



China Newsletter

(Supplement Issue, 18 May 2017)

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1, President Xi opens “project of the century” with keynote speech

President Xi Jinping on Sunday May 14 delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the two-day Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

Named after the historic Silk Road, the Belt and Road Initiative was proposed by Xi in 2013 to chart out new territories for international cooperation.

President Xi said the Belt and Road Initiative should be an open one that will achieve both economic growth and balanced development.

He said the Belt and Road should be built into a road for peace, as the pursuit of the initiative requires a peaceful and stable environment.

Further reading on the following website:

<https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/qwyw/rdxw/13286.htm>

Full text of President Xi's speech at opening of B&R Forum

<https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/home/rolling/13299.htm>

Highlights of President Xi's speech

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1551928/1551928.htm>

President Xi calls for renewing Silk Road spirit

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1551921/1551921.htm>

President Xi chairs roundtable summit at Belt and Road forum

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1552084/1552084.htm>

President Xi elaborates on inspiration behind Belt and Road Initiative

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/31773/35507/35520/Document/1552197/1552197.htm>

2, Joint Communique of the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

The Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held on Monday May 15 in Beijing. A joint communique was issued after the summit.

Full text of an English version of the joint communique on the following website:

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1462012.shtml

3, Chinese State Councilor: Belt and Road forum points clear way for future cooperation

On Wednesday May 17, Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi said that the just concluded Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation outlined the roadmap for the success of the Belt and Road Initiative and pointed a clear way for future cooperation.

Yang said in an interview that the forum, which was held in Beijing on Sunday and Monday, clarified an assortment of projects that would be implemented within the framework of the initiative. The forum yielded a list of outcomes, which included 76 consensuses comprising more than 270 detailed results in five key areas, namely policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity.

Further reading on the following website:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/17/c_136292793.htm

4. Belt & Road Forum concludes in Beijing with 270 concrete results

The first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation concluded in Beijing on Monday May 15 with more than 270 deliverables achieved in boosting connectivity between countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative, according to a joint communique released after the two-day event.

The document reaffirmed the vision of the initiative "to work for a globalization that is open, inclusive and beneficial to all," and congratulated China on successfully hosting the event.

The forum, attended by more than 1,500 delegates from over 130 nations, including 29 foreign heads of state and government leaders, was the highest-level conference on the Belt and Road Initiative since Chinese President Xi Jinping first raised the concept in 2013.

Further reading on the following website:

https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d49544f34677a4d/share_p.html

List of deliverables of B&R Forum

<https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/qwyw/rdxw/13698.htm>

5. China, Britain vow closer cooperation, communication

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said on May 15 that China is ready to strengthen cooperation with Britain and enhance communication and coordination on international affairs.

Li made the remarks in a meeting with British Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond, who is in Beijing as special envoy of Prime Minister Theresa May to attend the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on May 14 and 15.

Li expressed China's willingness to consolidate mutual trust with Britain, implement consensus of cooperation in nuclear power, finance and other major areas, and expand cooperative areas to lift bilateral ties to a new level.

He also called for joint efforts from the two countries to promote stability, opening-up, international trade and investment, sending a positive signal to the world.

As permanent members of the UN Security Council, Li said the two countries' communication and coordination on international affairs are important for both countries, the region and the world.

Hammond said Britain will endeavor to develop the UK-China comprehensive strategic partnership, maintain high-level exchanges, boost bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, and intensify communication and coordination on international affairs.

<http://www.scio.gov.cn/32618/Document/1552244/1552244.htm>

6, China to host 2nd Belt & Road forum in 2019

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced Monday May 15 that China will host the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in 2019.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/15/c_136285699.htm

7 ways China will promote the Belt and Road Initiative

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/chinadata/2017-05/15/content_29359627.htm

7, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's remarks on the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

Q: Now the curtain for the two-day Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation has closed. How does China evaluate the outcomes of the Forum?

A: On the evening of May 15, the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation drew its curtain in Yanqi Lake International Convention Center in Beijing, marking a successful end to a grand international event. As a high-level gathering for the Belt and Road initiative participated by countries around the world, it has won acclaim from all attendees and the international

community. Everyone believes that this Forum, by reviewing the outcomes achieved by the Belt and Road cooperation and pooling together consensus, has pointed out the direction, charted the course, clarified action plan for the Belt and Road International Cooperation. It is a successful, glamorous, and pragmatic meeting with fruitful achievements. This Forum sent forth a strong signal that calls on all parties to forge cooperation platforms, seek momentum for world economic growth, and prop up confidence for the development of the economic globalization. We believe that this Forum will have profound and far-reaching historic influence.

I want to add that the Leaders Roundtable attended by President Xi Jinping and 29 other world leaders adopted the Joint Communiqué. As an important political document of the BRF, the Joint Communiqué was reached after multiple rounds of consultations by all parties through an open, fair and transparent process. The Joint Communiqué, with five parts covering general context, cooperation objectives, cooperation principles, cooperation measures, and vision for the future, maps out the direction and highlights of the future Belt and Road cooperation and beams out a clear and powerful light for promoting international cooperation and building an open world economy. As the first comprehensive, systematic, authoritative and multilateral document under the Belt and Road frame, the Joint Communiqué fully reflects the cooperation consensus of all parties and the important outcomes of this Forum.

Q: First, the Indian government previously said that it would not take part in the BRF and accused China of neglecting its territorial sovereignty. What is your response? Second, it is reported that some European countries refused to sign up to a trade document. Can you confirm? Is it the Joint Communiqué that is in question here?

A: In your first question, I believe you were asking about the statement made by the Spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs during the weekend. I want to say that four years on after the Belt and Road was proposed, over 100 countries around the world and international organizations have supported and got involved in this initiative. Important resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly and Security Council contain reference to it. In the speech made by President Xi Jinping at the opening ceremony of the BRF which I believe was followed closely by all of you, he talked sufficiently on the four-year progress and achievements of the initiative in terms of policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity. All these show that the Belt and Road Initiative responds to the trend of the times, conforms to the law of development, meets the people's interests and surely has broad prospects, as testified by the warm response from the international community, especially all attendees of the Forum.

President Xi Jinping also said that we should build the Belt and Road into a road for peace. All countries should respect each other's sovereignty, dignity and territorial integrity, each other's development paths and social systems, and each other's cores interests and major concerns. Regarding the issue of Kashmir which the Indian side is concerned about, we have been stressing that the Belt and Road is a cooperation initiative for the common development and prosperity of the region. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, as an important part of the Belt and Road, is not directed at any third parties, not relevant to disputes over territorial sovereignty and does not affect China's position on the Kashmir issue. We keep saying that the Belt and Road is an open and inclusive initiative. We welcome participation from all countries to share the development opportunities.

With regard to your second question, I think you are referring to the report by AFP which has nothing to do with the Joint

Communique, because it was adopted as an important outcome when the BRF was concluded yesterday afternoon after multiple rounds of consultations by all parties through an open, fair and transparent process. The relevant report is about 6 thematic sessions with cooperation initiatives on specific areas. The thematic session on trade connectivity announced the cooperation initiative for enhancing trade connectivity which we have learnt is meant for declaration and open for all parties to join voluntarily. After thorough communication and extensive consultation, this initiative received positive response and wide support from various countries and international organizations. I would refer you to the competent department hosting this specific session for more details.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1462343.shtml

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Your comments are welcome.