

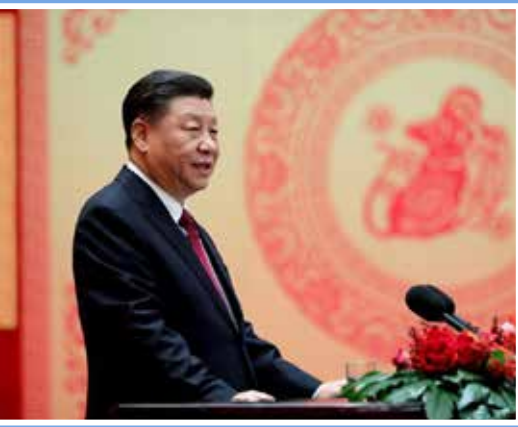
NEWS FROM CHINA

CHINA-INDIA REVIEW



NEW YEAR NEW ENERGY





Fulfilling the Chinese Dream

“Time and history wait for no one as they are both on the side of hard workers. From now to the middle of this century, the Chinese people will strive to build China into a great modern socialist country. It will be a great era in which a new splendid chapter of the Chinese civilization will be written.”

President Xi Jinping at the Chinese Lunar New Year reception held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.



Chinese President Xi Jinping beats a wooden drum of the Wa ethnic group three times to bless the Lunar Year in Sanjia Village in the city of Tengchong, southwest China's Yunnan Province.



2020: It's Time for Dragon & Elephant to Tango

Welcome to 2020, and wishing a Happy Chinese New Year to all of you! This year is the Year of the Rat, the first sign in the Chinese zodiac cycle. In Chinese culture, the rat symbolises a blend of winning qualities including intelligence and vitality; in Indian culture, it is the mount of God Ganesh and represents wisdom and talent. Let's hope the Lunar New Year brings abundance of luck, wealth and contentment to everyone.

Rats are also quick-witted, and know how to promptly seize an opportunity. And this year promises to bring many new opportunities for China, China-India relations and the world at large. In his Lunar New Year Message, President Xi Jinping has set the right tone by reminding us all to work harder to fructify the Chinese Dream.

With his heart and mind set on national rejuvenation, President Xi shared his grand vision of transforming China into "a great modern socialist country," and spoke about "a great era in which a new splendid chapter of the Chinese civilization will be written." These are inspiring words to begin the New Year on a positive note.

For us in China, 2020 is indeed a special year as we achieve the first centenary goal of eliminating poverty after relentless efforts. For China-India relations, 2020 will be a singular year as the two countries, bound by a growing convergence of perspectives, celebrate the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations with 70 events.

We at the Chinese embassy kicked off the year-long celebrations with the China-India Youth Dialogue, which showcased the power of youth as a bridge builder in deepening ties

between the two countries. President Xi firmly believes that the future lies in the hands of the youth and they should be the new force for promoting friendship. In a similar vein, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the youth of both nations to build a 'Great Wall of Trust and Cooperation' between China and India.

2020 also marks the Year of China-India Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges. The "Dragon-Elephant Tango" fittingly began with a mesmerizing performance by the world-acclaimed China Oriental Song and Dance Troupe in Delhi, which vividly illustrated how the China-India relationship is like a tango.

As the world's largest developing countries and emerging economies, China and India can make the world a more dynamic and prosperous place if our two countries can realize the "Dragon-Elephant Tango" and engage in win-win cooperation. It takes practice and tacit understanding to dance the tango.

I am confident that as long as China and India keep in mind the overall picture and long-term interests to shape bilateral relations and properly handle differences through dialogue and consultation, we certainly have the wisdom and capacity to blaze a new path for the two large neighbours to enjoy peaceful coexistence and common development.

A New Year has just begun, and there is much more to do. More power to the Dragon-Elephant Tango!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be the Chinese characters '孙卫东' (Sun Weidong).

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Published and Printed by

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in India

50-D, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri

New Delhi- 110021

Tel: 011-26881249

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Printed at M/s Advantage Offset

B-256, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-I,

Delhi-110028

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TGII Media Private Limited

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RNI No.: 47440/88

Postal Regd. No DL-SW-16/4034/18-20

E-book & PDF version

(<http://in.china-embassy.org>)

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CHINESE
NEW YEAR
2020



C O N

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Xi Stresses Racing Against Time to Reach Chinese Dream



In a soaring Chinese Lunar New Year message at the majestic Great Hall of the People, Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled a grand vision of transforming China into “a great modern socialist country” and called for collective efforts to fructify the Chinese dream. It will be a great era in which a new splendid chapter of the Chinese civilization will be written, he said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed racing against time and keeping abreast with history to reach the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

“Time and history wait for no one as they are both on the side of hard workers,” said President Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission. President Xi made these remarks while addressing the Chinese Lunar New Year reception held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

National Rejuvenation

Under the strong leadership of the CPC, all members of the Party, armed forces and people of all ethnic groups must fear no wind or wave, rise up to challenges and keep marching toward the glorious goal of national rejuvenation and the great prospect of building a community with a shared future for humanity, President Xi said.

At the reception, held by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, President Xi extended Lunar New Year’s greetings to Chinese people of all ethnic groups, compatriots in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and overseas Chinese.

Party and state leaders Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng and Wang Qishan were among the more than 2,000 people who attended the reception. Premier Li Keqiang chaired the event.

President Xi noted in his speech that new and significant progress has been made in the past year toward building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. He mentioned major events during the year, including the fourth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee, celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of Macao’s return to the motherland and resolute efforts to



A campaign themed “Staying True to Our Founding Mission” was also carried out to inspire over 90 million Party members to always stay with the people.

safeguard the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao, as well as celebrations marking the 70th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Be True to Founding Mission

A campaign themed "Staying True to Our Founding Mission" was also carried out to inspire over 90 million Party members to always stay with the people.

"In the new year, we must secure a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and fighting poverty," President Xi said. He added that achieving this first centenary goal is a milestone in the process of realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

The results, President Xi said, must be recognized by the people and stand the test of time.

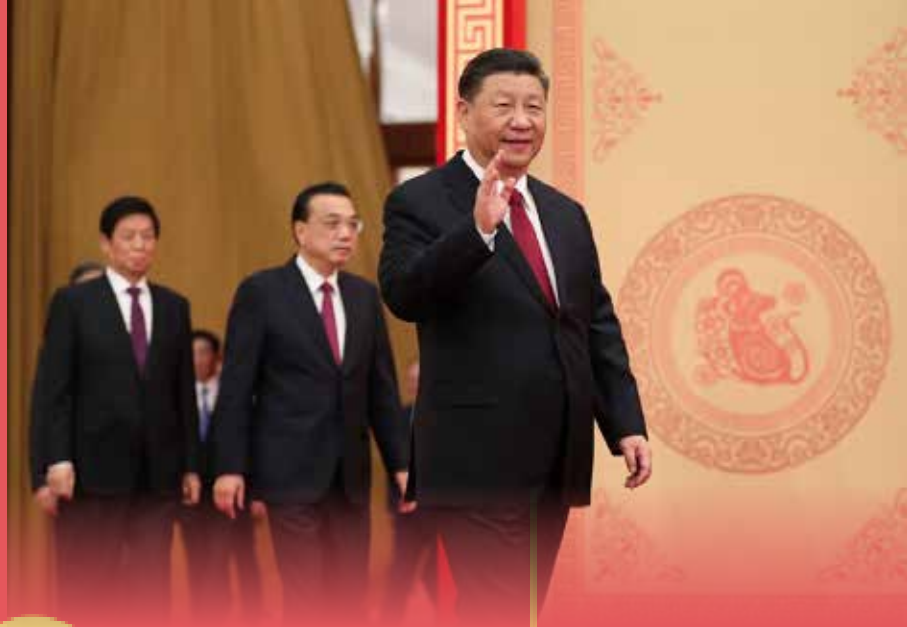
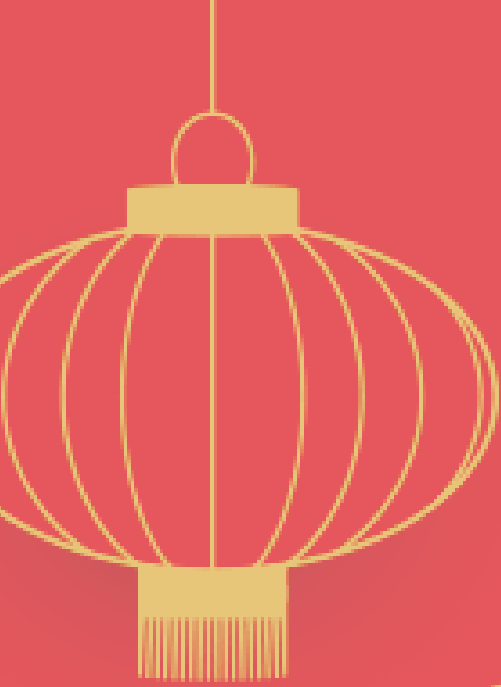
The Chinese leader said the Chinese nation, with a civilization stretching back over 5,000 years, has made indelible contributions to the civilization and progress of mankind. But the nation was held back for too long by various internal and external troubles in modern times. That is why, President Xi said, the Chinese people have always had an extraordinary sense of urgency and appreciation of the underlying trend of the times.

"From now to the middle of this century, the Chinese people will strive to build China into a great modern socialist country. It will be a great era in which a new splendid chapter of the Chinese civilization will be written", he said.

Every Chinese person must feel proud of living in such a great era, President Xi said. "We must maintain strategic direction and resolve, stay united, work hard and forge ahead against all odds," President Xi said.



"In the new year, we must secure a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and fighting poverty," President Xi said. He added that achieving this first centenary goal is a milestone in the process of realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.



“From now to the middle of this century, the Chinese people will strive to build China into a great modern socialist country. It will be a great era in which a new splendid chapter of the Chinese civilization will be written”, said Xi Jinping.



Xi Bonds with People, Promises High Quality Growth & Better Life



Beating a giant wooden drum of the Wa ethnic group, Chinese President Xi Jinping has wished better life and greater prosperity to the people of all ethnic groups and the country on the occasion of the Chinese Lunar New Year. During a three-day trip to China's southwestern Yunnan Province on January 19, President Xi interacted with people to learn about the progress of various poverty alleviation projects in the region. He called for efforts to speed up the development process in areas with large ethnic minority populations.

During a visit to Sanjia Village in Tengchong city, President Xi noted that shaking off poverty is the new starting point, and called for vigorously

promoting rural development after the country completes the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Connecting with People

The Chinese leader joined the villagers in Sanjia in making rice cakes, a traditional local food delicacy. Following the local custom, President Xi also beat a wooden drum of the Wa ethnic group three times to bless the coming year. Later, he went to the old town of Heshun, a gateway to the ancient Southern Silk Road, where he visited a village library built over 90 years ago.

Visiting the memorial hall of renowned

philosopher Ai Siqi, President Xi said the country needs talented individuals who can explain the adaptation of Marxism to the Chinese context well, and who can use easy-to-understand language to spread the Party's new theories to ordinary people.

The Chinese leader also visited the ecologically important Dianchi Lake in Kunming where he stressed resisting the old way of developing the economy at the cost of the environment.

Inspecting the market supply for the New Year at the Kunming International Convention and Exhibition Center, he demanded regular supply of reliable goods during the festival.

During his visit to Kunming, he stressed the close link between education and the future of the country, noting that the goal of China's education system is to nurture a new generation of capable people to join the socialist cause. After hearing the work reports of the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee and the provincial government, President Xi encouraged Yunnan to break new ground in promoting ethnic unity and progress, pushing forward ecological conservation, and pursuing greater cooperation with South Asia and Southeast Asia.

High-Quality Growth

President Xi stressed on efforts to promote high-quality growth to accelerate building a modern economy. He spoke about consolidating achievements in poverty alleviation, boosting sustainable tourism while continuing to fight air, water, and soil pollution. He also stressed on further opening-up to neighboring countries, speeding up the building of connectivity networks and strengthening cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

During a visit to Sanjia Village in Tengchong city, President Xi noted that shaking off poverty is the new starting point, and called for vigorously promoting rural development after the country completes the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.





Millions of Chinese all over the world kicked off celebrations of the Lunar New Year on January 25. From London and Brussels to Cairo and Dhaka, overseas Chinese welcomed the Year of the Rat with festive offerings and exchanging gifts of fortune. The celebrations bonded people together in a spirit of sharing and solidarity.



1





Spring Fest Spirit Sweeps World



1. Artistes from east China's Jiangxi Province perform during a gala to greet the Spring Festival, or the Chinese Lunar New Year, in Minsk, Belarus.
2. Sydney Opera House lit up in Chinese colours.
3. Performers sing the folk opera of Hubei at the China Cultural Center in Brussels, Belgium. A series of Chinese cultural activities were held at the China Cultural Centre in Brussels.



2



4



5



1. Lunar New Year celebrations in London.
2. Performers dance during a Chinese dance and music show in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka. Dozens of artists from China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region performed in the event to greet the Spring Festival.
3. Pyramids at Cairo lit up on the Spring Festival.
4. A visitor learns to make the Spring Festival decorations during an exhibition at the China Cultural Center in Malta.
5. Toronto celebrates Chinese New Year.





China To Be Poverty-free 2020, Eyes 100 Trillion Yuan GDP

Highlights of President Xi Jinping's New Year speech

In his New Year speech to the people of China, President Xi Jinping highlighted the major achievements of 2019 and said the country is on course to achieve its first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in 2020 by fully eradicating poverty in the country. Here are the key highlights of his speech.

Noteworthy Progress in 2019

China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to edge close to 100 trillion yuan, with the per capita income clocking nearly \$10,000, President Xi Jinping said in his speech on the last day of 2019.

The Chinese leader praised the country's good economic performance, stating that significant breakthroughs were achieved in several areas in the past year. The coordinated regional development was accelerated and about 340 impoverished counties and over 10 million people were lifted out of poverty, he said. Pledging to lift all rural residents out of poverty, President Xi said 2020 is crucial in the anti-poverty battle.





The Chinese leader also highlighted other important achievements in 2019 such as China's lunar probe Chang'e-4 landing on the far side of the Moon, the launch of the Long March-5 Y3 rocket, and the opening of Beijing Daxing International Airport.

Strong Drive for Development

President Xi said China pressed on with reform over the past 12 months. It has "generated vigour" for China's development across all sectors and the people are experiencing the benefits, he said.

He cited several examples of progress such as the reforms in the party and the government institutions, establishment of free trade zones, tax cuts, amounting to over two trillion yuan, to lower the costs for medicine, and cheaper and faster internet connections.

"New changes are taking place everywhere, and the country is taking on a fresh look," the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee said.

Defense and Military Reforms

President Xi stressed China's efforts in pushing reforms in national defense and military systems in 2019.

A grand military parade was

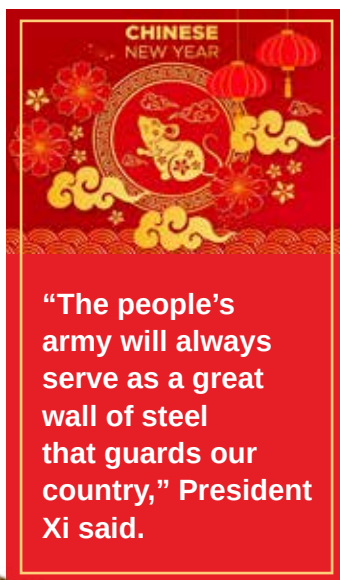
held in Beijing on National Day on October 1 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, he said, highlighting the milestones of the country's army, navy, and the air force.

Also in the past year, China hosted the 7th Military World Games, and the country's first self-developed aircraft carrier was commissioned, President Xi said.

"The people's army will always serve as a great wall of steel that guards our country," he stressed.

Peaceful Development

The Chinese leader reaffirmed that the country would unswervingly walk along the road of peaceful development and will continue to play the role of a builder of world peace. He also hailed China's major diplomatic achievements over the past 12 months.





With diplomatic ties now established with 180 countries, China continued to open its arms to the world, President Xi said.

Major events were hosted at home that showcased a civilized, open and inclusive China to the rest of the world, he said.

“We have friends in every corner of the world,” he declared.

China is willing to join hands with the rest of the world to jointly build the “Belt and Road Initiative” and build a community with a shared future for mankind, President Xi, the chairman of China’s Central Military Commission, said.

‘One Country, Two Systems’

President Xi said the “One Country, Two Systems” principle is “fully applicable, achievable, and popular” as he spoke of its successful implementation in the Macao Special Administrative Region.

Referring to the situation in Hong Kong, the Chinese leader said the people of the mainland have always wished prosperity and stability on the island.

“Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability is the wish of Hong Kong compatriots, and the expectation of our motherland,” he said.

President Xi extended his best wishes to the residents of Hong Kong, stressing that a harmonious and stable society is the foundation of a “sweet and peaceful homeland”.



China is willing to join hands with the rest of the world to jointly build the “Belt and Road Initiative” and build a community with a shared future for mankind, President Xi Jinping said.



Peaceful Development is China's Strategic Choice



China's Ambassador
to India
H.E. Sun Weidong

In an article published in the *Indian Express*, Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong underlines China's unswerving commitment to peaceful development and win-win cooperation to promote global peace and prosperity.

"No matter which stage of development we reach, we will never seek hegemony, expansion or sphere of influence. This is not China's expediency, but our strategic choice and solemn commitment," he says.

History has just started in the third decade of the 21st century. There is a mixture of anticipation and confusion about the future.

We live in an era full of opportunities and challenges. The dawn of the fourth industrial revolution illuminates the way forward for human progress, with the collective rise of emerging countries improving the lives of billions of people. At the same time, however, the international order and system on which all countries depend for their survival and development have been undermined.



Multilateralism or Unilateralism?

Unilateralism, hegemonism and power politics still haunt us. Some countries still take military risks in international relations, and the Sword of Damocles of war still hangs high. Open or closed? Cooperation or confrontation? Multilateralism or unilateralism? Justice or "law of the jungle"? Once again, mankind stands at a crossroads, facing the historical choice of where to go.

The Chinese people have given their answer to the questions facing the world and the perplexity of the times: We will always stick to the path of

peaceful development, build a community of a shared future for mankind, and achieve win-win sharing.

China's choice for peaceful development is based on our cultural genes. The Chinese nation is a peace-loving nation. For more than 5000 years, the pursuit of peace and harmony has been deeply rooted in the spiritual world of the Chinese nation. The extensive and profound schools of thought that ancient Chinese philosophers established covered many important ideas, such as the emphasis on kindness towards fellow human beings and the belief that people should

be in harmony with each other, and seeking harmony without uniformity. These values and teachings still carry a profound impact on Chinese people's way of thinking and system of values. For several thousand years before the industrial revolution, China had been among the top in national strength. However, China has never had a record of colonization and expansion.

Bitter Experience

China's choice for peaceful development is based on our experiences of vicissitudes. After the onset of modern times, China found itself left behind in terms of development. As a result of incessant foreign invasions thereafter, Chinese people had to lead a life of extreme destitution. The ancient eastern country was subdued to a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society. After a hundred years of persistent and unyielding struggle, the Chinese people, sacrificing tens of millions of lives, ultimately took their destiny back into their own hands. Nevertheless, the memory of foreign invasion and bullying has never been erased from the minds of the Chinese people. Confucius once said, do not impose on others what you do not desire upon yourself. We would never impose the pain we have suffered from other countries.

China's choice for peaceful development is based on our internal needs. Development is the top priority, and this principle applies to all countries.

70 Years of Economic Growth

Over the past 70 years, China has made historic achievements in development, and its economic aggregate has become the second largest in the world. But at the same time, China is still the largest developing country in the world. China's population is 1.4 billion and its per capita GDP is still ranked around 70th in the world. More than 15 million people need to get employment in China every year. There is no doubt that it will take a long and arduous effort to make such a large population prosperous. China must concentrate on development, which requires us to have a peaceful external environment.

Over the past 70 years, China has provided over 400 billion RMB in foreign aid. Since the international financial crisis, China's contribution to global economic growth has averaged over 30 percent annually.

Promoting World Peace

China's choice for peaceful development is based on our commitment to world peace and development. China's development benefits from a peaceful international environment.



China is also willing to promote world peace through its development. China is one of the founding members of the UN and the second largest contributor to UN and UN peacekeeping operations. Over the past 70 years, China has provided over 400 billion RMB in foreign aid. Since the international financial crisis, China's contribution to global economic growth has averaged over 30 percent annually.

At present, the Chinese government is taking firm, effective and scientific measures to prevent and control pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus. Acting with a high sense of responsibility for global health security, China has maintained close cooperation with the World Health Organization and other international partners and will continue to share information on the virus and epidemic in a timely manner.

China provides an opportunity for world development. However, there are always some people with biases who look at China with a Cold War mentality. They choose to believe that when China becomes strong, then we will seek to expand and dominate. These people's perception of China is seriously skewed.

In the 21st century, when human beings share a common destiny and civilization is highly developed, these people look at international relations through the prism of the law of the jungle. These stereotypical ideas, at the end of the day, stem from an obsession with maintaining a hegemonic position and the Cold War mentality and go against the trend of history.

China will become strong and this is something that is bound to happen. But it is not necessary that a stronger country is bound to follow the beaten path of seeking hegemony, posing a so-called threat to other countries. Albert Einstein once said that we can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them. In this era, the revitalization of a country can be achieved through international communication and cooperation on an equal, orderly, mutually beneficial basis. As history and reality have repeatedly proven, as long as countries treat each other as equals and with mutual understanding and accommodation, there is no problem that cannot be solved through negotiation. Power politics goes against the will of the people and the use of force in international



relations is simply not feasible. China is confident and capable of blazing a new trail of win-win cooperation and peaceful development.

No Meddling in Internal Affairs

China will not develop itself at the expense of the interests of other countries, but we will never give up our legitimate rights and interests. We have always resolutely safeguarded our sovereignty, security and development interests. We firmly oppose other countries using Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang as pretexts to interfere in China's internal affairs. Under no circumstances will we swallow the bitter fruit of damaging our rights and interests. Over the past decades, China has developed itself by fostering a peaceful international environment, while promoting and maintaining world peace through its development. In the future, China will stay committed to the path of peaceful development. It also sincerely hopes that all countries in the world will follow the path of peaceful development, and jointly safeguard peace, stability, and prosperity of the earth, which is the only home of mankind.

China has written into its Constitution the principle of adhering to the path of peaceful development and the win-win strategy of opening up. No matter which stage of development we reach, we will never seek hegemony, expansion or sphere of influence. This is not China's expediency, but our strategic choice and solemn commitment.



Battling New Epidemic

China Fully Confident of Winning Battle Against Coronavirus: Xi



Chinese President Xi Jinping with WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in Beijing.

In a pointed message to Chinese people and the world, Chinese President Xi Jinping has assured that China has full confidence and capability to win the battle against the outbreak of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Immediately after first cases of the coronavirus were reported, President Xi Jinping had ordered a high alert and called for all-out efforts to stop the spread of the deadly coronavirus epidemic in the country. He ordered the local authorities to make the people's health safety a top priority.

People's Safety First

Meeting visiting World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on January 28, President Xi said the safety of people's lives and their health always come first, and thus the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus outbreak is the country's most important work for now.

"The Chinese people right now are faced with a very serious battle. And for the Chinese government, this is something that we take very

seriously, because in our view, nothing matters more than people's safety and health for us," President Xi said.

The Chinese leader underlined that on January 25, the very first day of the Chinese Lunar New Year, the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee convened a special meeting on the outbreak of the disease.

"And that tells you how seriously the CPC is taking this issue and what a priority it is for us," President Xi said, adding that the CPC also has established a Central Committee leading group on responding to the disease outbreak.

All the Chinese people and government at all different levels are fighting the very serious battle against the epidemic, President Xi said. With strong resolve, a scientific approach and tailor-made policies, China will be able to prevail over this outbreak, he added.

People's Power

The Chinese leader extolled the role of people's power in combating this epidemic. China must rely on the people to win the battle against the novel coronavirus epidemic, President Xi has stressed.

President Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in an instruction to Party organizations, members and officials, on January 27. He asked them to unite the people in resolutely implementing the decisions and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee.

Party Unity

President Xi asked them to firm up confidence, stay united and take scientific and targeted measures in epidemic prevention and control to allow the Party flag "fly high at the frontline of the battleground."

Party committees at all levels should make scientific and accurate judgments on the epidemic situation, President Xi said, demanding unity in leadership, command and action in prevention and control work.

President Xi asked Party organization officials, especially chief leaders, to always stay on the job, make commands at the frontline and shoulder their governance responsibilities.

Party organizations and members at the primary level should play the vanguard roles to broadly mobilize, organize and unite the people in joint prevention and control to fortify a strong defense by mass participation.

Party officials will be tested in this arduous battle, President Xi said, urging Party committees at all levels to encourage Party members and officials to step out and bravely fight in the battle to see that they can stand the tests through their solid work.

Xi Seeks Military's Support

President Xi Jinping has ordered Chinese military to keep its mission firmly in mind and shoulder responsibility to make contributions to winning the battle against the novel coronavirus epidemic.

President Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in a recent instruction to the military on the prevention and control of the outbreak of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus.

The military resolutely implemented the decisions and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee after the novel coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan of Hubei Province, President Xi said. He added that the armed forces rapidly initiated the joint prevention and control mechanism and sent elite medical teams to combat the epidemic at the frontline.

President Xi said the epidemic prevention and control remained grim and complex and demanded the armed forces shoulder their responsibility, fight the hard battle and actively assist local authorities in fighting the epidemic.

The armed forces are tasked with treating patients in Huoshenshan Hospital in Wuhan, which reflects the high level of trust that the Party and the people place in them, President Xi said.



Chinese Premier Visits Wuhan, Demands United Fight Against Epidemic



“Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core, we must fight resolutely to win the battle against the epidemic,” Premier Li said while visiting Wuhan on January 27.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang inspected the preventive and control measures against coronavirus in Wuhan in central China’s Hubei Province, the epicentre of the outbreak, and directed the authorities to make all-out efforts to stop the spread of the deadly virus.

Premier Li, who heads the group of the CPC Central Committee on the prevention and control of the coronavirus outbreak, has asked the local authorities to spare no effort in the epidemic prevention and control work. He underlined that it is of paramount importance in reducing both the incidence and mortality rate to safeguard people’s lives and health.

He extended regards to the medical workers at the frontline on behalf of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council.

“Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core, we must fight resolutely to win the battle against the epidemic,” Premier Li said while visiting Wuhan on January 27.

Epicentre of Coronavirus

After arriving in Wuhan, Mr Li went to the Jinyintan Hospital, which has the largest number of infected and severely ill patients. He talked to medical workers in an ICU via a video call and then chatted with doctors and nurses coming from across the country and the military, urging them to go all out in treating the patients and pay attention to their own protection. He ordered sending more medical personnel, especially nurses, and medical supplies to Wuhan.

Premier Li called for speeding up the construction of Huoshenshan Hospital, a makeshift hospital for treating patients infected with the coronavirus, while visiting the construction site.

Mr Li urged the workers to race against time to finish building the hospital as a “safety island” for the patients.” We must use every possible means to admit all the patients (into the hospital),” Mr Li said, urging efforts to protect the construction

workers against infection. He also assured people in a local supermarket that the country, with its ample reserves and measures such as the “green passages,” will ensure adequate market supply and stable prices in Wuhan.

Race for Vaccine

Visiting a lab in the Hubei Provincial Center for Disease Prevention and Control, Mr Li urged the researchers to speed up the research on the novel coronavirus.

He then called a meeting to make further arrangements on the epidemic prevention and control work in a more law-based, scientific and targeted manner, saying that progress in Wuhan will give people around the country confidence.

Wuhan will be assisted with additional 2,500 medical workers and 20,000 pairs of protective goggles, the Chinese Premier said. Relevant departments will take multiple measures to ensure the supplies of protective gowns, Mr Li added.

Premier Li urged the workers to race against time to finish building the hospital as a “safety island” for the patients.

China Accelerates Development of Vaccine

China has approved the development of the mRNA vaccine to fight the deadly coronavirus epidemic that threatened millions of lives since its outbreak in the country in early January.

The Shanghai East Hospital of Tongji University and the Stermirna Therapeutics Co. Ltd. will jointly develop the vaccine, the company announced.

Stermirna CEO Li Hangwen said it will take around 40 days to manufacture the sample vaccine based on a new generation mRNA technology.

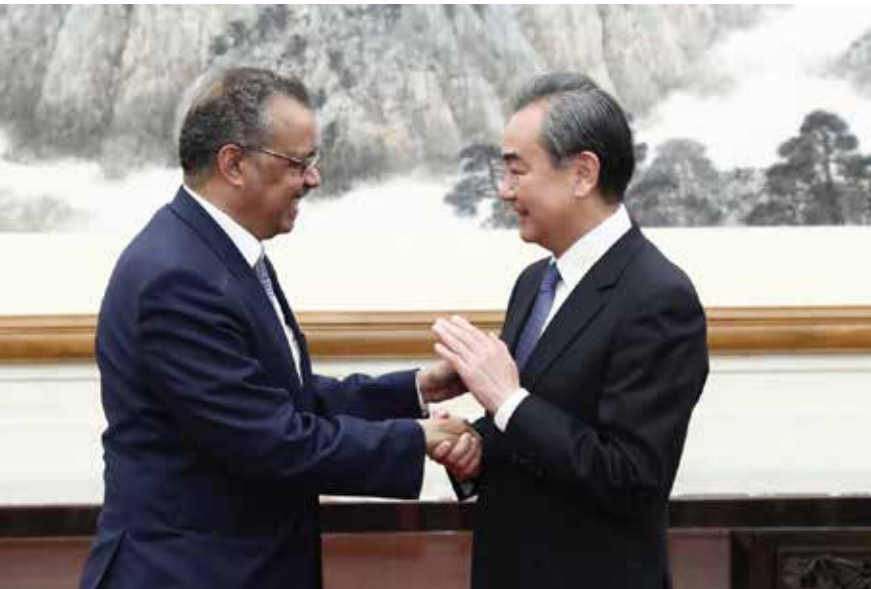
The samples will be sent for tests and brought to clinics as soon as possible, he added. The production cycle of traditional

vaccines takes five to six months but the mRNA vaccine will have a shorter development and production cycle, Mr Li said, adding that the samples will be sent for tests and brought to clinics as soon as possible.





WHO Chief Lauds China's Efforts



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi with WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Underlining that the WHO has been playing a positive role in coping with public health and safety issues, President Xi Jinping has called for enhancing positive cooperation with the WHO to share information about the epidemic.

The WHO is welcome to participate in the epidemic prevention and control, President Xi said, while stressing that China is ready to work with the WHO as well as the international community to safeguard regional and global public health security.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus spoke highly of the measures taken by China on dealing with the disease, including sharing information internationally. "And the other important element is the political commitment and your personal leadership, which we have been following," Ghebreyesus told Mr Xi.

China's political commitment and the country's serious measures will help stop the spread of the virus, he said. He added that the WHO appreciated Xi's very strong leadership

and that China will finally win the battle against the epidemic.

The WHO firmly supports the measures taken by the Chinese government to fight against the epidemic, and it would like to enhance communication and cooperation with China, he said. In a meeting with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing, the chief of the World Health Organization (WHO) spoke highly of the decisive measures the Chinese government has taken and stressed that the WHO is confident of China's epidemic prevention and control ability.

Mr Ghebreyesus said the WHO and the international community speak highly of and fully affirm the decisive measures the Chinese government has taken, and appreciate China's great efforts in curbing the spread of pneumonia.

Remain Calm

He said the WHO does not recommend the evacuation of nationals, and called on the international community to remain calm and not overreact. The WHO is confident in China's epidemic prevention and control ability.

After the outbreak of pneumonia, China identified the pathogens in record time, shared the genetic sequence of the novel coronavirus with the WHO and other countries, and carried out a series of effective measures to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus, Mr Ghebreyesus said. He added that the power of China's system and the effectiveness of its measures are "rarely seen in the world" and are "admirable." He said the WHO hopes to strengthen cooperation with China and is willing to provide all necessary help.

Mr Wang, on his part, said China appreciates the WHO's objective and just stance and its full recognition to China's anti-virus measures.



India Calls for Rational Approach, Confident China will Prevail



On January 31, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Minister Jaishankar said that India supports the Chinese government and people's resolute efforts in fighting the novel coronavirus outbreak. India appreciates China's openness, transparency and sense of responsibility in dealing with the outbreak, and has confidence in China's ability to ultimately overcome this challenge.

State Councilor Wang Yi expressed appreciation for India's support, and said that the Chinese government and people are making every effort to fight the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. We have taken the most comprehensive and rigorous containment and mitigation measures, and many of them go well beyond the requirements of the International Health Regulations (2005). By doing so, China is not only protecting the health of its people, but also that of people around the world. Such efforts are fully recognized by many governments as well as the WHO. At yesterday's briefing on the novel coronavirus outbreak, the WHO said that it does not recommend travel or trade restrictions against China. We believe that India and other countries will respect this important recommendation by the WHO. And

China is ready to further enhance public health cooperation with the international community.

Wang Yi said that to address transnational public health challenges in this era of globalization, we need to stay objective and rational, and step up communication and coordination, and that all should play a constructive role. We don't think it is helpful for certain country to hype up the situation, or even create panic.

Minister Jaishankar said that it is important to evaluate the outbreak in an objective and rational manner and not take actions that may complicate the situation. Faced with such difficulties, the Chinese people will come together with great determination. India is confident that China will ultimately prevail over this challenge.

Minister Jaishankar said that India supports the Chinese government and people's resolute efforts in fighting the novel coronavirus outbreak. India appreciates China's openness, transparency and sense of responsibility in dealing with the outbreak, and has confidence in China's ability to ultimately overcome this challenge.



From MNCs to Ordinary People, China Unites Against Deadly Virus

As China fights the deadly outbreak of coronavirus, support from its citizens poured in from across the country and abroad. From large multi-national Chinese companies, overseas students, professionals to ordinary citizens – all have come forward to join the government’s efforts to fight the disease.



China is motivating itself and striving to support Wuhan, the epicentre of novel coronavirus, reflecting the advantages of the country’s socialist system, which had fought similar battles in previous national campaigns to overcome crisis.

Such advantages could help allocate all its social resources to help fight pneumonia. Many said Wuhan is not alone and not an abandoned city, showing Chinese people’s significant energy and courage when facing difficult times.

Lockdown in Wuhan

Authorities on January 23 announced a public transport lockdown in Wuhan, the capital city of China’s Hubei Province, to contain coronavirus, which has infected 1,287 people, 41 of whom have died nationwide, as of January 25.

Wuhan residents, including patients and medical staff, have been overwhelmed due to the spread of the disease, facing problems such as a shortage of supplies and medical equipment like hospital gowns and surgical masks.

While 30 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions have raised their public health alert to the highest level I, more and more Chinese people, both in the country and overseas, have spontaneously shown their support to Wuhan.

Call for Duty

Staff members, who sacrificed their family reunions, decided to make efforts to help fight the pneumonia battle and had to contain their emotions.

A picture of a mother, who is among the medical staff, holding her little daughter melted many netizens' hearts, with some Chongqing netizens saying "we are sending out best doctors to you Wuhan, please stay strong and overcome the virus!"

As of January 25, Hubei had provided medical insurance worth 1.03 billion yuan (\$148 million). The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has sent 14,000 protective suits and 110,000 pairs of medical gloves to Wuhan, according to a statement issued by the ministry.

Authorities on January 23 announced a public transport lockdown in Wuhan, the capital city of China's Hubei Province, to contain coronavirus, which has infected 1,287 people, 41 of whom have died nationwide, as of January 25.

And it also helped purchase three million masks, 100,000 protective suits and 2,180 pairs of goggles.

Chinese Firms Join Fight

In the face of the rising demand for items such as surgical masks and disinfectants, some Chinese internet companies also joined the fight. E-commerce platform JD donated 1 million masks and 60,000 medical items.

Tencent Charity Foundation donated 300 million yuan, which will be used to purchase medical supplies and motivate medical staff, and on its platforms, charity projects have been set up for people to make donations. Beijing-based short-video app Kuaishou donated 100 million yuan and 50,000 masks to Wuhan.

After local authorities announced the establishment of a special hospital for coronavirus patients in Wuhan, the construction began on January 23, with 1,000 beds to be set and the facility to be put into use on February 3. Wuhan said it would build a second special hospital with 1,300 beds within half a month for those infected with the novel coronavirus.

Alibaba Group has set up a special fund of 1 billion yuan for medical supplies, which will be used to purchase medical supplies at home and abroad, including medical equipment, equipment supplies, and related preparations.

Alibaba's Freshippo Stores Hema Fresh in Wuhan will provide food and drinking water to medical workers.

Overseas Students Offer Help

As hospitals and medical workers in Wuhan made urgent appeals for medical supplies, many overseas students quickly responded by disseminating information and organizing donations. Overseas students organized transportation and reception information.

Many international students are working with Chinese associations and charities in host countries to collect surgical masks, disposable garments, protective goggles and gloves, and contact people with professional knowledge to guide customs declarations.



How to keep yourself safe from new coronavirus

如何预防

新型冠状病毒?



CHINADAILY 中国日报网
WWW.CHINADAILY.COM.CN



Wear masks outdoors

佩戴口罩



Wearing a mask is one of the most effective ways to protect you from getting infected.

戴口罩是一个重要的预防方法。

Make sure to wear it properly by tightening up the nose clip and pulling the bottom of it over your chin so that your nose and mouth are both covered.

戴口罩时要让鼻夹紧贴鼻梁，把口罩翻边拉至下巴附近，保证鼻子和嘴巴都完全罩起来。



If you're not feeling well or have symptoms such as fever, fatigue, cough and trouble breathing, a mask is also needed to prevent you from spreading viruses to others.

如果你觉得不舒服或者出现发热、乏力、干咳、呼吸困难等症状，也应该佩戴口罩，防止病毒传染给其他人。



Surgical masks used by medical workers are not recommended for common people as they may lead to oxygen deficient if worn for long periods.

普通人不建议长时间使用防护口罩，因为透气性差，长时间佩戴会导致缺氧。



Wash your hands frequently and properly

勤洗手和正确洗手



Wash your hands with soap and running water thoroughly for at least 15 seconds.

勤洗手要用肥皂和流动水，每次至少揉搓20秒以上。

Before eating and after using the toilet

餐前便后



After returning home

外出回家



After touching trash or garbage

接触垃圾



After contacting with animals or handling animal wastes

接触动物或处理动物排泄物



Strengthen your immune system and exercise regularly

提高免疫力，加强锻炼



Exercise regularly is one of the most important ways to help you stay away from catching any infections.

经常锻炼身体是帮助你远离感染的重要手段之一。



Make sure that shared spaces have good air flow and avoid going to crowded places such as hospitals, railway stations and airports. Wear a mask if transport or movement is necessary.

注意保持室内空气流通，避免去人员聚集的地方（如医院、火车站、机场等），必要时可佩戴口罩。



Seek prompt medical attention if you have symptoms of fever and respiratory infection.

如有发热和同时出现咳嗽等类似症状，及时到医疗机构就诊。

Avoid close contact with people who have flu or cold-like symptoms.

避免近距离接触有流感或者感冒症状的人。



Eat thoroughly cooked meat and eggs. Avoid contact with wild animals or farmed livestock without any protection.

烹调时彻底煮熟肉类和蛋类，在无保护接触时，避免接触野生动物和家禽家畜。



The volunteers quickly set up guidance groups that defined their roles in terms of resource mobilization, transportation coordination, information, and mental health support. Some specialize in sorting, categorizing and verifying information, and filtering out valid information from online rumours. Many Chinese student associations at UK universities have opened crowd-funding channels for Wuhan. The Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) Alumni Association UK has raised 30,000 pounds (\$39,231) for hospitals in Wuhan.

All the funds will be used to purchase emergency medical supplies such as N95 masks, surgical masks, medical caps, goggles, protective clothing, and operating gowns, said the association on the crowd-funding page.

Chinese-run UK express company UK51Parcel announced free transportation for donated materials including facial masks from the UK to China. These materials would be used for the workers and residents of streets and communities in Wuhan, according to a notice published by the company on WeChat.

A picture of a mother, who is among the medical staff, holding her little daughter melted many netizens' hearts, with some Chongqing netizens saying "we are sending out best doctors to you Wuhan, please stay strong and overcome the virus!"

Citizens Join Efforts

Grassroot officials and institutes were mobilized for support. Pharmaceuticals and private medical employees in Hubei were encouraged to convince those with a fever to see a doctor.

Traffic police in Chongqing started to put notices on cars with Hubei plates to report to the local government to check on their health. Jiangsu, an official from the government of Dongtai County, said that they had enhanced precautions to prevent the Wuhan coronavirus from spreading into the county.

Alibaba Group has set up a special fund of 1 billion yuan for medical supplies, which will be used to purchase medical supplies at home and abroad, including medical equipment, equipment supplies, and related preparations.

People arriving in Dongtai through Wuhan or who have visited Wuhan will be recorded and local government officials will follow them to check whether they have shown any symptoms like fever and cough, the official said. Some 300 local students and 136 laborers are in Wuhan, according to him.

In rural areas in some provinces like Henan, village officials broadcast appeals to people not to visit relatives during the Spring Festival. Banners promoting the prevention and control of the epidemic were also seen everywhere, according to Weibo users.

Many local governments banned large-scale gatherings in public. For instance, authorities from Southwest China's Sichuan Province issued a notice, urging restaurants and individuals not to hold large-scale gatherings. And Party members from all levels are forbidden from joining such activities.



CHINA-INDIA PHOTO EXHIBITION

CULTURAL BONDING CONNECTING THROUGH BOOKS AND PHOTOGRAPHS



It was a moment of immense joy, celebration and reflection at the China-India photo exhibition at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi that encapsulated some unforgettable moments in the history of the two nations, representing 2,000 years of rich cultural bonding. The exhibit that coincided with the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India was part of the 70 activities earmarked for the celebration.

A vast pavilion set amid the bookstalls at the World Book Fair 2020 in New Delhi took visitors down the memory lane into cultural exchanges between the two nations through photographs. The exhibition at Hall No.7 was inaugurated on January 7 by Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong, who also walked through the sections to see photographs on display.

According to the officials, the exhibition

presented a chronological and comprehensive account of people, objects, and events in the history of China-India cultural exchanges. “Our photos trace the relationship that India and China enjoyed in the past,” said Jiang Jingkui, a professor of Indian studies at Peking University. “We are working toward strengthening our bilateral relations and I invite the people of India to visit China and explore it.”

Moments in History

The exhibition showcased photographs of ancient leaders, philosophers and modern-day politicians from both countries. “China-India relations are very complicated, which cannot be fully illustrated with a hundred photos and thousands of words,” read a note put at the end of the exhibition. “We have selected the photos with descriptions in hope of giving you a general



An assortment of rare photos, capturing the spirit of the Sino-India relations, at the World Book Fair in New Delhi sets the tone for a promising future together as they strengthen their special bond and chart the path of new opportunities side by side.

account of the 2,000 years of cultural exchanges between China and India," it said.

Few cubicles away from the pavilion stood the bookstall representing China, conspicuously showcasing Chinese books in English. "If you want to understand China, you have to read about China, then only you can understand its history, culture, science and technology and its economics," the Chinese Ambassador said while delivering a keynote lecture at the Chinese stall during the book fair.

"As you will read the book *Up and Out of Poverty* by (Chinese President) Xi Jinping, you will find out the secret which helped China to lift people out of poverty," the Ambassador said. "Both India and China are great civilizations and because of the huge population that we have, if we come together and speak in one voice, nobody can ignore that," he said.

Ambassador Sun Weidong and his wife, Dr. Bao Jiqing attended the ceremony. Mr. Kaushal Goyal, General Manager of GBD, Mr. Wang Yixuan, Vice Chairman of Chinese Phoenix Publishing Group, Mrs. Liu Jinshuang, Deputy Chief of Editor of Encyclopedia Publishing House, Professor Jiang Jingkui from Beijing University, Cultural and Educational Counselor Zhang Jianxing, and others from the publishing industry participated in the event.

Power of Books

Hundreds of people, especially book lovers, thronged the venue to have a look at the books and other cultural events at the display. Book lovers, young and old, were making a beeline to the halls, showcasing a wide array of books and cultural activity.



“Books open a big window to the world outside. I hope the books here will build bridges between China and India,” the Ambassador said.

“Books open a big window to the world outside. I hope the books here will build bridges between China and India,” the Ambassador said. At the stall, visitors walked through the chambers having hundreds of Chinese books translated into English displayed on its shelves.

The visiting publishers from China hoped to strengthen ties with India by providing a glimpse of China’s culture and knowledge. “Hope our efforts will bring two countries together and pave a way to understand each others’ culture,” said Wang Yixuan, vice chairman of Phoenix publishing and media group.

“Every year I come to this fair and visit the China counter to see what new books are available,” said Anuja Kholi, a visitor and China watcher. “I even went to the photo exhibition

gallery to have a look at the photographs that bring alive the relationship between India and China.”

The World Book Fair

The World Book Fair from January 4-12, touted as Asia’s largest, attracted around one million visitors. Scores of billboards and posters, some even pasted on the back of auto-rickshaws, dotted the roads and markets in the national capital to lure people. The tickets for the fair were available at multiple places for the convenience of visitors.

China and India established their diplomatic relations in 1950. This year, China was the guest of honour at the event, which saw the Chinese publishers Phoenix Publishing Group and Encyclopedia Publishing House joining hands to organize the country’s pavilion, representing China’s publishing industry. Both countries have earmarked 70 different programs to celebrate their bond and the photo exhibition forms part of such commemoration.





Promoting Youth Dialogue for Stronger China-India Ties

In his keynote address at the second China-India Youth Dialogue 2020 in New Delhi which kicked off the year-long celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, China's Ambassador to India Sun Weidong extolled the power of youth in strengthening relations between the two Asian countries.

The second China-India Youth Dialogue, co-hosted by the Chinese Embassy and the Confederation of Young Leaders (CYL) in Delhi on January 9, marked the first of a series of events planned for the 70th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two Asian countries.

Addressing the gathering, the Chinese envoy echoed Chinese President Xi Jinping's thoughts that the future lies in the hands of the youth, and as such, they should be the new force for promoting friendship. The Ambassador underlined that the two civilizations should take advantage of their historical similarities, with each having over one billion population, and rally as a driving force for multilateralism and economic globalization.

"India and China should seize the opportunities in the new round of scientific and

technological revolution, jointly safeguard free trade, advocate exchanges between different civilizations, and join hands to build a better world for peace, development, and prosperity," Mr Sun said.

The opening ceremony of the dialogue was attended by India's former foreign secretary Shashank, CYL president Sameep Shastri, CYL chairman Himadrih Suwan, Indian and Chinese youth delegates, and diplomats, among others.

Master Plan

While the first Youth Dialogue was held in 2018, the second edition marked the first of the events planned for anniversary celebrations this year.

The participants called for designing a master plan to forge closer people-to-people ties, deepen

Addressing the gathering, the Chinese envoy echoed Chinese President Xi Jinping's thoughts that the future lies in the hands of the youth, and as such, they should be the new force for promoting friendship.

cooperation, promote empowerment of youth and expand development. Many top politicians, parliamentarians, Niti Aayog members and vice-chancellors have extended best wishes.

Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said in his message that the youth dialogue would be the first step towards fostering strong friendship and partnership.

Promoting P2P Ties

Ambassador Sun stressed that 2020 is also the Year of Cultural and People-to-People exchanges between China and India. "Guided by the consensus reached by our two leaders, China and India have achieved sound development and tapped deeper into the potential for bilateral cooperation," Mr Sun said.

The Ambassador offered a five-point plan to further strengthen bilateral ties. First, actively make proposals and suggestions. Second, strengthen cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Third,



enrich cooperation. Fourth, encourage exchanges among young people. Fifth, enhance education cooperation.

CYL chairman Himadrish Suwan said the dialogue will continue to promote China-India friendship and cooperation, although other activities have been planned this year for achieving the same purpose. Chinese and Indian youth delegates exchanged views on a wide range of topics, including China-India ties, and their experience of studying, living and doing business in each other's countries, at the event. A cultural program of Chinese opera, and Chinese and Indian music and dance was organized after the discussions. The event also saw the release of the China-India Amity Booklet.



China-India Tango to Bring World Peace and Development: Ambassador



A dazzling performance by the iconic China Oriental Song and Dance Troupe, marking the Chinese Spring Festival and the 70th anniversary of the China-India diplomatic ties, enthralled the audience at the Siri Fort Auditorium in the national capital on January 10.



The artistes in bright red and sparkling white costumes, symbolizing the Chinese colours for luck, vitality, joy, and fertility, lit up the stage as they created the magic of poetry and painting through dance and music.

The occasion, though, was more than just

a cultural event. It showcased the special bond between the people of the two countries that spans more than 2,000 years. Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong likened the ballet to the “Dragon-Elephant Tango” where the dancers through understanding and coordination create the rhythm and harmony to the delight of the audience.

The Ambassador said that the China-India relationship is like a tango, alluding to the fact that it takes two to tango and mutual trust that holds the key to a good dance. The China-India tango, he said, could bring peace and development to the world.

In their musical pageant, the world-acclaimed China Oriental Song and Dance Troupe staged the *The Splendour of China*, a unique dance show that integrates profound Chinese spirit and showcased a dynamic, vibrant and colourful nation from the perspective of the Chinese people to the world. The show was created on the basis of colours of white-and-blue porcelain, tea ceremony, bamboo, calligraphy, painting and traditional Chinese medicine which represent different facets of traditional Chinese culture.

China Oriental Song and Dance Troupe has performed in more than eighty countries spanning five continents, and returned to perform in India after a gap of two decades. The iconic group acts as a cultural Ambassador of China and seeks to inherit and carry forward China’s oriental artistic spirit and characteristics of “inclusiveness of fine Chinese and foreign cultures, richness of artistic



expression and adaptability of advancing with the times” accumulated by generations of artists.

(Excerpts from speech by Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong)

Welcome to enjoy the “Happy Spring Festival” performances. First of all, I would like to thank the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China for its great support to this event. My thanks also go to the artists from China Oriental Performing Arts Group and China National Symphony Orchestra for traveling all the way here. Thanks to all the friends from China and India for their hard work to make it happen.

Cultural Feast

Oriental Song and Dance Troupe under the China Oriental Performing Arts Group is the most prominent national song and dance troupe in China, which enjoys a high reputation at home and abroad. Tonight, they are going to present a wonderful show, creating poems and paintings with music and dances and showcasing the essence of traditional Chinese culture. I hope this

cultural feast could help you learn more about China and come to love Chinese culture.

Today’s performance unveils the series of celebrations for the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and India. A number of events will be held in this regard. 2020 also marks the Year of China-India Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges. Let the “Dragon-Elephant Tango” begin with culture and art.

Tango for Better Future

If China and India were two dancers, then the China-India relationship is perhaps like a tango. The leaders of our two countries, during their informal meetings, have set the tone that China and India present important opportunities to

A number of events will be held in this regard. 2020 also marks the Year of China-India Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges. Let the “Dragon-Elephant Tango” begin with culture and art.

each other, and both sides should help each other to accomplish respective goals and “brighten up” each other.

As the world’s largest developing countries and emerging economies, China and India would be in the limelight of the world if our two countries can realize the “Dragon-Elephant Tango” and engage in win-win cooperation. It would make the world a more dynamic and prosperous place with more certainty.

As two ancient civilizations with long histories, if China and India can realize the “Dragon-Elephant Tango” and conduct exchanges in culture and arts, it would certainly facilitate mutual learning among civilizations and make the garden of human civilizations more colorful.

It takes two to tango and the key to a good dance is all about mutual trust. We should follow the strategic guidance of our two leaders, strengthen strategic communication, and enhance political mutual trust so that the consensus reached by the two sides can be transmitted to all levels of society and translated into tangible actions and outcomes.



As the world’s largest developing countries and emerging economies, China and India would be in the limelight of the world if our two countries can realize the “Dragon-Elephant Tango” and engage in win-win cooperation.

It takes practice to dance the tango. The tacit understanding and coordination between the two dancers are indispensable. I am confident that as long as China and India always bear in mind the overall picture and long-term interests, strive to shape bilateral ties and properly handle differences through dialogue and consultation, we certainly have the wisdom and capacity to blaze a new path for the two large neighbours to enjoy peaceful coexistence and common development.

Year of the Rat

The Chinese Lunar Year of the Rat will arrive in two weeks. In Chinese culture, the rat represents intelligence and vitality; while in Indian culture, it is the mount of God Ganesh and represents wisdom and talent.

On the occasion of this auspicious event, I wish China and India as well as their people peace, prosperity, and happiness. I also wish that the China-India relationship, a “Dragon-Elephant Tango,” can bring peace and development to the region and the world at large.



China & India can Boost Each Other's Development: Ambassador



(Excerpts from speech by Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong)

2019 was an extraordinary year for China. We celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and successfully convened the fourth plenary session of the 19th CPC central committee. China's economy has sustained high-quality and steady growth. In 2019, China's GDP is expected to edge close to 100 trillion yuan with the per capita figure nearing \$10,000. The reform continued to deepen, and a host of pilot free trade zones, including Hainan Free Trade Zone, have been established. Remarkable progress has been made in poverty reduction, which lifted more than 10 million people out of poverty. China stays committed to the path of peaceful development, firmly oppose unilateralism and hegemonism, and uphold international equity and justice. We advocate openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation, and will push for building a community with a shared future for mankind. China's diplomacy has made its due contribution to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as well as to the world's peace, development, and prosperity.

Addressing a Chinese New Year reception hosted by the Consulate General in Kolkata, Ambassador Sun Weidong said that China-India relations go beyond the bilateral scope and have far-reaching strategic significance. Explaining his views, he gave the metaphor of the "Dragon-Elephant Tango," where both sides with understanding, cooperation, and open and inclusive attitude, chart the direction of bilateral relations. He hoped to see harmonious China-India relations, with countries moving hand-in-hand on the path of development and peace.

China-India relations have entered a new phase of development with the guidance of the leaders of the two nations; and both stand to gain from this partnership, the Ambassador said. The close collaboration would not only aid each other's development, but also help build a multi-polar world, and deepen economic globalization, he said. The Chinese envoy said that 2020 is special for the two nations as it marks 70 years of diplomatic ties and the year of Cultural and People-to-People exchanges.

Economic Cooperation

2019 was also a remarkable year for China-India relations, where the leaders of the two countries provided guidance throughout the year. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi met four times on bilateral and multilateral occasions. The two sides agreed that China and India offer each other opportunities for development and remain factors of stability in the international landscape. The two countries should help each other to accomplish their respective goals and "brighten up" each other.

China-India economic and trade cooperation embraced new opportunities. The two sides agreed to set up a high-level economic and

trade dialogue mechanism, and also establish a manufacturing partnership. India was the guest of honor at the second China International Import Expo, and a breakthrough was made in the number of Indian exhibitors and their turnover. The two sides also held the second meeting of China-India High-level People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Mechanism to chart the course for people-to-people exchanges in the future.

China and India strengthened communication and coordination under multilateral mechanisms such as G20, BRICS, and SCO to jointly uphold multilateralism and free trade and address global challenges such as climate change. The two sides also properly handled sensitive issues, in a joint effort to prevent differences from becoming disputes and create a sound atmosphere for China-India relations.

The continuous progress of China-India relations could not have been achieved without the support of people from all walks of life of our two countries. Here, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all my friends for their efforts and contributions.

2020 is a milestone year for us. China will complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and realize the first centenary goal. China will win the battle against poverty and eliminate absolute poverty for the first time in thousands of years.

The Road Ahead

The year 2020 will also be a year for China-India relations to forge ahead. This year marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and India.

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Chinese Consul General in Kolkata Zha Liyou.

Over the past 70 years, China-India relations have been moving forward despite ups and downs, rain or shine. In recent years, under the guidance of the leaders of the two countries, China-India relations have entered a new stage of sound development. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held two informal summits.

China and India, both as developing countries and emerging markets, are the only two countries with a population of over one billion in the world. If China and India join hands, it will not only boost each other's development, but also contribute to the process of multi-polarity and economic globalization, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries.

The world today is facing profound changes unseen in a century. Both China and India are at a critical stage of national development and rejuvenation. China-India relations go beyond the bilateral scope and have important and far-reaching strategic significance. As I see it, the only correct choice for the two sides is the "Dragon-Elephant Tango". The two sides should adopt a positive, open and inclusive attitude, properly analyze and view each other's intentions, firmly steer the general direction and mainstream of bilateral relations. China and India should be good neighbours living in harmony and sincere partners going hand in hand. In the New Year, we shall take the important consensus reached by the two leaders as a guide and transmit the

consensus to all levels, and work together to make the third informal summit a success.

We need to focus on cooperation, make the cake of cooperation even bigger and promote convergence of interests. We should go beyond difference-management and take the initiative to shape our bilateral relations to accumulate more positive energy for the development of China-India relations.

We will hold 70 events to celebrate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties. We should take the China-India Year of Cultural and People-to-

2020 is a milestone year for us. China will complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and realize the first centenary goal.

People Exchange as an opportunity to further enhance mutual understanding and friendship and create a favourable atmosphere for bilateral relations.

I am convinced that China and India have foresight and wisdom to jointly blaze a new path for two neighbouring emerging economies to enjoy peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, common development, and win-win cooperation.

Advantage Bengal: K2K

As an economic, cultural and educational center in eastern India, West Bengal has taken the lead in cooperation with China. Eminent Chinese monks Fa Xian and Xuan Zang visited West Bengal in ancient times. Rabindranath Tagore's works have left a profound impact on China.

His Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan and Institute of Chinese Language and Culture are the pioneer of India's systematic study of China, and admired by many Chinese scholars. In recent years, West Bengal has gained more geographical advantages in China-India cooperation. The K2K cooperation between Kolkata and Kunming in Yunnan province is a great success. The Bengal Global Business Summit has attracted the attention of many Chinese enterprises, including the ones from Yunnan.

The Chinese New Year is around the corner. Hereby, I wish West Bengal would further seize the opportunity of bilateral cooperation and expand cooperation with China in the areas of economy, trade, investment, culture, and education.

I also wish substantial progress could be made in the building of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM), and make new contributions to the inter-connectivity of East Asia and South Asia. Finally, I would like to propose a toast to the peace and prosperity of China and India, to the happiness and well-being of our peoples, and the everlasting friendship between our two countries.

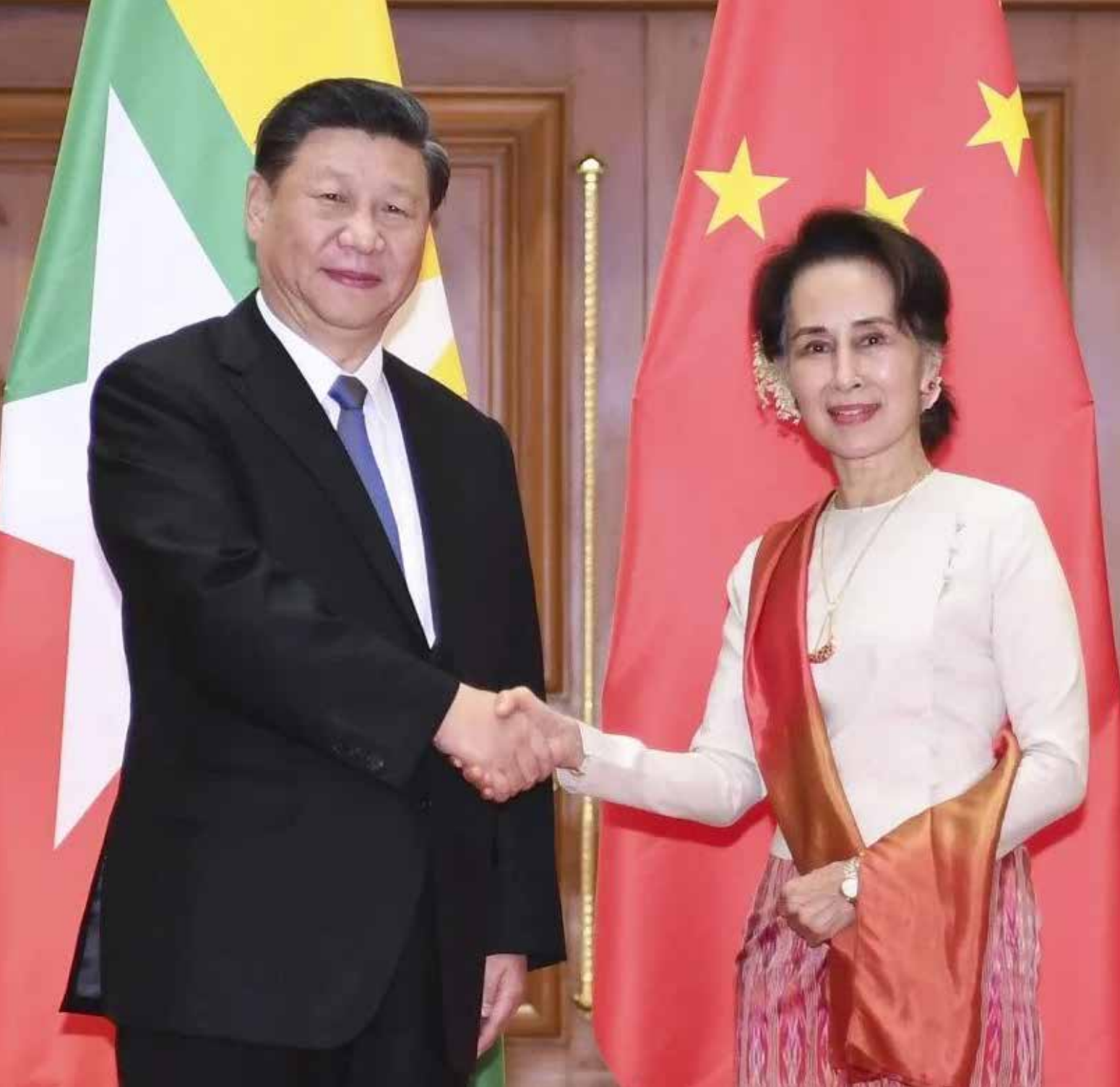


Spring Gala for Chinese Students Bonding Through Mandarin



Around 300 alumni from China celebrated the 2020 Spring Festival at a special gala jointly organized by the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi and the O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU). It was a moment of remembrance, recollection and celebration for these graduates from China. It was also an opportunity for them to celebrate the Chinese New Year with the same spirit of friendship back home in India. Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong and his wife Dr. Bao Jiqing, Additional Secretary of AIU Mrs. Mamta Rani Aggarwal, and JGU's Vice-Chancellor Raj Kumar, among other guests, attended the event.





Chinese President Xi Jinping with Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Myanmar has galvanised multi-layered relations between the two countries as they agreed to build a community with a shared future, opening a new era in bilateral ties. The talks also imparted a fresh impetus to accelerating the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, which complements China's efforts to connect the trade routes, spanning the Indian Ocean and the Pacific regions, through its Belt and Road Initiative.

Xi Jinping Visit

China, Myanmar to Accelerate Economic Corridor, Boost Trade

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi held talks in Nay Pyi Taw on January 18 to fast-track the construction of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC).

President Xi said that enjoying a profound “Paukphaw” (fraternal) friendship, China and Myanmar face new development opportunities in bilateral ties as both countries have entered a new stage of national development.

This time, the two sides have decided to jointly build a China-Myanmar community with a shared future, ushering in a new era of bilateral relations, President Xi said.

President Xi called for efforts to implement the decision, systematically plan and deploy next-phase exchanges and cooperation in various fields, and strengthen political guidance for bilateral relations, so as to push China-Myanmar relations to a higher level.

Mapping Next Steps

Firstly, President Xi said that the two countries should accelerate the alignment of their development strategies and put more efforts into the construction of the CMEC. The two sides should advance their five-year plan for economic and trade cooperation, effectively dovetail their development strategies, and well implement their economic and trade as well as production capacity cooperation.

Stressing the overriding importance of the CMEC in their Belt and Road cooperation, President Xi said the two sides have started the substantive construction of the CMEC, adding that the two sides should focus on benefiting people of the two countries.

Secondly, the two countries should focus on flagship cooperation projects to strengthen connectivity, President Xi said. China and Myanmar have agreed to allow the Kyaukphyu projects to play a demonstrative and driving role in the CMEC, and accelerate the construction of the China-Myanmar Border Economic Cooperation Zone and the New Yangon City, so as to complete the overall layout of the economic corridor supported by the north, east and west ends.

President Xi said that enjoying a profound “Paukphaw” (fraternal) friendship, China and Myanmar face new development opportunities in bilateral ties as both countries have entered a new stage of national development.

The two sides should also forge ahead with connectivity projects including highways, railways and power grids, in order to form a structural network for the corridor, President Xi said.

Promoting Trade

Thirdly, China and Myanmar should expand trade and investment and boost local cooperation, President Xi said. He added that China has always adhered to upholding justice while pursuing shared interests in its practical cooperation with Myanmar.



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds delegation-level talks with China's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.



Myanmar is ready to join efforts with China to forge ahead, build the Myanmar-China community with a shared future and better benefit the two peoples, Ms Suu Kyi said.

China welcomes Myanmar to increase exports to China, supports Chinese enterprises in increasing investment in Myanmar and is willing to enhance bilateral financial cooperation, he said.

President Xi encouraged the two sides to give full play to the geographical advantage of their economic corridor and promote exchanges and cooperation between Myanmar and Chinese provinces including Yunnan Province, so as to contribute to the overall development of the two countries.

P2P Exchanges

Fourthly, China and Myanmar should deepen people-to-people and cultural exchanges and promote friendship and understanding between their peoples, President Xi said. He urged the two sides to make the celebration events for the 70th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic ties and the China-Myanmar Year of Culture and Tourism a success, and encourage more youths to carry out exchanges so as to pass on the "Paukphaw" friendship from generation to generation.

China and Myanmar should endeavor to improve people's livelihood, security and infrastructure construction along the CMEC, to deliver benefits to more Myanmar people as early as possible, he said.

Extending a warm welcome to President Xi, Aung San Suu Kyi said Myanmar highly cherishes its friendship with China and hopes to continue to be a good friend of China.

The Myanmar side is ready to actively advance the construction of the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor, fully implement projects in Kyaukphyu and push forward cooperation in such areas as transportation, energy, production

capacity, humanities, border and at local levels, she said.

Myanmar is ready to join efforts with China to forge ahead, build the Myanmar-China community with a shared future and better benefit the two peoples, Ms Suu Kyi said.

China's support is not out of self-interest, but to safeguard fairness and justice, which is particularly precious to small countries like Myanmar, she said.

BRI Link: China-Myanmar Economic Corridor

The corridor holds an important place in China's Belt and Road initiative, which seeks to connect all major trade routes.

President Xi said the corridor project, whose construction has already started, will enhance connectivity and cooperation.

Additionally, the cross-border Kunming-Kyaukphyu rail link is another major task being executed under the project. The New Yangon City, being developed at the tri-junction of the corridor, is expected to be a major economic hub, connecting the northern, eastern and western parts of Myanmar.

The Chinese leader called for more partnerships in connectivity and power projects to lay a strong foundation for the corridor. He said Chinese firms see great opportunities in the country and are eager to enter the financial sector.

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China Backs Non-interference in Internal Affairs

Praising China for upholding world peace and justice, the leader of the National League for Democracy said that some countries wantonly interfere in the internal affairs of the state in the name of human rights, ethnic or religious issues, noting that Myanmar will never bow to such pressure tactics.

In response, President Xi said that China always insisted on non-interference, and respected the internal affairs of other nations. It will continue to speak out for justice for Myanmar in the global arena and safeguard its interests, he said.

China supports Myanmar in advancing the domestic peace process and achieving national reconciliation, and is willing to continue to play a constructive role in this regard, he added.

After the talks, the two sides exchanged agreement documents, covering political, economic, trade, investment, humanities, and other fields.

Joint Declaration

China and Myanmar agreed to enhance cooperation in regional and multilateral fora such as the United Nations, China-ASEAN and Lancang-Mekong cooperation platforms.

They also agreed to render mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns and to uphold peace, stability, and development in the region and the world.

The two sides will continue their high-level interactions, reinforce mutual political trust, enhance strategic communication, deepen exchanges in governance, legislative institutions, and political parties, said the document.



China Calls for Joint Efforts at Davos to Bolster Economic Globalization

At the 50th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF), Chinese Vice-Premier Han Zheng called on all countries to demonstrate greater courage, commitment to consultation and tide over difficulties together to make economic globalization inclusive and beneficial for all. He said China would further widen market access to foreign investors to improve the business environment.

Addressing the 50th annual meeting of the WEF in Davos, Switzerland, on January 21, China's Vice-Premier Han in his speech titled "Work Together for an Open World Economy and Sustainable Global Development" underlined the importance of an open world economy and multilateralism for global growth.

Recalling Chinese President Xi Jinping's historic speech at the same platform two years ago when he expressed China's firm support for economic globalization, Mr. Han said that his leader's message resonated far and wide.

Globalization Drives Growth

Mr Han, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China's (CPC) Central Committee, noted that "economic globalization is an essential condition for productivity, growth, and a natural result of the advance in science and technology." It is also "a driving force behind economic growth across the globe".

To resolve the problems in economic globalization, the key lies in building an inclusive and open world economy, and upholding multilateralism, Mr Han said.

"Unilateral and protectionist practices, which run counter to the global trend, will lead to nowhere ... and end up hurting everyone's interests," the Vice-Premier said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping with World Economic Forum Founder Klaus Schwab in January 2017.

Mr Han called on all countries to demonstrate greater courage, stay committed to consultation and tide over difficulties together. "We should make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial for all" so that "people of all countries will be able to share in the benefits of economic globalization and global growth," he said.

Tackling Global Challenges

Mr Han said the global community should safeguard peace, promote development, uphold equity and justice, and pursue mutual benefit,



calling for joint efforts “to tackle global challenges such as poverty reduction, climate change, and environmental protection”.

“We should abide by the international law and widely recognized norms of international relations... and advance the improvement and transformation of the global governance system,” he said.

China has embraced economic globalization, pursued development with its door open, and succeeded in transforming a closed and semi-closed economy into a fully open economy, Mr. Han noted, adding that “openness has become a trademark of today’s China”.

Widening Market Access

The Vice-Premier stressed that China will further widen market access for foreign investors and cut negative list for foreign investment, import more goods, and services to promote balanced trade, and further improve China’s business environment to let all types of businesses registered in China be treated equally.

China will also foster new drivers of opening-up, allowing free trade zones to initiate more reforms and speeding up the building of the Hainan Free Trade Port, he said, adding that China will further deepen multilateral and

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bilateral cooperation and work with other countries to build an open world economy.

Standing at a new historical starting point, China will, as always, actively shoulder its due international responsibilities and obligations, Mr. Han said.

He pledged that China “will maintain stability and pursue development while contributing to peace and prosperity in the world,” and “work with people of all countries to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity” to make greater contribution to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

During his stay in Davos, Mr. Han also attended a luncheon hosted by WEF Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab and exchanged views with business leaders including Apple CEO Tim Cook and Siemens AG President Joe Kaeser.

The industry and business leaders said they are full of expectations for China’s deepening reform and further opening-up, and are willing to expand trade and technological cooperation with China for mutual benefit.



Chinese Vice-Premier Han Zheng at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2020.

CHINA, US Sign Phase-One Deal, Boost Global Stability



The deal mirrors a positive outcome of the trade negotiations spanning several months, and it shows that the world's two largest economies are seeking a rational way to break the deadlock and inject positive energy into the stability and development of the world economy.

After months of trade uncertainty that weighed on the global economy, China and the United States have finally agreed to withdraw some of their tit-for-tat tariffs, broaden the market access and enhance the protection of intellectual property rights.

As part of the Phase-One deal signed by China's Vice-Premier Liu He and President Donald Trump at the White House on January 15, China has pledged to boost US imports, up from the 2017 levels, while the US will pull back new tariffs imposed on Chinese goods.

The latest effort to ease the trade war comes after nearly two years of hard negotiations. Both sides have stressed that the agreement will inject stability into bilateral ties and add certainty to global growth.

The deal "shows that our two countries have the ability to act on the basis of equality and mutual respect, and work through dialogue and consultation to properly handle and effectively resolve relevant issues," Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a message to President Trump read out by the Vice-Premier at the signing ceremony.

Good for Global Growth

This deal is a hard-won outcome of the trade negotiations, and the progress shows that the world's two largest economies are seeking a more rational way to break the deadlock and inject positive energy into the stability and development of the world economy.

The Chinese Vice-Premier, in his remarks at the signing ceremony, called the agreement mutually beneficial and a win-win situation for both sides. "It will bring about stable economic growth, promote world peace and prosperity, and is in the interest of the producers, consumers, investors in both countries," he said.

Mr Liu, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chief of the Chinese side of the China-US comprehensive economic dialogue, told the Chinese media that the Phase-One deal has, to a large extent, addressed the concerns of both sides.

The agreement ranges from expanding bilateral trade in sectors such as agricultural products, manufactured goods, energy, and services, broadening market access to enhancing the protection of intellectual property rights.

The two sides also agreed to establish a bilateral mechanism for assessment and dispute settlement, and the United States has pledged to cancel some of its additional tariffs on Chinese products.

Mr Liu noted that the deal is in line with the World Trade Organization rules and that it is neither directed at nor will affect the lawful rights and interests of any third party.

For his part, Mr Trump called the deal "remarkable" that will benefit the United States, China, and the world.

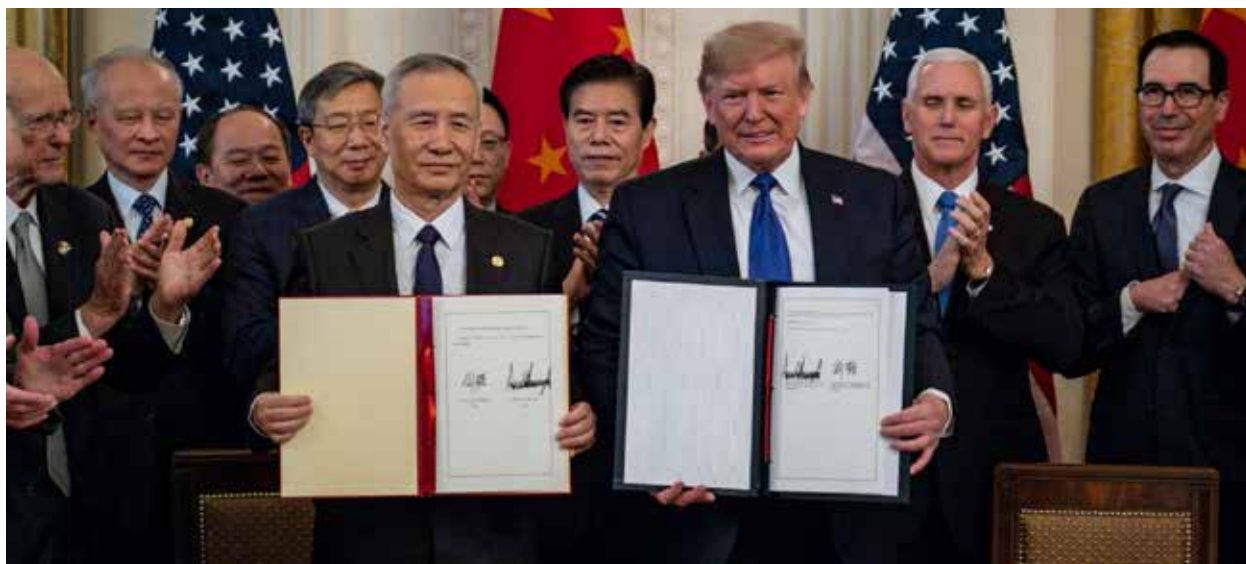
Positive Response

The deal is expected to bring benefits to the industries, businesses, and consumers of

The deal "shows that our two countries have the ability to act on the basis of equality and mutual respect, and work through dialogue and consultation to properly handle and effectively resolve relevant issues," Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a message to President Trump read out by the vice-premier at the signing ceremony.

both nations, and is well received by various stakeholders, including financial markets.

US Chamber of Commerce CEO Thomas Donohue said in a statement that the deal provides a "much-needed certainty" to the US businesses as they begin the New Year.



US President Donald Trump and China's Vice-Premier showcase the Phase-One trade deal signed by them at a ceremony at the White House.

China-US Trade Deal to Reduce Global Uncertainty: IMF Chief

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has lauded the newly signed China-US Phase-One trade deal, saying it will reduce the uncertainty that has impeded global economic growth.

“It is a welcoming sign that we now have the Phase-One deal, sign in terms of reducing some of the uncertainty,” Ms Georgieva said at an event hosted by Peterson Institute for International Economics, a thinktank based in Washington D.C.

The IMF expects the trade deal to support the growth of China’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Ms Georgieva said. “It brings China in the parameters around the 6-percent growth for 2020, rather than below,” she said.

In October, Ms Georgieva warned that trade tensions were “taking a toll” on global growth, at a time when the global economy was going through a “synchronized slowdown.”

According to the IMF’s earlier calculation, the



cumulative effect of the U.S.-China trade conflict, provided no actions taken, could mean a loss of 0.8 percent of global GDP, or around \$700 billion by 2020. What we are seeing now is that we’ve some reduction of this uncertainty, but it’s not eliminated,” Ms Georgieva said. “We would see shrinkage of this negative impact, but not the eradication of this impact.”

US Drops Currency Manipulator Tag

The US Treasury Department on January 20 dropped its currency manipulation charge against China as trade tensions ease between the two sides after the signing of the phase-one deal.

Announcing the decision, Treasury Secretary Mr Steven Mnuchin said in a statement that China has made commitments to refrain from competitive devaluation while promoting transparency and accountability. He also noted that the department has assessed developments over the last several months with China and its



currency practices before removing the currency designation.

In its semi-annual Report on Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States, the department said no major US trading partner met the legislative criteria for currency manipulation.

Mr. Mark Sobel, US chairman of the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum, an independent think-tank, said on Twitter that this is “good news”, calling the designation “blatant” and “errant” political act.

“We commend both governments for staying the course and taking this important step to rebuild trust and restore some stability in the world’s most important commercial relationship,” Mr Donohue said.

Noting that there’s a lot of excitement in the US business community, US-China Business Council President Craig Allen told Xinhua in an interview that the agreement is good for both sides.

Rick Kimberley, president of the Iowa-based Kimberley Farms Inc. told Xinhua he is “pleased” to see that the Phase-One deal has been signed, calling it a step in the right direction.

In an interview with Xinhua, Tyler Stafslie, a North Dakota-based soybean farmer, said the deal signifies that “the US and China are on a path back towards more normalized trading”.

David Dollar, a senior fellow at the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution, told Xinhua that “markets are relieved that the deal means that the US-China trade war is not escalating,” adding that 2020 looks set to be a more stable year in terms of trade policy.

US markets closed at record highs on the day of the signing of the widely-anticipated trade deal, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average ending the trading day at 29,030.22.

Road Ahead

The signing of the deal is a positive first step for resolving the economic and trade issues between the world’s top two economies, and the priority now is to implement the deal and get off to a good start for China-US economic and trade ties.

In the next step, the two sides need to implement the agreement in real earnest and optimize its positive impact, to make even greater progress in China-US trade and economic cooperation, President Xi said in his message to President Trump.

At the signing ceremony, Mr Liu expressed hope that both sides will work together on the principles of equality and mutual respect, strictly honor the agreement, accommodate each other’s core concerns, and ensure a good implementation of the phase-one trade agreement.

“It is the pressing need, and will also play an

In the next step, the two sides need to implement the agreement in real earnest and optimize its positive impact, to make even greater progress in China-US trade and economic cooperation, President Xi said in his message to Trump.

important role in the growth of bilateral economic and trade relations in the future,” he said.


Robert Kuhn, chairman of the Kuhn Foundation and a leading US expert on China, told Xinhua that the deal is a “milestone” in international trade and China-US relations. The agreement “does not solve all problems forever, but by providing stability for China-US economic relations, it does give the entire world greater economic confidence and increases opportunities for global prosperity,” he said. “I am confident that both sides will adhere to the deal,” Mr Kuhn said.

Citing President Xi, Mr Liu noted at the press briefing that there are a thousand reasons to make the China-US relationship work, and no reason to break it.

The two countries have a lot of shared interests, and can certainly find a way to manage their differences and engage in win-win cooperation, the Vice-Premier said.



Buoyed by Reforms, China's Share of Global Growth to Soar to 30%



Economists and financial giants predict that China's growing services sector, robust manufacturing, technology innovation, and efforts to meet the 2030 sustainable goals, among others, will lead the next round of development and investment opportunities in the country, and account for almost 30 percent of the global investment value in the new decade.

As China shifts to a higher-quality and more open economy, the new decade abounds with new opportunities for global businesses.

Despite challenges, China's economy wrapped up 2019 with 6.1-percent GDP growth as a top performer among comparable economies. Acting as a "locomotive," it is expected to contribute to around 30 percent of global growth in the 2020s.

Emerging from the 2010s larger and in better shape, the world's second-largest economy is increasingly shaped by the growing power of consumers, services and emerging sectors. All believed to stimulate market growth, reform, and innovation.

These trends can offer glimpses into the positive changes the world can expect from China in the new decade.



Consumers First

Domestic consumers now account for over 60 percent of China's economic growth. Despite a moderation of headline GDP growth, retail sales, a major gauge of consumption, grew 8 percent in 2019.

Looking ahead, analysts expect the country's consumption to be shaped by a booming middle-income group, fast urbanization and technology advances, among other trends.

With the world's largest middle-income population, China has great potential to increase the contribution of the services sector to its GDP growth, said Mr Liu Qiao, dean of the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University, predicting that services consumption would make up about 60 percent, or more, in China's total consumption by 2035.

Although large cities contributed more to consumerism, lower-tier cities and rural regions continued to grow fast. A report from Morgan Stanley predicted that consumption in China's smaller cities could triple by 2030 from 2018. "The future Chinese consumers will be richer and more tech-savvy," said Asian market analyst Angela Moh in the report.

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China enhances ease of doing business

Aided by robust consumption, competitive infrastructure and major policy reforms, China's industrial output is expected to replicate a steady growth in 2020. Despite downward pressures, China's industrial output met its target in 2019, and will continue to expand with an improved business environment, said Industry and Information Technology Minister Mr. Miao Wei.

China boasts a complete industrial system, a large domestic market, robust consumption potential, abundant human resources, competitive infrastructure and ample policy leeway, which will continue to buoy industrial development this year, Mr. Miao Wei told the media on January 20.

China's unremitting efforts to improve the business environment, such as tax cuts and fee reductions, will further unleash market vitality, he added.

Industrial Output

Innovation-based technology upgrading will add further impetus to the country's industrial growth, Mr. Miao said.

In 2019, China's value-added industrial output expanded 5.7 percent year-on-year, within the target range of 5.5 to 6 percent set at the start of last year.

During the first 11 months of 2019, 28 out of 41 major industrial divisions posted year-on-year profit growth, the official said.

“Considering that by 2030, more than half of the population in China will either have grown up with a smartphone or be sufficiently tech-literate, to benefit from the sprawling e-commerce, which is likely to remain a key driver of China’s consumption.”

Rising Innovator

In the 2020 Bloomberg Innovation Index, China ranked 15th on the list of the world’s most innovative countries, rising from 16th in 2019 and 19th in 2018. The better performance came amid China’s efforts to enhance intellectual property protection, increase productivity, and foster new growth drivers through innovation.

A World Bank report titled “China 2030: Building a Modern, Harmonious, and Creative Society” lists the country’s advantages in its journey toward an innovative economy - high spending on research and development, steep growth of the manufacturing sector with wider capabilities, and development of science and engineering skills for improving quality.

Breakthroughs in technology will usher in the next wave of economic development and new investment opportunities, and China is to climb up the value chain, said Mark Haeefe, chief investment officer at UBS Global Wealth Management.



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More cost-cuts to spur growth

Reductions in energy prices and logistical and administrative fee cuts saw a positive impact on businesses in 2019. The country will continue its efforts in 2020 to create a better business environment, the spokesperson of the National Development and Reform Commission, Mr Meng Wei said.

Lower Energy Prices

China reduced the average electricity price for commercial users by another 10 percent from that in 2018, saving 84.6 billion yuan for the enterprises, Mr Meng told reporters.

Also, the energy spending of businesses dropped by around 150 billion yuan (approximately \$21 billion), he added.

The prices of refined oil, gas and trans-provincial pipeline transport also fell, thanks to the adjustment of the value-added tax rate, lowering users’ costs by over 65 billion yuan.

Logistics costs of companies declined 17 billion yuan as the country took a slew of measures to cut or cancel fees charged by ports, railways, highways, and civil airports, Mr Meng said.

Administrative fee cuts

China also implemented administrative fee cuts, totaling 6 billion yuan for companies and individuals last year, reducing charges related to trademark and real estate registration, patents and travel documents.

China will ramp up its competitiveness in high value-added manufacturing such as information technology, emerging industries, and household appliances, said UBS researcher Hou Yankun.

Greener Footprint

To tackle environmental challenges, the Chinese government has declared a war on pollution and introduced a series of green initiatives, including cutting emissions, reducing coal-fired plants, and enhancing enforcement of environmental rules.

China is taking the lead with concrete actions. The proportion of China's clean energy sources in total energy consumption mix continued to rise to 24 percent of the total in 2019, up from 23 percent in 2018. Its carbon dioxide emissions per GDP dropped by 45.8 percent in 2018 from the 2005 levels, a major step towards meeting the emission peak around 2030.

The country's green commitments can grow into enormous opportunities for global investors. Global financial giant Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) expects that China's efforts to meet the 2030 sustainable goals would bring about investment opportunities worth \$3 trillion, taking up about 30 percent of the total global investment value.

Realizing the full coverage of clean water and sanitary facilities in China, for example, will unlock investment potential worth \$26.1 billion for the private sector, SCB noted.

Greater Opening-up

China will continue to shorten the negative list to ease foreign investment off-limits rules and beef up opening-up efforts in pilot free trade zones in 2020, said the National Development and Reform Commission.

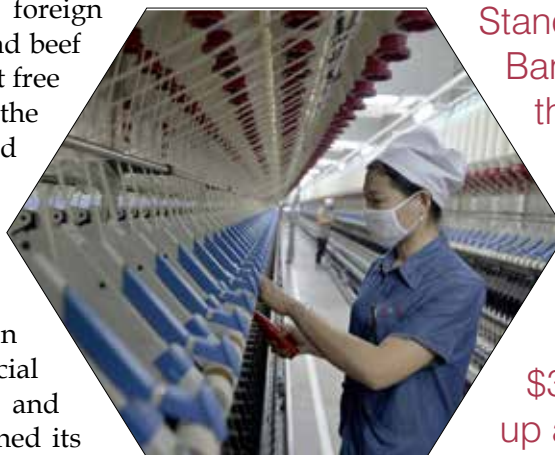
With the implementation of the landmark foreign investment law, removal of restrictions on the manufacturing and financial sectors for foreign firms and tariff cuts, China has quickened its opening-up pace.



Electric carmaker giant Tesla delivered the first 15 Model 3 cars to customers in less than one year after it began operation at its Shanghai gigafactory, which showed that China, with continued reforms and opening-up, still tops the list of investment destinations for foreign firms.

China is committed to opening up its market at a higher level, optimize the business environment, deepen multilateral and bilateral cooperation, and advance Belt and Road cooperation.

As its door keeps opening wider and its economy expands steadily, China is bound to make greater contributions to the global economy. "China will play a bigger role in fuelling global demand and supply," said Shao Yu, chief economist at Orient Securities.



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China's New Investment Law Opens Door Wider for Foreign Investors



China's new law for foreign direct investment has been dubbed as a game changer for the economy as it grants larger market access and level-playing field for foreign firms willing to invest in the country. The rules also seek to address international concerns such as technology transfer and the protection of business secrets.

At a time when the world faces rising protectionism and economic slump, China's new rules governing foreign investments provide foreign investors an equal footing with their Chinese counterparts in the world's largest marketplace.

Passed by the country's top legislature in 2019, the law, which is a comprehensive set of legal standards for foreign investment activities, took effect on the first day of 2020. With unified provisions for entry, promotion, protection, and management of foreign investment, the law is

a milestone that addresses global concerns and enhances gain for foreign firms.

Ensuring stable foreign investment has been a key task of China's efforts to counter the economic downturn as the country now ranks the world's second major destination for foreign direct investments (FDI). According to the commerce ministry, a total of 36,747 new foreign-funded enterprises were established from January to November in 2019, while FDI into the Chinese mainland expanded six percent year-on-year to 845.9 billion yuan.

The new law has replaced old regulations on Chinese-foreign equity joint ventures, wholly foreign-owned enterprises and Chinese-foreign contractual joint ventures passed between 1979 and 1990 as they could not address the emerging challenges involving foreign investment and intellectual property rights.

“The Chinese government has made great efforts to improve the business environment for foreign companies. Technology transfer and foreign investment will increase in China in the future if the law’s implementation reaches expectations,” said Ulla Nurmenniemi, executive director of the Finnish Business Council in Beijing.

Improved market confidence

Having been doing business in China since the late 1990s, Ulla has witnessed the improvement of the country’s business environment, spanning decades. She noted that doing business in China is much more convenient for foreigners than it once was when it was considered “another world”.

“Back in the 90s, some Finnish companies had to withdraw their business out of China due to intellectual infringement. Many Finnish companies decided to look for local distributors or partners to manufacture parts of their products, rather than set up their companies in China,” said Ulla.



These concerns were major obstacles that dampened the foreign investors’ enthusiasm towards China, although China’s IP regime has made significant strides in just a few decades. However, the situation has changed following the launch of the new law, which stipulates that administrative agencies won’t force the transfer of technology and keep the business secrets of foreign investors confidential. At the same time, intellectual infringements shall be dealt with lawfully and punished severely. “Technologies and innovation, rather than simple capital, are Finnish companies’ major investments. The new

China’s new rules governing foreign investments provide foreign investors an equal footing with their Chinese counterparts in the world’s largest marketplace.

law, if implemented well, would safeguard our core technologies, making it even safer to do business in China,” said Ulla.

Echoing Ulla, Kobus Van Der Wath, CEO of Axis Group International, a South African company that provides professional services, including procurement and international sales activation, believes that the new law gave foreign investors confidence in doing business in China. “I think the new law sends a strong signal that intellectual property is crucial and will receive more attention and protection (from the Chinese government). We’re now expanding our business in China, and the law will help us incorporate new entities in China,” said Wath.

According to the new law, the state shall implement a foreign investment management system to ensure that investment standards given to foreign investors at the stage of entry are not lower than that of domestic investors and their investments.

Tingwei Guan-Alapiha, head of government relations of Stora Enso, a Finnish company that runs forest plantation and a packaging board mill in China, said that the new law has granted foreign investors an equal footing with their Chinese counterparts that will boost healthy competition.

“Being treated equally with Chinese state-owned companies and private companies is

According to the commerce ministry, a total of 36,747 new foreign-funded enterprises were established from January to November in 2019, while FDI into the Chinese mainland expanded six percent year-on-year to 845.9 billion yuan.

critical to us. For example, we operate a sizable forestry land base in southern China. If we can obtain our timber ownership certificates like some of the domestic owners, that would largely enhance our operation,” said Tingwei. Tom Tan, vice president of BorgWarner Inc., an American automotive industry components supplier, noted that granting foreign companies a level-playing field will ensure easier access to the Chinese market.



“For foreign investors, our biggest concern is the complexity of entering and leaving the Chinese market freely. The new law has ensured our free access to the Chinese market, allowing us to freely remit our profits, which has strengthened our confidence in doing business in China,” said Tan.

Advantage for Foreign Investors

Though ranking second globally when it comes to attracting foreign direct investment, China’s ease of doing business only ranked 31 among 190 countries, according to the World Bank’s newest index.

In an effort to attract foreign investment, Chinese authorities have been making great efforts to create a better business environment, including establishing 18 free trade zones nationwide. According to the year-end Central Economic Work Conference that charted the course of China’s economy in 2020, the opening up of the market will continue on a larger scale, and foreign investment will be facilitated and better protected.

Liao Yijian, chief executive of HSBC Bank China, added that the improvement of China’s business environment has provided foreign investors more opportunities. “When HSBC Bank China started its business in China in 2007, we only had 35 branches in 14 cities.

Liao Yijian, chief executive of HSBC Bank China, added that the improvement of China’s business environment has provided foreign investors more opportunities. “When HSBC Bank China started its business in China in 2007, we only had 35 branches in 14 cities. After years of development, now we have over 170 branches in 57 Chinese cities, while the number of employees has grown from 3,000 to over 8,000. In 2018, our total assets reached 470 billion yuan,” he said.

“When I came to China in 2003, our company had only two branches, with a total profit of 25 million yuan. By 2019, our annual profit reached 12.7 billion yuan, while the number of employees has grown eightfold. Needless to say, China is a promising arena for foreign business,” said Tan. According to Tan, over the past few decades, China has strengthened its opening-up policies in all areas, helping foreign companies set up business more swiftly and efficiently.

“In the past decade, we’ve built seven factories in China. The time we spent on documents and acquiring governmental approval has been shortened by 80 percent compared with a decade ago,” said Tan. Echoing Tan, Ulla noted that the business environment in China is becoming more and more international. More language services are provided, while professionals familiar with both Chinese and foreign cultures are readily available.

“Most Chinese cities have rolled out favorable policies to attract foreign investment, such as offering cheap or even free space for manufacturing, low taxes for the first year, or beneficial incentives to attract foreign technology transfer, which is quite amazing,” said Ulla. “It’s easier to find a mutual language between both parties, and a win-win attitude has replaced the win-lose attitude,” Ulla added.



Ms Carrie Lam, Chief Executive, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

HONG KONG TO REMAIN BUSINESS BRIDGE: CARRIE LAM

Addressing the opening session of the 13th Asian Financial Forum (AFF) in Hong Kong, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said Hong Kong's core competitiveness and status as one of the world's premier financial centers continue to be internationally recognized.

Hong Kong was ranked third in the world in the Global Financial Centers Index last September, just behind New York and London. Hong Kong's strengths and resilience have not been undermined in face of social unrest and challenges in recent months, and it will not miss out on emerging opportunities to further develop, senior officials of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government said on January 13.

Global Financial Hub

In December 2019, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reaffirmed Hong Kong's position as a

global financial center and regional trading hub, and one of the most open economies in the world.

Lam spoke highly of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development. She underlined that with a population of about 70 million and a combined GDP equivalent of around \$1.6 trillion, and its huge market potential, the Greater Bay Area presented boundless promise for Hong Kong, particularly the financial services sector.

Lam said she is "confident that we will bridge our divide, (and) that we will realize the common goal of a reunited community and a flourishing economy" through the concerted efforts of the HKSAR government and the people of Hong Kong.

“Coupled with the Belt and Road Initiative, the Greater Bay Area development will ensure long-term prospects for Hong Kong’s economy,” she said, adding that through the two national policies, Hong Kong will enhance its role as a business bridge between the Chinese mainland and the rest of the world.

Bridging Divide

Lam said she is “confident that we will bridge our divide, (and) that we will realize the common goal of a re-united community and a flourishing economy” through the concerted efforts of the HKSAR government and the people of Hong Kong.

Echoing her opinion, Paul Chan, financial secretary of the HKSAR government, said, “We will also step up efforts to capitalize on emerging opportunities - not only from green finance and Fintech but (also) from the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative.”

“Hong Kong is, and will remain, the business bridge between the mainland and the rest of the world,” Mr Chan said.

Green Finance

Mr Paul added that green finance is the policy priority and financial technology is another area that Hong Kong is striving to excel. Green bonds issued and arranged in Hong Kong increased by over 200 percent to \$11 billion in 2018 as compared to the previous year.

The two-day event themed “Redefining Growth: Innovation Breakthrough Inclusiveness”, touched on a wide range of issues including global economic outlook and opportunities, fintech, sustainable and inclusive development, green finance and financial inclusion, offering participants a head start on identifying new economic challenges and opportunities in 2020.

Green bonds issued and arranged in Hong Kong increased by over 200 percent to \$11 billion in 2018 as compared to the previous year.



Mainland is Hong Kong's Biggest Support: New Liaison Officer

“One Country, Two Systems” is the biggest advantage for Hong Kong, and the motherland is Hong Kong’s biggest support, said Mr Luo Huining, the new chief of the liaison office of the central government in the Special Administrative Region.

“It is a new mission and a new challenge for me to work for the liaison office of the central government in Hong Kong,” Mr Luo said at a brief and highly anticipated press conference on January 20, his first day in office.

Noting that he is not unfamiliar with Hong Kong, Mr Luo stressed that its residents have made great contributions to the country’s reform, such as opening-up and modernization.

“The past half-year in Hong Kong has been distressing and we all sincerely hope that the city will get back on the right track,” Mr Luo said, referring to the recent unrest. “One country, two systems” is Hong Kong’s biggest advantage, he stressed.

Mr Luo, 65, was announced as the new chief of the liaison office on January 4. He was also appointed vice-chairman of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the National People’s Congress on December 28, 2019. He previously served as party chief of northwest China’s Qinghai Province and North China’s Shanxi Province.

Mr Luo last visited Hong Kong in 2017 as provincial party chief of Shanxi and met with Hong Kong Chief Executive Mrs. Carrie Lam to discuss cooperation between Shanxi and Hong Kong, according to a statement issued by the office of the chief executive.

Lam said that under Mr Luo’s leadership the liaison office will continue to work with the Hong Kong government to fully implement the Basic Law and “one country, two systems” in the interest of Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability.



“The past half-year in Hong Kong has been distressing and we all sincerely hope that the city will get back on the right track,” Mr Luo said, referring to the recent unrest. “One country, two systems” is Hong Kong’s biggest advantage, he stressed.



China Urges Countries to Abide by One-China Principle after Taiwan Polls

China has urged countries to refrain from official ties with Taiwan and abide by one-China principle after the US, Britain and Japan congratulated Tsai Ing-wen on winning another election.

China opposes any form of official ties between Taiwan and countries that have diplomatic relations with China, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said.

Mr Geng's remarks came after senior officials of some countries that have diplomatic ties with China, including the United States, Britain, and Japan, congratulated Tsai on the election result.

The election in Taiwan is a local affair of China, Mr Geng said, stressing that China deplores and firmly opposes those countries' violation of the one-China principle, and has lodged solemn representations. The Taiwan question concerns China's core interests, Mr Geng added.

Mr Geng noted that the one-China principle is a basic norm governing international relations and a universal consensus of the international community.

China urges those countries to earnestly abide by the one-China principle, refrain from having any official ties or exchanges with Taiwan, deal with Taiwan-related issues properly and with caution, and avoid sending any wrong signals to the "Taiwan independence" forces, said the spokesperson.

China has urged countries to refrain from official ties with Taiwan and abide by one-China principle after the US, Britain and Japan congratulated Tsai Ing-wen on winning another election.

He added that those countries should take concrete actions for the peaceful development of relations across the Taiwan Strait, and strive to uphold their relations with China.

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BOOK SHOWCASES XIPLOMACY

A compilation of discourses of Chinese President Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on major country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics has been published by the Central Party Literature Press.

The book comprises discourses extracted from more than 190 pieces of speeches, articles, congratulatory letters and other documents by President Xi between December 2012 and November 2019, some of which are published for the first time.

Discourses of the book are divided into 10 topics covering issues including the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, the Belt and Road construction, as well as reforming the global governance system.

The book, compiled by the Institute of Party History and Literature of the CPC Central Committee, is available nationwide.

Over the past few years, China's diplomacy has scaled new frontiers under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC)

Central Committee, with President Xi Jinping at the core. The signature style of Xi Jinping's outreach to the world has been dubbed as "Xiplomacy" by many experts and China-watchers.

In his New Year-eve Message, President Xi underlined that China is willing to join hands with the rest of the world to jointly build the "Belt and Road Initiative" and build a community with a shared future for mankind. With diplomatic ties now established with 180 countries, China continued to open its arms to the world, President Xi said. "We have friends in every corner of the world," he declared.

The book comprises discourses extracted from more than 190 pieces of speeches, articles, congratulatory letters and other documents by President Xi between December 2012 and November 2019, some of which are published for the first time.



LEARN EVERYDAY CHINESE



xūyào
需要 (1)
NEEDS

11 我要买橘子

I WANT TO BUY SOME ORANGES

一 句子 Sentences

- 061 您要什么? What would you like?
Nín yào shénme?
- 062 苹果多少钱一斤? ①
Píngguǒ duōshao qián yì jīn?
How much is a *jīn* of apples?
- 063 七块五(毛) ② 一斤。
Qī kuài wǔ (máo) yì jīn.
Seven *yuan* and fifty *fēn* a *jīn*.
- 064 您要多少? How much would you like?
Nín yào duōshao?
- 065 您还要别的吗? What else do you want?
Nín hái yào bié de ma?
- 066 不要了。Nothing else.
Bú yào le.
- 067 我要买橘子。I want to buy some oranges.
Wǒ yào mǎi júzi.

二 会话 Conversations

1

- 售货员: 您要什么?
Shòuhuòyuán: Nín yào shénme?
- 大卫: 我要苹果。多少钱一斤?
Dàwèi: Wǒ yào píngguǒ. Duōshao qián yì jīn?
- 售货员: 七块五(毛)。
Shòuhuòyuán: Qī kuài wǔ (máo).
- 大卫: 那种呢?
Dàwèi: Nà zhǒng ne?
- 售货员: 九块三。
Shòuhuòyuán: Jiǔ kuài sān.
- 大卫: 要这种吧。
Dàwèi: Yào zhè zhǒng ba.
- 售货员: 要多少?
Shòuhuòyuán: Yào duōshao?
- 大卫: 两斤。
Dàwèi: Liǎng jīn.
- 售货员: 还要别的吗?
Shòuhuòyuán: Hái yào bié de ma?
- 大卫: 不要了。
Dàwèi: Bú yào le.



生词 New Words

1	要	yào	动/能愿	to want; would like
2	苹果	píngguǒ	名	apple
3	钱	qián	名	money, currency
4	斤	jīn	量	<i>jīn</i> (unit of weight)
5	块(元)	kuài (yuán)	量	<i>kuai</i> (unit of currency)
6	毛(角)	máo (jiǎo)	量	<i>mao</i> (unit of currency)
7	还	hái	副	still
8	别的	bié de		anything else, other
9	橘子	júzi	名	orange

10	尝	cháng	动	to taste
11	售货员	shòuhuòyuán	名	shop assistant
12	种	zhǒng	量	kind, sort
13	贵	guì	形	expensive
14	便宜	piányi	形	inexpensive, cheap
15	喝	hē	动	to drink
16	录音	lùyīn	名	recording
17	发	fā	动	to send
18	电子邮件	diànzǐ yóujiàn		e-mail
19	多	duō	形	much, many
20	瓶	píng	名	bottle

Postal Regd. No. DL-SW-16/4034/18-20
R.N.I. No. 47440/88
January 2020



2020

YEAR OF THE RAT