

# ASIAN ACCORD Shanghai hosts multilateral security forum to strengthen regional stability







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## **EDITOR'S DESK**

# Do as the Asians Do

At a time when tensions loom over many parts of Asia—from the lingering civil war in Syria to simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea—leaders from the 26-member Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) produced a milestone declaration at a recent summit in Shanghai. The declaration highlighted their strong political will to work together in an increasingly complex international environment.

The success of the summit may come as a surprise to many. But the fact that CICA leaders were able to formulate a collective response to common challenges is evidence that Asian countries remain committed to engaging in talks to solve their problems. Moreover, they are eager to play a leading role in regional affairs.

This growing willingness to collaborate is rooted in Asian countries' shared aspirations for peace and development. While redoubling their efforts to rev up economic growth, improve living standards and maintain social stability, they must cement bonds with one another in pursuit of greater benefits. Take China for instance. The rapidly emerging economy is ready to share its opportunities with neighbors, as evidenced by ambitious programs such as the New Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century. At the same time, it needs their cooperation in addressing problems such as terrorism, cross-border crime and drug trafficking. As it assumes the chairmanship of the CICA from 2014-16, China looks poised to spearhead a regional quest for stability and prosperity.

Asia has been a pivotal engine driving

the global economic recovery from the 2008 financial crisis. The sustainable development of Asia, which accounts for about two thirds of the world's population and one third of its total GDP, is a blessing to humanity. In this sense, high credit should be given to the CICA. Representing the diversity of the vast continent, the forum aims to facilitate Asia's progress. On this platform, Asian countries can cash in on their diverse cultures and economic resources to boost cooperation and dispute resolution.

Of course, Asia is an open continent. It welcomes major global players, such as the United States. But as they get involved in the region, they must respect its realities and traditions. The past years have seen numerous cases in which their pursuit of national security resulted in the destabilization of countries in Asia. The Iraq War is an obvious case in point.

Unfortunately, such practices have yet to be cast aside. Despite claims it would not take sides on territorial rows between China and some of its neighbors, Washington has openly supported its allies involved in the disputes, prompting many Chinese analysts to caution against what they perceive to be a return of the containment policy. This biased approach will not help countries in the region resolve their differences, but may instead damage mutual trust, heighten instability and eventually jeopardize its own interests.

As Asian countries continue communicating at various forums including the CICA, outside powers should consider bolstering this culture of dialogue as the right thing to do. ■

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## **THIS WEEK**



# **BACK HOME**

Chinese workers evacuated from Viet Nam—where violent anti-China protests were underway disembark at Haikou, capital of south China's Hainan Province, on May 20. More than 3,500 evacuated workers arrived there after travelling 20 hours aboard four ships that were chartered by the Chinese Government.

# THIS WEEK SOCIETY



## Welcome Back

Captain Xie Beizhen (front) and crew members Wang Minjuan (center) and Dong Chen walk out of the *Moon Palace 1* capsule in Beijing on May 20, after spending 105 days in the closed lab.

It was China's first manned test of the *Moon Palace 1*, a 500-cubic-meter module that is the country's first bio-regenerative life-support base, and also the world's third largest.

During the experiment, the volunteers ate only laboratory-grown plants and insects.

#### Urumqi Blast

A terrorist attack in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, left at least 31 dead and 94 injured on May 22, according to local authorities.

Two vehicles without license plates broke through roadside fences and plowed into crowds at an open air market at Park North Street near Renmin Park at 7:50 a.m. and explosive devices were set off, a statement issued by the regional government revealed.

In response to the attack, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to severely punish terrorists and spare no efforts in maintaining stability.

Xi asked local authorities to solve the case quickly, put the injured under proper care and offer condolences to the families of the victims.

All injured were rushed to hospitals. The regional government has launched an emergency response system and organized medical efforts for treatment of the injured, said the statement.

Witnesses who saw the two offroad vehicles drive into people from the south end of the market. Explosives were thrown before the vehicles exploded.

Many of the injured were elderly people who frequently visited the moming market, according to witnesses.

A business owner in the market told Xinhua News Agency that he heard a dozen large explosions.

#### Cyber Security

Latest data from the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team Coordination Center of China (NCNERTTCC) showed that from March 19 to May 18, a total of 2,077 Trojan horse networks or botnet servers in the United States directly controlled 1.18 million host computers in China. The NCNERTTCC found 135 host

#### TRANSLATION SEMINAR

Wang Gangyi, Vice President of the China International Publishing Group, delivers a speech at the China Cultural Translation and Communication Seminar, held on May 16 at Beijing Language and Culture University



computers in the United States carrying 563 phishing pages targeting Chinese websites that led to 14,000 phishing operations. In the same period, the center found 2,016 IP addresses in the United States had implanted backdoors in 1,754 Chinese websites, leading to 57,000 backdoor attacks.

Hackers in the United States have attacked, infiltrated and tapped into Chinese networks belonging to the government, institutions, enterprises, universities and major communication networks. Activities have targeted Chinese leaders, ordinary citizens and mobile phone users.

#### Windows 8 Ban

China has announced that it will forbid the installation of Microsoft's Windows 8 operating system (OS) on government computers, a move that looks to ensure computer security in the wake of Microsoft dropping support for Windows XP.

All desktops, laptops and tablet PCs that are purchased by state organs must use an OS other than Windows 8, according to an online statement by the Central Government Procurement Center.

The measure only targets computers used by government offices, while the personal computer market is expected to stay unaffected.

Currently, most government computers run Windows XP, which has a 70-percent market share in China. However, Microsoft ended support for this 13-year-old system on April 8, citing safety concerns and appeals for domestically designed OS. China has also pledged to focus on the development of its own OS, which is to be based on Linux.

#### Subsidies for Women

Over 3.6 million Chinese women had received micro-financing worth 180 billion yuan (\$28.87 billion) by the end of March, according to a statement issued by the All-China Women's Federation on May 16.

Central and local government subsidies contributed more than 12 billion yuan (\$1.92 billion) to this financing.

China began issuing microfinancing to women to encourage

## THIS WEEK

entrepreneurship and poverty reduction in 2009. The loans have helped boost the economy in underdeveloped western and rural regions, according to the federation.

### Tibetology Databases

China will give importance to building research databases for Tibetology, according to the Fourth National Tibetology Coordination Meeting held in Beijing on May 17. The meeting is held every four years.

Tibetology institutes will boost their efforts to build databases of Tibetologists, their work and relevant policies, according to the meeting.

Aside from the databases, Tibetologists will also conduct systematic studies on Tibet's museum archives, stone tablet inscriptions, cultural relics, folk culture and Tibetan languages.

Since the last national meeting coordinating Tibetology research in China was held in 2010, several major research projects have been carried out, including studies on the Buddhist canon, the history of Tibet, the history of Tibetan Buddhism and the environment and landscape of the Tibetan Plateau.

#### New Jobs

China created 4.73 million jobs in the first four months of 2014, slightly more than the number created in the same period last year, figures from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security showed on Wednesday.

At the end of March, the country's

"China's job market has proved to be resilient despite the slowdown. The country is trying to achieve growth that can bring jobs and ensure fairly full employment."

Xin Changxing, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security





## Life in Another's Shoes

Primary school students in Zaozhuang City, Shandong Province, wear blindfolds to experience how people with vision impairments navigate on May 16. Since 1990, China has designated the third Sunday of May as National Day of Assisting Disabled Persons.

registered urban unemployment rate stood at 4.08 percent.

The rate was 0.03 percentage points higher than at the end of last year.

In the first quarter, China's economic growth dipped to 7.4 percent, the lowest level since the third quarter of 2012.

#### **Underwater Vessel**

Testing of China's first underwater archaeological exploration vessel has begun in Chongqing Municipality. The 500-tonne, 56-meter ship has a maximum displacement of 960 tons, and can carry a crew of 30, according to an official with the Chongqing Culture and Heritage Commission. Underwater archaeology in China

has made great strides since the 1980s and there are now a number of professional institutions and teams that work in the field. The lack of properly equipped vessels and ships has long been a problem.

This ship will continue testing in Shanghai before sailing out to the Xisha Islands in the South China Sea to commence operations.

## Close to the Past

A visitor looks at a display in Yangzhou Museum in Jiangsu Province on May 18, which was International Museum Day.

The number of museums registered in China reached 4,165 in 2013, up 299 from the previous year, according to newly released figures.

According to a report released by the Ministry of Culture, China witnessed 637.77 million museum visits last year, 13.1 percent more than the previous year.



# THIS WEEK ECONOMY

## **Reform Priorities**

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on May 20 released economic priorities for 2014 in a plan that has been approved by the State Council, the country's cabinet.

The NDRC said authorities will cut red tape and slash items that need administrative approval.

China will continue to expand the scope of value-added tax (VAT) reform and move to regulate financing of local governments.

A new mechanism of the yuan exchange rate will be developed and the volatility of the rate increased. Capital account convertibility will expand in an orderly manner.

Eligible private investors will be allowed to start financial institutions like small or medium banks and invest in established ones.

As prices are stable, China will reform prices of resource products and in sectors including transportation, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and healthcare.

State-owned enterprises will move toward mixed ownership through a cooperation mechanism between state and social capital.

## Solar Industry Enraged

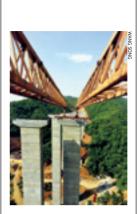
China's photovoltaic (PV) industry issued a statement on May 21, opposing the second U.S. anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations on Chinese PV products.

Representatives from the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products, China Renewable Energy Industry Association, China PV Industry Alliance and major manufacturers including Yingli Solar and Trina Solar, pushed down a symbolic "wall of trade barriers" at a press conference in Shanghai on May 21.

The joint statement called for the United States and China to solve the disputes through negotiations.

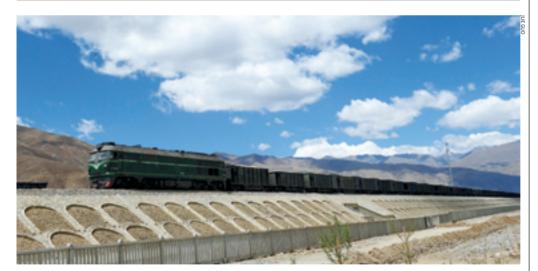
Chinese PV products are well received the world over for their low cost and efficiency, high quality and comprehensive after-sales services, and the industry has no need whatsoever to engage in activities involving dumping and illegal subsidies, according to the statement.

Trade protectionism seriously hinders industrial development and will affect the development of the U.S. real economy as well as its employment



#### SCHEDULE ON TRACK

A massive bridge, erected in Funiu Mountain, Henan Province, is under construction. When completed, it will make up part of a key expressway project, traversing mountainous areas in the province



## Blue Skies for Transport

A train runs on the Lhasa-Shigatse Railway in Tibet Autonomous Region. As an extension of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the line covers a length of 253 km. With a designed speed of 120 km hour, it will take no more than two hours from Lhasa to Shigatse. levels, it said.

On February 14, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) determined an affirmative indication regarding injury to the U.S. industry as part of the new anti-dumping and countervailing duty petitions against PV products from the Chinese mainland and Taiwan.

It was the second U.S. investigation against Chinese PV products, counting a similar probe in 2011, and it has seriously affected the Chinese PV industry and hindered the development of the U.S. PV application market.

The U.S. Department of Commerce is expected to release the preliminary countervailing duty investigation results on June 2 and the preliminary antidumping investigation results on July 28, before releasing the final results on December 11. The USITC will determine whether or not to levy taxes on January 26, 2015.

#### Partnering With Russia

A joint investment vehicle set up by Chinese and Russian sovereign wealth funds announced three deals on May 20 in Shanghai that see it diversify into the service sectors of the two countries.

Nearly seven months after its \$200-million deal to acquire a 42-percent stake in Russia's second largest forestry company, the Russian-China Investment Fund (RCIF) is eyeing opportunities to expand its investment into sectors such as logistics, healthcare and tourism, according to Kirill Dmitriev, co-CEO of RCIF.

In addition, it will pursue projects in agriculture, energy and natural resources.

Under the new deal, RCIF will partner with a Russian development fund to commit \$400 million in both equity and debt for the construction of a crossborder railway bridge, the first to span across China's border with Russia over Heilongjiang River, also known as Amur River in Russia.

The fund also joined Hopu Investment Management Co., a private equity firm in China, in a deal to invest an undisclosed amount into Global Logistics Property, which operates

## THIS WEEK



## Silk Road Building Blocks

Containers line up neatly in Lianyungang Port of east coastal Jiangsu Province.

On May 19, phase one of the China-Kazakhstan logistics cooperation base was commenced to boost the Silk Road economic belt.

The project is jointly funded by Lianyungang Port and the Kazakhstan Railway Express Logistics Co., with a total investment of 606 million yuan (\$97 million).

logistic infrastructures in China, Japan and Brazil.

Dmitriev said the motive behind the deal is to acquire expertise in logistics management, which will be useful when Russia develops its own logistics projects in the future.

#### Home Prices Drop

China's property sector showed new signs of cooling in April, with more Chinese cities reporting month-onmonth drops in prices and fewer cities reporting gains, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on May 18.

Of a statistical pool of 70 major Chinese cities, new homes in eight cities saw month-on-month price declines in April, double of the figure from March.

A total of 44 cities saw month-onmonth price gains in new home prices in April, down from 56 for March and 57 for February. Among the 44 cities with rising new home prices, growth decelerated in 31 cities.

Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, saw its new home price drop-

### MAKING A Comeback

A farmer operates a rice transplanter in Luobei County, Heilongjiang Province, which was struck by catastrophic flooding in 2013



ping the most of the 70 cities, down by 0.7 percent from March.

For existing homes, 22 cities saw month-on-month declines with Hangzhou also dropping the most, by 0.8 percent.

Prices for existing homes increased in 35 cities month on month in April, notably down from 42 cities in March and from 46 in February.

### **Diversifying Financing**

The NDRC has invited social capital to invest in a list of 80 projects, the latest step in bringing private funds to infrastructure investment.

It is also an attempt to inject vitality into the economy.

The list covers construction and operation of railways, roads, harbors, wind power stations and oil pipelines. Opening these sectors to social capital will speed up changes of investment and financing regimes and diversify investment sources. Most of the industries used to be dominated by state capital and were off-limits to private and foreign investors. Social capital, particularly private investment, is welcomed and encouraged to participate in the construction and operation of such facilities through joint ventures, wholly funded entities or franchise businesses, the NDRC said.

The private sector accounted for 63 percent of fixed-asset investment last year, according to the NBS.

#### **Real Estate Fund**

The first real estate investment trust (REIT) fund in China's domestic market started trading on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange on May 21, the *Shanghai Securities News* reported.

CITIC Securities, the country's largest brokerage firm, issued the fund product.

REITs mainly invest in existing commercial properties and pay rent collected from them as dividend.

They are prohibited from investing in property development projects and turning into a fundraising channel for developers, according to the report.

The fund product offers an investment alternative in the capital market and is expected to help Chinese investors to diversify their portfolio, said analysts.

#### More Outlets in China

Walmart Stores, the world's largest supermarket chain, announced on May 20 that it will build about 30 new stores and more distribution centers in China this year.

The U.S. retailer said it will continue to develop businesses in the country's big cities. And more supercenters will be built in third- and fourth-tier cities to serve emerging consumers amid China's urbanization drive.

Walmart also plans to open two new branches of its Sam's Club chain of membership-only retail warehouses, in Wuhan of central China's Hubei Province and Changzhou in east China's Jiangsu Province, this year.

The retailer also decided to invest 580 million yuan (\$94 million) to upgrade about 55 old outlets, aiming to improve operating performance and the customer experience.

By the end of April, it had over 400 outlets in the country.

## THIS WEEK WORLD





## THAILAND

Soldiers patrol the streets of Bangkok on May 22, the day Thai Army Commander in Chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha declared a coup following months of deadly political turmoil



Customs officials show part of the 70,000 counterfeit dollars hidden in children's books bound for New York City on May 15 at an international airport on the outskirts of Lima







A British model presents a dress made with Vanda heads at the Chelsea Flower Show in London on May 19





ARGENTINA

A photo released on May 17 shows technicians working in the area where fossils of a dinosaur—likely to be the largest ever to roam the Earth—were found in south Argentina's Chubut Province



RUSSIA

Rescuers work at the site of a collision between cargo and passenger trains near the Bekasovo station, about 70 km southwest of Moscow, on May 20

# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

**RISING STAR** 



Chinese hurdler **Xie Wenjun** stunned a star-studded track by winning the men's 110-meter hurdles with a personal best of 13.23 seconds at the 2014 Diamond League Shanghai meet on May 18. He finished third in the last Shanghai meet in 2013.

Xie, 23, claimed his second International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) event title in less than a week when he clocked 13.31 seconds at the 2014 IAAF World Challenge Beijing on May 21.

Xie has been guided by the same coach as China's star hurdler Liu Xiang, an Olympic Gold medalist and World Champion. Xie made it to the semi-finals of the 110-meter hurdles in the London Olympic Games in 2012.

#### Doctor-Patient Relations South Reviews May 21

After more than a decade's deterioration in the medical and health care sectors owing to their overly market-oriented development, patients are faced with difficulty in accessing medical services at hospitals, while doctors are finding their image in society is on the decline.

The past few decades have seen a downturn in the relationship between doctors and patients. As for how to rebuild affinity between the two sides, there are many proposals: public hospitals should be act as providers of public welfare, doctors should be guaranteed decent salaries,

medical resources should be more evenly distributed to community hospitals, the mechanism of dispute settlement should be made more reliable.

The uneven distribution of medical resources is the first factor to be blamed. Hospitals are criticized for subsidizing their medical services with overly expensive drug prescriptions.

The most important subject for a tangible reform may be: how to set up a mechanism where patients' medical requirements can be swiftly met with no patient feeling that they have been abandoned.

Under this mechanism, doctors are provided with decent salaries and enjoy a high standard of living. As a result, patients will not feel that they are being exploited by their doctors.

Doctors are supposed to treat their patients as they do their own children, and in this case, doctors will, in return, receive respect of the highest level from the whole of society. This is what we are expecting to see and we believe this day will eventually come.



#### Care for the Elderly Oriental Outlook May 22

China already had more than 200 million elderly people over the age of 60 by 2013. As a solution to cope with the aging problem in Chinese society, home-based care service has been proposed as the fundamental strategy.

The concept of "home-based care" was first proposed in China in 2001 and more than a decade has passed since such service centers were first set up in some locations.

Despite the country's huge financial inputs and policy assistance, the homebased care services are still struggling. The fundamental reason for this is that compared with institutions specialized in taking care of the elderly, when old people are scattered in communities, the task of accurately assessing and aggregating their detailed needs and demands is not an easy one. Therefore, it's important to make clear these people's demands before the problem is effectively tackled.

Caretakers play a big role in home-based care service, but there is a major shortage of such workers. Most of the well-trained and experienced workers are working in institutions dedicated to taking care of the elderly. Those who are serving the elderly at home are mostly migrant people or laid-off workers, with little professional experience or training,

"Tibetan Buddhism puts a lot of emphasis on cherishing life. Whatever the motives, self-immolation and teaching others to set themselves on fire are against Buddhist teachings."

Li Decheng, Director of the Religion Institute of China Tibetology Research Center, criticizing the Dalai Lama's partial approval of self-immolation during his recent remarks at a forum in Norway "Talking from the perspective of a producer, I believe that the core role of playwrights in creating soap operas will be recognized in China after we introduce the system in Hollywood."

Jin Tao, a director of many successful TV series in China



while a stable source of volunteers does not yet exist. Even if volunteers are willing to do the job, they are not professionals.

Addressing the issue of how to develop the country's elder care industry should rightfully be based on the demands of old people. A better understanding of their real needs will help businesses to make investments in the proper areas and also aid the government in formulating appropriate policies. Home-based care service is a response made to the current conditions experienced by China's elderly. It will serve as a guide for policy design and relevant industry development.

#### City Drainage Networks **People.com.cn** May 13

Recently, heavy rainstorms hit south China. In Shenzhen of Guangdong Province, the strongest rainstorm seen in the past six years caused flooding throughout in the city, leading to an almost total gridlock of the city's transportation network.

The result of an investigation done by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development in 2011 revealed that during 2008 and 2010, rainstorms caused flooding in 62 percent of the 351 cities that were surveyed. In 2012, a rainstorm in Beijing in mid-July resulted in 79 deaths.

TOP SCIENTIST



The aging urban drainage networks and their outdated design are always blamed for the floods. However, this time, in the modern city of Shenzhen, where it is presumed that the "aging problem" is impossible, the same problem has been discovered.

In March, heavy rain caused sinkholes to appear, an incident that occurred in Shenzhen 10 times in 2013 alone. The main reason given was once again the aging drainage network. This makes a city especially vulnerable to extreme weather.

Compared with the quick pace of urban expansion, climate change and the frequency of extreme weather, the pace of updating and expanding the drainage networks is left far behind.

Chinese search giant Baidu has hired **Andrew Ng**, a noted artificial intelligence researcher and co-founder of online education startup Coursera, to be its chief scientist, according to the company's announcement on May 16. Ng will help to build out a new artificial-intelligence research lab that Baidu has opened in Silicon Valley.

Ng works on deep learning as an associate professor at Stanford and created the Google Brain team, which is most famous for creating a program that allowed computers to learn to identify cats in videos.

Ng started Coursera, which offers university courses online, in 2012. He said that he will continue to be Coursera's chairman and "remain deeply involved in company strategy."

The 38-year-old Chinese American scientist grew up in Hong Kong and Singapore and received his PhD from University of California, Berkeley, in 2002.

"A total of 12 million tons of grain, valued at more than 20 billion yuan (\$3.22 billion), is polluted by heavy metals each year. This is enough grain to support a population of more than 40 million."

Zhu Yi, an associate professor of the College of Food Science & Nutritional Engineering, China Agricultural University "The lack of well-nurtured talent has become a stumbling block for creative industries in China, which is what makes this program so necessary."

Yang Zhiyong, Secretary General of the China Creative Industry Alliance, which initiated a national training program aimed at developing China's creative industries by cultivating talented people and helping them start businesses, on May 18



# STORIES OF CHINA'S REFORM

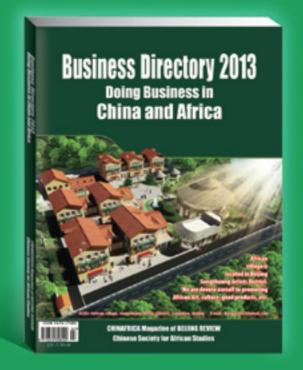
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**COVER STORY** 

# **SECURING A NEW CO**

China presents a fresh vision of regional security at Asian cooperation summit By Yu Lintao



http://www.bjreview.com

# NCEPT

sia appears to be ushering in the first real security platform involving nearly the whole region. Although the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) has been in existence for more than 20 years, its fourth summit recently held in Shanghai attracted extraordinary attention worldwide with the unprecedented participation of leaders and officials from 46 countries and international organizations.

At the summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping expounded a new concept of security in Asia, proposing to advocate common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. Xi stated that "security problems in Asia should be solved by Asians themselves who are able to achieve regional peace and stability through cooperation."



SECURITY MEETING: World leaders and representatives attending the Fourth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia pose for a group photo in Shanghai on May 21

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action and Confidence Building Measures in Asia

 Shanghai, China

 14.5.20-21



Observers said the latest summit reminds the world that Asia is not only a dynamic continent with thriving economic growth but also rife with simmering tensions, demanding regional security cooperation architecture for which CICA can act as an effective platform. They added that China's recent series of diplomatic moves show that as both an economic and political power, the nation has become more active in the world arena under its new leadership.

#### A relevant concept

Observers claimed that the establishment of a new type of security concept in Asia is the chief challenge under the current regional security situation.

With the rapid economic growth of the region, the security dilemma of Asia is also a growing issue. From the Syrian crisis to the Israeli-Palestinian feud; from the South China Sea disputes to the nuclear issues on the Korean Peninsula and in Iran; from conventional security issues to non-traditional ones such as terrorism, extremism and crossborder crimes. Asia is confronted with a slew of threats to safety and stability. The security problems are increasingly impeding the development of the region.

"Compared with its booming economy, security cooperation is no doubt the short slab of Asia. So far, there is no real pan-Asian security cooperation mechanism," said Shi Ze, a senior research fellow with the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS).

Shi said the current security challenges facing Asia are all-round and multi-layered—some are left over from history, some stem from modern geopolitical rivalries and some are even caused by interference from outside powers. He claimed that only common security can help to break the security dilemma of the region, thus requiring a new security concept of Asia featuring commonality, comprehensiveness and cooperation in order to serve the interests of all regional countries.

In an interview with Shanghai-based Oriental Morning Post, Fazal Rahman, Director of Pakistani think tank Strategic Studies Institute Islamabad, said the rapidly developing Asia is facing multiple challenges; meanwhile, the "pivot to Asia" strategy of the United States has further complicated regional security.

Rahman said that with Washington's "pivot to Asia," an alarming kind of quasi-Cold War and quasi-alliance mindset is on the rise in Asia. Under such circumstances, Rahman claimed



ASIAN ORATORY: Chinese President Xi Jinping speaks at the CICA Summit in Shanghai on May 21

it is necessary to equip the CICA with a more extensive platform for security cooperation to reduce risks.

Yang Jin, a researcher on international security with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), echoed Rahman's viewpoint.

Yang told Beijing Review that the United States' rebalancing strategy in the Asia-Pacific has further complicated the situation in the region, sending wrong signals to countries like Japan and the Philippines that have led to antagonism. These countries tend to neglect diplomatic efforts as they believe they can rely on their alliance with the superpower to bolster their territorial and maritime claims.

"The complicated traditional territorial disputes and non-traditional security problems in Asia have made security issues a core concern of all regional parties," said Yang.

According to Yang, the security concept was first raised by China in 1995 during meetings with Southeast Asian countries.

In addition, Yang said, many security issues of Asia actually have not been decided by Asians since the collapse of the bipolar system at the end of last century. For instance, the Iraq wars, the situation in Afghanistan, the Iran and Korean Peninsula nuclear issues are all dominated by powers outside the region.

The new security concept, which proposes that Asian security problems eventually be solved by Asians, conforms to the common interests of Asia and reflects the demand of Asian people for international political democracy, said Yang. Li Xin, Director of the Center for Russian and Central Asian Studies at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), noted that China believes the worsening regional security situation is affecting its development. Thus, China needs to contribute its own efforts to cultivate a peaceful and stable environment for development.

#### **Cooperation over alliance**

In his keynote speech at the CICA Summit, President Xi proposed making the CICA a security dialogue and cooperation platform that covers the whole of Asia.

Xi said, "No country should seek absolute security of itself at the expense of others... We cannot just have security for one or a few countries while leaving the rest insecure. A military alliance which is targeted at a third party is not conducive to common regional security."

Although the Cold War ended more than 20 years ago, the Cold War mentality has not diminished along with it. The traditional security concept emphasizes confrontation and alliances such as NATO and Washington's relationships with Japan, Australia and the Philippines. These traditional alliance systems are all characterized by Cold War thinking and exclusiveness.

Qu Xing, President of the CIIS, said in sharp contrast to the decades-old security scheme based on the Cold War mentality, the new concept addresses Asia's unique challenges shaped by its historical grievances, current tensions and potential risks. "The new security concept proposed by Xi is keeping pace with the times," said Yang, "One cannot deal with the security problems in the 21st century with the outdated thinking of the Cold War and zero-sum games."

Yang also noted that as the new security concept stresses cooperation, it does not exclude other countries outside the region, including the United States. Asia welcomes the United States, which is an observer of the CICA, to play a positive role in Asian security issues.

In interviews with Chinese media, Azimova Sarvaroy, Deputy Director of the National Information Agency of Tajikistan, said he agrees with Xi's judgment that peace, development and mutually beneficial cooperation are the main trends in the region. Jointly building a shared and win-win road for Asian security is necessary, he added.

Lee Young Ju, Director of South Korea's China Political, Economic and Cultural Academy, told the media that the "common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable" Asian security concept, proposed by Xi, fits with the times while meeting the common interests of countries in Asia. It reflects the Asian awareness, as it considers the demands of various countries in Asia and bears a practical significance for the settlement of hotspot issues in the region, including nuclear issues.

Observers noted that although one meeting or a new concept by itself cannot be the answer to all questions, the CICA Summit showed that Asian countries have the intention to seek consensus on Asian security with the release of a joint declaration.

"The effect of the CICA consensus cannot be immediate, but it is very possible that Asian countries will take quick action to jointly fight against terrorism," said Yang.

Observers said the new security concept for the continent would also be helpful in accelerating economic development, reducing the gap between the rich and the poor and making people prosperous and countries strong,

Qu of the CIIS noted that all parties have applauded the idea of creating lasting security through sustainable development, which President Xi stressed in his speech. The idea also provides a framework under which Asia can aspire to its revival based on economic prosperity, stability and cooperation.

Li of the SIIS claimed that the new security concept on Asia can provide opportunities for promoting regional economic cooperation.

Li said the theme of the CICA highly matches the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st

#### Highlights of the Shanghai Declaration

In a declaration issued on May 21 following the two-day CICA Summit in Shanghai, CICA members:

—acknowledged that they share common interests and security concerns, agreeing that no country can stay immune in the face of security problems

—reiterated the collective desire of all countries to carry forward the spirit of solidarity, cooperation and mutual assistance, respect each other's sovereignty, and seek common development and progress

—pledged that no state should strengthen its security at the expense of other states' security, emphasizing that no state, group of states or organization can have pre-eminent responsibility for maintaining peace and stability

—resolved to respect each other's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity as well as the inviolability of internationally recognized borders, and to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state in any manner inconsistent with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter

—agreed to uphold the resolution of disputes by peaceful means, and not to interfere in the internal affairs of states, rejecting the use of double standards in international affairs

—vowed to advance extensive dialogues across cultures, civilizations and faiths, as well as to promote regional connectivity through people-to-people contacts

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

#### $\checkmark$ CICA Roster $\checkmark$

**Member states**: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam

**Observer states**: Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Ukraine and the United States

**Observer organizations:** UN, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, League of Arab States and Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Speaking Countries

(Source: www.s-cica.org)

Century Maritime Silk Road strategies China recently raised. The two initiatives have become an important driving force for economic cooperation among CICA members.

#### Assuming a larger role

The Shanghai summit is the first CICA leaders' meeting China has held. Analysts claimed that the event hints that China is ushering in a new stage of diplomacy.

"China has successfully hosted several large international forums on the economy before, but never such a large-scale security forum, which doesn't match China's position as the world's second largest economy," said Li.

Li added that as the largest regional economic power in Asia, China's actions should match its new status, including assuming larger responsibility for promoting regional security and development. Yang of the CASS said that the final declaration reached at the CICA Summit shows that the event has been successful.

The CICA has provided an important opportunity for China to promote multilateral diplomacy at home, Yang added.

In addition to the CICA Summit, China will host the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November in Beijing,

Yang said, "We have noticed the new changes of China's diplomacy. Under the new generation of leadership, China is becoming more active diplomatically and is more willing to increase its voice on the world stage."

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