



China Newsletter
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China News

1. President Xi's visit to Finland and meeting with Trump uphold dialogue, cooperation, mutual benefits ---- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi talks about the visit and the meeting.

Wang Yi said the world is undergoing great changes and adjustments unprecedented in a century. In terms of the evolution of the international pattern, the development of domestic and foreign policies of the new US administration draws global attention, while new circumstances have occurred in the European integration process. President Xi's trip focused on two countries and covered two continents of Europe and America. The tour has attracted worldwide attention and had great significance. This successful and fruitful trip boosted stability and added positive energy to the international situation.

Further reading on the following website:

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017xivisitsfinlandandus/2017-04/09/content_28846303.htm

'Fruitful' Xi-Trump meeting charts course of China-U.S. ties under global gaze

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1547328/1547328.htm>

Xi-Trump meeting helps achieve much friendlier tone in China-U.S. ties

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-04/11/c_136199588.htm

Xi: 'A thousand reasons' to build ties

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-04/08/content_28840787.htm

President Xi said Europe can count on China's support in his signed article in Finnish paper.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017xivisitsfinlandandus/2017-04/03/content_28785603.htm

2. Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor vows to uphold "one country, two systems" principle, work for HK progress

Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, incoming chief executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), has pledged to continue upholding the "one country, two systems" principle and work for the SAR's development. Lam made the remarks in a recent joint interview with Xinhua and the China Central Television after she was appointed the Hong Kong SAR's fifth-term chief executive by the State Council on March 31.

Further reading on the following website:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-04/11/c_136200027.htm

3. Annual results show real economy recovery

Transportation and logistics, food and beverages, and infrastructure-related sectors reported profit surges in 2016, according to annual results filed by companies listed in Shanghai and Shenzhen, showing China's real economy is recovering, and is shifting to the consumption-driven growth model.

In the first quarter of 2017, the A-share benchmark index, the Shanghai Composite Index, grew 3.43 percent and the Shenzhen component index grew 1.68 percent year-on-year, despite volatility.

"In the second quarter, opportunities weigh over risks as consumption, the Belt and Road Initiative and deepened State-owned enterprises reforms will further take effect, bringing benefits to the overall A-share market, attracting more capital to the market and improving liquidity," said a research note from Everbright Securities.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1547408/1547408.htm>

Economic Watch: Chinese economy shows signs of firming, pressure remains

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-04/11/c_136199924.htm

China UK relations

1. Ambassador Liu Xiaoming commended Britain for its interest in and support for the Belt and Road Initiative including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

On 4 April 2017, Ambassador Liu Xiaoming was invited to attend the UK Business Roundtable on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor held by the Department for International Trade and delivered a speech entitled Belt and Road Is an Opportunity for Win-win Cooperation.

In his speech, Ambassador Liu commended Britain for its interest in and support for the Belt and Road Initiative including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, gave an in-depth introduction to the profound connotation of the Belt and Road Initiative and the high significance of China's hosting the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, and highlighted the positive results and prospects for the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://www.chinese-embassy.org.uk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1452545.htm>

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

<http://www.chinese-embassy.org.uk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1451138.htm>

2. Ambassador Liu Xiaoming called on China and the UK to adopt a strategic vision to ensure that China-UK relations advance steadily at new historical point.

On 29 March, Chinese Embassy in the UK and British Foreign and Commonwealth Office co-hosted the reception marking the 45th anniversary of the establishment of China-UK ambassadorial diplomatic relations.

In his remark, Ambassador Liu Xiaoming said that the past 45 years have witnessed highly significant and extraordinary development in China-UK ties. At present, China-UK relationship is facing with a new and important opportunity at this new historical starting point. Both sides

need to adopt a strategic vision to ensure that China-UK relations advance steadily, to follow the prevailing trend in the world to jointly set the pace for global reform and development, to properly handle disparities by managing differences while building and expanding common grounds to accommodate each other's core interests and major concerns, and to respond to new challenges together for world peace and prosperity.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://www.chinese-embassy.org.uk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1451522.htm>

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

<http://www.chinese-embassy.org.uk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1449900.htm>

3. First China-bound direct freight train leaves London.

The cross-continent freight, loaded with 32 containers carrying products including milk powder and soft drinks, left from east London's DP World Gateway for the Chinese city of Yiwu amid cheers and applause.

The first China-bound cargo train carrying British products left London on April 10 for an eastern Chinese city, highlighting another historic moment in the China-initiated Belt and Road Initiative. The 12,000-km journey will pass through nine countries in 18 days. During the trip, the train's locomotives have to be changed due to different railway gauges in the countries. London is the 15th European city on an expanding map of destinations for China's rail cargo. The first Chinese freight train arrived in London in January.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/31773/35507/35520/Document/1547483/1547483.htm>

Policy and Position

1. China Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's recent remarks on North Korea

Q: The rising likelihood of the sixth nuclear test by the DPRK coupled with the US dispatch of an aircraft carrier strike group to waters close to the ROK has made the situation on the Peninsula even more intense. What's China's comment?

A: China has been closely following the developments of the situation on the Korean Peninsula. We believe that, given the current situation, all relevant parties should exercise restraint and avoid activities that may escalate the tension.

During the Mar-a-Lago summit, both sides confirmed their commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, reiterated that they would continue to fully implement relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and agreed to maintain close communication and coordination on the issue. The Chinese side reaffirmed its commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, peace and stability on the Peninsula and a settlement through dialogue and consultation. We further elaborated on the "dual-track" approach and "suspension for suspension" proposal. We believe that these proposals are legitimate, objective and impartial. We expect serious consideration by and constructive feedback from relevant parties.

2. China Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's recent remarks on Syria

Q: In the wake of the US strike on Syria, on April 9, Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the UN, said during her interview with CNN that the priorities of the US are defeating the Islamic State, clearing the Iranian influence in Syria, and removing Bashar al-Assad from power. That is in contradiction with Secretary Tillerson's remarks that the status and fate of Assad should be decided by the Syrian people. What's China's comment?

A: China has always opposed the use of force in international relations. We maintain that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be preserved and respected. China always believes that political settlement is the only viable way to resolve the Syrian issue. The future of Syria should be decided by the Syrian people. The international community should respect the Syrian people's choice of development path for their own country. China is ready to work with the international community for a political settlement of the Syrian issue at an early date.

About the issue of chemical weapons in Syria, we've made clear on several occasions that China supports relevant UN agencies in carrying out independent and comprehensive investigations into all uses or suspected uses of chemical weapons and, on the basis of solid evidence, reaching a conclusion which can stand the test of history and facts. I want to reiterate that China has always opposed the use of force in international relations. We maintain that sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be preserved and respected and disputes should be resolved peacefully through political and diplomatic means such as dialogue and consultation. We hope that all sides can work together to prevent further escalation of the tension and preserve the hard-won process of political settlement of the Syrian issue.

Q: On April 12, China abstained from the vote at the UN Security Council on the draft resolution about the issue of chemical weapons in Syria. Can you explain why?

A: It is a clear and consistent position of China that we oppose the use of chemical weapons by any country, organization or person for any purpose and under any circumstance. China condemns the suspected chemical weapons attack in Syria. We believe that independent and comprehensive investigations should be carried out by the OPCW and the relevant UN agencies, so as to reach, on the basis of solid evidence, a conclusion which can stand the test of history and facts.

We've also said on many occasions that the unity of the UN Security Council is crucial to the settlement of the Syrian issue. During the

consultation of this draft resolution, China maintained close contact with relevant parties and worked relentlessly for consensus at the Security Council. We regret that no consensus was achieved in the end.

Ambassador Liu Jieyi, Permanent Representative of China to the UN, elaborated China's position in his statement after the vote. The voted draft contains elements that China supports, namely the condemnation of the use of chemical weapons in Syria and requirement for investigation over this case. However, there are also other elements that can be revised for good reason in order to reach consensus. Therefore, China abstained from the vote.

A political settlement is the only right way to resolve the Syrian crisis. We hope that the international community can preserve the hard-won positive momentum of the process of a political settlement of the Syrian issue, continue to support the UN in serving as the main channel for mediation, and work on relevant parties in Syria to find a political settlement acceptable to all through peace talks in Geneva.