

# CHINA WATCH

No. 79

Thursday, 1 June 2017

## POLITICAL ISSUES

### IRAN

#### 1) Xi Jinping congratulates Rouhani on re-election as Iranian President

Beijing, Saturday, 20 May 2017

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to Hassan Rouhani on his re-election as Iranian President and expressed his willingness to enhance the bilateral cooperation.

*Source: Xinhua, Beijing*

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/20/c\\_136300924.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/20/c_136300924.htm)

### ISRAEL

#### 2) Celebration takes place at the Israeli embassy in Beijing

Beijing, Sunday, 7 May 2017

The Israeli embassy in Beijing celebrated the 69th Independence Day and the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Israel at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beijing on 4 May.

*Source: Global Times, Beijing*

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1045655.shtml>

#### 3) Guo Weimin meets Israeli minister of regional affairs

Beijing, Wednesday, 17 May 2017

Guo Weimin, Vice-Minister of the State Council Information Office, met with an Israeli delegation headed by Tzachi Hanegbi, Minister of Regional Cooperation and Telecommunications in Beijing. Both the countries expressed their willingness to strengthen their partnership.

*Source: China Daily, Beijing*

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2017-05/17/content\\_29386647.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2017-05/17/content_29386647.htm)

## ECONOMIC ISSUES

### EGYPT

#### 4) Belt and Road initiative injects vitality into Egypt-China ties

Cairo, Tuesday, 9 May 2017

Egyptian Trade and Industry Minister Tarek Kabil stated that the future of bilateral economic under the Belt and Road (B&R) initiative is promising. He also encouraged Chinese investments in Egypt to fasten the pace of Egyptian-Chinese economic integration.

*Source: Xinhua, Beijing*

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/09/c\\_136266802.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/09/c_136266802.htm)

---

## **ISRAEL**

### **5) Israel expects more Chinese investments in new projects**

**Jerusalem, Saturday, 6 May 2017**

Minister of Transport, National Infrastructures and Road Safety Israel Katz said that with the deepening of cooperation between the two countries, on areas like roads, railways and infrastructures, Israel expects more Chinese enterprises to take part in new projects. He also stated the importance of Belt and Road initiative as a platform to boost bilateral cooperation.

*Source: Xinhua, Beijing*

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/06/c\\_136262050.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/06/c_136262050.htm)

---

## **MOROCCO**

### **6) China and Morocco join hands to build Africa's tallest skyscraper in Rabat**

**Rabat, Sunday, 21 May 2017**

Construction firms from China and Morocco would work jointly to build Africa's tallest high-rise tower in Morocco's capital Rabat. The 45-storey tower, which adopts ecological and sustainable design concepts, would include offices, hotels and luxury apartments.

*Source: Xinhua, Beijing*

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/21/c\\_136301107.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/21/c_136301107.htm)

---

### **7) Chinese company signed \$ 250 million contract to build tyre plant in Morocco**

**Nairobi, Wednesday, 24 May 2017**

A contract of US\$ 250 million signed between China CAMC Engineering Co., Ltd. (CAMCE) and TIJAN Petroleum Co. Ltd. for building up a new tyre plant in Morocco. The scope of the project includes technology transfer, engineering design services, civil construction, installation, procurement of machinery and materials, commissioning, testing and personnel training.

*Source: China daily, Beijing*

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-05/24/content\\_29484804.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-05/24/content_29484804.htm)

---

## **SYRIA**

### **8) China assures to provide further assistance to Syria**

**Damascus, Tuesday, 16 May 2017**

Chinese ambassador to Syria Qi Qianjin stated that his government would provide further assistance to Syria to implement humanitarian projects, as part of the Belt and Road Initiative.

*Source: Xinhua, Beijing*

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/16/c\\_129605281.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/16/c_129605281.htm)

---

## **TURKEY**

### **9) Banks seek for more partnership with China under Belt and Road initiative**

**Beijing, Tuesday, 16 May 2017**

Halil Aydogan, general manager of Turkey's Vakifbank, stated that there is demand for more than US\$ 40 billion investment in transportation infrastructure in Turkey. He expressed that the bank is seeking to expand partnerships with Chinese lenders to fund major projects.

*Source: China daily, Beijing*

[http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/epaper/2017-05/16/content\\_29367636.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/epaper/2017-05/16/content_29367636.htm)

---

### **10) Belt and Road initiative can help to strengthen China-Turkey ties**

**Beijing, Wednesday, 24 May 2017**

At the opening ceremony of the Belt and Road Forum, attended by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed the importance of the and expressed China's willingness to boost the bilateral relation and called for developing strategic cooperation between the two countries.

*Source: Global Times, Beijing*

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1048523.shtml>

---

## **UAE**

### **11) Agricultural Bank of China starts RMB settlement in Dubai**

**Dubai, Wednesday, 10 May 2017**

Agricultural Bank of China (ABC) has opened Chinese currency RMB or Yuan clearing branch, in the UAE. According to ABC the purpose of new branch is to improve ABC's global settlement business, contribute to internationalization of Yuan, and to support the Belt and Road Initiative.

*Source: Xinhua, Beijing*

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/10/c\\_136272388.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/10/c_136272388.htm)

---

## **MULTILATERAL**

### **12) China calls for faster free trade negotiations with the GCC**

**Beijing, Tuesday, 16 May 2017**

Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao on Tuesday called on China and the Gulf Cooperation Council to speed up free trade agreement (FTA) negotiation. He added that China and Kuwait under the Belt and Road Initiative should promote cooperation in energy, finance, and industrial parks.

*Source: Xinhua, Beijing*

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/16/c\\_136288477.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/16/c_136288477.htm)

---

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **SAUDI ARABIA**

#### **13) China and Saudi Arabia cooperates on railway projects**

**Riyadh, Wednesday, 17 May 2017**

China has contributed to the metro train railway project running near Mecca. The machine washer designed and manufactured by CHSR, a Chinese supplier of solutions and products would be used for the operation and maintenance of rail transit systems.

*Source: Xinhua, Beijing*

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/17/c\\_136292336.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/17/c_136292336.htm)

---

## **COMPILED BY MINAKSHI SARDAR**

Minakshi Sardar is a Doctoral candidate at School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Email: [mini.8star@gmail.com](mailto:mini.8star@gmail.com)

---

As part of its editorial policy, the MEI@ND standardizes spelling and date formats, to make the text uniformly accessible and stylistically consistent. The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views/positions of the MEI@ND. Editor, **MEI@ND: P R Kumaraswamy**