



China Newsletter
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China News

1. Premier Li: China to tackle climate change "steadfastly"

China will continue to work steadfastly to implement the commitment of the Paris climate deal and join hands with all parties to tackle climate change, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told reporters in Berlin on June 1.

In a joint press conference with his German counterpart Angela Merkel, Li said that China, a large developing country, should shoulder its international responsibilities to jointly address the challenge of climate change with other countries.

Combating climate change is a global consensus, said Li, adding that "with tremendous efforts, China will move towards the 2030 goal step-by-step steadfastly."

China has actively participated in promoting and the signing of the Paris Agreement, Li said, adding that China was also one of the first countries to submit the file of national plan on dealing with climate change to the United Nations.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1553978/1553978.htm>

2. Top legislator: HKSAR Basic Law meets test of practice

The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has fully met the test of practice and demonstrates great vitality, top legislator Zhang Dejiang said on on May 27.

Zhang, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, made the remarks while addressing a high-ranking symposium to commemorate the 20th anniversary of implementing the Basic Law of the HKSAR in Beijing.

The central government has committed itself to upholding the policy of one country, two systems and the Basic Law, actively supported development in all fields in HKSAR, and faithfully protected the lawful rights and interests of the Hong Kong people, Zhang said.

Further reading on the following website:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/27/c_136320916.htm

China commemorates 20th anniversary of implementing HKSAR Basic Law

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/27/c_136321053.htm

HKSAR political system is not separation of powers

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/27/c_136320909.htm

3. Belt & Road Initiative has no military or geo-strategic aims

The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China has no military or geo-strategic intentions, according to a Chinese defense ministry spokesperson on May 25.

"The talks that the initiative has the underlying purpose of expanding China's military presence along the Belt and Road is ungrounded," said Ren Guoqiang, spokesperson of the Ministry of National Defense at a routine press conference.

Ren said that China proposed the initiative with the purpose of seeking common development by providing surrounding countries and regional cooperation with more public goods. The move also contributes to economic prosperity in such countries and to the regional economic development.

"China does not seek dominance over regional affairs or its sphere of influence, and China will not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries," Ren said.

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/31773/35507/35520/Document/1553565/1553565.htm>

Trains to better support Belt, Road

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/cn_eu/2017-05/26/content_29512152.htm

4. Beijing, ASEAN affirm framework for behavior in South China Sea

China and ASEAN countries on May 18 approved a draft framework of the South China Sea Code of Conduct, marking a milestone in peacefully resolving the South China Sea issue.

The 14th Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, held in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province, approved the draft.

All parties have agreed to manage and control their differences under the framework of regional regulations, the Foreign Ministry said in a news release.

China and ASEAN member states spoke highly of the significance of the approval of the code of conduct framework draft, saying it is "an important interim achievement in the entire negotiation of the COC", according to the news release.

Further reading on the following website:

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-05/19/content_29409172.htm

Consultation paves way for peace, development of South China Sea

http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1553Consultation_paves_way_for_peace_development_of_South_China_Sea263/1553263.htm

5. First nuclear project using Hualong One technology completed

China successfully installed the containment dome for its first demonstration nuclear power project using Hualong One technology, a domestically developed third-generation reactor design, in east China's Fujian Province on May 25.

The hemispherical dome, weighing 340 tonnes and measuring 46.8 meters in diameter, was installed by crane on the No.5 unit of China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) in Fuqing City.

The installation marks the completion of construction work on the pilot project and the beginning of the assembly stage, said Yu Peigen, deputy general manager of CNNC at the site of installation.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1553376/1553376.htm>

Premier Li underlines nuclear construction, operation security

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1553574/1553574.htm>

China on verge of mass production of new nuclear reactors

https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d67444d7841444e/share_p.html

6. China's debt risk "controllable": NDRC

China's economic planning agency said on May 24 that the country's debt risk is "controllable" and companies will be in a better position to repay debt with increased profit margins.

China's leverage ratio stood at 255.6 percent at the end of the third quarter of 2016, lower than the average of major developed countries, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said in a statement, citing data released by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

As of the end of the third quarter of 2016, the increase of leverage ratio moderated by 2.5 percentage points in comparison with the same period in 2015, declining for the second quarter.

The agency also underlined corporate debt. With structural reform underway and companies increasing their profit margins, they will be in a stronger position to repay debt.

With the backing of a high saving rate, China is unlikely to be hit by systemic financial risks, said the statement.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1553263/1553263.htm>

Chinese economy shows firming signs amid restructuring efforts

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/15/c_136285578.htm

China's growth outlook positive despite uncertainties

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/26/c_136318439.htm

China's 2016 foreign service trade hits \$657.5b

http://english.gov.cn/news/top_news/2017/05/30/content_281475671354764.htm

China-UK Relations

1. President Xi Jinping sends message of condolence to Queen Elizabeth II over explosion incident in Manchester

On May 23, President Xi Jinping sent a message of condolence to Queen Elizabeth II of the UK over the explosion incident that happened in Manchester. Xi Jinping extended profound condolence to the innocent victims and expressed sincere sympathy to the injured and the bereaved families. Xi Jinping pointed out that at this difficult time, the Chinese people stands firmly with the UK people.

Premier Li Keqiang sends message of condolence to Prime Minister Theresa May over explosion incident in Manchester

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceuk/eng/zywl/t1465187.htm>

Foreign Minister Wang Yi sends message of condolence to Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Boris Johnson over explosion incident in Manchester

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceuk/eng/zywl/t1465165.htm>

2. Ambassador Liu Xiaoming encourages entrepreneurs to seize the opportunity of Pitch@Palace China to deepen exchanges and cooperation between China and the UK

On May 28, Ambassador Liu Xiaoming attended a dinner hosted by HRH The Duke of York for Pitch@Palace entrepreneurs from China and the UK.

In his remarks at the event, Ambassador Liu congratulated on the success of Pitch@Palace China 1.0 and expressed his appreciation for the Duke's tremendous efforts in advancing China-UK cooperation. He encouraged business communities of both countries to seize the opportunity of Pitch@Palace China and deliver more "golden fruits" in the "Golden Era" of China-UK relations.

Full text of the speech on the following website:

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceuk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1465616.htm>

3. Chinese government's commitment a fundamental guarantee for Hong Kong's continued prosperity and stability

On May 23, Ambassador Liu Xiaoming attended the Hong Kong-Europe Business Council Dinner and made a keynote speech entitled *Commitment, Constancy and Confidence*.

Ambassador Liu observed that the "One Country Two Systems" policy has made a huge success in Hong Kong in the past two decades. The Central Government of China has consistently and strictly adhered to the Constitution and the Basic Law. The commitment remains unchanged by the Chinese Government to the "One Country Two Systems", "Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong" and "high degree of autonomy". Such commitment has been the fundamental guarantee for Hong Kong's continued prosperity and stability.

Ambassador Liu believed that a promising future for Hong Kong will be created as long as we remain true to our shared Commitments, Constancy and Confidence.

Full text of the speech on the following website:

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceuk/eng/EmbassyNews/t1464484.htm>

4. Ambassador Liu Xiaoming shares his observations and thoughts on Hong Kong

On June 1, Ambassador Liu Xiaoming attended a luncheon hosted by the Hong Kong Association and delivered a speech entitled *Forge ahead against all odds to reach for new success*.

Ambassador Liu spoke highly of Hong Kong's achievements in the past two decades. On the questions of how to perceive the problems that Hong Kong faces now and how to appreciate Hong Kong's future prospects, Ambassador Liu offered three suggestions and stressed that China brooks no separation and the so-called Hong Kong independence is out of the question.

Full text of the speech on the following website:

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceuk/eng/tpxw/t1466936.htm>

5. Ambassador Liu Xiaoming encourages Young Icebreakers' to take part in China-UK cooperation on the Belt and Road

On June 2, Ambassador Liu Xiaoming made a keynote speech entitled *Make Belt and Road Cooperation A Dream Come True* at the Young Icebreakers' Dinner.

He briefed the audience on the progress achieved at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and pointed out that there is huge potential and bright prospects for China-UK cooperation on the Belt and Road, as both sides enjoy strategic consensus, solid foundation and strong dynamics. He called on the Young Icebreakers to be the champions of, active participants in, as well as effective communicators for, the Belt and Road Initiative.

Full text of the speech on the following website:

<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/ce/ceuk/eng/tpxw/t1467411.htm>

Policy and Position

1. White paper hails "great progress" of human right protection in Xinjiang

A white paper issued by China's State Council Information Office on June 1 lauded "great progress" in the protection of human rights of people of various ethnic groups in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

According to the white paper, titled "Human Rights in Xinjiang - Development and Progress," ethnic groups of Xinjiang were at the bottom of the social ladder and deprived of basic human rights before the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949.

The founding of the PRC and the socialist system prepared a fundamental political prerequisite and laid the institutional basis for the people of Xinjiang's ethnic groups to enjoy such rights. The regional ethnic autonomy system, implemented in Xinjiang since 1955, offered further guarantee to Xinjiang people in exercising their right as masters of the country, it read.

Since 1978, when China launched its reform and opening-up drive, Xinjiang's economic and social development has entered a new historical phase, and people of the various ethnic groups in the region have seen great progress in the protection of their human rights, it said.

Further reading on the following website:

http://www.china.org.cn/china/2017-06/01/content_40941144.htm

Freedom of religious belief protected in Xinjiang: white paper

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1553965/1553965.htm>

Full Text: Human Rights in Xinjiang - Development and Progress

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1553988/1553988.htm>

2. China Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's remarks on the 73rd Session of ESCAP adopting the resolution of "advancing integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific "

Q: The 73rd Session of The United Nations Economic and Social Commission For Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was just held in Bangkok, during which the China-proposed resolution of "advancing integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific " was adopted in support of the Belt and Road Initiative. What is your comment? What is China's vision for the cooperation with ESCAP under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative?

A: The 73rd Session of The United Nations Economic and Social Commission For Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held in Bangkok from 17 to 19 May and Assistant Foreign Minister Qian Hongshan led a delegation to the meeting. During the meeting, participating parties appraised the important significance of the Belt and Road Initiative in promoting development in Asia and the Pacific and supported the synergy between ESCAP and the Belt and Road Initiative. The session adopted the resolution of "advancing integrated and seamless connectivity for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific " proposed by China, which appreciated the holding of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, decided to promote connectivity through extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits and carry out cooperation in such areas as policy coordination, infrastructure, investment, finance and people-to-people exchanges, and called on ESCAP to support the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative and other cooperative initiatives. This again demonstrated the international community's positive attitude towards the Belt and Road Initiative.

EASCAP is a UN regional cooperation body with the greatest coverage and influence. China wishes to work with other members of

ESCAP to strengthen practical cooperation with countries in Asia and the Pacific in such areas as connectivity, regional economic integration and sustainable development, jointly promote the building of the Belt and Road Initiative, and make positive contribution to the development of the Asia-Pacific region.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1464150.shtml

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Your comments are welcome.