NEWS FROM CHINA

NPC & CPPCC Annual Sessions 2016
President of CPDA (China Public Diplomacy Association) Li Zhaoxing attends Raisina Dialogue

“Dunhuang and the Silk Road” report in Chinese Embassy

Ambassador Le Yucheng met with Wu Hongbo, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ambassador Le Yucheng meets with FICCI President Harshavardhan Neotia

Ambassador Le Yucheng met with Indian Member of Parliament Dharambir Singh
Beijing, March 13 (Xinhua) — President Xi Jinping’s insights on China’s political and economic development, dubbed “Xi political economics,” have reverberated through the Great Hall of the People throughout the yearly key political events.

Following Marxist political economics, Xi political economics has developed to reflect China’s specific conditions and development practice, Hu Angang, a professor at Tsinghua University, wrote in an opinion piece published by the People’s Forum magazine.

The Xi political economics has been evident in a number of speeches given by the president, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, during the two sessions, the annual sessions of the National People’s Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee.

Continuing Marxism’s emphasis on the people, Xi said the people are always at the center of his strategies.

“We need to motivate frontline workers, industrial workers and migrant workers, as required by socialism,” Xi told national legislators from Shanghai. “The working class are the masters.”

China aims to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020, and pursues common prosperity for its citizens. Poverty reduction, an inherent task in the process, has been flagged by Xi as one top priority for the years to come.

Underscoring Xi’s unwavering attention to poverty reduction, he raised the topic on occasions when engaging with NPC deputies who represent China’s ethnic minorities.
It is imperative that China eradicate the poverty weighing down ethnic minorities, peasants and herdsmen, he said.

For that to happen, a healthy, sustainable development of economy is a basic requirement.

In Xi political economics, socialism is the institutional guarantee for all Chinese people to gain from economic development, and policies that benefit both the private and state-owned enterprises should be promoted.

The public and private sectors, both significant components of China’s socialist economic system, should complement each other, Xi said in a discussion last week with CPPCC National Committee members from the China Democratic National Construction Association and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce.

He continued that the protection of the rights and interests of all kinds of ownership will stimulate vitality and creativity.

Going forward, China’s economic growth philosophy will be driven by innovation, coordination, green development, openness and sharing. Xi emphasized on three occasions with NPC deputies from the financial and services hub of Shanghai, the resources-rich industrial base of Heilongjiang and the less-developed ecological habitat of Qinghai.

The government’s role, as in Xi’s philosophy, is “smart,” while the market is “decisive.”

As China’s economy enters the “new normal,” featuring slower growth but higher quality, it is important to use both the invisible and visible hands to synergize market forces and government functions, for efficiency and fairness, Xi advocated.

A balanced understanding of the “new normal,” which according to Xi will pose both a challenge and an opportunity to China’s economy, will lay the foundation for future economic development, he said.

To grow the economy, which has already been the world’s second largest, requires not only informed confidence, but also targeted measures that respond to the economic reality.
Supply-side structural reform, which will help reduce ineffective and low-end supply of goods and services, was on Xi’s mind. After an NPC deputy from Hunan Province raised the subject, Xi acknowledged it would be a “tough battle” but the one he vows to win.

China’s economic miracle started decades ago with two major policies, the reform and opening up. While he continues to push forward reform, Xi understands the power that the opening up policy wields.

“The words of the general secretary are assuring and energizing,” said Chen Liezhi, chair of the board of AUX Group and a national legislator.

“I meet entrepreneurs frequently and many have doubts as the economy faces downward pressure, but Xi’s words clear the air,” said Wang Naijing, a national political advisor.

**XI UNDERLINES INNOVATION, REFORM IN DEFENSE, MILITARY UPGRADE**

Beijing, March 13 (Xinhua) — Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, on Sunday highlighted theoretical and technological innovation as the key to upgrade the country’s military and national defense.

Speaking to national lawmakers from the military at the ongoing annual parliamentary session, Xi, also Chinese president and chairman
of the Central Military Commission, said the future of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) hinged on innovation and reform.

He urged the armed forces to fully implement the innovation-driven development strategy, place combat capacity at the center of all their work, and step up theoretical and technological innovation.

Military administration and personnel competence were also identified as areas to be improved. The PLA should focus on priority areas in order to kickstart across-the-board innovation and make the military stronger, Xi said.

He told PLA lawmakers that the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020) is crucial to China’s national defense and military development, and urged the armed forces to uphold political integrity, reform and rule of law, and strengthen their military buildup and combat readiness.

Xi’s remarks came in the wake of a major military overhaul that saw the inauguration of a General Command for the Army, the PLA Rocket Force and the PLA Strategic Support Force in December, and the regrouping of seven military area commands into five PLA theater commands in February.

Earlier this month, China announced its lowest defense budget increase in six years in the wake of rising economic headwinds.

According to a budget report given to the national legislature annual session, the government plans to raise the 2016 defense budget by 7.6 percent to 954 billion yuan (about 146 billion U.S. dollars). The increase last year was 10.1 percent.

Xi noted that innovation was core to the competitiveness of the armed forces and would accelerate combat capacity.

He urged officers to support, promote and navigate innovation, to enhance the quality, efficiency and sustainability of national defense and military development.

In particular, Xi demanded a “military theory that is up-to-date, pioneering and unique” to support its strong and dynamic armed forces.

Greater efforts must be made to promote the evolution of Marxist military theory, he said.

“A sound military theory is a key
part of combat effectiveness. A strong army must have a sound theory as its guide,” Xi said.

He urged military academics to link theoretical research with military practice.

Meanwhile, the armed forces should work to turn cutting-edge military technology into real combat capacity, Xi said, adding that the armed forces must value the role of technology and push research in this regard.

A preemptive attitude toward military affairs is needed, and the military should establish “unique advantages in some key fields,” he said.

Xi said military management with a systematic approach would help with combat capacity, and called for the review and improvement of management concepts, systems and procedures.

The military must strive to be more professional and methodical as this will elevate quality and efficiency across the board, Xi said.

He went on to call for more support of talented individuals, who would contribute to the upgrade of systems and policies that would advance military reform and innovation.

The president also urged all military officers and soldiers to jointly contribute to the building of a strong army.

Innovation in the military should be included in the state innovation framework while military-civilian coordination in innovation should also be supported, Xi said. A new system conducive to modern defense technology advances shall be set up, he said.

In addition, he urged both central and local authorities to support national defense and military construction, as well as the maintaining of the military’s combat readiness.

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PREMIER LI KEQIANG MEETS THE PRESS: FULL TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Premier Li Keqiang responded to questions from reporters at a news conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing after the conclusion of the national legislature’s annual session on March 16. Here is the full transcript of the 17 questions and Premier Li’s answers.

Reuters: The recent volatility in China’s stock and currency markets have drawn close attention from international investors. Mr Premier, what do you think are the major problems and challenges facing China’s financial markets? What are the Chinese government’s plans for future financial markets and strengthening of financing regulation? What major reform steps will be adopted for the development of stock, currency and bond markets in China? Will the recent volatility in those markets hold back China’s reform development? And will the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect be launched this year?

Premier Li Keqiang: You’ve had the first opportunity to ask a question, and you made your questions all about the financial sector. That is understandable, as many economic problems first manifest themselves in financial markets. The top priority of the financial sector is to support the development of the real economy. The truth is, the dysfunctional real economy presents the largest risk to the financial markets. Last year, we took a series of steps, including cutting interest rates, and targeted reductions of banks required reserve ratio; these were not quantitative easing measures. At the same time, we also took care to insure that there is appropriate money supply. All these steps will aim at bringing down the cost of financing and enhance the development of the real economy, so I believe the job of financial institutions is to provide
better services to the real economy, especially micro and small businesses.

The financial sector also operates according to its own laws, and one should always look out for possible financial risks. Last year, because of the difficulties of companies in some sectors, the nonperforming loan ratio of some financial institutions in China increased, but we are still in the good position to defuse the financial risks because the capital adequacy ratios of commercial banks is still about 13 percent, which is below the international warning line. Those bank’s provision coverage ratio is also about 180 percent, which is above the 150 percent level that we set. We also have other market-based tools at our disposal to help bring down the corporate debt ratio. A very high corporate debt ratio is not new in China, as they still raise finances mostly indirectly in China, but we have a high saving’s rate. In regard to volatility in the financial market, we’re determined to press ahead with the building of a multi-tiered capital market, and we can also used such a market-oriented format for equity swaps to help bring down the corporate leverage ratio.

Last year, due to multiple factors, there were some unusual fluctuations in China’s stock markets. Public departments took coordinated steps to stabilize the market and prevent any sustainable financial risk, and our measure achieved the desired result. As to what will the government do the next, with respect to the development of the financial markets in China, a few days ago, our newly appointed chairman of the China Securities Regulation Commission already gave elaborate answers to that, so due to time constraints I will not spell them out here. Whether it is stock markets or bond and currency markets, they are after all markets, so we will continue to pursue market-oriented reform and establish a sound, legal framework for the operation of those markets. The government has the regulatory obligation, and we still need to improve our regulatory system in China. First, there needs to
be full coverage of financial regulation, as we are seeing an increase in financial innovation products. Second, we need to step up coordination because all these financial markets and products are so highly interconnected, and such coordination must be authoritative. Third, responsibility must be matched with power; governments, departments and local authorities must perform their assigned responsibilities conscientiously and promptly handle any possible latent risk, and also guard against moral hazards. Basically, we must sharpen our vision to exercise the most-effective regulation.

Here, I want to emphasize that it will be a process for us to put in place a fully fledged financial regulatory regime, and in this process the various government departments and local authorities must continue to do a diligent job in performing their assigned responsibilities. Well, it is important, but we watch out for possible risks to ensure that the lawful rights and interests of investors and consumers will be upheld. I want to remind the various departments and local authorities that they must to do their job properly, otherwise they will be held accountable. Thank you.

Xinhua News Agency: Some people are worried that China's growth might fail to reach the target or even below 6.5 percent. What's your view?

Premier Li Keqiang: You raised a big question. But it is impossible for me to agree that China cannot achieve the growth target this year. The weak world recovery has taken its toll on the Chinese economy, which is deeply engaged in the world economy. China's economic transition is under way and its deep-rooted problems are emerging. The downward pressure indeed is increasing. But one prominent feature is greater divergence among regions and industries.

The other day I read a foreign media report saying that one visit to a heavy industry left the impression of depression, while the next stop to a technology park left the impression that the economy is growing at a double-digit rate. This is in line with my last year's field trip conclusion: hope and challenges coexist. If we look at the "fundamental" and "big trend", hope outweighs challenges.

We are fully confident about China's long-term growth prospects. This confidence is not groundless, because we believe that there will not be a hard landing as long as we stick to the reform path. There is still huge potential for China's markets; the general public has unlimited creativity. The government has overreached its aims in many aspects of economy, which hindered the gains of productivity; we are also not doing a sufficient job in ensuring a level playing ground. I believe through reform we can stimulate more vitality in the market, and greater vigor of the people. The wisdom and hard work of our people, if well tapped, is enough to withstand downward pressures.

The deregulation and tax cuts of the past few years will unleash the vitality of the market. Meanwhile, new forces of economic growth drivers are taking shape in a way that beats expectations. Despite the slowdown over the past few years, the employment condition is not bad. Last year we created more than 13 million jobs in the urban area. In the first two months of this year, the service sector grew 8.1 percent. Among them, there is high-tech research development, which is giving a push to the upgrade of traditional industries, an area where there is so much work we can do. We are in the midst of pushing ahead with deindustrialization and urbanization. New-style urbanization is the large domestic demand, especially in central and western regions, where there is enormous room for effective investment. If we combine the "fostering of new drivers" and "upgrading of old engines" and make them the "double-engines" of the Chinese economy, it will go through the pass of difficulties and leap to the plateau of hope.

Under uncertain world economic prospects, instability is adding. But we have ample reserves of policy instruments. Last year, despite a six-year low in world growth, we managed to reach our previous target. We realized that in the absence of all-out stimulus measures, instead we have chosen the path of structural reform, which is tough but sustainable. There will be small and short-term volatility down the road, but in case there is any sign that the economy will slide beyond an appropriate range, we have the reserves of innovative macro-adjustment measures to stabilize expectations.

The "stress test" we have been through, in another way, is a precious experience. I believe that under the leadership of the CPC central committee with Xi Jinping as general secretary, as long as the new vision we have deployed unites the people's efforts, we will be able to deliver a good start to the 13th five-year plan, which will bring a warm breeze to the
world.

**Premier Li Keqiang:** I just want to add one thing to part of the question raised by the Reuters journalist regarding when the Shenzhen-Hong Kong stock connect will be launched. We have already launched the Shanghai-Hong Kong stock connect and a lot of experience has already been gained from its operation. That stock exchange connection has brought real benefits to both cities. Currently, authorities in the mainland and in Hong Kong are in intensive discussions, and we will work toward the launch of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong stock connect within this year.

**NBC:** I’m with NBC. Respected Premier Li, your work report has outlined steps to China’s economic growth, which should help the global economy. But there is one factor of uncertainty and that is the continuing dispute between the world’s two largest economies over a range of disputes. So Mr Premier, what do you propose can be done to improve the China-US relationship and address American concerns with respect to market access, investment restrictions, level of fair competition for American companies or fair trading practices that did not steal American jobs, issues that have been raised by some candidates in the current US election campaign. Thank you.

**Premier Li Keqiang:** There are broad interests between China and the United States. There are also some differences between the two countries, and some differences could be quite sharp. There is no need to deny this. For some time it seems that many people have been talking about differences between the two countries, yet at the same time have overlooked one very important thing that happened last year; that is China became the United States’ top trading partner, with two-way trade reaching $560 billion. This in itself shows that the common interests between the two countries are constantly expanding, and (the common interests) far outweigh their differences.

As for how to ensure the healthy development of China-US ties, I believe both countries need to act in keeping with the principles of equality and mutual benefit. Currently the two countries have stated readiness to press ahead with Bilateral Investment Treaty negotiations. China, on its part, will give US investors wider market access in a gradual manner, but we hope such openings would be mutual, and the BIT negotiations should proceed on the basis of seeking mutual benefit. I believe the common interests between us will constantly expand. As for the differences between the two countries, there are up to 100 various dialogue and exchange mechanisms between China and the US. As long as the two sides act with good faith and properly manage their differences, I believe our common interest will further expand. And as our cooperation expands, the number of differences may naturally rise, but the percentage of differences in the overall China-US relationship will only come down. Broader cooperation serves the interests of both countries and the world.

Business cooperation between our two countries has always been mutually beneficial, something that I believe the US business people know best. As for the ongoing general election in the US, it has been lively and has caught the eyes of many. I believe that no matter, in the end, who gets into the White House, the underlying trend of China-US ties will not change. It has been several decades since the two countries established diplomatic relations, and the relationship has seen more than a fair share of ups and downs, but it has been always moving forward, which I believe is the underlying trend.

**China News Service:** Governments in some localities are having difficulty in paying pension benefits. Governments of some cities and counties have even borrowed money to make the payments. My question is, will the central government foot their bills?

**Premier Li Keqiang:** You raised quite a sharp question. Honestly speaking, it is true that some localities have found it hard to make pension benefits payments, but these are only isolated cases. Now the pension schemes in China are managed at the provincial level. Our provincial governments have the responsibility and capability to raise funds through various channels to ensure the payments for pension benefits. If local governments have done their best, but still have special difficulty, the central government is prepared to extend help. In the past three years, the central government has earmarked one trillion yuan in this respect, make no mistake, local governments must exert their utmost, and the central government will supervise local governments to make sure that pension benefits are paid on time and in full.

One day, we will all be retired.
and live on pension benefits. So here’s the message of reassurance. That is, nationally speaking and in the long run, there will be no problem in meeting pension payments by the Chinese government. Last year, the surplus of our pension insurance schemes was still at 340 billion yuan, and accumulative balance was 3.4 trillion yuan. Moreover, we still have the central social security fund, which is worth 1.6 trillion yuan, as a strategic reserve that has not been touched, and we can also use State-owned assets to replenish the social security fund. So, ensuring that the elderly will be provided for cannot and will not be an empty promise.

**Bloomberg News**: Mr Premier, in this news room last year you said China is determined to press ahead with reform that would be as painful as taking a knife to one’s own flesh, and in this year’s government report you talked about the need for a minimum 6.5 percent growth target, and we have also heard local officials saying there will not be layoffs as China presses ahead with overcapacity. So I am wondering how would you address concerns that the growth target and the desire to avoid potentially layoffs would bind China’s hands and make it impossible to press ahead with reform that you said is crucial for Chinese economy?

**Premier Li Keqiang**: One thing is certain: that we are determined to push ahead with our reform agenda. Reform and development are not in conflict with pursuing structural reform. We can further release market vitality and drive economic development. It is true that in some sectors there are serious problems of overcapacity, especially in heavy industries and petrochemical industries. We have selected the steel and coal sectors to start with the effort of cutting overcapacity and at the same time we will also avoid massive layoffs. In the past two years, we have been faced with up to one hundred million tons of steel making capacity involving some one million employees, with a high priority given to protecting the interests of employees. We have taken strong steps to resettle these people and give them re-employment opportunities, and good experience have been enjoyed from the process. In a word, we will press ahead to deal with overcapacity and at the same time make sure that there will not be mass job losses. We will assign possible laid off people to new jobs and for those who still have difficulties in getting employment opportunities, the central and local government have financial resources to cover layoffs. The central government has established a 100 billion yuan fund in this respect, and if there is a need we could increase that amount. In the meantime, local governments have to do their own jobs. We hope to make it a win-win process and will strive to strike a proper balance in between. In the process we hope that by cutting overcapacity in those heavy industries, we will bring about a sustained and sound growth in these sectors.

**People’s Daily**: Just now you said that the government will continue to streamline administration and delegate power to stimulate market vitality, so my question is about this government reform. This reform has been going on for several years, but some companies and people still feel that it’s difficult for them to get some things done. In some cases, they even feel quite at a loss as to what to do. My question is, what will the government do to proceed with this reform?

**Premier Li Keqiang**: Streamlining administration and delegating powers holds the key to transforming governments’ functions. Three years ago, on the same occasion, I promised that this government would cut the number of items that require State Council review and approval by one-third during its term. We have already fulfilled this target. Based on third-party evaluations, most of the companies and our people are satisfied with the progress of the reform. Yet, some problems still exist, and our people expect more from the government.

At present, there are still too many items that require government approval. For those items that do need to exist, there is a lack of unified standards. A few days ago, in my discussion with some representatives of NPC deputies, one of them said that they wanted to establish a local nursing home that combines medical care with elderly care. It’s a very popular idea with the local people. But many of them feel quite at a loss as to what to do, because there are different standards and they need to go through a host of government review procedures, involving market access, departments in charge of designated places for medical insurance, and how fees are going to be collected or set, etc. So all these redundant procedures have held back the development of productivity and also effective consumer demand among people.

We must make persistent efforts to forge head on this government reform and wherever there is an obstacle to this reform, the
The government must get right on it. The reform will cut government power but we are determined to keep doing it until our job is done, as that will deliver clear benefits to our people even if the government has to make painful adjustments. This year we are determined to further cut the number of such government approval items and leave more such items to the market.

For those items that still exist, procedures need to be simplified. We also need to further unify existing standards. In the past few years, we deepened business system reforms. We combined the requirements for business licenses and administrative permits. We have also introduced the practice of unified business licenses with the unified social credit code. All these have tremendously unleashed the creativity and entrepreneurial enthusiasm of our people. Now, on a daily basis, as many as 30,000 new market entities get registered. We will press ahead with this reform in various respects, for example, there are still too many requirements for certificates and various permits, and this year our goal is to further cut the number of such certificate requirements by half.

For government documents without solid legal grounds, and that have held back the entrepreneurship of the people, or even hurt their rights and interests, they will all be cleaned up, or abrogated. But to delegate powers does not mean the government will be hands off. Instead, it needs to do a better job in ensuring a level playing field, and it also need to redress such malpractice as arbitrary regulation. We hope that throughout this process, we will further boost this productivity, and bring more benefits to the people. So the government will provide better services to the people to ensure that they can get things done with greater ease.

**Spanish News Agency EFE:** Just in the last two months, actions of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea have got the United States to increase its military presence in the Republic of Korea. At the same time, military tensions have increased in the South China Sea. And now Australia is in talks with the US in order to host strategic plane bombers in its territory. And in the trade area 12 countries, not including China, have signed the Trans-Pacific Partnership. And my question is putting these together do you think that President Obama’s focus in the Asia-Pacific region has already become a problem for China? Or do you see any other sources of instability in the whole Asia-Pacific area?

**Premier Li Keqiang:** It seems that all your questions are related to China’s neighborhood. So let me say that China all along believes in pursuing harmonious coexistence with its neighbors, and we always believe that we need to have a stable neighborhood environment.

It is up to the efforts of regional countries to maintain regional stability and harmony in the neighborhood. It is also natural that some differences may arise between neighbors. But we believe that as long as we all treat each other with sincerity and seek peaceful settlements to differences through diplomatic means, regional stability will be maintained. As for countries from outside the region, like the United States, we think the United States has never left the Asia-Pacific region. And all countries can work together to enhance cooperation and properly handle differences.

**China Radio International / CRI Online:** In the agenda of the State Council’s executive meetings ahead of the two sessions, there was a highlighted item about preservation of cultural relics. So my question is, with a country so big, facing so many problems and the government being so busy, is this issue of protecting cultural relics such an important issue?

**Premier Li Keqiang:** Thank you for your keen interest in the State Council’s executive meetings. The preservation of cultural relics is to boost cultural development in our country, enhance our moral strength and pass over our traditional culture. It will also help us to achieve balanced economic and social development. For the many problems that have occurred in our economic domain, such as cheating, swindling of the market place, selling fake goods, or loss of the good faith. One may also try to find causes behind those problems at the
The development of Hong Kong is needed by Hong Kong itself and also the country as a whole. Hong Kong’s development ultimately comes down to the efforts made by the people in Hong Kong. As an advanced economy, Hong Kong achieved a (GDP) growth of 2.4 percent last year, which is not low at all. Hong Kong can further use its own strength and also seize the opportunity offered by mainland development. The central government will give full support to any proposal from the SAR government that helps maintain Hong Kong long-term stability and prosperity and contributes to the well-being of people in Hong Kong. I have a confidence in a bright future of Hong Kong.

Caijing: In this year’s Government Work Report, the concept of the new economy was put forward for the first time. I wonder if this concept refers to e-commerce and those micro and small businesses? What does it have to do with the campaign for mass entrepreneurship and innovation? And how helpful could it be for withstanding the downward economic pressure?

Premier Li Keqiang: To develop the new economy will help us foster new economic drivers and move forward China’s economic transformation. The concept of the new economy covers a wide range of areas and has many dimensions. It can be found in the primary, secondary and tertiary industries. It’s not just about emerging forms of business and industries such as e-commerce, cloud computing, the Internet of things and Internet. It can also be found in smart manufacturing, large-scale customer-made production in the industrial sector. It’s also about the appropriately scaled-up operations in the primary industry, that is agriculture such as family farms and shareholding cooperatives.

We believe that micro and small businesses can do a lot in developing new economy and also large companies can make a big difference. The truth is many large companies in China have established their own makers’ spaces. There are many such examples.

When development has come to a certain stage, it is only natural for traditional growth drivers to begin to wane, and that has happened in many developed countries. Hence, we need the boom of new growth drivers to accommodate the need of industrial revolution. And when we combine the new growth drivers and the upgraded traditional growth drivers, we can bring into being a hybrid driving force.

New growth drivers will also help with our efforts to cut industrial overcapacity. In the companies of those sectors with overcapacity, there is a problem of overstaffing, and the growth of new drivers will help generate new jobs to re-employ any possible laid-off people. The campaign of mass entrepreneurship and innovation is to put in place a platform for the development of various types of companies and research institutions, and to create a broad space for crowdfunding, crowd innovation and crowdsourcing.

Russia Today: Both China and Russia have recognized that the business cooperation between the two...
countries is lacking behind the growth of their political ties, and both sides have promised to change the situation by promoting trade ties and also investment cooperation. However, we have not seen a large inflow of Chinese investment in Russia yet. What is the reason for that? Is it because of the Western sanctions against Russia or Russia’s own economic situation? Are Chinese companies under pressure from the United States and other countries in cooperating with Russia. Moreover, some Chinese experts believe that China is not that interested in making investment in Russia, but only interested in getting Russia’s cheap energy. What is your response?

Premier Li Keqiang: China and Russia are each other’s biggest neighbors, there is a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between the two countries. This relationship is an all-dimensional one. President Xi Jinping and President Vladimir Putin have met with each other quite often, there is a close political relationship between the two countries and our business cooperation has been continuously rising because we have multiple operations in quite many fields. China has all along developed its relationship with Russia on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit, and China pursues an independent foreign policy of peace. China-Russia relations will not be affected by changing circumstances in the international environment, and will not cave to third-party pressure. In the meantime, China follows the principle of nonalignment, and China-Russian cooperation will not be targeted at any third party.

Just now I said our business cooperation has also been rising. For example, last year, Chinese imports of oil from Russia increased by eight million tons, but because of plummeting commodity prices on international markets, China’s total imports and exports declined, not just its imports from Russia. The physical volume has gone up, by the total trade volume has come down because of the falling prices, and neither country is responsible for that. Last year I had a deep discussion about China-Russia business cooperation with Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, we agreed that we can explore cooperation in the integrated development of oil and natural gas, sectors that will help attract more Chinese investment, and we can also introduce a greater level of diversity into our trade mix. I hope that next year, if you come to this press conference again, I can tell you that the business ties between our two countries have turned the corner for the better.

And I believe the enhancement of our business ties will also reflect the improvement of the global trade situation, and that will be a warm breeze our two countries can bring to global trade.

China Daily: Ahead of the two sessions this year, China Daily and its app conducted an online voting survey, in which 24 million netizens participated. All the 10 questions on the survey are closely connected with people’s daily life. Top of the list was how to achieve national portability of medical insurance schemes, which received 10 million votes from netizens. Mr Premier, is there a timetable for us to achieve national portability of medical insurance?

Premier Li Keqiang: I want to first thank you for conducting the survey, asking the people what the top concerns are in their daily lives. That will certainly help the government do its job better. I’ve also heard a lot about the retired elderly people moving to places away from their hometowns to live with their children. And they are even taking on the responsibility of taking care of their children’s children. But when they get sick or hospitalized, they cannot easily get their medical expenses reimbursed in places where their expenses occur. It may seem a very concrete and specific issue. But when viewing it in the context of one single family, it could be a paramount issue.

The Chinese government is fully determined to achieve national portability of medical insurance schemes at a faster pace. This year we will basically achieve direct settlement of such expenses at the provincial level. And we also plan to use two years of time to achieve the direct settlement of hospitalized expenses by retired elderly people in places away from their hometowns, so as to remove this high concern in the minds of our people. This requires that all relevant government departments make tremendous efforts. All the government’s work is to improve the well-being of our people. So we need to use the concrete wishes for a better life by our people to drive our development, and reform and test the results of our reform.

CTI Television Incorporation: There has been a
change of ruling party in Taiwan this year. There is a perception that the change will bring uncertainty to cross-Straits relations. I would like to ask for your opinion about the prospects of cross-Straits relations. Will the mainland introduce more measures that will help boost cross-Straits relations, business cooperation and improve people’s livelihoods?

Premier Li Keqiang: Peaceful development of cross-Straits relations is in interest of people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. Economic and social ties between the two sides are also becoming increasingly close, and there needs to be sound interaction between the two sides. Last year, I paid a field trip to Fujian province, where I had a round-table with some Taiwan business people. Many of them were quite sensitive about any economic measures from the mainland and some were considering whether the preferential policy for Taiwan businesses will be changed. Their point was well taken and we quickly issued a document specifying that all the introduced preferential policies for Taiwan businesses will remain unchanged to make them feel reassured.

Why did we do that? Because we are all members of a big family.

We will introduce more policies to boost business cooperation between the mainland and Taiwan on the premise that there will be continued peaceful development of cross-Straits relations and the footstone of it is the 1992 Consensus. As long as one adheres to the political foundation of the 1992 Consensus and recognizes it, that both mainland and Taiwan belong to one and the same China, anything can be discussed. I for one feel optimistic about the future of peaceful development of cross-Straits relations. There is a strong tie between the two sides that cannot be severed. I also believe that closer business cooperation could bring benefits to people of both sides.

China National Radio: Just now you mentioned increasing transparency in government affairs. Our people have high hopes for great openness of government affairs, and each year the number of applications for the release of government information has been on the rise. However, we have seen that some government departments and local authorities are not so quick in releasing related information, which the people are quite unhappy about. What steps will be taken to address this problem?

Premier Li Keqiang: Streamlining administration and increasing transparency of government affairs are both essential for transforming government functions. There is no problem with the firm resolve of the central government to increase the openness of government affairs, and further steps will be taken in this respect. First, any information that can be made public should be released. So openness will be standard practice, whereas the lack of this an exception. More information needs to be made public if it concerns an issue that involves public interests or it concerns the balance sheet of public finances. We should make government information as easily accessible for our people as just one click away.

Second, we need to upload as much information as possible onto the Internet. We need to release the government list of powers, and this will help us narrow the space for any fraudulent use of office. People used to say, “As man is doing, heaven is watching.” I guess in this era of cloud computing, it should be, “Cloud is watching, watching how power is being used,” and in the exercise of power by governmental departments, there should be no practice of making calculating moves for personal gain.

Third, the government needs to actively respond to public concerns. When we introduce a particular policy, if people have any questions or doubts about the policy, the government has the duty to give necessary explanations and even revise the policy by drawing reasonable suggestions and ideas from the general public. We need to ensure that people are fully clear about what our government policies are about. Before the two sessions opened this year, I had asked all ministers in the State Council to be more proactive in talking to the press. Was there not a passage in the Great Hall of the People for ministers to appear before the press to take their questions? What I said to the ministers is that whenever you encounter journalists, you should no longer just wave your hand and take a quick leave, rather, you need to open your mouth and answer questions straightforward. From what I heard, the performance of ministers has been warmly welcomed and received by the press.

Increasing openness in government affairs will help ensure that the use of government power is
properly supervised, government efficiency can be enhanced and institutional safeguards can be provided against misuse of office. So we will continue to welcome supervision from the media and the general public. Thank you.

**Japan’s Nikkei Business Daily:** I have a question about the meeting of leaders from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Last year this trilateral leaders’ meeting was resumed in Seoul, in the ROK, and this year Japan is the host of the trilateral leaders’ meeting. We believe that there are many areas where the three countries can work with each other, for example, in addressing the DPRK nuclear issue and in pursuing the free-trade agreement involving the three countries. So my question is what are your expectations for the trilateral leaders’ meeting this year? And in order to attend this meeting, you will for the first time go to Japan in your current capacity. Some experts also believe that Japanese companies can play a big role in helping China achieve economic transformation. So I want to ask for your prospective on the economic complementarity between China and Japan?

**Premier Li Keqiang:** Last year I went to the ROK and attended the trilateral leaders’ meeting. This meeting should have been an annual event, however, it was only resumed last year after a three-year hiatus, and this has not come easily. As to whether the format will enjoy smooth development in the future, it’s very much up to the interactions among the three countries. In particular, there has been some signs of improvement of Sino-Japanese ties, but it is not fully established yet and it is still fragile. We believe that it is important to adhere to the consensus reached between the two sides on the issue of principle involving history, and it is important to match one’s words with concrete actions. What I don’t want to see is another disruption in the holding of such a meeting.

Talking about the relationship among China, Japan and the ROK, I cannot help but recalling a lighthearted topic. That is the recent match between the ROK champion and AlphaGo, the match between human and computer. It has become a very hot topic in all the three countries, I think that shows in a way that there is much commonality culturally among the three countries. I have no intention to comment on the results of the match here, but I believe, despite win or lose, after all this machine, AlphaGo, is designed and made by humans. I also believe that the three countries, or between China and Japan, can have wisdom in boosting smart manufacturing and science and technologies to develop high quality products that can better meet consumer needs. The economy of the three countries accounts for one-fifth of the global total and 70 percent of the Asian total. I believe there are many complementarities among us and if we can leverage these complementarities, we can do even better in global markets.

**CCTV:** A question about contributions by the general public and businesses to the five major social insurance programs and housing provident fund. There is a rising call by the general public for cutting personal contributions to these social security packages and housing provident fund. A very typical case is that if you take a look at the wage list of individual, he may earn 8,000 yuan but he can only get actually less than 5,000 yuan, and the rest over 3,000 will be contributions to the social insurance package and the housing fund. Businesses also feel that they are under heavy burden to pay such contributions. Both hope that contributions can be brought down. But we also know that on the other hand, the funding financial resources and social security schemes may have been over-stretched. So I want to ask you, Mr Premier, how would you respond to the public concern and how will the government resolve this issue? Has this issue being put on the government work agenda?

**Premier Li Keqiang:** During the two sessions, some NPC deputies and CPPCC members have also suggested that appropriate adjustments be made to the proportion of contributions to these insurance schemes and fund by public and business community. The central government, the CPC Central Committee and State Council have paid very high attention to this issue. Last year, the State Council already adjusted downward the contributions by individuals and businesses to the insurance scheme covering places, safety, unemployment and maternity.

On the whole there’s still room for us to cut the contributions to these insurance schemes and fund and conditions of different localities vary from each other. As I said before, we still have ample social security funds and local governments can be given great autonomy to make their own
decisions of adjusting downward such contributions in keeping with their local conditions. All in all the purpose of our effort is to lessen corporate burden and put more money in the pockets of our people. Thank you!

**Farmer’s Daily:** Last September when we were about to harvest corn, the central government introduced adjusted price for the purchase and storage of corn and the price was cut by 20 percent. That brought huge losses to corn growers. We know that this is also part of the supply side structural reform to adjust agricultural structure. But we want to have your take on this issue. What further steps will the central government take with respect to the price of grains in China?

**Premier Li Keqiang:** The average price in China is about 600 yuan ($92) per ton higher than international price. That is mainly because our labor productivity is still quite low. So in the future, we are going to pursue coordinated development between new type urbanization and agricultural modernization to help more migrant people move into urban areas.

For those who are already working and living in urban areas, they will be granted urban residency if they meet certain eligibilities and requirements. And that is also one of the ways to boost their income. And we also develop appropriately scaled farming in agriculture to boost labor productivity and enhance the competitiveness of our agricultural products. In a word, the central government will continue to support the development of agriculture and enhance the well being of Chinese farmers.

All in all, we will continue to give very high priority to all issues related to agriculture, farmers and rural areas. And we will also pay very high attention to protecting the lawful interests of workers in the industrial sector. There are so many issues that need to be covered, but our time is limited. So regrettably we may have to leave something out, but hopefully we will meet up again next year.

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**NEW 5-YEAR PLAN PROMISES GAINS FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE**

Beijing, March 14 (Xinhua) — Having delivered stellar growth for China for more than three decades, ordinary Chinese are set to get their reward in the next five years as the government prioritizes improving their lives.

The draft 13th Five Year Plan (2016-2020) being reviewed at the National People's Congress (NPC) annual session places more emphasis on the prosperity of China's nearly 1.4 billion people. It is high time that growth is translated into benefits for the masses rather than fortunes for a few.

Improving livelihoods is high on authorities’ reform agenda. Measures listed in the latest five-year plan range from eradicating poverty
to making people healthier to improving education and adding more jobs.

Ahead of the national parliamentary sessions, President Xi Jinping said that the success of future reforms should be assessed on the gain they bring to ordinary people.

"From now on, it will be mostly about the quality, efficiency and benefits of growth, rather than its speed," said Pan Jianhua, an NPC deputy.

Both central and local governments will evaluate reforms based on how much of a difference they make to people's lives, Pan added.

The top leadership sees the next five years as a crucial period for the target of establishing a "moderately prosperous society," a situation that would greatly swell the consuming class.

Their aspiration for a middle-class lifestyle will lead the world's second-largest economy to a more consumer-driven growth model.

China is aiming to double both the size of its economy and more importantly, per capita income by 2020 from 2010 levels. Another ambitious goal is to lift all of its people above the poverty line, set at an annual income of 2,300 yuan (354 U.S. dollars) for rural residents.

Under that overarching goal, per capita disposable income should increase no less than 6.5 percent.

Another way to boost income among the broad population is to improve the fairness of income distribution and tax reforms.

Underpinning all this is stable employment. The government has set a target of adding 50 million new jobs in the coming five years to make that happen.

Authorities are willing to live with a slower rate of economic growth as long as employment climbs steadily. Despite continued downward pressure on the economy, whose growth hit a 25-year low of 6.9 percent last year, new job creation continues to overshoot the government target.

The importance of jobs is on the rise, not only in terms of their number but their quality, as authorities want to derive growth chiefly from improved labor
productivity, rather than more credit.

Labor productivity currently stands at 87,000 yuan per person. The target is 120,000 by 2020.

Under the plan, the next five years will also see a sprouting of small cities, especially in the northwest. This urbanization drive will allow 100 million rural Chinese to settle in cities, rather than cramming into the massive urban sprawl on the affluent east coast, where migrants generally work menial jobs and are denied urban welfare such as medical services and education for their children.

That will increase the share of Chinese with urban residents’ permits, or “hukou,” to 45 percent. Authorities will also press ahead with shanty-town renovation to improve living conditions and also as part of a more aggressive government spending program to counter the economic slowdown.

CHINESE JUDICIARY VOWS TO KEEP UP "HIGH PRESSURE" ON CORRUPTION

BEIJING, March 13 (Xinhua) — China’s judicial authorities said Sunday that the country will continue to maintain “high pressure” on corruption as authorities press on with a sweeping anti-graft drive.

A total of 22 Chinese ex-officials at ministerial level or above, including former leader Zhou Yongkang, were prosecuted last year while 41 were subject to formal investigations, up from 28 in 2014, Procurator-General Cao Jianming told lawmakers when presenting the Supreme People’s Procuratorate’s (SPP) work report for 2015.

Chief Justice Zhou Qiang also said Zhou and 15 other senior officials had been put on trial, showcasing “the Party and the country’s resolute determination to crack down on corruption.”

More than three years into the corruption campaign that targets both “tigers” and “flies,” the terms assigned to different officials depending on their ranks and levels of corruption, there is little sign of losing momentum.

Just earlier this month, the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Commission for Discipline Inspection announced an investigation into Wang Min, vice chairman of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), for suspected violation of Party codes of conduct.

According to the SPP work report, almost 80 former Chinese officials at ministerial level or above
had been investigated in the three years between 2013 and 2015.

“We will continue to maintain high pressure on corruption,” Chief Justice Zhou said.

All in all, 54,249 officials were investigated for their involvement in 40,834 graft cases in 2015, according to Procurator-General Cao. The figures represent a slight drop from the year before, when 55,101 officials were probed in 41,487 cases.

They include 4,568 officials at division level and above and 769 officials at prefecture level and above.

On the “tigers” end, prosecutors looked into 4,490 graft, bribery and embezzlement cases that involved more than 1 million yuan (154,083 U.S. dollars) each, Cao said.

More than 13,000 officials were investigated and punished for accepting bribes, in addition to over 8,200 for offering bribes.

On the “flies” end, more than 20,500 grassroots officials from the agricultural sector as well as land acquisition, social insurance, education and medicare services were investigated and punished, Cao said.

Both Cao and Zhou went on to pledge that more will be done to weed out graft in the judiciary. A total of 2,424 judicial staff were investigated and punished over graft in 2015, according to Cao Jianming, and Zhou Qiang vowed “zero tolerance” for judicial corruption.

“We will forge an effective anti-graft mechanism in which officials dare not, can not and will not be corrupted,” Cao said. “Power shall be locked in the cage of regulations.”

His words echoed a communique published in January after the conclusion of the sixth plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, which called for a heavy-handed approach against corruption “with unabated forces and unchanging rhythm.”
Anti-graft officials will work to reduce corruption and prevent corruption cases from growing, according to the communique. Work also needs to be done to make sure officials “do not dare to be corrupt” and to strengthen the system so that officials “are unable and unwilling to be corrupt,” it read.

Meanwhile, with the space for graft and power abuse considerably narrowed at home, China is also looking to further expand international cooperation in apprehending suspects who had fled overseas.

According to Procurator-General Cao, Chinese authorities brought back 124 corruption suspects from 34 countries and regions, who had previously on the run in a 17-month international manhunt.

Seventeen out of 100 wanted fugitives listed in an Interpol “red notice” were also netted, he said, adding that China will step up efforts with relevant countries and regions to bring those still at large to justice and explore ways to confiscate their illegal gains.

Chief Justice Zhou also pledged greater efforts from Chinese courts to improve court proceedings for fugitive graft suspects and to take a more proactive stance in the cross-border hunt-down.

Lawmakers, present Sunday for this year’s annual session of the NPC, China’s top legislature, hailed the achievements made past year in countering corruption but demanded more efforts to root out the pandemic.

Legislator and lawyer Liu Ling from east China’s Jiangsu Province urged authorities to speed up the making of an anti-corruption law.

“We are in pressing need for a special legislation that could regulate anti-graft operations, protect whistleblowers, promote officials’ assets declaration and coordinate work of disciplinary departments of the Party and the country’s judicial organs,” Liu said.

Hong Kong legislator Peter Wong Man Kong, meanwhile, called for “precision attacks” in the anti-corruption drive to help with deepening reforms across the board.

“The current anti-graft campaign came as the country sets out to deepen reforms and wage its final battle on poverty, thus, the counter-corruption drive should focus on these fields,” he said, highlighting local government elections and grassroots agricultural services as top priorities.
Beijing, March 11 (Xinhua) — The annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC) is the most high-profile event of China's top legislature, and it is also the culmination of 12 busy months for more than 2,900 NPC deputies.

The national lawmakers, selected from different backgrounds to represent the entire population, traverse the country gathering information that will influence the nation's future at the most important political occasion.

However, it is an unpaid, part-time job for most NPC deputies.

Chen Shu, a 62-year-old lawyer from south China's Guangdong Province, is in her third term as an NPC deputy.

While she is currently in Beijing for the annual session, much of Chen's time outside work has been spent on the road, attending events and having discussions that will inform her arguments and advice at the major event.

“No matter how busy you are in your own job, you can always find time for what you are passionate about,” Chen said.

With more than 20 years of experience as a lawyer and serving as the chief editor of a law journal, her time outside of the congress is in high demand.

As Chen’s busy calendar of events from last year demonstrates, each role can bring benefits to the other and such information...
gathering never stops for NPC deputies.

In April 2015, a month after last year’s session concluded, Chen traveled to Hong Kong to learn about one of the city’s dispute mediation mechanisms. In May, she and other deputies visited prisons in several Guangdong cities to inspect their compliance with the law.

In July, she delivered a speech to provincial lawmakers in Guangdong.

During the blistering summer peak in August, Chen embarked on her most important task of the year as she began a survey to help draft a law on financial leasing.

Financial leasing is an effective means of raising capital for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). With no law regulating this field, the development of such services has been limited. The NPC hopes creating a law can open a new source of growth for SMEs, a big focus for China as its economy slows.

Chen continued working on the financial leasing law through September and October.

After meeting with leasing firms and regulators in Beijing, Tianjin and Guangdong, she decided a financial leasing law could wait no more.

She and other lawmakers have submitted the draft motion to enact the Law on Financial Leasing to the ongoing session.

After a busy few months between December and February, in which she gave lectures and visited the Supreme People’s Court twice, Chen attended this year’s NPC session opening on March 5. She and other deputies have brought a treasure trove of information and proposals gathered from their work throughout the year.

As each deputy is considered among the best in their respective professions, the suggestions they make reflect the most pressing concerns in each area, Chen said.
Chen has made the most use of her legal experience by giving her opinion on dozens of laws enacted or revised by the top legislature during her tenure.

Below the NPC, there are about 2.7 million deputies to the people's congresses which act as local legislative bodies. In Chinese politics, the idea is that these citizens reflect a broader array of opinions than career politicians ever could in the West.

Top legislator Zhang Dejiang said on Wednesday that one of the NPC Standing Committee's major tasks for this year is to work out how to keep NPC deputies in close contact with the people they are supposed to represent.

"The proposals from NPC deputies are like sparks of democracy. Put together, they are a force for the realization of the Chinese dream," Chen said.

CHINA'S TOP POLITICAL ADVISORY BODY CONCLUDES ANNUAL SESSION

Beijing, March 14, 2016 (Xinhua) — Yu Zhengsheng, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), presided over the closing meeting of the fourth session of the 12th CPPCC National Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 14, 2016. (Xinhua/Lan Hongguang)

Beijing, March 14 (Xinhua) — Chinese top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng underscored the Communist Party of China (CPC) leadership on Monday as the country "enters the home stretch" for its 2020 goal.

Addressing the closing meeting of the annual session of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Yu said China is at a decisive stage in the journey toward building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020.

"The curtains of history have been lifted and the arduous tasks have been bestowed on our shoulders," Yu told more than 2,000 fellow advisors.

He said the country is "sure to claim victory" under the CPC leadership, with the advantages of
China
The Road Ahead
The Political Season in China
Socialism with Chinese characteristics, and based on the solid material foundations over the past decades.

China has set 2020 as the target year to double its GDP and per capita personal income from the 2010 level before the CPC marks its 100th anniversary of founding in 1921.

Earlier this month, China unveiled a draft outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan on national economy and social development, which set average annual GDP growth target at above 6.5 percent from 2016 to 2020. The draft will be submitted to lawmakers for a vote on Wednesday.

Yu, to this end, told political advisors to focus their work on providing suggestions on and making contributions to the country’s development during the 13th Five-Year Plan period, and on the 2020 goal.

They must make in-depth research, focus on political consultation, and step up effective oversight, in order to offer more insightful suggestions and pool strength for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, he said.

The top political advisor urged CPPCC members to uphold the system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC, and adhere to the concepts of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development.

They shall become more aware of the need to uphold political integrity, keep in mind the bigger picture, and enhance the sense of duty, Yu said.

The CPPCC is a patriotic united front organization of the Chinese people, serving as a key mechanism for multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC.

Seen as a major manifestation of socialist democracy, the CPPCC serves to conduct political consultation, exercise democratic supervision and participate in the discussion and handling of state affairs.

On Monday, the national political advisors approved a report on the work of the Standing Committee of the 12th CPPCC National Committee over the past year, and a report on the proposals submitted by CPPCC National Committee members to the annual session this year.

A political resolution was also adopted at the meeting.

FOREIGN MINISTER WANG YI MEETS THE PRESS

On 8 March 2016, the Fourth Session of the Twelfth National People's Congress held a press conference. Foreign Minister Wang Yi was invited to answer questions on China’s foreign policy and external relations.

Wang Yi: Friends from the media, good morning. At the outset, I wish to thank you for your care, understanding and support for China’s diplomacy. I also want to extend festive greetings to all the ladies in this room, including the female journalists. Now I am ready to answer your questions.

CCTV: In September, China will host the G20 Summit for the first time. What proposals will China put forward at the Hangzhou Summit?

Wang Yi: This is the first question, and you are asking about the G20 Summit. It shows people have high expectations for China’s G20 presidency. Indeed, the G20 Hangzhou Summit, the most important international conference that China will host this year, is the world’s most closely watched economic summit.

In the past few years, the G20 Summit has played a critical role in containing the global financial crisis. This time, the world economy has reached another crossroads. How to emerge from long-term economic sluggishness? How to find new sources of growth? And how to
Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi meets the press on the sidelines of the national legislature annual session on March 8, 2016.

Wang Yi said since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee headed by General Secretary Xi Jinping, we have built on China’s diplomatic tradition, made active efforts and broken new ground. Based on his keen grasp of the domestic and international situation, General Secretary Xi has put forward a whole series of new thinking, new ideas and new steps and pointed the way forward for China’s diplomacy.

Three years is a good time to take stock of what we have achieved. Simply put, we are on the path of pursuing major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.
coordinate national policies more effectively? The world is turning its eyes to China. President Xi Jinping has clearly articulated China's basic approach to hosting the G20 Summit. While making solid preparations on all the topics, we will try to break new ground from three angles. First, we want to discover new sources of growth through innovation. Second, we want to inject new momentum into the world economy through reform. And third, we want to open up new prospects through development.

For the first time, we will make innovative growth a key topic on the G20 agenda. We want to capitalize on the new industrial revolution and digital economy, and develop a new blueprint for the innovative growth of the world economy.

We will stress the importance of structural reform and encourage the major economies to build new consensus around this, so as to work together to put the world economy on the path to strong recovery.

And we will prioritize development issues in macro policy coordination. We will encourage G20 members to show leadership by developing action plans to implement the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so as to catalyze inclusive and interconnected development all over the world.

I am confident that the G20 Hangzhou Summit will boost people's confidence, build consensus and point the way forward. Hangzhou will be a new launch pad for the G20, and China will be a new launch pad for the world economy.

KBS: How will China make sure that the new UN Security Council resolution on the DPRK will be implemented effectively? Where to draw the line between "livelihood" and "non-livelihood" purposes?

Wang Yi: China is a permanent member of the Security Council. We have the obligation and capability to implement all the resolutions passed by the Security Council, including Resolution 2270 concerning the DPRK.

You mentioned the term "livelihood": I think people would agree what it means. Of course, China will adopt an objective and impartial attitude during implementation and carry out necessary evaluation, determination and monitoring. I wish to point out that Resolution 2270 not just contains sanctions; it also reiterates support for the Six-Party Talks and asks the parties to refrain from taking any actions that might aggravate tensions. So in China's view, the resolution must be implemented in its entirety. Sanctions are just a necessary means. Maintaining stability is the pressing priority, and only negotiation can lead to a fundamental solution.

At the moment, there is some saber-rattling on the Korean Peninsula, and the situation is highly charged. If the tensions worsen and get out of control, it would be a disaster for all parties. As the largest neighbor of the Peninsula, China will not sit by and see a fundamental disruption to stability on the Peninsula. And we will not sit by and see unwarranted damage to China's security interests. We strongly urge the parties to act with reason and restraint, and refrain from aggravating tensions.

To eventually resolve the issues on the Peninsula, we have to adopt a multi-pronged approach and apply the right medicine. To have blind faith in sanctions and pressure would, in effect, be irresponsible to the future of the Peninsula. In terms of negotiation, China has put forward a proposal to pursue, in parallel tracks, the denuclearization of the Peninsula and the replacement of the armistice agreement with a peace treaty. Denuclearization is the firm goal of the international community, while replacing the armistice a legitimate concern of the DPRK. The two can be negotiated in parallel, implemented in steps and resolved with reference to each other. In our judgment, this is an equitable, reasonable and workable solution. Other parties have also suggested some ideas, including flexible contacts in a three-party, four-party or even five-party format. We are open to any and all initiatives that can help bring the nuclear issue on the Peninsula back to the negotiating table.

People's Daily: How do you rate China's diplomacy in the last three years? What more can we expect from China's diplomacy going forward?

Wang Yi: Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee headed by General Secretary Xi Jinping, we have built on China's diplomatic tradition, made active efforts and broken new ground. Based on his keen grasp of the domestic and international situation, General
Secretary Xi has put forward a whole series of new thinking, new ideas and new steps and pointed the way forward for China’s diplomacy. Three years is a good time to take stock of what we have achieved. Simply put, we are on the path of pursuing major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.

Our goal is to help realize the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation and build a community of shared destiny for all mankind. The strategic choice is to strive for peaceful development both at home and in the world. The basic principle is to seek win-win cooperation and, on that basis, build a new type of international relations. The main pathway is to establish various types of partnerships and choose partnership over alliance, dialogue over confrontation. The value we insist on is to adopt a balanced approach to friendship and interests, uphold justice in international affairs and put friendship before interests in state-to-state relations.

In his New Year message, General Secretary Xi said, “The world is so big and faces so many problems. The international community wishes to hear China’s voice and see China’s solutions. China cannot be absent.” We will go forward, guided by General Secretary Xi’s diplomatic thinking and the arrangements made by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council. In the course of realizing China’s development goals, we will embrace a broader horizon, a more open attitude and a more active posture. We will work with the international community and contribute our share to peace and stability of the world and to prosperity and progress of mankind.

The Reuters: Why doesn’t China allow foreign journalists to visit its South China Sea islands and reefs? What is the purpose of China’s construction on the islands and reefs?

Wang Yi: The Nansha Islands are China’s integral territory. Every Chinese has an obligation to defend them. China has not and will not make any new territorial claims.

In building defense facilities on our own islands and reefs, China is exercising its right to self-preservation under international law. China is not the first country to have deployed weapons in the Nansha, we are not the country that has deployed the most weapons, and we are not the country that conducts the most frequent military activities. China cannot be accused of “militarization”; the label is more suited to some other countries.

In addition to building necessary defense facilities on the Nansha and more importantly, China is building civilian facilities to provide public goods to the international community. When the construction is completed and the condition is ripe, we will consider inviting foreign journalists to visit the islands and reefs.

China is the largest country bordering the South China Sea, so we hope, more than any other country, to uphold the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. Thanks to the concerted efforts of China and other regional countries, it is one of the freest and safest sea lanes in the world. I want to remind some people that the freedom of navigation does not give them a license to do whatever they want. If someone wants to muddy the waters or to destabilize Asia, China will not agree to it and the overwhelming majority of countries in the region will not allow it to happen.

The fact is, China has made various efforts to promote peace and stability in the South China Sea. We have set up a China-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation Fund, which has supported over 40 cooperation projects. We are actively advancing the COC consultation: The parties have reached two Lists of Commonalities and entered into the phase of discussing crucial and complex issues. We have initiated to formulate preventive measures for managing maritime risks. And we have offered to set up the maritime emergency diplomatic hotline and the maritime joint search and rescue hotline. These initiatives speak volumes about our sincerity, but they’ve been obstructed by certain individual countries. Yet China has every capability and confidence to work with ASEAN countries to maintain the overall picture of peace and development in the South China Sea.

Phoenix Satellite TV: It is reported that China will soon build a logistics center in Djibouti. How will China protect its ever-growing overseas interests?

Wang Yi: You mentioned China’s growing overseas interests. I think it is the key to understanding the matter.

Like any major country that is growing, China’s overseas interests are expanding. At present, there are 30,000 Chinese businesses all over the world and several million
Chinese are working and living in all corners of the world. Last year, China’s non-financial outbound direct investment reached 118 billion dollars and the stock of China’s overseas assets reached several trillion dollars. So it has become a pressing task for China’s diplomacy to better protect our ever-growing overseas interests.

How to do it? Let me state on the record that China will not take the old path of expansionism followed by traditional powers, and we will not engage in any form of power politics. Rather, we want to pioneer a uniquely Chinese way to protect our overseas interests, one that is in tune with the trend of the times and welcomed by the other parties.

First, China is willing to take on more international security responsibilities. Since 2008, Chinese navy has conducted escort missions off the Somali coast. So far, we have dispatched 22 fleets to escort over 6,000 Chinese and foreign ships passing through those waters. China is the biggest contributor of peacekeeping personnel among the five permanent members of the Security Council. We are also the second largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget.

Second, responding to actual needs and the wishes of the countries in question, we are trying to build some necessary infrastructure and logistical capacities in regions with a concentration of Chinese interests. This is not just reasonable and logical, but also consistent with international practice.

And third, we want to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries, including law enforcement and security cooperation. At the same time, we will play a constructive role in the political settlement of international and regional issues, so as to create a more secure and stable environment for China’s development overseas.

**CNN:** The ruling from the arbitration initiated by the Philippines may be against China. Is China worried and how will China respond to it?

**Wang Yi:** Back in 2006, the Chinese government exercised its right under Article 298 of UNCLOS and made a declaration that excludes compulsory arbitration. More than 30 other countries have made similar declarations. They are an integral part of UNCLOS and must be respected by others. So, by not accepting the arbitration case, China is acting entirely in accordance with the law. The Philippines’ action, on the other hand, is unlawful, unfaithful and unreasonable. It has violated its own commitments in bilateral agreements with China, breached Article 4 of the DOC and broken with international practice that arbitration has to be mutually agreed. Its stubbornness is clearly the result of behind-the-scenes instigation and political maneuvering. This so-called arbitration has become tainted and gone astray, and China is not going to humor it.

**Lianhe Zaobao:** China initiated the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and is helping other countries build large-scale...
infrastructure. Is it China’s goal to overhaul the international order?

Wang Yi: China has become more active in its external relations and China’s international standing has been on the rise. Last year saw a notable enhancement of China’s power in international institutions. We now have the third largest quota and voting power in the IMF, the Renminbi has been included in the SDR basket, and China has become a member of the EBRD. Overall, China makes the second biggest contribution to the United Nations. These facts illustrate that China is not building a rival system. On the contrary, we are seeking to play a bigger role in the existing international order and system. Of course, as China grows in strength, we need reasonable development space and gain corresponding say in international affairs. This is something quite normal.

As for the AIIB that China has proposed to establish and the BRICS Bank that China has helped to build, they are both improvements and supplements to the existing financial system. China has the confidence to find a path to great-power status different from the one followed by traditional powers. It is going to be different in that China will not play the bully. Rather, we will abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. China will not engage in zero-sum games. Rather, we will pursue win-win cooperation with all the countries of the world.

CRI: There is a growing strategic contest between China and the United States in the Asia-Pacific. The presidential election in the United States this year creates added uncertainties. How does China view the prospect of China-US relations? Are you confident in building the new model of major-country relations?

Wang Yi: China and the United States are two major countries. There is both cooperation and friction between us. This might be the normal state of affairs. This morning, I’ve just heard news that the United States has announced trade restrictions on a Chinese company. We don’t think it’s the right way to handle economic and trade disputes. This approach will only hurt others without necessarily benefiting oneself. In the face of problems, our task is to resolve them. We want to expand and deepen cooperation and, at the same time, work hard to turn friction into cooperation. In the past, the two countries had friction in the area of climate change. Yet last year, we worked together to ensure the success of the Paris Conference. In the recent period, cybersecurity was a point of friction. But we’ve set up a number of dialogue and cooperation mechanisms. More recently, there is growing friction concerning maritime issues. But I think when the US truly cools down, it’s entirely possible for us to conduct maritime cooperation. The source of these frictions is that there are always some people in the United States who have strategic suspicions about China. They are worried that China will one day supersede the United States. I want to emphasize once again that China is not the United States, and China will not and cannot become another United States. We have no intention to displace anybody or dominate anybody. My advice to American friends: Perhaps you may want to spend more time learning about China’s cultural tradition distilled from its 5,000-year history, and don’t always judge China with the American mindset. Get this right, and you’ll see the bright prospects of China-US relations.

President Xi has pointed out time and again that when China and the United States work together, we can accomplish great things that benefit our two countries and the whole world. Having gone through a lot in our relationship, we have now embarked on efforts to build a new model of major-country relations featuring no conflict or confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation. This serves the shared and long-term interests of both sides, and conforms to the trend of the world. It is our hope that the change of government and leaders in the United States notwithstanding, the US side will work with China to take determined steps in the right direction.

ITAR-TASS: Does the complex international situation present challenges for the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination?
Wang Yi: China-Russia relations are mature and stable. Our comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination is built on a solid foundation of mutual trust and mutual support. The two sides have a strong desire to strengthen win-win cooperation. The relationship can pass the test of any international development and will not be weakened by any particular incident. In 2015, President Xi and President Putin met five times and set the tone for the continued strong momentum in China-Russia relations. We are making active and orderly progress in various big projects. Construction has started on the eastern route of the natural gas pipeline. And our cooperation on industrial capacity, equipment manufacturing, agriculture, finance and so on is gathering pace.

China and Russia have significant economic complementarities and a strong desire to work with each other. Our cooperation is long-term and strategic in nature. The temporary factors will not prevent China and Russia from deepening our all-round cooperation.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty on Good-neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation. We want to carry forward the vision of ever-lasting friendship set by the treaty, turn our strong political relations into more fruits of practical cooperation, and add new substance to the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination.

China Daily: What progress has the Belt and Road Initiative made? Some people see it as an indication of the rapid projection of Chinese power. How would you respond?

Wang Yi: Since the Belt and Road Initiative was first put forward more than two years ago, notable progress has been made. This is a good opportunity for me to share our scorecard with you.

First, more partners are signing up. To date, more than 70 countries and international organizations have expressed interest, and over 30 countries have signed agreements with us to jointly build the Belt and Road.

Second, the financial architecture is basically in place. The China-initiated AIIB is up and running, and the first group of projects financed by the Silk Road Fund have been launched.

Third, a connectivity network is taking shape. Important early harvests have been achieved in the areas of infrastructure, finance and people-to-people exchange - most notably, the building of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor. Freight train services now link China directly to Europe. Construction has begun on the Budapest-Belgrade Railway and the Jakarta-Bandung High-speed Railway. Important steps have been taken in the China-Laos Railway and China-Thailand Railway, which are both important parts of the Pan-Asia Railway Network.

And fourth, we are making all-round progress in industrial capacity cooperation. We have institutionalized such cooperation with almost 20 countries and created a new model of cooperation with Kazakhstan. A large number of key cooperation projects have been launched in various countries.

The Belt and Road Initiative is China’s idea, but its opportunities belong to the world. This initiative echoes the general call of Asian and European countries for development and cooperation. It shows that China is transitioning rapidly from a participant in the international system to a provider of public goods. In building the Belt and Road, we follow the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefit. It is an open initiative, not the Monroe Doctrine or some expansionism. What it unfolds before the world will be a new historical painting of shared development and prosperity on the entire Eurasian continent.

Alyoum Alsabea: Early this year, President Xi Jinping made his first visit to the Middle East against the background of rising regional tensions. Does it signal a shift in China’s Middle East policy?

Wang Yi: When it comes to Middle East affairs, China has never been a mere onlooker. We have all along supported the Arab countries’ quest for independence and liberation, we enjoy ever closer economic and trade ties with the region, and we are contributing actively to peace and stability in the Middle East. China does not seek any sphere of influence in the Middle East, nor do we look for any proxy. Our approach is the opposite. We adopt an objective and impartial attitude, we try to facilitate peace talks, and our position is selfless and aboveboard. This is China’s unique strength. All the countries in the Middle East welcome and look to China to play a bigger role.
At the start of this year, President Xi Jinping chose the Middle East for his first overseas trip. He made a historic visit to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran, and opened a new chapter of relations between China and the Middle East. If there is any change in China's policy toward the region, it is that in the context of building the Belt and Road, we want to play a more active role and deepen win-win cooperation with countries in the Middle East. And on the basis of not interfering in other countries’ internal affairs, we want to play a more active role in seeking the political settlement of burning issues in the region.

**Beijing Youth Daily: More and more Chinese citizens are traveling abroad. They are exposed to growing risks in foreign countries. What measures will the Foreign Ministry take to protect overseas Chinese citizens and institutions?**

Wang Yi: Last year, mainland citizens made over 120 million overseas visits, a growth rate of almost 10 percent. Over 150 countries and territories have become destinations for Chinese tourists. There are over one million Chinese working abroad and close to two million Chinese studying abroad. This shows that our country is developing rapidly and the life of our people is getting better every day. On the other hand, it also puts enormous strain on consular protection. To be honest, our resources and tools are limited, and our capacity is not yet up to the task.

Having said this, we will do everything in our power to provide consular protection, bearing in mind that diplomacy must serve the people. In the course of last year, the Foreign Ministry and our diplomatic and consular missions abroad handled over 80,000 consular cases, or 235 cases per day, one case every six minutes. The 12308 consular protection hotline received over 100,000 phone calls and helped 166 of our overseas missions handle 15,000 consular cases. We successfully rescued 55 Chinese who had been abducted abroad. We evacuated 613 Chinese from conflict-ridden Yemen and over 6,000 Chinese from quake-hit Nepal. I know people care a lot about the “value” of the Chinese passport. Last year, we reached arrangements with another 18 countries to facilitate mutual travel. The number of countries and territories that give visa-free or visa-upon-landing treatment to ordinary Chinese citizens has reached 54. Of course, this figure still falls short of people’s expectations, but I can assure you that we will never relax our efforts.

Consular protection is never-ending work. The best approach is prevention beforehand rather than remedy afterwards. So we will focus more on preventive consular protection. For example, we will enhance the security awareness of our people and in countries where conditions allow, we will set up police-civilian cooperation centers and appoint local liaison officers for consular protection. We want to move the first line of consular protection to foreign countries, shorten the response time and make our work more efficient. We will try to solve problems locally so as to avoid the unnecessary cost associated with large-scale evacuation. In short, the interests of the people are paramount. Consular protection and service must go wherever our compatriots have gone. We will do our level best to put up an ever stronger umbrella for Chinese people abroad.

**Mainichi Shimbun: How do you see the current state of affairs in China-Japan relations? What is the underlying problem in the relationship and how can it be improved?**

Wang Yi: Japan’s wrong approach to history and other issues in recent years has dealt a body blow to China-Japan relations. Thanks to the efforts of wise people on both sides, there are signs of improvement in the relationship, but I don’t see any grounds for optimism. On the one hand, the Japanese government and leaders say nice things about wanting to improve relations. On the other hand, they are making trouble for China at every turn. This is a typical case of double-dealing.

China and Japan are neighbors facing each other across the sea and there is a tradition of friendship between our people. Of course, we want to see real improvement in China-Japan relations. But as a saying goes, to cure a disease, you have to address the underlying problem. As far as China-Japan relations are concerned, the underlying problem is that some politicians in Japan have the wrong perception about China. Do they view a growing China as a friend or a foe, a partner or an adversary? The Japanese side needs to give serious thought to this question and make the right choice.

**Xinhua News Agency: The**
past year saw closer relations between Europe and China. How do you see this change?

Wang Yi: Diplomatic engagement with Europe was a highlight of China's diplomacy last year. President Xi’s “super” state visit to Britain created a new wave of China-Europe cooperation. As a result, you see the simultaneous and complementary development of relations between China and various European countries.

The positive change in China-Europe relations is not a temporary phenomenon; it is a long-term and inevitable choice. China has always regarded Europe an important pole in a multi-polar world, and Europe has come to view China's development and rise in a more objective and sensible way. There was a time when China-Europe relations were beset by recurring frictions. But after the dust settled down, Europe has found that China and Europe are not headed for clash of fundamental interests and strategic rivalry and that there is no inevitable choice. China has always regarded Europe an important pole in a multi-polar world, and Europe has come to view China's development and rise in a more objective and sensible way. There was a time when China-Europe relations were beset by recurring frictions. But after the dust settled down, Europe has found that China and Europe are not headed for clash of fundamental interests and strategic rivalry and that there is no inevitable choice. 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The Cambodina Daily: The first Lancang-Mekong River Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting will take place in late March. How will China support ASEAN’s development?

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We see ASEAN as a preferred partner in Belt and Road cooperation. We want to ensure the success of the China-Laos Railway, the China-Thailand Railway and the Jakarta-Bangdung High-speed Railway that China and Indonesia are building together. These are important building blocks of the Pan-Asian Railway Network. When they are completed, the people of China and ASEAN countries will find it easier to visit each other.

Wang Yi: China-Myanmar friendship is rooted in the heart of people on both sides; it is strong and dynamic. It will not be weakened by...
the changes in Myanmar's domestic situation. We have every confidence about the future of China-Myanmar relations.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD under her leadership have had longstanding friendly contacts with China; our mutual understanding and trust have been growing. So we also have every confidence about Myanmar's future.

China and Myanmar are neighbors and we will remain so forever. We would like to help Myanmar achieve better and faster development. The Myitsone Dam is a commercial project that has cleared all the approval procedures. There are some difficulties in the cooperation. These are “growing pains” which the two sides will continue to manage in an active and appropriate way. So of course, we also have every confidence about the future of win-win cooperation between China and Myanmar.

Zambia Daily Mail: The world economy is sluggish. China's growth is slowing down and its demand for commodities is dropping. Will this affect China-Africa economic cooperation and China’s development aid to Africa?

Wang Yi: China’s diplomatic relations with African countries go back 60 years. In the meantime, the world has changed, and so have China and Africa. But what remains unchanged is the deep bond of friendship, mutual trust and mutual support between China and Africa.

At the end of last year, President Xi announced 10 cooperation plans for China and Africa. The most salient feature of these plans is that we want to transition from a trade pattern that has so far been dominated by resource products to more investment and industrial cooperation. By encouraging more Chinese businesses to invest in Africa, we want to help the continent accelerate its industrialization and boost its capacity for development. So these plans couldn't have come at a better time. They are designed precisely to help Africa deal with the new challenges from the global economy. When China makes a promise, it always delivers. Just three months after the China-Africa summit, we have gotten into touch with over 20 African countries to follow up on the outcomes of the summit. A number of early harvest items will materialize soon, and the China-Africa Fund for Industrial Cooperation is already up and running.

For many years there are all kinds of comments about China-Africa cooperation, but the African people know the best. At last year's summit, many African leaders stated publicly that China has never colonized Africa. Rather, China has helped Africa to emerge from poverty and realize development, and China has brought new life to Africa. They also said that Africa has been searching for a truly reliable partner with common interests. Eventually, they have found such a partner in China. These statements struck a chord with many in the audience; the African leaders spoke the mind of the African people.

Question from a Diplo-Chat follower: China’s diplomacy is very busy. What are you busy with? Does what you do have an impact on the lives of ordinary people?

Wang Yi: I’m glad to have the opportunity to answer a question from the netizens. Let me first thank all the netizens for their understanding and support for
China’s diplomacy.

The netizen is right in noting that China’s diplomacy has been pretty busy in the last few years. In my view, it’s worthwhile and fruitful.

Our hard work is worthwhile, because more and more problems in the world cannot be resolved without Chinese participation. In the last three years, President Xi has made 20 overseas visits and he has flown enough miles to circle the globe 10 times. Everywhere he traveled, he created a strong “Chinese whirlwind”. Today, China has an ever higher international standing. Wherever Chinese people go, they can hold their head high.

Our hard work has also been fruitful, because China’s diplomacy is not only “high-flying” but also “down-to-earth”. As you can see, our leaders, including our President and our Premier, have often acted as “presenters” and “salesmen” of Chinese equipment and technology on foreign trips. Even when they are abroad, what they think about is China’s development and the wellbeing of the Chinese people.

Let me give you just one example. Four days after President Xi visited Iran in January, the first freight train ran on the Yiwu-Tehran railway. The railway provided a cost-effective channel of transportation for over 70,000 businesses in Yiwu, creating more business opportunities and better profits for them. There are many more such stories. If you’re interested, you can follow the Diplo-Chat Weibo account.

Recently the Foreign Ministry created a new platform to showcase and promote the development and opening of Chinese provinces. In the Blue Hall of the Foreign Ministry, we organized a promotional event and invited foreign diplomatic envoys and businesses to have face-to-face discussions with the representatives of Chinese provinces. Last week, the first event focusing on Ningxia was a great success. In the future, we plan to hold such an event once every few months. We welcome the active participation of Chinese provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

In short, China’s diplomacy will only get busier. We’ll provide ever stronger services and support for China’s development, and Chinese people can expect more benefits from China’s diplomacy.

The press conference lasted two hours and was attended by more than 500 Chinese and foreign journalists.
Wang Jun, head of the State Administration of Taxation, receives an interview before the third plenary meeting of the fourth session of China’s 12th National People’s Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 13, 2016.

China’s Minister of Culture Luo Shugang receives an interview before the third plenary meeting of the fourth session of China’s 12th National People’s Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 13, 2016.
Xiao Yaqing, head of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, receives an interview before the third plenary meeting of the fourth session of China’s 12th National People’s Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 13, 2016.

Shen Changyu, commissioner of China’s State Intellectual Property Office, receives an interview before the third plenary meeting of the fourth session of China’s 12th National People’s Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 13, 2016.
Xu Shaoshi, minister in charge of the National Development and Reform Commission, receives an interview before the third plenary meeting of the fourth session of China’s 12th National People’s Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 13, 2016.

Qiu Yuanping, head of China’s Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council, receives an interview before the third plenary meeting of the fourth session of China’s 12th National People’s Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 13, 2016.
China’s Industry and Information Technology Minister Miao Wei receives an interview before the third plenary meeting of the fourth session of China’s 12th National People’s Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 13, 2016.

Chairman of the China Insurance Regulatory Commission Xiang Junbo receives an interview at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 13, 2016. The third plenary meeting of the fourth session of China’s 12th National People’s Congress was held at the Great Hall of the People on Sunday.
Li Jinzao, head of the National Tourism Administration, receives an interview at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 13, 2016. The third plenary meeting of the fourth session of China's 12th National People's Congress was held at the Great Hall of the People on Sunday.

Chinese Justice Minister Wu Aiying receives an interview at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, March 13, 2016. The third plenary meeting of the fourth session of China's 12th National People's Congress was held at the Great Hall of the People on Sunday.
Honorable CM,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  

Good Morning.  
I’m truly delighted to attend ”Happening Haryana Global Investors’ Summit”, thank you for making me part of the event. I’ve visited Gurgaon many times. As a new development zone and gateway for economic cooperation, it’s certainly a fitting site for the Global Investors’ Summit. On behalf of the Chinese embassy, I’d like to wish the event every success.

I’ve been blessed with the opportunity to be ambassador to this great and incredible country for one year and half now. During the past 18 months, I’ve witnessed big strides in China-India relations, notably in economic and industrial cooperation. Despite sluggish global growth and flagging trade, our two-way trade has topped $72 billion, investment agreements worth $40 billion have been signed, and over 1 million mutual visits were made. There is growing passion for each other among the two societies.

For Chinese businesses, India is becoming a favored investment destination. Many Chinese companies are responding to PM Modi’s initiative such as Make in India and Smart City, and swarming to India. Many big projects in railway, power, infrastructure, etc. are either completed or well underway, boosting local economy and creating thousands of jobs.

Among the Indian states, Haryana is undoubtedly the top choice, as evidenced by the large Chinese community here in Gurgaon. This comes as no surprise, given Haryana’s many competitive edges: location in the capital economic zone, strong talent pool, advanced economy, good infrastructure and auxiliary facilities, not to mention its enthusiasm and experience in reaching out the world.

Earlier this year, the honorable CM paid a successful visit to China. During the visit, more than $10 billion investment MOUs were signed, sending warmth to the winter in Beijing and to China-India industrial cooperation. The honorable CM met many Chinese business representatives, and signed MOUs with two real estate giants, Dalian Wanda and China Fortune, who will build two industrial parks in Haryana. They are no ordinary companies, but like aircraft carriers
that will take dozens, if not a hundred, Chinese companies on board to Haryana. I don’t think I need to further elaborate on the promise and potential of this cooperation.

But to fully tap the potential, let me try to make some humble suggestions:

First, implement the agreements, so that consensus on cooperation can be materialized and translate into tangible results. The chairmen of Dalian Wanda and China Fortune are here at the summit and will meet the honorable PM Modi. The Chinese side is fully prepared to build the industrial parks. I’m sure that with concerted efforts and with “Chinese speed”, the opening of industrial parks is within sight.

Second, create better conditions for Chinese companies to invest and do business here. As I mentioned, dozens Chinese companies will board the “aircraft carriers” to Haryana, and more will follow. When they are here in a new environment, they’ll need a trouble shooter, better services and more facilitation. The industrial park is like a special zone, and the emphasis should be on “special”, such as more special policies and special incentives. Because the more special it is, the more attractive it will be, and more sustainable cooperation will follow.

Third, expand the successful model of industrial cooperation to other fields and more regions, so that diverse sections can support and reinforce each other, and promote all-dimensional development. In this way, our cooperation will also take root, blossom and bear more fruitful results.

Just as Rome is not built in one day, the road may be long, but the prospect is bright. We have full confidence and firm resolve to succeed.

Thank you.
On March 8, 2016, Assistant Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou met with Executive Director of the Indian Council of World Affairs Nalin Surie who was in China for the Third China-India Relations Dialogue, exchanging views on developing China-India relations.

Kong Xuanyou said China-India relations have entered a new development stage. Both countries need to firmly grasp the development theme, build correct mutual cognition, continuously enhance political mutual trust, properly handle differences and strengthen multilateral cooperation to contribute to the development of Asia and the world at large.

Nalin Surie said India-China relations have made significant progress in the 21st century. The two countries should expand bilateral, regional and international cooperation to realize common development. It is believed that India-China relations will achieve more results under the guidance of their leaders.
On 11th March, Chinese Consul General Mr. Zheng Xiyuan met with Mr. Liu Wei, President of West Coast of India, China Fortune Land Development (CFLD), one of the biggest developers in China.

Mr. Liu briefed the Consul General about CFLD’s recent development in India, especially in the State of Haryana, where the company has signed an investment MOU with the local government, which is worth about USD 10 billions.

Mr. Zheng hopes CFLD could grasp the opportunities of fast economic and social development in India, and could be more deeply involved in the development of Smart City in Maharashtra. At the same time he encouraged them to share more experience with the Government of Maharashtra in this regard.
On March 1, 2016, the inauguration and opening ceremony of China Diplomatic Training Institute (CDTI) was held in Beijing. State Councilor Yang Jiechi attended the ceremony to unveil the nameplate of CDTI and delivered a speech.

Yang Jiechi expressed congratulations on the establishment of CDTI. He said that the founding of CDTI is the implementation of the spirit conveyed by General Secretary Xi Jinping in a series of important speeches and an important measure to strengthen the personnel construction for diplomacy and foreign affairs. It is both a great responsibility and a glorious mission to do a good job in building CDTI. Efforts must be made to correctly master the political direction of the Institute's construction, stick to the working methods of making overall planning and taking all-round consideration, and carry out training work according to the objective laws in the cultivation and development...
of the personnel for diplomacy and foreign affairs so as to make CDTI play its due role in the training work for the personnel in China and make significant contributions to the promotion of the diplomatic development of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the country, as well as to the construction of the team of diplomacy and foreign affairs.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in his speech that the Foreign Ministry will fully grasp the spirit of the central leadership, aim to train talents for the diplomacy cause of the CPC and the country, proactively build a platform for diplomacy and foreign affairs training required by the major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, establish and perfect the training mechanism and system, and do its best to build the Institute. President of China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) and of China Diplomatic Training Institute Qin Yaqing also delivered a speech.

Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui presided over the above event. Vice Minister of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee Pan Ligang, Deputy Director of the State Commission Office of Public Sector Reform Li Xiaoquan, Vice Mayor of the People's Government of Beijing Municipality Wang Ning, and representatives from some state institutions, the first batch of CDTI students, and the faculty and students of CFAU, also attended the event.

CDTI is responsible for the training of national personnel for diplomacy and foreign affairs, standby personnel for international institutions, and for related international exchanges and cooperation and other tasks.
On March 11, 2016, President Vladimir Putin of Russia met at the Kremlin in Moscow with Foreign Minister Wang Yi who was in Russia for a visit.

Vladimir Putin firstly asked Wang Yi to convey his best wishes to President Xi Jinping. He spoke positively of high level development of Russia-China relations and said the two countries closely cooperate in politics, economy, humanities and international affairs and continuously deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination. Pragmatic cooperation between the two countries has a good foundation and a broad prospect. Both sides should accelerate major-project cooperation and strengthen cooperation in the field of energy and mechanical and electrical products. The Russian side attaches importance to "Media Exchange Year" held by the two countries and is willing to work with China to strengthen communication and coordination in international affairs and safeguard the basic norms of international relations.

Wang Yi conveyed the warm greetings from President Xi Jinping to President Vladimir Putin. He said this year marks the 15th anniversary of the China-Russia Good-Neighborly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, China would like to take this opportunity to further deepen and develop the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination. Russia is a priority of China’s foreign cooperation, and the bilateral trade scale and quality advance against trend, reflecting the huge potential and space of bilateral pragmatic cooperation. China has every confidence about Russia’s development prospect, and is willing to further elevate the level of pragmatic cooperation. As major forces safeguarding the world’s peace, stability, fairness and justice, China and Russia should continue to strengthen strategic coordination.
On March 11, 2016, Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov of Russia in Moscow. While they jointly met the press after the talks, Wang Yi expressed the prospect of the China-Russia relations with four "full confidence." He said:

First, China holds full confidence in the development of Russia. At present, with the sluggish growth of world economy, major economies including Russia have faced some challenges at varying degrees. Russia is a major country which boasts profound foundation and abundant resources, and the Russian people fully have the abilities and conditions to overcome temporary difficulties to achieve the goal of national development and revitalization.

Second, China holds full confidence in the prospect of the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between China and Russia. Based on equality, mutual trust and support, the China-Russia relationship is mature, stable, and solid enough to withstand the tests of ever-changing international situations and will not vary with any event at a particular time.

Third, China holds full confidence in the prospect of pragmatic cooperation between China and Russia. With high economic complementarity and great cooperative needs, China and Russia enjoy large endogenous impetus and broad space for development. Both sides are
exploring the potential, broadening the way of thinking, and innovating the mode, so as to make the road of China-Russia pragmatic cooperation increasingly wider and the cooperative results more and more fruitful.

Fourth, China holds confidence in the docking cooperation of the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Eurasian Economic Union, which reflects our political desire for common development and the large demands for pragmatic cooperation. As the docking work progresses smoothly, China believes that more cooperative fruits will gradually appear.

China’s Economy

CHINA OUTLINES SUPPLY-SIDE STRUCTURAL REFORM PLAN

Beijing, March 7 (Xinhua) — China’s government work report, presented on Saturday, emphasized strengthening supply-side structural reform through cutting low-end supply while increasing high-end supply and public products and services.

“Appearing in the government work report shows the government’s determination,” said Liu Zhibiao, an economics professor at Nanjing University, who is in Beijing to attend the annual session of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

China’s three decades of rapid growth were fueled by capital investment, exports and consumption — usually thought of as being on the demand side. However, supply-side reform aims to increase the supply of goods and services by stimulating business through tax cuts, entrepreneurship and innovation.
While stimulating the demand side tends to be short-lived, supply-side reform is expected to generate sustainable, quality growth.

Wang Yiming, deputy director of the development research center of the State Council, believes China's supply-side reform is an innovation of socialism with Chinese characteristics and is different from Western supply-side economic theories, which were generated when Western economies were bogged down by high inflation and low growth.

He said China's supply-side reform aims to increase innovative abilities and the supply of public products while strengthening policy coordination.

From the supply side, China's relaxed family planning policy, which allows each family to have two children, is expected to add high-quality labor to the market in the future.

Meanwhile, provinces are busy searching for new growth engines.

Northeast China's Jilin Province held a work meeting on the service sector last month, aimed at cultivating the sector as a future growth point.

Sun Zhiming, director of the institute of economics of Jilin Academy of Social Sciences, believes the service sector in the northeastern region has development advantages, such as the region's winter tourism industry. Although the short-term investment is big, profits can be generated for the long run. "Besides tourism, the aviation industry, high-end equipment manufacturing and biochemical engineering could all be new growth engines for the northeast," Sun said.

East China's Jiangsu Province is also focusing on intelligent manufacturing with the aim of becoming an advanced manufacturing base with global competitiveness.

Deputies to the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC) suggested that, in addition to adding new engines, supply-side reform needs to do some subtraction. Cutting overcapacity, de-stocking, de-leveraging and reducing costs were all listed as major tasks of reform.

According to a five-year supply-side reform plan for Guangdong released on March 1, all "zombie" companies in the province will be cleared out in three years. Shanxi Province plans to cut its coal production by 258 million tonnes by 2020, while Hebei Province aims to contain its steel and cement capacities to 200 million tonnes each.

The burden on companies will also be alleviated. NPC deputy Zong Qinghou, chairman of the beverage company Hangzhou Wahaha Group, suggested that more taxes and costs of enterprises should be cut to help the real economy.

According to Saturday's government work report, the government will pursue a more proactive fiscal policy, with an increased deficit to cut taxes and promote effective investments.

Analysts believe there will be further measures carried out nationwide following the annual sessions of the NPC and the CPPCC National Committee. With different focuses, together they will help combat an ongoing economic slowdown in the country.
At present, the profound impacts of the international financial crisis are lingering and the world economy is still in a period of deep adjustment. As the second largest economy in the world, any move China makes attracts the world's attention. Many countries are more concerned about in which way China, which is facing downward pressure, will develop its economy and whether it can maintain medium-to-high growth and continue to create development opportunities for other countries.

As 2016 marks the first year when China enters the crucial period of fulfilling the task of building a moderately well-off society in an all-round way as well as a significant year for China to promote economic restructuring, the annual two sessions, of course, become the best occasion for other countries to observe China's economic situation. Reports by famous international
institutions and media recently demonstrate their concerns.

Economic reform has seen initial success.

In order to make China's economy and even the global economy develop more steadily and robustly, China decided to implement structural reform, making efforts to cope with deep-rooted and middle-and-long-term problems of its economy. Foreign media hold that China's structural reform has achieved initial success, fundamentally improving economic efficiency.

An article published by the U.S. Brookings Institution pointed out that it is good news that China has made a certain achievements in economic structural reform. Up to now, economic news from China is generally positive. China needs to transform its growth model with high proportion of investment into a more stable growth model and further focus on supply-side innovation and consumption. The adjustment is being slowly carried out, and consumption is accounting for more in China's GDP. It will benefit China's continuing economic growth, and the global economy will also benefit from China's economic transition.

Japanese Manichi Shimbun (National Daily) believed that although economy in China's northern areas based on heavy industry is in recession, the economy is booming in its southern areas whose “new economy” with service as the core is very active. The direction and goal of the “New Normal” proposed by China's government are correct, and people should evaluate Chinese economy from a comprehensive perspective instead of only growth rate.

Target of China's economic growth is rational.

The growth target for 2016 was set at 6.5%~7% in the government work report delivered by Premier Li Keqiang at the annual two sessions. Actually, considering the enormous size of the Chinese economy, each percentage point of its GDP equals 1.5 percentage points of five years ago or 2.5 percentage points of ten years ago. Overseas public opinion believes that the target this year is flexible, which demonstrates China's determination of transition as well as its flexible policies.

The New York Times believed that it is a correct step for China to change the target of its economic growth from a specific figure to a range. The Wall Street Journal thought that as China is facing heavy downward pressure, it conforms to the universal expectation for the Chinese government to lower its target of growth so as to carry out structural reform and cope with global economic recession. British Financial Times pointed out that the target is widely endorsed by international economists, which demonstrates that Chinese government is making efforts to balance Chinese economic growth and reform. Associated Press held that the target range showed Chinese government's wish for eliminating concerns in the market and restoring confidence as well as its determination to maneuver economic transition.

Fiscal and monetary policies get endorsements.

As a significant part of the “visible hand”, fiscal and monetary policies have always attracted much attention. Foreign media analyzed
and praised relevant points in the government work report, like budgetary deficits, value-added tax (VAT) reform and monetary policies. Japanese Yomiuri Shimbun holds that China expands financial expenditure and implements financial policies to realize stable growth target and stabilize the market.

As for China's VAT reform that substitutes value-added tax for business tax in all industries, Press Trust of India quoted analyst’s opinion that the VAT policy is crucial for China, which can improve the efficiency of tax structure and reduce tax burdens, making China one of the countries with the most advanced VAT regimes.

Chinese economy will continue to benefit the world.

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) believed that the statements of Xu Shaoshi, head of the National Development and Reform Commission, about China's economic situation were tailored to popular concerns and passed the signal of confidence and resolve to conduct economic transition.

The World Bank holds that China is a significant engine driving global economic growth. Statistics shows that from 2009 to 2014, with an average annual GDP growth of 8.7%, China's contribution to global economic growth reached 30%, while the average global economic growth is only 2%. In 2015, China, whose GDP grew 6.9%, remained one of the largest and fastest-growing economies, contributing 25% of global economic growth.

PROPERTY MARKET IN BIG CITIES GETS FROTHTHY AMID LEVERAGED PURCHASE

Beijing. March 2 (Xinhua) — Wang Xin was close to buying an apartment in downtown Beijing for 3.3 million yuan (500,000 U.S. dollars), but the home owner raised the price by 20,000 yuan at the last minute.

Wang agreed to pay the extra money, but the deal fell through anyway. The home owner went with an estate agent, who promised to sell the apartment for 470,000 yuan more.

Wang tried to persuade the owner to honor the deal, but was locked out of the realtor's office. This dramatic turn of events all happened in less than half an hour.

Similar episodes have taken place over the past month in China's big cities, most in the east, where home buyers wait outside developers’ sales offices overnight to snap up new homes and home owners call prospective buyers and sales agents to raise the price by the week, days, or even hours.

The sudden buying frenzy came amid a spate of property easing measures and easy credit as authorities seek to provide an environment that will reduce
housing inventories, which has dragged China’s property market into a sustained correction.

Home prices jumped 52.7 percent in January from a year ago in the southern boomtown of Shenzhen, which has led the price increase of major cities last year. This was followed by a 21.4 percent rise in Shanghai, 11.3 percent in Beijing and 10 percent in Guangzhou, data from the National Bureau of Statistics shows.

“I’m so glad I bought the apartment early. The prices have risen so fast since then,” said one home owner in Shenzhen. Her apartment, bought in July last year, has doubled in value.

Increased transaction volume further reduced inventories in top tier cities. Data compiled by real estate service firm E-House shows that as of February, property inventories in China’s top four cities (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen) can be sold in less than ten months. Shanghai’s inventories have dipped to 7 months, down 22 percent from a year ago.

This will only increase the property market gap between top and lower tier cities. The latter are in a more urgent need of inventory slash.

In January, inventory levels in third tier cities stood at 19.4 months, E-House data shows. A reading over 15 months underscores the need to clear inventories. Some of the worst performing property markets are saddled with inventories that can last more than two years.

Authorities have cut interest rates, reduced downpayments for mortgages and removed existing home restrictions in nearly all but top tier cities in the hope of boosting sales. Unsold homes in many lower tier cities have subdued developers investment in new property development, which has weighed on industrial production, fixed asset investment and headline growth.

Increased home transactions have been backed by eased access to credit. Data from the central bank show that new yuan-denominated loans rose to a record high of 2.51 trillion yuan in January.

Analysts say that the surge could have been fueled by increased mortgages, which surged 23 percent in the fourth quarter last year.
A recent research note by Gavekal Dragonomics said that mortgages will only increase in the future as housing demands shift from middle class urbanites to lower-income rural migrants.

Though there is a limit on mortgage amounts, some real estate agencies have been providing additional leverage for people who can not find deposits.

One agency provides credit up to 20 percent of their deposit without any collateral. The money was raised through peer-to-peer lending investments that promise 8 to 12 percent annualized return.

This has enabled many to purchase homes that they otherwise could not afford. The results, many in the industry say, would be the return of more speculative demand, pushing home prices to frothier levels.

“There are signs that speculative demands are back again, pushing up home prices with easy credit,” said Wang Feng, a real estate analyst based in Shenzhen. “While authorities need to provide ample credit for real mortgage demand, they should be aware of any attempts to seek leverage to speculate in the property market.”

GLOBAL MEDIA PAY HIGH ATTENTION TO CHINA’S ECONOMIC POLICY MAKING

Beijing, March 7 (Xinhua) — News media of both the host country and the rest of the world have paid close attention to China’s new economic policy making, as Beijing is holding the 12-day annual sessions of the national legislature and the top advisory body.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged Shanghai to aim at the world’s most advanced technology, shifting his focus from last year’s stabilization of the general situation for comprehensive reform and opening up to calling for efforts to make breakthrough in core innovative technology, the Singapore-based Lianhe Zaobao reported.

Premier Li Keqiang announced a growth target of 6.5 to 7 percent in his Government Work Report to the session of the National People’s Congress (NPC) — the national legislature — on Beijing’s plans for the year at the opening NPC session.

That was down from last year’s “about 7 percent” and reflects the Communist Party’s marathon efforts to replace a worn-out model based on trade and investment with more self-sustaining growth driven by consumer spending, said reports of the Associated Press.

The New York Times said that China’s introducing a band rather than a hard target is a step forward in the right direction. The Reuters news agency also saw China’s greater flexibility in macroeconomic management and guiding market expectations.

Foreign media reports suggested that analysts believed achieving the economic growth target for 2016 is still a challenging task.
The South China Morning Post, a Hong Kong-based English-language newspaper, reported Sunday that economists said it would be a “daunting task” to keep economic growth at above 6.5 percent.

Meanwhile, The New York Times on Saturday quoted Shen Jianguang, the Hong Kong-based chief Asia economist at Mizuho Security Asia, as saying that the 6.5 percent growth target is “very challenging.” “They want to choose a path that maintains real growth now and defers tough times for later,” Shen was quoted as saying.

With regard to this year’s budget deficit, which was targeted at an amount equivalent to 3 percent of the gross domestic production (GDP), foreign media said it fell far lower than they had predicted.

Acknowledging that the draft goal saw an increase from last year’s 2.3 percent, Reuters said in a report Saturday that it “still disappointed some who had hoped for a number closer to 4 (percent).”

Other media also paid attention to Premier Li’s announcement that China will for the first time ever replace business tax with value-added tax (VAT). A report by The Press Trust of India on Saturday said the move was “in a bid to streamline tax structures and reduce tax burden.”

“This is a significant and positive development as China will have one of the most progressive VAT systems in the world,” it said, citing Lachlan Wolfers, head of indirect taxes at the China office of KPMG, a professional service company that provides audit, tax and advisory services.

In the Government Work Report, Premier Li said China aims to create at least 10 million new urban jobs and keep the registered urban unemployment rate within 4.5 percent this year.

The report provides a blueprint of China’s aspirations for the next five years across a range of sectors and measures, Reuters said.

It shows “Beijing trying to strike
a balance between holding up growth and restructuring underperforming industries,” such as the so-called “zombie firms,” Reuters added.

“Zombie firms” are economically unviable businesses, usually in industries with severe overcapacity, kept alive only with aid from the government and banks.

In his report, Li listed closing such companies as a priority for the government.

Earlier, “the government flagged major job losses in key coal and steel industries,” said Reuters.

Foreign media also paid attention to a planned high-speed railway linking Beijing and Hong Kong (Taipei).

According to the draft outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan on national economy and social development, the high-speed railway will be built between 2016 and 2020.

It is the first time for an official document of China to mention the planned railway, Lianhe Zaobao said.

Also underway in Beijing alongside the NPC session is the 2016 annual session of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) — the top advisory body of China.

WANG JIANLIN PLAN TO BUILD AN INDUSTRIAL PARK IN INDIA

(Xinhua) Bloomberg Business noticed the recent move of China’s richest man Wang Jianlin. As the chairman of Dalian Wanda Group Co., Wang agreed to spearhead a $10 billion project to build an industrial park in India. Bloomberg also reported that the investment’s scale suggests it would be the largest foreign investment into India.
China can attain its growth target set for this year and the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-20) without resorting to big stimulus, central bank Governor Zhou Xiaochuan said on Saturday.

"With the aid of macro-control tools and prudent monetary policy, the growth targets China has set can be realized through improving productivity, consumption and innovation," said the governor of the People’s Bank of China (PBC) at a press conference on the sidelines of the annual parliamentary session.

The governor added that China has no intention of weakening its currency to boost exports.

Zhou’s remarks came after China set its growth target for 2016 between 6.5 percent and 7 percent. “The target was made on the basis of China’s growth trajectory in the past and its growth potential,” stressed Zhou, allaying concerns about China’s ability to meet the target.

China’s large sum of savings will lead to new investment, which will bring about new productivity and therefore fuel the GDP growth, Zhou said, explaining the reason why China’s economy will continue to have room for growth, even though elimination of outdated production capacity has become policy priority. China now seeks growth by relying more on domestic demand, while export is not able to contribute to growth the way it used to.

Zhou tried to ease market concerns over the weak trade data, saying that given the significant drop of commodity prices, the added value of China’s processing companies did not shrink drastically, and their contribution to the GDP was not seriously affected. The share of China’s exports in the global market increased slightly in 2015.

According to the statistics from the General Administration of Customs, China’s trade surplus last year amounted to nearly $600 billion and the balance of international payments surpassed $570 billion. Both numbers witnessed considerable growth, the governor noted.

The ongoing urbanization,
improvement in productivity and dividends of the reform and opening up policy will maintain the economic growth momentum, Yi Gang, vice-governor of the PBC, said at the press conference.

Some Chinese economists echoed these views, noting that China has the capability to cope with risks by seeking a stable growth.

Economists attending the Two Sessions said that China will witness steady growth in 2016, citing its abundant macroeconomic control tools and capability to address possible risks.

China’s economy is transforming from the stage of industrialization to post-industrialization, and a slowdown in growth is inevitable for any country undergoing such a process, said Li Yining, a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the emeritus dean of the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University.

By pursuing proactive fiscal policy and a prudent monetary policy, China focuses on targeted adjustment and pre-emptive fine-tuning, which will steer the economy on the path of stable progress in 2016, Li said.

At the same time, investment and consumption has not seen a substantial decline. As illustrated in this year’s government work report, investment projects covering high-speed railway, transportation facility and Internet will still be carried out, the economist emphasized.

China still has ample macro-control tools to handle the current economic situation, said Huang Shouhong, a deputy director of the State Council Research Office.

“China did not adopt a quantitative easing policy when it encountered economic headwinds a few years ago. As a result, the current deficit rate and monetary policy are within the range,” explained Huang, also head of the 2016 government work report draft team.

Ma Jiantang, executive vice president of the Chinese Academy of Governance, suggested that China’s prudent monetary policy should be more flexible and the fiscal policy more proactive this year.

He stressed that both scientific macro-regulation policy and deeper structural reforms are required to prevent economic risks. “Although the PBC has just lowered the banks’ reserve requirement ratio by 0.5 percentage point, it still stands at around 17 percent. Moreover, China’s base rate of one-year term deposits is still higher than the world’s average,” Ma added.
Beijing, March 14 (Xinhua) — China’s 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), which experts see critical in tiding the country through a transition period, will create more opportunities for sustainable growth within and beyond its borders.

China’s economy experiences different phases of its development cycle. It is now shifting its focus to consumption and service industries from heavy polluting industries and manufacturing via complex reforms, the experts said.

A natural result of the transition is lower yet sustainable and balanced growth, and it continues to create development opportunities for the world, they said.

During the transition, a significant portion of the growth will be based on domestic consumption. The model is changing from “simple mass consumption to higher consumption,” said Michael Zakkour, vice president of China/ APAC at Tompkins International and author of “China’s Super Consumers.”

The increased importance of the Chinese consumers is not only to the Chinese economy but to the global one. Zakkour said this is providing huge opportunities for companies and governments.
Innovation, coordination, green development, opening up and sharing are the five cornerstones proposed by President Xi Jinping for China to secure resilient and sustainable growth.

Looking into the next five years' development, the global business circle is aware of China going global, and the economy is moving forward healthier and more balanced.

“We continue to believe that if China implements the market-based economic reforms it has committed to, it has the necessary tools to support domestic demand and succeed in this economic transition,” said U.S. Treasury Under Secretary for International Affairs Nathan Sheets in an opinion-page article published on Medium recently.

“This transformation would allow China to solidify its status as a driver of global demand and offers the best formula for China to achieve an orderly transition and put its economy on a more sustainable footing for healthy growth in the future,” said Sheets.

“We want to see China make this transition, because we recognize that China’s success ultimately benefits our own,” stressed the U.S. official.

“The world simply can’t do without China,” said Oh Ei Sun, senior fellow with S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University.

Unstable U.S. economy and continued depression in Europe have protruded China’s position as a locomotive of the world economy, said Oh, who is also former political advisor to Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.

Oh said the transition period provides China with a superb chance to upgrade its economic development, which he believed will also benefit the rest of the world.

Many countries, especially those in South East Asia, hope to have deeper trade interactions with China, said Oh, adding that ASEAN members desire to have more cooperation based on free trade deals with China.
CHINESE-MANAGED PIRAEUS PORT CONTINUES TO GROW AT RAPID PACE, AS NEW MILESTONE NEARS

Athens, March 13 (Xinhua) — The Chinese-managed part of Piraeus port continues to grow at an impressive, rapid pace under COSCO’s subsidiary Piraeus Port Terminal (PCT) management in recent years as a new milestone nears, according to the latest data presented to a group of visitors at Greece’s largest port on Friday.

As the Greek parliament is expected to ratify in coming weeks the sale to COSCO of the 67 percent shares stake in state-owned Piraeus Port Authority (PPA) which still manages Pier I, PCT races full ahead to launch by August 2016 the first pilot phase operations in the West division of Pier III, currently under construction, top managers told prominent visitors and Xinhua during a tour at the premises.

Once again since PCT took over the operations of Pier II and Pier III in autumn 2009 under a 35-year concession agreement, PCT is expected to deliver well ahead of the initial timetables, Angelos Karakostas, PCT Deputy General
Manager, told Chinese Ambassador to Greece Zou Xiaoli, his wife and an “all female” group of visitors during an event organized by the Chinese Embassy to Greece and PCT on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

Under the terms of the contract PCT has signed, the Western Pier III should be completed by 2021, Karakostas explained to Evi Flambouraris, the wife of Greek State Minister Alekos Flambouraris, women ambassadors and the spouses of foreign ambassadors accredited to Greece.

PCT aims to complete 70 percent of works at the Western Pier III by August this year and 100 percent by November 2017, Karakostas noted giving one more example of the fast transformation of Piraeus port under the Chinese management.

Pier III is being constructed from scratch, after the expansion and upgrading of Pier II by PCT. The East Division of Pier III is already in operation far earlier ahead of schedule and the West Division — where works began in early 2015 — is quickly taking its final shape.

By 2020 PCT officials expect that Piraeus’ cargo handling capacity will reach some 6.3 million TEUs (twenty feet container unit) per year, making Piraeus the largest port in terminal capacity in the Mediterranean.

Currently Piraeus ranks third in the Mediterranean and is among the top ten in Europe, according to Lloyd’s list for the top container ports.

In 2008, before PCT started its operations at Piraeus, PPA handled about 500,000 TEUs of cargo.

According to plans, the target for 2016 is for PCT to handle at least 3.3 million TEUs, PCT managers told guests on Friday, as workers were transferring containers from giant cargo ships using high cranes on big lorries.

“Four large container ships can dock at Pier II and Pier III at the same time; Nine cargo trains transfer containers to central Europe every week,” Karakostas said.

COSCO’s investment at Piraeus is the first major Chinese investment in Greece. Friday's event was held a few days after Greece’s supreme administrative court, the Court of Audit, cleared the way for the acquisition of the majority stake of PPA by the Chinese company which won an international tender earlier this year.

Sino-Greek collaboration at Piraeus port in recent years has been praised by officials of both sides and the local business community and experts as a great success story in bilateral ties in difficult times for Greece amid an acute debt crisis since late 2009.

Addressing the event, Ambassador Zou stressed that confidence, mutual trust and cooperation are the foundations of recovery of Greece, China and the whole region will have a better future, he said.

His view was echoed by visitors at PCT’s premises on Friday.

“I am impressed with the level of organization here. I believe this investment will help very much the Sino-Greek cooperation in terms of employment for Greek people and the overall collaboration will help this area and the wider region,” Panayiota Meletiou, wife of the mayor of the nearby Aspropyrgos municipality, told Xinhua.

Currently some 1,250 Greeks are employed at PCT in a country suffering from record high unemployment rates.

The example of the Sino-Greek collaboration at Piraeus port inspires other countries to also deepen their cooperation with Greece and China.

“After what we have seen here, the win-win cooperation between Greece and China, I will pass the information to Vietnam and maybe a Vietnamese shipping company will also come here and invest,” Vietnamese Ambassador to Greece Tran Thi Ha Phuong told Xinhua after the tour.

“I am impressed about the shipping activity in this area. It is one of the main ports in Europe and I can see directly the level of efficiency and effectiveness of this port and I am sure that means a very successful story in cooperation between China and Greece,” Chile’s Ambassador to Greece Maria Pia Busta Diaz, commented.
Preparations for the G20 summit in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou are going smoothly, the senior official in charge of preparing for the event has said.

The summit will be held in Hangzhou on Sept. 4 and 5, after China took over the G20 presidency in December.

State Councilor Yang Jiechi said in a Q&A posted on the Foreign Ministry’s website on Tuesday that China has set up a committee to coordinate preparatory work, and agreement on the priorities for the summit was reached during the
first Sherpa meeting, also known as coordinators’ meeting in preparations for the summit.

Programs of events and arrangements for venues, facilities, logistics and security are also being fleshed out, Yang said.

China has proposed four key priorities under the theme of the summit, namely — forging a new path for growth, “more effective and efficient global economic and financial governance”, “robust international trade and investment”, and “inclusive and interconnected development.”

“These priorities are consistent with the needs of the world economy and the direction of China’s development, and demonstrate the spirit of innovation,” Yang said.

China hopes that the summit will reach consensus on innovation, structural reform, new industrial revolution and digital economy, according to the state councilor.

“We call for innovation in science and technology and, beyond that, in development concepts, institutions and mechanisms, and business models,” he said.

In the months running up to the G20 summit, China will host Sherpa meetings in Guangzhou, Xiamen, Hangzhou and Wuhan, finance ministers’ and central bank governors’ meetings in Shanghai and Chengdu, and meetings of ministers covering trade, employment, energy and agriculture in Shanghai, Beijing and Xi’an.

China will also host supporting events such as the Business 20 (B20) Summit, the Labor 20 (L20) Meeting, the Youth 20 (Y20) Meeting, the Women 20 (W20) Meeting and the Think Tank 20 (T20) Meeting.

To make the summit more representative, China has invited Egypt, Kazakhstan, Spain, Singapore, Laos and Senegal to take part in the full program of the summit as guest countries, Yang said.

“China will continue to follow the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness in the preparatory work, and keep close communication and coordination with all parties for a successful Hangzhou Summit,” he said.
Hangzhou is located along Southeast coast of China. It is the capital of Zhejiang Province, the center of politics, economy, science, education, and culture of the province. Hangzhou is a key national tourism city, historical city and vice provincial level city as confirmed by the State Council. Hangzhou is renowned as “Paradise on Earth”, “Cultural State”, “Home of Silk”, “Tea Capital”, “Town of Fish and Rice”.

Eight districts, respectively Shangcheng, Xiacheng, Gongshu, Xihu, Jianggan, Binjiang, Xiaoshan, and Yuhang, and five counties (cities), respectively Fuyang, Lin’an, Jiande, Tonglu, and Chun’an, are under the governance of Hangzhou City. The total area of the city covers 16,596 Km2 with a population of 6,776,400 (December, 2008).

Historical Vicissitudes

Hangzhou has enjoyed a history of over 2,200 years since the county administration was established in Qin Dynasty. It is one of the cradles of Huaxia (China) Civilization. As early as over 5,000 years ago, there were human beings multiplying and living in Hangzhou area, creating Liangzhu Culture known as the Dawn of Civilization. The archaeological discovery of Liangzhu ancient city ruin in 2007 pushed even earlier the recorded history of Hangzhou civilization. Hangzhou, one of the seven ancient capitals of China, was the capital of Wuyu State, of the Five-Dynasties and also the capital of the Southern Song Dynasty. In the 13th century, the Italian traveler Marco Polo admired Hangzhou as “the Most Splendid and Luxurious City in the World”. Hangzhou was called Qiantang in ancient time. In the ninth year of Kaihuang of Sui Dynasty (589), Hangzhou was founded to replace the original Qiantang County and the name of Hangzhou was recorded for the first time in history. The Wuyu State of the Five-Dynasties(907-978) founded capital in Hangzhou. In the third year of Jianyan of Southern Song Dynasty (1129), Emperor Gaozong moved southward to...
Hangzhou and upgraded it as the site of the prefectural city of Lin’an. In the eighth year of Shaoxing (1138), Lin’an was officially determined as the capital, which lasted more than 140 years. In the first year of the Republic of China (1912), the original Qiantang County and Renhe County were merged into Hangzhou County. In the 16th year of the Republic of China (1927), Hangzhou County was dismantled and Hangzhou was founded as a city. It was on May 3, 1949 when Hangzhou was liberated that Hangzhou began to write its new chapter of development in history.

**Natural Resources**

Hangzhou has long been reputed as the Land of Fish and Rice, the Land of Silk and Paradise on the Earth with lengthwise and sidewise rivers and densely scattered lakes. Benefiting from the geographic features, Hangzhou is blessed for its agricultural production with rich myriad plants, forests, animals and birds. Man-cultivated plants for food and oil were grown around the city. In addition, there are over 260 breeds of economic plants such as fruit, tea, mulberry trees and flowers. Hangzhou is renowned for raising mulberry and silkworm. Also noteworthy is the national famous tea known as the dragon well tea, which is originated here. A great variety of species grow in Hangzhou, including 10 national first-level protected animals, 64 second-level protected animals; 3 first-level protected and 18 second level protected plants. Hangzhou has an agrarian area of 2.731 million Chinese acres, and 0.41 Chinese acre per capital. The forest covers an area of 1.08 million hectare, with a coverage rate 64.3 percent and the mineral resources include large- and middle-scale metal and nonmetal deposits. A kind of rare bloodstones in the world are produced in Changhua of Lin’an city, which are the art treasure in the collect stones and sealstones.

**Administrative Districts**

Under the jurisdiction of Hangzhou are the 8 districts of Shangcheng, Xiacheng, Jianggan, Gongshu, Xihu, Binjiang, Xiaoshan and Yuhang, the 3 county-level cities of Jiande, Fuyang and Lin’an, and the 2 counties of Tonglu and Chun’an. There are 198 villages and towns (districts), including 31 villages, 105 towns and 62 districts, with a total area of 16,596 square kilometers, including an area of 3,068 square kilometers in the urban.
**Population & Employment**

1. Demographic Amount
   
   According to the 5th population sampling survey in 2008, the population of long-term residents reached 7.966 million, up by 1.32 percent over the previous; of which 5.5236 million in urban district, accounting for 69.34 percent of long-term residents. The city’s population density is 480 people per square km; By the end of 2008, the total domicile population of Hangzhou was 6.7764 million. In the registered people, the agriculture population amounted to 3.3688 million and the non-agriculture population reached 3.4076 million. The birth rate of population was 9.09 per mill, the death rate was 6.32 per mill and the natural growth rate was 2.77 per mill.

   The structure of Long-term population by the end of 2008 (%)

2. Population Age Structure
   
   According to the 5th sample survey of population in 2008, among all the residents, population of 0 to 14-year-old was 987,800, accounting for 12.4 percent of the total population; population of 15 to 64-year-old was 6.1099 million, accounting for 76.7 percent; persons aged 65 and over 868,300, accounting for 10.9 percent. Compared with the previous year, proportion of 0 to 14-year-old dropped by 0.62 percentage points, that of aged 65 and above had increased 0.09 percentage points.

3. Residents Life Expectancy
   
   The population continues to extend life expectancy. In year 2008, the average life expectancy was 79.74 years old of residents in Hangzhou (77.44 years of men and 82.25 years of women), which was equivalent to the level of developed countries.

4. Education
   
   The cultural quality of the population has improved continually. In the year of 2008, population of 6-year-old and above of residents in Hangzhou with the tertiary education level and above accounted for 14.95 % of the population, 0.03 percentage points higher than that of the previous year. High school educated population accounts for 15.69%, 0.7 percentage points increased; junior secondary education population accounts for 33.64%, 0.92 percentage point increased. Compulsory education enrolment rate reached 100 percent, high school enrollment rate reached 98.7 percent, and higher education gross enrollment rate reached 51.9
percent.

5. Employment

The scale of employment in Hangzhou has expanded. By the end of 2008, there was a total of 5.6916 million employees in the city, 0.3607 million more than the previous year. There were 2.0135 million private and individual participators, more than 8,500 over the previous year. Registered urban unemployment rate was 3.02 percent in the end of the year.

Historical Cultural Heritage

The profound historical cultural heritage of Hangzhou promote innovation and mutual development by piecing together the Wu and Yue Civilization in Tang and Song Dynasty, the Religious heritage of Buddha and Taoism in Jin, Wei, Sui and Tang Dynasty, the continental and the imperial custom in South Song dynasty, as well as the Islamic and Christian believes to fuse into an enormous cultural integrity. The rainbow of West Lake, the Liangzhu ruin, the Wuyue heritage, South Song Civilization as well as those of Ming Dynasty, Qing Dynasty, and period during the Republic of China contribute the merits of their unique culture, coping with the natural scenic beauty, the Chinese gardens, the religion, the architecture, the celebrities, the customs, the silk, the tea, and great variety of food creation, all put together to make up the delicacy, harmony and classic taste of Hangzhou Culture. The Great Cannel provides a rose bed for the plants, the water view, the local opera, and the Temple Fair custom to represent the openness and tolerance in the characteristic of Hangzhou so that the classic and the popular could both found their position. Especially the Qiantang River culture with rolling tide running forward mark the broad mind and heart of the Hangzhou People.

Renowned People

Hangzhou fostered a galaxy of culturally significant celebrities including philosophers such as Gong Zizhen and Zhang Taiyan; great writers such as Bai Juyi, Lin Hejing, Fan Zhongyan, Chen Ruisheng, Luo Guanzhong, Shi Naian, Yu Dafu, Feng Zikai, Xianyou; Dramatists such as Li Yu and Hong Sheng; Artists such as Litang, Liu Songman, Ma Yuan, Xia Qi, Li Song, Wu Changshuo, Huang Binhong, Pan Tianshou, Huang Gongwang, Lin Fengmian, Gai Jiaotian; Scholars of Chinese such as Yu Quyuan and Ma Yifu; Scientists such as Shen Kuo, Bi Sheng, Li Zhizao, Zhu Kezhen, Mao Yisheng, Qian Xuesen; Education experts such as Lin Qi, Tao Xingzhi, Li Shutong; Scholars of medicine such as Wu Shangxian, Zhu Danxi, Wang Mengying; Great patriots such as Yue Fei, Yu Qian, and Zhang Cangshui.

Featured Products

Hangzhou has numerous special local products. As the "Capital of Silk", its history of silk producing could be dated back to 4,700 years ago testified by the silk cloth unearthed from Liangzhu ruins. Later in the Tang Dynasty, the silk production had reached a distinctively high level, which was described in the poem of the great poet Bai Juyi as "Silk sleeves are decorated by flower textures which could be well compared to the real blossom. When pears flowers are bloom, it is the time to drink the light heart under the blue flag of the bar." Presently, the silk is differentiated into fourteen categories of Chou, Duan, Jin, Fang, Zou, Lin etc. Those categories are fractionized into more than 200 subclasses, over 2,000 designs and colors with vivid pictures printed, fl owers and figures alike. The silk of Hangzhou has won immense national and international awards.
and was marketed into more than 100 countries and regions. Hangzhou is also renowned for the dragon-well tea which is listed as one of the top ten tea in China, the popular Dongpo Pork which is ruby in color and softly tender in taste, the fan of Wangxingji, the scissors of Zhangxiaoguan, the lace from Xiaoshan, the Jinshan tea from Yuhang, the honey products from Tonglu, the organic fishhead from the Thousand Island Lake, the mountain walnuts from Linan, the Yellow wine typed Wujiapi of the brand Zhizhonghe, the Tofu peel from Fuyang. Numerable local specialties give out a rich flavor of Hangzhou local taste.

Tibet Today

TIBETAN FARMERS AND HERDERS' INCOME GROWS BY 12 PERCENT

Lhasa, Feb. 25 (Xinhua) — China's southwestern Tibet region reported 12 percent growth in the per capita disposal income of farmers and herders last year, the local government said Thursday.

The per capita disposal income rose to 8,244 yuan (1,263 U.S. dollars), maintaining double-digit growth for 13 consecutive years.

Farmers and herders account for more than 80 percent of Tibet’s population and the main work of local authorities is to improve their conditions and income.

Over the past five years, the local government has channelled 78.7 billion yuan to farming and stock breeding.

Development of other

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industries helped create jobs and boost income.

The authorities also helped to arrange surplus labor to work in other industries. More than 600,000 migrants sent back over 2 billion yuan to Tibet.

Losang, who works for a water plant in Damxung County, said he earned more than 50,000 yuan a year and with this he built a new house.

Last year, the plateau region reported 11-percent GDP growth, the fastest in the country.

**TIBET TO BUILD CHINA’S HIGHEST RESORT**

*(CHINA DAILY)*

China’s highest ski resort has been earmarked for Lhasa, capital of the Tibet autonomous region, as part of its 13th Five-Year Plan (2016–20).

Surrounded by snow-capped mountains and glaciers, Tibet has many natural advantages for developing a skiing and mountaineering industry.

It has five mountains higher than 8,000 meters, more than 70 mountains higher than 7,000 meters, and no fewer than 1,000 mountains higher than 6,000 meters.

“With an average altitude of 4,500 meters above sea level, Tibet is rich in unique natural resources for ice and snow sports,” said Nyima Tsering, deputy director of the region’s sports bureau.

Born in Tibet’s eastern Qamdo prefecture, 47-year-old Nyima has spent the past 15 years honing local mountaineering expertise, turning the region into a center of Himalayan mountaineering culture and promoting it as a paradise for outdoor sports.

He also serves as the head of the Tibet Mountaineering Guide School and has climbed to the top of Qomolangma, known as Mount Everest in the West, three times.

It is important to have a ski resort in the region’s capital, Nyima said, because it will provide a stage for younger generations to learn the basics of winter sports before attempting the many natural snow-capped mountains in the area.

“Just as China is new to the winter sports game, Tibet also has a long way to go,” said Nyima, adding that he hoped “to see the faces of Tibetan skiers” at the 2022 Winter Olympics.

A contract has been signed between the sports bureaus of Tibet and China’s Heilongjiang province to aid in the training of Tibetan talent.

Azha, a coach with the team, said he believed there was a lot of potential for Tibetans to do well in winter sports.

He gave the example of Dorje, one of four Tibetan skiers who participated in the recent 2016 Sohu Cup national ski mountaineering event and came eighth in the men’s event.

“These four Tibetan skiers were only trained for 90 days, and they did a good job. We can make it in the future,” he added.
Beijing, March 1 (Xinhua) — Senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official Sun Chunlan met with the 11th Panchen Lama Bainqen Erdini Qoigyijabu on Tuesday, lauding his patriotism and increasing influence in the Tibetan Buddhism society.

Sun, head of the United Front Work Department of the CPC Central Committee, asked the Panchen Lama to make contribution to national unification and ethnic solidarity.

Regarding the 20th anniversary of the Panchen Lama’s enthronement and his increasing influence within the Tibetan Buddhism society, Sun said it was the result of diligence and commitment to his studies.

Sun expressed the hope that the Panchen Lama will follow the instructions of the CPC Central Committee’s general secretary Xi Jinping during their meeting in June last year and carry forward the fine tradition of his predecessors.

The Panchen Lama said he will bear in mind the care from the CPC Central Committee and the central government as well as Xi’s instructions.

He vowed to work hard to help “Tibetan Buddhism better incorporated into socialist society” and promote Tibet’s prosperity, harmony and stability.

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**BOOK REVIEW**

**Contemporary China's Diplomacy**

China’s diplomacy features both global common characteristics and Chinese national and cultural characteristics like benevolence and good-neighborliness and harmony as the core. China's foreign experience is both the treasure of China’s diplomacy and the basis for its future development and the great contribution to international diplomacy theories. The book aims at giving a concise and comprehensive introduction to China’s diplomacy development and change, and elaborates the status and changes of the relationship between China and other major countries in the world and relevant reasons, and China’s standpoints and policies on major international issues.

You can come to get the book for FREE, or ask for a VPP service as you need.

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

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Address: 50-D, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021
Tel: 0091-11-26116683
# FLIGHTS BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA

## Schedule of China Southern Airlines Flights

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<tr>
<th>ROUTING</th>
<th>FLIGHT NO.</th>
<th>DEPARTURE TIME</th>
<th>ARRIVAL TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td>New Delhi-Guangzhou</td>
<td>CZ3028</td>
<td>12:45</td>
<td>19:50</td>
<td>Daily</td>
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<td>Guangzhou - NewDelhi</td>
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<td>22:30</td>
<td>Daily</td>
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## Schedule of China Southern Airlines Flights (Summer Season)

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<th>ARRIVAL TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td>New Delhi-Guangzhou</td>
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<td>Daily</td>
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<td>22:10</td>
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## China Eastern Time Table

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<th>Aircraft</th>
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<td>MU564</td>
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## Schedule of Air China Flights Between India and China

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airlines</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air China</strong></td>
<td>Ground Floor, E-9 Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001</td>
<td>Tel: 011-43508888  Fax: 011-43508899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unit No. 9/2, Queen’s Road, Bangalore 560001</td>
<td>Tel: 080-43587900  Fax: 080-43587999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ground Floor, C&amp;B Square,127 Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (east), Mumbai 400069</td>
<td>Tel: 022-61175555  Fax: 022-61175566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>China Eastern Airlines</strong></td>
<td>Thapar House, 124, Janpath, New Delhi 110001</td>
<td>Tel: 011-43513166  Fax: 011-43513155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>228A, Land Mark Building, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata 700020</td>
<td>Tel: 033-22875173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>China Southern Airlines</strong></td>
<td>118, New Delhi House, 27, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110001</td>
<td>Tel: 011-43596075/77/78  Fax: 011-23737453</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cathy Pacific</strong></td>
<td>G123, Tolstoy House, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi</td>
<td>Tel: 011-23321286/3332  Fax: 011-23721550</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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I, Mme. Xie Liyan, hereby declares that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: March, 2016

Mme. Xie Liyan
Signature of Publisher
Chinese Master Fashion Competition

To celebrate Visit China Year in India 2016, Chinese Master Fashion Competition was successfully held at Chitkara University, Chandigarh on 26th February. The hosts were China National Tourist Office, New Delhi and its events partners including Axiom Travels Pvt. Ltd. and Chitkara University. In total there were 15 competing teams from 10 regional universities and colleges in north India. Each team comprised 04 members who were in Han Fu, Tang Zhuang or Qi Pao. All of the traditional Chinese clothes and costumes were designed and made by the students themselves. Silk Road Tourism was also promoted fervently along with this unique Competition.