

'Belt and Road' initiative makes a difference far beyond borders



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech during a symposium on the "Belt and Road" initiative in Beijing, Aug. 17, 2016.

Spirit of the Silk Road

"To promote the Silk Road Spirit in the new era means boosting mutual learning between civilizations, respecting each other's development paths, maintaining win-win cooperation and advocating dialogue and peace."



What is the "Silk Road Spirit"

- Peace and cooperation
- Openness and inclusiveness
- Mutual learning
- Mutual benefit

What are the "Belt and Road" initiatives

"One Belt": Silk Road Economic Belt

"One Road": 21st Century Maritime Silk Road



Timeline

- Sept. 7, 2013: President Xi Jinping proposed the joint development of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" during his visit to Kazakhstan.
- Oct. 3, 2013: President Xi proposed the construction of a "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" and the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in a speech at the Indonesian parliament.
- Nov. 4, 2014: President Xi Jinping pledged \$40 billion to set up the Silk Road Fund.
- Feb. 1, 2015: Chinese leaders sketched out priorities for the "Belt and Road" initiatives.
- Mar. 5, 2015: The "Belt and Road" initiatives were outlined in the annual government work report issued during China's 2015 political sessions.
- Mar. 26, 2015: China unveiled the "Belt and Road" initiatives action plan at Boao Forum for Asia.

Cooperation priorities

- Policy coordination**
 - Intergovernmental cooperation
 - Coordination of economic development strategies and policies
- Infrastructure connectivity**
 - Transport infrastructure construction
 - Energy infrastructure cooperation
 - Construction of a network of major communication channels
- Trade liberalization**
 - Investment and trade cooperation
 - Energy cooperation
 - Emerging industries cooperation
 - Customs cooperation
- Financial integration**
 - Financial cooperation
 - Financial regulation cooperation
- People-to-people bonding**
 - Educational cooperation
 - Tourism cooperation
 - Cultural cooperation
 - Medical cooperation

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General Secretary Xi Jinping of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), also Chinese president, called for a steady advance of the "Belt and Road" initiative to benefit people along the routes at a symposium held in Beijing on Aug. 17.

Making up 63 percent of the world population, countries along the Belt and Road routes only account for 29 percent of the global economic aggregate, and the "Belt and Road" initiative is one of the best solutions to address the gap.

Bearing fruit

The progress and results of the "Belt and Road" initiative have been greater than expected, Xi said in his speech.

More than 100 countries and international organizations have participated in the initiative. China has signed agreements with more than 30 countries along the routes to jointly build the Belt and Road, and more than 20 countries have teamed up with China in capacity cooperation, said the president.

The total value of bilateral and multilateral capacity cooperation has exceeded US\$100 billion under the framework, data released by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) showed.

So far, China's Ministry of Education has inked deals with over 60 countries along the routes and Chinese companies have built 46 cooperation zones in these countries. In 2015, nearly half of the international students in China came from countries along the routes.

Meanwhile, more railways, highways and ports are being built along the routes. Freight trains have made more than 2,000 trips from China to Europe and back on 39 rail lines, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Xi has paid state visits to a number of countries, including the Czech Republic, Serbia, Poland and Uzbekistan, along the Belt and Road this year. These diplomatic exchanges have significantly boosted cooperation within the framework of the initiative.

Launched in late 2013, the Belt and Road is an umbrella term for the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road. It will be a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes.

Steering forward

As the second-largest economy in the world, China should be more proactive in dealing with global affairs and is willing to give other countries a ride, Xi said.

The Belt and Road is an opportunity to promote transnational interconnection, improve trade and investment cooperation, advance cooperation in international capacity and equipment manufacturing to rebalance and stabilize the world economy, noted Xi.

He stressed that priority areas for the initiative include building a platform to advance cooperation as well as a green, healthy, intelligent and peaceful Silk Road.

The president emphasized that more specific policies should be worked out, vowing that major support would be focused on strategic projects, including facilities cooperation, energy resource use and core technology

Also in this issue

CPC adopts plan to build 'Healthy China'
> PAGE 2

China steps up support of the disabled
> PAGE 2

Party member's 'stay hungry, stay foolish' spirit
> PAGE 3

Getting to know China through keywords
> PAGE 3

Major events in August
> PAGE 3

research and development.

Calling for financial innovation and cooperation, Xi suggested establishing a stable, sustainable and risk-controllable financial security system to better serve the building of the Belt and Road.

He also urged a faster implementation of pilot projects in order to generate benefits as early as possible and ensure that the countries involved have "a sense of gain."

During his speech, Xi encouraged domestic enterprises to invest in countries along the Belt and Road routes and said countries along the routes are welcome to invest in China.

He also pointed out that the "Belt and Road" initiative should be integrated with the country's regional development plans such as the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei coordinated development plan and the Yangtze River economic zone development plan. Cultural exchanges should not lag behind, he added.

Winning support

The world economy remains sluggish even eight years after the outbreak of the global economic and financial crisis, but China's "Belt and Road" initiative is conducive to efforts to revive it, said Hong Pingfan, director of the Development Policy and Analysis Division in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

China could share its development experience with other countries as well as find new markets for its production capacity through the Belt and Road projects, analyzed Wang Yiwei, an expert from Renmin University of China.

"In my view, this initiative is the most important strategic proposal on the planet," said Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder and president of the Schiller Institute, an international think tank. She noted that the "Belt and Road" initiative is based on win-win cooperation and has a potential to help the world get rid of its current crises.

"If it succeeds, the initiative will create new wealth growth opportunities on the vast Eurasian continent and its seas," said Gu Xuewu, director of Center for Global Studies at the University of Bonn.

CPC adopts plan to build 'Healthy China'



A child of Miao ethnic minority receives measles vaccine at a vaccination site in Multi-ethnic Autonomous County of Longlin, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Sept. 11, 2010.

The top leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) adopted a plan aiming to build a healthy China in the next 15 years on Aug. 26.

The blueprint, called "Healthy China 2030," was passed at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, presided over by General Secretary Xi Jinping of the CPC Central Committee.

The "Healthy China 2030" plan is an important effort to implement the spirit of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee and to improve people's health, attendees at the meeting said.

In the meantime, it is also important in China's efforts to engage in global health governance and implement the country's commitment to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

President Xi Jinping urged comprehensive efforts to promote people's all-round health while talking about the Healthy China strategy at a national meeting on health held in Beijing also in August.

"An all-round moderately prosperous society cannot be achieved without people's all-round health," Xi said, calling for society to exert more effort to promote healthy lifestyles, improve health services, strengthen health protection, create healthy environments and advance health industries.

The meeting ushered in a new era in which public health will be given priority in the national development strategy, commented Wang Longde, chairman of Chinese Preventive Medicine Association.

Much achieved

China has achieved great progress in the health sector since the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949.

From 1949 to 2015, China's average life expectancy surged from 35 to over 76, its infant mortality rate dropped from 20 percent to 0.81 percent and the maternal mortality rate dropped from 1,500 of every 100,000 to about 20 of every 100,000.

The country launched a new round of medical reforms in 2009. In April 2015, a new guideline on public hospital reform was endorsed. In December, the country decided to merge its medical insurance schemes for urban and rural residents in a bid to guarantee equal access to basic healthcare. A system of family doctors is now being rolled out nationwide, which is expected to cover all citizens by 2020.

More to be done

Despite the achievements, the health of the Chinese people is under multiple risks posed by industrialization, urbanization, population aging and changes in the environment and people's lifestyles.

"China is facing health problems that occur in developing countries as well as developed

countries," the president pointed out.

To ensure that all people enjoy the health benefits, Xi urged authorities at all levels to consider public health when drafting policies. He called for innovation and reform in promoting health work and stressed that efforts should focus on the grassroots level while the quality of basic medical services should be further improved.

Talking about the reform of the country's health and medicine systems, Xi called for breakthroughs in five areas: modern hospital management, medical insurance, medicine supply, comprehensive supervision, and a diagnosis and treatment mechanism based on the severity of illnesses. He specifically ordered a severe crackdown on health-related crimes, especially violence targeting health workers.

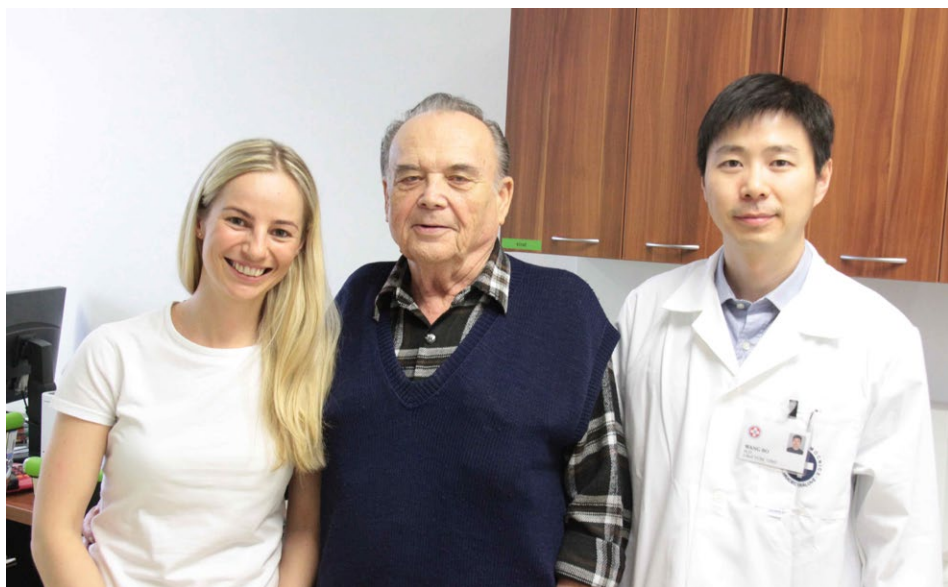
Premier Li Keqiang said at the meeting that more health resources should be allocated to rural and impoverished regions, and promised that the government would guide financial institutions to offer greater support to the health industry while striving to make it a pillar industry in the national economy.

Global engagement

China has made great headway in fulfilling its international duties and participating in global health governance, demonstrating the image of a humanitarian and responsible power, Xi said.

"We will actively participate in research and discussion concerning the making of international standards and criteria for health-related fields, and improve our country's work mechanism to offer assistance in major international public health emergencies," Xi stated, vowing in particular to strengthen health cooperation with countries along the Belt and Road routes.

Belt and Road, an umbrella term for the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, aims to instill vigor and vitality into the ancient Silk Road by connecting Asian, European and African countries.



Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) Doctor Wang Bo (R) poses for photos with his patient (C) and the translator at the research center for TCM in Hradec Kralove, the Czech Republic, March 2, 2016. As a concrete result of closer cooperation between China and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in recent years, the research center for TCM, officially opened on June 17, 2015, serves as a manifest for the expansion of areas of China-CEE pragmatic cooperation.

China steps up support of the disabled



Li Chaoyi (R), founder of a non-profit instrumental training organization for disabled children, teaches blind children Erhu, a two-stringed bowed musical instrument, in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province, May 20, 2016. The organization founded by Li Chaoyi in 2014 has over ten volunteers by now, who have been teaching more than 50 blind children on music instruments.

China aims to further improve the lives of disabled people by providing more customized public services and products in the next five years.

China's State Council, the country's cabinet, released a circular on Aug. 17 on enhancing its support and subsidies for the disabled during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020).

According to the circular, the country is aimed at insuring disabled people's basic livelihood, increasing their income, improving public services for them, and protecting their legal rights.

To achieve this goal, China plans to identify impoverished disabled people in rural areas as a key target in poverty-relief efforts and provide them with target support policies, improve support policies to help disabled people find jobs and create startups, provide basic public services in disability prevention, rehabilitation and education, and revise laws and regulations concerning the employment, education, social benefits and other aspects of disabled people's lives.

Official statistics show that China currently has at least 85 million people with disabilities. In the past few decades, the Chinese government has been continuously expanding assistance to disabled people. During the 12th Five-Year Plan period, China managed to lift 5.88 million disabled people in rural areas out of poverty, offer more basic allowances to 9.5 million and provide jobs to 4.3 million in towns and 16 million in villages.

Insure basic livelihood

In February of 2015, the State Council announced the establishment of a basic guarantee system for disabled people. Besides preferential housing policies, the government will provide them with various subsidies, basic pension and medical insurance.

In September of that year, China decided to establish a subsidy system for poor and severely disabled people, a policy benefiting 10 million disabled people in hardship and 10 million with severe disabilities.

By the end of May 2016, a total of 1.14 billion yuan (US\$172 million) and 990 million yuan (US\$149 million) had been allocated for disabled people living in poverty and seriously disabled people.

Increase employment

In the circular issued in February of 2015, China also aimed to help increase the income of disabled people through employment and entrepreneurship.

China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the China Disabled Persons' Federation released a joint circular, saying more efforts will be made in vocational and skills training for disabled people, and employment and entrepreneurship. According to the circular, job-hunting disabled people should at least receive one session of pre-employment training by 2020, and those engaged in skilled jobs should receive more than one training session on skills upgrading or advanced skills.

Enhance special education

In January of 2014, the teleconference on national special education was held in Beijing. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said that work on special education has significant influence on guaranteeing the rights of disabled people to participate in social affairs, increase their well-being and promote social equality and justice.

Governments at all levels were urged to pay great attention to the issue, give preferential treatment to special education and carefully implement an improvement plan for special education.

Improve public services

In February of 2015, China also proposed to improve public services for disabled people, increase their education opportunities and create a barrier-free environment for them.

In June of that year, China issued a plan on a national fitness program, encouraging the disabled to get involved in fitness activities and promoting the integrated fitness development of all people. It also urged the implementation of preferential policies to promote the widespread use of physical therapy and fitness sports for disabled people.

Guarantee lives of disabled children

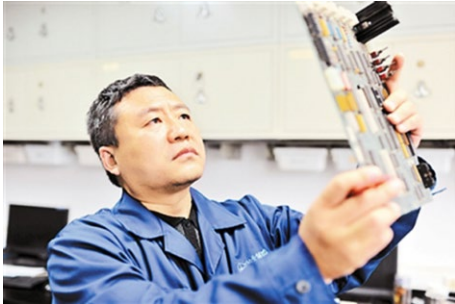
In June 2015, China released a guideline on reinforcing support for children in need, including medical and education support measures for disabled children.

The country increased the reimbursement rates for basic medical insurance and critical illness insurance for children who suffer from serious diseases or are severely disabled. In addition, it vowed to provide 12 years of free education for disabled children from poor families and called for establishing a rehabilitation assistance system for physically disabled children or autistic children up to 6 years old, and aims to gradually provide rehabilitation training services and free treatment for children.



Disabled students take Chinese language class at Ganzhou Zhanggong District Special Education School in Ganzhou, east China's Jiangxi Province, June 20, 2012.

Party member's 'stay hungry, stay foolish' spirit



Party member Qi Ming

On July 1, Qi Ming, the chief technician of NCPC GeneTech Biotechnology Co., Ltd., received the award of "Outstanding Party Member" at the grand ceremony held in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to mark the 95th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Qi was excited by the honor, which spurred him to keep learning at work. "I will keep updated on the latest technologies and be stricter on myself, thus playing the exemplary role of a Party member," he said.

Over the past 25 years, Qi has become an expert in the electrical automation and instrumentation field. In every post he has held, he's performed brilliantly.

"As a Party member, I should stick to my post and field. It's my obligation to work harder than others," he said.

Qi has been inspired by technology since his childhood. As a small boy, he spent much of his time thinking about why there was always a clicking sound when a radio was turned on.

When he grew up, he chose to learn low-voltage electrics at a vocational school instead of pursuing higher education as his parents expected. However, when he graduated as the school's top student, he was assigned the job of high-voltage maintenance at the North China Pharmaceutical Group Corp (NCPC) in Hebei Province. The mismatch didn't crush his confidence. Instead, he felt more motivated to learn.

In 1999, Qi was transferred to GeneTech Biotechnology, a joint venture of NCPC, and joined the Party there. GeneTech is the largest biotech company in China equipped with state-of-the-art devices produced in Germany, United States, Switzerland and other western countries. The English manuals were beyond Qi's comprehension, and they propelled him to study harder.

Gradually, Qi became a master of the complicated devices. Besides daily maintenance, he made many innovative designs. During pharmaceutical production, the storage of cells is very important. Cell bottles need to be rolled continuously, or the cells will die in a few minutes. However, the bottle roller used by GeneTech was unable to resume rolling

Getting to Know **CHINA** through **KEYWORDS**

The Chinese strength:

The Chinese strength is the wisdom and driving force that the 1.3 billion Chinese people, of whom over 82 million are CPC members, have pulled together for realizing the Chinese Dream.

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Silk Road Fund:

China would invest US\$40 billion to set up the Silk Road Fund. The Fund will provide financing support to infrastructure, resource development, industrial cooperation, and other related projects in the countries along the land and sea Silk Roads.

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automatically after a power failure, which caused great economic losses to the company, as a bottle of cells was worth tens of thousands of yuan. After careful study and repeated trials, Qi invented a gadget for the roller, which mimicked the movements of hands to restart the rolling after a power cut.

This is only one of the 167 inventions made by Qi, who owns five national patents. These inventions helped GeneTech earn more than 40 million yuan (US\$6.03 million) in recent decades.

As Qi was making progress in technical innovation, he was diagnosed of leukemia. It was in 2008. He had just turned 36. The doctor told him that he only had a 15-percent chance of survival.

After hearing the shocking news, Qin fell into a depression for a while, but with the comfort of his family and friends he pulled himself together and became more determined in pursuing his dream.

He resumed study in hospital. "I must live every day as if it were the last. I will realize my dream even if I don't live long," he said.

After every round of chemotherapy, he vomited badly; but as soon as he felt better, he started reading, which helped him forget his pain. During this time he devised an automated precise weighing system.

Six months after therapy, he returned to his post despite his body being swollen. He couldn't wait to put his automated precise weighing system into practice. And it proved to be a success, saving the work of three to four people and reducing the failure rate of packaging from 42 percent to 5 percent.

"Will power gave me the strength to fight the disease," he said.

His disease didn't stop Qi from learning and making innovation, and he became the foremost authority in GeneTech on high-and-low-voltage devices, electrical apparatus, single-chip microcontroller and programmable logic array (PLA) design. And more good news followed. After several reexaminations, doctors told him that there was no sign of cancer in his body.

Over the past years, Qi has helped GeneTech train a large number of skilled workers and shared his experiences with other NCPC

Major events in August

Aug. 6: Xinjiang issues China's first local counterterrorism law

Keywords: Xinjiang, terrorism

The regional government of Xinjiang unveiled China's first local counterterrorism law, which details and supplements the national law in defining terror activities and terrorists, security precautions, intelligence, investigations, countermeasures and punishment.

Aug. 17: China approves Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect

Keywords: Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, stock

A long expected agreement between the Shenzhen and Hong Kong financial sectors has received government approval, paving the way for a better-regulated stock market.

Aug. 20: Xi meets with Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi

Keywords: Xi Jinping, Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi

President Xi Jinping pledged to promote the China-Myanmar comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and bring more tangible benefits to the people of both countries.

Aug. 23: Li: Infrastructure boost planned to aid rural Jiangxi

Keywords: Li Keqiang, Jiangxi

Premier Li Keqiang reiterated to further improve infrastructure such as highways and internet connections in impoverished regions of southern Jiangxi Province, where the Long March started nearly 82 years ago.

Aug. 24: Xi: Natural resources must be safeguarded

Keywords: Xi Jinping, Qinghai

Restricting the exploitation of natural resources in the ecology-fragile Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau is good for economic development, President Xi Jinping said during his Qinghai visit.

China, Japan, S.Korea vow to reinforce co-op

Keywords: Wang Yi, Japan, South Korea

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida and South Korean counterpart Yun Byung-se agreed that the three countries shall reinforce cooperation to promote regional stability and development.

subsidiaries. In early 2015, he began to cultivate young innovative minds in cooperation with the Hebei Vocational College of Labor Relations. Following his example, more and more workers have acquired technical expertise and engaged in the pursuit of perfection.