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Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

## China Newsletter

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## **China News**

### **1. One year on, China navigates new era under Xi**

A year since Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that Socialism with Chinese Characteristics has "crossed the threshold into a new era", China has shown the world its resilience against challenges and resolve to pursue its goals.

Chinese people have rallied closely around the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee with Xi at the core and striven for the national rejuvenation since the landmark 19th CPC National Congress in last October.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/18/c\\_137539903.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/18/c_137539903.htm)

### **2. Xi urges efforts to win battle against poverty on schedule**

Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged redoubled efforts to win the tough battle against poverty on schedule.

China should stick to its poverty relief target and work harder for a victory in the battle, President Xi stressed when giving instructions on poverty reduction work, as the country observes the fifth National Poverty Relief Day, which falls on October 17 every year.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/17/c\\_137539595.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/17/c_137539595.htm)

### **3. Building pilot FTZs toward new heights of China's reform and opening-up**

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for building the country's pilot free trade zones (FTZs) toward new heights of reform and opening-up in the new era.

President Xi made the remarks in an instruction on the development of pilot FTZs. The development of pilot FTZs is a strategic measure by the CPC Central Committee in advancing reform and opening-up in the new era and has become a milestone in the course, Xi said.

Five years of enterprising and pioneering work in the country's pilot FTZs has seen major progress and breakthroughs, offering the nation

copious advances in institutional explorations, Xi said.

Further reading on the following websites:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/24/c\\_137555791.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/24/c_137555791.htm)

#### **4. Xi sends congratulatory letter to Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference**

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the Belt and Road Energy Ministerial Conference and International Forum on Energy Transition, which opened on October 18 in the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou.

The Belt and Road Initiative has been widely recognized and actively participated by the international community since it was proposed five years ago, with fruitful results achieved, Xi said in the letter.

"We are willing to work with all parties to continue joint efforts and stick to the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration, to make in-depth and solid progress in Belt and Road cooperation and better benefit people of all countries," he said.

Further reading on the following websites:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/18/c\\_137541402.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/18/c_137541402.htm)

#### **5. China opens Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge**

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge at an opening ceremony in the city of Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, on October 23.

On behalf of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Xi expressed sincere thanks and warm greetings to those who participated in the design, building, and management of the bridge.

Han Zheng, vice premier and member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, addressed the opening ceremony, which was held at a hall of the Zhuhai Port.

The 55-km bridge, situated in the waters of Lingdingyang of Pearl River Estuary, connects the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), Zhuhai and the Macao SAR. The bridge is the first of its kind for

Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao to jointly build a supergiant sea-crossing traffic project under the principle of "one country, two systems."

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/23/c\\_137552885.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/23/c_137552885.htm)

## **6. Private entrepreneurs encouraged to further innovate, create, develop**

Chinese President Xi Jinping has encouraged private entrepreneurs to have firm confidence in development and work in a down-to-earth way to develop their businesses.

President Xi made the remarks in a letter on October 20 in response to some private entrepreneurs having been awarded for their contributions in a poverty relief campaign.

In his letter, Xi spoke highly of the private entrepreneurs' devotion to the cause of fighting poverty.

Further reading on the following websites:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/21/c\\_137548892.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/21/c_137548892.htm)

## **7. 17th National Congress of ACFTU opens**

The 17th National Congress of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) opened in Beijing on October 22.

President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, attended the opening session.

The meeting was also attended by other leaders of the CPC and the State including Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng, all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/22/c\\_137550520.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/22/c_137550520.htm)

## **8. Li's trip a big boost for stronger Eurasian partnership and connectivity**

As economic globalization continues to lose momentum while protectionism and unilateralism rise, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's Eurasian trip gave China's answer to the question of how to steer the world economy out of difficulties through concerted efforts and closer cooperation.

Premier Li's nine-day visit took him to Tajikistan, the Netherlands and Belgium, where the Chinese Premier and leaders of Eurasian countries held in-depth talks, promising to enhance mutual trust and forge stronger partnerships.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/20/c\\_137547132.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/20/c_137547132.htm)

## **9. More enabling business environment to be created**

The Chinese government will do more to resolve the concerns of businesses identified during the State Council inspection tours, to ensure full delivery of all pro-business policies and build a national Internet Plus regulation system to make government regulation smarter, more standardized and better targeted, as the State Council's Executive Meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang decided on October 22.

The Chinese government places high importance on improving the business environment. Premier Li pointed out that it is critical to deepen the reform of government functions for notable improvement in the business environment to improve market expectations and boost market confidence.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/22/c\\_137550891.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/22/c_137550891.htm)

## **10. Premier Li vows to brave challenges and bolster economy**

On October 24, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang called for more efforts to overcome headwinds, maintain stable performance of the economy and push for high-quality development.

"China has deepened its reform and opening-up and actively responded to challenges this year, keeping the economy within a reasonable range," Premier Li said at the 17th National Congress of the

All-China Federation of Trade Unions.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/25/c\\_137555823.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/25/c_137555823.htm)

### **11. Taihu World Cultural Forum annual conference opens in Beijing**

The fifth annual conference of the Taihu World Cultural Forum opened in Beijing on October 18.

Wang Chen, vice chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, announced Chinese President Xi Jinping's congratulatory letter and delivered an address at the conference.

The conference, themed "Dialogue of Civilizations: Building a Community With a Shared Future for Humanity," should help improve understanding, accumulate consensus, deepen cooperation and promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, Xi said in the letter.

Further reading on the following websites:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/19/c\\_137542526.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/19/c_137542526.htm)

[http://english.scio.gov.cn/topnews/2018-10/19/content\\_66946019.htm](http://english.scio.gov.cn/topnews/2018-10/19/content_66946019.htm)

### **12. China-made large amphibious aircraft AG600 starts tests on water**

China's independently-developed large amphibious aircraft, the AG600, has completed trial ground flights and entered a new test phase on the water-surface.

The AG600, codenamed "Kunlong," successfully finished a trial flight from an airport in the city of Zhuhai, south China's Guangdong Province, to an airport in Jingmen, a city in central China's Hubei Province, on October 21, according to China Aviation Industry General Aircraft Co. Ltd.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-08/26/c\\_137420900.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-08/26/c_137420900.htm)

### **13. Beijing Xiangshan Forum highlights security cooperation**

The 8th Beijing Xiangshan Forum, held on October 24-26 at the

Beijing International Convention Center, has brought together over 500 delegates from more than 70 countries and international organizations to consider greater security cooperation.

At the opening ceremony, held on October 25, General Wei Fenghe, State Councilor and Minister of National Defense of China, read a letter of congratulations from Chinese President Xi Jinping during his opening speech on building a new type of security partnership.

The theme of this year's forum is "Building a New Type of Security Partnership of Equality, Mutual Trust and Win-Win Cooperation," with topics for four plenary sessions including "New Ideas for, and New Approaches to, International Security Governance," "Terrorism Threats and Countermeasures," "Reality and Vision of Maritime Security Cooperation" and "Challenges and Cooperation in regard to U.N. Peacekeeping."

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.china.org.cn/china/2018-10/25/content\\_68108528.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/china/2018-10/25/content_68108528.htm)

#### **14. Government green-lights easier access to “green cards”**

Chinese government’s easing of the rules on permanent residence permits means more talented expats are being offered the opportunity to live and work in China.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2018/1022/c90000-9510564.html>

## **China-UK Relations**

### **1. Chinese Premier calls for closer China-Britain cooperation**

China welcomes Britain to seize the opportunity arising from its further opening-up and bring the mutually beneficial cooperation to a new high, Premier Li Keqiang said on October 19.

Li made the remarks when meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May on the sidelines of the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in the Belgian capital Brussels.

The annual meeting between the heads of government of China and Britain at the beginning of the year injected new impetus into the bilateral



ties and pragmatic cooperation, Li said.

In particular, the two sides reached consensus on speeding up the Shanghai-London stock connect, which shall make Britain the first country to connect its securities market with the Chinese market, said the Chinese premier.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/20/c\\_137545036.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-10/20/c_137545036.htm)

## **2. Message of congratulations from Ambassador Liu Xiaoming to the fourth China-UK Regional Leaders' Summit**

Ambassador Liu Xiaoming called on participants at the fourth China-UK Regional Leaders' Summit to dovetail the development strategies of our two countries and create new opportunities of growth, tap the comparative strengths of China and the UK to explore new avenues of business cooperation, initiate flagship projects to open up a new prospect of win-win cooperation and let cultural and people-to-people exchanges give new impetus to China-UK friendship.

The full text of the message on the following website:

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201810/18/WS5bc767d3a310eff303282f89.html>

## **3. Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's comment on South China Sea-related remarks by the UK**

On October 25, when asked about the remarks by Britain's First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Philip Jones that Britain will assert its right to freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying expressed China's grave concern and firm opposition to the UK's statements.

The full transcript of the comment on the following website:

<http://www.chinese-embassy.org.uk/eng/zywl/t1606921.htm>

## **Policy and Position**

**1. The Daily Telegraph publishes a signed article by Ambassador Liu Xiaoming entitled "China's focus is on peace, co-operation and**

## **hard work”**

On October 19, The Daily Telegraph and its website published a signed article by Ambassador Liu Xiaoming entitled “China’s focus is on peace, co-operation and hard work”.

Ambassador Liu refuted in the article that “a US politician bragged about ‘rebuilding China’ in front of the whole world against international common sense”, and “The public must be told the truth as soon as possible.”

Ambassador Liu said in the article that it is "absurd and against common sense" to use the so-called "China's interference in U.S. domestic affairs and midterm elections" to justify the recent sting of tariff measures.

Further reading on the following websites:

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1123745.shtml>

<http://www.chinese-embassy.org.uk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1605636.htm>

## **2. Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's comment on Xinjiang’s efforts to fight terrorism**

On October 24, when asked about the Xinjiang's vocational education center at the regular press conference, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said that China opposes double standards on counter-terrorism.

Hua said that China is a country under the rule of law and the Chinese government protects the legitimate rights and security of its citizens and the foreigners in China in accordance with the law.

The full transcript of the comment on the following website:

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xwfw\\_665399/s2510\\_665401/t1606828.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1606828.shtml)

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