Mr. Liu Jinsong, Charge d'Affaires of Chinese Embassy, met with Mr. Venu Rajamony, Press Secretary to President of India.

Mr. Liu Jinsong, Charge d'Affaires of Chinese Embassy, met with Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rawat, Joint Secretary of the East Asia Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Mr. Liu Jinsong, Charge d'Affaires of Chinese Embassy, met with Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, Secretary-General of The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization.

Mr. Liu Jinsong, Charge d'Affaires of Chinese Embassy, remarked at the Seminar on maritime issues in Vivekananda International Foundation.

Mr. Liu Jinsong, Charge d'Affaires of Chinese Embassy, remarked at China-India TMT Dialogue Conference.

Mr. Liu Jinsong, Charge d'Affaires of Chinese Embassy, visited the Smart Cities India 2016 Expo.
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亚洲相互协作与信任措施会议
THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND ENFORCEMENT
2016年4月27-28日 北京
On April 28, 2016, the 5th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was held in Beijing. Over 40 representatives including foreign ministers of member states and observer states of the CICA as well as heads of the relevant international and regional organizations attended the meeting. Foreign Minister Wang Yi chaired the meeting and delivered a keynote speech.

Wang Yi pointed out that since its establishment, the CICA has been following the historical trend of the world multi-polarization and regional integration, put forward a common code of conduct for regional countries, initiated the mode of “cooperation in confidence-building measures” and set up a brand-new platform for exchanges and cooperation, making unique contributions to promoting mutual trust and coordination among all countries and exploring a security and development path in conformity with Asia’s features and the common interests of all countries.

Wang Yi expressed that since China held the presidency of the CICA in 2014, it has been working with other member states to actively practice the common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security concept in Asia, push forward the enrichment and expansion of confidence-building measures in five fields including military politics, new threats and new challenges, economy, people-to-people and cultural engagement and environmental protection, advance the improvement and innovation of the CICA dialogue and cooperation mechanisms, promote the extension and expansion of the CICA partnership network, and propel the CICA to
engage in more practical and abundant external exchanges.

Wang Yi said that in the next two-year incumbency of the presidency of the CICA, China is willing to work with all other parties to make joint efforts to strengthen solidarity and mutual trust and deepen convergence of interests, carry out practical cooperation and increase confidence of all parties, promote capacity building and explore the development direction, and persist in openness and inclusiveness and expand external exchanges.

Wang Yi stressed that all the member states should join hands to safeguard Asia’s security, make concerted efforts to promote Asia’s development and create Asia’s future together. China will continue sticking to the neighborhood diplomatic policy of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness and the vision on Asia’s security proposed by President Xi Jinping, reinforce solidarity and mutual trust with all parties, deepen cooperation in confidence-building measures in various sectors, and actively discuss on building of a new architecture of regional security in Asia so as to jointly promote the CICA to play a greater role in Asia’s security and development process and jointly write a new chapter of peace, stability, development and prosperity of Asia and the world at large.

Representatives of all countries present at the meeting spoke highly of President Xi Jinping's proposal to build a security governance model with Asian features in his speech at the meeting's opening ceremony, fully affirmed the great significance of China's “Belt and Road” initiative to the regional development and stability, and appreciated China's positive role in promoting the CICA's development.

Representatives of these countries expressed that Asia is facing a large number of traditional and non-traditional security threats and challenges, as well as increasingly highlighted terrorism. Hotspot issues such as Syria, Ukraine and the Korean Peninsula nuclear cry out for a settlement. In recent years, the CICA has played an important role in promoting dialogues among countries, enhancing mutual trust and maintaining regional peace and stability. All countries should make better use of the platform of the CICA, practice the Asian security concept, enhance dialogue and cooperation, jointly cope with various types of security challenges, and address both symptoms and root causes, so as to safeguard the regional and world peace and security and advance common development.

**JOINTLY CREATE A BETTER FUTURE OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR ASIA THROUGH DIALOGUE AND CONSENSUS**

Speech by His Excellency Xi Jinping President of the People’s Republic of China At the Opening Ceremony of the Fifth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, 28 April 2016

Foreign Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Welcome to Beijing in the delightful season of late spring when the skyline is all lush green. At the outset, on behalf of the Chinese government and people and in my own name, I would like to extend my sincere welcome to the foreign ministers and representatives from CICA member states and observers and leading officials and representatives from relevant international organizations. Let me also offer my warm congratulations...
on the opening of the meeting.

This is the first time for China to host the CICA Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, which is an important occasion for promoting security and development in Asia and strengthening CICA’s capacity in the new era. The meeting, under the theme of “promoting security through dialogue”, will help pool consensus, contribute to security in Asia, seek common development, strengthen CICA’s role, and enhance trust and coordination among CICA members. This is of great significance to security and prosperity in Asia and beyond.

The world today is experiencing historic changes like never before. Peace, development and win-win cooperation represent an unstoppable trend of our time. That said, the planet where we live is not all tranquil. To maintain world peace and promote common development remains a long and arduous journey.

Asia holds a uniquely important position in the pursuit of world peace and development. Today in Asia, peace and stability is the defining trend, and development and prosperity represent the common aspirations of the people. As a world leader in economic development, Asia enjoys vibrant regional cooperation and integration.
and rising strategic status in the global development landscape. On the other hand, some parts of our continent are still plagued by turbulence and conflicts caused by traditional security challenges while terrorism and other non-traditional security threats are posing rising dangers to Asia. The situation cries out for ever closer regional security cooperation.

At the CICA Summit in Shanghai in 2014, I proposed a vision on common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in Asia and called for joint efforts to explore an inclusive and win-win approach to Asian security that is for all and by all. Developments in the region and the world over the past two years show that it takes concerted efforts to uphold regional security. We need to adhere to and follow through the vision on Asian security, build consensus, step up dialogue and coordination, contribute to the fostering of a security governance model with Asian features, and open up a brighter future of peace and prosperity for Asia. To this end, we need to focus our endeavor in the following areas:

First, keep to the direction of building an Asian community of common future. Countries in Asia share weal and woe and the future of our nations is closely tied with each other. We need to develop a new type of partnership featuring win-win cooperation and live together in the spirit of mutual respect, equality, mutual assistance and solidarity. We should accommodate reasonable concerns of others while pursuing our own interests, promote common development while seeking our own development, respect security of others while safeguarding our own security, and join hands in advancing peace, stability and prosperity in the region. We need to deepen security cooperation and confidence-building in military, political, economic, people-to-people, cultural, environmental protection and other fields as well as in tackling emerging threats and challenges, so as to open up new prospects for security and development in Asia.

Second, cement the foundation for exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations. Asia is home to a diversity of nations, religions and cultures, and countries vary in social system, development path and economic development level. Our perceptions and concerns on relevant security issues may not always be the same. Given such a reality, we need to scale up exchanges and communication and turn the diversity of Asia into an impetus for more exchanges and cooperation, and facilitate inclusiveness, mutual learning and common development of different civilizations, to make joint contribution to maintaining regional peace and stability. We can together explore channels and platforms, such as an Asia Civilization Dialogue Conference to pool wisdom and strength and solidify the foundation for comprehensive regional security governance.

Third, uphold mutual understanding and mutual accommodation and peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and consultation. As a Chinese adage reads, “he who cherishes virtue prospers and he who favors might perishes.” The law of the jungle goes against the trend of the time and belligerence cannot lead to peace. Only mutual understanding and mutual accommodation will bring about stability and only commitment to justice can ensure lasting security. We need to uphold peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and consultation in accordance with international law. We need to enhance trust, resolve disagreements and promote security through dialogue. Faced with complex regional hotspot issues, relevant parties need to stay calm and commit to peace, refrain from taking actions that may escalate the situation, promote crisis management through rules-making, and de-escalate tension by strengthening mutual trust, with a view to defusing crisis through political means and promoting gradual resolution.

Fourth, gradually explore the building of a security architecture that fits regional conditions. There exist multiple security cooperation frameworks in Asia, and they all contribute to regional security in their own way. Asian countries have long cherished the Asian way of mutual respect, consensus-building and accommodation of each other’s comfort levels. We should uphold and promote this approach, strengthen coordination among regional security frameworks, and gradually channel cooperation toward the same or similar goals to...
create synergy and work for practical results. On such basis, we may explore the building of a new architecture of regional security cooperation that reflects Asian needs. We can discuss relevant matters at such platforms as the CICA Non-governmental Forum and put forward ideas and suggestions on the principles and priorities of regional security cooperation.

People around the world yearn for cooperation and inclusiveness. And countries and peoples in Asia have the ability and see the pressing need to maintain a sound environment of security and development in Asia through dialogue and cooperation. Asians are known to be open, inclusive and visionary. We welcome countries outside the region making positive contribution to peace and stability here and working with Asian countries to promote security, stability, development and prosperity of Asia. A stable and developing Asia is a blessing, while a turbulent and declining Asia would bring nothing but trouble to the world. This is a profound lesson drawn from modern Asian history.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,

China follows a foreign policy of peace. We proposed and have taken the lead in practicing a new Asian approach of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and have worked all along to uphold, promote and contribute to international and regional security. China is firmly committed to pursuing the peaceful development path, maintaining the international order with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter at its core, fostering a new type of international relations of win-win cooperation, and building a community of shared future for all mankind. Over the years, China has worked together with the international community to tackle security risks, challenges and crises in the region and beyond, and have
made positive contributions along the way.

The world cares about Asia, and what happens in Asia impacts the whole world. Some security hotspots in Asia have recently caught the international limelight, and China has made great efforts towards their resolution.

The situation on the Korean Peninsula has been tense since the beginning of the year. China has made huge efforts to manage the situation and push for dialogue and negotiation among various parties. We are committed to denuclearization, to peace and stability on the Peninsula, and to the resolution of issues through dialogue and consultation. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has implemented relevant Security Council resolutions fully and faithfully. As a close neighbor, we will never allow war or chaos on the Peninsula, as this serves nobody's interests. We hope that various parties will exercise restraint, avoid mutual provocation and escalation of tension, make joint efforts to bring the nuclear issue back to the track of dialogue and negotiation as early as possible, and work toward peace and security in Northeast Asia.

An early settlement of the Syrian issue and Palestine-Israel issue serves the interests of parties concerned and represents the common aspiration of the international community. China has always called for the peaceful settlement of relevant issues through political negotiations, actively promoted talks and reconciliation through various means, and will continue to make efforts in this direction. China played a constructive role in the conclusion of the comprehensive agreement of the Iranian nuclear issue. We will work with other parties to ensure continuous progress in its implementation.

For some time, developments in the South China Sea have attracted extensive attention. Let me stress that China is committed to maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea. We firmly stand by our sovereignty and rights and interests in the South China Sea, and remain committed to resolving disputes peacefully through friendly consultation and negotiation with countries directly concerned. We will continue to work with ASEAN countries to make the South China Sea a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Since taking over the CICA presidency in 2014, China has earnestly performed its duties and endeavored to advance fruitful dialogue and cooperation across the board. In the next two years of our new term, we will work with other parties to raise CICA's profile in regional security and development affairs. Here, I would like to express heartfelt thanks to all of you for your great support for China's presidency.

The Chinese people are making united efforts to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and fulfill the Chinese dream of great renewal of the Chinese nation. China's development will bring more opportunities and benefits to all countries and peoples. While pursuing the Chinese dream, the Chinese people will support people from other countries in realizing their own dreams, so that together, we will make the Asian dream of enduring peace and common prosperity come true and open up a great future for Asia.

In conclusion, I wish this meeting a complete success.

Thank you.
WANG YI DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH AT THE 5TH MEETING OF CICA MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
On April 28, 2016, the 5th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), under the theme of “Promoting Cooperation through Dialogue”, was convened in Beijing. Foreign Minister Wang Yi chaired the meeting and delivered a keynote speech.

Wang Yi pointed out that President Xi Jinping has proposed China’s views and propositions on how to implement the common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in Asia and foster a security governance model with Asian features in his speech at the opening ceremony of the meeting. It is another important contribution of China to the development progress of the CICA after proposing the Asian security concept at the CICA Shanghai Summit in May, 2014, which will surely play a positive and constructive role in advancing the in-depth development of the CICA process, deepening security dialogue and cooperation in Asia, and safeguarding regional peace, security as well as stability.

Wang Yi expressed that since its establishment, the CICA has complied with the historical trend of world multi-polarization and regional integration, and made unique contribution to promoting mutual trust and collaboration among all countries and exploring a security and development path that conforms to Asian characteristics and common interests of all countries.

First, the CICA has come up with the common code of conduct for regional countries and set core principles, such as mutual respect on sovereignty and territory integrity, no use or threat of use of military force, non-interference in domestic affairs and peaceful dispute settlement through negotiations, as basic guidelines for bilateral relations among various countries. These principles, condensed with unique Asian wisdom and values, are being widely applied into the practice of Asian countries in resolving contradiction and controversies, as well as launching mutually beneficial cooperation, and play a positive role in promoting regional and world stability and development.

Second, the CICA firstly initiated the mode of “cooperation in confidence-building measures”, which agrees with the diverse needs of various countries in security and development. As a new pattern that gives play to the motivation of each country and enhances political mutual trust and security cooperation, it has become a beneficial and groundbreaking move in international relations.

Third, the CICA has built a new platform for exchanges and cooperation. The CICA is the most representative security forum with the widest coverage and the largest number of member states in Asia. It has blazed a new trial for all sides to enhance understanding, deepen mutual trust, pool consensus and jointly promote development.

Wang Yi noted that since assuming the rotating presidency of the CICA in 2014, China has, together with all other member states, achieved numerous new results.

First, China has enriched and expanded the cooperation content. All member states have formulated detailed action plans on implementing confidence-building measures in areas including military, politics, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and launching cooperation in drug-control, while conducting communication and cooperation in economy and trade, youth affairs, tourism, environment protection, information technology, military and other specific areas. As the rotating presidency, China has successfully held the founding ceremony of the CICA Youth Council, the 4th CICA Business Forum and the Founding Assembly of CICA Business Council as well as other major activities, vigorously boosting cooperation in relevant fields.

Second, China has improved and innovated the cooperation mechanism. Under joint support of all sides, China has established the CICA Non-governmental Forum and held its first Annual Conference in 2015, setting up an important platform for non-governmental exchanges and cooperation among all sides. China also entrusted authoritative think tank agencies to hold regular Round Table Conference on CICA Think Tank Forum, providing targeted intelligent support.

Third, China has extended and expanded the CICA partnership network. Since the Shanghai Summit, Bangladesh and Qatar have been upgraded to CICA member...
states, and Belarus has become an observer state. More than half of Asian countries are CICA member states and CICA observer states and cooperative partners spread across the Eurasian continent, even to the other side of the Pacific Ocean. The cohesion and attraction of the CICA is constantly elevating.

Fourth, China has advanced a more pragmatic and richer external communication of the CICA. The CICA Secretariat has launched extensive international exchanges and cooperation, in an effort to give play to the role of the CICA, air the voice of the CICA and boost the influence of the CICA.

Wang Yi said that in the coming two years of its tenure as the CICA rotating presidency, China stands ready to make concerted efforts with all sides to accelerate the CICA process and push forward regional security cooperation in the following four aspects.

First, enhance solidarity and mutual trust and deepen interest integration. When facing security issues in Asia, all sides should demonstrate political wisdom, seek common ground while reserving differences, strive to condense consensus and dissolve disputes, stick to reaching consensus through consultation and strengthen interest integration so as to create real conditions for addressing security challenges.

Second, launch practical cooperation and boost confidence of all sides. By taking each other’s concerns into consideration, all sides should promote cooperation in security and confidence-building measures in an orderly fashion. Areas with high recognition from all sides and more sophisticated conditions will be given priorities. Flexible approaches will be employed by all members to participate in the cooperation, give play to their advantages and share the results to form the snowball effect and continuously expand cooperation areas.

Third, advance capacity building and explore development direction. All sides should further improve the procedure for business discussion and legal framework of the CICA to increase cooperation efficiency and continuously strengthen CICA capacity building.

Fourth, adhere to openness and inclusiveness and expand external
exchanges. China will work with all other sides to keep increasing the CICA member states and expanding cooperation partnership network, get more involved in dialogues, exchanges and collaboration in international and regional security affairs, further advocate the CICA notions and the Asian security concept, discuss on proposals to solve security issues in Asia and increase the role and influence of the CICA in regional security and development affairs.

Wang Yi stressed that the security in Asia should be safeguarded by all member states, the development of Asia should be promoted by all member states and the future of Asia should be forged by all member states. China will continue to uphold the neighboring diplomacy featuring amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness proposed by President Xi Jinping, strengthen solidarity and mutual trust and deepen cooperation in confidence-building measures with all sides in various areas to jointly promote a bigger role of CICA in the process of security and development in Asia, and write a new chapter of peace, stability, development and prosperity in Asia and the world.

China India Relations

LI KEQIANG MEETS WITH INDIAN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON CHINA-INDIA BOUNDARY QUESTION AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER AJIT DOVAL OF INDIA

On the afternoon of April 21, 2016, Premier Li Keqiang met at Ziguangge of Zhongnanhai with Indian Special Representative on the China-India Boundary Question and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval of India, who was in China to attend the 19th Special Representatives’ Meeting on China-India Boundary Question.

Li Keqiang expressed that since the launch of Special Representatives’ Meeting on China-India Boundary Question, it has played a constructive role in promoting mutual trust and expanding consensus between the two sides. The two countries should proceed from the general situation of bilateral relations, and continue to properly solve boundary question through diplomatic channels and peaceful manners. Before finding a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution, both sides should well control disputes, and jointly contribute to safeguarding peace and tranquility in boundary regions, which will provide stable expectation for both countries to deeply enhance economic and trade cooperation.

Li Keqiang pointed out that at present, the recovery of the world economy is sluggish and the geopolitical turbulences are more prominent. China and India, as the two largest emerging economies, have maintained a medium-high economic growth rate, which is an inspiration to the world and a driver to Asia. It is hoped that both sides can treasure and well safeguard the momentum of sound development of bilateral relations, give full play to complementary economic advantages, conduct multi-field practical cooperation, and carry out close communication and coordination in international and regional affairs, so as to send a positive signal to the world that China and India will work hand in hand to safeguard peace and stability and promote common
development.

Ajit Doval said India-China relations have achieved positive progress. The two countries not only face tough challenges in developing economies but also share huge opportunities for conducting cooperation. India is willing to strengthen high-level exchanges with China, deepen cooperation in various fields such as economy and security, and properly deal with the boundary question, so as to promote bilateral relations to achieve greater development.

Yang Jiechi attended the meeting.

THE 19TH SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES’ MEETING ON CHINA-INDIA BOUNDARY QUESTION HELD

On April 20, 2016, the 19th Special Representatives’ Meeting on the China-India Boundary Question was held in Beijing. State Councillor Yang Jiechi, special representative on the Chinese side and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval of India, special representative on the Indian side, exchanged extensive, in-depth and candid views on the boundary question, bilateral relations and relevant international and regional issues.

Both sides agreed that the negotiation on China-India
boundary maintains a positive momentum, with boundary disputes effectively controlled and boundary regions generally peaceful and stable. Starting from the big picture of long-term development of bilateral relations, both sides will, with the positive attitude of mutual respect and understanding and on the basis of existing results from negotiations, stay on the track of political settlement, stick to peaceful negotiations to resolve the boundary question, meet each other halfway, and continue to promote the process of framework negotiation, so as to strive for a fair and reasonable solution that both sides accept. In the meantime, the two countries should properly manage and handle disputes, strengthen consultations on boundary affairs, and well safeguard peace and tranquility in boundary regions, so as to create favorable conditions for the development of bilateral relations.

Both sides shared the view that the development of China-India relations is of great significance and has broad prospects. China and India have far more common interests than differences. Marked by President Xi Jinping's visit to India in 2014 and the visit paid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to China in 2015, China-India relations have entered a new era of comprehensive and rapid development. Communication and cooperation in various fields have also achieved important progress. The two sides should well implement the key consensus reached by the two heads of state, conduct close high-level exchanges, and tap cooperation potential, so as to elevate China-India relations to a higher level.

INDIAN PM EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE OF INDIA-CHINA TIES

New Delhi, May 6 (Xinhua) — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed his confidence in the future of India-China relations with progress achieved by both countries in developing their ties.

During a meeting with Han Zheng, Political Bureau Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Party Secretary of Shanghai, on
Thursday, Modi said India and China can contribute to world economic growth if they collaborate with each other in trade and economic fields.

The prime minister also expressed his wish to further party-to-party relations between India and China and called for enhanced cooperation in tourism, culture and people-to-people exchanges and local-level cooperation.

Han said the successful visit made by Chinese President Xi Jinping to India in 2014 and that by Prime Minister Modi to China in 2015 resulted in important consensus on pushing forward China-India strategic cooperative partnership and building greater developmental partnership between the two sides.

He said China is willing to work with India to earnestly implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) shakes hands with Han Zheng, Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Shanghai Municipal Committee, in New Delhi, India, May 5, 2016. (Xinhua)

CHARGE D’AFFAIRES OF CHINESE EMBASSY SPEAKS AT JINDAL UNIVERSITY

SONIPAT, India, April 20, 2016

‘We are Successfully Managing Complex Relations With India; Sino-Indian Cooperation is Increasing in Diverse Fields,’ - Acting Chinese Ambassador.

The Centre for Asia Pacific Security Studies and the Centre of India-China Studies at the O.P. Jindal Global University organised a Distinguished Lecture by Liu Jinsong, Charge d’Affaires and Minister of Chinese embassy in India on ‘Prospects and Opportunities in Developing India-China Relations’ at its Sonipat campus.

Delivering the lecture, Minister Liu reflected on the complexity and importance of the bilateral relations between India and China and emphasised that how these two neighbours interact would have maximum consequences for the new emerging multi-polar world order. He said that there are problems between the two counties but also numerous areas of on-going cooperation.

Speaking on the impact of
Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to China and the impetus it has given to bilateral talks between the two countries, Minister Liu Jinsong said, “There are several high-level trips planned between the two countries, including the upcoming visits of the Indian National Security Advisor and Indian Defence Minister to China. One could not imagine that the two countries could have such deep, frequent and pragmatic talks on security and military cooperation. There have been very comprehensive discussions on a global anti-terrorism campaign, which has led to the setting up of a high level anti-terrorism mechanism between the two nations.”

On the issue of China placing a ‘technical hold’ at the UN on terrorist mastermind Masood Azhar, he said, “The matter is not a bilateral one between China and India as it involved the citizen of a third country, and China hopes that India and Pakistan can mutually agree to overcome the scourge of terrorism.”

The minister referred to “the wisdom of Asian countries” and highlighted military-to-military engagements between India and China like the Kunming ‘Hand-in-Hand’ exercises and improvement in observation of protocols on the Line of Actual Control (LaC).

Speaking of the growing economic cooperation between India and China, Minister Liu gave the example of the Dalian Wanda Group which is investing 10 billion dollars in Haryana, the largest FDI from China. He emphasised that despite recent caste-based violence in Haryana, the CEO of the company did not hesitate because he saw India as a “great business opportunity”.

Minister Liu Jinsong spoke of sharing the Chinese economic and business with India and said China was keen to set up projects and invest in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in all major centres of India.

Speaking of India hosting the 8th Annual BRICS Summit this October in Goa, and of China hosting the G20 Summit, Minister Liu said, “These two summits will be important for strategising on cooperation and both sides need to support each other in agenda setting.” The sustainable agenda, he said, would be one that would focus on e-commerce, terrorism and financial cooperation.

Speaking on people-to-people contacts, Minister Liu highlighted that this has been encouraged a great deal with PM Modi offering e-visa for Chinese citizens, an original idea that has had an extremely positive impact. Last year more than 2 lakh Chinese citizens visited India and this number can be increased manifold.

Minister Liu said that Sino-Indian relations were improving in the context of four global trends. First, the shift in gravity and centre of power from the West to the East. Second, increase in GDP of Asian countries, although their per capita incomes still remain low. Third, the role of people in international
politics is increasing as the understanding of human values spread. Fourth, the technological revolution is taking place.

Speaking of challenges, he proposed the construct of the 3 T’s, i.e. problems of Trust, Trade and Territory. On Trust, he said that China was suspicious of the USA’s interest in India and India was suspicious of China’s interest in its neighbours in the Indian Ocean and of China’s string of pearls strategy. He also spoke of the differences that the two countries had on the status of the Dalai Lama.

Speaking on increasing Sino-Indian trade, Minister Liu highlighted India’s trade deficit, high prices due to shipping costs in the absence of land-based connectivity, the problem of Chinese manufacturers and Indian retailers receiving low profits as some pressing issues needing solutions.

Speaking on China’s One Belt One Road (OBOR), he said that it was an important initiative for common infrastructural development and expressed hope that India may support the project or join at least some parts of it.

Welcoming Minister Liu Jinsong to Jindal University, Dr. Sreeram Chaulia, Dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs pointed out that it would not be an exaggeration to state that the India-China relationship is the defining one in the 21st century. He said that managing this relationship holds the key to not just peace, prosperity and stability in Asia but throughout the world.

The event was attended by Chinese diplomats, Professor R. Sudarshan, Dean of the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy; Professor Gudmundur Eiriksson of the Jindal Global Law School and Professor Wenjuan Zhang, Executive Director, Centre for India-China Studies.

LI KEQIANG HOLDS TALKS WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ABDULLAH ABDULLAH OF AFGHANISTAN

On the afternoon of May 16, 2016, Premier Li Keqiang met at the Great Hall of the People with Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah of Afghanistan, who was paying an official visit to China.

Li Keqiang stated that China and Afghanistan are close neighbors with long historical course of friendly exchanges. Regarding Afghanistan a priority in China’s neighborhood diplomacy, China is committed to consolidating and developing China-Afghanistan strategic cooperative partnership and supporting Afghanistan’s efforts in safeguarding its national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security. China appreciates Afghanistan’s firm support on issues related to China’s core and major interests, and is willing to work with Afghanistan to deepen bilateral exchanges and cooperation in politics, economy, security, people-to-people and cultural exchanges as well as in
international and regional affairs, so as to promote bilateral relations to another new high and make new contributions to regional peace, stability and development.

Li Keqiang pointed out that China and Afghanistan enjoy huge potential in mutually beneficial cooperation in infrastructure construction, resource exploitation and other areas. China is willing to help Afghanistan map out a national infrastructure construction plan, identify priority areas for bilateral cooperation and implement investment cooperation projects that the two sides had agreed on. China will also support its enterprises to cooperate with Afghanistan in production capacity through flexible and diverse approaches, strengthen connectivity in information industry, enhance cooperation in agriculture, education, local affairs and other areas in accordance with Afghanistan's realistic demands and help Afghanistan train various talents for social and economic development.

Li Keqiang emphasized that Afghanistan is currently at a crucial period of transformation. China supports the efforts of Afghanistan's national unity government in leading the Afghan people to continue to advance the inclusive "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned" political reconciliation process and supports the country in deeply participating in regional cooperation. It is hoped that Afghanistan can continue to take effective measures to create a sound and secure environment for bilateral practical cooperation.

Abdullah Abdullah said that China is an important neighbor and friend of Afghanistan. In recent years, Afghanistan and China have maintained frequent high-level exchanges with constantly intensified cooperation in various areas under joint efforts. Attaching great importance to developing its relations with China, Afghanistan supports China's stance on issues concerning its core and major interests, and is grateful to China for its assistance and help to Afghanistan's national reconciliation and economic reconstruction. Afghanistan welcomes Chinese companies to increase investment in the country, and is willing to further expand bilateral cooperation in areas including infrastructure construction, housing assurance, mineral resource exploitation,
information and telecommunications, agriculture, education, and defense security so as to promote regional connectivity construction. The Afghan side will do its best in providing security assurance for bilateral economic cooperation.

Both sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern.

Prior to the talks, Li Keqiang held a welcome ceremony for Abdullah Abdullah at the square outside the East Gate of the Great Hall of the People. Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Chen Xiaoguang and others were present.

After the talks, both sides witnessed the signing of multiple bilateral cooperation documents covering economic technology, connectivity, economy, trade and other areas. Both sides will also issue a joint statement.
Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,
Mr. Secretary General Elect
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to this photo exhibition and reception.

As you may recall, at the Inaugural meeting of 54th Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) held in Beijing in spring of last year, Premier Li Keqiang of China announced that the Chinese government would set up a China-AALCO exchange and research program on international law. This planted a seed for cooperation and exchanges.

One year on, with the joint efforts of various parties, this seed has taken root and sprouted, and
relevant activities are being carried out.

You will learn from this exhibition that the program, funded by the Chinese government and open to all AALCO member states, is aimed at promoting exchanges and experience sharing and strengthening capacity building in the field of international law, including a training and exchange platform for legal officers of member states and officers of the Secretariat, and funding for AALCO research, activities of its working groups and expert groups, and the participation of the Secretariat in other international organizations or conferences.

Last summer, the first training session was held on a pilot basis in Xiamen. In coming August and September, the second training session will be held in Beijing. Other activities are also being planned. I hope this photo exhibition will help you better understand the program, and I welcome the active participation and support from all sides, so that together, we can learn from each other and make common progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This program is a tribute of the Chinese government to the 60th anniversary of AALCO, and represents China's high expectations and firm support for a bigger role of AALCO in the new era. Over the past 60 years, under the guidance of the Bandung Spirit of unity, friendship and cooperation, AALCO has been indispensable in promoting consultation and cooperation, building consensus, and upholding the common interests of Asian and African countries in the field of international law, and has made indelible contribution to the development of international rule of law.

The international order is now undergoing profound transformation. The current international system was created without the active participation and input of Asian and African countries. Now we have a historic opportunity to have a bigger collective influence on the evolution
of the system. We may take AALCO’s 60th anniversary as a new starting point, strengthen unity and cooperation, improve our collective influence in the evolution of international law, and build a more equitable and reasonable international order that will better uphold world peace and promote development of Asian and African countries. China is ready to work together with other Asian and African countries towards this common goal.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. In this context, I would like to share with you my observations on the peaceful settlement of disputes through the appropriate application of judicial procedures. The ICJ has done a good job in promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes. Its role has been valued and appreciated by many countries. However, some few international judicial bodies have caused great controversy, criticism and concern from various countries including Asian and African countries. This should give us much food for thought. It reminds us that the application of international judicial procedures should be based on full respect for the will of the countries concerned as well as their prior consent and in full consultation of the countries concerned. In the initiation of procedures for the interpretation and application of international treaties, it is important to act with good faith, equity, impartiality, objectivity and prudence, and to avoid any ultra vires or abuse. It is also important that dispute settlement procedures should work for the resolution of disputes, instead of provoking or escalating differences, still less infringing upon the rights and interests of other countries under the pretext of the rule of law.

In this context, I would like to stress that, as a faithful supporter of international law, China is firmly committed to the peaceful settlement of disputes through negotiations, which is the primary means of dispute settlement in accordance with international law. This is also based on China’s understanding of international practice as well as its own rich national practices. Through friendly negotiations, and based on the principle of “one country, two systems”, China has properly handled issues concerning Hong Kong and Macao which had been left over from history, and thus added a China’s experience to the practices of peaceful settlement of disputes through negotiations. Through friendly negotiations, China has settled boundary questions with 12 of its 14 land neighbors and delimited around 20,000 kilometers of the boundary, accounting for 90% of China’s land border. China now maintaining active negotiation with India and Bhutan respectively on the resolution of boundary issues. Through friendly negotiations, China and Vietnam have delimited their maritime boundary in the Beibu Gulf. China and Vietnam also have committed to solving other maritime delimitation issues through negotiations. China and the Republic of Korea launched their negotiation on maritime delimitation in December 2015. Resolving disputes through negotiations has already been a regional rule for Asian countries. In 2002, China and ASEAN countries signed the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and according to article 4 of the Declaration, the Parties concerned undertake to resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned. This is a common undertaking by China and ASEAN countries. In accordance with international law, Asian experience and China’s practices, we believe that bilateral negotiations has been becoming effective approach to handling complicated and sensitive issues, as it fully respects the will of the countries concerned and sovereign equality between them. Moreover, the outcomes of negotiations are more acceptable to the people of those countries and can be implemented smoothly, and therefore more lasting.

These are my personal thoughts and modest contribution to the exchange and research program. In the interest of time, I will not go into details.

Now, please join me in a toast, to the success of the 55th Annual Session of AALCO, to the success of the China-AALCO Exchange and Research Program on International Law, to the enlargement of AALCO and international rule of law, to the unity and friendship of AALCO member states, and to the health of everyone present here.

Cheers!
The South China Sea issue has become one of the major irritants in the China-US relations in recent years, over which the public opinion in the two countries is very critical of each other. There are even frictions in the sea between the two navies. The South China Sea seems like an outlet for the rivalry and confrontation that are building up of late between China and the US. As a result, the two sides seem to be reassessing each other’s intentions on a strategic level. The latest rhetoric is about “militarizing the South China Sea”, and on the part of the US, announcements to carry out “freedom of navigation operational assertions”.

Hawkish voices are growing louder in both sides of the Pacific. Such frictions surrounding the South China Sea are leading to further strategic mistrust and hostility. The American scholar David M. Lampton was straightforward when he observed worriedly in reference to the existing situation, “A tipping point in the U.S.-China relations is upon us”. It is obvious that the South China Sea issue is a major catalyst for the troubled China-US relations, if not the key contributing factor.

Opinions diverge in both countries on what has led to the current situation in the South China Sea. In China, it is widely believed that it is the US’s Asia-Pacific rebalance strategy, its taking sides on
disputes in the South China Sea, and its direct intervention that have escalated the tensions and made the issue more complicated.

In the US, accusations are strident of China’s defiance of international law, coercion of smaller neighbors by force and attempted denial of access to the US, in its bid to gradually take control of the South China Sea using a salami-slicing strategy and to eventually turn it into a Chinese lake.

It is obvious from the incidents and events that have unfolded in the South China Sea over the years that all disputes are centered on sovereignty and rights over the Nansha Islands and their surrounding waters. In fact, such disputes were not uncommon in third world countries in modern history, including during the Cold War era. But the discovery of abundant oil reserves in the Nansha waters in the late 1960s and the introduction of international arrangements concerning the EEZs or the continental shelf, such as the Convention on the Continental Shelf and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, provided fresh incentives for other claimants to covet and grab China’s Nansha Islands.

The disputes then spilled from those islands and reefs to wider maritime areas, but without spinning out of control. A good proof was the “golden era” of the China-ASEAN relations from 1991 to the end of 2010, during which bilateral cooperation flourished and trade ballooned nearly 37 times, from no more than $8 billion to $300 billion. During this period, China’s GDP rose rapidly, and most Southeast Asian economies expanded more than five-fold.

Tensions started to build up in 2009 and have escalated since 2012. How have things festered against a backdrop of peace of development, and following a sustained period of regional cooperation? It is obvious that no single event or cause could have escalated and changed the situation in the region. So it is worth examining the incidents and behavior that have happened, the reactions they triggered, and the consequences incurred, in the leading up to the current state of affairs.

This article provides an overview of the chain of events contributing to the escalation of tensions in the South China Sea, as well as the context in which they occurred and potential connections they have. It is hoped this article will help those concerned about the disputes see the bigger picture and get to the heart of why things have happened that way. It also serves as a warning against further deepening of misunderstanding and spiraling of tensions for all countries concerned.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TREATY AND LAW OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY XU HONG GIVES INTERVIEW TO CHINESE AND FOREIGN MEDIA ON SOUTH CHINA SEA ARBITRATION INITIATED BY THE PHILIPPINES

On May 12, 2016, Director-General of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Foreign Ministry Xu Hong held a briefing, giving interview to Chinese and foreign media on the South China Sea arbitration initiated by the Philippines, introducing China’s relevant position and stance and answering 11 questions from journalists present. Deputy Director-General of the
Information Department of the Foreign Ministry Wang Xining chaired the briefing. The proceedings of the briefing are as follows:

**Wang Xining:** Good morning, friends from the media. Welcome to the International Press Center of the Foreign Ministry. As the South China Sea arbitration initiated by the Philippines is of great concern to the press, today we have the honor to invite Director-General of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Foreign Ministry Xu Hong for an introduction on relevant policies and position of the Chinese government, expounding from the perspective of international law in particular. Now Director-General Xu Hong will make a brief introduction first.

**Xu Hong:** Good morning, friends from the media. It is a great pleasure to have this opportunity to have a face-to-face discussion with you on the issues concerning international law in the South China Sea arbitration case.

Recently some media reported that the arbitral tribunal may render a final award in the near future on the South China Sea arbitration unilaterally initiated by the Philippines. People are all concerned about the result and what will be the Chinese government’s opinion and response to the award. As a matter of fact, China has stated on various occasions that obviously the arbitral tribunal has no jurisdiction over this case, so a verdict by an illegitimate agency certainly has no legal force and will not lead to any recognition or implementation. Everybody is concerned about whether such stance of China is in conformity with international law. Today I will discuss with you from the perspective of international law. For many of you here, it may be a little bit dull to talk about legal matters. But since the arbitration case is a legal matter itself, we have to touch on it with some legal knowledge.

Before taking your questions, please allow me to make a short illustration.

First of all, let’s have a look at the terms of reference of the arbitral tribunal.

As is known to all, “peaceful settlement of international disputes” is an important principle of international law. Nonetheless, there are various ways to settle a
dispute peacefully, while compulsory arbitration is just a new procedure set up by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Compared with such means as negotiations and consultations, this procedure is secondary and supplementary. To put it simply, the procedure’s applicability also requires at least four preconditions:

First, it should only be used to solve disputes over the interpretation and application of the UNCLOS. Compulsory arbitration is not applicable to matters beyond the scope of the UNCLOS. That is to say, the issue of territorial sovereignty is not within the scope of adjustment of the UNCLOS, therefore not subject to compulsory arbitration. The arbitral tribunal has no jurisdiction over it.

Second, if a dispute involves maritime delimitation, historic bays or ownership, military operations or law enforcement, a State Party has the right to declare non-acceptance of the compulsory arbitration. Such exception exerts legal effect on other State Parties. This kind of dispute excluded by a country should not be initiated by other countries, nor does the arbitral tribunal have jurisdiction over them.

Third, if disputing parties choose on their own another way to solve relevant disputes, a compulsory arbitration should not be initiated, over which the arbitral tribunal has no jurisdiction either.

Fourth, regarding the procedure, parties concerned must first fulfill the obligation of exchanging views on the settlement approach. If not, they should not initiate a compulsory arbitration over which the arbitral tribunal has no jurisdiction either.

The above four preconditions are in fact the “four thresholds” to be crossed before the State Parties initiate an arbitration and the arbitral tribunal exercises its jurisdiction. They are one-package and balanced provisions that should be fully understood and applied as a whole.

When we talk about international law, we must know first what it is. And what I have just explained to you is international law.

With the above-mentioned preconditions, we can assess the arbitration unilaterally proposed by the Philippines. It can be easily seen that this case has at least violated four aspects of international law.

First, the subject matter of arbitration initiated by the Philippines is in nature an issue of territorial sovereignty of some islands and reefs in the South China Sea, which is beyond the applicable scope of the UNCLOS; second, even if the item involves the interpretation and application of the UNCLOS, it is also an indivisible part of maritime boundary delimitation, which has been excluded in China’s statement in 2006 and thus should not be submitted for arbitration; third, China and the Philippines have concluded agreement, consenting to resolve disputes over the South China Sea by negotiation, hence the Philippines has no right to initiate the arbitration unilaterally; fourth, regarding the procedure, the Philippines has not fulfilled its obligation of exchanging opinions with China on the dispute settlement approach.

All in all, the arbitration initiated by the Philippines is a typical abuse of the compulsory arbitration procedure stipulated in the UNCLOS. For the above reasons, this arbitral tribunal should not be set up from the very beginning. In 2014 the Chinese government published its position paper, stating in detail from the perspective of international law why the arbitral tribunal has no jurisdiction over this case. You can refer to that document later.

However, the arbitral tribunal does not uphold an objective and just stance. Instead, it misinterprets the provisions of the UNCLOS and panders to the Philippines in all aspects, violating its primary responsibility of reaching a conclusion about its jurisdiction based on facts and the law. It made a hardly convincible award on jurisdiction. Such an award is null and void based on international law. Any opinion on the arbitration item made by an organization without jurisdiction and that should not appear and exist from the outset can only represent several arbitrators’ views at best, and has no legal force, not to mention to be recognized or implemented.

Now I am ready to take questions.

Wang Xining: Please name your agency first. And one question for one person, so more journalists will have the chance.

1. China Daily: Good
morning, I’m with China Daily. My question for Director-General Xu is that at present it is generally held by the media that whatever China’s viewpoint is, most of the world opinions maintain that the Philippines’ initiation of the arbitration is an act in conformity with international law. If China does not execute the arbitral award, it would be regarded as bullying the small by being big and acting against international law. Is China not afraid of being isolated?

Xu Hong: There is indeed such an opinion that since the UNCLOS stipulates that the arbitral award has determinacy, whatever the award is, China has the obligation to abide by and implement it. This opinion, however, is one-sided. According to the general principle of arbitration system, one basic prerequisite for the recognition and implementation of any arbitral award is that the arbitral tribunal must have the jurisdiction over the arbitration item. Otherwise, the arbitration procedure should be not carried out. Even if it is done, the result is invalid, nor should it be recognized or implemented. According to the UNCLOS, the arbitral tribunal cannot act only at its own will when determining the jurisdiction, and must handle things prudently within the scope stipulated by international law including the UNCLOS.

Referring to what I have just introduced, it can be seen that when the arbitral tribunal affirms its jurisdiction over the South China Sea arbitration initiated by the Philippines, it makes many apparent mistakes either in ascertaining the facts or applying the law, which violates the provisions and purpose of the UNCLOS and contains evident expansion and excess of power. It seems that the tribunal has performed every procedure and ensured a fair process, but when it comes to the core, as a result of the serious mistakes in ascertaining the facts and applying the law, the arbitration may end up being a well-designed “show” whose outcome certainly bears no legal force.

Some people just simply cannot wait to jump out and ask China to observe and implement the ruling result even before it is released. So I cannot help asking what kind of result on earth they want China to implement. If the arbitral tribunal just states some legal views on abstract issues not in connection with territorial sovereignty or maritime boundary delimitation, then there will be at most those opinions for us to notice but nothing to implement. If it plans to utilize this award to contain China’s sovereignty claim or actions in the South China Sea, this move will only testify the arbitral tribunal’s excess of power, then how can the award be effective?

Simply from the perspective of law, whatever opinions China and the Philippines hold, the arbitration should be an ordinary case between the two countries. What position and practice both sides will take, including how to deal with the arbitral award, should be an issue between China and the Philippines. However, the play we are watching
now is full of affectation. On the stage are the leading and supporting roles, and down at the auditorium are echoing cappers. What a seamless and boisterous trick! I have no idea if you have seen something like this before, but for me it is the first time. Will you buy it if the case is asserted as a pure event regarding international law and all the above things are coincidences?

On the other hand, we must be aware that compared with all countries around the world, those standing out to hype up this case are in the minor; however loud their voices are and however strong their bluff and bluster are. Besides, as we observe, those keeping blaming China with the excuse of international law are politicians and non-professionals with ulterior motives. It is them who should make up knowledge on international law. The key to this case, as we see it, does not lie in whether China should solve the dispute with the Philippines peacefully in accordance with international law, because the answer is very clear and certain. The key lies in whether China should accept a compulsory arbitration procedure imposed unilaterally and illegally by the Philippines. These two questions are totally different in nature and cannot be confused with each other.

2. British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC): My first question is that if ignoring whether the arbitral tribunal has jurisdiction and whether the arbitral award is legally binding, do you think there is the possibility that the arbitral tribunal will make a decision in China’s favor? The second question is that, for those ordinary people who are not so familiar with the international law, it seems that on the map the controversial area of South China Sea is very close to the Philippines, even closer than to China. So it seems to them that the Philippines’ argument is more persuasive.

Xu Hong: For the first question, there is definitely no way for us to predict the decision made by the arbitral tribunal. We do not know in whose favor this arbitral award will be. Maybe some countries are in the know, but we are not. However, there is a basic principle in accordance with the law, which is, the arbitral tribunal must have jurisdiction over the case before making any final award. If it has no jurisdiction, then all the following actions will be groundless, and all of its acts, including the so-called arbitral award it makes at last, will be just like water without a source, or a tree without roots. This kind of arbitral award has no legal effect.

As for the second question, I believe that anyone who is not completely ignorant of law knows that it is not the distance that determines whether a country has sovereignty over an area of land. China’s sovereignty over the South China Sea islands was established in the history and has been widely accepted by the international community for a long time. So I think that the viewpoint you mentioned is not about the international law. Thank you.

3. China Central Television (CCTV): I would like to raise two questions. For the first one, China insists that the nature of the arbitration case submitted by the Philippines is an issue concerning the territorial sovereignty over some islands and reefs in the South China Sea. But the Philippines did not ask the arbitral tribunal to make a decision on the sovereignty issue. In the arbitral award on the jurisdictional issue made on October 29, 2015, the arbitral tribunal considered that the arbitration case proposed by the Philippines does not concern sovereignty dispute. So why should we believe China’s one-sided statement?

As for the second question, some people argue that whether or not the arbitral tribunal has jurisdiction should not be decided by China, but by the tribunal itself. The arbitral tribunal is established in accordance with the UNCLOS
and the operation procedures of the arbitral tribunal after its establishment are complete, independent and transparent. Moreover, the arbitral tribunal has decided that it has jurisdiction over this case. Therefore, the arbitral award made by the tribunal is binding on China and China should accept and carry it out, and otherwise, China violates the international law. What's your remark on this viewpoint?

Xu Hong: The first question is very important. In this case, if the Philippines proceeding in its nature concerns territorial sovereignty and maritime demarcation issues, the arbitral tribunal would certainly have no jurisdiction over this case. We have noticed that the arbitral tribunal gave a conclusion inconsistent with China's stance. In this regard, I would like to explain this issue with facts.

While making the judgment over its jurisdiction, the tribunal has set its own standards for deciding whether the arbitration belongs to sovereignty dispute. Aside from the comprehensiveness and appropriateness of those standards, even if following the tribunal's standards, the conclusion cannot bear close analysis. Based on the standards of the arbitral tribunal, in order to clarify whether the Philippines' proceeding concerns sovereignty, it is necessary to prove that "handling the Philippines' proceeding will directly or indirectly require prior decision of the arbitral tribunal over the sovereignty issue", or "the actual purpose of the Philippines' proceeding is to improve its position in the sovereignty disputes with China". Nevertheless, soon after setting up these standards in the arbitral award, the arbitral tribunal accepted the one-sided statement of the Philippines that no requirement was submitted to the tribunal for making a decision over the sovereignty issue. The tribunal does not explain its acceptance of the Philippines' argument, and fails to investigate the objective relationship between the arbitration case and the sovereignty issue, neglecting the actual purpose and effect of the arbitration proposed by the Philippines.

First, let us look at the objective relationship between the arbitration case and the sovereignty issue. As we all know, China has always been claiming territorial sovereignty over the entire Nansha Islands. Every island, reef, beach and every grain of sand that forms the Nansha Islands belongs to China's land territory. However, the Meiji Reef, Ren'ai Reef, Zhubi Reef, Nanxun Reef and Ximen Reef and others, over which the Philippines proposed for arbitration, are all low tide elevations, thus not concerning any maritime rights and interests. Therefore, this is merely a camouflage.

According to international law, China's sovereignty over the South China Sea islands was established in the history and has been widely accepted by the international community for a long time. The claims in the arbitration case submitted by the Philippines are closely connected to maritime demarcation between China and the Philippines. According to international law, the defining of juridical status and maritime rights of islands and reefs cannot be separated from maritime demarcation, and the former is apparently related to maritime demarcation issues. However, in order to prove that the Philippines' appeal is not within the scope of the adjustment of the UNCLOS, thus naturally going beyond the interpretation and application of the UNCLOS. Therefore, objectively speaking, the legal status and maritime rights of islands and reefs have an impartible relationship with the sovereignty issue.
China in 2006, the arbitral tribunal unexpectedly claimed that the two can be separated. Such practice of “division” is neither in line with the normal practice of international law, even nor in accordance with the views held by two of the arbitrators in the tribunal in their previous academic works. Before this case, the two arbitrators always held that the juridical status and maritime rights of islands and reefs are related to maritime demarcation, yet they suddenly reversed their stance. I’m afraid that they need to give a credible explanation to the whole world.

Now, let us find out the Philippines’ true purpose to submit the arbitration case. Plenty of evidences demonstrate that the Philippines’ true purpose to submit the South China Sea arbitration case is to deny China’s territorial sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and legitimize the Philippines’ illegal occupation of China’s Nansha Islands. I would like to give an example here. On January 23, 2013, the second day after the Philippines launched arbitration procedure, Philippine Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a Q&A paper on arbitration procedure, in which it clearly described the purpose of the arbitration case as to “protect our country’s territory and oceanic area”, and claimed not to “give up our country’s sovereignty”. There are more similar declarations by the Philippines. Therefore, though the Philippines technically packaged its appeal in the arbitral tribunal by not directly mentioning the word “sovereignty”, the discerning people and experts will discover at the first sight that this is only a trick. It is neither aboveboard nor smart. The Philippines has in fact already baldly spoken out its true intention, but why the tribunal still pretends to be unknown about it, and covers up for the Philippines?

Then let’s look at the real effect of the Philippines’ proceeding. Actually, the arbitral tribunal’s acceptance and acknowledgment of the proceeding initiated by the Philippines will inevitably exert substantive influence on China’s territorial sovereignty. The Philippine side has “divided” the Nansha Islands and requires the arbitral tribunal to rule on the legal status and maritime rights of eight islands of the Nansha Islands. If the arbitral tribunal accepts and recognizes such claims, it in fact will deny China’s position of claiming territorial sovereignty and maritime rights over Nansha Islands as a whole. I believe everyone has a clear understanding of that. I noted that many media also analyzed that once the arbitration ruling is issued, China’s claims to the sovereignty of the South China Sea will be restrained. The design of the Philippines is obvious even for bystanders. Can’t the professional arbitrators see it?

And there are more loopholes in the ruling over jurisdiction by the arbitral tribunal as many rationales as well as evidences cannot bear scrutiny. Since the time is limited and we are not having a seminar here today, I’m not going to elaborate on them. What I would like to emphasize is that China also intends to resolve the disputes with the Philippines in a peaceful way. But the question is that whether such disputes could be resolved by mandatory arbitration. It is worth pondering. In terms of major and sensitive issues such as territorial sovereignty and maritime rights, many nations don’t accept settlement through a third party, because these issues involve a nation’s core interests. No country would accept the jurisdiction of a third-party mechanism which is not chosen out of its own will, or accept solutions imposed by such mechanism.

As for your second question, I have talked about it just now. The arbitral tribunal can make its own judgment over the jurisdiction, but instead of saying whatever it wants, it has to base its judgment on international law, the UNCLOS as well as facts and laws. If the tribunal is only “making a show” rather than following the law, its credibility will be questionable.

This case actually reminds us that how to comprehensively and accurately interpret and apply the mandatory arbitration procedure prescribed by the UNCLOS with kindness calls for the attention of the whole international community. In the future, if other countries abuse the mandatory arbitration mechanism by “packaging” the proceeding just like the Philippines, and if other tribunals ignore the balance established by the UNCLOS and rule beyond their authority willfully just like this arbitral tribunal, then every case can be packaged and submitted for arbitration. The result would be like opening the “Pandora’s Box” of arbitration abuse. In particular, the statements of option exception filed by over 30 states around the world according to the UNCLOS will all become waste paper of no use.
I’m afraid it would not be fortune for the international community if this phenomenon ever happens. Such a practice does no good for the peaceful resolution of disputes, and instead, it would harm the reputation of the dispute settlement mechanism of the UNCLOS and destroy the international maritime order established by the UNCLOS. We hope that when considering this issue, every country should not only see the current situation, but also take a sensible and long-term perspective. Thank you.

4. Reuters: You just mentioned that China is not alone in this case, but in fact most of China’s supporters are small countries like Fiji and Laos and most western countries don’t accept the Chinese government’s stance. At the same time, it seems that China is also on a relatively weak ground in terms of public opinion. How does China plan to reinforce its work of public opinion? Would it help to allow foreign journalists to visit the South China Sea and do interviews there? Thank you.

Xu Hong: Thanks. Actually I’ve also talked about this question just now. Justice will prevail. The right and wrong do not depend on which side speaks louder. It’s not a group fighting. As you mentioned, some western countries have voiced views unfavorable to China on the South China Sea arbitration case, but the group of western countries itself cannot represent the whole international community.

As a matter of fact, we have had in-depth discussions with a number of scholars and legal officials from western countries as well. We, so to speak, have consensus on many legal issues and also share concerns about the abuse of compulsory arbitration mechanism. But such voices would not be heard from political figures. This demonstrates that even in the west, there are many sober and objective experts on international law giving fair comments from a professional perspective. If you are interested, you can read their articles. But generally those articles are highly academic and may be dull to read, not as eye-catching as some political language.

You do have a point by saying that China should speak out the facts and reasons if it has. Today I am taking this opportunity to bring the facts and reasons to you. But I am not sure whether I have made myself clear, whether you have taken down all points, and whether you will report them comprehensively later. We welcome anybody to discuss international law with us at any time. Thank you.

5. CCTV 4: Some question that since China has such sufficient reasons, why is it not willing to participate in the arbitration? Some also say that at least China could appear in the tribunal to put in a plea over the jurisdiction. Since China has given up the opportunity, shouldn’t it undertake the consequences? Thank you.

Xu Hong: Thanks. I would like to respond to this question briefly in four points.

First, it is the right of a sovereign country to not accept and not participate in an arbitration proceeding. It’s completely in line with international law. China, obviously, is not the first one to adopt this practice. It is of no obligation as well as no necessity for China to accept and participate in a clearly unreasonable proceeding. The arbitration initiated by the Philippines lacks the basic ground of international law, so its behavior cannot possibly take any effect in international law or add any obligation to the Chinese side.

Second, China’s non-acceptance of and non-participation in the arbitration proceeding is to maintain the seriousness and completeness of international law including the UNCLOS, and to resist the abuse of compulsory arbitration mechanism while honoring the commitments made by China and the Philippines about resolving relevant disputes through negotiations. We should keep those commitments even if the Philippines does not.

Third, neither the Philippines that initiated the arbitration nor some countries that have been giving it a push, aim at genuinely solving the disputes. The Philippines is fully aware that the arbitral tribunal has no jurisdiction over the disputes concerning territorial sovereignty and maritime delimitation between China and the Philippines, that there is no way for China to accept compulsory arbitration and that such approach does no good to settle the issue. Still it abuses the provisions of the UNCLOS and forcibly initiates and propels the arbitration proceeding. Some other countries give their support on the side for obvious ulterior motives. Why should China engage itself into
Fourth, Whether China accepts and participates in the arbitration proceeding or not, the tribunal bears the obligation of ascertaining its jurisdiction over the disputes as stipulated in international law. But we see that the tribunal didn't fulfill its obligation, thus its rulings are invalid. Therefore, China needs to undertake no consequence. If there is any consequence, it should all be shouldered by the Philippines as the consequence is brought by its abuse of the UNCLOS. Thank you.

6. Press Trust of India: There are many successful cases of disputes settlement in accordance with the UNCLOS. As recently as last year, India and Bangladesh reached an agreement on the maritime disputes between the two countries. India made some compromise on the scope of the sea area it had claimed. Could this be regarded as a successful case of dispute settlement by applying arbitration procedures under the UNCLOS? Does China believe that the entire arbitration case is a conspiracy against China? Since the UNCLOS is a convention under the UN framework and China is one of the most influential members of the UN, why does China have such strong reactions against this case?

Xu Hong: Thank you. I have mentioned above many viewpoints which all indicate that the compulsory arbitration case filed by the Philippines is in violation of the UNCLOS. We should fully and comprehensively understand the dispute settlement mechanism provided in the UNCLOS and notice that the compulsory arbitration procedure is only a very secondary and supplementary procedure.

Dispute settlement mechanism is one of the pillars of maritime legal order established by the UNCLOS. It aims at promoting the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes and consolidating peaceful, secure, cooperative and friendly relations among states. To this end, the UNCLOS provides a two-tier dispute settlement mechanism in which the procedures voluntarily selected by State Parties should be given prior application and the mandatory procedure should be put in the secondary and supplementary place. Therefore, we must make it clear that the dispute settlement mechanism under the UNCLOS is more than mandatory arbitration. In fact, the UNCLOS first puts emphasis on respecting the state's voluntary choice or free will. The UNCLOS contains a series of provisions which embody this principle. Due to time limit, I will not elaborate on them in detail. But if you read the UNCLOS carefully, it is not difficult for you to understand this principle.

Just now you have mentioned the experience of India. I think India resolves the disputes with relevant countries also on a voluntary basis. No matter what procedure concerned parties submit, they do it out of their own free will. As far as the South China Sea issue is concerned, it is a political decision made by China and other parties in the South China Sea after long-term communication and consultations to settle related disputes through negotiations and consultations. The decision is not only written in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, but also repeatedly reaffirmed in documents like the joint statements between leaders, high-ranking officials and governments of China and relevant states.

China, as a responsible major country, has always insisted on resolving disputes concerning the South China Sea in accordance with international law including the UNCLOS through friendly consultations and negotiations. Since the South China Sea issue is concerned with many countries and involves a variety of complex historical background and sensitive political factors, it requires patience and political wisdom of all parties to address the issue ultimately. Precisely because countries can fully, freely and systematically express their concerns and exchange viewpoints in negotiations, negotiation is the most direct and effective method that most commonly adopted in international practices to resolve disputes among states.

China's stance of insisting on resolving relevant disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations is in full compliance with the UNCLOS. On the contrary, some people say that only by accepting the arbitration could we be in conformity with the UNCLOS. I think such statement is plain ignorance of the UNCLOS. Thanks.

7. China Radio International (CRI): Good morning, Director Xu. I'm with CRI. Since you've
just elaborated much on the illegitimacy of the arbitration, my question would be that will China take legal measures in response after the arbitral award is released? Will China deploy any countermeasures? And how will China respond if the Philippines proposes negotiation on the basis of the arbitral award?

Xu Hong: Thank you. As I have just mentioned, the South China Sea arbitration has already become a “show”, so who’s going to be serious about the results of a “show”? I would like to emphasize three points here:

First, China's position on the South China Sea issue will never be changed. The Philippines’ unilateral initiation of the present arbitration, alongside with the tribunal’s arbitral award, will not change the history and the fact of China's sovereignty over the South China Sea islands and the adjacent waters. Their acts will not shake China's resolution and determination to safeguard its sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, nor will they affect the policy and position of China to resolve relevant disputes through direct negotiations and to work together with other states in the region to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea. We hope that any party involved will not be hijacked by this arbitration.

Second, China will never agree bargain over the South China Sea issue from any country on a basis of an unauthorized and ineffective arbitral award, and will never accept any propositions from any country based on such arbitration. We hope that the Philippines could realize its errors and return to the right track of resolving disputes through negotiations and consultations.

Third, should any force intends to take this so-called arbitral award as an excuse to do harm to China's sovereignty and rights and interests, China will only take a strong position in response. Thank you.

8. National Public Radio (NPR) of the US: It is said that one purpose of this arbitration is to confirm the legal status of China's “Nine-dash Line”. For now China does not participate in the arbitration, and the Philippines will have a new president who appears willing to negotiate with China. My question is that does China regard the "Nine-dash Line" as a negotiable issue? Will China put forward the specific coordinates of the line in bilateral negotiations? And is it possible for China to reach bilateral or multilateral agreements with other countries through peaceful negotiations in this regard?

Xu Hong: The “Nine-dash Line” you mentioned is in fact China’s dotted line in South China Sea. I have to emphasize that China’s sovereignty over and relevant rights in the South China Sea are formed during a long historical course and are upheld by successive Chinese governments.

As early as 1948, China had already marked the dotted line in the South China Sea in its officially-published map. This mark serves as a confirmation of China's established rights over the South China Sea in historic course rather than setting down new rights. For a considerably long period, no country had ever raised any objection to the line. Furthermore, many countries have even marked this dotted line in their officially-published maps.

In recent years, some countries criticized the dotted line in South China Sea with real purposes of deliberately confusing territorial disputes and maritime delimitation disputes. In this manner they try to deny China’s sovereignty over the South China Sea islands and the adjacent waters to cover up the fact of their illegal occupation of some islands and reefs of China’s Nansha Islands.

Back to the arbitration case, the Philippines requested the arbitral tribunal to determine whether China’s claimed maritime rights and interests are in line with the UNCLOS. As I have already mentioned, to determine this issue, firstly we need to decide China’s territorial sovereignty over the South China Sea, as according to international law the territorial sovereignty of a state serves as the basis of its maritime rights and interests. Without determining China’s territorial sovereignty over the Nansha Islands, it would be impossible to decide China’s due
maritime rights in South China Sea according to the UNCLOS, let alone to judge whether China’s claimed maritime rights in the South China Sea are within the scope of the UNCLOS.

On the other hand, we should also notice that the history of the dotted line in South China Sea is much longer than that of the UNCLOS, and the UNCLOS does not represent the entire body of international maritime law. By all measures, the arbitral tribunal has no jurisdiction over the dotted line in South China Sea. As for negotiations, we have reaffirmed multiple times that we hope to resolve disputes through consultations and negotiations with relevant parties on the basis of respecting historical facts and the international law. The door for negotiation is always open. Thank you.

9. Xinhua News Agency: Some countries hold that China’s presence in the South China Sea will influence freedom of navigation in the area, what’s your opinion? And what’s your opinion on “freedom of navigation operations” conducted by the US warships in the South China Sea?

Xu Hong: Thank you. Speaking of the freedom of navigation, I would like to clarify two concepts. One is the “freedom of navigation” in international law, and the other is the so-called “freedom of navigation operations”, or “freedom of navigation plan” launched by the US. The two concepts are totally distinct from each other, so we cannot confuse them.

In recent years, some countries criticized the dotted line in South China Sea with real purposes of deliberately confusing territorial disputes and maritime delimitation disputes.

There has never been any problem with the freedom of navigation recognized by international law, especially the freedom of navigation of all countries in the South China Sea. I have never heard about any country that truly received complaint in this regard or complained that their merchant ships or companies encountered problems regarding the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. Instead, we have seen many reports saying that there’s no problem with security and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, which is fully safeguarded. Therefore, the so-called problem of freedom of navigation in the South China Sea hyped up by some countries is sheer imagery.

In terms of the “freedom of navigation operations” launched by the US, it is another story. The so-called “freedom of navigation operations” are a special concept. They are unilateral actions launched by the US in 1979 to object to some regulations stipulated in the UNCLOS, for the purpose of challenging other countries’ maritime claims which are “excessive” in the eye of the US. Such operations in themselves are against the UNCLOS, as evidenced by the following two violation points:

First, they pursue the old system of the maritime law, regarding contiguous zones and exclusive economic zones as “international waters” and high seas.

Second, they equate the freedom of navigation with absolute freedom without any restriction, entirely depart from various restrictions on freedom of navigation set out by the UNCLOS and the customary international law, and meanwhile are not in line with the principles of peaceful use of the sea, cooperation, and proper consideration of other countries’ rights.

In the surrounding waters of China’s islands and reefs in the South China Sea, the US puts forward the so-called “innocent passage”. In fact, we know that according to the UNCLOS, “innocent passage” bears specific meaning. It must be innocent, and shall be only limited to passage. “Innocent” means that when foreign ships are passing the territorial waters, they shall not be prejudicial to the peace, good order or security of the coastal countries. Clear definitions on what can be considered “innocent” are also set forth in the UNCLOS. Operations, if they will cast martial threats to sovereignty and territorial integrity or political independence of the coastal countries or will use force, if they are to conduct military exercise, if they are to collect defense intelligence or the coastal countries, if they are propaganda behaviors that will influence the defense or
security of the coastal countries, or if they will disturb the telecommunication system of the coastal countries and things like that, are not innocent.

It is not explicitly provided in the UNCLOS whether foreign warships have the right of innocent passage, but many countries in the world require permission or prior notice of foreign warships before entering their territorial waters so as to safeguard peace and safety of coastal countries. Such regulation is not to restrict innocent passage stated in the UNCLOS but to better ensure the implementation of this kind of innocent passage on the premise of conforming to the purpose and principle of the UNCLOS.

US warships deliberately navigate in the narrow seaway adjacent to Chinese islands and reefs rather than other broad sea areas, which I’m afraid is neither “innocent” nor “passage”. Even the US said that this is a challenge and a show-off of its force. The US has not approved the UNCOLS so far, but it challenges other countries’ domestic laws enacted according to the UNCOLS. I have no idea who gives it such kind of right! They act in the name of “freedom of navigation”, but in fact such actions are very likely to cause conflicts and inflict regional tension, which eventually will hamper the real freedom of navigation. Thank you.

**Wang Xining**: This is the end of today’s briefing. Thanks for coming.

**Xu Hong**: Thank you.
Beijing, May 6 (Xinhua) — A senior Chinese diplomat said on Friday that no arbitration verdict would change history or the fact that China is sovereign over the South China Sea islands and their surrounding waters.

Ouyang Yujing, director general of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said at a news briefing that “by not accepting or participating in the arbitration unilaterally initiated by the Philippines, China is upholding the sanctity of international law, including that of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)”.

“The crux of China-Philippines disputes on the South China Sea is the Philippines’ illegal occupation of islands and reefs of China’s Nansha Islands and the two countries’ maritime delineation.” Ouyang stressed.

Ouyang said China and the Philippines have reached a number of bilateral agreements including joint statements and communiques on resolving disputes through negotiation and consultation.

“In 2002, China and ASEAN countries including the Philippines, signed the DOC, which clearly stipulated in Article IV that disputes be settled through negotiation and consultation by countries directly concerned.” Ouyang added.

“These two points constitute the commitment of China and the Philippines to settling these issues,” Ouyang said.

“The UNCLOS has nothing to do with issues of territorial sovereignty,” Ouyang explained. “As for issues on maritime delineation, the UNCLOS allows optional exceptions to the applicability of compulsory dispute settlement proceedings such as compulsory arbitration. China made a declaration in 2006, excluding disputes concerning maritime delimitation from arbitral proceedings.”

Therefore, Ouyang said what the Philippine submissions are not suitable for compulsory arbitration at all, and there is no basis for the formation of the tribunal.

“No matter what verdict the arbitration case will be, it is unlawful and invalid. China will not accept nor recognize it,” Ouyang said.

“Through negotiation and consultation since the 1960s, China has delineated 20,000 kilometers of its boundary with 12 of its 14 land neighbors, which is 90% of its 22,000 kilometer land boundary,” Ouyang stated.

The other example given was that China and Vietnam have delineated the waters in the Beibu Gulf through negotiation.

**CHINA AND RUSSIA REACH IMPORTANT CONSENSUS ON SOUTH CHINA SEA ISSUE**


Sergey Lavrov expressed that Russia holds that the South China Sea issue should be resolved through political and diplomatic means such as direct dialogues and negotiations by parties concerned. Forces outside the region should not intervene. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the relevant norms of the international law, including agreements reached between China and ASEAN countries are legal basis that should be followed.

The two Foreign Ministers reached important consensus on the South China Sea issue. Relevant disputes over the South China Sea should be settled in peaceful manners though consultations and negotiations by parties directly concerned on the basis of
respecting historical facts and the international law. The international community, especially countries outside the region, should play a constructive role in maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea rather than disrupting the situation.
THE 7TH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF CHINA-ARAB STATES COOPERATION FORUM ADOPTS DOHA DECLARATION, SUPPORTING CHINA’S STANCE ON SOUTH CHINA SEA ISSUE

On May 12, 2016 local time, the 7th ministerial meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum held in Doha adopted the Doha Declaration. The declaration emphasizes that Arab states support China to peacefully settle territorial and maritime disputes with concerned countries though friendly consultation and negotiation in accordance with bilateral agreements and relevant regional consensus, and stresses that the rights entitled to sovereignty states and State Parties of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea to choose dispute settlement ways independently should be respected.
CHINA PLANS WORLD’S 2ND LARGEST HIGH-SPEED RAIL LINE IN CHENNAI

BHAVNA VIJ AURORA, ET Bureau Apr 23, 2016
Panels manufactured by US computer maker Dell line up the control centre of the China Railway Corporation (CRC), providing real-time data on the movement of 7,000 passenger trains - half of them the famed high-speed ones - and 20,000 cargo trains daily.

Zhuang He, head of the control centre, is unfazed when asked about the 78 panels, lit up by blue and red lines that show the positions of the trains. “We have no problem buying from America. Ours is an integrated international purchase system. Whoever offers the best deal, we go for it,” he tells a group of visiting journalists from India and major ASEAN countries.

It is clear that quality and speed are the mainstay of the CRC, specifically, the High Speed Railway (HSR). After developing the world’s biggest HSR network - at 19,000 km it is longer than all of world’s high-speed lines put together - China is now looking for opportunities in neighbouring countries, including India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Indonesia.

Stung by the worst-ever economic growth in 25 years, China is making an aggressive attempt to woo these countries and sell its HSR technology. While India has tied up with Japan for its first high-speed train to run on a 505-km track between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, China is keen to work on other proposed routes. It is carrying out feasibility studies for high-speed lines on the 2,200-km Chennai-New Delhi route and the 1,200-km long New Delhi-Mumbai corridor.

Zhao Guotang, vice general engineer of CRC, told ET the feasibility studies were “progressing well” and it hoped to do business with India in the near future. The proposed Chennai-New Delhi corridor could be the second-largest in the world, after the 2,298 km-long Beijing-Guangzhou line, which was launched three years ago.

India accepted Japan’s offer for its first high-speed train because of easy loan terms offered by Tokyo. While the Chinese may not offer concessional and easy loan terms, they claim their expertise and technology is compatible with that of India and other Southeast Asian countries. Zhao said it’s not just about the terms, it’s also about the speed with which the project is executed.

Comparing the Chinese HSR with that of competitors, he said that while China made over 1,000 km of such tracks in the past decade, Japan made 350 km and France managed 320 km.

However, where average speed is concerned, Japanese trains run at between 240 and 320 kmph, whereas the Chinese ones are designed to go up to 250 kmph. Maglev (magnetic levitation) trains have achieved faster speeds in both countries.

“We share a lot of similarities with India and other Southeast Asian countries in terms of the large population and the fact we are all developing countries,” Zhao said.

The issues and problems that China overcame while developing its HSR are similar to what India presently faces. “I am aware of the ongoing debate in India - whether it makes financial sense to go in for expensive HSR when there are so many problems plaguing the conventional railway system. Also, whether the HSR will ever earn profits considering the high price of tickets,” Zhao said.

The proposal to go in for HSR was met with the same scepticism in China. However, it didn’t take too long for the HSR lines in China to run into green from red. The Nanchang-Shanghai line started generating profit in the first year of operations. The 1,318-km Beijing-Shanghai HSR started earning money in the third year. “Last year, it made a profit of over 6 billion renminbi ($927 million) and this year, it is hoped it will exceed 10 billion RMB,” Zhao said.

He admitted that China relied heavily on non-fare revenue, too, for earnings from the railways. They leased out land for shops and other commercial activities, exactly what India has been trying to achieve, as announced by railway minister Suresh Prabhu during the budget.

Apart from resistance to HSR, there were other similarities between problems faced by India and China. Land acquisition to build new lines and railway structures was one and competition from other transport sectors such as highways and airlines was another.

Zhao said China had done a lot of work on resettling those whose land had been taken by the government. “We had major problems. People resisted and so did the local governments. It was not easy getting each and everyone on board,” he explained.
Comparing the pricing of tickets of various modes of transport, the Chinese railway chief said the fare for a regular passenger train is 10 cents per km, while second class on HSR costs 48 cents per km and first class costs 80 cents. An air ticket, on average, came to about 1 RMB per km.

While acknowledging that HSR rates were high, Zhao said this was after airlines had been forced to lower their rates since they were losing out to HSR.

Arguing in favour of HSR, Zhao said the benefits by far exceeded the problems. He talked about the “one-city effect” brought about by HSR, which integrated cities in a seamless manner. “HSR is not magic but I should say it is needed for the country’s economic and social development. It is a good thing and we are happy to share our experiences with other countries,” Zhao said.

(The correspondent visited China on an invitation of the Chinese Railway Corporation and Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

CHINA TO INCREASE HIGH-SPEED RAIL NETWORK TO 30,000 KM BY 2020

PTI Apr 21, 2016

Beijing: China, which has the longest high-speed railway network in the world at over 19,000 km, plans to increase it to 30,000 km by 2020, a top official has said.

“By the end of 2015, the length of high-speed railway (HSR) lines in operation in China exceeded 19,000 km with nearly 10,000 km under construction, making the country top of the world in terms of length of high-speed railways both in operation and under construction,” Vice General Engineer of the China Railway Corporation Zhao Guotang.
said.

“The operative mileage of HSR in China has taken 60 per cent of total amount in the world. During the decade from 2005-2015, the total mileage of HSR lines constructed in other parts of the world was no more than 4,500 km, so we can see most prosperous development of HSR lines is in China,” he told visiting journalists from India and some ASEAN nations at the China Railways headquarters here.

He highlighted that the fast development of high-speed railways in China is changing the Chinese people's traveling habits.

At present, Zhao said, 4,000 electric multiple unit (EMU) trains are operated daily on China's HSR network, accounting for 63 per cent of the total passenger trains operated daily in the nation.

Based on the concept of “zero-distance transfer”, high-speed railway stations are closely integrated with urban public transport systems or even airports through considerate and rational arrangement of stations and depots to develop modern passenger transport hubs and transfer centres where passengers can quickly transfer to subways, public buses or other vehicles, he said.

As asked what is the main advantage or strength of China's HSR, Zhao said, “I should say that outstanding strength is that we have abundant resources of 19,000 km which will be increased to 30,000 km in year 2020.”

“Specifically speaking, in the construction and operation of this 19,000 km of HSR, we have accumulated advanced technologies and equipment, we have gained rich management experience, this is the most outstanding strength of China's HSR,” he said.

“The second feature of our development is high quality. We have upgraded and improved our railway network. In terms of passenger transport, our operational speed runs first in the world,” Zhao added.

At present, the backbone of China's high-speed railway network consists of “Four East-West Railways and Four North-South Railways” and high-speed railways have been weaved into a network covering China's three city clusters.
— the Yangtze River Delta, the Pearl River Delta and the Pan-Bohai Region, facilitating passengers’ travel, he said.

In 2015 China’s railway passenger volume increased by 1.18 billion passengers or 86.8 per cent compared with that in 2007.

The proportion of passengers carried by EMU trains to all railway passengers increased from 4.5 per cent in 2007 to 45.8 per cent and the maximum volume of passengers carried by EMU trains in a single day has reached 4.81 million.

Talking about engineering construction technologies, Zhao said, “China’s high-speed railways are adaptable to different environments and transport needs. We have constructed HSR lines in different regions around the country with different natural climatic conditions.”

“For example, in northeast China, the temperature is rather low, in northwest China there are large desert areas, in southwest China there is hilly terrain and in Hainan province the temperature and humidity are quite high. So, we have used highly advanced machinery and information technologies to ensure high quality and efficiency of our construction,” he said.

Passengers can find trains operated at two different grades of speed with seats divided into first-class, second class and business class, or even with sleeping cars suitable for long distance journey, Zhao said.

“Another aspect is our management technologies, we have formed comprehensive management system consisting of core process consisting of planning, design, operation to personnel management, which is scientific and advanced,” he said.

About safety aspect of HSR, Zhou said, “our high-speed rail is safe and reliable...We also have a comprehensive safety inspection train and this train runs along the tracks every ten days for inspection of tracks and equipment.”

“We have full set of technologies and equipment to guarantee safe operations,” he stressed.

“Practice is most important. Since opening of first HSR line 2008, we have nearly eight years of experience of running HSR. The total operating mileage of our high-speed trains has exceed three billion km during this 7-8 years. So, this is incomparable with any other country. After long running and test, we have proved to be the most safest operator in the world,” he added.

The journalists also visited the traffic control centre at the China Railway headquarter at Beijing.

They were also informed that the Beijing South Railway Station here each day handles 180 pair of trains including many high-speed ones to various destinations, with waiting hall area of the ultra modern station having a capacity to accommodate nearly 20,000 passengers.

“180 pairs of trains run from this station, but in peak time this number increases to 207 pairs per day. The capacity per day reaches to 1,35,000 seats. But in peak days, especially during weekends, we can provide 156,000 to 181,000 seats,” Station’s Passenger Department Deputy Director W Yang said.

Sanya (China), Apr 24 (PTI) Sanya, a picturesque city on the southern end of China’s Hainan Island, famous for its bays with beach resorts, is wooing the Indian tourists who love adventure and duty-free shopping, officials have said.

“We welcome the Indian tourists with open arms. We have world class facilities here, secondly we have very good environment, there is clean air and we have no pollution, the sea water is pure and
tourists can do a lot of shopping here," Vice Mayor of Sanya City Council, Wu Peng told visiting journalists from India and some Asean countries here.

Sanya boasts of some top-of-the-line hotel chains who have set up shop along the beaches here.

Apart from being famous for its beach resorts, the tropical paradise is also famous for duty-free shopping.

“The tourists love the sun-kissed beaches and pollution-free environment here. Tourism is Sanya’s pillar industry,” he said.

Wu Peng also said that in 2015, there were about 50 million tourists who visited Sanya.

“The revenue from tourists industry was up to about 30 billion Yuan,” he said.

The inflow of tourists is not only from China’s mainland now and many foreign tourists flock this town, said Wang Feifei, Deputy Director of the Sanya Tourism Development Commission. She said there is Sanya Phoenix International Airport and flights to several destinations operate from there. “The place is also a heaven for those
who like seafood,” she added.

Sanya also has a lot to offer for the shoppers.

Notably, nearly one-and-a-half years back, China had opened worlds largest duty-free shop (DFS), attracting several international brands, in Sanya city. Located in the Haitang Bay area the duty-free shopping centre has an area of 72,000 square metres. “People are now moving beyond the established tourist destinations. They want to try out new places and when they visit Sanya they will realise that it has so much to offer,” said George Jin, a local tour guide. Notably, the town is also well-connected by rail route. Chinas Hainan Island Circling high-speed railway is the worlds first HSR circling an island in tropical zone. The 653-km rail belt connects Haikou in the north to Sanya in the south.

Since 2003, Sanya has hosted Miss World beauty pageant six times.

### DUNHUANG ART COLORING BOOK PUBLISHED

A coloring book featuring elements of Dunhuang art was published recently by the Dunhuang Academy China, allowing art lovers to color the Dunhuang caves as they wish.

The coloring book’s first volume, *An Age of Prosperity, as Flying Apsaras Wish*, features pictures of Apsaras, which are female spirits of the clouds and water in Buddhist and Hindu mythology. The figures are based on those at the Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes, a world heritage site. The coloring book has six pieces of translucent parchment paper and high-definition images of typical murals from the caves, which readers can then rub off.

The book has 25 sets of mural images for coloring. Each left page shows a picture of the original mural image created thousands of years ago while the right page holds a line drawing draft of that image made from the original mural by using computer technology.
“The left page is history, the right page is today; the left hand is culture and the right hand is inheritance”, the Dunhuang Academy China says.

The book also has calligraphy pages from a Diamond Sutra remnant paper, a sacred Mahayana Buddhist text that dates to the year 868, and readers can color the characters.

As soon as the official Weibo account of Mogao Grottoes posted the news of the coloring book’s publication, many netizens showed their support and praise for the move, and expressed their desire to buy one.
Beijing Normal University released its Chinese Digital Reading Report at the Culture and Internet Communication Summit Forum held Saturday in Beijing, indicating that profound changes are taking place in the reading habits of Chinese internet users.

The report shows that more than 70% of internet users read on their phone for one to three hours everyday. People who use a Kindle or other digital readers tend to read longer, and most of them read more than three hours a day.
While social apps, such as WeChat and literary websites, are more popular among women. When asked about the future of reading, 62.7% of interviewees believe that digital reading will replace paper-based reading, while the rate is up to 82.9% among interviewees under age of 20.

Moreover, 51.8% of the digital articles that people read are shared by WeChat, 30 percent higher than using the browser, ranking in first place. The report also points out that news apps are more attractive to men.

Tibet Today

A TIBETAN WEDDING: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

Beijing, May 6 (Xinhua) — Welcome to the wedding of Tenzin Jigme and Tenzin Drolkar! Surrounded by families and friends, the young Tibetan couple held a joyful Tibetan style wedding in Lhasa, capital city of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region.

In the city of Lhasa, weddings are often a combination of both Tibetan and Western styles. At a modern Tibetan wedding, you can easily see customs such as presenting hada (a white ceremonial scarf made of silk), drinking the highland barley wine and throwing tsampa, a kind of roasted barley flour.

Traditionally, for a Tibetan-style wedding, the bride will be first
waiting at her home for the convoy to arrive and take her to her groom’s house, where the ceremony takes place.

When leaving her home, the bride will have a colorful arrow plugged on her back to show she now belongs to the bridegroom’s side.

When the bride arrives at her groom’s, the wedding ceremony will begin. It will include exchanges of hadas between the two families. The bride will also serve milk-tea to her groom’s parents. It is important that she flicks a drop of tea over her head as a respectful salutation to heaven, earth and Buddha.

A host offers highland barley wine to the couple’s parents during a Tibetan wedding ceremony in Lhasa, Sept. 15, 2012. (Xinhua)
The ceremony will be followed by a banquet, where family and friends sing and dance. The guests will pass on blessings and gifts to the newly-weds.

In the past, for some rich families, the wedding ceremony could last as long as ten days. It is now common to hold a wedding just over the weekend.

Families and guests often go to a hotel to celebrate, and it’s fashionable to have a buffet dinner.

In the eyes of the Tibetans, marriage brings prosperity to a family. Although the marriage customs are simplified, people’s prayer for happiness and joy remains the same as their ancestors’.
EXHIBITION OF TIBETAN THANGKA PAINTING HELD IN LHASA

Visitors tour an exhibition of Tibetan Thangka paintings created by master Norbu and his students in Lhasa, capital of Southwest China's Tibet autonomous region, May 3, 2016. [Photo/ Chinanew.com]

Visitors take pictures a Tibetan Thangka painting at an exhibition in Lhasa, capital of Southwest China's Tibet autonomous region, May 3, 2016. [Photo/ Chinanew.com]
More than 50 works of Tibetan Thangka painting created by master Norbu and his students are on display at an exhibition in Lhasa, capital of Southwest China’s Tibet autonomous region, May 3, 2016. Thangka, a Tibetan scroll-banner depicting various kinds of contents, is known as a Tibetan "encyclopedia". [Photo/ Chinanew.com]

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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### Instructions for Chinese Visa Application

(Effective from September 1, 2013)

What is the main purpose of your visit to China and which is the most appropriate visa category for your application?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visa Categories</th>
<th>Description of Visa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Issued to foreign crew members of means of international transportation, including aircraft, trains and ships, or motor vehicle drivers engaged in cross-border transport activities, or to the accompanying family members of the crew members of the above-mentioned ships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Issued to those who intend to reside in China permanently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Issued to those who intend to go to China for exchanges, visits, study tours and other activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Issued to those who intend to transit through China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J1</td>
<td>Issued to resident foreign journalists of foreign news organizations stationed in China. The intended duration of stay in China exceeds 180 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J2</td>
<td>Issued to foreign journalists who intend to go to China for short-term news coverage. The intended duration of stay in China is no more than 180 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Issued to those who intend to go to China as a tourist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Issued to those who intend to go to China for commercial and trade activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>Issued to those who are family members of Chinese citizens or of foreigners with Chinese permanent residence and intend to go to China for family reunion, or to those who intend to go to China for the purpose of foster care. The intended duration of stay in China exceeds 180 days. “Family members” refers to spouses, parents, sons, daughters, spouses of sons or daughters, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandsons, granddaughters and parents-in-law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>Issued to those who intend to visit their relatives who are Chinese citizens residing in China or foreigners with permanent residence in China. The intended duration of stay in China is no more than 180 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Issued to those who are high-level talents or whose skills are urgently needed in China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S1</td>
<td>Issued to those who intend to go to China to visit the foreigners working or studying in China to whom they are spouses, parents, sons or daughters under the age of 18 or parents-in-law, or to those who intend to go to China for other private affairs. The intended duration of stay in China exceeds 180 days.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Visa Categories** | **Description of Visa**
--- | ---
S2 | Issued to those who intend to visit their family members who are foreigners working or studying in China, or to those who intend to go to China for other private matters. The intended duration of stay in China is no more than 180 days. “family members” refers to spouses, parents, sons, daughters, spouses of sons or daughters, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandsons, granddaughters and parents-in-law.
X1 | Issued to those who intend to study in China for a period of more than 180 days.
X2 | Issued to those who intend to study in China for a period of no more than 180 days.
Z | Issued to those who intend to work in China.

Here are the documents you shall prepare before submission of visa application:

1. **Basic Documents and Reminders**
   
   (1) **Passport**
   
   Original passport with at least six months of remaining validity, at least 2 blank visa pages, a photocopy of the passport’s data page and the photo page if it is separate. For multiple-visa application, the remaining validity of the passport must cover the validity of visa and the duration of stay. For example, if applying for a visa with 6 months validity, multiple entries, and 30 days of each stay, the remaining validity of the passport should be at least 7 months.

   (2) **Visa Application Form and Photo**
   
   One completed Visa Application Form (2013) with a recently-taken color passport photo (bare-head, full face) against a light background attached.

   (3) **Proof of legal stay or residence status** (applicable to those who are not of Indian citizenship).
   
   The applicant from a third country should provide valid Indian visa or valid Residence Permit in India and its copy, and fill up the Additional Application Form. In case the applicant from a third country staying in India with a short-term visa, a note verbale (with details as follows: applicant’s name, passport number, occupation, purpose to go to China, duration of stay in China) by the Embassy or Consulate-General of his/her own country is required.

   (4) **Photocopy of previous Chinese passports or previous Chinese visas** (applicable to those who were Chinese citizens and have obtained foreign citizenship).
   
   If you are applying for a Chinese visa for the first time, you should provide your previous Chinese passport and a photocopy of its data page.

   If you have obtained Chinese visas before and want to apply for a Chinese visa with a renewed foreign passport that does not contain any Chinese visa, you should present the photocopy of the previous passport’s data page and the photo page if it is separate, as well as the previous Chinese visa page. (If your name on the current passport differs from that on the previous one, you must provide an official document of name change.)
(5) The Visa Application Form shall be signed by the applicant. In case the applicant is a person without or with limited capacity for civil conduct, the application form should be signed by his/her guardian on his/her behalf. If the form is filled out by entrusted travel/visa agent, both the applicant’s signature and the stamp of the agent are required.

(6) Child of Chinese descent born either in China or in India applies for a Chinese visa for the first time, the Birth Certificate with his/her parents’ names on, the original certificate for renunciation of Chinese nationality and its copy, and the statement written by his/her parents or guardian are required.

(7) Child of Chinese descent born in a third country should make his/her Chinese visa application in his/her resident country if the Birth Certificate and the certificate for renunciation of Chinese nationality cannot be submitted.

(8) The applicant must be in India while making the application for a Chinese Visa. Otherwise, the applicant should take full consequences.

(9) Different types of visas will be issued according to applicants’ identities, purposes and activities. The applicant should not engage in activities not conform to the type of visa he/she is holding in China. Application should be made in line with the purpose of activity in China. Otherwise, the applicant should take full consequences.

(10) Fraud documents or false information provided by the applicant will result in rejection of individual application and disqualification of travel/visa agency to apply for Chinese visa.

(11) Ordinary passport holders are required to submit applications to the Chinese Visa Application Service Centre (CVASC) where CVASC is available.

(12) The Chinese Embassy and Consulates-General do not accept applications by post.

(13) The normal processing of Chinese visa takes about one to two weeks. The applicant should plan ahead. Any applicant who attempts to interfere with the office of Chinese Embassy or Consulates by using “my air ticket has been confirmed” as a pretext may likely result in the rejection of his/her visa application.

(14) In case of urgent service is provided at the approval of the Chinese Embassy or the Consulates-General, the applicant should pay extra fee accordingly.

(15) Applicants residing within consular district of Chinese Consulate-General in Kolkata and Mumbai are required to submit their applications to the respective Chinese Consulate-General in Kolkata and Mumbai. The consular district of the Chinese Consulate-General in Kolkata covers Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. The consular district of the Chinese Consulate-General in Mumbai covers Maharashtra and Karnataka.

2. Supporting Documents

C Visa

(1) A letter of guarantee issued by a foreign transport company or an invitation letter issued by a relevant entity in China.

(2) Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.
Note:
Non-regular scheduled flight, chartered flight, private plane must get the Aviation Permit before departure.

**D Visa**

1. The original and photocopy of the Confirmation Form for Foreigners Permanent Residence Status issued by the Ministry of Public Security of China.
2. Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place of destination in China, name, address and contact number of the inviting / contact company / person).
3. Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

We kindly remind you that:
Holders of D Visa shall, within 30 days from the date of their entry, apply to the exit/ entry administrations of public security organs under local people’s governments at or above the county level in the proposed places of residence for foreigners’ residence permits.

**F Visa**

1. An invitation letter issued by a relevant entity or individual in China. The invitation should contain:
   a. Information on the applicant (full name, gender, date of birth, etc.)
   b. Information on the planned visit (purpose of visit, arrival and departure dates, place(s) to be visited, relations between the applicant and the inviting entity or individual, financial source for expenditures)
   c. Information on the inviting entity or individual (name, contact telephone number, address, official stamp, signature of the legal representative or the inviting individual)
2. Personal or Company’s written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting / contact company or person).
3. For a multiple entry visa application, copies of previous Chinese visas (on one A4 paper) are required.
4. Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

**G Visa**

1. An onward air (train or ship) ticket with confirmed date and seat to the destination country or region.
2. Personal or company’s written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting / contact company or person).
3. Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

**J1 Visa**

1. Visa Notification Letter issued by the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and an official letter issued by the media organization for which the journalist works.
2. Applicants are required to contact the Press Section of the Chinese Embassy/ Consulate General in advance and complete relevant formalities.
We kindly remind you that:

Holders of J1 Visa shall, within 30 days from the date of their entry, apply to the exit/entry administrations of public security organs under local people’s governments at or above the county level in the proposed places of residence for foreigners’ residence permits.

**J2 Visa**

1. Visa Notification Letter issued by the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China or other authorized units in China and an official letter issued by the media organization for which the journalist works.

2. Applicants should contact the press section of the Chinese Embassy/Consulate General in advance and complete the relevant formalities.

**L Visa**

1. Documents showing the itinerary including air ticket booking record (round trip) and proof of a hotel reservation, etc. or an invitation letter issued by a relevant entity or individual in China. The invitation letter should contain:
   a. Information on the applicant (full name, gender, date of birth, etc.)
   b. Information on the planned visit (arrival and departure dates, place(s) to be visited, etc.)
   c. Information on the inviting entity or individual (name, contact telephone number, address, official stamp, signature of the legal representative or the inviting individual).

2. Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting/contact company/person); Certification letter from the working unit of the applicant (with details as follows: name and contact number of the working unit, the applicant’s income statement), or Original copy of recent 6-month bank statement of the applicant.

3. If applicant repeatedly applies for tourist visa to China, the following information shall be covered in the personal statement: reasons for revisit, the places the applicant plans to visit this time and places he/she visited before.

4. Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

5. If the applicants travel in China on a group basis, the invitation letter issued by the travel agency is required.

**M Visa**

1. Documents on the commercial activity issued by a trade partner in China, or trade fair invitation relevant entity or individual. The invitation letter should contain:
   a. Information on the applicant (full name, gender, date of birth, etc.)
   b. Information on the planned visit (purpose of visit, arrival and departure dates, place(s) to be visited, relations between the applicant and the inviting entity or individual, financial source for expenditures)
   c. Information on the inviting entity or individual (name, contact telephone number, address, official stamp, signature of the legal representative or the inviting individual).
(2) For application of a multiple entry visa: copy of all previous Chinese visas (on one A-4 sized paper) should be attached.

(3) Personal or company’s written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting / contact company or person).

(4) Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

Q1 Visa
For family reunion, the following documents are required:

(1) An invitation letter issued by a Chinese citizen or a foreign with a Chinese permanent residence permit who lives in China. The invitation letter should contain:
   a. Information on the applicant (full name, gender, date of birth, etc.)
   b. Information on the visit (purpose of visit, intended arrival date, place(s) of intended residence, intended duration of residence, relations between the applicant and the inviting individual, financial source for expenditures)
   c. Information on the inviting individual (name, contact telephone number, address, official stamp, signature of legal representative or the inviting individual, etc.)

(2) Photocopy of Chinese ID of the inviting individual or foreign passport and permanent residence permit.

(3) Original and photocopy of certification (marriage certificate, birth certificate, certification of kinship issued by Public Security Bureau or notarized certification of kinship) showing the relationship of family members between applicant and inviting individual.

“Family members” refers to spouses, parents, sons, daughters, spouses of sons or daughters, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandsons, granddaughters and parents-in-law.

(4) Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

For foster care, the following documents are required:

(1) Foster entrustment notarization issued by Chinese Embassies/Consulates General in foreign countries or Foster Care Power of Attorney notarized and authenticated in the country of residence or in China.

(2) Original and photocopy of the consignor’s passport(s), as well as the original and photocopy of certification (marriage certificate, birth certificate, certification of kinship issued by Public Security Bureau or notarized certification of kinship) showing the relationship between parents and children.

(3) A letter of consent on foster care issued by the trustee living in China who has agreed to provide foster care services and a photocopy of the ID of the trustee.

(4) A photocopy of the certificate indicating the permanent residence status abroad of the parent(s) when the child was born, provided that either or both parents of the child are Chinese citizens.

(5) Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

We kindly remind you that:
Holders of Q1 Visa shall, within 30 days from the date of their entry, apply to the exit/entry administrations of public security organs under local people’s governments at or above the county level in the proposed places of residence for foreigners’ residence permits.

**Q2 Visa**

1. An invitation letter issued by a Chinese citizen or a foreign citizen with a Chinese permanent residence permit who lives in China. The invitation letter should contain:
   a. Information on the applicant (full name, gender, date of birth, etc.)
   b. Information on the visit (purpose of visit, arrival and departure dates, place(s) to be visited, relations between the applicant and the inviting individual, financial source for expenditures)
   c. Information on the inviting individual (name, contact number, address, signature, etc.)
2. Photocopy of Chinese ID or foreign passport and permanent residence permit of the inviting individual.
3. Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

**R Visa**

1. The applicant should submit relevant certification in accordance with relevant regulations, and meet the relevant requirements of the competent authorities of the Chinese government on high-level talents and individual personnel with special skills urgently needed by China.
2. Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

**S1 Visa**

1. An invitation letter from the inviting individual (a foreigner who stays or resides in China for work or studies) which contains:
   a. Information on the applicant (full name, gender, date of birth, etc.)
   b. Information on the visit (purpose of visit, arrival and departure dates, place of intended residence, relations between the applicant and the inviting individual, financial source for expenditures, etc.)
   c. Information on the inviting individual (name, contact telephone number, address, signature, etc.)
2. A photocopy of the inviting individual’s passport and residence permit.
3. Original and photocopy of certification (marriage certificate, birth certificate, certification of kinship issued by Public Security Bureau or notarized certification of kinship) showing the relationship of immediate family members between applicants and inviting individual.
   “Immediate family members” refers to spouses, parents, sons or daughters under the age of 18, parents-in-law.
4. For private affairs, documentation identifying the nature of the private affairs such as marriage, inheritance, adoption, etc. should be provided as required by the consular officer.
5. Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting person).
(6) Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

We kindly remind you that:

Holders of S1 Visa shall, within 30 days from the date of their entry, apply to the exit/entry administrations of public security organs under local people’s governments at or above the county level in the proposed places of residence for foreigners’ residence permits.

**S2-Visa**

For visiting family members for a short period, the following documents are required:

1. An invitation letter issued by the inviting individual (a foreigner who stays or resides in China for work or studies) which contains:
   a. Information on the applicant (full name, gender, date of birth, etc.)
   b. Information on the visit (purpose of visit, arrival and departure dates, place(s) to be visited, relations between the applicant and the inviting individual, financial source for expenditures, etc.)
   c. Information on the inviting individual (name, contact telephone number, address, signature, etc.)

2. A photocopy of the inviting individual’s (a foreigner who stays or lives in China for work or studies) passport and residence permit.

3. Photocopy of certification (marriage certificate, birth certificate or notarized certification of kinship) showing the relationship of family members between the applicant and the inviting individual.

“Family members” refers to spouses, parents, sons, daughters, spouses of sons or daughters, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandsons, granddaughters and parents-in-law.

4. For private affairs, documentation identifying the nature of the private affairs such as marriage, inheritance, adoption, should be provided as required by the consular officer.

**X1-Visa**

1. Original and photocopy of the Admission Letter issued by a school or other entities in China.

2. Original and photocopy of “Visa Application for Study in China” (Form JW201 or Form JW202).

3. Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the school or entity of admission).

4. Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

We kindly remind you that:

Holders of X1 Visa shall, within 30 days from the date of their entry, apply to the exit/entry administrations of public security organs under local people’s governments at or above the county level in the proposed places of residence for foreigners’ residence permits.

**X2-Visa**

1. Original and photocopy of Admission Notice issued by a school or other entities in China.
(2) Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the school or entity of admission).

(3) Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate-General.

Z-Visa

(1) One of the following documents:

a. Foreigners Employment Permit of the People’s Republic of China issued by Chinese government authorities for Human Resources and Social Security, as well as Invitation Letter of Duly Authorized Entity or Confirmation Letter of Invitation issued by relevant Chinese entities.

b. Permit for Foreign Experts Working in China issued by the State Bureau of Foreign Experts as well as Invitation Letter of Duly Authorized Entity or Confirmation Letter of Invitation issued by relevant Chinese entities.

c. Registration Certificate of Resident Representative Offices of enterprises of foreign countries(regions) issued by Chinese authorities of industrial and commercial administration, as well as Invitation Letter of Duly Authorized Entity or Confirmation Letter of Invitation issued by relevant Chinese entities as well as Invitation Letter of Duly Authorized Entity or Confirmation Letter of Invitation issued by relevant Chinese entities.

d. An approval document for commercial performances issued by the Chinese government authorities for cultural affairs or Invitation Letter of Duly Authorized Entity or Confirmation Letter of Invitation issued by relevant Foreign Affairs Office of provincial governments of China.

e. Letter of Invitation to Foreigners for Offshore Petroleum Operations in China issued by China National Offshore Oil Corporation;

(2) Personal written statement (covering letter with details as follows: place to visit, name, address and contact number of the inviting/ contact company or person).

(3) Other documents required by the Chinese Embassy and Consulate-General.

We kindly remind you that:

Holders of Z Visa shall, within 30 days from the date of their entry, apply to the exit/entry administrations of public security organs under local people’s governments at or above the county level in the proposed places of residence for foreigners’ residence permits.

3. Special Reminder

(1) The invitation letter may be in the form of fax, photocopy or computer printout, but the consular officer may require the applicant to submit the original of the invitation letter.

(2) If necessary, the consular officer may require the applicant to provide other documents or supplementary materials, or require an interview with the applicant.

(3) The consular officer will decide on whether or not to issue the visa and on its validity, duration of stay and number of entries in light of specific conditions of the applicant.
First World Conference on Tourism for Development

The First World Conference on Tourism for Development was successfully held in Beijing, China from 18-21 May 2016 with a specific view to advancing the contribution of tourism to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The event was jointly organized by the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

The conference, which coincided with the China Tourism Day, was addressed by the national leaders of China and the other participating countries, and brought together high-profile figures of the tourism administrations, international and regional organizations, private sector, academia and civil society to spur dialogue and create a better understanding of tourism’s contribution to development, including poverty alleviation and peace. At the end of this Conference, Beijing Statement on Sustainable Tourism as a Driver of Development and Peace was adopted by the representatives present.

On this occasion, China, as chair of the G20, also hosted the 7th G20 Tourism Ministers’ Meeting under the theme “Sustainable Tourism – An Effective Tool for Inclusive Development”.

During this Conference and the Meeting, the delegates from across the world reached a broad consensus on tourism industry.