



China Newsletter
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China News

1. China deepens ties with Belt and Road countries with fruitful achievements, promising prospects

Since the Belt and Road (B&R) Initiative was proposed four years ago, China has expanded its "circle of friends" in the B&R region with fruitful achievements in infrastructure construction and capacity cooperation, seeking further development in the future. Put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, the initiative aims to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along and beyond the ancient Silk Road trade routes.

Statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce indicated that China's direct investment in 53 countries along the routes reached 14.53 billion U.S. dollar and the total value of contracts China signed with 61 related countries amounted to over 126 billion dollars in 2016. The B&R has delivered promising early results that have benefited other countries and regions -- showing the great development potential of the initiative, according to Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng. In the spirit of regional connectivity, China has initiated railway, road, civil aviation, electricity and telecommunications projects across the B&R.

Further reading on the following website:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-04/26/c_136237559.htm

Belt & Road Q1 trade surges

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2017-04/28/content_29122079.htm

Belt and Road boosts e-commerce

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/tech/2017-05/04/content_29193902.htm

Feature: How the Belt and Road is changing lives worldwide

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/05/c_136259038.htm

Beijing holds security cooperation dialogue on B&R Initiative

http://www.china.org.cn/china/2017-05/05/content_40751527.htm

2. China-built aircraft C919 makes successful maiden flight

China's first domestically-built large passenger jet C919 successfully completed its maiden flight on Friday May 5, landing at 3:19 p.m. (7:19 a.m. GMT) at Shanghai Pudong International Airport..

The C919 is a narrow-body aircraft designed to carry 168 passengers. It has a standard range of 4,075 kilometers (2,532 miles) and an extended range of 5,555 kilometers (3,452 miles). The C919's main rivals on the market include the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320.

Further reading on the following website:

<https://america.cgtn.com/2017/05/05/china-built-aircraft-c919-makes-successful-maiden-flight>

3. China's cargo spacecraft completes in-orbit refueling

China's Tianzhou-1 cargo spacecraft and Tiangong-2 space lab completed their first in-orbit refueling at 7:07 p.m. Thursday April 27, another success of the Tianzhou-1 mission.

Mastering the technique of refueling in space will help the country to build a permanent space station. China is the third country, besides Russia and the United States, to master refueling in space.

Further reading on the following website:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-04/27/c_136241294.htm

China now has the capacity to build a space station

https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d676a4d31597a4d/share_p.html

4. Train capable of 400 km/h ready to boost region's connectivity by 2020

China is working on next-generation bullet trains with a maximum operational speed of 400 kilometers per hour that will be ready by 2020 for markets linked to the Belt and Road Initiative's vision, the country's top railway vehicle maker said.

The new trains will be able to reduce per passenger energy consumption by 10 percent compared with high-speed trains that can run 350 km/h. They are expected to promote regional connectivity and create

new business for China and overseas economies through the Belt and Road Initiative.

Further reading on the following website:

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2017-05/03/content_29175985.htm

5. Xiongan New Area: city of Chinese dreams

One month after the advent of Xiongan New Area, a new economic zone about 100 kilometers southwest of Beijing, people have seen signs of a promising future for the area.

On April 1, China announced the plan to create the Xiongan New Area, which spans the counties of Xiongxian, Rongcheng and Anxin in Hebei Province, and home to Baiyangdian, a major wetland in northern China.

Launching of the new area is expected to help phase out some non-capital functions from Beijing, explore a new model of optimized development in densely-populated areas, and restructure the urban layout in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region,

The new area will cover around 100 square km initially and be expanded to 200 square km in the mid-term and about 2,000 square km in the long term.

Further reading on the following website:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/01/c_136249093.htm

China invites global tenders in Xiongan New Area design

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2017-04/27/content_29107584.htm

China-UK Relations

1. Ambassador Liu Xiaoming calls for strengthened international cooperation in combating illegal wildlife trade

On May 2, Ambassador Liu Xiaoming attended the Breakfast Meeting on Illegal Wildlife Trade co-hosted by the FCO and Defra and delivered a speech entitled Protect the Wildlife and Build A Beautiful Global Village.

In his remarks, Ambassador Liu provided a comprehensive overview of the policies, regulations and positive developments in China's wildlife protection and made recommendations on promoting international cooperation in combating illegal wildlife trade.

Full text of the speech on the following website:

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceuk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1458285.htm>

2. Ambassador Liu Xiaoming talks about sports exchanges and cooperation between China and the UK

On May 9, Ambassador Liu Xiaoming attended the Telegraph's third Business of Sport Conference and made a speech entitled Deepen China-UK Sport Cooperation for A Better World.

Briefing the audience on the development of sports and the sports industry in China, Ambassador Liu stressed that China's sports sector has a broad prospect and a huge market potential to offer. While satisfied with existing China-UK sports cooperation which has produced fruitful results and gained a strong momentum in recent years, he called on both sides to seize the opportunities for even greater cooperation and achieve new successes.

Full text of the speech on the following website:

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceuk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1459653.htm>

3. C-I-T-Y summarize the 45 years of China-UK ambassadorial relations

On May 11, Ambassador Liu Xiaoming attended China Britain Dinner Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Ambassadorial Diplomatic Relations between China and the UK at the Mansion House with Lord Mayor Andrew Parmley.

In a speech entitled Cherish the Golden Era and Build A Better Future, Ambassador Liu shared his interpretation of the 45 years of ambassadorial relations with the acronym CITY, which stands for Creativity, Intensity, Tolerance and Youth. He urged the two sides to seize the golden opportunities and work for another and more splendid 45 years for China-UK relations.

Full text of the speech on the following website:

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceuk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1460054.htm>

4. China-Europe freight train brings UK-made products to China

The first freight train from the UK to China filled with UK-made products arrived in Yiwu, East China's Zhejiang Province on April 29, after finishing its 12,000-kilometer journey. Analysts said that the train service between China and the UK has not only injected vitality into China's trade with the UK and Europe, but also revealed the glimmer of the "Belt and Road" initiative.

The train, loaded with 32 containers of products, left the London Gateway terminal of Dubai Ports World (DP World) on April 10. The London-Yiwu line recreates the ancient "Silk Road" trade route that once connected Europe to China.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2017/0428/c90000-9209252.html>

First China-Britain freight train arrives back in China

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-04/29/c_136245614.htm

Policy and Position

1. Chinese official: Negotiation the Pareto-optimal path to denuclearization of Korean Peninsula

A nuclear-free Korean Peninsula can only be achieved through peaceful negotiations, while any U.S. military action will threaten regional stability and give rise to mistrust among the countries involved, said a senior Chinese official.

The remark was made by Fu Ying, Chairwoman of the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee, in her paper published by the Brookings Institution on April 30. Fu urged the U.S. to carefully calculate its moves, as any military option, whether big or small, carries the risk of causing huge civilian casualties and hard-to-control results.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2017/0502/c90000-9210080.html>

2. China welcomes ASEAN statement on South China Sea issue

China welcomed a statement by Southeast Asian leaders on the South China Sea issue on Tuesday May 3, commending that the efforts to ease tension were working.

The statement issued at a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) notes improvements in its cooperation with China, and welcomes the progress in the talks on a framework for a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China is willing to keep working with the Philippines to deal with related South China Sea issues appropriately.

Further reading on the following website:

https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d456a4e78637a4d/share_p.html

3. China Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's remarks on media reports over the "difficulties and challenges" in advancing the Belt and Road Initiative

Q: We noticed that China recently announced the early harvest of the Belt and Road initiative, which is remarkable and even better than our expectation. But we also noticed some media's opinion that there will be difficulties and challenges ahead and it will not be plain sailing for the initiative. What is China's comment on that?

A: We have noted relevant opinions and appreciate the "caution" from the media.

The Belt and Road initiative was born in the wake of the international financial crisis when the world economic recovery remains sluggish and countries face difficulties and challenges in their development. The initiative is to deal with these challenges by strengthening international cooperation and integrating resources, and help countries, especially developing countries in Asia and Europe, to solve problems in their development.

Ever since the beginning, the Belt and Road initiative has received warm response from the international community and shown broad

prospects. Like other great causes in the human history, it is inevitable for the initiative to encounter various kinds of difficulties and challenges. This is quite normal and has been expected. Challenges are to be solved and difficulties are to be conquered. This is the valuable experience we learned from nearly 40 years of reform and opening-up.

During this weekend, visionary people from around the world will gather in Beijing for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The purpose of the forum is to summarize experience, make general planning, analyze problems and forge synergy to jointly face challenges. We believe, with the concerted efforts of various parties, the forum will be a complete success, and the Belt and Road initiative will keep moving forward against all the challenges and difficulties.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1460040.shtml

4. Smog battle fortified by robust plan

China's State Council established a clear strategy for tackling air pollution and its causes by establishing a new body of procedures and processes that will include input from different ministries and departments to break down administrative divisions.

The new, nationwide plans will be backed by central government funding, according to an announcement from the State Council's executive meeting on Wednesday April 26, presided over by Premier Li Keqiang.

Top-tier professionals will work together within the new process to deal with most pressing issues in reducing air pollution. The result is to be a clear timetable and road map for improving China's air quality. The new measures will help to integrate resources across departments.

Further reading on the following website:

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2017-04/27/content_29104481.htm

5. China issues regulation on online news service

Cooperation between Chinese online news service providers and entities with foreign investment should go through a security review, according to a regulation released Tuesday May 3.

The regulation, issued by the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), requires the online news service providers to abide by the law, promote healthy Internet culture and safeguard national and public interest.

The CAC will become the new regulator of online news service, replacing the State Council Information Office.

The service providers should put in place a set of information security protocols and measures, such as reviews, checks and emergency responses regarding online news, the CAC said.

Further reading on the following website:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/03/c_136251798.htm

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Your comments are welcome.