



## **China Newsletter**

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<b>China News</b> .....	1
1. President Xi highlights reform for 2018 at New Year gathering.....	1
2. China announces visa relaxation for foreign high-skilled workers.....	1
3. China's foreign trade up 14.2 percent in 2017.....	2
4. China cuts the number of poor by two-thirds.....	2
<b>China-UK Relations</b> .....	3
1. President Xi calls for deeper cooperation with Britain under Belt & Road Initiative.....	3
2. China FTZs open wider to foreign business.....	3

## **China News**

### **1, President Xi highlights reform for 2018 at New Year gathering**

President Xi Jinping on Friday Dec. 29 stressed the importance of reform in 2018, when China will celebrate the 40th anniversary of launching the reform and opening-up policy.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), made the remarks while addressing a New Year gathering held by the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

In 2018, efforts should be made to comprehensively implement the Report of the 19th CPC National Congress, adhere to seeking progress while maintaining stability as the underlying principle, and boost the healthy and continued development of the country's economy and society, Xi said.

Further reading on the following websites:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-12/29/c\\_136860090.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-12/29/c_136860090.htm)

**President Xi's New Year speech highlights people's well-being**

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1614676/1614676.htm>

**President Xi calls for more efforts in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics**

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1614435/1614435.htm>

### **2, China announces visa relaxation for foreign high-skilled workers**

China announced visa relaxation for foreign professionals and high-skilled workers on Thursday Jan. 4, as part of its effort to bridge the talent gap.

Applicants will be expanded to those who qualify as high-end talents in the Categories of Foreigners Working in China, including scientists, entrepreneurs and leading figures in technology-intensive sectors, according to new rules unveiled by the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs.

The expiration date of the visa could be extended to five to 10 years after issuance, with multiple entries and 180-day-stays for a single entry,

the Administration said, adding that the categories could be adjusted based on the country's changing demand for talent.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/04/c\\_136872071.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/04/c_136872071.htm)

### **3, China's foreign trade up 14.2 percent in 2017**

China's foreign trade volume rose 14.2 percent year on year to 27.79 trillion yuan (4.28 trillion U.S. dollars), ending the previous continuous drop of the previous two years, official data showed on Friday Jan. 12.

China's exports increased 10.8 percent to reach 15.33 trillion yuan while imports surged 18.7 percent to 12.46 trillion yuan in 2017, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) said.

The trade surplus continued to narrow last year, shrinking 14.2 percent to 2.87 trillion yuan, compared with a 9.1-percent reduction registered in 2016 that saw 3.35 trillion yuan in trade surplus.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/12/c\\_136890444.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/12/c_136890444.htm)

#### **SCIO briefing on China's imports and exports in 2017**

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1616896/1616896.htm>

#### **China 2017 FDI rises to record high, ODI falls**

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1617061/1617061.htm>

#### **China's centrally administered state firms report double-digit profit growth in 2017**

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/15/c\\_136897633.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/15/c_136897633.htm)

### **4, China cuts the number of poor by two-thirds**

China has reduced poverty by more than two-thirds over the past five years, a senior poverty alleviation official said on Friday Jan. 5.

There were around 30 million Chinese living below the national poverty line at the end of last year, compared with 98.99 million in 2012, Liu Yongfu, director of the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, said at a press conference.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.china.org.cn/china/2018-01/05/content\\_50196285.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/china/2018-01/05/content_50196285.htm)

**China gives preference to poor areas on financial support**

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/15/c\\_136897690.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/15/c_136897690.htm)

**Eco-restoration project raises living standards**

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/m/guizhou/2018-01/16/content\\_35512929.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/m/guizhou/2018-01/16/content_35512929.htm)

## **China-UK Relations**

### **1, President Xi calls for deeper cooperation with Britain under Belt & Road Initiative**

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday Jan. 11 called for more mutually beneficial cooperation with Britain under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with former British Prime Minister David Cameron.

The President said he appreciated Cameron's foresight and efforts in promoting the development of Sino-British relations during his tenure as British prime minister.

Xi recalled his successful visit to Britain in 2015, which opened the “Golden Era” of Sino-British relations.

Further reading on the following website:

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/11/c\\_136888886.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/11/c_136888886.htm)

### **2, China FTZs open wider to foreign business**

A Sino-British joint venture will soon begin outbound tourism business for Chinese tourists in the Shanghai Free Trade Zone (SFTZ).

Registered in the FTZ in 2015 by Thomas Cook Group and Shanghai's Fosun International, Fosun Tourism and Culture Group is one of the beneficiaries of fine-tuning to some laws and regulations in China's FTZs to further open-up and reform.

Eleven regulations including those on ship registration, urban rail transit and foreign investment are to be temporarily adjusted, according to a State Council decision.

One regulation specifically deals with foreign investment in tourism. Joint ventures registered in the zones are now allowed to operate directly in outbound tourism for Chinese residents.

Further reading on the following website:

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1616907/1616907.htm>

**China relaxes regulations for investors in free trade zones**

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/09/c\\_136883149.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/09/c_136883149.htm)

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