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Xi wraps up historic visit to Saudi Arabia

After attending the launch ceremony of the Yasref oil refinery, China's largest investment project in Saudi Arabia, President Xi Jinping wrapped up his visit to the kingdom on Jan 20.

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Work on Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway starts

The ground breaking ceremony for the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway project, in Walini, West Java province, Indonesia, was held on January 21, 2016.

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US telecoms expert swears by Belt and Road, Internet Plus

China's Belt and Road Initiative will not only boost economic development in nearby regions but bring the latest technologies to the world's most remote areas, said Stephen Ho, former president of the US Pacific Telecommunications Council.

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One of the hottest topics for Polish economists and experts in relation to China is how their country can take part in Beijing's plans to use ancient trade routes as a template for a network of trade and investment.

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More Chinese books in Arabic to come out

President Xi Jinping's *The Governance of China* in Chinese, Arabic and English was displayed at the book exhibition in Cairo, which was held by Intercontinental Press on Jan 19.

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# new stories of the Silk Road

Monday, February 29, 2016

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

More than two thousand years ago, the ancient Silk Road extended to the world connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa, promoting the prosperity of all countries along the route and cultivating a collective spirit of "peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit".

In the year of 2013, the Chinese leadership raised the important initiative of jointly building the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road" carrying the development

and prosperity dream of all countries en route, linking the "Chinese dream" with the "world's dream". With joint efforts of all sides, the Belt and Road Initiative is being translated from vision to reality step by step. Fascinating stories are happening every day along the route. Since good things are most enjoyed when shared, as aptly put by Mencius, an ancient Chinese philosopher, now we officially establish the E-Journal "New Stories of the Silk Road", which will be sent to you, friends from all countries en route, who are interested in the Belt and Road cooperation. We hope that these sections

-- leadership visits, projects in progress, expert analysis, development in countries en route, cultural exchanges, and cooperation in people's well-being -- can tell touching stories of how countries plan for the future and how their friendly peoples help one another.

Should you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to inform us. In the meantime, you are welcome to write down the Silk Road stories around yourselves and share them with us via [pressoffice@idcpc.org.cn](mailto:pressoffice@idcpc.org.cn). We appreciate your support.

Press Office, International Department  
Central Committee of the CPC



The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.



Monday, February 29, 2016

# Xi wraps up historic visit to Saudi Arabia, steps up energy cooperation

**A**fter attending the launch ceremony of the Yasref oil refinery, China's largest investment project in Saudi Arabia, President Xi Jinping wrapped up his visit to the kingdom on Jan 20.

The launch of the refinery, Xi said, conforms to not only the Saudi national development strategy, but also China's strategy of carrying out cooperation with countries in the regions outlined in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

Energy cooperation is a key element in Xi's visit, during which the two leaders agreed to build stable long-term energy cooperation.

Meanwhile, when meeting with the head of the



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) is awarded the Abdulaziz Medal by Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud after their talks in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Jan 19, 2016.

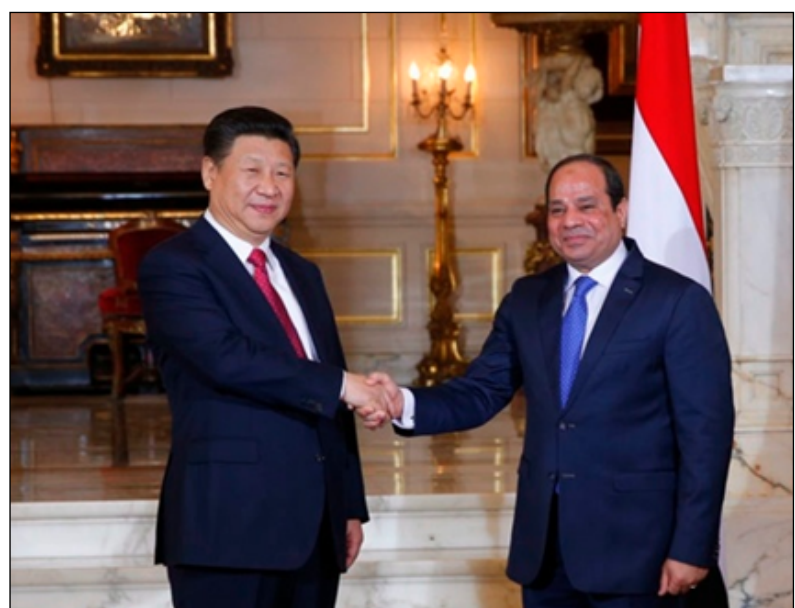
Photo/Xinhua

Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), Xi said that China is willing to carry out comprehensive energy cooperation with the GCC countries and be a long-term, stable and reliable energy market for the six-member bloc.

Reviewing his state visit to Saudi Arabia, Xi said that he was satisfied with the fruitful outcomes, including upgrading bilateral ties and establishing a high-level steering committee for coordinating bilateral cooperation.

"I believe it will lead to greater achievements in our mutually beneficial cooperation, and help facilitate and broaden our shared interests in international and regional affairs," Xi said.

## China, Egypt agree to boost cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) holds talks with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi at Quba Palace in Cairo, Egypt, Jan 21, 2016.

Photo/Xinhua

**C**hina and Egypt agreed on Jan 21 to expand cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative during Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to the North African country.

During their talks at the Quba Palace, Xi, who first proposed the Belt and Road Initiative in

2013, and his Egyptian counterpart, Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, agreed to jointly carry out the Initiative.

Xi proposed that the two countries work together to build the Arab nation into a pivot of the Belt and Road, and China and Egypt conjoin their development strategies and visions and focus

on cooperation on infrastructure construction and production capacity.

China is willing to participate in Egypt's key projects including the Suez Canal Corridor and the construction of a new capital, said Xi.

According to a outline document signed on Jan 21, the two sides will "double their efforts" to develop the China-Egypt Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone. The document is aimed at cementing the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two nations.

Xi attended an inauguration ceremony of the second phase of the zone on Jan 21. He said the project will bring to Egypt over 100 companies in such sectors as textile, garment, oil equipment, motorcycle and solar energy, and create more than 10,000 jobs for Egypt.

## Leaders address Iran's thirst for growth

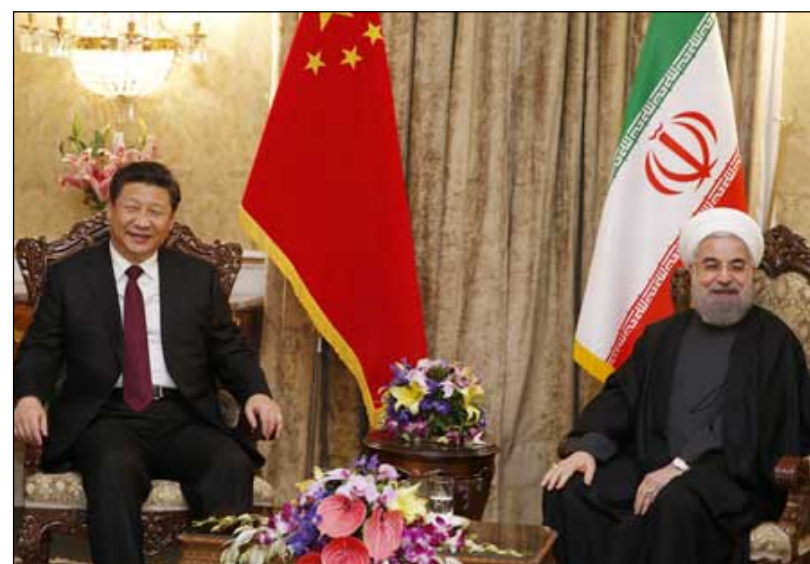
**P**resident Xi Jinping and his Iranian counterpart, Hassan Rouhani, agreed to upgrade their countries' relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership during talks in Tehran on Jan 23.

The talks were followed by the signing of a memorandum of understanding on

production capacity, minerals and investment cooperation, as well as an agreement to jointly build the Belt and Road Initiative.

Xi said China hopes the Iran nuclear deal can be implemented smoothly.

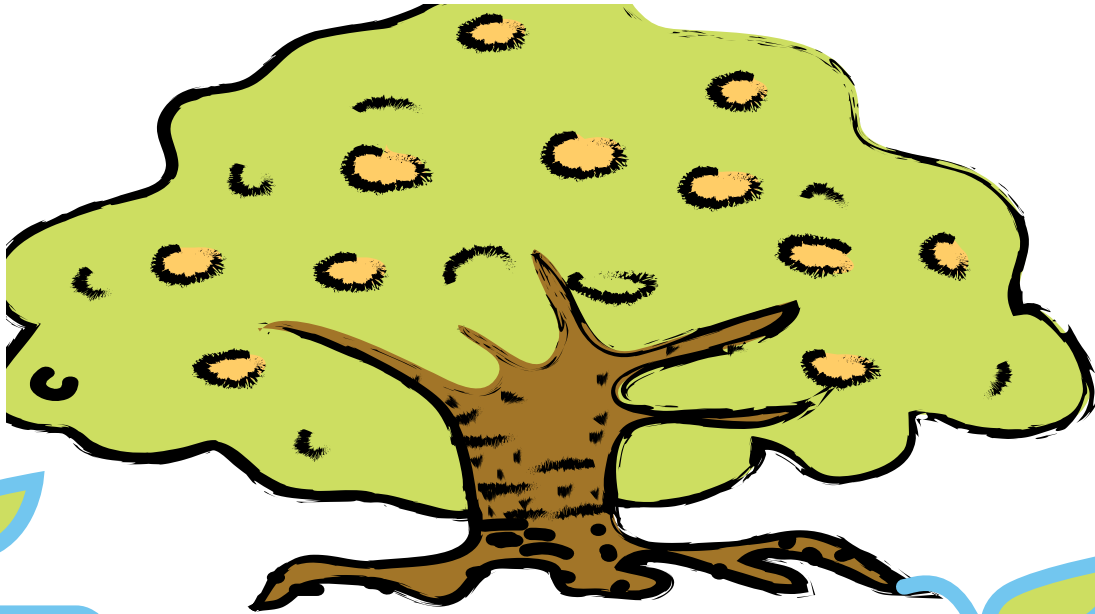
A joint statement issued later said China supports Iran's application for full membership in the SCO.



Chinese President Xi Jinping talks with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in Tehran, Iran, Jan 23, 2016.

Ju Peng/Xinhua





The China-Laos Railway project in Vientiane to go into operation in 2020 will have a length of 418 km and connect with China's network, to improve Laos' undeveloped passenger and cargo transportation capacity and to benefit people along the route.

The 850-km China-Thailand railway will link the Thai capital Bangkok with the northeastern city of Nong Khai near the border with Laos. It will also push economic and social development in China and Thailand as well as the whole region.

Construction work by the China Three Gorges Corp on the Karot Hydropower Station in Pakistan got underway, first of its kind for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor initiative and also the first for the Silk Road Fund. It is expected to help solve the country's electricity shortage problem.

The Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway project in Indonesia is underway, one of the first cooperation projects in China's Belt and Road Initiative and Indonesia's maritime strategy. It will cut the travel time from more than 3 hours to less than 40 minutes.

A new business hub widely known as Madinat al-Hareer, or Silk City, is co-developed by Kuwaiti and Chinese enterprises and expected to be completed by 2035 in northern Kuwait, featuring a 1,001-meter tall skyscraper in its master plan.

Inmarsat, a leading provider of global satellite communication services in London, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the China Transport Telecommunication and Information Center on a mobile satellite broadband communications service.

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) officially launched its second Belgian branch on January 26 in Antwerp, which is the financial and cultural capital of Belgium, and one of the biggest ports in the world.

Fresh from its success in securing control of Greece's Piraeus Port Authority SA, China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company, better known as COSCO, is now bidding to run the port of Limassol on the island of Cyprus.

The first cargo train from China to Iran arrived in Tehran on Feb 15, having passed through Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan and traveled a distance of 10,399 kilometers. Compared to the sea voyage, the travel time of the train was 30 days shorter.

As of the end of 2015, the Export-Import Bank of China's outstanding loans to countries along the routes of the Belt and Road Initiative had risen 46 percent from the beginning of last year to 520 billion yuan (\$79 billion), accounting for 37 percent of the bank's total overseas lending.

Jushi Group, a Chinese fiberglass manufacturer which set up a local subsidiary, Jushi Egypt, in 2012, is building a new assembly line in the China-Egypt Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone, with an output capacity of 80,000 tons, to go into service in June this year.

The first phase of a joint venture between Muyang Co, China's biggest feed machinery maker, and the China-Africa Development Fund went into operation in the China-Egypt Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone in December 2015.

Guangzhou Dayun Motorcycle Co will invest \$78 million in a plant in the Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone that can make 500,000 bikes a year. It will provide jobs, stimulate the industry and contribute tax revenue in Egypt.



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# China issues first Arab Policy Paper

China is willing to coordinate development strategies with Arab states and put into play each other's advantages and potential, according to China's first Arab Policy Paper issued on Jan 13, 2016.

According to the paper, Arab countries as a whole have become China's biggest supplier of crude oil and its 7th biggest trading partner. China's proposed initiatives of jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, establishing a "1+2+3" cooperation pattern and industrial capacity cooperation, have been well received by Arab countries.

The "1+2+3" cooperation pattern refers to taking energy cooperation as the core, infrastructure construction and trade and investment facilitation as the two wings, and the high-tech fields of nuclear energy, space satellites and new energy as the three breakthroughs.

The paper said China is willing to work with Arab states to promote new cooperation mechanisms featuring openness and reciprocity and win-win results.

*An exhibitor shows an enamel handicraft made in Iran during the China (Ningxia) International Investment and Trade Fair and the 3rd China-Arab States Economic and Trade Forum in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Sept. 13, 2012.*

Wang Peng/Xinhua



## US telecoms expert swears by Belt and Road, Internet Plus



China's Belt and Road Initiative will not only boost economic development in nearby regions but bring the latest technologies to the world's most remote areas, according to Stephen Ho, former president of the US Pacific Telecommunications Council.

"The Belt and Road is a metaphor for the new mode of trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia, Europe and Africa. The technology is brand new, but the idea of trade bond has been unchanged," said Ho.

Not only will many countries be connected in terms of communication networks like highways and railways but all countries will see huge opportunities in e-commerce, telecommunications and Internet, he said.

By supporting this new information highway, companies will be able to use their creative technologies to connect to underdeveloped countries and regions that are otherwise inaccessible because creating infrastructure there quickly is difficult.

*Stephen Ho, former president of the US Pacific Telecommunications Council*

## Belt & Road Initiative shores up China-Mideast cooperation



"Connectivity is the artery of the thousand-mile land and maritime silk roads. To build connectivity with Middle East countries, China should start with transportation infrastructure," said Zhang Shuyu, a researcher with the

University of International Business and Economics.

Zhang highlighted the necessity of cooperation between China and the Middle East to establish compatible transportation infrastructure, noting that trade cannot be smooth without convenient transportation.

China has a strong competitive edge in areas such as railways, electricity, telecommunications, mechanical engineering, metallurgy and construction materials, which are needed by the Middle East.

China promised to encourage its companies to import more non-petroleum products from Middle East nations to improve the trade mix and raise the two-way trade volume from \$240 billion in 2013 to \$600 billion in the coming decade.

*Zhang Shuyu, a researcher with the University of International Business and Economics*

## China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will stabilize region



Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khalid has reiterated his country's commitment to the success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and said that both countries were

working to develop conditions for its successful completion.

The ambassador expressed his views in a speech at a seminar on development prospects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative, on Jan 12, 2016.

The CPEC is a 3,000-km network of roads, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas from southern Pakistan's Gwadar Port to Kashgar city, northwestern China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The ambassador said CPEC sets an agenda for mutual prosperity of Pakistan and China and the wider region. It is a recipe for economic development, enhanced trade and energy security and is critical for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people of the two countries, the region and the world.

*Masood Khalid, Pakistan's Ambassador to China*



# Dubai sets up strategic partnerships to lure more Chinese visitors

**D**ubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism) has formed a strategic partnership with UnionPay International and online travel platform Tuniu in Shanghai early this year, to extend Dubai's offering to potential travelers in China.

With 450,000 Chinese tourists visiting Dubai in 2015, inbound traffic from China dominated the uptake from this region, topping the leader board of year-on-year growth trends with a 29 percent increase, said Dubai Tourism.

"Through our global connectivity as an airline hub and with 12 gateways between China and Dubai, we are well primed to be a compelling preferred destination and transit stop-over for Chinese," said Kazim, CEO of Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commercial Marketing.



Take a balloon adventure above the sands in Dubai.

Photo/visitdubai.com

## Mushrooms bring health reputation from Russia

**S**tudies have shown that *Inonotus obliquus*, commonly known as chaga mushrooms, has great medicinal value which attracted makers of traditional medicines, food supplements and herbal teas.

Chaga mushrooms from Siberia have become an element of Russia's participation in China's Belt and Road Initiative.

In cooperation with the largest chaga mushroom-processing

company in Siberia, Beijing Chaga Mushroom Research and Development Co becomes the only legal importer of the signature produce and its extract products in China.

The introduction of chaga mushrooms will be followed by more cooperation projects between China and Russia, according to Yin Dakui, president of the Chinese Medical Doctor Association.



*Inonotus obliquus* is a parasitic fungus found on birch and other trees in very cold habitats, with the appearance of burnt charcoal.

Photo by Tomas Čekanavičius

## Poland eager for role in Belt and Road

**O**ne of the hottest topics for Polish economists and experts in relation to China is how their country can take part in Beijing's plans to use ancient trade routes as a template for a network of trade and investment.

"China's initiative to strengthen economies along the Silk Road is very interesting to us because Poland is interested in operating in the Euro-Asia region with our trade and investment," says Slawomir Majman, president of the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency.

Poland's central location in Europe, its deep-water port in Gdansk and major infrastructure investments in the past 20 to 25 years make Polish companies more attractive partners, says Polish Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Katarzyna Kacperczyk.

"We have a lot of Polish companies in the infrastructure and transportation sectors. I think we could present a very competitive offer with the experience we have now, good value-added projects, which could be implemented within the Belt and Road."

Kacperczyk says that it is

**\$17.2**  
billion

bilateral trade between  
Poland and China

not only about infrastructure projects such as railways, but also about building an entire ecosystem for projects. Poland is good at building entire logistics centers, and also good at managing multiple infrastructure projects, besides having a well-educated, professional workforce, she adds.

Majman says China and Poland are facing important moments in history, and the Polish people are keen on the huge transportation and other logistics projects foreseen under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Majman says Poland has aspirations beyond bilateral trade or China-CEE trade. Poland would like to play a large logistic and financial role in expanding trade between China and all large partners along the Belt and Road Initiative routes, he says.



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## More Chinese books in Arabic to come out

**W**hile translating and publishing Chinese books into Arabic, Intercontinental Press, China's leading foreign language press, has built up a digital platform of Arabic books as the Chinese government carries out its Belt and Road Initiative.

The press has reached agreement with 70 percent of the digital publishers in the Arabic world and is authorized to publish 6,500 books on its digital platform.

In the last two years, it had published more than 120 Arabic books with Chinese contents and has authorized Arabic companies to publish more than 130 books in Arabic.

It plans to publish another 100 such books in the next three years, and to sell its publications in bookstores in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates to help Arabic people get to know China.



President Xi Jinping's *The Governance of China* in Chinese, Arabic and English is displayed at a book exhibition in Cairo held by Intercontinental Press on Jan 19, 2016.

Hou Liqiang / chinadaily.com.cn

## Shenzhen holds Silk Road Dialogue

**C**hina Center for Contemporary World Studies, the Shenzhen government and Fudan University jointly hosted the first Silk Road Dialogue for nearly 90 representatives of more than 70 think tanks from 54 countries on Feb 22 and 23 in Shenzhen, Guangzhou province, China.

The theme of the conference was "Building the Belt and Road: Connection, Innovation and Sustainable Development". It consisted of three sessions focusing on multi-dimensional connectivity, development plans integration, and green and innovative development.

The conference founded the Silk Road Think Tank Association and issued the Shenzhen Declaration, which outlines the potential for international think tanks to cooperate in promoting the Belt and Road Initiative.

## Monkey on stamps

**Amid the brisk, festive air of the Chinese New Year, monkey-themed stamps are being issued by postal services all over the world to welcome the Year of the Monkey.**



A special Year of the Monkey stamp was issued by China Post on Jan 5, 2016.

Photo / Xinhua



Canada's Year of the Monkey international stamp (left) and domestic stamp were inspired by the legend of the Monkey King.

Zou Zheng / Xinhua



This stamp is being released in France for the Year of the Monkey.

Photo/China.com.cn