



China Newsletter

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China News

1. Highlights of Premier Li Keqiang's 2017 press conference

Premier Li Keqiang met reporters from home and abroad at a news conference on 15 March at the end of the annual meeting of the National People's Congress. Premier Li answered questions on various topics such as the economy, financial reforms and diplomacy. Here are the highlights of the event.

China-US relations

The One-China policy constitutes the political foundation of China-US relations. Despite the changing circumstances, this relationship has remained unshaken, nor can it be undermined. "With that foundation in place, we believe that there are broad prospects for China-US cooperation."

Financial risks

There will not be eruption of systematic financial crisis in China. China has many policy tools available to resolve financial risks.

Further reading on the following website:

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2017twosession/2017-03/15/content_28564077.htm

Hot topics in Premier Li's 2017 news conference

http://english.gov.cn/policies/infographics/2017/03/15/content_281475596697190.htm

Ten quotes from Premier Li's press conference

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1545057/1545057.htm>

Govt Work Report policies benefit expats and foreign companies

http://english.gov.cn/policies/infographics/2017/03/08/content_281475588961460.htm

Journalists see China's impact on the world

http://english.gov.cn/news/top_news/2017/03/15/content_281475596830722.htm

2. Top legislature adopts key documents, ends session

China's top legislature concluded its 11-day annual plenary session on 15 March after adopting a number of key documents, paving the way for the country's development in the coming year.

Of the 2,838 deputies to the National People's Congress who attended the closing ceremony, the overwhelming majority voted in favor of these documents, including the Government Work Report, the work report of the Standing Committee, the work reports of the top court and top procuratorate and the General Provisions of the Civil Law.

Further reading on the following website:

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2017twosession/2017-03/16/content_28572712.htm

China's national legislature concludes annual session

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-03/15/c_136130853.htm

3. China, US work closely on a possible summit

China and the United States are maintaining close communication on bringing about exchanges between their presidents and at other levels, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Tuesday 14 March 2017.

"Both sides highly value enhancing high-level and other levels of exchanges between the two countries," she said at a daily news conference in Beijing. "We will release further information in a timely manner," Hua said.

The White House said on Monday that a meeting between US President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping was in the works.

Further reading on the following website:

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-03/15/content_28566278.htm

4. Press accreditation for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation starts

The online media registration system (<http://media.beltandroadforum.org>) for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) will be open from 00:00 on March 10 to 24:00 on April 10, 2017 (GMT+8). Foreign journalists are required to

apply for J-2 visa at Chinese embassies or consulates overseas or visa agencies authorized by the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China with the confirmation letter generated by the online registration system.

Further information will be released on the official website of the media center (<http://www.brfmc.org>) when press cards are available for pick-up.

<http://ipc.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/hdtz/t1443635.htm>

5. China industrial output expands 6.3 pct for Jan.-Feb.

China's value-added industrial output, an important economic indicator, expanded 6.3 percent year on year in the first two months, compared with the 6-percent increase for December of 2016, official data showed on 14 March.

The 6.3-percent growth rose from the 5.4-percent increase in the Jan.-Feb. period of 2016. It was also higher than the 6-percent annual gain seen in 2016, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Industrial output, officially called industrial value added, is an important economic indicator. It is used to measure the activity of designated large enterprises with annual turnover of at least 20 million yuan (2.9 million U.S. dollars).

On a monthly basis, industrial production expanded 0.6 percent in February, the data showed.

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1544919/1544919.htm>

China-UK Relations

1. Premier Li Keqiang and Prime Minister Theresa May exchange congratulatory messages on the 45th anniversary of the ambassadorial diplomatic relations between China and the UK

On 13 March, 2017, Premier Li Keqiang and Prime Minister Theresa May of the UK exchanged congratulatory messages, celebrating the 45th anniversary of the establishment of ambassadorial level diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Li Keqiang expressed in the congratulatory message that over the past 45 years, the interest integration between China and the UK has been continuously deepened. Both countries have made fruitful achievements from mutually beneficial cooperation and increasingly intensified people-to-people and cultural exchanges, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples. Currently, China-UK relations stand at a new starting point in history and share a solid cooperation foundation as well as a broad development space. China is willing to make joint efforts with the UK to further consolidate bilateral political mutual trust, pursue new achievements in mutually beneficial and practical cooperation, and push bilateral relations for further and steadier development along the track of mutual trust, mutual complementarity and mutual benefit, so as to better benefit the people of both countries.

Theresa May extended best wishes to the Chinese government and people in her congratulatory message. She said that the UK-China partnership enjoys a sustained development. Both sides maintain frequent high-level exchanges, achieve fruitful outcomes from high-level dialogues, increasingly intensify trade and investment communication, and constantly deepen people-to-people and cultural exchange, which has greatly improved the well-being of the two countries. Looking into the future, the UK-China cooperation will surely score more fruitful achievements.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1445802.shtml

2. Ambassador Liu Xiaoming hails Britain's role in building new Silk Road

Chinese Ambassador to Britain Liu Xiaoming spoke highly of the British role in helping build the Belt and Road (B&R) to revive the ancient Silk Road.

In a signed article entitled "Britain is helping us build a new Silk Road" on the Daily Telegraph on 13 March 2017, Liu said Britain is a country of global influence and can be an important partner for China in B&R. He said that Britain has many strengths and unique advantages that could give it a head start in B&R cooperation, referring to the country's highly internationalised financial sector, mature professional services in

law and consulting, prestigious think tanks and educational institutions as well as world-class R&D and innovation platforms, among others.

Further reading on the following website:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-03/14/c_136126355.htm

Full text of Ambassador Liu's article on the following website:

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceuk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1445378.htm>

3. The China Daily (UK) published a signed article by Ambassador Liu Xiaoming: Let's achieve more 'golden fruits' during 'golden era'

On 13 March, the China Daily's "45th Anniversary of Ambassadorial Relations Between China and UK Special Edition" published a signed article by Ambassador Liu Xiaoming.

In the article, the Ambassador summarized 5 Cs, that is, the comprehensive, cooperative, coordinative, creative and constructive nature of China-UK ties.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceuk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1445408.htm>

4. China and the UK hold consultations on global affairs

On 28 February, Director-General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences of the Foreign Ministry Li Junhua held consultations on multilateral affairs in Beijing with Director General for Multilateral Trade Policy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Terry Collins-Williams. They exchanged views on the work of the UN Security Council and hotspot issues of common concern to China and the UK.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/t1442924.shtml

Policy and Position

1. China rejects US criticism on human rights

China on 6 March questioned the findings of a United States human rights report and cautioned against using the issue of human rights to interfere in China's internal affairs.

The US State Department released an annual report on global human rights on 3 March, which pointed a finger at China and some other countries.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang voiced firm opposition to the "2016 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices," which he said was full of unfounded accusations and prejudice.

China has lodged solemn representations with the US side, Geng said at a regular press conference. He said anyone free of political bias about China's human rights situation would not deny the remarkable improvements since the founding of the People's Republic of China. China holds that countries should have dialogue and exchanges with one another on human rights on the basis of equality and mutual respect, Geng said.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1544398/1544398.htm>

China issues report on U.S. human rights

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-03/09/c_136115462.htm

2. China issues 5-year plan to tackle aging

China will improve its pension and healthcare systems to provide better public services for its growing elderly population, according to the five-year plan (2016-2020) on elder care, issued by the State Council.

China must carefully address the salient issues of its aging population in the next five years, the plan explains. Based on statistics from the State Council, the over-60 population in China will reach approximately 255 million by 2020, accounting for 17.8 percent of the country's total population. Of those, 118 million elderly people will be either empty nesters or live completely alone.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2017/0307/c90000-9187054.html>

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Your comments are welcome.