

CHINA

中國日報 CHINA DAILY

“Developing nations in Central Asia, Europe, Southeast Asia, Africa and other regions need to have our news perspectives and voices heard.”

Wilson Flores, columnist at the Philippine Star newspaper

COMMERCE

Trade initiative is 'direction of future'

Expert: Belt and Road strategy will be applauded years from now as visionary

By TANG YUE in Xi'an

The first US presidential debate might have been the most-watched event around the globe on Monday night local time, with the expected protectionist remarks made by candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

Yet, at the same time, across the Pacific Ocean, the Belt and Road Initiative, launched by China three years ago to foster economic ties, gained momentum as media from China and abroad expressed support.

"I know many people think the most important event today is the debate, which is

going on right now," Robert Kuhn, a US expert on China and a host on China Central Television, said on Tuesday at the media session of the International Seminar on the Belt and Road Initiative in Xi'an, Shaanxi province.

"However, looking back in 50 years or 100 years, I believe this is a more important event than the debate because it pushes forward an important initiative that is the direction of the future," Kuhn said at the two-day seminar. China Daily is a co-organizer.

In 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed the Silk Road Economic Belt, which includes countries situated



Robert Kuhn (right), a US expert on China and a host on China Central Television, speaks at the media session of the International Seminar on the Belt and Road Initiative in Xi'an, Shaanxi province on Tuesday. HUO YAN / CHINA DAILY

on the original Silk Road, passing through Central Asia, West Asia, the Middle East and Europe, as well as the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, which covers Southeast Asia, Oceania and North Africa.

By the end of June, China had signed cooperation agreements with more than 30

countries regarding the initiative and is working with another 20 on capacity building projects in the manufacturing sector, according to a report by Renmin University of China.

"Some countries that start to turn inward, start to talk protectionism, seem to be more skeptical about trade. This initiative is moving in the opposite direction. It promotes cooperation and business across the border," said Jason Eugene Subler, Greater China bureau chief of Reuters.

Some 100 media representatives from about 20 countries attended the seminar and reached a written consensus to be "a champion of the Silk Road Spirit", referring friendship and cooperation throughout history, and to be "an active supporter of the initiative".

Wilson Flores, a columnist at the Philippine Star newspaper, said the initiative allows the media in participating countries to better cooperate and to enrich the diversity of media voices, which has long been dominated by Western news organizations.

"As we evolve into a more diverse and multipolar world, developing nations in Central Asia, Europe, Southeast Asia, Africa and other regions need to have our news perspectives and voices heard."

Kang Bing, deputy editor-in-chief of China Daily, suggested that media organizations along the route can jointly identify topics to cover, develop applications together, co-produce microvideos and launch special columns, reports and web pages on the platform of other countries.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Big money sought to connect Asia-Pacific

By CHEN YINGQUN in Yangzhou, Jiangsu

Joint efforts are needed by Asia-Pacific countries to create innovative financing mechanisms to develop infrastructure, according to an official at a connectivity symposium in Yangzhou, Jiangsu province, on Tuesday.

Huang Mengfu, honorary chairman of the China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation, said at the symposium — the International Symposium: Connecting the Connectivities in Asia Pacific — that in 15 to 20 years, global demand for infrastructure investment will reach \$50 trillion.

According to the World Economic Forum, annual demand globally is currently \$3.7 trillion, but as there is a \$1 trillion shortage of investment, actual investment is about \$2.7 trillion, Huang said.

"No single economy or any international organization can afford to cover such a huge margin. I believe we especially need to mobilize the participation of private capital in connectivity, and we should make full use of public-private partnerships," Huang told representatives from more than 20 Asia-Pacific countries and regions at the event.

Zhou Qiangwu, head of the Ministry of Finance's International Economics and Finance Institute, said connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region currently lacks capital, as well as mechanisms to maximize its use.

"It may take a long time for investors to make a profit by investing in infrastructure projects in the connectivity area, and sometimes there are even political and technical risks. As a result, private capital is reluctant to invest in it," he said.

However, there is currently about \$35 trillion in idle private capital in the Asia-Pacific region, Zhou said. Multilateral development organizations could bring in more private capital and help reduce risks through creative financing tools, Zhou said.

Huang, the chairman, added that the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank could help channel financial support to infrastructure construction.

TRANSPORTATION

Final section of bridge to Hong Kong, Macao completed

By ZHENG CAIXIONG in Zhuhai, Guangdong and SHADOW LI in Hong Kong

Installation of the final 35-metric-ton piece of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge — an expansion joint — was completed on Tuesday, marking the start of the next phase of the gigantic bridge project.

Zhu Yongling, director of the bridge authority, made the announcement in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, on Tuesday after the installation was completed.

"This means construction of the 22.9-kilometer-long bridge, which is a major component of the project, has been completed," Zhu told media.

Experts said the bridge, which is expected to open before the end of 2017 will play a significant role in enhancing economic ties between Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong.

Chen Guanghan, vice-dean of the Research Institute of the Development of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, said the bridge will help Hong Kong further expand its development space when it advances its cooperation with the vast western part of the Pearl River Delta region in Guangdong after traffic begins to flow.

"The western part of the delta region, which includes the prosperous cities of Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Yangjiang and Taishan, still has huge room for expansion and cooperation with Hong Kong," Chen said on Tuesday.

"Meanwhile, Zhongshan,



the hometown of Dr Sun Yat-sen; and Jiangmen and Taishan, the hometowns of myriad overseas Chinese living around the world, have rich tourism resources for further development," he said.

"The bridge will help accelerate the development of Hong Kong's international airport and its ports and the development of Hong Kong's Lantau Island area," Chen said. It is also expected to help Hong Kong's airport and ports to attract more businesses, Chen said.

Chen urged Hong Kong to build more major shopping

centers and malls on Lantau Island, with its rich tourism resources, to meet the demand from the large number of mainland residents who are expected to visit Hong Kong after the bridge opens.

Song Haiyan, associate dean of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, predicted that the bridge will positively affect the economies of all three cities.

Song said he does not believe the bridge will necessarily bring a great surge in tourist traffic, but it will have a positive effect overall, presenting yet another option in addition to plane, train or ferry for

travel between Hong Kong and the mainland.

Hong Kong lawmaker Lo Wai-ki said the bridge will fortify Hong Kong airport's pivotal role in the region, connecting the western Pearl River Delta and shortening the journey from Zhuhai to Hong Kong.

Lo said he is confident the bridge will be finished on time, noting that the most difficult part is now complete.

The 55-kilometer bridge includes a 6.7-kilometer underwater tunnel and a 22.9 kilometer bridge that passes

over the sea, making it the longest cross-sea bridge in the world.

Construction of the Y-shaped bridge started in 2009 and will cost more than 10 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion). It is part of the country's planned national highway network, linking the western and eastern banks of the Pearl River.

Once in operation, the bridge will help shorten the current four-hour drive from Hong Kong to Zhuhai to half an hour.

The service life of the bridge is expected to be



Above: Workers celebrate the completion of major construction work on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge on Tuesday. ZHONG FAN / FOR CHINA DAILY
Left: The bridge stretches 22.9 kilometers over the water. LI JIANSHU / FOR CHINA DAILY



more than 120 years.

Contact the writers at zheng-

SECURITY

China, India to enhance efforts against terrorism

By ZHANG YAN

China and India will enhance law enforcement cooperation to fight cross-border terrorist attacks amid

increasing threats to the region, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

The agreement was reached at the first China-India Dialogue on Counterterrorism and Security held in Beijing on Tuesday.

During the conference, China and India expressed their concerns and exchanged views on combating terrorist attacks and conducting extensive security cooperation. They also reached consensus

on practical measures to cope with the threat.

Establishing a China-India counterterrorism dialogue mechanism will play an essential role in "enhancing their mutual trust and deepening pragmatic judicial cooperation to fight terror attacks, and in maintaining regional security and stability", said Lan Jianxue, a researcher at the China Institute of International Studies.

Under such a complex security situation, it's urgent for the two countries to "seize a rare opportunity to create a special dialogue, which will eliminate previous suspicions and guide them to implement

their counterterrorism action plans", Lan said.

Last November, China and India issued a joint statement to strengthen their judicial cooperation to handle terrorist crimes.

Although some achievements have been made, challenges still hinder progress in deepening judicial cooperation, observers say.

"It's necessary for us reach a consensus on terrorism's definition and scope, and on conviction standards," said Su Qiang, a Beijing-based lawyer who specializes in researching regional security in South Asia and the Middle East.

Briefly

BEIJING Website launched to broadcast trials

China launched a website, tingshen.court.gov.cn, to broadcast court trials live on Tuesday. The live trials will involve various cases and better safeguard people's rights to know and to supervise, Zhou Qiang, head of China's Supreme People's Court, said at the launch ceremony.

Police told to record activities

Police forces across China must record the whole processes of their law enforcement activities, under a guideline released on Tuesday by the State Council, China's Cabinet. The regulation calls

for police authorities to better digitalize officers' activities, and present all cases on the internet, except those involving State secrets.

NINGXIA Mine explosion kills 12, traps 8

Twelve people were killed and eight others remain trapped on Tuesday evening after an underground gas explosion at a coal mine in Shizuishan, local authorities said. The explosion occurred around 7 am in a mine run by Linli Coal Mining Co. Local authorities launched an emergency rescue response and sent senior officials to coordinate rescue efforts at the site.

XINHUA—CHINA DAILY

CIS Canadian International School of Beijing
 北京加拿大国际学校

MONTESSORI NURSERY - IB PYP, MYP & DIPLOMA PROGRAMS - CANADIAN CURRICULUM

1000+ STUDENTS
 60+ NATIONALITIES
 BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

VISIT OR APPLY TODAY!

ADMISSIONS@CIS-BEIJING.COM +86 10 64657788 WWW.CISB.COM.CN