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China, India to promote bilateral ties from new starting point

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 9 agreed to take their April meeting in Wuhan as a new starting point to promote bilateral relations.

The two leaders reached the consensus during a meeting in the coastal Chinese city of Qingdao ahead of the 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit.

Recalling that he and Modi successfully had an informal meeting and reached important consensus in Wuhan of Hubei province more than one month ago, Xi said the meeting had been well received by both countries and the international community, and a positive atmosphere is taking shape to pay close attention to and support the development of China-India relations.

China is willing to



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) meets with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Qingdao, East China's Shandong province, June 9, 2018. [Photo/Xinhua]

work with India to take the Wuhan meeting as a new starting point to continuous-

ly enhance political mutual trust and engage in mutually beneficial cooperation

across the board, so as to push forward China-India relations in a better, faster and steadier manner, Xi said.

Noting that China and India have reaped quite a few early-harvest outcomes in implementing the consensus reached at the Wuhan meeting, Xi said the two sides should make persistent efforts to accelerate the implementation, maintain strategic communication, expand economic and trade cooperation, promote people-to-people exchanges and enhance coordination and cooperation on international and regional affairs.

Xi welcomed India's attendance at the summit as a full member of the SCO for the first time, saying the Chinese side stands ready to work with India and other member states to carry forward the Shanghai Spirit and promote the sound and

stable development of the SCO.

Describing the informal meeting with Xi in Wuhan as "very successful and very important," Modi said it has further strengthened his confidence in the development of India-China relations, and will certainly be a milestone in the history of the bilateral ties.

India-China cooperation is of great significance to world peace and prosperity, and the Indian side is ready to advance the bilateral relations on the basis of the Wuhan meeting, said Modi.

As a new member, India is ready to play an active role in the SCO, and supports China in making the Qingdao summit a success, Modi noted.

After the meeting, Xi and Modi witnessed the signing of bilateral cooperation agreements.

(Xinhua)

SCO and BRICS: Bridges to a shared future

The 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Qingdao is an event that proves the Eurasian region has been the most dynamic in the world for the past two decades. Even with all the geopolitical complexity, SCO member countries have assumed their responsibilities in seeking integrated solutions to common problems.

When SCO was founded by its six initial members in June 2001, the organization anticipated what would become the main focus of the international agenda after September 11 in that same year: the fight against terrorism. But it also included fighting extremism and separatism as other types of threats to regional security and stability. SCO has been successful in these areas.

Because of the national needs of its members and international circumstances, SCO has gradually expanded its agenda. The perception that economic development contributes to reducing threats to peace is not new, but the approach of strategically integrating the two goals gains its own dimension in the context of SCO. The admission of India and Pakistan into the organization at the Astana Summit in 2017, comply with this dual imperative. The SCO is gradually coalescing objectives and being fused into a larger undertaking of transformation of the reality of Asia and, potentially, the world.

Given this scenario, BRICS, as a multilateral political forum, and the New Development Bank, as an international organization, since they have

three SCO member countries (China, Russia, and India), should be more actively involved in this large Asian network of formal and informal initiatives of cooperation. It means that, Brazil and South Africa, through BRICS, would have a legitimacy to participate more actively in Asian international relations. By doing so, both countries will be able to expand their diplomatic skills and affinities with Asian countries, learning to act faster and more effectively in a world where countries and organizations in Asia will define the new contours of the world's future. SCO is one of the pillars of this new global reality.

By Evandro Menezes de Carvalho, director of the Center for Brazil-China Studies at FGV, Brazil.

High speed railways make Yunnan more accessible

Editor's note: This year is the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up. The 40 years' great practice has fully proved that reform and opening-up are the key choices that change the destiny of contemporary China. It is also the source of vitality for development and progress of contemporary China. This column will be a panoramic display of Yunnan's brilliant achievements and valuable experience accumulated from its reform and opening-up.

It is an early summer morning. Liu Baohua, a villager in Yunnan's Puzhehei Town, has already made his first deal of the day. Swinging a long whip and humming a folksong, he is taking a group of tourists in his cart to Xianrendong Village.

The village is at the core of the Puzhehei Na-

tional Scenic Spot. In the past, the villagers fished and farmed for a living, and the average annual income was only a meagre 300 yuan in 1993.

On December 28, 2016, the Nanning-Kunming High Speed Railway, which stops at Puzhehei, was opened to traffic. Having ushered in "the era of high-speed rail", the scenic spot now attracts a growing number of tourists. "Now I earn 400 to 500 yuan a day by taking tourists in my horse cart," Liu Baohua said cheerfully.

The railway is a new artery for China's national economy. Over the past 40 years of reform and opening up, the country has constantly increased investment in major infrastructure projects. Yunnan Province has also vigorously advanced the building of new railways. In 1987, construction began on the electrification transformation of the

Fenghuangshan-Kunming section of Guiyang-Kunming Railway. The project was completed in July 1990, increasing transportation capacity by 15 million tonnes and raising the train speed from 62 kilometres per hour to more than 70. The days of "trains running slower than the cars" in Yunnan is forever gone.

In the 21st century, with the implementation of China's Western Development Programme, Yunnan proposed to build a network of "eight inter-provincial high speed railways and four international high speed railways". This brought unprecedented opportunities for expansion of the province's railway network. Since 2004, China Railway Kunming Group has actively responded to the country's medium- and long-term railway network planning. On December 28, 2016, the Shanghai to

Kunming dedicated passenger high speed railway, the Kunming to Nanning high speed railway and Kunming to Yuxi line simultaneously went into operation. This progress marked the province's entry into the era of high-speed rail.

Yunnan Province has 232 national scenic spots and boasts a number of tourist destinations famous at home and abroad. They include Shilin, Honghe, Dali, Lijiang, Xishuangbanna, Tengchong and Shangri-La. The high-speed rails have brought the province much closer to south, east and north China. To date, the three new railways have cumulatively transported 17.507 million passengers. Kunming is now connected with the central cities of sixteen provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities covering more than half of China.

(By Hu Xiaorong)

Bingdao: Tea villagers embark on new journey

Although every household in Bingdao Village now can easily afford fancy cars, they are considering more about further development of the local tea industry.

Bingdao Village is located in southwest Yunnan's Shuangjiang County. Before 2003, nobody came to the village to buy tea leaves even at the price of one for a kilo due to rugged road conditions. However, bless-

ed with rare ancient tea trees of hundreds of years old, the tea brand of Bingdao becomes more powerful year by year and its price has now become the most important wind indicator of those of high-end pu'er tea. Currently, as local people become rich, buying a fancy car is very easy for them. But they are considering more about the further development of the village.

Villagers said that they are grateful to their ancestors for leaving these ancient tea trees for them. But besides selling tea leaves, they value the long-term development in the future. They have now begun to afford the mountain slopes and provide better environment for their descendants. In the mean time, more youngsters working in cities have come back to

the village and work as tea growers. They use their marketing knowledge to make contributions to bettering the brand recognition and enriching cultural connotation of Bingdao tea. In the future, the villagers are planning to build Bingdao into a health tourism destination with local flavors, providing better tea culture experience for visitors.

(By Wang Yi)

5th China-South Asia Expo kicked off in Kunming on June 14-20



Visitors gather at Indian booths of South Asia Pavilion

The 5th China-South Asia Exposition and the 25th China Kunming Import & Export Fair have opened in Kunming, Yunnan Province from June 14 to 20. The expo theme is "Integrating into the Belt and Road Initiative and Promoting Win-win Cooperation". 19 pavilions, including Tourism Pavilion, Agriculture Pavilion, Manufacturing Industry Pavilion, New Materials Pavilion, Southeast Asia Pavilions, Ceremonial and Cultural Events, Pavilion for Theme Country and Country of Honor, South Asia Pavilions, Overseas Pavilions, Domestic Pavilion, Food and Delicacies Pavilion, Mechatronics Pavilion, Biomedicine and Health Pavilion, Culture

Creativity Pavilion and Woodcraft Pavilions are set in the expo. The exhibition area has reached 190,000m². During the expo, tens of branch events were held and 87 countries, regions and international organizations had participated in the exposition.

Further reading:

Yunnan holds a special position

The well-known handicraft Indian company, Trend India, together with its sub-companies—Sounir India Huf, Ethnic India and Universal Gem and Jewellery Center attended this event to exhibit Indian gems, silk, fabric and handi-

crafts. Rajat Gupta is the proprietor of Trends India and CEO of Ethnic India. He told reporters that the company entered China's market in 2011 by joining the exhibitions in Yunnan and now regularly visits Kunming twice a year. Rajat Gupta said that Trend India is currently having business collaborations with Yunnan companies. "We have quite a few Kunming shopkeepers and companies who buy Indian Handicrafts from us to sell locally. We also buy Yunnan handicrafts and silver articles from Kunming to sell in India."

Although Rajat Gupta exhibited in other provinces, Yunnan being his first entry point in China always

holds a special position in his heart. "I have many friends and business partners in Yunnan. Kunming is a beautiful city with a pleasant weather. People are always smiling and happy to help. Much more relaxing as compared to other Chinese Cities." Rajat said with the increasing collaboration of Yunnan Province with Southeast Asian countries and its vicinity to East India, Yunnan is definitely a promising market.

"The expo brings a brighter future for my business"

Huang Ke is a businessman from SW China's Yunnan Province who sells Thai products on China-South Asia Expo this year. He is grateful to the expo, saying the platform offers opportunities to a lot of businessmen like him. Huang started his business in 2008. Currently he sells handicrafts, foods and fruits imported from Thailand and runs a brand agency of Thai food.

He said that sales performances of exhibitors are improving annually. As the expo becomes more influential, customs clearance efficiency in Yunnan has improved greatly. Thanks to the geographical advantage of Yunnan, the expo now is a very important platform for doing business with exhibitors from South and Southeast Asian countries. He believes his career in Yunnan is promising.

(By Zhang Rui)

US Ambassador to China Terry Branstad: Yunnan impresses me



Terry Branstad looks at a jacket of Flying Tigers

"Thank you for a wonderful tour of Kunming Municipal Museum. The exhibition is a great tribute to the Flying Tigers," wrote Terry Branstad, the US ambassador to China, on June 5 during his first trip to Yunnan.

The ambassador stood at the Flying Tigers exhibit

ion area of the museum, listening attentively to the stories of how General Chennault and his fellow pilots helped the Chinese against the Japanese invaders. He read the pilots' manual and Chinese language textbook used by the pilots and highly appraised the cooperative spirit and

professionalism of the air forces of the two countries during those days of crisis.

"I hope more Americans would learn about the history of the Flying Tigers, how these American pilots helped the Chinese against invaders and the Chinese people helped the wounded pilots. Such great

friendship was formed in those days. Today, we need to continue and take this friendship between the two countries further." Mr. Branstad also said that China and the US are two major economies of today's world and their partnership will bring a better future of the entire world.

Although it was his first visit to Yunnan, Mr. Branstad was greatly impressed. "Before I come, people told me that Yunnan is the most beautiful place in China. I was eager to explore the place and customs here as I saw the mighty mountains and lakes between the clouds before we landed." He also said jokingly that the pleasant weather in Kunming posed a huge contrast with the scorching summer in Beijing.

Talking about Yunnan's initiative to build three world-class industries, namely green energy, green food and healthy lifestyle

destination, Mr. Branstad was excited to told that green energy and green food are also the strengths of his hometown Iowa. As the former governor of Iowa, he introduced that Iowa is a main agricultural production area of the United States which is also making efforts to develop new energy sources such as wind energy and ethanol. Yunnan and the United States have great room for cooperation in the fields of green industry and tourism. "Many Americans are interested in the great changes of China after 40-year's reform and opening-up. A modern, beautiful and green China is the dream tourist destination for American tourists." Mr. Branstad concluded: "I'm so impressed by Yunnan that I wish to have the opportunity to visit more cities here and learn more about ethnic cultures. I hope I can visit all the provinces of China."

(By Wang Huan)

French art collections exhibited in Kunming



A woman takes pictures of a collection

The French National Center for Visual Arts and National School of Fine Arts in Paris collection exhibition opened in Yunnan Provincial Museum for free from June 9 to Sep. 9. The exhibition will

showcase masterworks of French Academism, the foremost art genre in art history. 103 fine artworks, including important works such as Jupiter and Thetis from Dominique Ingres and Francois Rabelais from

Eugène Delacroix are all presented in the show. It is reported that the exhibition is only presented in National Museum of China and Yunnan Provincial Museum this year.

(By Guanxi Ruyi)