



CHINA · YUNNAN



Xi's diplomacy wins friends FM says

The diplomacy to be rolled out by Chinese President Xi Jinping as head of state this year will "write a brand new chapter" of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

Xi will chair four major events to be hosted by China at home this year, Wang noted at a news conference in Beijing on March 8 when asked about the kind of diplomacy conducted by the top Chinese leader.

Diplomacy by heads of state is the highest form of international exchange, and it comes with strategic value that exchanges in other forms cannot replace, Wang said.

This year China will host the Boao Forum for



Reporters vie for a chance to ask a question during a news conference with Chinese Foreign Minister on March 8, 2018.

Photo/China Daily

Asia annual conference, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Summit and the first China International Import Expo.

Xi will also attend the BRICS Summit in South Africa, the APEC Economic

Leaders' Meeting in Papua New Guinea and the G20 Summit in Argentina this year.

Xi has visited 57 countries and received more than 110 foreign heads of state since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012. Such diplomacy

has deepened the world's understanding to China, boosted China's profile and influence and laid down a blueprint for the resolution of many global problems, Wang said.

He noted that he and Trump agreed to maintain contact at the highest level as they strategically navigate bilateral ties. The term "head-of-state diplomacy" was mentioned by Xi as he hosted visiting President Donald Trump of the United States in November.

Ruan Zongze, vice-president of the China Institute of International Studies, said head-of-state diplomacy allows political navigation to take place at a strategic height, and it boosts China's ties with other countries.

(China Daily)

VOICE

Results of China's "two sessions" worth the wait

China's "two sessions" are drawing intense attention from the international community. The court of public opinion generally believes that the results of China's "two sessions" are worth waiting for.

Russia's Trend News Network remarked that for those concerned with China's economy, new economic growth targets for the next five years will attract tremendous attention. Guided by high-quality development goals, how will China build a modern economic system and solve the economic and social issues through its development process? The question has been answered by the recent Report on the Work of the Chinese Government.

Huashang Daily, a well-known Chinese-language newspaper published in Cambodia, sent reporters to Beijing to cover the "two sessions" for the first time. A reporter with the newspaper said that China's "two sessions" are drawing worldwide attention, and that the results will have a profound impact on China and the rest of the world.

Daily reported that the "two sessions" are particularly noteworthy because the year 2018 is a critical year for China's development. The international community hopes to learn of the next breakthroughs, new "timetables" and "roadmaps" and other new measures concerning China's continued reform and opening up.

Singapore's Lianhe Zaobao pointed out that the number of "super rich" delegates and other participating members of China's "two sessions" have decreased this year. The industries from which these delegates traditionally come have also changed, reflecting the rapid development of enterprises and changes in China's overall economic structure. From an economic viewpoint, these changes are related to the direction of China's economic development. Internet-based companies and the high-end manufacturing industry have emerged in force because China has promoted supply-side structural reforms in recent years.

(Adapted from Economic Daily)

NEIGHBOUR

Ambassador: China-Laos Railway safe, high-quality

"I ask you to focus on worker safety, and strengthen safety precautions in an earnest manner while striving to make the China-Laos Railway into a fine project," said Wang Wentian, Chinese Ambassador to Laos.

Wang said this during a three-day visit to the northern Laos province of Luang Prabang, from March 6 to 8. The working tour took him to a China-Laos Railway tunnel site in the countryside. The ambassador explained the great significance of the railway project.

General manager of the Laos-China Railway Company, Zhao Xiang, and other project workers said they will live up to the ambassador's words. The workers plan to earnestly follow safety precautions and ensure project +quality in accordance with regulations.

(Chinese Consulate General in Luang Prabang)



Yunnan Express:
english.yunnan.cn

Editor: Wang Shixue
E-mail: 973659397@qq.com

NEWS IN PICTURE

Yunnan beautified by blooms in spring



The picture shows flowering peach blossoms in central Yunnan's Lufeng County. Flower-themed activities were recently held across the province in spring. (Photo/Yunnan Daily)

TRAVEL

20-day motor-ride in Laos and Thailand

During the Spring Festival holiday this year, four men from east China's Jiangsu Province traveled on motorcycles. They set off from Changzhou City, rode west into Yunnan and entered Laos and Thailand via the border gate in Xishuangbanna Prefecture.

"Someone suggested traveling to Southeast Asia by motorcycle. We all thought it was a good idea and went for it," said ride-member Jin. At the age of 43, Jin is the oldest and most experienced of the four riders, and he acted as their captain during the journey.

According to Jin, they got their exit permits one day before the New Year and left China for Laos, beginning their exotic ride at 3:30pm. Over the ensuing days, they drove through the Lao cities of Vientiane and Vang Vieng, as well as Bangkok and Pattaya in Thailand.

"Having roamed four days in Laos, we entered Thailand. And we rode in Thailand for another four days and then returned to Laos, where we chose another route for further exploration. That took another four days," said Jin. In total they spent

more than 20 days in the saddle, covering more than 7,000 kilometres.

In Laos and Thailand, the locals were very friendly. They even invited the Chinese motorcyclists to attend a wedding. "We came across two weddings along the way!" Jin said. "The scenery is actually secondary, and I was more interested in the real life of the locals." Jin felt that in the countryside of both Laos and Thailand, people hold honest and optimistic points of view, which touched him.

(Modern Express)

ECOLOGY

Yunnan's 2017 air quality ranks first in China



At the recently-held 2018 Yunnan Provincial Environmental Protection Meeting, 98.2 percent of the days were of excellent air quality in the province last year.

This ranked first in China. National and provincial monitoring systems on major rivers recorded excellent water quality rates of 82.6 percent.

(Yunnan Daily)