

# 中华人民共和国成立74周年

The 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of  
The People's Republic of China

1949 - 2023



Over 66 years of Strengthened Diplomatic Relations  
between China and Sri Lanka !!!

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Sri Lanka



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# Message by H.E. Ambassador Qi Zhenhong on the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China



Dear Sri Lankan brothers and sisters,  
**Ayubowan! Vanakkam!**

Today, we are celebrating the 74<sup>th</sup> National Day of the People's Republic of China, which was established on October 1st, 1949 under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China.

Over the past 74 years, China has made historic achievements. The average life expectancy has increased from 35 to 78 years, a rapid growth of more than 120%. The average years of schooling has increased from 1.6 to 10.9 years. The per capita GDP exceeded 12,700 US dollars, a growth of more than 550 times. China has also lifted 800 million people out of poverty, historically eradicated absolute poverty, and built a moderately prosperous

society in all respects.

Over the past 74 years, China has always been committed to global peace and development. China is the second largest contributor to the UN regular budget and peacekeeping assessments, and the largest troop-contributing country among the permanent members of the UN Security Council. As the world's second largest economy, China makes itself a major trading partner of over 140 countries and regions, and its contribution to global growth was over 30 percent in the past decade. According to the IMF, China is set to account for around one third of global growth in 2023, and a 1% increase in China's GDP leads to 0.3 % growth in Asia.

Over the past 74 years, no matter how the world changes, China and Sri Lanka have always respected, supported, and learnt from each other. China's friendly policy towards Sri Lanka is for all political parties and all people of Sri Lanka and maintains continuity and stability. There are countless examples from the Rubber Rice Pact to the UN Human Rights Council, from the BMICH, the Supreme Court Complex to the Nelum Pokuna Theatre, from the Polonnaruwa Kidney Disease Hospital to the National Hospital's new OPD Building. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19, especially when Sri Lanka was faced with the economic crisis last year, China has been supporting Sri Lanka to the best of its ability. It includes not only providing emergency assistance from all walks of life in China, but also being the first to help Sri Lanka to properly deal with its various debt issues. I would like to further stress that China's assistance to Sri Lanka is offered without any condition and any interference in Sri Lanka's internal affairs.

More importantly, China has always been the strongest partner for Sri Lanka to achieve its sustainable development and move out of the "Trap of non-development", and to safeguard its sovereignty, independence, national dignity and unique civilization. Time has proven again that China will always be Sri Lanka's most trustworthy good friend, good partner and good brother! Let's join hands to enhance our mutual political trust, mutual economic cooperation, mutual people-to-people exchanges, and safeguard our common interests and safety together.

**I wish for the prosperity of  
China and Sri Lanka.  
May the triple-gem bless you!  
Thank you!**



Qi Zhenhong  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of  
the People's Republic of China to the  
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



## TRUE FRIENDSHIP SUPPORTING FOREVER



Bandaranaik Memorial International Conference Hall or commonly referred to as BMICH, is the first purpose-built conference center in Asia. In 1973, the Chinese government gifted this remarkable establishment to Sri Lanka, as a tribute to the late Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, the Hon. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike.



The Nelum Pokuna Theatre, formerly known as the National Performing Arts Theatre, constructed under the China Aid program, was gifted to the Sri Lankan Government in 2011. Since its inauguration, the theatre has already become a hub for cultural activities in Sri Lanka.



Constructed with the support of the Chinese grant in the 1980s, the Sri Lanka Superior Courts Complex located in Hulftsdorp, Colombo has served as the epicenter of Sri Lanka's judicial system for over three decades. Currently, the building complex is undergoing an extensive refurbishment with the Chinese assistance.



The China-aided Outpatient Building Project of National Hospital of Sri Lanka was officially handed over to Ministry of Health in April, 2023. As the largest grant project ever completed by China for Sri Lanka, this remarkable 8-story OPD building will provide daily health services to approximately 6,000 patients.



In June 2021, the China-Sri Lanka Friendship National Nephrology Specialized Hospital in Polonnaruwa, built with the assistance of the Chinese government, was officially inaugurated. As the largest specialized nephrology hospital in South Asia, it features 200 general inpatient beds and 100 hemodialysis beds.



The China-Sri Lanka Joint Research and Demonstration Center for Water Technology (JRDC), situated in the University of Peradeniya, is the first China-aided technological project in Sri Lanka. Since its establishment in early 2021, JRDC has emerged as South Asia's preeminent research hub dedicated to ensuring the safety of drinking water.



The Kandy North - Pathadumbara Integrated Water Supply Project is currently under construction, funded through a Concessionary Loan provided by the Export-Import Bank of China. This initiative is poised to meet the pressing drinking water needs of an estimated 470,000 individuals by the year 2035.





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## Exchange and Cooperation between China and Sri Lanka

Strong Political, Social, Economic, Cultural & Military Ties between China and Sri Lanka



On July 22, 2023, Dr. Yuan Jiajun, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Secretary of the CPC Chongqing Municipal Committee visited Sri Lanka and met with President Ranil Wickremesinghe.



On August 16, 2023, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena attended the 7<sup>th</sup> China South Asia Expo as Chief Guest.



On August 29, 2023, Speaker of the Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena attended the 2023 Green, Low-carbon, and High-quality Development Conference as Chief Guest.



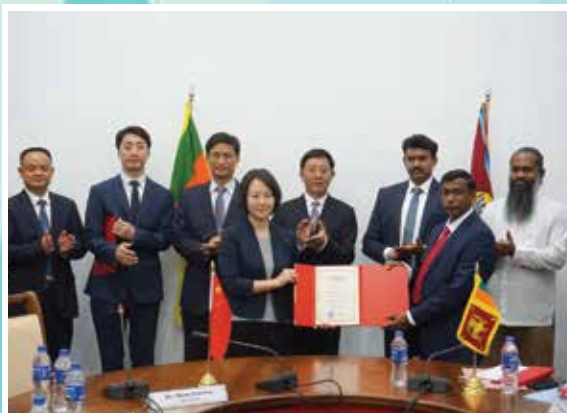
On July 22, 2023, the China (Chongqing) - Sri Lanka Roundtable on Poverty Alleviation and Development Cooperation was held at the Temple Trees, Colombo.



From June 24 to 30, 2023, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry paid an official visit to China.



On May 30, 2023, the 12<sup>th</sup> China-Sri Lanka Diplomatic Consultation was held in Colombo.



From May 16 to 20, 2023, Governor of Yunnan Province Wang Yubo visited Colombo and the Eastern Province, Sri Lanka.



From January 14 to 18, 2023, a CPC delegation, led by Chen Zhou, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, visited Sri Lanka.



From November 12 to 15, 2022, Lin Songtian, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFC) visited Sri Lanka.



On October 16, 2022, Sri Lankan political parties' leaders witnessed the live broadcasting of the Opening of the 20<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China.



From April 18 to 27, 2023, Sri Lankan ruling parties delegation visited Beijing, Yunnan and Fujian.



From June 24 to 30, 2023, a delegation of the Sri Lanka-China Parliamentary Friendship Association visited Beijing, Zhejiang and Guangdong.



On December 27, 2022, the launching ceremony of the Faxian Charity Project was held at the Abhayagiri Viharaya in Anuradhapura with the presence of Speaker Mahinda Abeywardena.



On April 6, 2023, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena attended the Faxian Charity Project at the Gangaramaya Temple.



On March 26, 2023 during Ramadan, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry distributed dry ration packs under the Faxian Charity Project at the Kollupitiya Jumma Masjid.



On the eve of Sinhalese and Tamil New Year 2023, dry ration packs were distributed in Temples and Kovils in Nuwara Eliya.



On June 28, 2023, most Ven. Warakagoda Gnanarathana, Mahanayake Thero of the Asgiri Chapter attended the Faxian Charity Project distribution ceremony in Uva Province.



On October 23, 2022, Ambassador Qi Zhenhong and former President Maithripala Sirisena distributed vegetables seeds and fruits trees saplings to the needy farmers in Polonnaruwa.



On December 28, 2022, the Red Cross Society of China donated dry food rations to the underprivileged families in the Northern Province in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Red Cross.



On April 28, 2023, Ambassador Qi Zhenhong attended the Awarding Ceremony of the Sri Chandananda Buddhist College in Kandy.



During the Vesak Festival 2023, over 50 senior Bhikkhus from all the main Buddhist Chapters visited the Colombo Port City.



On May 8, 2023, All Island Budda Sasana Council jointed an open and inclusive dialogue with Ambassador Qi Zhenhong at the Chinese Embassy in Colombo.



On June 6, 2023, the Chinese Embassy hosted appreciation reception for the Sri Lankan rescue mission of Chinese capsized fishing vessel Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028.



On February 5, 2023, China-Sri Lanka Friendship Cup football tournament was held in Colombo.



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On July 31, 2023, the commencement ceremony for the Comprehensive Refurbishment Project of the Sri Lanka Superior Courts Complex took place in Colombo, marking the beginning of a transformative journey for this iconic complex with Chinese assistance.



On July 3, 2023, Air China resumed its three weekly flights between the newly constructed Tianfu International Airport in Chengdu and BIA in Colombo.



Starting from May 23, 2023, 4.05 million liters of kerosene were distributed to Sri Lankan fishermen, as part of China's 500 million RMB emergency assistance to Sri Lanka.



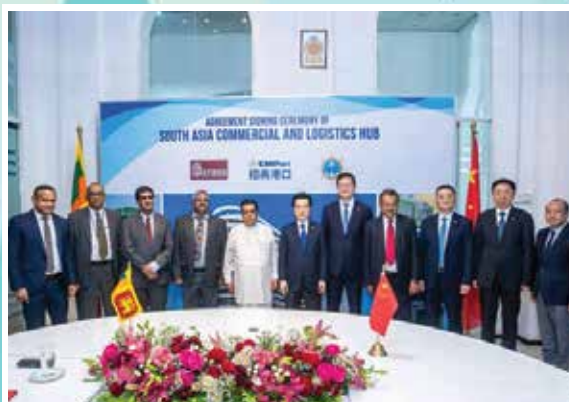
On May 22, 2023, Sinopec entered into the long-term contract with the Ministry of Power and Energy of Sri Lanka for importation, storage, distribution and sale of petroleum products, a historic move to ensure steady and uninterrupted fuel supply as well as energy security for Sri Lanka.



On April 25, 2023, the China-aided Outpatient Building Project of National Hospital of Sri Lanka was officially handed over to the Ministry of Health, providing daily health services to approximately 6,000 patients.



On April 23, 2023, a grand Signing and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of 15 projects was held at the Hambantota International Port, covering many sectors including shipping services, logistics, manufacturing, retail etc.



On April 21, 2023, China Merchants Group signed an agreement with SLPA to jointly build the South Asia Commercial and Logistics Hub in Colombo, with the total investment of approximately USD 392 million.



On March 2, 2023, the second shipment of Chinese donated school uniform material arrived in Colombo port. Altogether, 70% of school uniforms for students all over Sri Lanka in 2023, is fully covered by the Chinese grant, and 3.4 million students in total will directly benefit from it.



Early 2023, 7 million liters of diesel gifted by the Chinese government to Sri Lankan paddy farmers for the Maha season harvest have been distributed across the island.



On January 10, 2023, Wu Fulin, Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of China, held a fruitful video conference with H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe, President and Minister of Finance of Sri Lanka, and exchanged views on bilateral cooperation and Sri Lanka's current debt issues.



From June 2022 to Jan. 2023, large quantities of 18 most needed medicines were delivered to Sri Lanka as part of China's 500 million RMB emergency assistance, to ensure the continuous provision of vital medical services during challenging times.



From June to December 2022, 10,000 metric tons of rice were delivered to Sri Lanka as part of China's 500 million RMB emergency assistance, to support the school meal program for 1.1 million Sri Lankan children in 7,900 schools across the country.



On Sept. 26, 2022, the Commissioning Ceremony of 8 Kidney Disease Screening Vehicles was held in Colombo. The 660 million rupees worth CKD (Chronic Kidney Disease) mobile labs, were donated by the Chinese government to help Sri Lanka with the early screening and detection of CKD, especially for potential patients living in remote or underprivileged areas.



On July 24, 2023, Celebration of the 96th Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army was held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Colombo.



On August 22, 2023, the Signing Ceremony and Acceptance Ceremony of the Emergency Command and Communication System Vehicles by the Sri Lanka Army from China was held at the Sri Lanka Army Headquarters.



On January 3, 2023, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Sri Lanka started the new year with the distribution of 500 study packs worth of Rs. 3.5 Million to needy students in Sri Lanka with the assistance of the Sri Lanka China Society.



On January 19, 2023, a cultural ceremony to celebrate the Spring Festival organized by ASLCSCC was held at President Girls College, Nawala, Colombo.



On February 7, 2023, the "Happy Spring Festival" Lantern Festival Party was held by the Confucius Classroom at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.



On May 15, 2023, 01st National Youth Wushu Championship 2023 Final was held at the National Youth Center Stadium in Maharagama.



On May 26, 2023, a grand joint performance by Performing Troupe from Yunnan Province China and Ministry of Buddhasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs of Sri Lanka was held at Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksha Theatre in Colombo.



On June 1, 2023, the 22nd "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign University Undergraduates Final Round Award Ceremony was held at the Dharmaloka Hall, University of Kelaniya.



On June 21, 2023, "Tell China Stories", an event in celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival, was held at the China Cultural Center in Sri Lanka.



On August 3, 2023, 2023/2024 Chinese Government Scholarship Awarding Ceremony was held at the Chinese Embassy. 34 Sri Lankan students received the scholarship.

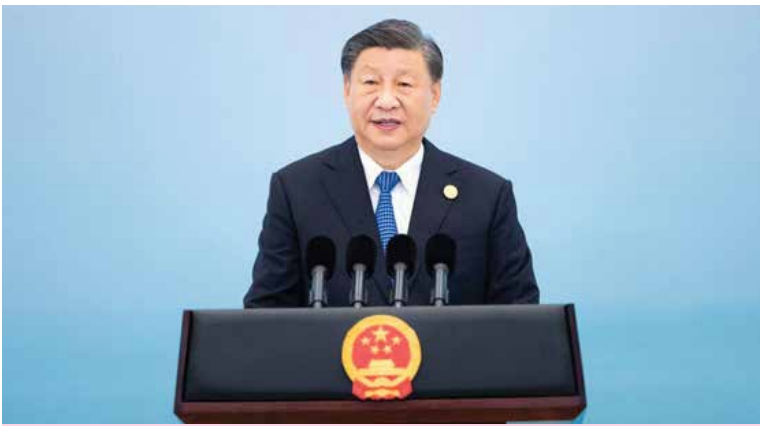


## 中华人民共和国成立74周年

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### President Xi Focus: Xi welcomes Hangzhou Asiad guests, highlighting sports' role in promoting peace, solidarity, inclusiveness

Source: Xinhua  
Editor: huaxia



Chinese President Xi Jinping addresses a welcoming banquet in Hangzhou, capital city of east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, on Saturday hosted a banquet here to welcome guests who will attend the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

HANGZHOU, Sept. 23 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday hosted a banquet to welcome guests who are gathering in the scenic city of Hangzhou to attend the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games.

At a dining hall near the famed West Lake, Xi addressed the welcoming banquet in honor of guests including King Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia, President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of Kuwait, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda of Nepal, Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao of Timor-Leste, Prime Minister Han Duck-soo of the Republic of Korea, and Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat of Malaysia Johari bin Abdul.

Xi, on behalf of the Chinese government and people, and in the name of his wife Peng Liyuan and himself, extended a warm welcome to the guests.

The Chinese president talked beyond the Games, highlighting the sports' role in promoting peace, solidarity and inclusiveness among countries and peoples.

#### PEACE, UNITY, INCLUSIVENESS

The Asian Games embodies the Asian people's shared desire for peace, unity and inclusiveness. It has been a witness, participant and

contributor of the Asian miracle -- the overall stability and rapid and sustained economic growth over the past decades, Xi said.

As members of a community with a shared future, Asian countries should pursue good neighborliness and mutual benefit, and reject the Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation, making Asia an anchor of world peace, the Chinese president said.

On unity, Xi said as humanity faces unprecedented global challenges, Asian people should seize the historic opportunity and jointly stand up to the challenges so as to open up broader prospects for the Asian road toward common development, openness and integration.

On inclusiveness, Xi stressed the efforts to promote inclusiveness through sports, enhance confidence in Asian civilizations, pursue exchanges and mutual learning, and renew the glory of Asian civilizations.

Asia is a region with diverse cultures, and the Asiad is a great opportunity for the athletes and delegations to further deepen mutual understanding and exchanges through the bond of sports, said Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, vice president of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand.

#### SPECTACULAR EVENT

With all 45 members of the Olympic Council of Asia sending over 12,000 athletes to the Games, the Hangzhou Asiad is already the Asiad with the most participants, most sports and largest overall scale.

The Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Palestine have each sent the largest delegation in their history of the Asian Games.

On Saturday evening, the opening ceremony will be staged in the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium, a lotus-shaped facility capable of seating over 80,000 people. Including the main stadium, a total of 56 sporting venues will host 481 Asiad events.

At Saturday's banquet, Xi said the cauldron for the Asian Games will light up again in China on the Autumn Equinox, a day symbolizing harvest and reunion in Chinese culture.

He said China has earnestly fulfilled its commitments and made every effort for the preparation of the Games.

"China will deliver a great event that is distinctly Chinese, uniquely Asian and spectacular," Xi said.

The Chinese president also expressed his confidence in the event's success when meeting with both Acting President of the Olympic

Council of Asia Raja Randhir Singh and International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach before the opening ceremony.

"I believe we will have the greatest ever Asiad," Singh has said during an interview. This will be the third Asiad in China following the Beijing games in 1990 and the Guangzhou games in 2010.

Hangzhou, the host city of the 19th Asiad in Zhejiang Province, was once hailed by Italian traveler Marco Polo as "the City of Heaven, the finest and the noblest in the world." Xi wished all Asiad guests an unforgettable experience in Zhejiang and a fond memory of the Games.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, pose for photo with guests during a welcoming banquet in Hangzhou, capital city of east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan on Saturday hosted a banquet here to welcome guests who will attend the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)



Delegation of Sri Lanka parade into the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023.

Best Wishes & Warm Greetings for  
**The 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Founding of  
The People's Republic of China**

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Power Construction Corporation of China (POWERCHINA) is a leading integrated construction group that provides planning design, engineering construction, equipment manufacturing, investment and financing, and operation management for muge infrastructure projects. Its principal businesses cover energy and power, water and irrigation related facilities, water ecological environmental governance, express way, railway, harbour and airport development, building construction and lease of related equipment. POWERCHINA ranked 105th among the Fortune Global 500 in 2023.

POWERCHINA has been operating in Sri Lanka for more than two decades and completed 14 projects including the Moragahakanda Reservoir Headworks, Kaluganga Reservoir Headworks etc.. Currently, we are implementing 5 projects including the Kandy North-Pathadumbara Integrated Water Supply Project and actively seeking opportunities in renewable energy sector.

We carry out multilateral financial cooperation, actively engaging in investment and financing ventures. We welcome various collaboration models, and looking forward to expanding business ties with Sri Lankan companies.

POWERCHINA ranked 105<sup>th</sup> in the Fortune Global 500 in 2023

FORTUNE  
**500**

**105**

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Global Contractors in 2023

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On the ENR lists of Top 250  
International Contractors in 2023

**8**  
ranked

On the ENR lists of Top 225  
International Design Firms in 2023

**1**  
ranked

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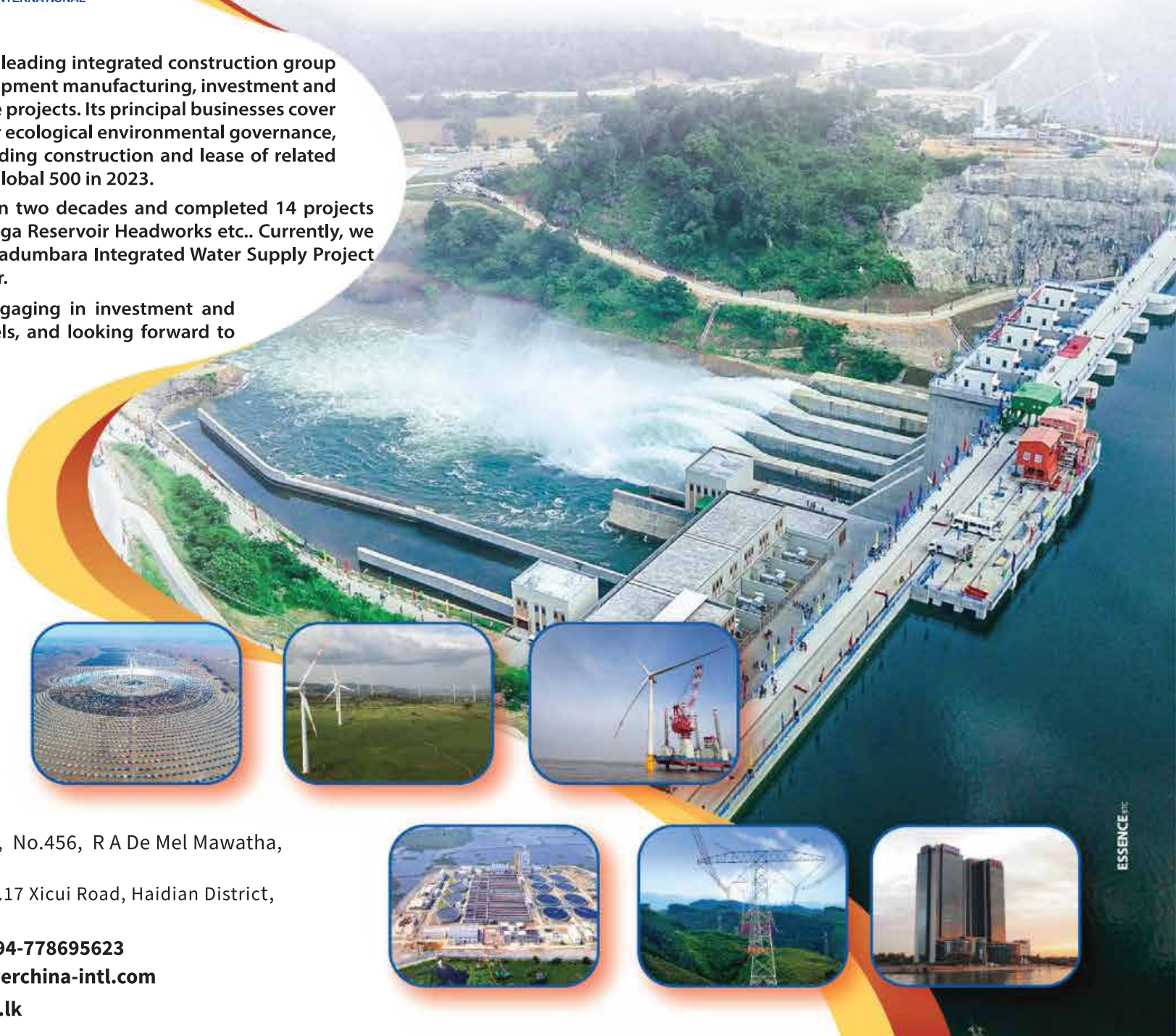
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## CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 74<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



## Opening ceremony of 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou

Source: Xinhua  
Editor: huaxia



Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium is lighted during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Cheng Tingting)



Flag bearers carry the Chinese national flag into the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Jia Haocheng)



The flag of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and the Chinese national flag are raised during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Zhu Zheng)



Flags are seen during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Meng Chenguang)



A member of the delegation of Sri Lanka parades into the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Wei Peiquan)



Artists perform during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Xu Yu)



Artists perform during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Xu Yu)



Artists perform during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Du Yu)



Artists perform during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Song Yanhua)



Artists perform during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Chen Yichen)



Artists perform during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Xu Yu)



Virtual fireworks display is seen during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, Sept. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Yang Lei)

## Ten years on, China-South Asia trade doubles on closer ties

2023-08-17 Source: Xinhua  
Editor: huaxia

- \* The ongoing China-South Asia Expo has attracted more than 30,000 exhibitors.
- \* The expo has witnessed the China-South Asia trade volume double in 10 years.
- \* Greater interconnectivity across the region has boosted investment.

KUNMING, Aug. 17 (Xinhua) — The ongoing seventh China-South Asia Expo has attracted more than 30,000 exhibitors, representatives, and guests from 85 countries and regions to attend online and offline.

Themed "Solidarity and Coordination for Common Development," the five-day expo has set up 15 exhibition pavilions, with various kinds of events, such as a cooperation forum and a business forum, scheduled to be held.

Over the past 10 years, the expo has witnessed closer ties between China and South Asia, with the trade volume

between China and South Asian countries doubling.

When the first expo took place in 2013, the trade volume between China and South Asian countries amounted to less than 100 billion U.S. dollars, but the figure reached 197.4 billion U.S. dollars last year, with an average annual growth rate of 8.3 percent.



This photo taken on Aug. 16, 2023 shows a view of Southeast Asia Pavilion at the seventh China-South Asia Expo in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province. (Xinhua/Chen Xinbo)

Gem dealer Mohamed Rikas from Sri Lanka sensed business opportunities at the very first expo in 2013 and has attended every expo since then.

"I value China's huge market and purchasing power of Chinese people," he said, adding that more and more gem dealers from Sri Lanka attend the expo.

Liu Ruini has served as the interpreter of Rikas' booth since 2018. "We have become friends and haven't met in three years because of the pandemic. So I immediately agreed to interpret for him this year," said Liu, adding that she took another four friends as interpreters at different booths this year.

After 10 years of development, the comprehensive expo integrating trade, investment, tourism cooperation, and cultural exchanges has

become a name card of exchanges and cooperation between China and South Asian countries and other countries.

With the China-Laos Railway that started cross-border passenger services in April, legions of attendees use the train as their preferred transportation to the expo. "The China-Laos Railway is expected to serve as a bridge to connect China and Laos, and the grand gathering of the China-South Asia Expo will see more fruitful results," said Muhammad Fazle Rabby from Bangladesh, who took the train to arrive in China.

As of Aug. 15, the Mohan entry-exit border had handled 246 cross-border passenger trains from China and Laos, carrying 52,888 passengers from 53 countries and regions.



The Lane Xang passenger train of the China-Laos Railway runs past a maintenance center in Luang Prabang, Laos, March 30, 2023. (Photo by Zhou Xing/Xinhua)

Since China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, the interconnectivity between China and South Asian countries has been greatly enhanced.

For example, the Yunnan airport group has launched over 10 cargo air routes covering destinations in cities in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Greater interconnectivity across the region has also boosted investment.

Figures show that China's cumulative investment in South Asia has reached nearly 15 billion U.S. dollars, and the turnover of completed contracted projects has exceeded 200 billion U.S. dollars. Wang Liping, an official with the Ministry of Commerce, said China and South Asian countries account for one-fifth of the global economy.

"With vibrant trade and investment and the unlocked potential for cooperation, an industrial chain and supply chain system featuring interconnectedness has taken shape here," Wang added.

## Celebrating the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

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2023-09-20 Source: Xinhua

Editor: huaxia

## China's economic growth defies Western naysayers

\* China's economy has continued to recover on a generally sound track of rebound.

\* Seeing the rosy picture of the country's steady recovery, many international observers have pointed out that the Chinese economy is resilient, vigorous, and poised to secure an overall upward trend.

\* Buoyed by emerging competitive industries and sectors, China's economy is transforming from high-speed growth to high-quality growth.

BEIJING, Sept. 20 (Xinhua) -- China's retail sales of consumer goods, a major indicator of consumption strength, went up 4.6 percent year on year in August, 2.1 percentage points faster than the previous month, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed last Friday.

When some in the West once again bad-mouthed China's economy, many international observers say otherwise. Seeing the rosy picture of the country's steady recovery, they have pointed out that the Chinese economy is resilient, vigorous, and poised to secure an overall upward trend.



People visit the ancient city wall scenic spot in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, April 30, 2023. (Photo by Zou Jingyi/Xinhua)

### STEADY RECOVERY

China's economy has continued to recover on a generally sound track of rebound. In the first half of this year, China's GDP recorded a 5.5-percent growth, notably faster than last year's 3 percent, and the fastest among major economies. The IMF predicted that China's economy will grow by 5.2 percent this year, and contribute one-third of the world growth.

China's value-added industrial output, an important economic indicator, went up 4.5 percent year on year in August, latest data showed. The figure for the service production index is 6.8 percent, 1.1 percentage points faster than last month.

"All indications point to a healthy growth," Khairy Tourk, professor of economics at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, told Xinhua in a recent interview.



A worker inspects a vehicle before it rolls off the production line at an automobile manufacturing factory in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, Jan. 14, 2023. (Photo by Zhang Jingang/Xinhua)

Speaking of what is at play here, he said Chinese policymakers are well known for their long-term thinking.

In early September, China set up a bureau under the country's top economic planner specializing in promoting the private economy's development. This followed a raft of policies to ramp up the growth of the sector.

"The resilience of the Chinese economy can be attributed to targeted policies designed to bolster growth, such as the recent unveiling of 31 measures by the central government to stimulate the development of private companies," said Luigi Gambardella, chairman of the China-Europe Digital Association.

He believes that looking in the long run, China still enjoys a promising future of long-term growth.

More signs show the economy is rebounding. "Domestic tourism is broadly picking up. Car sales in China are still up this year despite a small decline in June and July. Alibaba just reported a return to strong sales growth in its second-quarter results," The Financial Times wrote in its recent markets insights.

### TRANSITION FOR THE BETTER

Buoyed by emerging competitive industries and sectors, China's economy is transforming from high-speed growth to high-quality growth. This is making the economy more durable.

The first seven months of this year saw China's investment in high-tech industries climb 11.5 percent from last year, notably faster than the growth of its overall investment. In July, the output of solar cells and new energy vehicle products grew by 65.1 percent and 24.9 percent respectively.



Employees work at a solar energy battery workshop of Shine Earth New Energy Co., Ltd. in Nan'an, Quanzhou City, southeast China's Fujian Province, June 17, 2023. (Xinhua/Liu Yongzhen)

Commenting on the new drivers of China's economy, Nasdaq Vice Chairman Robert McCooley said the next generation of companies that are focused on some of the most innovative technologies are being built there in China.

"People were continuing to build innovative businesses, and it shows why the Chinese economy continues to be so strong, and one that will continue to be strong for decades to come," McCooley told the U.S.-China Business Forum recently held in New York.

"You are talking about an economy that generates more engineers than any other country in the world every year, and so from innovation, I think there are going to be opportunities (for investment)," said Jenny Johnson, president and chief executive officer at global investment management firm Franklin Templeton.

Spiked, a British Internet magazine on politics, culture and society, holds that China's resilience to disruptions is different from the West primarily because of the strength of its production fundamentals. China is still unquestionably the world's manufacturing superpower, responsible for nearly 29 percent of global manufacturing output, the magazine said in an article.

China "currently leads the world in the production of electric vehicles, electric car batteries, 5G telecommunications equipment, commercial drones, Internet of Things devices, mobile payments and solar cells," which are "indicators of China's continuing economic durability," it said.

### UNTENABLE RHETORIC

"I don't actually buy the notion that the Chinese economy is in serious systemic trouble," Chris Torrens, vice chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce in China, said recently in an interview on Bloomberg Television.

Cont. next pg

*Congratulations*  
on the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of  
**THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**



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ESSENCE



# 中华人民共和国成立74周年

The 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of  
The People's Republic of China  
1949 - 2023

## How ancient city on Silk Road attracts global fans

2023-09-06 Source: Xinhua  
Editor: huaxia

From last pg

Rather, its growth is moving in the right direction as consumer spending picks up, he said.

It is an overhyped idea that investment opportunities in China have met their demise, Franklin Templeton CEO Johnson told a session at the Forbes Global CEO Conference in Singapore.

Against naysayers, more have faith in China's potential.

"If we take the experience of other developed economies as a reference ... then China's middle-income group has the potential to double from its current size," South China Morning Post recently said in an article.

The outlook will make China an irresistible market for multinational companies, it noted



A transport vehicle delivers the installed power battery system parts at a workshop of SAIC-CATL Motor Power Battery System Co., Ltd. in Changzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, Feb. 16, 2023. (Xinhua/Li Bo)

In a July opinion piece for New York Times, Nobel laureate economist Paul Krugman said that the Chinese economy is still well behind the technological frontier, so it should have better prospects for rapid productivity growth.

"More American friends have come to realize that the notion that China could economically collapse ... is utter fantasy," Chinese Ambassador to the United States Xie Feng wrote in a recent article published by The Washington Post.

Regarding the surfacing now and then of predictions that China's economy will collapse, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said, "What has collapsed is such rhetoric, not China's economy."

(Video reporters: Wang Yaguang, Fu Min, Chen Wang, Sun Qing, You Zhixin, Xie Zhao, Mu Xuyao, Ruan Shuai, Xu Jian, Li Shuai, Zheng Xin, Wang Pu, Hao Jie, Deng Haoran, Mao Zhenhua, Song Rui, Fang Jinyang, Zhao Yang; video editors: Zhang Yucheng, Zhang Yuhong, Zhang Li, Liu Ruoshi, Lin Lin)

\* Dunhuang studies and the preservation of Dunhuang's cultural relics have vigorously developed, and the ancient city with more than 2,000 years of history has gradually evolved into a world-renowned cultural and artistic treasure house.

\* The protection of cultural relics in Dunhuang is also flourishing, securing the participation of an increasing number of young people and sci-tech professionals.

\* Dunhuang culture is not only a popular academic topic but also a prevalent cultural label. It has an extensive fan base in China and abroad, particularly among young people.

LANZHOU, Sept. 6 (Xinhua) -- Pronkina Olga, a 37-year-old Russian professor at the Gansu University of Political Science and Law, is a huge fan of Dunhuang and has a strong bond with this ancient city on the Silk Road.

Her connection with Dunhuang began 16 years ago when she watched a performance of Dunhuang dance in her hometown in Russia's Penza. The dance performance drew inspiration from the murals in the Mogao Grottoes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu Province.

The thrilling performance piqued her interest in Dunhuang culture, and so she later travelled to China to study Dunhuang culture. This year, she was invited to an academic symposium on the global significance of Dunhuang Studies in the city.



Tourists visit the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu Province, May 11, 2023. (Xinhua/Ma Xiping)

"Culture can connect different countries, religions, and nationalities. My life is rich and colorful because it is connected by cultures," she said. She is not alone.

The study of cultural relics based on the Dunhuang grottoes and related documents has inspired the formation of an internationally distinguished discipline of Dunhuang studies since the cultural treasures of Dunhuang were rediscovered at the beginning of the 20th century.

Dunhuang studies and the preservation of Dunhuang's cultural relics have vigorously developed, and the ancient city with more than 2,000 years of history has gradually evolved into a world-renowned cultural and artistic treasure house. With collaborative efforts of academic circles both at home and abroad, a wealth of outstanding academic achievements and a large number of international academic cooperation projects have emerged.

The protection of cultural relics in Dunhuang is also flourishing, securing the participation of an increasing number of young people and sci-tech professionals. Cultural relics protection technology and standards developed by the Dunhuang Academy are also assisting cultural relics preservation efforts beyond the region.

"Chinese civilization, represented by Dunhuang culture, has flourished for thousands of years, and one important reason is its continuous exchanges with other cultures," said Zhao Shengliang, Party chief of the Dunhuang Academy. Dunhuang culture is not only a popular academic topic but also a prevalent cultural label. It has an extensive fan base in China and abroad, particularly among young people.

According to statistics, the number of tourists visiting Dunhuang's main scenic spots increased by nearly 30 percent this summer compared to the same period in 2019. This tourist destination has made several social media headlines this year.



Tourists ride camels at the Mingsha Mountain and Crescent Spring scenic spot in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu Province, July 15, 2023. (Photo by Zhang Xiaoliang/Xinhua)

For instance, tourists may have to queue for hours to ride camels, and then line up to get across a desert crossroads, while people dressed in traditional costumes playing gods and goddesses from mural images are frequently seen in museums and scenic spots, garnering a lot of attention on social media.

In the meantime, an upgraded version of the Dunhuang dance Olga saw back home and an array of immersive performances based on Dunhuang art are well received in the city, while audiences were considerable during the peak season for tourists.

Local institutions and companies have developed creative cultural products, including brooches, refrigerator magnets, and bookmarks based on Dunhuang cultural elements such as nine-colored deer, flying apsaras, and caisson decorative patterns, which sell well in Dunhuang and online stores. Dunhuang is also a golden business card for China's fine traditional culture to facilitate international communication and dialogue among civilizations.



Attendees visit an exhibition themed on Dunhuang culture at the sixth Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu Province, Sept. 6, 2023. (Xinhua/Ma Xiping)

This year marks the sixth Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo, which was founded in 2016.

More than 50 countries, regions, and international organizations took part in this year's expo, with more than 1,200 guests from home and abroad attending a series of forums and exhibitions.

Olga is taking part in the expo for the third time. Different forms and activities of exchange, such as theatrical performances, cultural trade, and cultural tourism experiences, in Olga's opinion, are conducive to promoting people-to-people bonds in countries and regions along the Belt and Road. As for the charm of Dunhuang, Olga sees her experience as a most eloquent example. "My life is inextricably linked to Dunhuang culture," she explained.



## A Beacon of Hope for Global Cooperation

Celebrating the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of The People's Republic of China

by Nalin Aponso President of Sri Lanka China Journalists' Forum.

On the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on October 1, 1949, we take a moment to reflect upon the extraordinary journey this nation has embarked upon, and the pivotal role that interpersonal relationships have played in shaping its progress. The modern history of China is a testament to unwavering determination, visionary leadership, and a steadfast commitment to eradicating poverty while fostering prosperity, both within its borders and far beyond.

China's ascent to a global powerhouse has been shepherded by a series of visionary leaders, with President Xi Jinping assuming the mantle in 2012. Under his stewardship, China has achieved remarkable milestones, with the elimination of extreme poverty standing out as a particularly remarkable achievement. This monumental feat underscores the Chinese government's resolute dedication to enhancing the living conditions of its citizens, ensuring that no one is left behind.

The magnitude of this accomplishment cannot be overstated. In a nation with a population exceeding 1.4 billion, the eradication of extreme poverty demanded meticulous planning, precisely targeted policies, and an unflinching commitment to the principles of social justice. China's success in this endeavor exemplifies the efficacy of its governance model and its ability to respond effectively to the needs of its populace.

China's commitment to improving lives extends well beyond its own borders. President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) serves as a testament to China's dedication to cultivating robust interpersonal relationships with nations across the globe. Through BRI, China has invested significantly in infrastructure development, trade connectivity, and cultural exchange, particularly along the envisioned routes. This initiative holds the potential to transform the economic prospects of participating nations and heralds an era of shared prosperity. It underscores the notion that progress should not be the preserve of a single nation but a collective endeavor that benefits all.

In Sri Lanka, we have borne witness to the palpable impact of the BRI. Projects such as the Colombo Port City and the Hambantota Port have not only bolstered our infrastructure but have also generated employment opportunities for our citizens. These initiatives stand as a testament to the enduring friendship between our two nations and our shared belief in prosperity through collaborative efforts.

Understanding the intricacies of Chinese politics and actively engaging with China are indispensable steps toward fostering a more equitable and harmonious global order that values shared ideals. China's role on the world stage has expanded significantly in recent decades, and its influence in shaping the international system is undeniable. It is incumbent upon us to emphasize a few imperative points.

In today's interconnected world, no nation can exist in isolation. Understanding Chinese politics is paramount because China plays a pivotal role in international affairs, influencing global economics, security, and diplomacy. Engaging with China signifies active participation in the global discourse and cooperative action on global challenges.

The cultivation of mutual understanding and trust is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among nations. By comprehending the intricacies of China's political

system, its historical context, and its objectives, other nations can foster more meaningful dialogues and establish stronger relationships with China rooted in trust and mutual respect.

Despite differences in political systems and cultural values, there exist shared ideals such as peace, stability, economic prosperity, and respect for human rights. Engaging with China on these common values can contribute to the creation of a more equitable world order where cooperation prevails over conflict.

Many of the world's most pressing challenges, including climate change, pandemics, and terrorism, necessitate international cooperation. China's active involvement is indispensable in effectively addressing these issues. A profound understanding of Chinese politics facilitates more effective collaboration in finding global solutions.

China stands as a global economic giant, and its economic policies have far-reaching implications for the world economy. Engaging with China on trade and economic matters is essential for achieving fairness, transparency, and sustainability in the global economic framework.

Understanding China's political motivations and objectives can play a pivotal role in preventing or resolving conflicts. Diplomacy and dialogue serve as key tools in managing disputes and ensuring global peace in an increasingly complex world.

China's active participation in international organizations and forums, such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, underscores the importance of engaging with China to fortify multilateralism. These institutions are crucial in upholding global norms and rules.

It is imperative to underscore that understanding Chinese politics and actively engaging with China are not mere options but essential prerequisites for forging a more equitable world order. By fostering deeper comprehension, nurturing mutual trust, and advancing shared values, nations can collaborate to create a global milieu where cooperation, equity, and respect for diverse perspectives culminate in a more harmonious world for all. Engaging with China is a critical stride toward realizing this noble aspiration for a shared, equitable world order.

As President of the Sri Lanka China Journalists Forum, I am heartened by the burgeoning interpersonal relations between our nations. Educational and cultural exchanges, media collaboration, and the growing number of Chinese tourists visiting Sri Lanka all contribute to cultivating greater understanding and friendship.

On this auspicious occasion of China's National Day, let us celebrate the remarkable journey of the People's Republic of China and the pivotal role of interpersonal relationships in shaping its destiny. Let us also recognize the Chinese government's unwavering commitment to eradicating poverty domestically and its resolute dedication to enhancing the livelihoods of nations worldwide through the Belt and Road Initiative. As we look to the future, may our two nations continue to labor together in the spirit of cooperation, friendship, and shared prosperity! Happy 74th Anniversary, People's Republic of China!!

Nalin Aponso

President

Sri Lanka - China Journalists' Forum.

### Our warmest Greetings & Best Wishes

on the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of  
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# 中华人民共和国成立74周年

The 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of  
The People's Republic of China  
1949 - 2023

## China advances opening-up of service sector to unleash growth potential

2023-09-02 Source: Xinhua  
Editor: huaxia

\* China on Saturday pledged to advance the opening-up of its service sector.  
\* Eighty-three countries and international organizations are attending the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services, and more than 2,400 companies are participating in offline exhibitions.  
\* China's continuous opening up in the services trade would unleash further growth opportunities for global businesses.  
BEIJING, Sept. 2 (Xinhua) -- China on Saturday pledged to advance the opening-up of its service sector, a resolute move to unleash growth potential and share business opportunities with countries and enterprises worldwide.  
Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a series of measures for expanding the opening up of services sector while addressing the Global Trade in Services Summit of the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) via video. Themed "Opening-up leads development, cooperation delivers the future," the 2023 CIFTIS is being held in Beijing from Sept. 2 to 6 and features over 200 varied events, including forums, negotiations, and summits.



This photo taken on Sept. 1, 2023 shows an interior view of the China National Convention Center in Beijing, capital of China. (Xinhua/Hao Jianwei)  
Eighty-three countries and international organizations are attending the fair, and more than 2,400 companies are participating in offline exhibitions.

### OPENING UP

To make its development environment more open and inclusive, China will expand the globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas, and actively engage in negotiations on the negative list for trade in services and investment, Xi said. China will open wider in such services areas as telecommunications, tourism, law and vocational examinations, he said.  
"We will widen access to China's services sector, advance the opening up in cross-border services trade in an orderly manner, improve the level of standardization of services trade, and steadily expand institutional opening up," Xi said.  
Xi emphasized that the country will share the outcomes of the Chinese modernization drive with the rest of the world by vigorously boosting domestic demand, accelerating the building of a robust domestic market, taking the initiative to increase the imports of quality services, and encouraging more exports of knowledge-intensive services.  
"We will lend new impetus to global development with the opportunities generated by China's vast market, and offer more and better Chinese services to the world through high-quality development in a bid to increase the sense of gains of people around the world," Xi said.  
The CIFTIS has sent positive signals of China's persistence in economic globalization and embodied China's consistent commitment to sharing development opportunities with the rest of the world, said Jack Chan, chairman of EY China, adding that it plays an important role as a platform for promoting global economic recovery.



This photo taken on Sept. 1, 2023 shows an interior view of the China National Convention Center in Beijing, capital of China. (Xinhua/Ren Chao)  
Jin Xu, president of the China Association of International Trade, believes that the CIFTIS promotes exchanges and cooperation between China and the rest of the world and helps domestic enterprises seek opportunities and tap the potential to advance China's services trade to a new level.

### OPPORTUNITIES

Experts said China's continuous opening up in the services trade would unleash further growth opportunities for global businesses.  
The CIFTIS and further opening up of the service sector would present massive opportunities for many foreign businesses as China's services trade still has enormous growth potential, Li Jun, head of the Institute of International Trade in Services at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, told Xinhua.  
International companies can build ties with trading and investment partners via the platform for long-term cooperation. Other countries can also learn from the CIFTIS and develop their own platforms for trade in services, which would help drive the recovery of global trade and economies, Li said.




The Global Trade in Services Summit of the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) is held in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 2, 2023. (Xinhua/Zhang Yuwei)

The trade in services plays a specific role in stabilizing the global economy when the trade in goods is affected by international uncertainties, said Zhuang Rui, executive dean of the Institute of International Economy at the University of International Business and Economics.  
China's institutional innovations and improved business environment offer a strong guarantee for a booming services trade, Zhuang told Xinhua. In 2022, China's services imports and exports grew 12.9 percent yearly to reach a record high of nearly 6 trillion yuan (about 835.8 billion U.S. dollars), ranking second in the world for the ninth consecutive year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. China's continuous opening up and optimization of its business environment and active promotion of the digitalized and green development of trade in services greatly benefit domestic and foreign businesses, said Gu Fan, general manager of Growth Acceleration, Amazon Web Services Greater China.  
Gu said his company will continue to tap into the Chinese market with further investment, and he is looking forward to assisting more companies with their sustainability visions. The green and low-carbon drive is a major feature of the event, which has several related themed forums and exhibitions of cutting-edge green services, technologies, and business models.




Visitors look at a sandbox model of "smart city" solution at the environmental services exhibition of the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 2, 2023. (Xinhua/Li Xin)  
People in fields such as supply chains, IT, construction, and finance are closely watching opportunities in the global low-carbon scenario, especially the vast opportunities in China's dual carbon targets, said Qin Hu, vice president of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and chief representative of EDF's Beijing Representative Office.



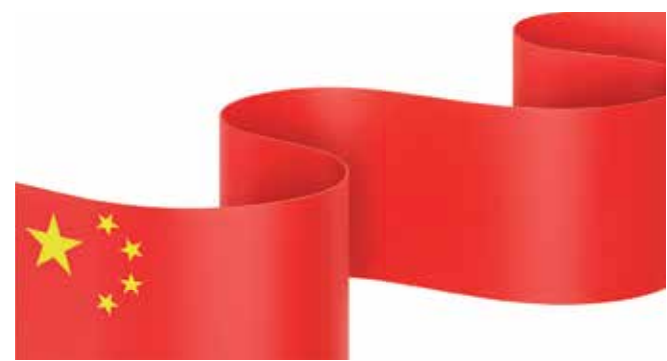
## Warm & Sincere Greetings

to the Government and  
the People's of China  
on the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
the Founding of  
The People's Republic of China



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## Greetings & Best Wishes to the Government and People of China on the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of The People's Republic of China



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# 中华人民共和国成立74周年

The 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of  
The People's Republic of China

1949 - 2023

## President Xi says BRICS important force in shaping int'l landscape

2023-08-24 Source: Xinhua  
Editor: huaxia

\* BRICS' track record shows that the members have consistently acted in a spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation and taken BRICS collaboration to new heights in support of the five countries' development, Xi said.

\* The future-oriented strategic course of BRICS meets the aspirations of the global majority, Putin said, adding that the BRICS group is tackling some of the most pressing global and regional issues.

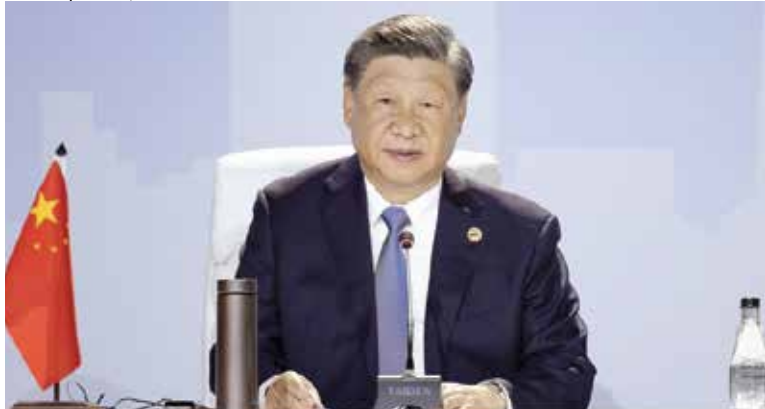
\* China encourages more Chinese enterprises to invest and start their businesses in Ethiopia, welcoming the use by Ethiopia of the "green channel" for the entry of African agricultural products to China to expand bilateral economic and trade cooperation, said Xi.

BEIJING, Aug. 24 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday that BRICS is an important force in shaping the international landscape.

"We choose our development paths independently, jointly defend our right to development and march in tandem toward modernization," Xi said while addressing the 15th BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa. This represents the direction of the advancement of human society, and will profoundly impact the development process of the world, said the Chinese president.

### DEEPEN BRICS COOPERATION

Twenty-two years ago, British economist Jim O'Neill coined the term "BRIC" -- an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India and China. With South Africa officially joining in 2011, the group was enlarged to BRICS, now representing about a quarter of the global gross domestic product and some 40 percent of the world's population. BRICS' track record shows that the members have consistently acted in a spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation and taken BRICS collaboration to new heights in support of the five countries' development, Xi said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers an important speech at a press conference during the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug. 24, 2023. BRICS leaders agreed on Thursday to invite six countries, namely Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to join the group. (Xinhua/Ding Haitao)

Through joint efforts, BRICS has grown into the most influential South-South cooperation platform and a crucial driver for global growth defined by three main pillars: political and security cooperation, economic and finance cooperation, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges. No matter how the international situation changes, BRICS' commitment to cooperation since the very beginning and the common aspiration will not change, Xi added.

Xi also noted that BRICS countries gather at a crucial time to build on their past achievements and open up a new future for BRICS cooperation.

The global economic recovery remains shaky, and challenges for developing countries are even more formidable, hampering their efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals, he said.

"Development is an inalienable right of all countries, not a privilege reserved for a few," Xi said.

BRICS countries should focus on practical cooperation, particularly in such fields as the digital economy, green development and supply chains, and bolster economic, trade and financial exchanges, Xi said.

Noting that artificial intelligence (AI) is a new area of development, bringing substantial development dividends but also risks and challenges, Xi said the BRICS countries have agreed to launch the AI Study Group at an early date.

"President Xi's speech shows that China has always adhered to the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, and China has made firm efforts to achieve common development," said Amadou Diop, a Senegalese expert on China.

### IMPROVE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Xi urged BRICS countries to uphold fairness and justice and improve global governance. Xi said strengthening global governance is the right choice if the international community intends to share development opportunities and tackle global challenges.



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers an important speech at a press conference during the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug. 24, 2023. BRICS leaders agreed on Thursday to invite six countries, namely Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to join the group. (Xinhua/Xie Huanchi)

International rules must be written and upheld jointly by all countries based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter rather than dictated by those with the strongest muscles or the loudest voice, he said. Xi's remarks were echoed by other BRICS leaders, who support improving global governance and upholding multilateralism. Addressing the summit, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said new realities call for a fundamental reform of global governance institutions to be more representative and responsive to challenges.

"We are all unanimously in favor of the formation of a multipolar world order that is truly just and based on international law," Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the summit in a virtual address. The future-oriented strategic course of BRICS meets the aspirations of the global majority, Putin said, adding that the BRICS group is tackling some of the most pressing global and regional issues.

"Many countries in the Global South have sought to come together in order to work towards a more just and inclusive world order ... BRICS inspires many countries to come together again to advance this vision," said Kenneth Creamer, a senior lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand.

For Ana Elisa Saggiore Garcia, general coordinator and researcher at the BRICS Policy Center, the group has a global role in balancing international relations and building consensus.

To reform the multilateral institutions that exist today is what BRICS countries need to achieve "more of a voice," she said.

### SHARE CHINA OPPORTUNITIES

In a speech read out by Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao at the BRICS Business Forum 2023 on Tuesday, Xi said China will remain an important opportunity for the world's development, stressing China's firm resolution in advancing high-standard opening-up, fostering a world-class, market-oriented business environment governed by a sound legal framework, and building a globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas.

On the summit's sidelines, Xi met with several leaders of participating countries, reaffirming China's commitment to sharing its development opportunities with others and supporting their economic and social development. Meeting with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Wednesday, Xi said that China is advancing Chinese modernization with its high-quality development, which will bring new opportunities for cooperation between China and Ethiopia.

China encourages more Chinese enterprises to invest and start their businesses in Ethiopia, welcoming the use by Ethiopia of the "green channel" for the entry of African agricultural products to China to expand bilateral economic and trade cooperation, said Xi. In a meeting on Wednesday with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel, Xi said China will try its best to support Cuba's economic and social development.

China is willing to work with Cuba and other members of the Group of 77 to better safeguard the common interests and development rights of developing countries, Xi said. As the current chair of the Group of 77 and China, he said Cuba has positively contributed to strengthening the unity of developing countries. For his part, Diaz-Canel said Cuba is ready to work with China to deepen Belt and Road cooperation, build a Cuba-China community with a shared future and advance on paths of socialism based on their respective characteristics. Xi also called for stronger personnel exchanges as well as deeper cultural and people-to-people bonds with Bangladesh, when he met with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the sidelines of the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, Aug. 23, 2023. (Xinhua/Ding Lin)

Hasina congratulated Xi on the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative, noting Belt and Road cooperation has opened a new door of development for Bangladesh. Meeting with Senegalese President Macky Sall on Wednesday, Xi said China supports the African Union in joining the Group of 20 and is ready to share its development experience and opportunities with African nations.

"China's share of the global economy is crucial. By pursuing internal reforms and speeding up the opening up of its domestic market to foreign companies, China is offering opportunities to the rest of the world," said Lyazid Benhami, vice president of the Paris Association of French-Chinese Friendship.

"By investing in emerging countries, it is increasing the attractiveness and economic stability of countries that want to develop sustainably," said Benhami.



# The 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of The People's Republic of China

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中华人民共和国成立74周年

The 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of  
The People's Republic of China  
1949 - 2023



PORT CITY COLOMBO

**CHC CHINA HARBOUR**

WARM WISHES FROM  
PORT CITY COLOMBO ON THE

# 74<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



Port City Colombo (PCC) is Sri Lanka's single largest FDI project to date. With the completion of reclamation and urban infrastructure in 2019 and the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act enacted in May 2021, PCC is a foreign-currency designated Special Economic Zone dedicated for exports of modern services - a national and regional first.

CHEC Port City Colombo (CPCC), the sole investor and master developer of PCC, has invested in the reclamation and infrastructure of PCC amounting to **USD 1.4 billion**. The expected FDI generated within PCC for real assets development is **USD 15 billion**. PCC has provided more than 8,000 employment opportunities during the construction period and is about to create over 83,000 quality jobs in the future, accommodating an overall **living population 273,000**. It will also create **GDP \$13.7 billion** per annum when operational. Earlier this year, PCC marked major milestones in the project bringing together the people of Sri Lanka through a multi-religious ceremony, invoking blessings on the nation and the project's success. In June, PCC hosted a Joint Symposium on Coral Reef Ecology bringing together renowned experts in the field to discuss the current state of coral reefs and explore strategies for their protection and restoration. **In August, PCC received approval for Businesses of Strategic Importance (BSI) set to transform Port City Colombo into a globally competitive special economic zone (SEZ).**



# 中华人民共和国成立74周年

The 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of  
The People's Republic of China

1949 - 2023

Green Yunnan

Congratulations

on the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
the Founding of

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF

CHINA



云南省驻斯里兰卡（科伦坡）商务代表处  
Yunnan Commercial Representative Office in Colombo, Sri Lanka



Yunnan Commercial Representative Office in Colombo established in 2010, has been operating as the "Window" of Yunnan Province in Sri Lanka for 12 years so far. Yunnan Commercial Representative Office in Colombo has given full play to its comprehensive functions of "window, coordination, bridge and service" under the leadership of the people's government of Yunnan Province and the Department of Commerce & the Foreign Affairs Office. It has actively opened and expanded the economic and trade cooperation channels between Yunnan Province and Sri Lanka, and promote the long-term healthy and friendly economic and trade cooperation relationship between Yunnan Province and Sri Lanka.

**The Friendship is higher than mountains, and deeper than seas. Joint hands are connected with joint hearts.**

2023, with the full support of the Yunnan Provincial People's Government and the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka, the Representative Office donated to Sri Lankan students 5000 schoolbags and 2000 food packs to needy families which are worth approximately twenty-two and a quarter million LKR. In addition, the Representative Office will continue to invest approximately Thrity million LKR in the second half of the year to assist the people of Sri Lanka to improve their lives in all aspects of life.

Yunnan Province, briefly named as "Dian" or "Yun", covers a land area of 394,000 square kilometers, accounting for about 4.1% of China's total land area and ranking 8th among the country's provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. It has 129 counties, county-level cities and districts under the jurisdiction of 16 prefectures and prefecture-level cities. Yunnan adjoins Guizhou Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the east, Sichuan Province in the north, and Tibet Autonomous Region in the northwest. Bordering Myanmar in the west, Laos and Vietnam in the south, Yunnan has a land border of 4,060 kilometers, one of the longest in China.

## Meili Snow Mountain

is located in the Deqen County of Diqing and belongs to the Hengduan Mountains. The main peak of which, Kawagebo Peak, is at an elevation of 6,740 meters, ranking the highest in Yunnan Province. Meili Snow Mountain is a holy mountain in the hearts of Tibetan people and is revered for its cultural significance.



"Golden Sunrise" is a rare spectacle at Meili Snow Mountain. It usually can be observed in the early morning of a sunny day and lasts for about 20 minutes. Due to special climate conditions, Meili Snow Mountain is enveloped in flying snow and thick clouds throughout the year so only with luck and blessing can visitors get to see the splendid view of the "Golden Sunrise".



Yunnan accounts for 4.1 percent of China's land area, with the number of biological species of all major groups approaching or exceeding half of the number of similar species in the country. Over the years, the quality of Yunnan's ecosystems has steadily improved, and a large number of rare, endangered and very small populations of species

have been protected and restored.

The Yunnan snub-nosed monkey is endemic to China and only inhabits the 20,000 square kilometers of alpine coniferous forests in northwest Yunnan and southeast Tibet in the mountains at an altitude of 2,500-5,000 meters, making their habitat the world's highest-altitude of any known non-human primate.

The earliest scientific record of the Yunnan snub-nosed monkey could be traced back to 1890, after which the species was thought to be extinct for a time. It wasn't until 1960 that zoologists discovered

the fur of the Yunnan snub-nosed monkey in Deqen, Yunnan Province, confirming that the species still existed.

It has increased from 1,000 to 1,500 individuals in about 13 populations in 1996, to 3,000 individuals in 18 populations surveyed in 2016, and to more than 3,300 individuals in 23 populations at present. As an important environmental indicator species, the rejuvenation of the population of the Yunnan snub-nosed monkey reflects not only Yunnan's good protection of the species but also the results of China's national protection of the pristine forest ecosystems in the Three Rivers region.



## The 7th China-South Asia Expo

In August 2023, The 7th China-South Asia Expo, themed "Solidarity and Coordination for Common Development", kicked off in Kunming, Yunnan province.



The five-day event set up 15 exhibition halls including pavilions of biomedicine and healthcare industry, resource economy, regional cooperation, and other pavilions. With a total area of 150,000 square meters, the Expo has attracted 30,000 exhibitors participating both online and offline. Over the years, it has evolved into a vital platform fostering economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asian and Southeast Asian countries.

## Numerous Highlights Show the New Trend of Exchanges and Cooperation

This year, the China-South Asia Expo set up four new pavilions, i.e. Resource Economy Pavilion, Trade Ports Economy Pavilion, Park Economy Pavilion, and Regional Cooperation Pavilion, showing to the world the brilliant results of the exchanges and demonstrating the highlights and new trend of cooperation between China and South Asian and Southeast Asian countries.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena attended the opening ceremony of the Expo as an honored guest and delivered a speech. To accelerate its pace in building Yunnan a center of China for reaching South Asia and Southeast Asia, Yunnan has been

strengthening the cultural and economic exchanges and cooperation with Sri Lanka and other countries. During his trip in Yunnan, Mr. Gunawardena visited the Yunnan Provincial Agricultural Organization and the Erhai Ecologi-

cal Corridor and experienced the Chinese tea culture in person.

## Build a Platform for International Exchange and Cooperation

The year 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the joint construction of the "Belt and Road" initiative, as well as the 10th anniversary of the China-South Asia Expo. Over the past decade, the Expo has become more influential and has been followed by more and more international friends.

During this 10-year period, the Expo keeps enriching the outcomes and diversifying areas of cooperation, promoting a wider range of communication, exchanges, and cooperation between China and South Asia and even countries around the world.



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中华人民共和国成立74周年

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*Congratulations*  
ON THE 74<sup>th</sup>

ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF  
**THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**



中国铁建



中国土木工程集团有限公司

CHINA CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION



CHINA CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION  
中国土木工程集团有限公司

Established in 1979 by the State Council of China, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) is one of China's first few companies authorized to engage in international contracting business and economic cooperation activities. Over the decades CCECC has been developed from the former Foreign Aid Bureau of the Ministry of Railways of China into a large-scale state-owned enterprise listed among the world's top 100 international contractors for 19 consecutive years by the Engineering News Record.

In 2003, CCECC merged with China Railway Construction Corporation Limited (CRCC), one of the strongest and largest general construction groups in the world. Leveraging on CRCC's enormous resources and whole industry chain advantage, CCECC has since started a new chapter with a focus on providing our clients with one-stop infrastructure solutions. At present, CCECC has established business in 112 countries across the world, with a business scope covering project contracting, design & consultancy, real estate & industrial park development, railway operation, infrastructure investment, hotel operation, trade & logistics, mining, etc.

Ever since 2019 when CCECC started its business in Sri Lanka, CCECC has been awarded three projects including the Port Access Elevated Highway Project (PAEH) and the Construction of Proposed Maritime Facilitation Center Project which are being implemented successfully.

CCECC always looks forward to contributing our best efforts to the infrastructure development of Sri Lanka, especially in the areas of road, bridge, railway and other public infrastructure projects. With decades of international contracting experience, we have every confidence to deliver quality projects in Sri Lanka that best suit local conditions.



His Excellency Mr. President meeting with  
CCECC Former Chairman



Hon. Minister of Transport and Highway  
and Mass Media together with CCECC Vice President  
holding a press conference



The President of the Asian Development Bank inspected  
the Port Access Elevated Highway Project  
implemented by CCECC



Girder Yard - Port Access Elevated Highway The first project using  
Box Girder Precast and Erection Technology in Sri Lanka



Rendering - Maritime Facilitation Center Project



CCECC Headquarter



中国铁建



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