi’s addresses from the APEC meetings in the Philippines in 2015, to the G20 Hangzhou summit in 2016 and now to the 2017 Davos forum, Jack Ma, the founder and executive chairman of Alibaba Group, said he saw China’s increasingly mature role on the world stage, and growing leadership and accountability as a big country.

“President Xi’s instinct and foresight in today’s speech is impressive,” he told Xinhua after listening to Xi’s keynote speech. “He saw today from the future, and saw China from the world,” Ma said.

Social media users commented while watching the live streaming of Xi’s Davos speech. “China is humble, kind, helpful and getting stronger and stronger, contributing more to the world,” said one who goes with the name Cheah KH. Another, Bern Chen, described Xi as “an exemplary heart-centered statesman sharing his views with other world leaders and the global community.”
globalization.

“President Xi’s remarks objectively elaborated the role of globalization in the entire process of human history and suggested that its role should be viewed dialectically,” said Zhang Yuyan, director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

“Trade protectionism, populism and nationalism can quell public dissatisfaction for the time being, but in the long run, they will harm the overall interests of all,” Zhang said.

Analyzing the root causes of the sluggish global economy, Xi pointed to a lack of robust driving forces for global growth, inadequate global economic governance, and uneven global development.

He stressed the importance of developing a dynamic innovation-driven growth model, a model of open and win-win cooperation featuring a well-coordinated and inter-connected approach, and a model of fair and equitable governance in keeping with the trend of the times, and a balanced, equitable and inclusive development model.

“China aims to tackle the problems of inequality, exclusiveness and inefficiency in the previous globalization process and provide better global governance products for the world,” said Fan Yongpeng, an associate professor with the China Institute of Fudan University.

“Since the G20 Hangzhou summit this year, we have heard more of China’s sober, rational and constructive voice at a time when no one is willing to take on a leading role,” Fan said.

Citing the contributing role his country — the world’s second largest economy — has played in economic globalization, Xi said China’s rapid growth has been a sustained, powerful engine for global economic stability and expansion, and the inter-connected development of China and a large number of other countries has made the world economy more balanced.

China’s remarkable achievement in poverty reduction has contributed
to more inclusive global growth, and its continuous progress in reform and opening-up has lent much momentum to an open world economy, he added.

China, noted Chinese Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao, has been “integrated into the world more than ever before, becoming an active participant, builder and contributor of the global economic system.”

“Proceeding from its own development philosophy, China has made important contributions to the reform and improvement of the existing international system,” Zhu said.

CHINA’S COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL GROWTH

Xi pledged that China’s development will continue to offer opportunities to business communities in other countries.

In the coming five years, China is expected to import 8 trillion U.S. dollars of goods, attract 600 billion dollars of foreign investment, and make 750 billion dollars of outbound investment, said the president, adding that Chinese tourists will make 700 million overseas visits.

Social media users commented while watching the live streaming of Xi’s Davos speech. “China is humble, kind, helpful and getting stronger and stronger, contributing more to the world,” said one who goes with the name Cheah KH. Another, Bern Chen, described Xi as “an exemplary heart-centered statesman sharing his views with other world leaders and the global community.”

China will keep its door wide open, Xi also told the forum, voicing hope that other countries will also keep their door open to Chinese investors and keep the playing field level for them.

China, he said, will advance the building of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific and negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership to form a global network of free trade arrangements.

China has no intention to boost its trade competitiveness by devaluing the RMB, still less will it launch a currency war, Xi stressed.

“China has been a locomotive of growth, especially for the emerging world, but really for the whole world,” said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS, a consulting firm. “More positive perspective of China is an accurate one.”

On the progress of the Belt and Road Initiative, Xi told the audience that China’s circle of friends along the Belt and Road is growing bigger, and Chinese investment in the countries along the routes has surpassed 50 billion dollars in the past three years.

Over 100 countries and international organizations have given warm responses and support to the initiative, and more than 40 have signed cooperation agreements with China, said the Chinese president, who put forward the initiative in 2013.

Meanwhile, Chinese companies have launched a number of major projects in the countries along the routes, spurring the economic development of these countries and creating many local jobs, Xi noted.

The Belt and Road Initiative, envisioned as an infrastructure and trade network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes, originated in China, but it has delivered benefits well beyond its borders, he said.

China plans to host a Belt and Road forum for international cooperation in Beijing this May to brainstorm on interconnected development, the president announced.

The upcoming forum will explore ways to address regional and global economic problems, generate fresh energy for interconnected development, and ensure that the Belt and Road Initiative delivers greater benefits to the people of the countries involved, Xi said.

Noting that world history shows that the road of human civilization has never been a smooth one, and that mankind has made progress by surmounting difficulties, he encouraged the international community to join hands and rise to the challenge.

“History is created by the brave. Let’s boost confidence, take actions and march arm-in-arm toward a bright future,” said the president while concluding his speech.

Xi arrived in Switzerland on Sunday for a four-day state visit and the WEF annual meeting, which is themed “Responsive and Responsible Leadership” this year. About 50 heads of state and 1,700 political, business, academic and media leaders from across the world attended the opening ceremony.
XI AT DAVOS: KEY QUOTES THAT WIN OVER GLOBAL ELITES


Speaking on globalization, trade protectionism, climate change, development and China’s economy, the Chinese president stroke a deep chord with business and political leaders at the annual gathering.

Here is a recap of some of the quotes that drew hearty applause from the crowd:

1. GLOBALIZATION

We should strike a balance between efficiency and equity to ensure that different countries, different social strata and different groups of people all share in the benefits of economic globalization. The people of all countries expect nothing less from us, and this is our unshirkable responsibility as leaders of our times.

2. TRADE PROTECTIONISM

Pursuing protectionism is like locking oneself in a dark room. While wind and rain may be kept outside, that dark room will also block light and air. No one will emerge as a winner in a trade war.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE

The Paris Agreement is a hard-won achievement which is in keeping with the underlying trend of global development. All signatories should stick to it instead of walking away from it as this is a responsibility we must assume for future generations.

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

It is important to protect the environment while pursuing economic and social progress so as to achieve harmony between man and nature and between man and society. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be implemented to realize balanced development across the world.

5. CHINA

We are not jealous of others’ success; and we will not complain about others who have benefited so much from the great opportunities presented by China’s development. We will open our arms to the people of other countries and welcome them aboard the express train of China’s development.

JOINTLY SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR TIMES, PROMOTE GLOBAL GROWTH


I’m delighted to come to beautiful Davos. Though just a small town in the Alps, Davos is an important window for taking the pulse of the global economy. People from around the world come here to exchange ideas and insights, which broaden their vision. This makes the
WEF annual meeting a cost-effective brainstorming event, which I would call “Schwab economics”.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” These are the words used by the English writer Charles Dickens to describe the world after the Industrial Revolution. Today, we also live in a world of contradictions. On the one hand, with growing material wealth and advances in science and technology, human civilization has developed as never before. On the other hand, frequent regional conflicts, global challenges like terrorism and refugees, as well as poverty, unemployment and widening income gap have all added to the uncertainties of the world.

Many people feel bewildered and wonder: What has gone wrong with the world?

To answer this question, one must first track the source of the problem. Some blame economic globalization for the chaos in the world. Economic globalization was once viewed as the treasure cave found by Ali Baba in The Arabian Nights, but it has now become the Pandora’s box in the eyes of many. The international community finds itself in a heated debate on economic globalization.

Today, I wish to address the global economy in the context of economic globalization.

The point I want to make is that many of the problems troubling the world are not caused by economic globalization. For instance, the refugee waves from the Middle East and North Africa in recent years have become a global concern. Several million people have been displaced, and some small children lost their lives while crossing the rough sea. This is indeed heartbreaking. It is war, conflict and regional turbulence that have created this problem, and its solution lies in making peace, promoting reconciliation and restoring stability. The international financial crisis is another example. It is not an inevitable outcome of economic globalization; rather, it is the consequence of excessive chase of profit by financial capital and grave failure of financial regulation. Just blaming economic globalization for the world’s problems is inconsistent with reality, and it will not help solve the problems.

From the historical perspective, economic globalization resulted from growing social productivity, and is a natural outcome of scientific and technological progress, not something created by any individuals or any countries. Economic globalization has powered global growth and facilitated movement of goods and capital, advances in science, technology and civilization, and interactions among peoples.

But we should also recognize that economic globalization is a
double-edged sword. When the global economy is under downward pressure, it is hard to make the cake of global economy bigger. It may even shrink, which will strain the relations between growth and distribution, between capital and labor, and between efficiency and equity. Both developed and developing countries have felt the punch. Voices against globalization have laid bare pitfalls in the process of economic globalization that we need to take seriously.

As a line in an old Chinese poem goes, “Honey melons hang on bitter vines; sweet dates grow on thistles and thorns.” In a philosophical sense, nothing is perfect in the world. One would fail to see the full picture if he claims something is perfect because of its merits, or if he views something as useless just because of its defects. It is true that economic globalization has created new problems, but this is no justification to write economic globalization off completely. Rather, we should adapt to and guide economic globalization, cushion its negative impact, and deliver its benefits to all countries and all nations.

There was a time when China also had doubts about economic globalization, and was not sure whether it should join the World Trade Organization. But we came to the conclusion that integration into the global economy is a historical trend. To grow its economy, China must have the courage to swim in the vast ocean of the global market. If one is always afraid of bracing the storm and exploring the new world, he will sooner or later get drowned in the ocean. Therefore, China took a brave step to embrace the global market. We have had our fair share of choking in the water and encountered whirlpools and choppy waves, but we have learned how to swim in this process. It has proved to be a right strategic choice.

Whether you like it or not, the global economy is the big ocean that you cannot escape from. Any attempt to cut off the flow of capital, technologies, products, industries and people between economies, and channel the waters in the ocean back into isolated lakes and creeks is simply not possible. Indeed, it runs counter to the historical trend.

The history of mankind tells us that problems are not to be feared. What should concern us is refusing to face up to problems and not knowing what to do about them. In the face of both opportunities and challenges of economic globalization, the right thing to do is to seize every opportunity, jointly meet challenges and chart the right course for economic globalization.
At the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in late 2016, I spoke about the necessity to make the process of economic globalization more invigorated, more inclusive and more sustainable. We should act pro-actively and manage economic globalization as appropriate so as to release its positive impact and rebalance the process of economic globalization. We should follow the general trend, proceed from our respective national conditions and embark on the right pathway of integrating into economic globalization with the right pace. We should strike a balance between efficiency and equity to ensure that different countries, different social strata and different groups of people all share in the benefits of economic globalization. The people of all countries expect nothing less from us, and this is our unshirkable responsibility as leaders of our times.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

At present, the most pressing task before us is to steer the global economy out of difficulty. The global economy has remained sluggish for quite some time. The gap between the poor and the rich and between the South and the North is widening. The root cause is that the three critical issues in the economic sphere have not been effectively addressed.

First, lack of robust driving forces for global growth makes it difficult to sustain the steady growth of the global economy. The growth of the global economy is now in a period of moving toward new growth drivers, and the role of traditional engines to drive growth has weakened. Despite the emergence of new technologies such as artificial intelligence and 3D printing, new sources of growth are yet to emerge. A new path for the global economy remains elusive.

Second, inadequate global economic governance makes it difficult to adapt to new developments in the global economy. Madame Christine Lagarde recently told me that emerging markets and developing countries already contribute to 80% of the growth of the global economy. The global economic landscape has changed profoundly in the past few decades. However, the global governance system has not embraced those new changes and is therefore inadequate in terms of representation and inclusiveness. The global industrial landscape is changing and new industrial chains, value chains and supply chains are taking shape. However, trade and investment rules have not kept pace with these developments, resulting in acute problems such as closed mechanisms and fragmentation of rules. The global financial market needs to be more resilient against risks, but the global financial governance mechanism fails to meet the new requirement and is thus unable to effectively resolve problems such as frequent international financial market volatility and the build-up of asset bubbles.

Third, uneven global development makes it difficult to meet people's expectations for better lives. Dr. Schwab has observed in his book The Fourth Industrial Revolution that this round of industrial revolution will produce extensive and far-reaching impacts such as growing inequality, particularly the possible widening gap between return on capital and return on labor. The richest one percent of the world's population own more wealth than the remaining 99 percent. Inequality in income distribution and uneven development space are worrying. Over 700 million people in the world are still living in extreme poverty. For many families, to have warm houses, enough food and secure jobs is still a distant dream. This is the biggest challenge facing the world today. It is also what is behind the social turmoil in some countries.

All this shows that there are indeed problems with world economic growth, governance and development models, and they must be resolved. The founder of the Red Cross Henry Dunant once said, “Our real enemy is not the neighboring country; it is hunger, poverty, ignorance, superstition and prejudice.” We need to have the vision to dissect these problems; more importantly, we need to have the courage to take actions to address them.

First, we should develop a dynamic, innovation-driven growth model. The fundamental issue plaguing the global economy is the lack of driving force for growth. Innovation is the primary force guiding development. Unlike the previous industrial revolutions, the fourth industrial revolution is unfolding at an exponential rather than linear pace. We need to relentlessly pursue innovation. Only with the courage to innovate and reform can we remove bottlenecks blocking global growth and development.

With this in mind, G20 leaders reached an important consensus at the Hangzhou Summit, which is to take innovation as a key driver and foster new driving force of growth
for both individual countries and the global economy. We should develop a new development philosophy and rise above the debate about whether there should be more fiscal stimulus or more monetary easing. We should adopt a multipronged approach to address both the symptoms and the underlying problems. We should adopt new policy instruments and advance structural reform to create more space for growth and sustain its momentum. We should develop new growth models and seize opportunities presented by the new round of industrial revolution and digital economy. We should meet the challenges of climate change and aging population. We should address the negative impact of IT application and automation on jobs. When cultivating new industries and new forms models of business models, we should create new jobs and restore confidence and hope to our peoples.

Second, we should pursue a well-coordinated and inter-connected approach to develop a model of open and win-win cooperation. Today, mankind has become a close-knit community of shared future. Countries have extensive converging interests and are mutually dependent. All countries enjoy the right to development. At the same time, they should view their own interests in a broader context and refrain from pursuing them at the expense of others.

We should commit ourselves to growing an open global economy to share opportunities and interests through opening-up and achieve win-win outcomes. One should not just retreat to the harbor when encountering a storm, for this will never get us to the other shore of the ocean. We must redouble efforts to develop global connectivity to enable all countries to achieve interconnected growth and share prosperity. We must remain committed to developing global free trade and investment, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation through opening-up and say no to protectionism. Pursuing protectionism is like locking oneself in a dark room. While wind and rain may be kept outside, that dark room will also block light and air. No one will emerge as a winner in a trade war.

Third, we should develop a model of fair and equitable governance in keeping with the trend of the times. As the Chinese saying goes, people with petty shrewdness attend to trivial matters, while people with vision attend to governance of institutions. There is a growing call from the international community for reforming the global economic governance system, which is a pressing task for us. Only when it
adapts to new dynamics in the international economic architecture can the global governance system sustain global growth.

Countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, are all equal members of the international community. As such, they are entitled to participate in decision-making, enjoy rights and fulfill obligations on an equal basis. Emerging markets and developing countries deserve greater representation and voice. The 2010 IMF quota reform has entered into force, and its momentum should be sustained. We should adhere to multilateralism to uphold the authority and efficacy of multilateral institutions. We should honor promises and abide by rules. One should not select or bend rules as he sees fit. The Paris Agreement is a hard-won achievement which is in keeping with the underlying trend of global development. All signatories should stick to it instead of walking away from it as this is a responsibility we must assume for future generations.

Fourth, we should develop a balanced, equitable and inclusive development model. As the Chinese saying goes, “A just cause should be pursued for common good.” Development is ultimately for the people. To achieve more balanced development and ensure that the people have equal access to opportunities and share in the benefits of development, it is crucial to have a sound development philosophy and model and make development equitable, effective and balanced.

We should foster a culture that values diligence, frugality and enterprise and respects the fruits of hard work of all. Priority should be given to addressing poverty, unemployment, the widening income gap and the concerns of the disadvantaged to promote social equity and justice. It is important to protect the environment while pursuing economic and social progress so as to achieve harmony between man and nature and between man and society. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be implemented to realize balanced development across the world.

A Chinese adage reads, “Victory is ensured when people pool their strength; success is secured when people put their heads together.” As long as we keep to the goal of building a community of shared future for mankind and work hand in hand to fulfill our responsibilities and overcome difficulties, we will be able to create a better world and deliver better lives for our peoples.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

China has become the world's second largest economy thanks to 38 years of reform and opening-up. A right path leads to a bright future. China has come this far because the Chinese people have, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, blazed a development path that suits China’s actual conditions.

This is a path based on China's realities. China has in the past years succeeded in embarking on a development path that suits itself by drawing on both the wisdom of its civilization and the practices of other countries in both East and West. In exploring this path, China refuses to stay insensitive to the changing times or to blindly follow in others' footsteps. All roads lead to Rome. No country should view its own development path as the only viable one, still less should it impose its own development path on others.

This is a path that puts people's interests first. China follows a people-oriented development philosophy and is committed to bettering the lives of its people. Development is of the people, by the people and for the people. China pursues the goal of common prosperity. We have taken major steps to alleviate poverty and lifted over 700 million people out of poverty, and good progress is being made in our efforts to finish building a society of initial prosperity in all respects.

This is a path of pursuing reform and innovation. China has tackled difficulties and met challenges on its way forward through reform. China has demonstrated its courage to take on difficult issues, navigate treacherous rapids and remove institutional hurdles standing in the way of development. These efforts have enabled us to unleash productivity and social vitality. Building on progress of 30-odd years of reform, we have introduced more than 1,200 reform measures over the past four years, injecting powerful impetus into China’s development.

This is a path of pursuing common development through opening-up. China is committed to a fundamental policy of opening-up and pursues a win-win opening-up strategy. China’s development is both domestic and external oriented; while developing itself, China also shares more of its development outcomes with other countries and peoples.

China has demonstrated its courage to take on difficult issues, navigate treacherous rapids and remove institutional hurdles standing in the way of development.
China’s outstanding development achievements and the vastly improved living standards of the Chinese people are a blessing to both China and the world. Such achievements in development over the past decades owe themselves to the hard work and perseverance of the Chinese people, a quality that has defined the Chinese nation for several thousand years. We Chinese know only too well that there is no such thing as a free lunch in the world. For a big country with over 1.3 billion people, development can be achieved only with the dedication and tireless efforts of its own people. We cannot expect others to deliver development to China, and no one is in a position to do so.

When assessing China’s development, one should not only see what benefits the Chinese people have gained, but also how much hard effort they have put in, not just what achievements China has made, but also what contribution China has made to the world. Then one will reach a balanced conclusion about China’s development.

Between 1950 and 2016, despite its modest level of development and living standard, China provided more than 400 billion yuan of foreign assistance, undertook over 5,000 foreign assistance projects, including nearly 3,000 complete projects, and held over 11,000 training workshops in China for over 260,000 personnel from other developing countries. Since it launched reform and opening-up, China has attracted over 1.7 trillion US dollars of foreign investment and made over 1.2 trillion US dollars of direct outbound investment, making huge contribution to global economic development. In the years following the outbreak of the international financial crisis, China contributed to over 30% of global growth every year on average. All these figures are among the highest in the world.

The figures speak for themselves. China’s development is an opportunity for the world; China has not only benefited from economic globalization but also contributed to it. Rapid growth in China has been a sustained, powerful engine for global economic stability and expansion. The inter-connected development of China and a large number of other countries has made the world economy more balanced. China’s remarkable achievement in poverty reduction has contributed to more inclusive global growth. And China’s continuous progress in reform and opening-up has lent much momentum to an open world economy.

China’s outstanding development achievements and the vastly improved living standards of the Chinese people are a blessing to both China and the world.

We Chinese know only too well what it takes to achieve prosperity, so we applaud the achievements made by others and wish them a better future. We are not jealous of others’ success; and we will not complain about others who have benefited so much from the great opportunities presented by China’s development. We will open our arms to the people of other countries and welcome them aboard the express train of China’s development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

I know you are all closely following China’s economic development, and let me give you an update on the state of China’s economy. China’s economy has entered what we call a new normal, in which major changes are taking place in terms of growth rate, development model, economic structure and drivers of growth. But the economic fundamentals sustaining sound development remain unchanged.

Despite a sluggish global economy, China’s economy is expected to grow by 6.7% in 2016, still one of the highest in the world. China’s economy is far bigger in size than in the past, and it now generates more output than it did with double-digit growth in the past. Household consumption and the services sector have become the main drivers of growth. In the first three quarters of 2016, added value of the tertiary industry took up 52.8% of the GDP and domestic consumption contributed to 71% of economic growth. Household income and employment have steadily risen, while per unit GDP energy consumption continues to drop. Our efforts to pursue green development are paying off.

The Chinese economy faces downward pressure and many difficulties, including acute mismatch between excess capacity and an upgrading demand structure, lack of internal driving force for growth, accumulation of financial risks, and growing challenges in certain regions. We see these as temporary hardships that occur on the way forward. And the measures we have taken to address these problems are producing good results. We are firm in our resolve to forge ahead. China is the world’s largest developing country with over 1.3 billion people, and their living standards are not yet high. But this reality also means China has
enormous potential and space for development. Guided by the vision of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, we will adapt to the new normal, stay ahead of the curve, and make coordinated efforts to maintain steady growth, accelerate reform, adjust economic structure, improve people’s living standards and fend off risks. With these efforts, we aim to achieve medium-high rate of growth and upgrade the economy to higher end of the value chain.

“China will strive to enhance the performance of economic growth. We will pursue supply-side structural reform as the general goal, shift the growth model and upgrade the economic structure. We will continue to cut overcapacity, reduce inventory, deleverage financing, reduce cost and strengthen weak links. We will foster new drivers of growth, develop an advanced manufacturing sector and upgrade the real economy. We will implement the Internet Plus action plan to boost effective demand and better meet the individualized and diverse needs of consumers. And we will do more to protect the ecosystem.

“China will boost market vitality to add new impetus to growth. We will intensify reform efforts in priority areas and key links and enable the market to play a decisive role in resources allocation. Innovation will continue to feature prominently on our growth agenda. In pursuing the strategy of innovation-driven development, we will bolster the strategic emerging industries, apply new technologies and foster new business models to upgrade traditional industries; and we will boost new drivers of growth and revitalize traditional ones.

“China will foster an enabling and orderly environment for investment. We will expand market access for foreign investors, build high-standard pilot free trade zones, strengthen protection of property rights, and level the playing field to make China’s market more transparent and better regulated. In the coming five years, China is expected to import eight trillion US dollars of goods, attract 600 billion US dollars of foreign investment and make 750 billion US dollars of outbound investment. Chinese tourists will make 700 million overseas visits. All this will create a bigger market, more capital, more products and more business opportunities for other countries. China’s development will continue to offer opportunities to business communities in other countries. China will keep its door wide open and not close it. An open door allows both other countries to access the Chinese market and China itself to integrate with the world. And we hope that other countries will also keep their door open to Chinese investors and keep the playing field level for us.

“China will vigorously foster an external environment of opening-up for common development. We will advance the building of the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific and negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership to form a global network of free trade arrangements. China stands for concluding open, transparent and win-win regional free trade arrangements and opposes forming exclusive groups that are fragmented in nature. China has no intention to boost its trade competitiveness by devaluing the RMB, still less will it launch a currency war.

Over three years ago, I put forward the “Belt and Road” initiative. Since then, over 100 countries and international organizations have given warm responses and support to the initiative. More than 40 countries and international organizations have signed cooperation agreements with China, and our circle of ‘friends along the “Belt and Road” is growing bigger. Chinese companies have made over 50 billion US dollars of investment and launched a number of major projects in the countries along the routes, spurring the economic development of these countries and creating many local jobs. The “Belt and Road” initiative originated in China, but it has delivered benefits well beyond its borders.

In May this year, China will host in Beijing the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, which aims to discuss ways to boost cooperation, build cooperation platforms and share cooperation outcomes. The forum will also explore ways to address problems facing global and regional economy, create fresh energy for pursuing inter-connected development and make the “Belt and Road” initiative deliver greater benefits to people of countries involved.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

World history shows that the road of human civilization has never been a smooth one, and that mankind has made progress by surmounting difficulties. No difficulty, however daunting, will stop mankind from advancing. When encountering difficulties, we should not complain about ourselves, blame others, lose confidence or run away from responsibilities. We should join hands and rise to the challenge. History is created by the brave. Let us boost confidence, take actions and march arm-in-arm toward a bright future.

Thank you!
Beijing, Jan. 18 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday delivered a keynote speech at the 2017 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, making a strong case for advancing globalization and rejecting protectionism.

Officials, scholars and economists worldwide spoke highly of the speech, saying it not only showed China’s determination to continue its development path, but also offered solutions to the world’s economic problems.

Vincent A. Forlenza, chairman of the Board, CEO and President of BD, a global medical technology company, called Xi’s speech “positive, realistic and open.”

Echoing Forlenza’s comment, Gavin E. Wilson, CEO of IFC Asset Management Company LLC, also found the speech with its prominent focus on globalization very positive.

“What impressed me most were his expressions on globalization and free trade. Globalization and free trade have brought enormous progress in health, wealth, education, etc.” Wilson said, adding it was refreshing to hear the leader of the world’s second largest economy reinforce that message.

Given the current state of slowing global economic growth, the Chinese president presented a clear case for an urgent and courageous response from global leaders, according to Honson To, chairman of KPMG China.

“He persuaded the world to persist with free trade rather than reverting to protectionism for the long term benefit of all nations,” To said.

“He then described the long and arduous journey that China had taken in 38 years of reform and opening-up and China’s readiness to take leadership in driving global growth for the benefit of not just China but all peoples of the world,”
he said, adding that he was deeply moved by the strong sense of China’s purpose as a responsible leader on the world stage.

President Xi’s insights and emphasis on the importance of continued globalization, growth and equity also impressed Hans-Paul Buerkner, Chairman of Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

“He put overcoming poverty and climate change into the context of globalization, growth and equity, to really keep on bringing progress not just to China, but to the world. That’s really something that I feel personally very strongly about,” Buerkner said, adding that he liked Xi’s message about globalization being win-win for everyone.

“We need to push growth. There are still lots of opportunities and we can deal with equity issues best when, as Xi mentioned, the cake grows,” Buerkner added.

Khalid Al Rumaihi, chief executive of Bahrain Economic Development Board, said that President Xi’s insistence on deepening globalization, strengthening economic growth and his warning against isolationism is extremely comforting.

“I think China as such a vital part of world economy now has that kind of strong message sent by President Xi, which is hugely positive, particularly when the world is fearing the routes towards isolationism today,” Rumaihi added.

Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International, said that given the current volatility of global politics, President Xi’s address not only helped calm nerves but boosted global confidence.

“Xi’s reference to climate change highlights China’s evolving calculus toward taking action on the issue. Now more than ever, the world needs to follow committed powers like China to safeguard and enhance the hard-fought international climate regime,” Morgan said.

Shu Yinbiao, chairman of State Grid Corporation of China, said that at a time when the economic outlook is uncertain and recovery weak, Xi’s speech not offered “China’s plan,” but expressed confidence in the long-term sustainable growth of the country’s economy as well.

“This sent a strong signal to the international community that China’s economy is able to maintain long-term, stable and sustainable development,” Shu said.

As for the Belt and Road Initiative Xi expounded in his speech, Shu said that this initiative not only helps countries step into the fast lane of development, but also makes important contributions to the global economy.

“China has worked really hard to be one good citizen of the world,” Nirmal Behravesh, chief economist at the consulting firm IHS Inc., said.

“It added a lot to growth globally. Xi has mentioned the great contribution of China in the last 10 years. It’s been tremendous. China has been a locomotive of growth,” Behravesh added.

Ding Yuan, vice president of China Europe International Business School, said that as the Davos Forum was held amid a rising tide of de-globalization and trade protectionism, China’s attitude toward globalization and free trade issues has attracted the attention of the world.

“With China’s economy growing and the improvement of its international status, China is playing a more and more important role on the world stage,” Ding said, expecting that China will release clearer and more open signals on reducing trade barriers and increasing trade liberalization and globalization.
Leadership.”

“The theme sticks to the current global situation and identifies the key to getting out of troubles,” Xi said, adding that, since the establishment of the WEF, its status and influence has been rising day by day as it upholds the spirit of innovation, maintains its vitality and pushes for discussion on common global issues.

Noting that cooperation between China and the WEF has become increasingly substantial and fruitful, the president stressed that “we must send positive signals together and boost confidence in the process of economic globalization.”

Formerly known as the European Management Forum, the WEF was founded by Schwab in 1971 and it started focusing on global issues in 1987. Since 1979, China has been sending delegations to the forum, which claims to be committed to “improving the state of the world.”

“The prospect of cooperation should be rosy,” Xi said, pointing out that China has hosted “Summer Davos” meetings for 10 years, more and more Chinese enterprises are gaining WEF membership, and Chinese elements are becoming increasingly prominent at Davos.

Hailing Xi’s keynote speech as a highlight in the WEF history, Schwab said that Xi’s “thought-provoking” speech will chart the course of global economy and that the WEF is willing to further strengthen its partnership with China.

Earlier on Tuesday, Xi, the first Chinese president to attend the Davos forum, addressed the opening plenary of the 2017 annual meeting, and his speech immediately made headlines worldwide. As Schwab said before Xi’s speech, “In a world marked by great uncertainty and volatility, the world is looking to China.”

After their meeting, Xi and Schwab witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between China’s National Reform and Development Commission and the WEF.

Xi arrived in Switzerland on Sunday for a state visit and the Davos meeting. In his first overseas trip in 2017, he will also travel to Lausanne and Geneva to visit the International Olympic Committee, the World Health Organization and the UN Office at Geneva.
Mr. Sumit Mullick, Additional Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, Hon. Sushila Abute, Mayor of Solapur, Mr. Sanjay Deshmuk, Vice Chancellor of Mumbai University, Mr. Sudheedra Kulkani, Chairman of ORF Mumbai, Mr. Madhav Bhandari, BJP Spokesman, Dr. Rajan Borker, Representative of the Family of Dr. Kotnis, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

It is my great pleasure to attend the special ceremony today.

The masterpiece of the handwritten condolence message tells us a very touching story. In 1938, a young Indian Doctor named Dwarkanath Kotnis abandoned his middle class life in Mumbai and went to the battlefields of anti-Japanese war in the remote northern part of China. He saved a lot of Chinese soldier's lives with his professional medical skills. 4 years later he sacrificed his young life in the battlefields. His story had touched the hearts of many Chinese people. In late 1942 Chairman Mao wrote a condolence message to commemorate Dr. Kotnis.
In the 1950s, this master piece was delivered to Dr. Kotnis’ family members in India, and it has been kept in Solapur Museum later.

As time goes by, this masterpiece has been slightly broken and needed to be restored. The Chinese government then decided to repair it. This is the story behind the masterpiece presented before us today.

Today’s ceremony is very significant. First, we get together to celebrate the restoration and hand-over of the masterpiece.

To my knowledge, there are no more than 3 pieces of Chairman Mao's personal handwriting abroad. Chairman Mao is not only a great leader, the founder of PRC, but also a famous calligrapher. This one is truly priceless. It has expressed the profound sentiments of the Chinese people towards the Indian people. It also demonstrated Chairman Mao's artistic achievements in calligraphy.

Secondly, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the passing away of Dr. Kotnis. Dr. Kotnis is a hero from India and a friend of China. The ceremony shows that Chinese people and Indian people will never forget the hero.

Thirdly, the future lies in the past. Two days ago I visited the Ajanta and Ellora Caves. I was so impressed by the Chinese elements in the caves. Our historic link can be traced back to more than 2000 years.

Today we have inherited our ancestors and Dr. Kotnis’ legacy. Our bilateral relations have made great progress. Our leaders have interacted with each other frequently. Remarkable achievements have been made in our trade and economic cooperation. Our subnational level cooperation has flourished. We have also begun discussion on law enforcement cooperation and jointly fighting terrorism.

India is my second home. Before joining the Foreign Service, I was an academia in a think tank, focusing on India studies. The only reason for me to join the Foreign Service is that I wanted to see India with my own eyes. And becoming a diplomat seemed to be the only way to do that in those years. My first post in New Delhi was in the late 1980s. Since then I have witnessed and participated in many big events in our bilateral relations. My wife got her PHD degree from the Delhi University. It is also worth mentioning that Dr. Ji Xianlin was my tutor. Thanks to Vice Chancellor Deshmuk, the newly built Ji Xianlin Center for India-China Studies will
China India Relations

serve as a new platform for academic research and cooperation between the two countries.

I know that even members of the same family sometimes got problems. India and China are two big neighbouring countries. It is quite natural that we have some differences. And it is very important that we handle these differences carefully and ensure that the bilateral friendship and cooperation is heading for the right direction. I am quite optimistic about our relations and our future cooperation.

Since I came here three months ago, I have been discussing some new ambitious proposals with our Indian friends. For example, we should negotiate the bilateral Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, Free Trade Agreement, early harvest related to border issues and so on. We should also discuss how to synergize China’s Belt and Road Initiative with India’s Act East Policy. In this regard, I called on the Chief Minister of Maharashtra yesterday and also exchanged views with Mr. Kulkarni, and other people.

Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to ORF Mumbai, Mumbai University, Solapur administration, Maharashtra government for their support to today’s function. I want to express special appreciation to the relatives of Dr. Kotnis for their continued contribution to China-India relations.

Of course, without the professional craftsmanship and the hard work of two Chinese experts Ms. Zhao Li and Ms. Zhu Pinfang, the restoration work would not be possible. Let’s give them a big round of applause.

Last but not least, my thanks also go to Chinese Consul General Zheng Xiyuan and his colleagues who have done a great job to arrange everything related to the restoration project.

Dr. Kotnis will live forever in the hearts of our two peoples.

Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai.
STRONGER CHINA-INDIA TIES A BONUS FOR ASIA
by Luo Weiteng in Hong Kong

Comprehensive relationship between Asia’s two major economic powers will help create a win-win situation for all parties, roundtable forum heard.

China and India are inching closer to building a more wide-ranging and comprehensive bilateral relationship, as stronger links between Asia’s two major economic powerhouses offer a foundation for resolving disputes and create a win-win situation for all, panelists told a roundtable forum themed the “China-India Economic and Business Partnership” in Hong Kong on 17 January.

“As the two most populous countries in the world, as well as the two largest emerging markets in the global economic sphere, China and India do compete for market share and resources. They do compete in industries such as manufacturing and IT services. But, we also think there’s much room for cooperation between the two nations,” said Jing Ulrich, managing director and vice-chairman, Asia Pacific, at JPMorgan Chase & Co.

She made the remarks at the China Daily Asia Leadership Roundtable, which was part and parcel of the 10th Asia Financial Forum, held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Vivek Pathak, director of East Asia & the Pacific at International Finance Corporation, said the tighter the economic links between China and India, the more likely the two countries could set aside disputes and “join forces to move on”.

Pathak agreed with Ashwani Goel, head and general manager of TATA South-East Asia, who believed that the keyword is “always collaboration rather than competition”.

China-India Economic and Business Partnership
中印经济商务的发展、融合与机遇

Asia: 带动变革、创新与联繫
Growing economic ties between China and India also play a vital role in one of the world’s most important bilateral relationships.

In the past decade, bilateral trade had surged from US$19 billion in 2005 to US$72 billion in 2015.

Ulrich said the sheer size and growth rates of the two economies have boosted trade between them. This year, the gross domestic product (GDP) of the world’s second-largest economy is projected to grow by 6.5 percent to US$11.4 trillion, while India’s GDP is on track to grow faster than any other economy in the Asia Pacific region — at 7.2 percent to US$2.3 trillion.

As China’s foreign direct investment in India soared from US$11 million in 2005 to US$700 million in 2015 and broke the US$1-billion barrier last year, India, with a great appetite for funds, has proved to be a gold mine for cash-rich and investment-hungry Chinese mainland investors.

The fastest-growing economy’s insatiable demand for highway, railway and housing projects fits in well with China’s Belt and Road ambitions, through which China could contribute in terms of financing equipment, raw materials, technology and project management, Ulrich noted.

Technology stands as another bright spot for Chinese mainland companies with deep pockets and seeking investment opportunities. Policymakers and IT experts in India, which is home to more than 12,000 high-tech startups, have been making a strong pitch in the past few years for bigger collaboration with China’s burgeoning IT sector.

Chinese internet behemoths Alibaba and Tencent, for instance, have invested heavily in some of top Indian startups from e-commerce platform Snapdeal to mobile wallet giant Paytm.

Puneet Agrawal, India’s consul-general for Hong Kong and Macao, believed that economic connections should not be the only theme that defines the wide-ranging bilateral relationship between China and India.

He said that, as neighbors and two of the world’s oldest civilizations, China and India have also shared a long history of cultural linkages. India’s abundant tourism resources, yet to be explored by China’s swelling middle class, could make the country another popular tourist destination.
The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee presented the Second ICCR ‘Distinguished Indologist’ Award to Prof. Yu Longyu of the People’s Republic of China on December 1, 2016 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

The annual ‘Distinguished Indologist’ Award has been instituted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to recognize eminent Indologists working abroad who have made outstanding contribution to the study/teaching/research of India’s philosophy, thought, history, art, culture, languages, literature, civilization, society etc.

The first ‘Distinguished Indologist’ Award was presented to Prof. Heinrich Freiherr Von Stietencron of Germany last year. A World Indology Conference was also organized by ICCR and hosted at Rashtrapati Bhavan from November 21 to 23, 2015.

Prof. Yu Longyu is the Director of the Centre for Indian Studies at Shenzhen University. Prof. Yu graduated from the Department of Oriental Language and Literature, Peking University in Sept 1965, with major in Hindi. He has translated and published Indian novels, dramas, and folk literature and published more than 80 academic articles in domestic and overseas periodicals. He is the author of several Chinese books such as “Origin and Development of Sino-Indian Literary Relations”, “Sino-Indian Comparative Literature”, “History of Oriental Literature (Chief Editor)”, “Indian Classical Works and Chinese Classics: Indian Writers and Chinese Culture”.

Prof. Yu Longyu played a significant role in the successful organization of the “2nd International Conference of Indologists” held from 11-13 Nov 2016 at Shenzhen. The Conference saw participation of more than 75 Indologists from world over including China, Germany, Thailand, Chile and India.
On Jan. 16, 2017, China and Switzerland pledged to better develop their innovative strategic partnership and jointly oppose trade protectionism.

During talks between visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Swiss counterpart Doris Leuthard, the two countries also agreed to align their respective development strategies and strengthen cooperation in promoting the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China.

**MODEL OF COOPERATION**

“The China-Switzerland relations have become a model of friendship and cooperation between countries that are different in social system, development stage and size,” Xi said.

“We are willing to work with the Swiss side for an even better development of our ties,” he said.

The president proposed that the two countries enhance cooperation and exchanges in a wide range of areas, including politics, trade, finance, digitalization, intelligent manufacturing, industrial capacity, culture and education.

Xi extended appreciation to the
Swiss side over its participation in the founding of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and its support for the Belt and Road Initiative, which is aimed at building a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient trade routes.

The president said that China stands ready to discuss cooperation with Switzerland in infrastructure construction, insurance and other areas to jointly promote the initiative.

For her part, Leuthard said the two countries have maintained sound relations since they forged diplomatic ties and have similar views on many issues concerning international peace and development.

The Swiss side is willing to deepen cooperation with China in such areas as economy, trade, finance, innovation, culture and tourism.

The two leaders agreed to strengthen the alignment of “Made in China 2025” and Switzerland’s Industry 4.0 strategies, and push for the upgrading of their bilateral free trade agreement that entered into force on July 1, 2014.

The two sides have also decided to jointly launch a China-Switzerland Year of Tourism in 2017, and enhance cooperation in winter sports by taking the opportunity of China hosting the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing.

PROTECTIONISM OPPOSED

China and Switzerland hold the same or similar position on opposing trade protectionism and settling international disputes in a peaceful manner, according to the leaders of both countries.

“The two sides should increase communication and coordination in international and regional issues, safeguard the process of global free trade, jointly oppose trade protectionism, and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” Xi said.

Leuthard echoed Xi’s remarks by saying that the Swiss side is willing to make joint efforts with China to maintain world peace and stability, safeguard an open global trade, and oppose protectionism in trade and investment.

The two sides agreed to work together to protect the open and inclusive global trade regime, and push for a more just and equitable global governance system.

After their talks, Xi and Leuthard witnessed the signing of a series of cooperation agreements between the two countries, covering diplomacy, free trade, energy, customs, intellectual property rights, culture, education, sports and others.
On Jan. 16, 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping said that the Chinese and Swiss business circles share common interests in maintaining a free and open international economic order, and should work together for mutual benefits and against all kinds of trade protectionism.

Accompanied by his Swiss counterpart Doris Leuthard, Xi made the remarks during a meeting with Swiss business leaders in Bern.

He said the two countries have reaped a lot in their fruitful economic and trade cooperation since they established diplomatic relations 67 years ago.

The Swiss entrepreneurs, famous for their innovative spirit and commitment to excellence, have always been ahead of the curve in the West's cooperation with China, hence receiving generous returns, Xi noted.

Besides the two countries’ free trade agreement that has propelled bilateral trade and investment, a number of new deals signed by the two sides during his ongoing visit forebode more chances for economic cooperation in the future, added Xi.

The Chinese leader also briefed the Swiss side on the Chinese economy, saying he is confident about a stable growth of the world's second largest economy.

China cannot secure its development without other parts of the world, and vice versa, Xi said, adding China is willing to boost global economic recovery and tap the potential for more cooperation with countries like Switzerland.

He noted that the European nation, with its advanced technologies and managerial expertise in such areas as intelligent manufacturing, finance, insurance
and energy, could become China’s partner in innovation.

Xi also suggested that as China is advancing the Belt and Road Initiative, the two sides could also seek to expand the markets, so as to enhance cooperation with third parties in infrastructure construction, finance and productivity promotion.

He encouraged business circles of the two counties to work together for win-win results, and contribute to the development of China-Switzerland relations.

For her part, Leuthard hailed Xi’s decision to meet with Swiss business leaders in his intensive schedule during the visit, saying it highlights Xi’s appreciation of bilateral economic and trade relations.

China has become Switzerland’s leading trading partner in Asia, she said, adding that her country, an advocate for open and free trade, wishes to work with China to facilitate the two sides’ business cooperation.

Leaders of Swiss businesses, such as Schindler, Roche, Nestle, UBS and ABB, said China has become an innovation center in a group of industries.

The business leaders said they appreciate China’s devotion in protecting intellectual property rights, and stand ready to increase their investments in China to expand high-tech cooperation with the Asian country.

### CHINA URGES BRICS NATIONS TO DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP FOR BRIGHTER FUTURE

Beijing, Jan. 1 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday called on BRICS countries, namely, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, to deepen their partnership for a brighter future.

Xi made the call in a letter sent to Russian President Vladimir Putin, South African President Jacob Zuma, Brazilian President Michel Temer and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to brief the leaders on China’s blueprint for promoting BRICS cooperation during Chinese presidency over the bloc in 2017.

China will host the ninth BRICS leaders’ summit in Xiamen, a coastal city in southeast China’s Fujian Province, in September, Xi said.

Over the past decade, BRICS countries have made joint efforts to yield fruits in cooperating on politics, economy and people-to-people exchanges, Xi said.

BRICS countries have also made great strides in their leaders’ summits, which has injected new dynamism into their cooperation, he added.

“The BRICS cooperation, a model for cooperation among emerging markets and that among developing countries, has brought benefits to people of BRICS nations and made great contributions to boosting global economic growth, improving global governance and promoting the democratization of international relations,” Xi said.

In the second decade for BRICS cooperation starting in 2017, BRICS nations will make greater progress in their cooperation and play a bigger role in international affairs, the Chinese president said.

Facing growing uncertainties and instabilities in international situation, BRICS countries need to enhance solidarity and cooperation and safeguard common interests, he said.

Xi said the Xiamen summit will focus on four aspects — deepening...
pragmatic cooperation for common development; enhancing global governance to jointly counter challenges; carrying out people-to-people exchanges to consolidate public support for cooperation; promoting mechanism building to construct broader partnership.

“In accordance with an open, inclusive and win-win BRICS spirit, China will work with other BRICS countries to make the Xiamen summit a success and move forward BRICS cooperation to a new level,” Xi said.

The BRIC cooperative mechanism was established in 2006. The first BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009. South Africa was admitted by the other BRIC leaders in 2010, adding the “S” to the original grouping. Eight BRICS summits have taken place so far.

CHINA, NORWAY AGREE ON NORMALIZATION OF TIES

On Dec. 19, 2016, China and Norway reached a consensus on normalization of ties, according to a meeting between Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende Monday in Beijing.

Li said the two countries’ foreign ministers had candid and in-depth talks, and reached an agreement on the normalization of bilateral ties.

China hopes to work together with Norway to open a new chapter in bilateral ties, and push forward a sustained, healthy and stable relationship, Li said.

China-Norway relations deteriorated due to controversy around the Nobel Peace Prize in
2010 and events connected to the Prize.

Li said China appreciates the new Norwegian government’s adherence to the one-China policy and its wish to improve and develop ties with China.

The two economies are highly compatible, Li said, adding China is ready to negotiate with Norway on an FTA, to send out a clear signal of trade and investment liberalization.

Brende, in his turn, said the normalization of relations is of historic significance, and has sent a positive message to the international community.

Norway adheres to the one-China policy and respects China’s core interests and major concerns, which are the political foundation for ties, he said.

Li told Brende the history of China-Norway relations shows mutual respect, equality and taking care of respective core interests and major concerns, serve as the precondition and foundation for strengthening political trust and developing ties.

Norway hopes to take the opportunity of normalization of ties with China to enhance high-level exchanges, boost bilateral FTA negotiation and expand win-win cooperation in such areas as investment, hydropower, and offshore oil and gas exploitation, Brende said.

CHINA’S POLICIES ON ASIA-PACIFIC SECURITY COOPERATION

Beijing, Jan. 11 (Xinhua) — China’s State Council Information Office on Wednesday issued a white paper on China’s policies on Asia-Pacific security cooperation.

Following is the full text:

Preface

The Asia-Pacific region covers a vast area with numerous countries and 60 percent of the world’s population. Its economic and trade volumes take up nearly 60 percent and half of the world’s total, respectively. It has an important strategic position in the world. In recent years, the development of the Asia-Pacific region has increasingly caught people’s attention. It has become the most dynamic region with the strongest potential in the world. All parties are attaching greater importance to and investing more in this region. With the profound adjustment of the pattern of international relations, the regional situation of the Asia-Pacific area is also undergoing profound changes.

China is committed to promoting peace and stability in this region. It follows the path of peaceful development and the mutually beneficial strategy of opening up, and pursues friendly cooperation with all countries on the
basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. It has participated in regional cooperation in an all-round way and taken active steps in response to both traditional and non-traditional security challenges, contributing to lasting peace and common prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

I. China’s Policies and Positions on Asia-Pacific Security Cooperation

Currently, the situation in the Asia-Pacific region is stable on the whole, with a strong momentum for peace and development. The Asia-Pacific region is a stable part of the global landscape. To promote peace and seek stability and development is the strategic goal and common aspiration of most countries in the region. Political mutual trust among countries has been strengthened, and major countries have frequently interacted and cooperated with one another. To address differences and disputes through negotiation and consultation is the major policy of countries in the region. Regional hotspot issues and disputes are basically under control. The region has secured steady and relatively fast growth, continuing to lead the world in this respect. Regional integration has gathered pace, with booming sub-regional cooperation. Free trade arrangements in various forms have made steady progress, and a new phase has emerged for dynamic connectivity building. However, the Asia-Pacific region still faces multiple destabilizing and uncertain factors. The nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula is complex and sensitive; the reconciliation process in Afghanistan remains slow; and disputes over territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests continue to unfold. Some countries are increasing their military deployment in the region, certain country seeks to shake off military constraints, and some countries are undergoing complex political and social transformations. Non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, natural disasters and transnational crimes have become more prominent. Asia’s economy still faces significant downward pressure as a result of its structural problems as well as external economic and financial risks.

As an important member of the Asia-Pacific family, China is fully aware that its peaceful development is closely linked with the future of the region. China has all along taken the advancement of regional prosperity and stability as its own responsibility. China is ready to pursue security through dialogue and
cooperation in the spirit of working together for mutually beneficial results, and safeguard peace and stability jointly with other countries in the region.

First, we should promote common development and lay a solid economic foundation for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. To enhance the convergence of economic interests is an important basis for sound state-to-state relations. **Common development provides a fundamental safeguard for peace and stability, and holds the key to various security issues.** Considerable achievements have been made in economic cooperation. On this basis, we should accelerate the process of economic integration and continue to advance the building of free trade areas and connectivity as well as comprehensive economic and social development. We should implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and narrow the developmental gap in the region, so that all countries and people of all social strata will enjoy the dividends of development, and the interests of countries will be more closely intertwined.

**Focusing on common development**, China has put forward and actively promoted the Belt and Road Initiative and initiated the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund. We welcome continued participation by all countries for mutually beneficial outcomes.

Second, we should promote the building of partnerships and strengthen the political foundation for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Asia-Pacific countries have unique diversities. Countries may become partners when they have the same values and ideals, but they can also be partners if they seek common ground while reserving differences. The key is to remain committed to treating each other as equals and carrying out mutually beneficial cooperation. How major countries in the Asia-Pacific region get along with each other is critical for maintaining regional peace and development. Major countries should treat the strategic intentions of others in an objective and rational manner, reject the Cold War mentality, respect others’ legitimate interests and concerns, strengthen positive interactions and respond to challenges with concerted efforts. Small and medium-sized countries need not and should not take sides among big countries. All countries should make joint efforts to pursue a new path of dialogue instead of confrontation and pursue partnerships rather than alliances, and build an Asia-Pacific partnership featuring mutual trust, inclusiveness and mutually beneficial cooperation.

China calls for the building of a new model of international relations centered on mutually beneficial cooperation. China is committed to building partnerships in different forms with all countries and regional organizations. China has committed itself to working with the United States to build a new model of major-country relations featuring non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect, and mutually beneficial cooperation. China is committed to deepening its comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination with Russia and establishing a closer partnership with India. It is also pushing for the improvement of its relations with Japan. Chinese leaders have repeatedly elaborated on the concept of a community of shared future on many different occasions. China is working to construct a community of shared future for countries along the Lancang-Mekong River and between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as in Asia and the Asia-Pacific area as a whole.

Third, we should improve the existing regional multilateral mechanisms and strengthen the framework for supporting peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. All parties concerned should adhere to multilateralism, oppose unilateralism, further support the development of regional multilateral security mechanisms, push for close coordination between relevant mechanisms, and play a bigger role in enhancing mutual understanding and trust, and expanding exchanges and cooperation in the field of security dialogues.

Committed to pushing forward the building of regional security mechanisms, China initiated with relevant countries the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Six-Party Talks, Xiangshan Forum, China-ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation, and Center for Comprehensive Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation in the Lancang-Mekong Sub-Region. China has actively supported the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in its capacity and institution building, and participated in the ASEAN-led multilateral security dialogues and cooperation mechanisms. Within various regional mechanisms, China has made a large number of cooperation proposals in
the field of non-traditional security, which have strongly promoted relevant exchanges and cooperation. China will shoulder greater responsibilities for regional and global security, and provide more public security services to the Asia-Pacific region and the world at large.

Fourth, we should promote the rule-setting and improve the institutional safeguards for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. To live together in peace, countries should follow the spirit of the rule of law, the international norms based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the widely recognized rules of fairness and justice. International and regional rules should be discussed, formulated and observed by all countries concerned, rather than being dictated by any particular country. Rules of individual countries should not automatically become “international rules,” still less should individual countries be allowed to violate the lawful rights and interests of others under the pretext of “rule of law.”

China has firmly upheld and actively contributed to international law, and regional rules and norms. To practice the rule of law in international relations, China, together with India and Myanmar, initiated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in 1954. China has acceded to almost all intergovernmental international organizations and more than 400 international multilateral treaties so far. China is committed to upholding regional maritime security and order, and enhancing the building of institutions and rules. In 2014 China presided over the adoption of the updated Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea at the Western Pacific Naval Symposium held in China. China and ASEAN countries will continue to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and strive for the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct (COC) on the basis of consensus in the framework of the DOC. In addition, China has taken an active part in consultations on setting rules in new areas such as cyberspace and outer space, so as to contribute to the formulation of widely accepted fair and equitable international rules.

Fifth, we should intensify military exchanges and cooperation to offer more guarantees for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. China faces diverse and complex security threats and challenges, as well as the arduous task of safeguarding national unity and territorial integrity. Building strong national defence and armed forces that are commensurate with China’s international standing and its security and development interests is a strategic task in China’s modernization drive, and provides a strong guarantee for its peaceful development. China’s armed forces provide security and strategic support for the country’s development and also make positive contributions to the maintenance of world peace and regional stability.

China’s armed forces have called for, facilitated, and participated in international security cooperation. China has followed the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, conducted all-round military exchanges with other countries, and developed non-aligned and non-confrontational military cooperation not targeting any third party. It has worked to promote the establishment of just and effective collective security mechanisms and military confidence-building mechanisms. On the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and mutually beneficial cooperation, China has increased interactions and cooperation with the armed forces of other countries, and intensified cooperation on confidence-building measures in border areas. China has promoted dialogue and cooperation on maritime security, participated in United Nations peacekeeping missions, international counter-terrorism cooperation, escort missions and disaster-relief operations, and conducted relevant joint exercises and training with other countries.

Sixth, we should properly resolve differences and disputes, and maintain a sound environment of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Most of the hotspot and sensitive issues in this region have been left over from history. To handle them, the countries in the region should follow the tradition of mutual respect, seeking common ground while reserving differences, and peaceful coexistence, and work to solve disputes properly and peacefully through direct negotiation and consultation. We should not allow old problems to hamper regional development and
cooperation, and undermine mutual trust. For disputes over territories and maritime rights and interests, the sovereign states directly involved should respect historical facts and seek a peaceful solution through negotiation and consultation in accordance with the fundamental principles and legal procedures defined by universally recognized international law and modern maritime law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Pending a satisfactory solution to disputes, the parties concerned should engage in dialogue to promote cooperation, manage each situation appropriately and prevent conflicts from escalating, so as to jointly safeguard peace and stability in the region.

China is committed to upholding peace and stability in the South China Sea, and working for peaceful solutions to the disputes over territories and maritime rights and interests with the countries directly involved through friendly negotiation and consultation. This commitment remains unchanged. China has actively pushed for peaceful solutions to hotspot issues such as the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and the Afghanistan issue, and played its due role as a responsible major country.

II. China’s Security Vision for the Asia-Pacific Region

Visions guide actions, and to solve new problems new visions are required. Old security concepts based on the Cold War mentality, zero-sum game, and stress on force are outdated given the dynamic development of regional integration. In the new circumstances, all countries should keep up with the times, strengthen solidarity and cooperation with openness and inclusiveness, make security vision innovations, work to improve regional security systems and explore a new path for Asian security.

1. Concept of Common, Comprehensive, Cooperative and Sustainable Security

At the Fourth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held in May 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping called for a concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and a path of security featuring wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits in the Asia-Pacific region.

Common security means respecting and ensuring the security of each and every country involved. We cannot just have the security of one or some countries while leaving the rest insecure, still less should we seek “absolute security” of oneself at the expense of the security of others. We should respect and accommodate the legitimate security concerns of all parties. To beef up a military alliance targeted at a third party is not conducive to maintaining common security.

Comprehensive security means upholding security in both traditional and non-traditional fields. We should take into full account the historical background and reality concerning regional security, adopt a multi-pronged and holistic approach, and enhance regional security governance in a coordinated way. While tackling the immediate security challenges facing the region, we should also make plans for addressing potential security threats.

Cooperative security means promoting the security of both individual countries and the region as a whole through dialogue and cooperation. The countries involved should engage in sincere and in-depth dialogue and communication to increase strategic mutual trust, reduce mutual misgivings, seek common ground while resolving differences and live in harmony with one another. We should bear in mind the common challenges and actively foster the awareness of meeting security challenges through cooperation. And we should expand the scope of and explore new ways for cooperation, and promote peace and security through cooperation.

Sustainable security means that the countries involved need to focus on both development and security to realize durable security. All the parties should focus on development, actively improve people’s lives and narrow the wealth gap so as to cement the foundation of security. We should advance common development and regional integration, and push for sound interactions and the synchronized progress of regional economic and security cooperation in order to promote sustainable security through sustainable development.

This security concept is in tune with globalization and the historical trend of the times featuring peace, development, and mutually beneficial cooperation. Rooted in regional integration, it has gathered the wisdom and consensus of the countries in the region, reflects the urgent need of all parties to cope with security challenges through cooperation, and opened broad prospects for regional security cooperation.
2. Improving the Regional Security Framework

The key to maintaining the long-term stability of the Asia-Pacific region is to build a security framework which is oriented to the future, accords with regional realities and meets all parties' needs.

First, the future regional security framework should be multi-layered, comprehensive and diversified. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region differ in their historical traditions, political systems, levels of development and security concerns. In this region there are ASEAN-led security cooperation mechanisms and platforms such as the SCO and CICA, as well as military alliances formed in history. Given such a diversity, a consistent security framework in this region is not foreseeable in the near future, and it will be normal to see multiple mechanisms advancing together in the evolution of a regional security framework. All the countries involved should play their respective roles in safeguarding regional peace and stability. China promotes the building of a security framework in the Asia-Pacific region, which does not mean starting all over again, but improving and upgrading the existing mechanisms.

Second, building the future security framework should be adopted as a common cause by all the countries in the region. As multi-polarity is becoming a global trend, regional security affairs should be decided by all the countries through equal participation. The development of a regional security framework involves the common interests of all the countries in the region, and requires the active participation and contribution of all parties. The Asia-Pacific area is a region where major powers come into frequent contact and where their interests are concentrated. The major powers should jointly promote a regional security framework, so as to effectively deal with the increasingly complex security challenges in the region. Relevant bilateral military alliances should be made more transparent and avoid confrontation, so as to play a constructive role in the sphere of regional peace and stability.

Third, the future regional security framework should be based on consensus. It will be a long and gradual process to put in place such a framework, which cannot be completed overnight. All parties should continue to strengthen dialogue and cooperation, and steadily advance the development of a regional security framework on the basis of building consensus. At the current stage, the parties should continue to focus on non-traditional security cooperation, and start from the easier tasks before moving on to more difficult ones, so as to build trust and lay a solid foundation for the framework.

Fourth, the development of a regional security framework should be advanced in parallel with the development of a regional economic framework. Security and development are closely linked and mutually complementary. Equal consideration should be given to both a security framework and an economic framework - the main components of the entire regional structure - to ensure their parallel development. On the one hand, the improvement of the security framework will help ensure a peaceful and stable environment for economic development; on the other, faster regional economic integration will provide solid economic and social support for the development of the security framework.

III. China's Relations with Other Major Asia-Pacific Countries

1. China-US Relations

Since 2015 the overall relationship between China and the United States has remained stable and even made new progress. The two countries have maintained close contacts at the leadership and other levels. President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to the US at the invitation of President Barack Obama in September 2015, and met him again during the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in November of the same year. In late March 2016 the two presidents had a successful meeting during the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington. In September they met again during the G20 Hangzhou Summit, and committed themselves to building a new model of a major-country relationship. Premier Li Keqiang met President Obama when attending high-level meetings of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly. In June the same year the Eighth Round of the China-US
Strategic and Economic Dialogue, the Seventh China-US High-Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchanges, and the Second China-US High-Level Joint Dialogue on Cybercrime and Related Issues were held in Beijing, and achieved fruitful results. In addition, the two countries have made steady progress in practical cooperation in various fields, and maintained close communication and coordination on major regional and global issues like climate change, the Korean and Iranian nuclear issues, Syria, and Afghanistan.

The two countries have maintained communication and coordination in the field of Asia-Pacific affairs through bilateral exchanges and relevant mechanisms at all levels, and agreed to build a bilateral relationship of positive interaction and inclusive cooperation in the region. The two countries have stayed in a state of communication and cooperation on regional and global affairs, including climate change, counter-terrorism, marine environmental protection, combating wild life smuggling, and disaster prevention and reduction within multilateral frameworks such as APEC, East Asia Summit (EAS), and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Moreover, the two sides have smoothly carried out trilateral personnel and agriculture training cooperation projects in Afghanistan and Timor-Leste.

China-US military relations have generally maintained a momentum of steady progress. Since 2015 the two militaries have continued to improve their two mutual-confidence-building mechanisms: the Mutual Notification of Major Military Activities and the Rules of Behavior for the Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters. In 2015 they held their Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster-Relief Field Exercise and Disaster Management Exchanges in China and the US, respectively, and participated in Khaan Quest 2015 multinational peacekeeping military exercise and Exercise Kowari, a China-US-Australia trilateral military exercise. In January 2016 a working meeting of officials from the two ministries of defense was held in Beijing, and in May a video conference was held between the Chinese Chief of the Department of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Central Military Commission and the US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. From late June to early August 2016, Chinese Navy Fleet 153 participated in RIMPAC 2016, a joint military exercise in Hawaii. In July and August the same year, the US Chief of Naval Operations and Chief of Staff of the Army each made a visit to China.

China is willing to promote the sustainable, sound and stable advance of bilateral relations, and work with the new US administration to follow the principles of no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation, increase cooperation in bilateral, regional and global affairs, manage and control divergences in a constructive way, and further bilateral relations from a new starting point, so as to bring benefits to the two peoples and other peoples around the world.

2. China-Russia Relations

China and Russia are each other’s biggest neighbor, and strategic partner of cooperation and priority in diplomacy. Over the years, China-Russia relations have gained healthy, stable and fast development, and made new achievements through joint efforts. In 2001 the two countries signed the Good-Neighborly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, which established the idea of a lasting friendship in legal form. In 2011 the bilateral relationship was upgraded to a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination based on equality, mutual trust, mutual support, common prosperity and lasting friendship. In 2014 the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination entered a new stage.

This partnership has presented a more positive momentum of development at a high level. President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin have met frequently. During the latter’s visit to China in June 2016 the two sides signed three joint statements: the Joint Statement by the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation, Joint Statement by the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation, Joint Statement by the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Information Cyberspace Development. In September that year the two heads of state met for the third time, during the G20 Hangzhou Summit, and agreed to increase their firm mutual support on issues concerning each other’s core interests, energetically promote the idea of a lasting friendship established in the Good-Neighborly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, actively promote their development strategies and their efforts to promote the Belt and Road Initiative and Eurasian Economic Union, hold a Year of Media
Exchange, and maintain close coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs, so as to inject strong vigor into bilateral relations.

China and Russia have maintained good cooperation in Asia-Pacific affairs. The two sides continue to strengthen their cooperation within regional multilateral frameworks, safeguard the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized norms governing international relations, uphold the achievements of World War II and international justice, advance the process of a political solution to regional hotspot issues, and contribute more positive energy to regional peace, stability, development and prosperity.

China-Russia military relations have made further progress. In 2015 the two militaries jointly commemorated the 70th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War, and sent high-ranking officers and teams to each other’s commemoration activities and military parades. The two militaries successfully held joint maritime drills twice in a year for the first time. China participated in all events of the international military skill competition hosted by Russia, and the first Chinese Military Culture Week was held in Russia. In 2016 the two militaries maintained positive interaction. The First Joint Computer-Enabled Anti-Missile Defence Exercise was held. China participated in the international military games in Russia and Kazakhstan. In November 2015 Premier Li Keqiang visited China in May 2016, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China in May 2015. Practical cooperation between the two countries has made solid progress in various areas. The two countries have maintained communication and coordination on international affairs and enhanced collaboration in the UN, BRICS, G20, China-India-Russia and other mechanisms. They have cooperated on climate change, the WTO Doha Round of negotiations, energy and food security, reform of international financial and monetary institutions, and global governance. Such cooperation has helped safeguard the common interests of China, India and other developing countries.

The relations between the Chinese and Indian militaries remain healthy and stable in general, with increasingly close communication and exchanges, and pragmatic cooperation in greater breadth and depth. Eight rounds of defence and security consultation and six joint military anti-terrorism training exercises have been held so far. Sound cooperation in personnel training, professional exchanges and other fields is being carried out. The two sides have also conducted border defence cooperation, which plays a positive role in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas between China and India. Military leaders of the two sides visited each other in 2015 and 2016, and reached an important consensus on strengthening pragmatic cooperation between the two militaries and working together to maintain peace and stability in the border areas.

China-India Relations

Since 2015 the China-India strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity has been further deepened. The two countries have set the goal of forging a closer development partnership, made new progress in exchanges and cooperation in various areas and stayed in close communication and coordination on regional and international issues.

The relations between the Chinese and Indian militaries remain healthy and stable in general, with increasingly close communication and exchanges, and pragmatic cooperation in greater breadth and depth.

The two countries have held frequent exchanges of high-level visits, and enhanced political mutual trust. President Xi Jinping met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Seventh BRICS Summit in Ufa in July 2015, the 16th SCO Summit in Tashkent in June 2016, the G20 Hangzhou Summit in September 2016, and the Eighth BRICS Summit in October 2016. In November 2015 Premier Li Keqiang met Indian Prime Minister Modi during the leaders’ meetings for East Asia cooperation in Malaysia. Indian President Pranab Mukherjee visited China in May 2017. 

4. China-Japan Relations

Since 2015 China-Japan
since 2015, defence ministers of the two countries have held two expert panel consultations on the establishment of air and maritime contact mechanisms, with consensus reached on most matters.

5. China has continued developing friendly and cooperative relations with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, with enhanced political mutual trust, strengthened economic and trade relations, closer people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and enlarged defence cooperation, so as to jointly promote peace, stability, development and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

IV. China’s Positions and Views on Regional Hotspot Issues

1. Nuclear Issue on the Korean Peninsula

China’s position on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is consistent and clear-cut. China is committed to the denuclearization of the peninsula, its peace and stability, and settlement of the issue through dialogue and consultation. Over the years, China has made tremendous efforts to facilitate the process of denuclearization of the peninsula, safeguard the overall peace and stability there, and realize an early resumption of the Six-Party Talks. In January and September this year the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducted two nuclear tests and launched missiles of various types, violating UN Security Council resolutions and running counter to the wishes of the international community. China has made clear its opposition to such actions and supported the relevant Security Council resolutions to prevent the DPRK’s further pursuit of nuclear weapons. China will continue to work with the international community and strive for denuclearization and long-term peace and stability of the peninsula and of Northeast Asia as a whole. At the same time, other parties concerned should not give up the efforts to resume talks or their responsibilities to safeguard peace and stability on the peninsula.

2. Anti-Ballistic Missile Issue

The anti-ballistic missile issue concerns global strategic stability and mutual trust among major countries. China always holds the view that the anti-ballistic missile issue should be treated with discretion. Forming Cold War style military alliances and building global and regional anti-ballistic missile systems will be detrimental to strategic stability and mutual trust, as well as to the development of an inclusive global and regional security framework. Countries should respect other countries’ security concerns while pursuing their own security interests, and follow the principle of maintaining global strategic stability without compromising the security of any country so as to jointly create a peaceful and stable international security environment featuring equality, mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Despite clear opposition from relevant countries including China, the US and the Republic of Korea (ROK) announced the decision to start and accelerate the deployment of the THAAD anti-ballistic missile system in the ROK. Such an act would seriously damage the regional strategic balance and the strategic security interests of China and other countries in the region, and run counter to the efforts for maintaining peace and stability on
the Korean Peninsula. China firmly opposes the US and ROK deployment of the THAAD anti-ballistic missile system in the ROK, and strongly urges the US and the ROK to stop this process.

3. Afghanistan Issue

China supports peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan, and hopes to see an Afghanistan that is united, stable, prosperous and at peace with its neighboring countries. Since 2015 China has increased assistance to Afghanistan in support of that government’s capacity building. In the wake of a 7.8-magnitude earthquake in northern Afghanistan in October 2015 China provided assistance for disaster-relief efforts. China believes that only an inclusive reconciliation process that is “Afghan-led and Afghan-owned” can provide the ultimate solution to the Afghanistan issue. China will continue to play a constructive role in advancing the reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

4. Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

At present, the counter-terrorism situation in the Asia-Pacific region is undergoing complex and profound changes. The region faces severe security and stability challenges posed by violent and extremist ideologies spreading at an ever-faster pace, more active terrorist and extremist forces, rising threats from cyber terrorism, and frequent violent terrorist activities, in particular the infiltration of international terrorist organizations and the inflow of foreign terrorist fighters.

Terrorism is a common scourge of the international community and humanity as a whole. The Chinese government opposes terrorism in all forms and calls on the international community to cooperate in fighting terrorism on the basis of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other universally recognized norms governing international relations. China believes that dialogue among different civilizations should be enhanced and a holistic approach taken to eliminate the breeding grounds of terrorism by addressing both its symptoms and root causes by political, economic and diplomatic means. At the same time, there should be no double standard in fighting terrorism, which should not be associated with any particular country, ethnicity or religion.

5. Maritime Cooperation

The overall maritime situation remains stable in the region. It is all parties’ common interest and consensus to maintain maritime peace, security and freedom of navigation and overflight. However, non-traditional maritime security threats are on the rise. The ecological environment in many marine areas has been damaged. Marine natural disasters occur frequently, and leaks of oil or hazardous chemicals happen from time to time. In addition, there are often cases of piracy, smuggling and drug trafficking. Misunderstandings and lack of mutual trust among some countries about traditional security issues also pose risks to maritime security.

China has called for even-handed, practical and mutually beneficial maritime security cooperation. It adheres to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the fundamental principles and legal system defined by universally recognized international laws and modern maritime laws, including the UNCLOS and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, in dealing with regional maritime issues, and is committed to coping with traditional and non-traditional maritime security threats through cooperation. Maintaining maritime peace and security is the shared responsibility of all countries in the region, and serves the common interests of all parties. China is dedicated to strengthening cooperation and jointly tackling challenges with all relevant parties so as to maintain maritime peace and stability.

China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters. China has always been committed to resolving disputes peacefully through negotiation and consultation, managing disputes by setting rules and establishing mechanisms, realizing mutually beneficial outcomes through cooperation for mutual benefit, and upholding peace and stability as well as freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea. China and the ASEAN countries stay in close communication and dialogue on the South China Sea issue. When fully
launched relevant negotiations in views on maritime demarcation, and extensive and in-depth exchanges of through continued dialogue and consultation. situation and resolve related issues fisheries and other issues. China is willing to properly manage the gas exploration, scientific research, maritime law enforcement, oil and waters of the East China Sea, management and control in the air reached consensus on crisis over the Diaoyu Islands has a China's territory. China's sovereignty Islands are an integral part of China and Japan. The Diaoyu Islands are an integral part of China's territory. China's sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands has a sufficient historical and legal basis. China and Japan have maintained dialogues on issues related to the East China Sea and held several rounds of high-level consultations. They have had communication and reached consensus on crisis management and control in the air and waters of the East China Sea, maritime law enforcement, oil and gas exploration, scientific research, fisheries and other issues. China is willing to properly manage the situation and resolve related issues through continued dialogue and consultation.

China and the ROK have extensive and in-depth exchanges of views on maritime demarcation, and launched relevant negotiations in December 2015.

V. China's Participation in Major Multilateral Mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific Region

1. China-ASEAN Cooperation

China regards ASEAN as a priority in its neighborhood diplomacy, and firmly supports ASEAN's integration and community building as well as its centrality in regional cooperation. Following the principles of mutual respect, equality, good-neighbourliness and mutually beneficial cooperation, China and ASEAN have further strengthened strategic dialogue, enhanced political mutual trust, and deepened practical cooperation in economy and trade, connectivity, finance, security, maritime affairs, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges, making continuous progress in their relations. During his visit to Southeast Asia in 2013 President Xi Jinping announced that China wants to build a closer China-ASEAN community of shared future.

In 2015 the China-ASEAN Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting was held in China for the first time. The two sides also held the Telecommunication Ministers' Meeting, AEM-MOFCOM Consultations, Transport Ministers' Meeting, and Prosecutors-Generals' Conference. In November of the same year, the two sides signed the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Certain Agreements Thereunder Between China and ASEAN, which marked the conclusion of the negotiations on an upgraded China-ASEAN Free Trade Area.

The year 2016 sees the 25th anniversary of the China-ASEAN Dialogue and the Year of China-ASEAN Educational Exchanges. On September 7 the 19th China-ASEAN Summit to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of China-ASEAN Dialogue was held in Vientiane, Laos. Premier Li Keqiang attended and reviewed with ASEAN leaders the progress in bilateral relations, summarized experiences, and outlined the direction for future development. The two sides have also held meetings of their ministers of foreign affairs, economy and trade, quality management and inspection. A series of commemoration events have been hosted, including the Reception in Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of China-ASEAN Dialogue Relations, Ninth China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week, Second China-ASEAN Governors/Mayors Dialogue, International Conference to Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of China-ASEAN Dialogue Relations and China-ASEAN Week.

2. ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation

ASEAN Plus Three (APT) cooperation is the main vehicle for East Asia cooperation. China has called upon all parties to increase their input in implementing the Report of the East Asia Vision Group II and ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan 2013-2017, actively advanced the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM) process, and supported the greater readiness and effectiveness of the CMIM and the capacity building of the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office after its upgrading to an international organization, so as to contribute to East Asia's economic and financial stability. China has also
pushed forward the negotiations on trade in goods and services, and the model of access to investment markets under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and encouraged other parties to issue the Joint Statement on RCEP Negotiations.

On September 7, 2016 the 19th ASEAN Plus Three Summit was held in Vientiane, Laos, during which Premier Li Keqiang made six proposals on enhancing APT cooperation: to reinforce financial security cooperation, to expand trade and investment cooperation, to promote agricultural and poverty reduction cooperation, to increase the level of connectivity, to create new models for industrial cooperation, and to expand cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Since 2015 China has vigorously promoted practical cooperation within the APT framework, and held a series of events, including the Seventh East Asia Business Forum, Training Program on Understanding China, Ninth and Tenth Workshops on Cooperation for Cultural Human Resource Development, East Asia High-Level Investment Forum, Sixth Roundtable Meeting on Food Security, Second East Asia Modern Agricultural Workshop, exchange activities for young scientists, “Return to China” Project Cultural Event Series, Fourth International Workshop on ASEAN Plus Three Connectivity Partnership, Third and Fourth ASEAN Plus Three Village Leaders Exchange Programs, and 14th Asian Arts Festival.

3. China-Japan-ROK Cooperation

As major countries in East Asia, China, Japan and the ROK are the main drivers of East Asia economic integration. Stronger trilateral cooperation will be conducive not only to the development of the three countries, but also to regional stability and prosperity.

In 2015 China-Japan and ROK-Japan relations improved to some extent, ushering in a new phase of greater practical cooperation among the three countries in various fields. The Sixth China-Japan-ROK Summit was held on November 1 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, where leaders of the three countries had an in-depth exchange of views on trilateral cooperation and international and regional issues of common interest, reiterated the importance they placed on trilateral cooperation, and agreed to properly handle relevant issues in the spirit of “facing history squarely and working together for the future,” enhancing cooperation in political, economic, trade, fiscal, financial and cultural fields as well as on sustainable development.

The meeting issued the Joint Declaration for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia and other joint statements in agricultural, educational, and economic and trade sectors, which further enriched the trilateral cooperation and charted a course for future cooperation.

Since 2015 a number of meetings, forums and events among China, Japan and the ROK have been held, including the Ministerial Meetings on Foreign Affairs, Tourism, Water Resource, Environment, Finance, Economic and Trade, Agriculture, Culture, Health and Disaster Management, Central Bank Governors’ Meeting, Meeting of Heads of Personnel Authorities, Trilateral Police Affairs Consultation and Counter-Terrorism Consultation, Director Generals’ Meeting on Forestry Cooperation, Meeting of the Committee for Promoting Exchanges and Cooperation Among Universities, Northeast Asia Trilateral Forum, Tabletop Exercise on Disaster Management, Workshop on Marine Sciences and International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation, and several rounds of negotiations for a Free Trade Area.

4. East Asia Summit (EAS)

The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a leaders-led strategic forum. Remarkable progress has been made in EAS cooperation since 2015. Called for by China, the Fifth EAS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting decided to extend the deadline of implementing the Plan of Action to Implement the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative to 2017.

At the 11th EAS held in Vientiane, Laos, on September 8, 2016, Premier Li Keqiang pointed out that cooperation in economic development and cooperation in political security were the two engines propelling the EAS, which should coordinate and synchronize with each other. On economic development, all parties should render strong support to regional connectivity, step up construction of free trade areas, and strengthen cooperation in social undertakings and people’s livelihood. On political security, China advocates the new security concept featuring common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and supports all parties to strengthen cooperation on non-traditional security, discuss the building of a regional security framework, and properly settle hotspot and sensitive issues.

5. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

The ARF has become an influential and inclusive platform for official multilateral security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. All parties have been making confidence-building measures as their core mission, promoting preventive diplomacy based on consensus, and steadily enhancing cooperation in non-traditional security fields.

On July 26, 2016 the 23rd ARF Ministerial Meeting was held in Vientiane, Laos. The Chinese side pointed out that the forum should focus on confidence-building measures throughout the whole process, and explore a preventive diplomacy mode compatible with the regional situation step by step on the basis of consensus. All sides should further strengthen dialogue and cooperation, enhance understanding and mutual trust among regional countries, work together to cope with non-traditional security threats and other challenges, and enable the forum to make greater contributions to regional peace and security.

China has actively led practical cooperation within the framework of the ARF. Since 2015 it has hosted the Workshop on Cyber Security Capacity Building, Third ARF Workshop on Space Security, ARF Seminar on Maritime Risk Management and Cooperation, ARF Workshop on Marine Oil Spill Emergency Response and Management and Disposal Cooperation, ARF Workshop on Strengthening Management of Cross-Border Movement of Criminals, ARF Workshop on Green Shipping, and ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue.

In 2016 the Chinese military has participated in the ADMM-Plus peacekeeping and demining joint exercise in India and the maritime security and counter-terrorism exercises in Brunei and Singapore.

6. ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus)

The ADMM-Plus is the highest-level and largest defence and security dialogue and cooperation mechanism in the Asia-Pacific region. It has played a vital role in enhancing mutual trust and promoting pragmatic cooperation among the defence ministries and armed forces of all parties.

On November 4, 2015, at the Third ADMM-Plus held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Chinese side pointed out that all parties should push for the building of an open, inclusive, transparent and even-handed regional security cooperation framework, keep deepening pragmatic defence cooperation, properly handle disputes, manage and control risks, and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability.

In 2016 the Chinese military has participated in the ADMM-Plus peacekeeping and demining joint exercise in India and the maritime security and counter-terrorism exercises in Brunei and Singapore. From 2017 to 2020 China and Thailand will co-chair the ADMM-Plus Experts’ Working Group on Counter-terrorism.

7. Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC)

The establishment of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) framework was an important initiative put forward by Premier Li Keqiang at the 17th China-ASEAN Summit in November 2014. This initiative aims to enhance good-nighbornliness and friendship among the six countries along the Lancang-Mekong River through pragmatic cooperation, promote sub-regional economic and social development, and forge a community of shared future for solidarity, mutual assistance, even-handed consultation, shared benefits and mutually beneficial cooperation in the sub-region. The LMC framework has China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam as its members.

The LMC has registered encouraging progress. One leaders’ meeting, one foreign ministers’ meeting and three senior officials’ meetings have been held by November 2016. In November 2015 the First LMC Foreign Ministers’ Meeting was held in Jinghong, in China’s Yunnan Province, at which
the foreign ministers of the six countries announced the start of the LMC process, reached broad consensus on the direction of future cooperation and the structure of the LMC, and put forward proposals for a number of cooperation projects.

On March 23, 2016 the First LMC Leaders’ Meeting was held in Sanya, in China’s Hainan Province, officially launching the LMC framework. Leaders of the six countries reviewed past progress, shared their vision for the future of the LMC, and agreed to coordinate their strategies for development, make overall planning of their cooperation resources, share the benefits of development, and build a community of shared future among the Lancang-Mekong countries. The meeting confirmed the “3+5” mechanism of cooperation: the three cooperation pillars of political and security issues, economic and sustainable development, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges; and the five key priority areas of connectivity, production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, water resources, and agriculture and poverty reduction. The meeting issued the Sanya Declaration of the First Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting and the Joint Statement on Production Capacity Cooperation Among the Lancang-Mekong Countries, and adopted a joint list of early-harvest programs in areas such as connectivity, water resources, public health and poverty reduction.

8. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Since 2015 the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has maintained sound and steady development. Progress has been made in political, security, economic and cultural cooperation, leading to the firmer international standing and greater influence of the SCO.

President Xi Jinping attended the 15th Meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the SCO member states on July 9-10, 2015 in Ufa, Russia, where they signed the Ufa Declaration of the Heads of State of SCO Member States and the SCO Member States Agreement on Border Defence Cooperation, and approved important documents including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s Development Strategy until 2025 and the SCO Member States 2016-2018 Cooperation Program on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism.

Premier Li Keqiang chaired the 14th Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO member states held in China on December 14-15, 2015. The leaders at the meeting laid out plans for cooperation in various fields for the next stage, issued the Statement of the Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of SCO Member States on Regional Economic Cooperation, adopted the resolution on Preparation for Creating the SCO Development Bank and the SCO Development Foundation (Specialized Account), and witnessed the signing of the Program of Interaction Between the Customs Agencies of the SCO member states for 2016-2021 and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the SCO and the Secretariat of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

On June 23-24, 2016 the 16th Meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the SCO member states was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. President Xi Jinping attended the meeting. The heads of the member states signed the Tashkent Declaration on the 15th Anniversary of the SCO, approved the Action Plan for 2016-2020 on Implementation of the SCO Development Strategy Towards 2025, and adopted the Memorandums of the Obligations on the Entry of the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the SCO.

Since 2015 meetings of heads of various departments including security council secretaries, foreign ministers, defence ministers, economic and trade ministers, culture ministers and heads of emergency response agencies have been held. These meetings deepened and expanded cooperation in various fields, and increased the SCO’s international influence. China has promoted and participated in SCO cooperation across the board. China's bilateral relations with other SCO member states, observer states and dialogue partners have continued to grow.

9. Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

On April 27-28, 2016 the Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CICA member states was held in Beijing. President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony and delivered an important speech. The meeting issued the Declaration on Promoting Peace, Security, Stability and Sustainable Development in Asia Through Dialogue and adopted the 2016-2018 Cooperation Initiative of

China has actively implemented the confidence-building measures of CICA in all fields and made innovative efforts in the cooperation platform of CICA. Since 2015 China has hosted the founding conference of the CICA Youth Council, founding assembly of CICA Business Council, First CICA Non-Governmental Forum and Third Think Tank Roundtable, which have helped to implement the confidence-building measures in cultural and economic fields, and promoted dialogue and exchange among young people, NGOs and think tanks.

VI. China’s Participation in Regional Non-Traditional Security Cooperation

1. Disaster Relief

Since 2015 the Chinese government has been actively involved in and promoted exchanges and cooperation on disaster relief in the Asia-Pacific region. China hosted the Eighth SCO Meeting of Heads of Emergency Prevention and Relief Agencies and the Third China-Japan-ROK Tabletop Exercise on Disaster Management, co-hosted with Malaysia the Fourth ARF Disaster Relief Exercise, and participated in the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, International Drill of the Emergency Prevention and Relief Agencies of the SCO Member States, the Ninth APEC Senior Disaster Management Officials’ Forum and International Search and Rescue Advisory Group Asia-Pacific Regional Earthquake Response Exercise.

In January and July 2015 and in May 2016, when Malaysia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka were hit by devastating floods, China immediately provided relief supplies to the three countries. In the wake of severe earthquakes in Nepal in April 2015 China sent rescue and medical teams and transportation detachments to the country and provided mobile field hospitals in support of disaster-relief efforts.

The Chinese government will continue to work with relevant parties to improve mutual visits of officials, information sharing, personnel training, technological exchanges, simulation exercises, scientific research cooperation, material reserves and emergency aid, to enhance practical bilateral and multilateral cooperation in disaster relief, and improve disaster mitigation and relief capacity in the Asia-Pacific area.

2. Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

Since 2015 China has cooperated with a number of neighboring countries in combating terrorism-related human smuggling, and arrested a number of terrorist suspects and human smugglers active in the region. These efforts dealt a heavy blow to the illegal human smuggling networks of the “Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement” (ETIM) and other terrorist organizations, and effectively countered and prevented the infiltration efforts of the ETIM and other terrorist organizations.

China has held bilateral anti-terrorism consultations with the US, Russia, Canada, the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, the ROK and Indonesia, hosted the 13th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-terrorism and Transnational Crimes, and promoted cooperation on combating Internet-spread violent and terrorist audios/videos and cross-border terrorist activities. In addition, by taking an active part in the APEC Counter-terrorism Working Group, the Global Counter-terrorism Forum and the ASEAN plus China Meeting on Transnational Crime at ministerial level, China has strengthened exchanges in anti-terrorism cooperation.

China, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan have established a coordination mechanism on counter-terrorism cooperation among the military forces of the four countries, aimed at conducting coordination on situation analysis, verification of clues, sharing of intelligence, capacity building, joint training and personnel training, and providing mutual assistance.

3. Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crimes

The Chinese government places high importance on combating trans-national crimes, and is committed to fully and earnestly implementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). China has concluded 123 judicial assistance and extradition treaties with 70 countries, and actively promoted the establishment of bilateral judicial and law-enforcement cooperation mechanisms with the US and Canada. These efforts have provided a solid legal basis and effective...
External Affairs

platform for China’s cooperation with relevant countries in combating transnational crime in all forms.

China is actively involved in international cooperation in combating transnational organized crimes and maintains sound cooperation with the UN and other international and regional organizations. It has facilitated law-enforcement cooperation along the Mekong River and conducted multiple joint actions with Southeast Asian countries in combating transnational crimes, and effectively fought against human trafficking, telecom fraud, economic crimes and drug-related crimes that are prevalent in the region. In October 2015 China hosted the China-ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation with the theme “Security for Prosperity” and the Ministerial Meeting on Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation along the Mekong River. In the Second Safe Mekong Joint Operation by China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, over 10,000 suspects were arrested, more than 9,000 drug-related cases were solved, and a large quantity of narcotics was seized.

China stands ready to enhance judicial and law-enforcement cooperation with relevant countries in a joint effort to fight transnational crimes, and calls on all countries to enhance their political will for international cooperation, overcome differences in legal systems, promote cooperation within the framework of the UNTOC, including cooperation on extradition, provide wide judicial assistance, and cooperate in the recovery and disposal of criminal proceeds. China also encourages countries concerned to negotiate and conclude bilateral extradition and judicial assistance treaties for more concrete outcomes in cooperation to combat transnational crimes.

4. Cyber Security

Currently, cyber security is acquiring greater importance. Asia-Pacific countries are placing high importance on cyber security, increasing input and actively conducting dialogue and regional cooperation on this issue. China is a staunch supporter of and an active participant in international efforts to ensure cyber security. It believes that cyberspace should be used to promote economic and social development, maintain international peace and stability, and improve the well-being of mankind. Countries should strengthen dialogue and cooperation on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and build a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace and a multilateral, democratic and transparent international Internet regime. It is imperative that a universally accepted international code of conduct is formulated within the UN framework.

Since 2015 China has continued to promote cyber security within the UN framework, and been deeply involved in the process. China and other SCO member states have jointly submitted an updated version of the International Code of Conduct for Information Security to the UN General Assembly. China has contributed to the endeavors to formulate international rules governing cyberspace by taking an active part in and facilitating the efforts of the UN’s Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber Security to produce its final report, which affirms that the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including sovereign equality, non-interference in others’ internal affairs, and non-use of force, also apply to cyberspace. China has also played a constructive role in the UN Internet Governance Forum and the High-Level Meeting on the Overall Review of the Implementation of the Outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.

China has continuously strengthened bilateral dialogues and practical cooperation on cyber security with countries in the region. China and Russia have signed the Information Security Cooperation Agreement and held a new round of consultation on cyber security. China-Japan-ROK-China-ROK and China-EU dialogues on cyber security have been held. China and the US held the High-Level Joint Dialogue on Cybercrime and Related Issues.

China attaches great importance to and takes an active part in regional mechanisms under the ARF, BRICS and SCO in order to promote balanced and inclusive development of network security cooperation in the region. China is actively involved in the BRICS Expert Working Group on Cyber-Security and the SCO Expert Group on International Information Security, and has worked on the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization to establish a Working Group on International Legal Issues Concerning Cyber Space. China also hosted the Second World Internet Conference.

5. Cooperation on Maritime Security
The year 2015 was the year of China-ASEAN maritime cooperation. Maritime cooperation is a key part of building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. China and the ASEAN countries conducted a series of exchanges and cooperative events on maritime security, scientific research and environmental protection. China and Thailand conducted a scientific expedition in the Andaman Sea, and held the Fourth Joint Committee Meeting on Marine Cooperation. China and Malaysia signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the China-Malaysia Joint Oceanographic Research Center. The construction of the China-Indonesia Center for the Oceans and Climate, and the Joint Oceanic Observation Station proceeded in an orderly way. The Third China-Southeast Asian Countries Marine Research and Environmental Protection Cooperation Forum was also held.

China has actively participated in and advanced dialogues and cooperation on maritime security. Since 2015 China has hosted the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Administrations Conference, the multi-task exercise “Cooperation for Law Enforcement 2015” of the North Pacific Coast Guard Agencies Forum, International Training Course for Lighthouse Management Personnel in the Asia-Pacific Area and the Asia-Pacific Mass Rescue Operation Training Course and Tabletop Exercise. China has continued its cooperation with Australia and Malaysia in the search for Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370, and provided 20 million Australian dollars for follow-up search-and-rescue efforts in this regard.

China has vigorously supported the capacity building and development of the Information Sharing Center (ISC) under the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery, and accredited maritime police officers to the ISC. In June 2016, as requested by Vietnam, China dispatched vessels and airplanes to assist in searching for and rescuing Vietnamese airplanes which had crashed, along with their crew members. From December 2008 to January 2016 Chinese fleets sent to the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters as escorts conducted 909 missions, escorting 6,112 Chinese and foreign civilian vessels.

6. Cooperation in Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

China supports and takes an active part in international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, and stands for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. China has earnestly implemented the outcomes of all the review conferences of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and played a constructive role in the Ninth NPT review conference and the P5 Conference on Implementing the NPT. China stands ready to work with all parties through unremitting efforts to achieve the three NPT goals of “nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and peaceful use of nuclear power.”

China holds that establishing a Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone is of great significance for promoting regional and global peace and stability. China supports the efforts of ASEAN countries to establish a Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone, and stands for the early signing and going into effect of the protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone. China has solved all the remaining issues concerning the protocol with ASEAN, and looks forward to the signing of the protocol at an early date. China will continue to participate constructively in consultation between ASEAN and the five nuclear countries, and facilitate consultation between ASEAN and the other four nuclear countries to resolve their differences so that the protocol can be signed and come into effect at an early date.

China stands for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, opposes the development, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons by any one, and supports the purposes and goals of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, and the work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). China is earnest in fulfilling its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention in its entirety, and attaches great importance to and supports
international exchanges and cooperation under the convention.

In 2015 China held the 13th Regional Meeting of National Authorities of Asian State Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, hosted the Advanced Protection and Assistance Course with the OPCW, and held the Training Course on National Points of Contacts of States in the Asia-Pacific Region together with the UN Security Council 1540 Committee. China also participated in the Asian Senior-Level Talks on Non-Proliferation, ARF Inter-Sessional Workshop on Non-Proliferation, and other related events.

Conclusion

The Chinese people are working hard to realize the Chinese Dream of the great renewal of the Chinese nation. In this process, China will bring greater opportunities and benefits for development and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. China’s development adds to the momentum for world peace. China will firmly follow the path of peaceful development and the policy of “building friendship and partnership with neighboring countries” to create an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood. China remains committed to the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness in conducting neighborhood diplomacy and the goal of maintaining and promoting stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. China stands ready to work with all countries in the region to pursue mutually beneficial cooperation and steadily advance security dialogues and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, and the building of a new model of international relations so as to create a brighter future for this region.

Chinese Economy

CHINA FOCUS: CHINESE ECONOMY ENDS 2016 ON "POSITIVE NOTE"

Beijing, Jan. 5 (Xinhua) — The Chinese economy ended on a positive note in 2016, with both the manufacturing and service sectors registering strong increases in business activities in the final month of the year, a private survey showed Thursday.

China’s service sector continued to expand in December, posting its strongest rate in 17 months, according to the survey conducted by financial information service provider Markit, sponsored by Caixin Media.

The Caixin General Services Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) edged up to 53.4 from 53.1 in November. The previous high was
53.8 in July 2015.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while below 50 represents contraction.

Demand in the sector picked up as new orders at service companies rose in December at the fastest pace in 17 months.

Rising raw material costs for service companies caused expenses to soar at their quickest rate in nearly two years, but service providers only slightly raised their prices in December due to market competition.

Optimism about growth prospects in 2017 reached a four-month high, with surveyed companies generally showing more confidence due to improving market conditions and company expansion.

The Caixin China Manufacturing PMI, released Tuesday, hit a 47-month high of 51.9 in December.

The strong performance in the two sectors meant the Caixin Composite Output Index, which reflects performance in both sectors, hit a 45-month high of 53.5 in December from November’s 52.9.

Zhong Zhengsheng, director of macroeconomic analysis at CEBM Group, an investment research firm, said the figures showed continued recovery in China’s economy.

“The Chinese economy performed better in the fourth quarter than in the previous three quarters. It is without question that the government full year growth target will be reached,” Zhong said.

China’s GDP grew 6.7 percent in the first three quarters of 2016, within the government target of between 6.5 and 7 percent for the year.

GDP growth in the fourth quarter of 2016 is expected to stay flat at 6.7 percent year on year, partly due to stronger fixed asset investment and retail sales in December, according to China International Capital Corporation.

National Bureau of Statistics data showed that China’s manufacturing and non-manufacturing PMI posted the second-highest monthly reading of 2016 in December, adding to signs of economic stabilization.

Chen Zhongtao, analyst at the China Logistics Information Center, said positive factors have grown for the Chinese economy, including increasing demand, rising prices, better performance for companies, restructuring and a good job market.

However, Zhong also warned that China should stay alert about downward pressures on the economy, with gradually tightening property policies and likely tightening of fiscal and monetary policies.

China is facing a complicated situation both at home and abroad, including weak growth momentum in major economies, rising trade protectionism, domestic debt overhang, excess capacity and a highly leveraged property market.

China has made “seeking progress while maintaining stability” the main theme for economic work in 2017, pledging to push for substantial progress in supply-side structural reform, according to the Central Economic Work Conference.

Central bank advisor Huang Yiping said the government should set a more flexible target for economic growth in 2017 to make more room for reforms, proposing a GDP growth target range of 6-7 percent for 2017.
China has mapped out a plan to improve the economy, standard of living and environmental conditions to a “new level” in its western regions by 2020, the country’s top economic planner said on Jan. 16, 2017.

The State Council has released the plan setting goals for the country’s “go west” strategy for 2016-2020, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

The government should complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in China’s west by 2020, the NDRC cited the plan as saying.

Specific targets include sustained and healthy economic development, stronger innovation, more progress in industrial upgrading and infrastructure construction, as well as better environment and public services.

Major projects will be implemented to strengthen environmental protection, conserve energy and resources and improve disaster prevention and relief, according to the plan.

Efforts will also be made to reduce poverty and promote the opening up of regions along the Belt and Road.

The less-developed west presents difficulties for China’s goals to eliminate poverty and achieve all-round moderate prosperity, but it also boasts huge potential for development, according to the NDRC.

China launched its “go west” strategy in 2000 to boost the economic development of 12 western provincial-level regions — Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Tibet, Shaanxi, Gansu, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Guangxi and Qinghai.

Under the strategy, western regions enjoy support in infrastructure construction, foreign
investment, environmental protection, education and staff retention.

From 2011 to 2015, China invested 2.7 trillion yuan (392 billion U.S. dollars) in 127 key projects in the west, according to the NDRC.

Altogether 12,000 km of railways and 215,000 km of highways were built in that period, while rural residents’ access to safe drinking water and electricity was expanded.

During the period, the per capita disposable income of urban residents in western regions rose 10.5 percent annually on average, while the net income of rural residents grew 11.2 percent annually, outpacing the national growth by 0.2 percentage points and 1 percentage point respectively, according to the NDRC.

CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE STABILIZING AMID TRADE PROTECTIONISM CONCERNS

Beijing, Jan. 13 (Xinhua) — China’s foreign trade stabilized and returned to growth in the fourth quarter of 2016, but concerns are looming on rising trade protectionism that is likely to bring uncertainties to the new year’s outlook.

Total foreign trade value was up 3.8 percent in the last three months of 2016, data from the General Administration of Customs (GAC) showed Friday.

For the whole year, total export and import value decreased 0.9 percent year on year to 24.33 trillion yuan, narrowing down from a 7 percent decline in 2015.

In the fourth quarter of 2016, China’s exports were up 0.3 percent from a year ago, while imports climbed 8.7 percent, compared with
a 0.3 percent decrease in exports and a 2.3-percent rise in imports in the third quarter, according to GAC spokesperson Huang Songping.

The country’s exports in yuan-denominated terms dropped 2 percent to 13.84 trillion yuan (about 2 trillion U.S. dollars) year on year in 2016, while imports rose 0.6 percent from the 2015 level to 10.49 trillion yuan.

China’s foreign trade surplus narrowed to 3.35 trillion yuan in 2016, down 9.1 percent from a year earlier, according to GAC data.

In December alone, exports were up 0.6 percent year on year, while imports jumped 10.8 percent.

**EXTERNAL, DOMESTIC RECOVERY**

Huang attributed the trade recovery to supportive policies, a rebound in external demand and a stabilizing domestic economy.

Despite the sluggish world economy and shrinking trade activity in the past year, Huang said that some economic indicators had slowly improved, citing the purchasing managers’ indexes in developed economies, which suggested an expansion in the last quarter.

Boostered by growing domestic demand, crude oil imports in 2016 rose 13.6 percent to 381 million tonnes while iron ore imports climbed 7.5 percent to 1.024 billion tonnes, GAC reported.

Huang said that trade with countries along the “Belt and Road” had witnessed growth, and China’s exports to Pakistan, Russia and India had risen 11 percent, 14.1 percent and 6.5 percent respectively year on year.

Meanwhile, China’s exports to the European Union, the country’s biggest trade partner, increased 1.2 percent. Exports to ASEAN, the third-largest partner, were down 2 percent.

Huang also highlighted the strong performance of Chinese private firms, which recorded 9.28 trillion yuan or 38.1 percent of the total foreign trade volume last year, compared with 37 percent in the previous year.

But foreign firms and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) were still facing difficulties in trade, he said, citing figures that total foreign trade value of foreign firms and SOEs had dropped 2.2 percent and 5.6 percent respectively in 2016.
RISING UNCERTAINTIES

Huang said that while it was “not easy” for China to see stabilizing signs in foreign trade in 2016, the new year would continue to bring new challenges and uncertainties.

In addition to the extended world economic downturn and China’s restructuring efforts, which could hamper trade growth in some traditional sectors, the rise of trade protectionism was a growing restraint on China’s exports, he said.

Chinese exporters faced a record number of 119 trade remedy probes initiated by 27 countries or regions in 2016, a 36.8-percent increase year on year, data from the commerce ministry showed.

In a latest move, the United States Thursday filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization against China for allegedly providing subsidies to aluminum producers.

The concern was echoed by Chinese investment bank CICC, which said in a research note that the bank expected better external demand for China in 2017, but the rise of trade protectionism would still bring uncertainty to global trade.

Huang voiced confidence that China’s economy and its foreign trade had the resilience and potential to cope with fluctuations in the external market, but he called on the international community to take joint measures against trade protective acts.

“As a responsible power and the world’s second largest economy, China will make efforts to fight uncertainties in the world economy and promote globalization while taking a firm stance against trade protectionism, so as to promote a sustainable development of the global economy,” he said.

NEWS ANALYSIS: NO NEED TO PANIC OVER CHINA’S FOREX RESERVE DROPS

Beijing, Jan. 9 (Xinhua) — Despite continued drops in China’s foreign exchange (forex) reserves, economists believe there is no need to panic as reserves are still abundant for the country to fend off external risks.

Forex reserves fell for the sixth straight month to about 3.01 trillion U.S. dollars last month, down from 3.05 trillion dollars in November and 3.12 trillion dollars in October, according to the People’s Bank of China (PBOC), the central bank.

The reserves are considered ammunition for China to resist financial risks, such as sharp falls in its currency, the yuan. The country has accumulated enormous forex reserves through its trade surplus, which, at its peak of 3.99 trillion U.S. dollars in 2014, accounted for roughly a third of the world’s total.

Now the slipping reserves, nearing the 3-trillion-USD psychological mark, have stoked market concerns as the country has stayed above the level for nearly six years.
But economists dismissed the worries, saying the downward trend is a normal phenomenon resulting from forex management by regulators, the country’s ongoing economic opening, and increasing foreign currency purchases.

“There is no need to be overly sensitive to or panic over the 3-trillion-USD mark as it has little actual meaning,” said Zhang Huanbo, deputy researcher of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges.

Echoing his words, China Merchants Securities’ analyst Xie Yaxuan said, “I do not think it is a bottom line that cannot be breached.”

The current reserves are sufficient for China to satisfy market liquidity demand and withstand risks as foreign trade continues to see a surplus, and outbound and inbound investment have generally maintained equilibrium, economists said.

Meanwhile, regulators called for the market to pay more attention to whether forex reserves can provide enough liquidity, rather than obsessing over a specific level.

“The forex reserves are abundant and within a reasonable and stable range, and falling below the 3-trillion-USD mark does not point to a crisis,” said an anonymous official from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE).

But given rising foreign currency purchase demands and lingering weakness of the yuan, downward pressure on China’s forex reserves still looms.

Due to expectations of a stronger greenback and the U.S. Federal Reserve’s rate hikes, the yuan’s central parity rate softened 594 basis points to 6.9262 against the U.S. dollar on Monday, ending two-day jumps and the biggest daily decline since June.

Steven Zhang, an economist with Morgan Stanley Huaxin Securities, predicted the yuan will depreciate mildly against the U.S. dollar this year, while remaining stable against a basket of non-greenback currencies.

Under the circumstances, the PBOC will have to continue to deplete the reserves to stabilize the yuan and prevent capital outflows.

SAFE has attributed China’s 319.8-billion-USD reserve drop in 2016 partly to the PBOC’s market operations.

The forex reserves are likely to drop below 3 trillion U.S. dollars in January, which will not change the fact that the reserves are still abundant, according to a report from China International Capital Corporation, a leading investment bank in China.

China is still home to the world’s largest forex reserves and enjoys forex inflows from its trade surplus and foreign direct investment.

As part of the efforts to defend shrinking reserves, Chinese regulators have improved supervision over outbound investment and personal foreign exchange purchases, and cracked down on capital outflows via money laundering, underground banks and other illegal activities.

SAFE said Friday that it will strengthen management of cross-border capital flow and improve management of forex reserves to maintain safety and flexibility.

WORLD BANK ECONOMIST SAYS CHINA ECONOMIC POLICY AIDS FOR GROWTH, STABILITY

London, Jan. 12 (Xinhua) — China is pursuing an economic policy that is carefully calibrated to ensure both growth and stability, according to a World Bank economist.

Franziska Ohnsorge, lead economist with the World Bank, told Xinhua in London that China was in the midst of significant structural reforms.

“The authorities are very carefully calibrating their growth path. They are beginning to unwind financial sector vulnerabilities.

“House prices seem to be stabilizing. They have placed property market restrictions in some
places. Credit growth is slowing,” she said.

“So they are unwinding — slowly, slowly, gradually — financial market vulnerabilities.”

The key to resolving structural imbalance lies in pushing supply-side reform, according to a statement following the Central Economic Work Conference last month.

The curbing of asset bubbles will assume more importance in 2017 as the property market has raised fears of risks to financial stability.

China pro-growth measures and loose monetary policies had fueled strong growth in real estate and investment, two sectors that have proved critical growth drivers, but not without unwanted outcomes.

For example, house prices in major cities have soared in an unreasonable manner and required tightening measures.

Ohnsorge said: “It is a very careful balancing act that the authorities are implementing.

“For now we see it well managed and it is on track to meet the expectations of a gradual slowdown.”

Ohnsorge is the lead author of the World Bank’s latest report on the global economy, which was published on Wednesday.

The report noted that Chinese growth is estimated to have slightly decelerated to 6.7 percent last year.
As part of continuing economic rebalancing, growth has been concentrated primarily in services, while industrial production has stabilized at moderate levels.

The internal rebalancing is also evident on the demand side — consumption growth has been strong, while investment growth has continued to moderate from the post-crisis peak.

Ohnsorge was confident that the structure of the Chinese banking system provided authorities with an effective tool to manage the stresses that might emerge in 2017.

“In a way the authorities have the buffers needed to offset any stresses that might emerge,” she said.

“Government debt, even by its broadest estimate, is of the order of 60 percent of GDP. There is room to provide support.

“The largest banks, the banking system at least, is to a large degree State-owned so that supports confidence when there are stresses.”

The World Bank report noted that despite some easing, capital outflows from China remained sizable and continued to put downward pressure on the currency.

“So all these institutions, and the fiscal buffers, they add to the stability,” she added.

CHINESE STEEL COMPANIES OUT OF THE RED IN JAN.-NOV. 2016

Beijing, Jan. 3 (Xinhua) — China’s large and medium-sized steel mills reported profits of 33.15 billion yuan (about 4.77 billion U.S. dollars) in the first eleven months of 2016, according to the latest report of the China Iron and Steel Association (CISA).

That compared to a loss of 52.91 billion yuan in the same period of 2015, CISA data showed.

Of the 99 steel mills tracked by CISA, the average profit margin stood at 1.28 percent in the said period, said the CISA report.

China’s manufacturing sector continues to expand, with the official manufacturing PMI, which surveys larger companies, standing at 51.4 in December, lower than the 51.7 in November but above the boom-bust line of 50 for the fifth straight month.

The steel industry still has a long way to go to increase profit margins, said Li Xinchuang, CISA vice-president, adding that this year the industry will continue to cut excessive and outdated capacity.
China is a country full of wonders and beautiful places. This time I had an opportunity to visit deep into the treasure of the nature in the Yunnan province.

This time I will take you to the journey of Yunnan province, situated in the southwest China. Undoubtedly the whole province is the treasure of the nature, where many cities and regions have their own distinctive feature and identity. These places are also the home to China’s many tribes and minorities including Bai, Dai and Nashi. Furthermore Yunnan province had very good business and cultural ties with India and neighboring countries in the ancient time.

We reached Dali by plane at noontime of the November 20th, on the first leg of our visit to Yunnan. The airport is surrounded by the mountains and plateaus, it seemed that fresh air and blue sky were ready to welcome us. Indeed I would call it one of the best places I have ever visited in China. It was the end of November when we reached there, so the weather was very pleasant though most of the places in Yunnan are famous for the spectacular weather throughout the year. We went to the hotel room directly from the airport, after having rest for a while, we took a cab to the historical old town(Gu Cheng).
This is an ancient town built long time ago, but still well maintained and preserved with the local flavor and tradition. Even there is a water canal which flows through the middle of the market, the water of the canal come down from the high mountain to this area.

Although other parts of the city have been developed in recent years, but Gu cheng hasn’t changed. This particular area attracts thousands of visitors everyday, where traditional houses and shops of the Bai community are located. Not only history lovers but shoppers also can be seen on the streets of this town. No body likes to shop with an empty stomach, so there are a lot of local restaurants, snacks and fruit selling vendors in the town where one can enjoy local food and fruits. There is no doubt in saying that the government has paid special attention for the protection of this heritage site.

Another big attraction of the Dali is Er hai lake, which is about 42 kilometer long and 9 kilometer wide. By this, one can imagine the enormity of this lake. We headed for the lake on the next day and spent few hours on the bank of the lake, it was a special feeling to go close to the lake, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Newly-wed couples were spending romantic time and cameramen were busy clicking pictures. None of us wanted to go back, though we had to return to the downtown. In fact the water of the lake was crystal clear.

While going back to hotel room, we enjoyed the night view of the city, bathed in the sparkling lights.

Dali is an autonomous prefecture, about 337 kilometers away from the provincial capital Kunming. It is well connected by air, road and rail network. The total population of the prefecture is about 3.7 million. Although there are 13 minorities live in the prefecture but one-third population is of Bai community. After beautiful Dali, we boarded the plane for another city, named Xi shuang ban na, located on the south of Yunnan. It is a tropical prefecture and shares borders with Myanmar and Laos. This region is totally influenced with Lao and Thai culture. The design of the town is quite similar with those countries. Forest parks and botanical gardens of this prefecture are very impressive. In this prefecture, we visited the tropical botanical garden in Meng la county, about 70 kilometer away from the main town. The garden was established in 1959 under the leadership of famous Chinese botanist Prof. Cai Xitao. It is conserved by the Chinese academy of sciences. The garden is amazingly huge and is spread over 1,100 hectare land. No wonder, this is the largest botanical garden in China and has the richest plant collection in the
country. This park is the home to more than 13,000 species of tropical and sub-tropical plants from China and abroad. The annual mean temperature in the garden is 21.5 degree Celsius and the annual rainfall is around 1,560 mm.

One can easily be lost in the vastness of the garden and the wonderful atmosphere. This garden is surrounded by the Luo suo river, a tributary of the Mekong river.

In addition state-of-the-art laboratories and other facilities are available for the scientific research. The breathtaking scenery and beauty of the garden attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

(Anil Azad Pandey has been working with China Radio, Beijing since 2009, prior to China worked in New Delhi. He is also an author of the book ‘Hello Cheen’. He can be reached by mail-anilpande2@yahoo.in)

**FINDING LOVE FOR INDIA IN BEIJING**

**Surprised at the refined performance, Mahesh felt almost like he was back in India**

by Hu Zhoumeng

On the first Sunday of December, Mahesh Thoke, a PhD student in Chemistry at the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, did not stay in his dorm and watch movies as usual. As night fell, Mahesh braved the chilly wind, rushing to catch a bus with a couple of friends heading for the Jiangenian (“Gap Year”) Theater, which stands near the renowned 798 Art District in the northeast of the city. Waiting for them was a show named “Lost in Love for India”. Mahesh, born in western India’s Maharashtra State, started his life in Beijing this year; it’s his first time living thousands of miles away from home. Hearing from his classmate, Nidhin Chundapurakal, that the show would feature Indian song and
dance, Mahesh was looking forward to going with him and two other Chinese friends.

In the small theater, over 80 people were seated in rows of stools and chairs, ready for a lovely evening. Professional dancers from China and India stunned the crowd with Kathak, Odissi and Bharatahntayam dancing. The combination of Tabla and Sitar added beautiful melodies to the air. When the Bollywood dance hit the stage and pushed the show to a climax, some people in the back couldn't help standing up, swaying and shaking.

Surprised at the refined performance, Mahesh felt almost like he was back in India. “Classical Indian dance is difficult, but the Chinese dancers really did a great job.” Then, as the original soundtrack of the movie It’s My Friend's Wedding was turned up, Mahesh became more excited, for it was Nidhin’s turn to take the stage and win applause and cheers from the audience.

Freed of the heavy curtains that divide the stage and the audience, the show became less formal but more lively. It attracted many Chinese spectators who are interested in Indian culture, and offered a chance for them to experience Indian films, dance and clothes through games. Two teams, three on each side, contested their knowledge by guessing the names of Indian films according to imitations of typical scenes. A young man and a young woman followed a dancer to learn some classical Indian dance moves; they were a little shy in front of the crowd, but made a great effort. Two other dancers invited two women as their models, to show the audience how to correctly wear a saree.

Time flies when you’re having fun. As the show ended and the
lights went on, the audience was reluctant to leave. Some of them exchanged phone numbers and added each other on Facebook or WeChat to remain contact. A little girl, in her father’s arms, waved goodbye to the people around her. A teenage boy, wearing glasses and school uniform, looked back, time after time, at the stage where the performers were busy taking group photos. An old couple picked up their coats and walked out, chatting and grinning.

A young woman with short hair was polishing her movie camera in the back of the theater. Her name is Yang Jie. She was invited by the event planner to film the whole show. She has been a fan of Indian films for six years, since her interest was first awaken by 3 Idiots in college. Yang had worked as a TV journalist, but her passion for Indian films led her to her current employer—a company that introduces and imports Indian films to China.

To date, three shows have been conducted in the name of “Lost in Love for India” this year. Seema, a 23-year-old Uygur woman, is the planner behind the scene and also a hostess on the stage, where her jokes with the performers always entertain the crowd. Seema invited a group of friends to perform, or assist her in organizing the shows. They call her “Xiao Mai”. Seema has been into Indian culture since she was a little kid, and says that “the humanity and cultural appeal in Indian films” move her deeply. When she was old enough, she traveled to Hyderabad and Mumbai. Motivated by her love for India and supported by her friends, Seema has decided to continue the series of events in 2017.

Even though the vibrant show was over, Mahesh and his friends from both China and India were about to have even more fun. Beijing’s freezing winter couldn’t dampen their spirits. They sang Indian songs along the way on the metro to Wudaokou, a business district in northwestern Beijing where numerous overseas students visit every day. They sat down in an Indian restaurant, feasted themselves with tasty curry and rotis, and extended their Sunday evening delight with a good chat.
I had visited the city of Shanghai, China for a period of 3 months, working for an onsite software implementation project.

When I landed in the Pudong International Airport and was travelling to my hotel, the first thing that struck my mind was how fabulous the infrastructure was and how it would take many more years for any Indian city to reach such levels of sophistication. We may be doing well in terms of GDP and maybe we are one of the fastest growing economies of the world, but to have a metropolis like Shanghai or a Beijing, it is going to take us a few more years. The city is the largest city in the world in terms of population and for me, the overall 3 months stay there was pretty enjoyable. The modes of public transport available there are pretty awesome and all you need to know are numbers (for bus transport), Chinese pronunciation of locations (for cabs) and metro line color (red, green etc for subway rides). At my work location, most of them knew English, and I got pretty close to one Program Manager who explained loads about the Chinese people and culture.

Chinese people are friendly, never too far away from a smile. Although, in the outdoors, if you go shopping, people might try to fleece you, but still they do so with a smile. English signboards and placards are placed in busy streets and shopping malls in Shanghai, which was very helpful. Learning certain Chinese salutations and greetings could go a long way in gaining trust or getting around. Even though some people stare at you at times (as you stand out distinctly from the crowd) I did not experience any racism there. If you are a tall person (6 feet or above as in my case) you can see the tip of the scalp of 99% of the crowd in a metro train.

When it comes to food, it is a nightmare for vegans/vegetarians. There is meat and poultry everywhere and almost the entire population is non vegetarian. Even in a seemingly harmless vegetarian dish, there could be traces of pig fat or egg white in the gravy. If you are a non vegetarian, you will not face much difficulty but then again some of the dishes are bland and might not appeal to your palate. The overall culinary experience for me over the three months was quite pleasant. Actually it was a blessing in disguise for me as I used my spare time to go out into the city and explore new places instead of sitting in my hotel room browsing. The public, although fascinated by the Indian culture and diversity, have generally a good opinion about Indians and consider us as their brothers or sisters.

(Rahul Ramgopal, the author, is a software engineer)

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**CHINESE NEW YEAR (SPRING FESTIVAL)**

Happy Chinese New Year! 2017 Chinese New Year will fall on January 28. It is the Year of the Rooster according to Chinese zodiac. It will be a great chance to experience the traditional folk customs!

Chinese New Year, also called Spring Festival, has more than 4,000 years of history. It is the grandest and the most important annual event for Chinese people.

**Time for Family Reunion**

Being one of the traditional festivals, it is the time for the whole families to reunite together, which is similar with Christmas Day to the westerners.

**The Longest Public Holiday**

The festival lasts for 15 days from the 1st to 15th day of the first lunar month, and in folklore it starts even earlier, from the 23rd day of the twelfth lunar month. Most employees will have seven days off work, while students take one month absence from school.

**Holiday Origins from Monster**
Nian

Originating during the Shang Dynasty (17th - 11th century BC), the festival used to be observed to fight against the monster “Nian” who liked to eat children and livestock. The monster was afraid of red color and loud sound. Therefore, people decorated their houses in red and set off firecrackers to expel it.

Chinese New Year Dates

Based on the lunar calendar, Chinese New Year has no exact date and it changes each year, but it mostly falls on a day from January 21st to February 20th in Gregorian calendar. The lunar calendar also defines the 12-year repeating cycle of Chinese zodiac, and each year is named after an animal.

Customs & Activities

Before the Spring Festival, every family will have a thorough house cleanup and go for festival items shopping. The spring couplets, Fu Character, and animal paper cut are pasted for decoration. Also, new clothes must be bought, especially for children. At the reunion dinner on Lunar New Year’s Eve, people from north will eat dumplings, which southern people are used to have Niangao (glutinous rice cake). Red Envelopes are given to kids and elders to share the blessing.

Modern Activities

New practices and activities take place as some old traditions fade away. The train and bus tickets can be scarcely purchased during the Spring Festival Travel Rush; newlyweds squabble over whose home to go; bachelors are so anxious and stressed that they rent a fake girlfriend home; socializing by phones are highly welcomed.

Celebrations around the World

The festival is not only observed in China mainland, but also celebrated in Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, some Asian countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam, and also Chinatowns in USA, Canada, United Kingdom and Australia. The traditions also evolve into their unique ways of celebration.
A little girl plays with a red lantern in a lantern workshop in Beileng Township of Wenxian County, central China’s Henan Province, Jan. 12, 2017. Villagers need to keep up with the lantern orders to meet the Spring Festival market demand. The Spring Festival falls on Jan. 28 this year.

Villagers make red lanterns in Beileng Township of Wenxian County, central China’s Henan Province.
A villager walks among red lanterns in Beileng Township of Wenxian County, central China’s Henan Province.

LOCALS WRITE CHINESE CHARACTER "FU" TO MARK UPCOMING SPRING FESTIVAL

Calligraphy lovers and residents write Chinese character “Fu”, meaning happiness, blessing and good fortune, in a community in the Zhongguancun area in Beijing, capital of China, Jan. 12, 2017. The community on Thursday invited calligraphy lovers and residents to write the Chinese character “Fu” to celebrate the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year.
A resident teaches his granddaughter to write Chinese character “Fu”, meaning happiness, blessing and good fortune, in a community in the Zhongguancun area in Beijing, capital of China, Jan. 12, 2017. The community on Thursday invited calligraphy lovers and residents to write the Chinese character “Fu” to celebrate the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year.
Children show their handwritten Chinese character “Fu”, meaning happiness, blessing and good fortune, in a community in the Zhongguancun area in Beijing, capital of China, Jan. 12, 2017. The community on Thursday invited calligraphy lovers and residents to write the Chinese character “Fu” to celebrate the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year.

Villager Meng Guangfeng shows the newly-made steamed jujube cakes in Yanggu County of Liaocheng city, east China's Shandong Province, Jan. 11, 2017. Local people here have a tradition of making steamed bun with colorful patterns to send best wishes to the upcoming Spring Festival.
Chef Sun Jinyong prepares soup for “Badawan”, a cuisine combined of eight different dishes, in Fengtaiyuan Hotel in Fenyang, north China’s Shanxi Province on Jan. 11, 2017. The traditional cuisine “Badawan” has became the main dish of banquets as the Chinese Lunar New Year is approaching. This cuisine takes several complicated procedures and over three hours of cooking, and was listed as Shanxi’s Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009.
Chef Sun Jinyong shows two dishes of “Badawan”, a cuisine combined of eight different dishes, in Fengtaiyuan Hotel in Fenyang, north China’s Shanxi Province on Jan. 11, 2017. The traditional cuisine “Badawan” has became the main dish of banquets as the Chinese Lunar New Year is approaching. This cuisine takes several complicated procedures and over three hours of cooking, and was listed as Shanxi’s Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009.

The cook prepares chops for “Badawan”, a cuisine combined of eight different dishes, in Fengtaiyuan Hotel in Fenyang, north China’s Shanxi Province on Jan. 11, 2017. The traditional cuisine “Badawan” has became the main dish of banquets as the Chinese Lunar New Year is approaching. This cuisine takes several complicated procedures and over three hours of cooking, and was listed as Shanxi’s Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009.
Chef Sun Jinyong fries meat for “Badawan”, a cuisine combined of eight different dishes, in Fengtaiyuan Hotel in Fenyang, north China's Shanxi Province on Jan. 11, 2017. The traditional cuisine “Badawan” has become the main dish of banquets as the Chinese Lunar New Year is approaching. This cuisine takes several complicated procedures and over three hours of cooking, and was listed as Shanxi's Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009.

SHANGHAI DISNEY BRACES FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

Shanghai Jan. 12 (Xinhua) —As the Chinese New Year approaches, Shanghai Disney said Wednesday it has started bracing for its first-ever Lunar New Year with spectacular entertainment programs for visitors.

In honor of the holiday for the Year of the Rooster, the resort is presenting a spectacular series of entertainment programs, seasonal food and beverage offerings, lucky bags and holiday-themed shopping experiences, it said.

The Chinese Lunar New Year, or the Spring Festival, falls on Jan. 28. Chinese have a weeklong holiday for the most important festival of the year.

Throughout the Spring Festival season, the highlight in Shanghai Disneyland will be the nightly program, “Ignite the Dream: A Nighttime Spectacular of Magic and Light” followed by a special event featuring new year wishes from tourists.

Shanghai Disneyland received 4 million visitors in its first four months of operation since mid-June last year.
Cartoon characters join in the Chinese traditional dragon dance in Shanghai Disney Resort in Shanghai, east China, Jan. 11, 2017. As the Spring Festival approaches, Chinese traditional elements were added to the activities at Shanghai Disney Resort.

A tourist poses with cartoon characters wearing Chinese traditional dress in Shanghai Disney Resort in Shanghai, east China, Jan. 11, 2017. As the Spring Festival approaches, Chinese traditional elements were added to the activities at Shanghai Disney Resort.
Cartoon characters cheer for the Chinese traditional dragon dance in Shanghai Disney Resort in Shanghai, east China, Jan. 11, 2017. As the Spring Festival approaches, Chinese traditional elements were added to the activities at Shanghai Disney Resort.

Tourists pose with a cartoon character wearing Chinese traditional dress in Shanghai Disney Resort in Shanghai, east China, Jan. 11, 2017. As the Spring Festival approaches, Chinese traditional elements were added to the activities at Shanghai Disney Resort.
Cartoon characters wearing Chinese traditional dress dance in Shanghai Disney Resort in Shanghai, east China, Jan. 11, 2017. As the Spring Festival approaches, Chinese traditional elements were added to the activities at Shanghai Disney Resort.

QUANJUDE LAUNCHES OVER 40 KINDS OF PRODUCTS FOR SPRING FESTIVAL

Two customers leave after purchasing goods for Chinese Lunar New Year at the Hepingmen Branch of Quanjude Beijing Roast Duck Restaurant in Beijing, capital of China, Jan. 12, 2017. As the Chinese Lunar New Year is approaching, Quanjude Group launched over 40 kinds of products to fulfill the customers’ needs of festival shopping. The Chinese Lunar New Year will fall on Jan. 28 this year.
Customers purchase goods to prepare for Chinese Lunar New Year in Quanjude Beijing Roast Duck Restaurant at its Hepingmen Branch in Beijing, capital of China

**ACROSS CHINA: SNOW, HOTPOT AND SKI SHOES: CHINA AWAITS THE WINTER OLYMPICS**

Beijing, Jan. 13 (Xinhua) — Chang Guangchun seldom sees foreigners in her village, but started learning English two years ago.

The 29-year-old woman is from Xidazhuangke village in Yanqing District, north Beijing, where the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will be held.

“Many foreigners will be coming for the Winter Olympics,” she said. “At least I will be able to tell them where the toilets are if they ask.”

Placards promoting the grand sporting event have been put in prominent positions on the roadside from Yanqing’s downtown all the way to the village of 101 residents.

“I first saw foreigners in 2014,” Chang told Xinhua. “They often came to conduct field inspections.”

It was also when Chang first heard her village might be the venue for the Winter Olympics.

Village Party Secretary Xu Jianxi was notified a little earlier, when the first group of experts came for a pre-inspection tour in September 2013.

“I never thought they would finally select us as there were several alternatives,” he said.

In the spring of 2015, Xu was told they would be picked as long as Beijing and Hebei’s Zhangjiakou won the bid to co-host the games.

“We won the bid on July 31, and everyone here was delighted as they knew it would generate more jobs and better infrastructure,” Xu said.

Chang is also hopeful that the bid will lead to improvements in the village.

“We hope the Winter Olympics can boost the construction of an electrical power system, and that more roads will be built to our village,” she said.
Nestling at the foot of Haituo Mountain and close to famous scenic spots such as the Great Wall and Yudu Mountain, tourism contributes half of the village’s total income.

“Most tourists come in July and August,” Xu said.

Chang’s family opened a hostel in 2008, the same year Beijing hosted the Summer Olympics.

The hostel can accommodate 40 tourists and allows 80 to dine at the same time, bringing in about 30,000 yuan (about 4,350 U.S. dollars) every summer.

Lack of a unified heating system and monotonous winter scenery forces villagers to close business on cold days, but a planned ski resort, also to be used as an Olympic competition ground, is expected to keep the village busy in winter.

“The ski slopes are less than 10 kilometers away, and are said to end just in front of my house,” Chang said, standing at her doorway, pointing at several lines of withered cherry-apple trees in the valley.

“People tend to spend more in winter,” she added. “Visitors prefer cold dishes in summer, while in winter they usually order hot dishes which are more expensive. We will offer hotpot for tourists in winter.”

To better serve the Winter Olympics, local residents voluntarily set up an organization “Son of Haituo” in October 2015.

“We train locals on emergency rescue, and teach them English and sign language,” Xu Zhenxing, director of the association told Xinhua. The association is also launching campaigns to raise the environmental protection awareness of locals.

“The winter Olympics will definitely fuel people’s enthusiasm in sports,” said Ma Yuquan, head of the Yanqing District Sports Bureau.

“The 2008 Beijing Olympics inspired many Chinese to get involved in physical exercise,” Ma said. “The venue of the cycling competitions was in Yanqing. Now the district is home to more than 10,000 cyclists. That is the legacy of the Olympics.”

China has pledged to have “300 million people involved in snow and ice sport events” while it is preparing for the winter Olympics, which means at least one-fifth of the
country’s population could benefit from the sports gala.

Ma told Xinhua that snow and ice sports were not very popular, even in north China, because of the high cost.

“After Beijing won its bid to host the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, things could change,” he said.

Yanqing students from primary and middle schools began learning skiing and skating during their sports class in 2014. In 2016, about 8,000 students were covered by the project.

In the Vanke Shijinglong Ski Resort, about half an hour’s drive from Xidazhuangke, students wearing ski shoes queue to listen to a coach telling them how to walk on snow. In the distance, 15 children slide swiftly down the hill.

Zhao Xinran, 11, is from Yanqing No. 2 Primary School. She started learning skiing two years ago.

“I really enjoyed the downhill journey, when I could try different techniques,” she said. “Six of us will be chosen for a competition, and I want to be one of them.”

Han Yining, also 11, is from Jingzhuang Primary School. She has come to the ski resort for the first time.

“My parents rejected my request to learn skiing several times in the past, saying that the sport was dangerous. Now, with my school teachers, I can finally come here,” the girl said.

“If I work hard, maybe I can become a volunteer during the winter Olympics,” she said.

Han is among 66 students, from the fourth to sixth grade, led by teacher Song Jinying to the ski class.

“In this way, we can cultivate children’s interest in snow and ice sports, and build a bridge for them so that maybe in 2022 they have a chance to take part in the big event,” Song said.

“The Winter Olympics is a good opportunity to popularize skiing among Chinese youngsters,” said the 50-year-old teacher. “The government funds the training, and the ski resort provides services. Such a big project is beyond the capability of any single school.”

Bi Chongming, general manager of Vanke Shijinglong Ski Resort, told Xinhua that it was a golden period for the ice industry, in which Vanke, a real estate developer, tied the knot with Shijinglong Ski Resort in early 2016.

“In the last snow season between Nov. 2015 and Feb. 2016, we received 80,000 visitors,” Bi said. “This season the number is larger. We are considering building another ski resort in Yanqing.”

Chang Guangchun’s daughter is only nine months old, but her mother already has a plan for her.

“When I was pregnant, the doctor told me ‘your kid is so energetic that they should do sports,’” Chang said. “Now she is learning swimming. I will have her learn skiing four years later and take her to watch the Olympic Games.”

In her spare time Chang likes watching videos of alpine skiing.

“The skiers are so cool,” she said. “Sports can make one brave and outgoing. I hope that my daughter can grow up like that.”

Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China reported 11.5-percent GDP growth this year, realizing the 24th straight year of double-digit growth.

The plateau region’s GDP reached 114.8 billion yuan (16.5 billion U.S. dollars) in 2016, while the growth target for the next year is exceeding 11 percent, according to statistics announced at an annual regional economic work conference on Saturday.

The figures are impressive given that the country as a whole has slowed significantly from years of breakneck growth rates and transitions to what is known as the economic “new normal.”

This year, Tibet achieved a 20-percent increase in its fixed asset
investments, which amounted to 161 billion yuan, and raised the incomes of its urban and rural residents by 10 percent and 13 percent, which reached 27,875 yuan and 9,316 yuan respectively.

In addition, the region saw 130,000 people out of poverty and 77,000 people relocated from their inhospitable hometown.

In 2017, Tibet aims to achieve the same goals: 20-percent increase in fixed asset investments as well as 10-percent and 13-percent increases in incomes of urban and rural residents.

Luorong Dradul, an economics professor at Sichuan University who specializes in the Tibetan economy, attributed Tibet’s streak to strong support from the central government and other regions of the country.

Tibet’s ambitious growth goal for 2017 was set to speed up the pace to build the moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, as the region still struggles with poor infrastructure, weak industry and a lack of market economy-savvy human resources.

Only high economic growth can ensure rapid income growth and therefore expand consumption, according to Zhou Yong, an associate researcher with the region’s academy of social sciences.

According to a new aid plan for Tibet’s development between 2016 and 2020, 189 projects at a cost of 657.6 billion yuan funded by the central government will be carried out during the period, in a bid to improve people’s livelihood, environment, infrastructure, as well as the region’s competitive industries.
More than 23 million tourists visited southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region in 2016, up 15 percent year on year, according to the regional tourism development commission Tuesday.

The commission said key festivals had provided a major boost for tourism in the region, highlighting Tibetan New Year, the annual Shoton (Yogurt) Festival, and the Tibet Tourism and Culture Expo, which all attracted tourists last year.

So far, about 320,000 people in Tibet work in tourism, 97,000 being farmers and herdsmen.

The regional government aims to receive over 30 million tourists in 2020, with an annual tourism revenue of over 55 billion yuan (7.9 billion U.S. dollars).
TIBET TARGETS POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Financial poverty alleviation is blooming in Tibet as China plans to lift all of its poor out of poverty by 2020.

The financial targeted poverty alleviation project is one of the most powerful tools available for current poverty-relief work.

Poor households in Lhasa’s Taktse County can receive the three-year-term “three free loan” of up to 50,000 yuan, which is free of security, mortgage and interest.

Up to now, 604.7 million yuan worth of loans have been issued to 13,054 poor households.

In the “Finance for Poor People” initiative, farmers and herdsmen who are suffering financial difficulties and want to get out of poverty through entrepreneurial projects, without effective guarantee or collateral, can receive support through microfinance projects.

As for those farmers to expand production, they can receive support from rural credit cooperatives or postal savings banks.
TIBET TO INVEST 1 BLN FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Tibet will invest 1 billion yuan (148 million U.S. dollars) for cultural development in the “13th Five-Year Plan” period (2016-2020), according to Culture Department of Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest of China.

The cultural projects mainly involve 3 categories, namely the construction of Tibet Grand Theater, city or prefecture level cultural infrastructure construction and Tibetan culture protection and inheritance.

The construction of Tibet Grand Theater is now pushing forward in an orderly manner, while the constructions of Chamdo Library, art galleries in Nyingchi, Nagqu and Ngari are underway.

Besides, four intangible cultural heritage protection projects have been implemented, including Lhasa Nangma inheritance, the Tibetan opera and Thangka art training base projects.
E-COMMERCE REACHES REMOTE COUNTY IN TIBET

Lhagyel’s house has been swarmed by villagers and relatives coming to catch a glimpse of his new refrigerator.

Though it not the fridge that caught everyone’s attention, but how he managed to get the fridge from Chengdu, capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, to Medog County, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region.

“Earlier this month, I was surfing JD.com and found that they provide delivery services to Medog for big commodities such as fridges,” Lhagyel said. “In the past, no e-commerce websites ever delivered such goods to Medog.”

Medog in southeastern Tibet is home to a complex terrain full of geological hazards that makes transportation difficult. The county did not have a highway until 2013, the last county in China to do so. Online shopping for big commodities was all but impossible.

JD.com is one of the country’s leading shopping websites, and recently announced that it had extended delivery services to Medog and Ngari Prefecture in Tibet.

“I spent 699 yuan (101 U.S. dollars) on the fridge, and it reached my doorstep in 11 days,” Lhagyel said.

The fridge was the first online order for a big domestic appliance for Medog, according to JD.com.

Delivering it proved difficult. It
took five drivers, over more than 3,000 km, 11 days to bring the fridge to Medog.

“The drivers carried the fridge on the most dangerous sections of the Sichuan-Tibet Highway and over more than 10 mountains more than 5,000 meters high,” a JD.com employee said.

In Lhagyal’s hometown, there are three stores selling domestic appliances, but the brand choices are limited and the prices are much higher than online.

“Local villagers are really excited about online shopping, and many have asked me to help them as they do not know how to do it,” Lhagyal said. “Online shopping was once a distant dream for us in Medog. Now our dreams have come true.”

Tibet had about 1.64 million Internet users-mobile transactions accounted for 83.3 percent of all online transactions in Tibet, according to Alipay.

EXHIBITION ON YAKS DELVES INTO THEIR INCREDIBLE CONNECTIONS TO TIBETAN CULTURE

In the information age today, Tibet remains a mysterious place even for many Chinese people. Seeking to better introduce Tibetan culture to the curious, exhibition Yaks Walk into Beijing: A Cultural Exhibition on the Plateau Yak recently opened at the Capital Museum.

Yak fossils dating from 45,000 years ago, cliff paintings from 4,000 years ago and various painted thangka and khata silk scarves featuring yaks designs that were made hundreds of years ago - more than 500 yak-related exhibits are now on display at the museum.

“Yaks are indivisible from Tibetan people,” Tashi Phuntsok, an
interpreter at the exhibition, told the Global Times on December 21.

“But because they are so commonly seen in people’s lives, they have long been neglected, even among Tibetans.”

Yaks have been an important part of the lives of Tibetan people for thousands of years. They not only serve as a mode of transportation but also provide daily commodities. Yaks can be milked, their hair is weaved into tents, their droppings are used as fuel for cooking and heating homes, and back in the days before modern vehicles, yaks carried bags of salt for Tibetan families.

“Yaks have been a lifelong friend to Tibetans. When a yak is born, we give it a name. Children are often given a yak as a companion during childhood,” Tashi Phuntsok explained, adding that even though sometimes they are eaten when times get tough, to kill a yak is a very sad thing for a Tibetan to bear.

Often the skull of a yak is placed on a pile of Mani stones, stones inscribed with a six syllable mantra, as a way to show respect for life, give thanks to the yak and ease the yak’s spirit into its next life. Skulls are also placed on top of the front door or the wall of the main hall in a Tibetan home, as a form of blessing.

“Yaks are a reflection of Tibetan people’s lives and culture,” Tashi Phuntsok noted.

The items on display are on loan from the Yak Museum in Lhasa, capital of Southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region. Built in 2014, the museum is the first in the world devoted entirely to the yak. According to Nyima Tsering, a senior staff member at the Yak Museum, the idea for the museum came from Wu Yuchu, a former government official who had worked in Tibet for 18 years.

Nyima Tsering told the Global Times that if the exhibition is successful, the museum will consider bringing it to other museums around China.

“I’ve never been to Tibet. I want to have some understanding of it since I plan to go there one day when my daughter gets older,” a middle-aged mother surnamed Yang who had brought her 6-year-old daughter to the exhibition told the Global Times on December 21.

“There is no better place than an exhibition like this for children on smoggy winter days,” she noted, commenting on the thick haze that was covering all of North China that day.

“I heard about the exhibition from a colleague,” said 54-year-old Guan. “I’ve been to Tibet once and I knew yaks were special there, but I didn’t pay that much attention to them before.”

The exhibition is scheduled to come to an end on March 15, 2017.
BOOK REVIEW

The Logic of Economic Reform in China

This book provides a historical overview of Chinese economic reform over the over 30 years. From the genesis of the reform to the gradual improvement of the market system, and then to the re-start of the critical stage of the reform, this book includes not only research on the reform process, but also detailed descriptions of the key areas of reform since the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee. On this basis, the author develops six logics for Chinese economic reform. Firstly, reform is cyclical, moving between rapid advances and deadlock; this calls upon us to re-examine the common view of reform. Secondly, reform is systematic, it cannot succeed without supporting reforms in other fields. Thirdly, the relationship between reform, development and stability should be properly handled. This “trinity” is quite different from the perspective of western mainstream theory, which puts too much emphasis on efficiency. Fourthly, the success of Chinese reform was not achieved by chance. The reform practice is based on the theoretical logic, and also goes beyond the debate between progressive and radical modes. Fifthly, the Top-level Design should be combined with “crossing the river by moving from stone to stone,” i.e. the theoretical basis of reform should be combined with reform practice. Sixthly and lastly, the ongoing reform in China must be understood in the contexts of global competition and reform competition.

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

QIANMEN STREET

Rating: AAA
Introduction: Famous for its architecture, business, folk-custom and operatic culture, Qianmen Street has been a distinctive street since the Ming and Qing Dynasties.
Address: No. 16 Qianmen Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing
Key words: Historic Site | Internationally renowned | Great shopping | Old beijing style

BEIJING DAZHALAN STREET

Rating: AAA
Introduction: It was once a business street with many honored shops gathered and now it shows visitors a new appearance after its remodeling.
Address: No. 44 Langfang Ertiao, Xicheng District, Beijing
Key words: Historical site | Shopping | Peking opera | Local historical site

LIULICHANG CULTURE STREET

Introduction: The Liulichang is a famous district in down-town Beijing that is known for a series of traditional Chinese stone dwellings housing selling various craftwork, artistry, and antiques.
Address: Liulichang Street, Xicheng District
Key words: Great Place | Old Hutong | Historical site

SANLITUN

Rating: AAA
Introduction: It is the trendiest and most fashionable place in Beijing and is a place that cannot be missed.
Address: No. 6 Gongti North Road A, Chaoyang District, Beijing
Key words: Boutiques | Luxury shopping | International restaurants | Vibrant atmosphere
Decorated Lanterns in Beijing Streets