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STATE VISIT

President Xi Jinping meets King Philippe

Their Majesties King Philippe and Queen Mathilde, accompanied by Mr Didier Reynders, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr Pieter de Crem, State Secretary of Foreign Trade in the federal government, Mr Geert Bourgeois, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, the Minister-Presidents of the Walloon and Brussels governments, and a large business delegation, visited Wuhan, Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou and Shenzhen. In Beijing, King Philippe met Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC) was represented by Ms Gwenn Sonck, Executive Director. During the visit dozens of contracts and agreements were signed (see below).

China hopes the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will make a priority of encouraging Belgium's participation. President Xi Jinping told King Philippe on June 23 in Beijing. China appreciates Belgium's willingness to participate in infrastructure construction in Asia and welcomes the country to join the unfolding Belt and Road Initiative, Xi added. The China-led AIIB finalized its list of 57 founding member states in April, including many western European countries but not Belgium. Other counties that are interested can still join as ordinary members. Xi made the remarks shortly before he and the King witnessed the signing of 12 cooperation agreements covering areas such as space, customs, science and technology, nuclear fuel and education. He called for both countries to push forward with development of the logistics industry, along with cross-border e-commerce between Europe. China and broader Asia. China supports connectivity between its western region and Antwerp, Xi said, inviting Belgium to back Chinese enterprises to join the investment plan for Europe and participate in the construction of a railway network across the continent. He also highlighted areas for cooperation, including high-end manufacturing, environmental technologies and sustainable development, as China is carrying out its innovation-driven development strategy. King Philippe said his country would use its advantages and act as a bridge by which China can enter Europe. Belgium appreciates China's Belt and Road Initiative and would like to make an effort to link those plans with the investment plan for Europe, he added, as reported by the China Daily.

Belgium has expressed its willingness to become a member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Contracts and agreements signed

During the State Visit to China of Their Majesties King Philippe and Queen Mathilde, several contracts and agreements were signed. The following is a non-exhaustive list.

- · Actemium and Siemens.
- Agoria and Dragon Design Foundation.
- · Ahlers and Syntrans.
- Amos and the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp.
- Antwerp Management School and Donghua University.
- Applitek

- AWDC and Gangtai Holding; and AWDC and the Shanghai Diamond Exchange.
- Belgische Fruitveiling and Dole China.
- Belourthe and Lotus International.
- BELSPO and the China National Space Administration.
- BOZAR and CAFA.
- Brussels Capital Region, Brussels Invest & Export and Shanghai Foreign Investment Development Board.
- · Cefaly Technology, Coma Science Group and Hangzhou Normal University.
- Dragone and the Dalian Wanda Group.
- Exmar and ICBC.
- General Administration of Customs and Excise and the General Administration of Customs in China.
- HRD Antwerp and Tesiro.
- Hubei province and the Wallonia region on cooperation in six sectors including life sciences, healthcare, photonics and electronics, iron and steel, construction and environment, agro-food and logistics.
- IMEC, SMIC, Huawei Technologies and Qualcomm Global Trading.
- Ion Beam Applications (IBA) and Zhuozhou Jiankangqiao Investment Co.
- · Lapauw and Weishi.
- · Liege Airport, U-Tour and China Xinhai Travel Service.
- · Limburg and Guangdong provinces.
- · Marcolini and EverYi Capital.
- Masai Gallery and the Wuhan Science and Technology Museum to exhibit around 70 rare stuffed mammals and birds.
- Materialise and Fuwai Hospital.
- Orthodyne and Shanghai Huaai Chromatography Analysis Co.
- OTN Systems and the China Railway Signal and Communication Corp.
- Port of Antwerp and Shanghai Maritime University.
- Realco, a biotechnology company specialized in enzyme-based solutions, and Juzing International Technology Investment Belgium.
- Reibel and the Changle city government.
- · Sarens Group and Sinotrans.
- SCK-CEN and the China National Nuclear Corp.
- Solvay and Vintthai Sinochem International Jiangsu Yangnong Chemicals.
- UCL and Huashang University of Science & Technology and another one with Wuhan University on student and staff exchanges.
- · UCL Shanghai and Shanghai Jiaotong University.
- ULB and Hanban, Confucius Institute Headquarters.
- VITO and the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, CAS.
- VUB and Hanban.
- VUB-Brussels Diplomatic Academy and Shanghai University of Business and Economics.
- Wallonia Region and the Provincial Government of Henan.
- WBI, Fonds de la recherche scientifique and the China Scholarship Council.
- Zentech and Hangzhou Zheda Dixun Biological Gene Engineering Co.

FCCC and BNP Paribas Fortis: Breakfast debate at Westin Beijing – 24 June 2015

The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC) and BNP Paribas Fortis organized a breakfast debate on June 24, 2015 in the Westin Beijing Hotel during the Royal State Visit. The theme of the breakfast debate was "How strong is China's economic and financial engine? Business environment outlook for foreign strategic investors". Minister-President Geert Bourgeois of the Government of Flanders attended the debate and delivered the conclusions.

Following a word of welcome by Mr Max Jadot, CEO of BNP Paribas Fortis, Mr Eric Raynaud, CEO of BNP Paribas Asia Pacific, introduced BNP Paribas in China. Next, Ms Gwenn Sonck, Executive Director of the Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC) introduced the Chamber. Mr Jurgen F. Conrad, Chief Economist ADB China talked about "Growth and structural reforms in the PRC". "Renminbi internationalisation: the next step" was introduced by Mr Chi Lo, Senior Economist of BNP Paribas Investment Partners Greater China.

A Q&A session preceded the conclusions of the breakfast debate presented by Mr Geert Bourgeios, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, and Minister for Foreign Policy and Immovable Heritage.

More than 100 participants attended the breakfast debate.

The State Visit in the press

On June 24, the China Daily reported on the State Visit of Their Majesties King Philippe and Queen Mathilde. It also published a "Belgium Special" section. Below are links to the relevant articles:

- Belgium 'a bridge' to EU
- <u>Flanders, China 'have a lot to offer each other'</u> (by Minister-President Geert Bourgeois)
- Putting Flanders on the map (by FCCC Chairman Bert De Graeve)

The Flemish press focused on business news.

- Dalian Wanda Chairman Wang Jianlin plans to invest €0.5 billion to €1 billion to build a hotel in a prime location in Brussels. (De Tijd)
- The watch brand Ice-Watch plans to open 10 branded stores and 210 sales points in China after obtaining an official registration certificate in China. (De Tijd)
- VITO and the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) plan to further expand their cooperation on earth observation. (De Standaard)
- Geely Chairman Li Shufu confirmed that the plant of Volvo Cars in Ghent will remain open for a long period of time. (De Morgen)
- A Chinese high-tech business incubator will be set up in Louvain-La-Neuve. The China Belgium Technology Center (CBTC) will include a hotel, conference center, offices and laboratories. (De Standaard)

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY FCCC

Business trip to China by Unizo and Howest – October 2015

Unizo and Howest are organizing a business trip to China in October 2015. More information is available on the website http://groups.alkreizen.be/cnunizowvl.

PAST EVENTS

10th EU-China Business Summit – 29 June 2015 – Brussels

The EU-China Business Association invited 500 business leaders and officials to join the 10 th EU-China Business Summit on 29 June 2015 at Palais d'Egmont in Brussels. The EU-China Business Summit is a joint initiative by BusinessEurope, the China Council Council of the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), in cooperation with the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) and the EU-China Business Association (EUCBA). The business summit is recognised as the highest-level platform for exchanges between EU and Chinese business and political leaders and brought together a number of high-level business leaders from large Chinese and European companies, including several CEOs. President Jean-Claude Juncker and Premier Li Keqiang made keynote addresses during the opening session.

Under the overall theme of "Building a Stronger Partnership" interesting discussions were held on topical issues like investment cooperation, the digital economy and green and sustainable growth. Commission Vice President Jykri Katainen introduced the panel on investment cooperation.

The thematic session 1: "New opportunities for EU-China investment cooperation" was moderated by Mr Stephen Phillips, Chairman of the EU-China Business Association (EUCBA). The second thematic session focused on "Green economy and sustainable growth" and the

third one on "Industrial transformation in a digital world".

FCCC Chairman Bert De Graeve, Chairman of Bekaert, participated in the CEO dialogue with European and Chinese CEO's and Mrs Malmstrom, European Commissioner for Trade. The EU-China Business Association is the EU-wide federation of business organisations in the EU promoting business relations with China. The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce holds the secretariat-general of the association.

For more information on the 10th EU-China Business Summit you are invited to explore the dedicated website: <u>www.eu-china-business-summit.eu</u>

The EU-China Business Summit was organized with the support of the Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC).

EXPO Milano 2015 – FCCC's participation at EU-CHINA Days – 9–10 June 2015

The EU-China Business Association (EUCBA) and the Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce invited members to the EU-China Days organized by the European Commission at the World Expo in Milan. The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce is a member of the EUCBA and is in charge of the Secretariat-General at the EUCBA, which has recently set up an office in Brussels. The EUCBA is an Association of Associations in the European Union countries promoting business relations between European enterprises, institutions and their Chinese counterparts. Today it counts 20 members from 20 different countries.

The event allowed to get information on the European Commission tools, which can assist and support the internationalization of businesses (in particular SMEs), as well as business relations between Europe and China. Participants also had the chance to meet Chinese and European counterparts during the B2B sessions in order to discuss concrete cooperation projects in business, technology transfer and research. By attending this event, they gained easy access to enterprises, clusters and stakeholders.

The main Conference and matchmaking event of the EU-China days in Milan was a success. Over 100 Chinese companies and 280 EU companies from Italy, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Poland, France, Luxembourg, Greece, United Kingdom, Slovenia, Austria, Malta and Romania took part in over 1,000 B2B meetings on 9 June.

The main Conference was opened by welcome speeches from the organizing partners and keynote speeches by Benedetto Della Vedova, Under Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Ms Li Dengju, Standing Member of CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee. The panel on EU-China Business opportunities was introduced and chaired by Didier Herbert, Director DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SME's with speakers from various European and Chinese business associations. including Gwenn Sonck, Secretary General of the EU-China Business Association. The second panel focused on business support instruments. Different EU funded projects for SME internationalization where presented, notably EEN, the EU SME Center and the China IPR-SME Help desk.

On 8 June the Chinese delegation visited Expo Milan and on 10 June a visit to Parma agrofood companies took place.

Meeting with Jinan delegation and presentation on the experiences of an SME investing in Jinan – 5 June 2015 – Gent

The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC) organized a meeting with a delegation from the Jinan Economic Development Zone and business leaders from Jinan city. This meeting took place on 5 June at the Provincial House in Gent.

Representatives from the Jinan Economic Development Zone (JEDZ) offered an insight into the economic and investment environment of Jinan. In addition, Esco Couplings, member of the Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce, shared its experiences of building a successful plant in this zone.

Jinan is the capital of Shandong province. The Jinan Lingang Economic Development Zone was founded in 1993 and is situated in the north-east of the city, close to Jinan International Airport. The main industries in the zone are chemical engineering, electronic communications, auto parts and machinery.

The composition of the delegation and a company description can be viewed and downloaded via this link.

Seminar: How China is improving its foreign investment climate – 28 May 2015 – Ghent

The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC) organized a seminar focused on 'How China is improving its foreign investment climate' on 28 May 2015 in Ghent.

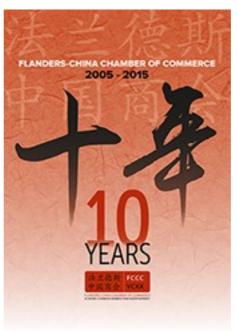
The investment climate in China for foreign investors is undergoing profound and hopefully positive changes recently. Mr. REN Qing, partner of Zhonglun Law Firm, shared his insights about these changes and their implication for foreign investors and foreign invested enterprises, particularly covering:

- (1) The draft Foreign Investment Law published in January 2015;
- (2) The Catalogue of Industries for Guiding Foreign Investment revised in March 2015,
- (3) The uniform Negative List applying to Shanhai, Guangdong, Tianjin and Fujian FTZs published in April 2015, and
- (4) The latest development of anti-trust enforcement in China, including the landmark Qualcomm case.

Mr. Ren Qing is a partner of Zhonglun Law Firm, specializing in M&A, anti-trust and trade law. Before joining Zhonglun, Mr. Ren was a deputy director at Department of Treaty & Law, Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) of China, and once worked at Embassy of China in Belgium from 2009 to 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

FCCC publishes "10 Years: Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce 2005 – 2015"



On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, the Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce has issued the publication "10 Years: Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce 2005 – 2015". The publication bundles interviews with H.E. Qu Xing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Belgium; H.E. Michel Malherbe, Ambassador of Belgium to the People's Republic of China; Mrs. Claire Tillekaerts, CEO of Flanders Investment & Trade; Mr. Stefaan Vanhooren, President Agfa Graphics; Mr. Matthew Taylor, CEO, Bekaert; Mr. Stephan Csoma, Executive

Vice President and two other Executives, Umicore; Christian Dumoulin, CEO, Vitalo; Filip Goris, General Manager Asia, Recticel; Mr. Hudson Liu, CEO, Huawei; Mr. Li Shufu, Chairman, Zhejiang Geely Group; Mrs. Chai Hui, General Manager Brussels Branch, ICBC; Mr. Robert Zhao, Chief Representative of the Weihai EU Office in Ghent; Mr. David Liu, Deputy Managing Director, APM Terminals; and Mr. Ma Jian, Chairman, Tianjin Liho Group.

Mr. Geert Bourgeois, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, wrote the foreword to the publication. Chairman of the FCCC, Mr. Bert De Graeve, provided the introduction and Mrs. Gwenn Sonck, Executive Director of the FCCC, provided some more details about the FCCC.

The publication is available to Members of the FCCC free of charge.

Here is the link to the brochure online.

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AUTOMOTIVE

Chinese manufacturers produce more new-energy vehicles

Chinese manufacturers produced three times more new-energy vehicles in May than last year, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said. Production of pure electric passenger cars soared 300% to 9,922, with hybrids rising nearly 400% to 4,923. Production of pure electric and hybrid commercial vehicles rose by 700% and 36%, respectively. A total of 19,100 such vehicles rolled off the production line in May. In the first five months, Chinese automakers produced 53,600 new-energy vehicles – again nearly a threefold increase from a year earlier. In March, the Ministry of Transport set a target of 300,000 new energy commercial vehicles on China's roads by 2020 – 200,000 new-energy buses and 100,000 new-energy taxis and delivery vehicles. The Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) also said earlier this year that China will continue to build charging facilities in cities and allow tax exemptions and subsidies on vehicle purchases.

- A second attempt to test Shanghai's new online license plate auction system went relatively smoothly. A total of 76,865 people registered to bid for 5,000 mock plates in the simulation, about 7,400 more than the number of participants in a similar event on June 14, which resulted in the system's servers crashing due to a data overload after 44 minutes.
- South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co began construction on its fifth Chinese plant, in Chongqing, to manufacture a new compact car and increase the production of sportutility vehicles (SUVs). Hyundai has been struggling with slow sales in China partly due to an absence of new SUV models to compete with its rivals' latest releases. Hyundai will invest USD1 billion with its Chinese partner BAIC in the plant, which will have an annual capacity of 300,000 units. Hyundai will also expand its dealer network by 300 dealerships to 2,000.

FINANCE

Rule that restricts bank loans to 75% of deposits to end

The Chinese government is to scrap a rule that caps lending by commercial banks at 75% of their deposits, a measure that will increase the supply of cash in the financial system. It will propose amending the nation's banking law to make the limit a ratio used for reference rather than a regulatory statute. A system will be set up to monitor the liquidity of banks based on the ratio. Changes to the law need to be approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC). Premier Li Kegiang is trying to reshape a state-run banking industry that has USD29 trillion of assets, almost twice the amount of its United States counterpart. Deregulating interest rates and easing regulatory controls are part of his efforts to support long-term growth by giving markets a bigger role in the economy. The shake-up is coming five years after the nation completed the stock market listings of the last of its dominant big-four banks. The law limiting lending to 75% of deposits has been in place since 1995. While the loan-to-deposit level for the whole industry was 66% in March, some listed lenders are close to the 75% cap. Bank of Communications' ratio was about 74% in March, while China Construction Bank's was 72%. China Securities Co has previously estimated that the removal of the ratio would potentially allow 16 listed banks to release up to CNY6.6 trillion in extra lending. It will allow banks to lend more to the agricultural sector and small businesses. But even with the removal of the lending restriction, bank lending isn't expected to increase substantially, said Li Qilin, Analyst at Minsheng Securities Co, as banks have become more risk-averse in a slowing economy.

Private companies apply to set up banks

The China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) on June 26 officially started accepting applications from private enterprises to invest in the banking sector, which has long been strictly regulated. "All channels for private capital to enter the banking sector are now open," CBRC Chairman Shang Fulin told a news conference in Beijing. More than 40 domestic private enterprises have expressed interest in setting up banks. Shang said that the CBRC will decide on those applications within four months after they are made. He also noted that private banks must have arrangements to deal with "residual risks" that are not covered by the deposit insurance system, which provides coverage of up to CNY500,000 for individual bank accounts. The opening to private capital is seen as the government's strategy to transform the country's banking structure, which is dominated by large state-owned lenders, and address the issue of financing difficulties of smaller and startup companies in a slowing economy, the China Daily reports. While the guidelines state that foreign and domestic private investors shall be treated equally, Shang said that the 20% shareholding restriction of foreign investors in a Chinese bank remains unchanged. China launched a pilot program in 2014 under which five fully private banks were established, owned by companies such as Alibaba Group Holding and its domestic rival Tencent Holdings. All five private banks are now in operation.

- Song Min, Finance Professor and Director of the Center for China Financial Research
 at the University of Hong Kong, has warned China about the risks of turning the yuan
 into a global currency while pursuing the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century
 Maritime Silk Road initiatives (One Belt, One Road). "China should find out which
 countries are worth investing in, rather than promoting the globalization of yuan for the
 sake of it," he said.
- China will hold the biggest share of voting rights in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), but Beijing will be cautious before exercising any power of veto, according to Soegeng Rahardjo, Indonesia's Ambassador to China. "We should learn from the successes and failures of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. This is a good teacher for the AIIB to move forward," he said. Indonesia would get about 3.1% of the voting rights and Asian members 75% in total based on the size of their economy and their contribution to the bank. The AIIB's founding charter will be signed on June 29 in Beijing.
- Prosecutors in Florence have formally asked for Bank of China's Milan branch and 297 individuals, mostly Chinese living in Italy, to be tried for smuggling money and other crimes. The request stems from an investigation called "River of Money", which started in 2008 and points to the growing influence of Chinese criminal groups in Italy's Tuscany region. Investigators said money sent to China through agencies of the Money2Money (M2M) transfer service in several Italian cities included proceeds from crimes such as counterfeiting, embezzlement, exploitation of illegal workers and tax evasion.
- Suma Chakrabarti, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), said he wants to work in partnership with the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on future projects and investment. "The potential for synergy and for making a real, lasting difference on the ground is huge," he said. The two lenders are already involved in wide-ranging discussions about how they might cooperate in the future.
- The People's Bank of China (PBOC) has cut its benchmark lending rates by 25 basis points to 4.85% on June 27, the fourth reduction since November, as it gears up to lower borrowing costs and support a slowing economy. It also reduced one-year benchmark deposit rates by 25 basis points to 2%. The reductions took effect on June 28. The PBOC last cut interest rates on May 10.
- The Australian government said it would contribute AUD930 million over five years to the new China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), making it the institution's sixth-largest shareholder. Treasurer Joe Hockey will attend the Articles of Association (AoA) signing ceremony in Beijing on June 29.
- The National Audit Office (NAO) has uncovered systematic and widespread misuse of state lottery funds. Questions have been raised about the use of CNY16.9 billion, or 25% of the audited public lottery fund in 18 provinces, including fabricated financial

records, misappropriation and even the operation of illegal betting branches. Lottery sales have surged more than threefold from CNY100 billion in 2007 to CNY320 billion in 2013.

- Demand for bank loans hit a record low over the past three months, according to a survey from the People's Bank of China (PBOC). The loan demand index fell 8.4 percentage points to 60.4% in the second quarter compared with the quarter before, the lowest reading since the central bank began compiling the data in 2004. Medium to long-term corporate loans slowed for the fourth consecutive month to CNY255 billion last month.
- China is expected to introduce a yuan-denominated gold fix soon. It could then compel
 buyers in the mainland and foreign suppliers to pay the local price, making the London
 fix less relevant in the world's biggest gold market. However, given the yuan is not fully
 convertible, the two fixes could exist side by side globally.
- Total credit card receivables, the actually amount borrowed by customers on their credit cards, increased to CNY2.55 trillion in the first three months of the year, up 35.49% from a year earlier. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) also reported that the average consumer credit line was CNY14,700 in the first quarter, compared with CNY12,300 during the same period last year. The total number of credit card accounts in circulation was slightly down at 424 million in the first quarter from 455 million in 2014.
- Central government spending on overseas visits, official vehicles and receptions
 dropped sharply last year as China stepped up austerity efforts. Spending in the three
 categories decreased by 27% year-on-year in 2014 in a random audit of 44 central
 government agencies carried out by the National Audit Office (NAO). The final
 accounts showed that the central government spent CNY5.88 billion on the three
 areas last year, CNY1.27 billion less than was budgeted.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

China to allow full-ownership of some e-commerce firms

China will allow full foreign ownership of some e-commerce businesses, aiming to encourage foreign investment, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said. The move, effective immediately, will apply to "online data handling and trade handling services". Allowing full foreign ownership "supports our country's e-commerce development, encourages and brings in the active participation of foreign investment, and further excites market competition," the Ministry said. In recent years, the government has lent its support to the industry by keeping taxes low and loosening restrictions on cross-border trade, among other concessions.

China remains top FDI destination

China remains at the top of the world's 10 most attractive countries for foreign direct investment (FDI), even though last year's global FDI dropped to the lowest level since the 2008 financial crisis, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a report. According to the organization's World Investment Report 2015, 28% of the respondents chose China as their first choice for FDI. According to the UNCTAD, last year's FDI into China was USD129 billion, up by 4% year-on-year. Investment increased in the service sector while falling in manufacturing. It was the first time that China surpassed the United States as the world's largest FDI recipient. Outbound direct investment (ODI) is also increasing. ODI from the Chinese mainland reached USD116 billion last year, up 15%, to the third-largest amount after the U.S. and Hong Kong. Global FDI as a whole fell by 16% to USD1.23 trillion last year because of the fragility of the global economy, policy uncertainty for investors and elevated geopolitical risks. The UNCTAD predicted this year that total global FDI inflows may grow by 11% to USD1.4 trillion and further rise to USD1.5 trillion in 2016 and USD1.7 trillion in 2017.

China's direct investment in countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road reached USD2.56 billion during the first quarter of the year, accounting for about 10% of the country's total ODI during the period. China also

- exported USD144.5 billion to countries along the road during the period, a 10% rise year-on-year. China has more than 70 projects under construction in countries along the land-based and maritime roads, worth a total investment of more than USD8 billion, according to China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).
- Investors should avoid chasing the latest trends and be humble. "No matter how
 confident you are in anything, there is a good chance you could be wrong," Greg
 Jensen, Co-CEO of Bridgewater told a wealth forum hosted by the Qingdao
 government. "It's not about chasing the newest products and the newest things, but
 about thinking in the right way to invest and the right way to trade," said Jensen. He
 recommended longer-term investments.

FOREIGN TRADE

Regions along Silk Road simplify trade procedures

Provinces and regions along the Silk Road Economic Belt are working together to boost trade by reducing the red tape required for exports and imports, specifically targeting inspection and quarantine regulations. The reform, which takes effect on July 1, includes the 10 provinces and regions along the 4,000 km route from Qingdao to the Alataw Pass. Initiated by the Shandong Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, the reform aims to "optimize and simplify inspection and quarantine procedures between places of origin and ports of entry, which help lower the burden of companies," said Zhou Jian'an, Director of the Shandong Bureau. An agreement signed on June 17 in the port city of Qingdao gives the green light to exported goods that already have gone through the guarantine and inspection process at places of origin, and to imported goods that have already completed the quarantine and inspection process at ports of entry. After unifying quarantine and clearance standards, tens of thousands of shipments of goods can use a simpler declaration process, reducing clearance costs for companies by 20% to 30%. The eight other participating provinces and regions besides Shandong and Xinjiang are Shanxi, Henan, Sichuan, Shaanxi, Gansu and Qinghai provinces and the Ningxia Hui and Inner Mongolia autonomous regions, the China Daily reports.

- Shanghai's pilot free trade zone (FTZ) unveiled several measures aimed at improving
 customs services for high-technology companies in the zone. An air cargo service
 center will be set up in the Zhangjiang High-Tech Park to provide one-stop customs
 services. The center will cut customs clearance time to six to eight hours from at least
 two working days previously. In the first five months of this year, trade in the FTZ
 totaled CNY287.1 billion, accounting for 26% of the city's total.
- Russia became China's biggest crude supplier in May, overtaking Saudi Arabia, as the
 global competition for oil intensified. China imported a record 3.92 million metric tons
 of Russian crude during the month, or 927,000 barrels a day, according to data from
 the General Administration of Customs, a 20% increase on April. Saudi Arabia has
 slipped to China's third-largest crude supplier, after Russia and Angola. China will
 account for 11% of world demand this year.

HEALTH

Millions of Chinese drink unsafe water

Tens of millions of Chinese are being poisoned by unsafe levels of fluoride and arsenic in drinking water, despite decades of official efforts to improve supplies, state media say. Elevated fluoride levels were found in the water in more than 1,000 counties across the country at the end of 2013, according to Gao Yanhui, Expert at the National Center for Endemic Disease Control. Nearly 21 million people suffered diseases caused by excessive exposure, such as skeletal fluorosis, and 87 million people were at risk nationwide. Henan province was the most acutely affected. Arsenic poisoning was another concern, with about 600,000 people in 131 counties in about half of all provinces affected. Excessive iodine intake due to poor drinking water had put 30 million people at risk of goiter, a figure little changed from a decade ago, when nationwide research put the number at 30.98 million. The central government had spent hundreds of billions of yuan over the past decade on improving drinking water in rural areas, but local governments were still short of funds to continue the work, the

- China's customs has impounded more than CNY3 billion worth of illegal frozen chicken, beef and pork some up to four decades old shipped to the mainland through Hong Kong. 20 people were arrested during a customs operation in Changsha. The origin of the frozen meat was not disclosed, but some of it had been stamped with packing dates as far back as the 1970s. The meat might contain large amounts of cancer-causing chemicals to keep it preserved for such long periods, or it might carry bacteria that could cause food poisoning.
- China's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has asked three milk producers in Shaanxi province to recall substandard infant milk powder and urged local authorities to severely punish the firms if they have broken the law. Excessive nitrate was found in five batches of milk powder products made by Shaanxi Guanshan Dairy and tested earlier this year. Higher-than-standard levels of selenium were found in another two batches of milk powder produced by Xian Guanshan Dairy and Shengtang Industry. All the products were made from goat's milk.
- China was the world's biggest consumer of antibiotics in 2013 with 162,000 tons, or almost half the global total, according to a recent study by the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Humans accounted for 48% of the total consumption and animals the remainder. About 50,000 tons of antibiotics are discharged into waterways and the soil every year in China.

IPR PROTECTION

Chinese companies seeking U.S. patents

Surging investment by Chinese companies in U.S. research labs is yielding a fast-growing trove of patents, part of a push to mine the U.S. for ideas to help China shift from being the world's factory floor to a driver of innovation, according to an analysis of Thomson Reuters' global intellectual property database. Patented inventions by Chinese firms that involved at least one U.S. researcher roughly doubled worldwide in each of the last three years, reaching 910 in 2014.

MACRO-ECONOMY

China Beige Book shows economic rebound

The China Beige Book based on a survey of over 2,000 firms in different sectors and geographic regions, showed an economic rebound driven by several factors, mainly a welcome resurgence in retail and a broad-based rebound in property. Manufacturing, services, real estate, agriculture and mining all saw both year-on-year and quarterly gains. The only exceptions were shipping and travel, which decelerated. The report also indicated a recovery in prices and profits after months of producer price deflation. The data showed that 45% of respondents saw profit margins gain on-year, and 37% of respondents reported an uptick in sales prices for their products or services. The report said one of the reasons the recovery did not show up in media reports or official statistics is that it was primarily driven by firms in the central and southwestern regions of China, while the developed coastal business centers led by Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong province posted no or negligible improvement. The labor market also improved, with stable wages, the South China Morning Post reports.

• The HSBC flash manufacturing purchasing managers index for June stood at 49.6, a slight improvement on the 49.2 in May but still below the 50-point mark that distinguishes expansion from contraction. Tom Orlik, Chief Asia Economist at Bloomberg, warned against reading too much into slight movements in a small sample survey, saying that a 0.4-point improvement could represent a change of view by just a handful of companies. HSBC and Bloomberg economists said the temporary recovery is fragile. New orders returned to positive territory at 50.3 and new export orders fell at a much slower pace, but companies stepped up layoffs, shedding jobs at the fastest pace in over six years.

- China's consumer confidence remained subdued in June, but consumers' expectations of business conditions showed some initial signs of recovery, according to the latest survey by Market News International (MNI) Indicators, a part of Deutsche Bourse Group. The June Westpac China Consumer Sentiment Indicator (CSI) rose 1.1% year-on-year to 112.3, which is below the 12-month average of 112.4 since last June, but slightly up from 111.1 in April and May. A reading of 100 represents a neutral position.
- Salaries for experienced and skilled employees are expected to rise between 5% and 10% this year from a year ago as China experiences a shortage of senior level talent, human resource agency ZW HR Consulting said. Information technology professionals, human resource managers, and mechanical and technical engineers are leading the salary increase this year.

REAL ESTATE

Luxury homes market heating up in Beijing

The market for luxury homes in Beijing is heating up as more high-end projects have been approved. Of the 21 projects that received pre-sale permits from the Beijing Municipal Commission of Housing and Urban-Rural Development this month, four were planned to sell for more than CNY100,000 per square meter. The most expensive project is priced at CNY175,000 per sq m. There are now more than 20 housing projects with prices set at more than CNY100,000 per sq m available for sale in the capital. At least four super luxury projects, which aim to sell for more than CNY100 million per unit, were set to launch this year, including the Xishang Yihaoyuan project of developer Sunac China. Zhang Dawei, Chief Analyst at property agency Centaline, said that the residential market in Beijing had become increasingly dominated by luxury projects. Although transactions in the luxury sector had grown, supply was increasing rapidly, stirring up competition, he said. Over the past two months, luxury properties that sold for more than CNY10 million each in Beijing more than doubled compared to the previous year, according to figures from the China Real Estate Information Corp (CRIC). New properties in Beijing priced between CNY20 million and CNY30 million were traded most actively in the first five months of this year with transaction volumes totaling 88 units, the highest since 2010, the South China Morning Post reports.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Shenzhen to attract 100,000 high-tech companies by 2017

Shenzhen's Science Technology and Innovation Committee has unveiled its 2015-2017 action plan to attract future hardware projects from abroad during a five-day trade fair. Shenzhen Maker Week drew thousands of manufacturers and 100,000 visitors, making it the biggest fair of its kind to date in China. The city aims to attract 100,000 high-tech companies by 2017. The Committee plans to establish over 200 "makerspaces," or idea-sharing workshops in the city over the next few years. Shenzhen already has about 40. New makerspaces will be able to apply for financial help of up to CNY5 million each, whether foreign or local. The government will also sponsor equipment upgrades and servicing. The city will offer permanent residency to the top performers, and manufacturers will be able to enjoy some free services. The move comes after Chinese Premier Li Keqiang went on an inspection tour of the city recently to spur innovation and help counter the economic slowdown that China is facing after three decades of unchecked growth.

 Up to 1,000 universities in 14 popular overseas destinations for Chinese applicants now accept gaokao test scores as admission criteria, according to a report by Londonbased MyOffer, which helps international students with university placement. Italy and France, according to MyOffer, are the most welcoming destinations. All of France's more than 180 universities and colleges accept gaokao scores.

STOCK MARKETS

China first in number of IPOs and capital raised

So far this year, 241 companies have listed in China, raising an aggregated USD40 billion, according to the quarterly Ernst & Young Global IPO Trend report. China ranked first in both the number of deals and capital raised, followed by the U.S., which saw 101 IPOs raising USD19.7 billion, the report said. The Chinese A-share market drew 190 new listings in the first half, up 265% year-on-year, raising a total of CNY147 billion, a 316% increase year-on-year. "The Chinese mainland's strong IPO activity can be attributed to the robust capital market, faster approvals for IPOs, a swath of reforms to liberalize the market and favorable monetary policies supporting the economy," said Tang Zhenhui, EY Assurance Partner. The Shenzhen and Shanghai bourses ranked first and second in the world by number of IPOs, while the Shanghai and Hong Kong exchanges were the top two by proceeds, the report said. In China, financial companies raised the most funds at USD15.9 billion, followed by USD5.1 billion by industrial firms and USD3.7 billion by technology enterprises, the Shanghai Daily reports.

- The rise of the Chinese A-share market is unsustainable without the support of both solid economic fundamentals and substantial reform measures, Ha Jiming, Chief Investment Strategist of Goldman Sachs Group's Investment Management Unit told the China Wealth Forum in Qingdao, Shandong province. "Current stock prices are too high and will fall if the government does not take substantial reform measures to change the economic structure and improve economic benefits, rather than trying to stimulate the stock market with policies," he said, adding that the Chinese capital market is overvalued, leverage is too high and investors are over-zealous three factors likely to cause a bubble.
- Shares in China Aircraft Leasing Group Holdings rebounded on hints that state-owned China Everbright Group could take over the shares held by former Chief Executive Mike Poon, who went missing. Everbright is the biggest stakeholder in the aircraft leasing company with a 42.91% stake. Its Chief Executive Chen Shuang took up Poon's position recently.
- Senior executives and large shareholders of listed companies have been dumping shares in their own firms which could have exacerbated the current selling pressure in the market, prompting fears of possible malpractices or insider trading. As of June 17, 1,234 listed companies had seen their executives and large shareholders reduce holdings worth CNY477.2 billion since the beginning of the year. The largest share sale took place during May as shares worth CNY150.8 billion were offloaded.

- The financial security index (FSI) of Chinese non-financial listed companies in 2015 reached its lowest level in 10 years, the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) said in a report. The FSI would be 5,227.35 in 2015, a 2% year-on-year decrease. The FSI has continuously declined for four years since 2012. "The Chinese government should pay attention to the increasing financial risks of listed companies," said Pu Xiaolei, Deputy Director of the Credit Management Department under the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.
- Chinese stocks plunged more than 7% on June 26, with the CSI300 index recording its biggest fall since 2008, hit by tight liquidity toward the end of the second quarter and uncertainty over the central bank's easing policy. The market is down more 18.8% from a seven-year high on June12, with selling accelerated by investors rushing to unwind positions built on borrowed money. Many investors were keen to lock in profit now, rather than in the second half of the year, because they had made enough in the first half, according to Jiang Chao, Strategist at Haitong Securities. About 2,000 of the roughly 2,800 listed companies in Shanghai and Shenzhen slumped by the 10% daily limit.

TRAVEL

51 civil aviation projects to be developed along the Silk Road

About CNY200 billion will be spent to develop 51 civil aviation projects linked to the "Belt and Road Initiative". China built 15 new airports and expanded 28 existing ones in provinces involved in the initiative during the past two years. A total of CNY4.7 billion was allocated to these provinces over the same period to upgrade air traffic control installations and equipment. Twenty-four out of 83 new air routes planned to be opened this summer and autumn by Chinese airlines will link cities in China and areas covered by the initiative, including four countries that now have no air links with China.

- Didi Kuaidi, China's largest car-hailing service provider, plans to launch a separate service targeting corporate and government users by mid-August with the aim of cutting transport costs. The market is estimated to be worth at least CNY100 billion. As many as 3,184 official cars, used to be owned by central government institutions, are going to be auctioned. An estimated CNY150 billion to CNY200 billion is spent on official cars in China every year.
- China has decided against a much-hyped plan to build a high-speed railway to Thailand, and instead opted for a medium-speed alternative that can support cargo transport. Construction of the dual-track railroad between Kunming and Nong Khai would likely start in November. The two sides had yet to reach an agreement on funding as Thailand considers the interest rate offered by China's Export-Import (Exim) Bank too high.

VIP VISITS

China and U.S. hold another round of SED

China and the U.S. held another round of their Strategic and Economic Dialogue (SED), paving the way for President Xi Jinping's visit to the United States in September. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew hosted Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi and Vice Premier Wang Yang for a private dinner ahead of the two-day talks at the State Department. The U.S. complained about alleged Chinese cyberespionage and land reclamation on some of its islands in the South China Sea. China focused on the bilateral investment treaty (BIT) and on the yuan becoming part of the International Monetary Fund's international basket of reference currencies. Vice Premier Liu Yandong and John Kerry also held the sixth China-U.S. High-Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange. In a message to the SED, Chinese President Xi Jinping said that the priority for China's foreign policy is to build a new type of major country relationship with the U.S. based on non-confrontation, non-conflict, mutual cooperation and the win-win principle. About 400 Chinese officials were in Washington for the talks.

Chinese and American negotiators bridged some differences over the bilateral investment

treaty (BIT). Washington also appeared more ready to support the yuan's inclusion in the IMF's SDR basket. However, there was little sign that Washington was ready to embrace the new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said at the end of the two-day SED that China had agreed to hold off on interventions in the foreign exchange markets to manage the yuan's value, except in situations of "disorderly market conditions". Lew acknowledged that China's foreign exchange intervention had declined over the past year. Progress was also made towards negotiating a code of conduct for cyberspace. Following the talks, The U.S. claimed progress with China on a range of topics including currencies, further progress on a bilateral investment treaty, cooperation on combating climate change, and shared concerns about the nuclear programs in Iran and the North Korea.

 Premier Li Keqiang will attend the 17th China-EU leaders' meeting on June 29 in Brussels, the first since the change of EU leadership. From June 28 to July 2, Li will visit Belgium and pay an official visit to France, visiting the headquarters of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

ONE-LINE NEWS

- The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) announced a list of companies to be targeted in this year's second inspection round, including the People's Daily, China Resources Group, China National Travel Service (HK) Group, China Merchants Group, China Eastern Airlines, Anshan Iron and Steel Group, China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, and the Ministry of Transport.
- Nearly two years after the launch of China's pilot-scheme regional carbon markets, authorities are hopeful a national market can be developed as early as next year, despite challenges facing the industry. Technical preparations were under way for the market, which would be similar to the EU Emissions Trading System (EUETS).
- Li & Fung plans to open 300 outlets under a joint venture to develop fashion brands and home products. The Hong Kong-based retail sourcing company will take a 20% stake, with Shanghai Bailian Group Co and Beijing Wangfujing Department Store Group Co each owning 40%. With an initial registered capital of CNY48 million, the business will target sales of CNY1 billion in three years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"China Unlimited" Creative Contest

This year 2015 is celebrated the 40th anniversary of EU-China diplomatic relations. The anniversary was officially kicked off on May 6, 2015. The "China Unlimited" Creative Contest is one of the highlights of this year's celebrations. European citizens are encouraged to participate and submit their pieces of art (picture, essay, drawing, video, etc.) related to China and to the EU-China relationship. This contest is a way to trigger people's creativity and to gather each and everyone around the EU-China friendship. The winners in each category win a 10-day trip to China to discover the country. That prize is transferable if the participant proves that he/she already lives in China and wishes to offer the prize to his/her relative or friend.

The "China Unlimited" Creative Contest will last until July 2015, being the most visible event to the European audience. Coorganized by the Mission of the People's Republic of China to the European Union and by Atlas International Culture, this contest will benefit from a large visibility during the year through promotion at EU-China related events, web promotion, press coverage, etc. More information at: www.chinaunlimited.eu/

Looking for traineeship

Miss TIAN Yuchen would like to find a 6-month internship from this July in UI/UX Designer or Web Developer or Graphique Designer related enterprises in Belgium or France.

She is an engineering student majored in electronics and automation at Lorraine University.

She studied alone in France for the previous four years, and is very intelligent and independent. She is 1.73 meters tall and good-looking. C.V. (in both English and French) and a self-recommendation letter showing her qualifications is available by sending an e-mail to info@flanders-china.be

New addresses, telephone and fax numbers of the Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC)

Please note the new addresses, telephone and fax numbers of the Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC).

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Large enterprises: €975

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