

The Belt and Road Initiative: A Key Pillar of the Global Community of Shared Future

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Preamble

Two millennia ago, inspired by a sincere wish for friendship, our ancestors travelled across grasslands and seas and Silk Road connecting Asia, Europe and Africa, leading the world into an era of extensive cultural exchange. 1,000 years ago, our ancestors set sail and braved the waves to open a maritime Silk Road linking the East and West, ushering in a new phase of closer communication among peoples.

Spanning thousands of miles and years, the ancient silk routes were not only routes for trade but also roads for friendship. They made a great contribution to human progress. In the 1980s, the United Nations and some countries launched the Eurasian Land Bridge, the Silk Road Initiative, and other plans, reflecting a common wish to promote regional integration and cooperation.

In March 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed the vision of a global community of shared future; in September of that year, he raised the initiatives of joining with others to build a Silk Road Economic Belt and a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (Belt and Road Initiative, or BRI). The Belt and Road Initiative is a creative development that carries forward the spirit of the ancient silk routes – two of the great achievements in human history and civilization – and combines the ancient spirit with the zeitgeist and culture of the new era, and provides a platform for building a community of shared future.

Since its launch 10 years ago, thanks to the combined efforts of all parties, cooperation under the BRI framework has expanded beyond the borders of China to become an international effort. It has evolved from ideas into actions, from general principles to specific projects, and from a general framework into concrete projects. It has been welcomed by the international community as a good and a cooperation platform, and has achieved solid results.

Over the past decade, BRI cooperation has delivered real gains to participating countries. It has contributed to the development of economic globalization and helped to resolve global development challenges and improve the global economic system. It has also opened up a new path for all humanity to realize modernization, and ensured that the members of the global community of shared future are delivering real results.

The Chinese government is publishing this white paper to present the achievements of the BRI during the past 10 years, to provide the international community a better understanding of the value of the initiative, facilitate high-quality cooperation, and ultimately deliver benefits to more countries and peoples.

I. Proposed by China but Belonging to the Whole World

The world today is going through profound change on a scale unseen in a century. Problems and challenges confront the progress of human civilization. In response to a changing global situation and the expectations of the international community, the Chinese government is publishing this white paper to present the achievements of the BRI during the past 10 years, to provide the international community a better understanding of the value of the initiative, facilitate high-quality cooperation, and ultimately deliver benefits to more countries and peoples.

on, countries of different ethnic groups, beliefs and cultural backgrounds could share peace and achieve development. The Silk Road spirit is consistent with the ideal of “all states joining together in harmony and peace” long used by the Chinese nation, with the Chinese people’s principles of amity, good neighborliness and “helping others to succeed through their own success”, and with the call of the times for peace, development and win-win cooperation.

The Communist Party of China is a major political party with a global vision, and China is a major country driving global development. The BRI, which carries forward the Silk Road spirit in the new era, evokes the pleasant memories of the past and has fired many countries’ enthusiasm for connectivity.

The BRI pays respect to history and tries to recreate the bustling scenes of untiring envoys and businessmen and merchant ships calling at ports along the ancient silk routes. It is also navigating a way to the future by drawing strength from the ancient silk routes and the Silk Road spirit. Enlightened by history, we will continue to move forward the Chinese Dream with the world’s dreams, in order to realize the aspiration of all peoples for economic development, civilization, peace and tranquility, common development, and better lives.

response to reality, the BRI resolves problems in development

Economic development holds the master key to solving all problems. Economic globalization has given strong momentum to the world economy. Over 500 years ago, after the ancient silk routes had been interrupted for more than a half century, the Silk Road arrived, fundamentally changing the course of human society. Since the advent of modern times, technological innovation and development of the productive forces have made economic globalization a surging historical trend. Since the 1990s, the rapid advance of economic globalization has greatly facilitated trade, investment, and technological progress, making an important contribution to the progress of human society.

However, the economic globalization dominated by a few countries has not contributed to the common development and benefits to all. Instead, it has widened the wealth gap between rich and poor, between developed and developing countries and within developed countries. Many developing countries have benefited little from economic globalization due to their capacity for independent development, making it hard for them to access the track of modernization. Some countries have practiced unilateralism, protectionism and hegemonism, hampering economic globalization and threatening the world economic recession.

It is imperative to address such global problems as sluggish economic growth, shortcomings in economic governance, and economic development. It is no longer acceptable that only a few countries dominate world economic development, control economic rules, and enjoy development fruits.

The BRI targets development not only for China but for the world at large. Economic globalization represents an irreversible trend. It is unthinkable for countries to return to a state of seclusion or isolation. However, economic globalization needs to undergo adjustments in both form and substance. It should be made more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all. China has not only benefited from economic globalization but also contributed to it. As an active participant in economic globalization, China has achieved rapid economic growth through positive interactions with the rest of the world and has provided a path towards modernization, expanding the options for other developing countries to achieve modernization. China’s economic growth and steady progress in reform and opening up has provided a strong driving force for global economic growth and development and growth as well as an open world economy.

China has been a firm advocate and defender of economic globalization. The BRI dovetails with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in concept, measures and goals. A major step taken by China, the BRI aims to promote high-quality development through higher-standard opening up, and share China’s development opportunities with the world. The BRI is also a Chinese solution to global development issues, which aims to advance modernization of all countries in tandem, make economic globalization more dynamic, inclusive and sustainable, and ensure that the fruits of development will be shared more equitably by people across the world.

ultimate goal of the BRI is to help build a global community of shared future. As an important public good and global governance, the initiative provides a platform for turning the vision into reality. The BRI involves all regions, at different development stages, and with different cultures. It transcends differences in ideologies and interests. It enables different countries to share opportunities, realize common development and prosperity, and build a community of shared interests, responsibility and destiny characterized by mutual political trust, economic integration and inclusiveness. As a practical means of building a global community of shared future, the BRI has created and inspired the imagination of the world, and contributed new ideas and new approaches to international relations. It will produce a fairer and more equitable global governance system, and take humanity to a better future.

II. Paving the Way Towards Shared Development and Prosperity

The BRI is in alignment with the concept of a global community of shared future. It promotes and puts into practice the concept of a global community of shared future, which is relevant to the present era, the world, development, security, openness, cooperation, civilization, and governance. It is not only a conceptual framework but also a practical roadmap for all nations to achieve shared development and prosperity.

Principles: extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits

The BRI is founded on the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. It promotes cooperation in pursuit of the greater good and shared interests. It emphasizes that all countries are equal partners and beneficiaries, and encourages economic integration, interconnected development, and the sharing of opportunities.

The principle of extensive consultation signifies that the BRI is not a solo endeavor by China, but a collaborative effort involving all stakeholders. This principle promotes and activates authentic multilateralism, encouraging cooperation while fully respecting the varying levels of development, economic structures, legal systems, and cultures of different nations. It emphasizes equal participation, effective communication, collective wisdom, freedom of choice, and no preconditions or economic prerequisites, and voluntary engagement to foster maximum consensus. Irrespective of size and wealth, all countries participate on an equal footing and can provide opinions and proposals in bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Under this principle, economies at different stages of development will reinforce bilateral or multilateral cooperation, identify and establish innovative cooperation mechanisms, and provide a platform for dialogue, cooperation and consultation in global governance.

The principle of joint contribution highlights that the BRI is not one of China's international aid programs or grants, but a collaborative effort for shared development. It aims to align with existing regional mechanisms rather than substitute and leverage complementary strengths. This principle emphasizes the participation of all countries, substantial coordination with the development strategies of relevant countries and regions, and the identification and utilization of their respective development potential and comparative strengths. The objective is to collectively create new development opportunities, driving forces, and development space while achieving complementary and interactive growth by combining each country's strengths and capabilities.

To promote extensive participation, this principle encourages countries and businesses to engage through various forms of cooperation, including bilateral cooperation, third-party market cooperation and multilateral cooperation, thereby creating a more open and inclusive environment. This principle values market forces and promotes market-oriented operations to further the interests of all countries and businesses.

BRI is committed to open, green and clean cooperation towards inclusive and sustainable development. It is free from corruption and promotes steady and high-quality growth.

BRI is a public road open to all, not a private path owned by any single party. It is free from geopolitical calculation and does not aim to create an exclusive club, nor does it target at any party. It does not form cliques based on regional standards. It has no intention of establishing military alliances. Countries from Eurasia, Africa, the Americas and Europe are all welcome to participate in the initiative, regardless of their political system, historical background, development stage, ideology, or religious beliefs, as long as they seek common development. All participants are committed to openness and inclusiveness, while firmly opposing protectionism, unilateralism and hegemonism, and to create an all-round, three-dimensional landscape of interconnectivity. The goals are to develop a new model of cooperation based on win-win outcomes, shared responsibility, and collective participation, build a global network of infrastructure, and nurture a harmonious coexistence for humanity.

BRI embraces the global trend of green and low-carbon development, emphasizes respecting and protecting its laws, and respects the right of all parties to pursue sustainable and eco-friendly growth.

Based on a shared commitment to eco-environmental considerations, the parties involved have carried out policy coordination and ideas and achievements in green development. Through closer cooperation in areas such as green infrastructure, energy, eco-friendly transport, and sustainable finance, all parties work together to broaden consensus and take steps towards green development. The ultimate goal is to establish a resource-efficient, eco-conscious and low-carbon development model, thereby making a significant contribution to protecting the eco-environment, achieving peak carbon and addressing climate change.

Leveraging its expertise in renewable energy, energy conservation, environmental protection and clean production, and promoting Chinese technology, products and experience, China actively promotes BRI cooperation in green development. Clean and transparent governance is considered an intrinsic and necessary condition for the steady and sustained development of BRI. All participants are committed to transparency in cooperation. All participants joined to combat corruption, strengthening the legal framework and mechanisms, harmonizing their laws and regulations, and fostering international cooperation. Furthermore, all participants stand united against all forms of corruption and other international criminal activities, and work consistently to combat commercial bribery. This ensures that financial resources and projects are managed with integrity and efficiency, leading to greater outcomes and making BRI cooperation an example of clean governance.

In April 2019, together with relevant countries, international organizations, and representatives from the business and academic communities, China launched the Beijing Initiative for the Clean Silk Road. This initiative calls for a cooperation model characterized by extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits. Chinese companies expanding overseas are committed to compliance and lawful operations, adhering to the laws of both China and the host countries, and following international norms. They have particularly heightened their capacity to mitigate overseas operational risks, strengthen risk prevention and management to ensure the delivery of clean, cost-efficient and high-quality projects.

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) directly under the central government have released 868 guidelines of compliance and ethics, and defined 5,000-plus job compliance responsibilities; SOEs and financial institutions directly under the central government and their branches have formulated and updated more than 15,000 rules for managing overseas operations. By the end of 2020, more than 60 Chinese enterprises engaged in extensive BRI cooperation joined in launching the Initiative for BRI Enterprises.

Objectives: high standards, sustainability, and better lives

BRI aims at high standards, sustainability, and better lives by raising cooperation standard, investment efficiency, and development resilience, delivering real and substantive results for all participants.

BRI introduces universally accepted rules and standards to guide business practices in project tendering, procurement, and contract management.

health care. Closer exchanges are promoted among political parties, social organizations, think tanks, youth national communities. These efforts aim to create projects that are grounded in the needs of the people, in the sense of gain and fulfillment. China actively promotes small-scale yet impactful projects through foreign aid, investment, and trade. From Asia to Africa, Latin America to the South Pacific, the construction of roads, railways, schools, cultural facilities contributes to poverty reduction and improves the people's wellbeing in participating countries.

Initiative: a path to global wellbeing

As an initiative towards progress, cooperation and inclusiveness, the BRI pursues development, promotes win-win cooperation, and creates hope. It aims to deepen understanding and trust, strengthen comprehensive exchanges, and ultimately achieve common development and shared prosperity.

Path to peace. Peace is a prerequisite for development, while development serves as the foundation for peace and stability. The BRI rejects the law of the jungle and the hegemonic order based on power struggles. It rejects zero-sum thinking and the zero-sum mentality of ideological rivalry and geopolitical competition. Instead, it paves the way for peaceful development and offers a fundamental approach to lasting peace and universal security. Under the BRI, nations respect each other's sovereignty, equality, dignity, territorial integrity, development path, social system, core interests, and major concerns. As the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, "China passionately campaigns for the establishment of a new model of international relations characterized by respect, equity, justice, and win-win cooperation. It is committed to building partnerships based on dialogue and mutual respect, and friendship rather than alliance, and to fostering a new vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and win-win security. These efforts help to create a peaceful and stable development environment."

Path to prosperity. The BRI is committed to building a prosperous future that diverges from the exploitative capitalist model, avoids coercive and one-sided transactions, rejects the center-periphery model of dependency, and does not transfer the burden of crisis onto others or exploit neighbors for self-interest. Instead, it aims to achieve win-win outcomes and shared prosperity. Under the BRI, all parties will prioritize development as the common goal, leverage their strengths and resources and potential advantages, igniting their own growth engines, growing their capacity for innovation, and collectively creating more opportunities and space for development. This collaborative effort aims to provide momentum and impetus for global economic growth, drive inclusive growth, and bring global development into a new, higher, and inclusive new stage.

Path to openness. The BRI represents an open and inclusive collaborative process that transcends national boundaries, differences, developmental disparities, social system variations, and geopolitical conflicts. It is not about replacing the current international system, but rather supplementing and improving the existing mechanisms. All parties will uphold the core values and fundamental principles of the multilateral trading system. Together, participants will establish a new cooperative platform, safeguard and promote an open global economy, create an environment conducive to trade and investment, construct a fair, equitable and transparent system of international trade and investment rules, and promote trade and investment based on win-win outcomes, shared responsibility and collective participation. The BRI facilitates the flow of goods, services, technology, and information, the efficient allocation of resources, deep integration of markets, and liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, and ensures the stable performance and smooth operation of global industrial and supply chains. It will build an economic globalization that is open, inclusive, balanced, and beneficial to all.

Path to innovation. Innovation serves as a critical driving force for progress. The BRI is dedicated to innovation, harnessing the opportunities presented by digital, internet-based and smart development. It explores new forms, technologies and models, seeking out fresh sources of growth and innovative development pathways and promoting innovative advancements for all involved. Participants collaborate to connect digital infrastructure, build the Digital Silk Road, strengthen innovative cooperation in cutting-edge fields, and promote the deep integration of science, technology, and finance. These efforts aim to optimize the environment for innovation, gather innovative resources

-people bonds. As its scope expands, the BRI has become the world's largest platform for international cooperation with the broadest coverage.

Intensive and in-depth policy coordination

Policy coordination underpins BRI cooperation. China has worked with participating countries and international organizations to establish a multilevel policy coordination and communication mechanism for aligning development, political and economic policies, and administration rules and standards. Under this mechanism, plans and measures for cooperation have been formulated through joint efforts to facilitate and speed up cooperation, making the BRI a collaborative framework for international exchanges.

Policy and policy coordination is expanding in scope. At the global level, the 193 UN member states unanimously incorporated the Belt and Road Initiative in the UN resolution passed at the 71st United Nations General Assembly in 2016. In March 2017, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2344, calling for stronger international cooperation through the BRI, among other initiatives. The United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization (WHO) have signed BRI cooperation agreements with China. At the World Trade Organization, China's efforts have facilitated the conclusion of the negotiations on the text of the Investment Facilitation for Development, with a view to establishing a coordinated and unified investment management system covering more countries and regions to encourage BRI cooperation on investment.

At regional and multilateral levels, the BRI has supported regional integration and global development by aligning with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, the Indo-Pacific, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and the European Union's Strategy on Connecting Europe.

At the bilateral level, the BRI has succeeded in coordinating with a wide range of strategies and initiatives, including the Eurasian Economic Union framework, Kazakhstan's Bright Road economic policy, Turkmenistan's Silk Road, Mongolia's Steppe Road plan, Indonesia's Global Marine Fulcrum initiative, the Philippines' Rebuild program, Vietnam's Two Corridors and One Economic Circle plan, South Africa's Economic Reconstruction Plan, Egypt's Suez Canal Corridor Project, and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. By June 2023, China had signed BRI cooperation agreements with more than 150 countries and 30 international organizations across five continents, and a number of signature projects and small-scale yet impactful projects.

Long-term mechanism for policy coordination is largely in place. Multilevel channels for regular communication between different parties have been opened up on different platforms. This has been made possible through top-down efforts led by heads of state, with support from intergovernmental strategic communication and governmental policy coordination, and with cooperation projects carried out by enterprises and social organizations. China has hosted the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation twice, providing an important platform for participating countries and international organizations to expand exchanges, increase mutual trust, and strengthen cooperation. The first forum in 2017 welcomed heads of state and government from 29 countries, and more than 1,600 representatives from 100 countries and 80-plus international organizations, yielding a total of 279 deliverables in five categories. The second forum held in 2019, 40 leaders, including heads of state and government from 38 countries, the UN secretary-general, the International Monetary Fund's managing director, attended the Leaders' Roundtable. More than 6,000 representatives from over 150 countries and 92 international organizations, yielding 283 deliverables in 6 categories.

Multilateral cooperation is driving forward. Under the BRI framework, Chinese and foreign partners have established multilateral dialogue and cooperation mechanisms in professional domains such as railways, ports, energy, environment, environmental protection, disaster prevention and relief, think tanks, and the media, attracting a growing number of participants. BRI participating countries have also expanded practical cooperation through major multilateral platform

a has continued to strengthen cross-border accounting and auditing regulatory cooperation with 22 countries including Russia, Malaysia and Singapore, providing institutional guarantees for expanding cross-border financing channels.

Improving connectivity of infrastructure

BRI prioritizes connectivity of infrastructure. Based on a framework comprising “six corridors, six regions, six countries and ports”, a multitiered and multidimensional infrastructure network is taking shape. Basic connectivity in land, maritime, air and cyberspace is in place, laying solid foundations for deeper cooperation in trade and investment and strengthening cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Construction of economic corridors and international routes is making substantial progress. Participating countries have moved forward with the creation of international arterial routes, building an infrastructure network that connects major cities as well as the continents of Asia, Europe and Africa.

Major projects along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor are under way. The Peshawar-Karachi International Expressway (Multan section), the Karakoram Highway Phase II (Havelian-Thakot section), and the Lahore Orange Line are open to traffic. Coal-fired power plants such as Sahiwal, Port Qasim, Thar, and Hub are operating safely and steadily. A 500 kV transmission project is operational; and the Kalot Hydropower Station is connected to the power grid. The Gwadar Economic Zone has reached the stage of comprehensive development.

Along the New Eurasian Land Bridge, the Belgrade-Novı Sad section of the Hungary-Serbia Railway in Serbia was opened in March 2022, and track-laying has started on the Budapest-Kelebija section in Hungary. The Peljesac Bridge has celebrated its first anniversary of opening to traffic. The Western Europe-Western China Highway Phase I. The Smokovac-Matesevo section of the Bar-Boljare Highway in Montenegro has been completed and is open to traffic.

Along the China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor, the China-Laos Railway has been completed and is open to service, and its role as a golden transport channel is becoming increasingly prominent. The Jakarta-Surabaya High-Speed Railway, the flagship project of BRI cooperation between China and Indonesia, has achieved an operating speed of 350 km per hour. The contract for the China-Thailand Railway Phase I (Bangkok-Nakhon Ratchasima section) was signed. 11 sections of the construction project have started, including one that has been completed.

Along the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor, the Heihe-Blagoveshchensk Highway Bridge and the Heihe-Nizhneleninskoye Railway Bridge, connecting China and Russia, have opened to traffic. The China-Russia Gas Pipeline is fully operational. China, Russia and Mongolia have officially launched a feasibility study and development of the central-route railway of the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor.

Along the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan Highway is in full operation. The Central Asia Gas Pipeline is fully operational. The grain and oil rail transport lines between North Kazakhstan and China are operating in conjunction with the China-Europe Railway Express.

Along the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor, the China-Myanmar Crude Oil and Gas Pipeline has been completed and entered service. The feasibility study on the Muse-Mandalay section of the China-Myanmar Railway has been completed, and the feasibility study on the Mandalay-Kyaukphyu section has been launched. Construction projects, including the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge and the Dohazari-Cox’s Bazar rail route, have made significant progress.

Mombasa-Nairobi Railway promotes Kenya’s economic and social development

orientation training, and every year a number of young Kenyans were to participate in training and academic education in China. Since the of the railway, Chinese companies have adopted tailored training methods nt people, professions and posts, and have trained 1,152 professionals for

frica, railways such as the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway and the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway are now o become important drivers of in-depth development not only in East Africa but across the entire continent.

itime connectivity is steadily improving. Cooperation is expanding in shipping among the ports of par and the efficiency of cargo transportation has seen notable increase.

annual cargo throughput of the Port of Piraeus in Greece has increased to above 5 million twenty-foot e Us), making it the fourth largest TEU port in Europe and a leading TEU port in the Mediterranean.

Gwadar Port in Pakistan has seen major progress and is marching towards the goal of becoming a logistics c base.

minary work is currently under way on the Kyaukphyu Deep-sea Port project in Myanmar, including g n and environmental and social assessment.

annual throughput of bulk cargo at Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka has increased to 1.21 million tonnes.

Vado Gateway terminal has become the first semi-automatic terminal operating in Italy.

Lekki Deep-sea Port in Nigeria has been completed and entered service, becoming a major modern deepwa id Western Africa.

Silk Road Maritime network has continued to expand. By the end of June 2023, it had reached 117 p and more than 300 well-known Chinese and international shipping companies, port enterprises and thier bodies, have joined the Silk Road Maritime association.

arine environment forecast and support system that focuses on areas along the Maritime Silk Road offers s i 100 cities in participating countries.

Air Silk Road has made notable progress. The aviation route network between participating co g rapidly, and the level of air connectivity is steadily improving.

a has signed bilateral air transport agreements with 104 BRI partner countries and opened direct flight untries to facilitate cross-border transport.

ese enterprises are active participants in civil aviation infrastructure cooperation with partner countries Nepal and Togo, helping to develop the local civil aviation industry.

RI cooperation platform proposed by the Civil Aviation Administration of China was established in Aug g mechanisms and platforms of civil aviation exchanges and cooperation among participating countries.

ng the Covid-19 pandemic, a direct line of the Air Silk Road linking Zhengzhou in Henan Province and L spend its air or freighting services, and transported a large amount of supplies. It served as an air lifeline l Europe, and contributed to keeping international industrial and supply chains stable.

national inter-modality transport channels continue to enjoy stable development. These channels in rope Railway Express, the China-Europe Land-Sea Express Line, the New International Land-Sea Trade ianyungang-Khorgos New Eurasian Land-Sea Expressway.

China-Europe Railway Express has now reached more than 200 cities in 25 European countries, comp ssing through the main regions of the Eurasian hinterland at a speed of 120 km per hour. Its logistics di

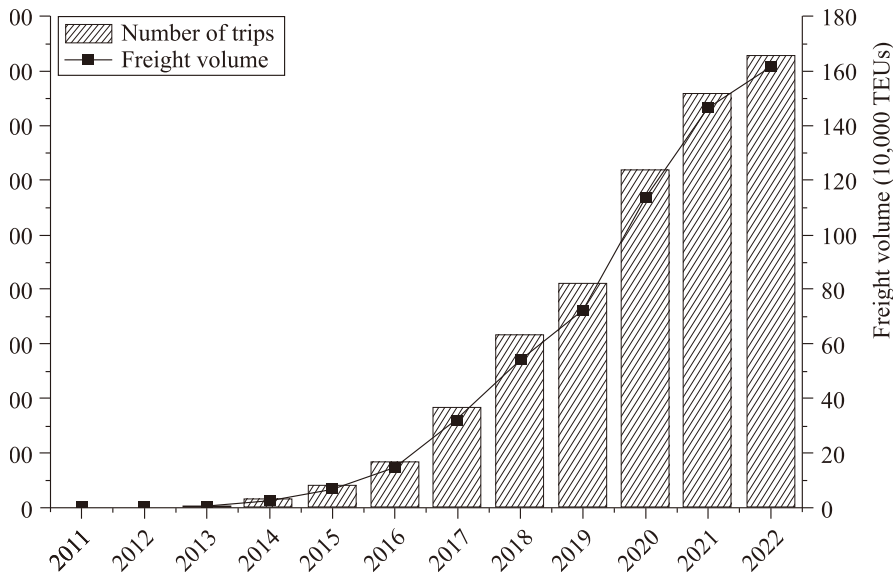
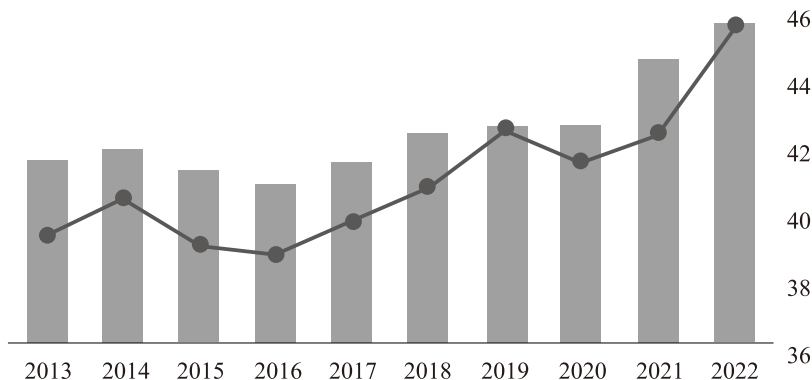


Figure 1: Number of trips and freight volume of China-Europe freight trains (2011-2022)

impeded, convenient and efficient trade

Facilitating trade and investment is a major task in building the Belt and Road. The participating countries have promoted trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, removed investment and trade barriers, and improved the business environment within the region and in all related countries. Efforts have been made to build free trade zones, reduce trade frictions, improve trade structure, expand areas of mutual investment and industrial cooperation, establish a more sustainable trading system, and develop mutually beneficial economic and trade relations, so as to make the Belt and Road bigger.

Trade and investment are expanding steadily. From 2013 to 2022, the cumulative value of imports and exports between China and BRI partner countries reached US\$19.1 trillion, with an average annual growth rate of 6.4 percent. The total value of two-way investment between China and partner countries reached US\$380 billion, including US\$240 billion in the value of newly signed construction contracts with partner countries reached US\$2 trillion, and the actual value of completed construction contracts reached US\$1.3 trillion. In 2022, the value of imports and exports between China and partner countries reached US\$2.9 trillion, accounting for 45.4 percent of China's total foreign trade over the same period, representing an increase of 6.2 percentage points compared with 2013; the total value of imports and exports of Chinese private enterprises with partner countries exceeded US\$1.5 trillion, accounting for 53.7 percent of the trade between China and these countries over the same period.



: Operator mutual recognition with 35 partner countries, and has signed third-party market cooperation documents with 10 countries.

China has established a “single-window” cooperation mechanism with Singapore, Pakistan, Mongolia, Iran and other countries, and signed cooperation documents on customs inspection and quarantine, effectively improving the efficiency of customs clearance at border ports.

Trade and investment platforms are playing a growing role. China International Import Expo (CIIE) is the world's largest national-level expo and has been held for the past five years. It has resulted in a cumulative intended trade volume of \$350 billion, and about 2,000 launches of new products. With diverse participants from many countries and regions, CIIE has become a global platform for international procurement, investment promotion, cultural exchanges, and trade cooperation.

The influence of key exhibitions continues to expand; these include China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair), China National Fair for Trade in Services, China International Fair for Investment and Trade, China International Import Expo, Global Digital Trade Expo, China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo, China-Arab States Expo, China-Russia Economic Expo & International Consumer Goods Fair, China-ASEAN Expo, and China-Eurasia Expo. All of them have provided a strong boost to trade and investment cooperation among participating countries.

Hong Kong SAR has held the Belt and Road Summit eight times, and the Macao SAR has held the Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum 14 times, which have played an important role in advancing economic and trade cooperation along the Belt and Road.

Industrial cooperation is deepening. BRI participating countries have worked hard to foster a paradigm of coordinated development, mutual benefit, and win-win outcomes, which has given a strong boost to industrial structures and optimizing industrial chains in the countries involved.

BRI participating countries have jointly promoted cooperation on industrial capacity, expanded cooperation in traditional industries including steel, non-ferrous metals, building materials, automobiles, engineering machinery, resources and energy, explored cooperation in emerging industries such as the digital economy, new energy vehicles, nuclear energy, and 5G, and carried out tri-party and multiparty market cooperation, thus advancing mutual complementarity and realizing mutual benefits to all parties.

By the end of June 2023, China had signed agreements on industrial capacity cooperation with more than 40 countries. The China-Africa Mining Cooperation Conference & Exhibition and China-ASEAN Mining Cooperation Forum & Exhibition serve as important platforms for participating countries to conduct mining capacity cooperation.

The China-Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Demonstration Base for Agricultural Technology Exchange and Trade has been established, advancing in agricultural science and technology under the BRI, and promoted economic and trade cooperation among participating countries.

Jointly constructed by China and Pakistan, the K2 and K3 units of the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant have been completed and put into operation, utilizing China's Hualong One nuclear technology.

The Ulba Fuel Assembly Plant, a successful joint venture between China and Kazakhstan, is now operational.

The China-ASEAN Forum on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology has served as a bridge to establish cooperation between BRI participating countries to cooperate on nuclear technology and promote growth and people's wellbeing.

More than 70 overseas industrial parks have been built by Chinese enterprises together with governments and enterprises in more than 30 countries. The China-Malaysia and China-Indonesia “Two Countries, Twin Parks” projects, the China-Uzbekistan Industrial Park, the China-UAE Industrial Capacity Cooperation Demonstration Zone, and the China-Chad Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone are making steady progress.

Dynamic dynamics of financial integration

China has signed bilateral currency swap agreements with 20 partner countries and established renminbi (RMB) clearing centers in 17 partner countries. The number of participants, business volume, and influence of the RMB clearing system have gradually increased, effectively facilitating trade and investment.

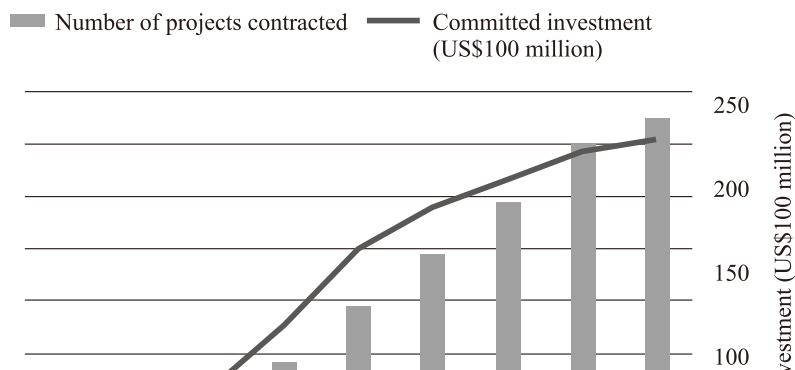
Financial regulation cooperation and exchanges have continued to move forward. China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (now National Administration of Financial Regulation), China Securities Regulatory Commission and regulatory agencies from multiple other countries have signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) for cooperation, facilitating the establishment of regional regulatory coordination mechanisms, promoting the development of funds, strengthening risk control, and creating sound investment conditions for various financial institutions and entities.

Channels and platforms for investment and financing are constantly expanding. China has funded the Silk Road Fund (SRF) and established the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with 57 participating countries. The SRF specifically serves BRI cooperation. By the end of June 2023, the fund has supported 75 projects with committed investment of about US\$22 billion; the number of AIIB members had reached 57 and had approved 227 projects with a total investment of US\$43.6 billion. The projects involve transportation and other fields, providing investment and financing support for infrastructure connectivity and sustainable economic and social development.

China has actively participated in various existing financing arrangements. It has signed memorandums of cooperation with national financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, worked with international financial institutions to establish a multilateral development financing cooperation center, strengthened third-party cooperation in investment and financing with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and carried out cooperation with the International Finance Corporation, the African Development Bank and others. These measures have effectively mobilized market capital.

China has initiated the establishment of international economic cooperation funds such as the China-Eurasian Cooperation Fund, the China-LAC Cooperation Fund, the China-Central and Eastern Europe Investment Cooperation Fund, the China-ASEAN Investment Cooperation Fund, the China-LAC Industrial Cooperation Investment Fund, and the Africa Fund for Industrial Cooperation. These have effectively expanded investment and financing channels for BRI cooperation.

China Development Bank (CDB) and the Export-Import Bank of China (China Eximbank) have each set up special loans for the BRI to increase financing support for BRI cooperation. By the end of 2022, the CDB has provided direct financing services for more than 1,300 BRI projects, playing a leading role in guiding development finance, and promoting the flow of domestic and foreign funds for BRI cooperation. The balance of loans of China Eximbank for BRI projects has reached 1.1 trillion yuan, covering 130-plus participating countries and driving more than US\$400 billion of investment and trade. China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation has fully applied export credit insurance and comprehensive guarantees for building the Belt and Road.



stock and futures exchanges have steadily promoted practical cooperation in equity, products, technology and the exchanges in partner countries, and actively supported the development of exchanges participating in BRI projects, such as the Astana International Exchange in Kazakhstan, the Pakistan Stock Exchange, and the Dhaka Stock Exchange in Bangladesh.

Debt sustainability has continued to improve. Based on the principle of equal participation and benefit and risk sharing, 28 countries approved the Guiding Principles on Financing the Development of the Belt and Road, encouraging financial institutions and enterprises of participating countries to attach importance to debt sustainability and their debt management capability. Drawing on the debt sustainability framework of low-income countries developed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, China has developed tools based on the actual conditions of participating countries, and issued the Debt Sustainability Framework for Participating Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative. All parties are encouraged to use it on a voluntary basis.

To avoid causing debt risk and financial burden to the countries where BRI projects are located, China has provided loans and social benefits and provided loans for project construction based on local needs and conditions. The key projects are infrastructure projects designed to increase connectivity, and projects for public wellbeing urgently needed by participating countries. These have brought effective investment, increased high-quality assets, and boosted development.

Think tank experts and international institutions have pointed out that almost all the BRI projects are initiated by participating countries with the goals of growing their economies and improving their people's lives. In the process, the initiative has taken precedence over geopolitics.

Solid foundations for people-to-people ties

People-to-people ties are the social foundations of BRI cooperation. The participating countries have passed forward the spirit of friendly cooperation of the ancient Silk Road, cooperated on exchanges in culture, education, think tank and the media, and promoted mutual learning among civilizations and cultural integration and innovation. The development of people-to-people exchanges characterized by dynamic interactions and diversity has underpinned public support for the initiative.

Cooperation on culture and tourism is rich and colorful. By the end of June 2023, China had signed cooperation documents with 144 BRI partner countries.

China has created cooperation platforms together with participating countries, including the Silk Road International Network of Theaters, the Silk Road International Museum Alliance, the Network of Silk Road Arts Festivals, the Silk Road International Library Alliance, and the Silk Road International Alliance of Art Museums and Galleries. These platforms have 152 members, including 326 cultural institutions from 72 partner countries.

China is steadily expanding international cultural exchanges. China has launched the Cultural Silk Road program, with signature events such as the Happy Chinese New Year celebrations, the Nihao China tourism promotion activities, and the Belt and Road Artists' Rendezvous art exhibition. It has worked with Brunei, Cambodia, Greece, Italy, Malaysia, Russia and other countries to carry out cultural and tourism activities at designated years. China and BRI partner countries have hosted events in a reciprocal manner, ranging from cultural relics exhibitions, film festivals, arts festivals, book fairs and music festivals to mutual translation and promotion of each other's publishing, radio, film and television programs. They have also implemented theater arts creation and promotion projects, the Belt and Road International Art Project, and the Belt and Road Neighborhoodliness cultural project, and worked to protect Asian cultural heritage. China has established 46 Chinese cultural centers in 44 countries, of which 32 are partner countries. China has established 20 tourism offices in 18 countries and 100 tourism service centers in partner countries.

Educational exchanges and cooperation are extensive and profound. China has released the Education Action

icipating countries have capitalized on the demonstration and driving role of the University Alliance and the Annual Science Organizations (ANSO) under the BRI framework, and expanded international exchanges and cooperating and scientific research.

Media and think tank cooperation has yielded fruitful results. BRI participating countries have held the Belt and Road Forum on Belt and Road six times, and established the Belt and Road Media Community. The China-Africa Radio and Television Cooperation, the Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation, the China-Cambodia International Annual Regular Cooperation Conference, the ASEAN-China Media Cooperation Forum, the Lancang-Mekong Media Week, and other bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms have been set up. International organizations like the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union and the Arab States Broadcasting Union have become active and effective platforms for building consensus among participating countries.

Media outlets in China and partner countries have jointly established the Belt and Road News Network, which has won the Global News Awards. By the end of June 2023, the network's members had increased to 233 media outlets.

Think tank exchanges have become more frequent. The Advisory Council of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was established in 2018. The Silk Road Think Tank Association has recruited 122 partners in Asia and Latin America. Sixteen Chinese and foreign think tanks have established the Belt and Road Studies Network.

People-to-people exchanges are constantly expanding. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) cooperate with the goals of benefiting the people, improving their lives, and connecting their hearts. The Belt and Road People-to-people ties sub-forum of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Chinese and foreign NGO Network for International Exchanges, combined to launch the Silk Road Community Building Project, encouraging Chinese and foreign NGOs to establish nearly 600 cooperative partnership pairings and carry out more than 1,000 projects for improving people's lives. Of these, some brand projects have achieved a wide impact, including the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation to benefit the people in the Lancang-Mekong region with Shenzhen's experience and technology, the Panda Pack Project to provide primary school students with learning supplies, and the Eye Care Program to provide free cataract surgery to those in need.

Over 60-plus BRI partner countries have formed more than 1,000 pairs of friendly cities with their counterparts. A total of 352 NGOs from 72 countries and regions have formed a Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network, carrying out over 500 projects and various other activities, and becoming an important platform for exchanges and cooperation between NGOs in participating countries.

Steady progress in new areas

By leveraging their respective strengths, participating countries have continued to expand BRI cooperation into new areas and innovated cooperative models, achieving great progress in building a healthy, green, innovative and diversified Belt and Road. This has further broadened the space for international cooperation.

Significant achievements have been made in health cooperation. To establish closer partnerships in health cooperation, participating countries are working hard to build a Health Silk Road and a global community of health for all. By the end of 2022, China had signed an MoU with the WHO on health cooperation in BRI partner countries, inked health cooperation agreements with more than 160 countries and international organizations, and initiated or participated in nine international health cooperation mechanisms, including China-Africa Health Cooperation, China-Arab States Health Cooperation, China-ASEAN Health Cooperation, and China-ASEAN Health Cooperation.

Through various cooperation mechanisms and platforms such as the Belt & Road Health Professionals Development Alliance, the Belt & Road Hospital Cooperation Alliance, the Belt & Road Health Policy Research Network, and the China-ASEAN Health Cooperation Training Program of Health Silk Road (2020-2022), China has helped BRI partner countries to train

China has issued documents such as the Guidance on Promoting Green Belt and Road and the Guidelines on Green Development of the Belt and Road, and set itself the ambitious goal of forming a basic framework for green development through BRI cooperation by 2030. China has also signed an MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme on building a green Belt and Road for 2017-2022, reached environmental cooperation agreements with 15 countries and international organizations, launched the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development with 31 countries, formed the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition with 15 members from 40-plus countries, and established the Belt and Road Energy Partnership with 32 countries.

China has pledged to stop building new coal-fired power stations overseas, and to actively build green finance and international cooperation mechanisms. It stands ready to cooperate with partner countries on research into bioeconomy, safeguarding the eco-environmental security of the Maritime Silk Road, building the Belt and Road platform on Ecological and Environmental Protection and the Belt and Road Environmental Technology Exchange Center, and implementing the Green Silk Road Envoys Program.

China is actively promoting the Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative on Climate Change. It has signed MoUs on climate change with 39 partner countries, built low-carbon demonstration zones with Laos, Cambodia, and Viet Nam, carried out more than 70 climate change mitigation and adaptation projects with 30-plus developing countries, and trained more than 3,000 environment management personnel and experts from more than 120 countries.

In May 2023, China Eximbank, together with a dozen financial institutions including China Development Bank, Export-Import Bank of China, and Sinosure, released the Initiative for Supporting Belt and Road Energy Transition, calling on all parties involved to strengthen support for green and low-carbon energy transition in developing countries.

Cooperation in scientific and technological innovation is gathering speed. BRI participating countries are strengthening cooperation on innovation, facilitating technology transfer and knowledge sharing, optimizing the innovation-enabling environment, and pooling innovation resources. They are also building up their capacity for scientific and technological innovation through cooperation in major projects and talent training.

In October 2016, China released the Special Plan on Advancing Belt and Road Cooperation in Scientific and Technological Innovation. In May 2017, the Action Plan on Belt and Road Cooperation in Scientific and Technological Innovation was implemented, to increase the capacity for innovation in BRI participating countries through cooperation, such as joint research, technology transfer, exchanges in science, technology and culture, and cooperation in building industrial parks.

By the end of June 2023, China had signed intergovernmental agreements on scientific and technological cooperation with more than 80 BRI partner countries, and 58 members had joined the ANSO. Since 2013, China has hosted 1,000 young scientists from partner countries in carrying out short-term research and exchanges in China, and trained 10,000 technicians and management professionals for partner countries; China has established nine technology transfer platforms targeting ASEAN, South Asia, Arab states, Africa, Latin America, and other regions; China has helped 12 African countries to build 23 agricultural technology demonstration centers, and set up 50-plus demonstration centers in areas such as agriculture, new energy, and health.

China has signed an agreement with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on strengthening cooperation on intellectual property and additional agreements on subsequent revision and prolongation of the said agreement. China and the WIPO have jointly hosted twice the High-level Conference on Intellectual Property for Countries along the Belt and Road, and released a joint initiative and a joint statement on strengthening cooperation on intellectual property protection. China has established intellectual property cooperation relationships with more than 50 partner countries and international organizations, whose goal is to create an innovation and business environment in which the value of knowledge is respected.

2 Silk Road E-commerce expands new channels for economic and trade cooperation

ing new business models of international trade, represented by er e-commerce and overseas warehouses, are providing better services choice to global consumers, and promoting global trade innovations. Silk ommerce is an important means by which China can capitalize on its in e-commerce technology application, model innovation and market nd economic and trade cooperation, and share the opportunities of digital ent with BRI participants.

ie end of September 2023, China had established bilateral mechanisms of rce cooperation with 30 countries on five continents; multilateral ms had been built under the China-CEEC and China-Central Asia ks.

ities such as the Silk Road E-commerce Platform of the Brand and Online Shopping Festival and the Quality African Products Online Festival have yielded substantial results, and virtual country pavilions er countries to export their high-quality specialty products to the Chinese

nnovative Cloud Classroom program has provided livestreamed training or more than 80 participating countries to reinforce their digital literacy.

ugh consistently enriching the content and elevating the level of n, Silk Road E-commerce has become a new platform for bilateral and al economic and trade cooperation and a new strength in high-quality eration.

construction of the Belt and Road Initiative Space Information Corridor has been a resounding success. (orts connecting South Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. The data from remote sensing satellites azil Earth Resources Satellite (CBERS) program is widely used in multiple countries and fields. The 1 satellite system (BDS-3) provides comprehensive services for China-Europe Railway Express, and in and other fields.

a and a number of BRI partner countries and regions have combined to develop and launch commun nsing satellites, and constructed satellite ground stations and other space infrastructure. Through the Region : Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (China) affiliated to the United Nations, (large number of space professionals for partner countries. Together with other countries and regions, China -GCC Joint Center for Lunar and Deep Space Exploration, the China-UAE Space Debris Joint Monitorir ang-Mekong Cooperation Center for Earth Observation Data, the China-ASEAN Satellite Remote n Center, and the China-Africa Cooperation Center on Satellite Remote Sensing Application. The CN the Belt and Road Analysis and Early Warning Platform for Typical Meteorological Disasters, and th s Satellite Remote Sensing Cloud Service Platform now serve many partner countries.

energy, communications and other basic public service facilities. This has improved local living standards and the development environment, and boosted their capacity for independent economic development. Large engineering projects with a long construction cycle are like seeds sown in a field, gradually generating massive benefits for the long term. Connectivity in infrastructure has effectively reduced the cost for cooperation in international trade, increased their access to the global economy, and stimulated the potential and development. Research by the Asian Development Bank shows that lowering a land-locked country's trade costs through improvement in infrastructure could increase its exports by 20 percent.

Industrial capacity cooperation has promoted industrialization, digitization, informatization, and the structural changes in participating countries. It has helped them to form competitive industrial systems and expand the breadth of their participation in the international division of labor and cooperation, creating more opportunities and growth.

China has actively conducted international cooperation in emergency management. It has sent rescue teams to Pakistan, Türkiye and other countries to carry out humanitarian operations following earthquakes and floods, and provided emergency supplies and technical support to Tonga and Madagascar, among other countries.

Building poverty reduction capacity in participating countries. Developing countries still face the challenges related to food. China has taken an active part in global food and agriculture governance. It has released the Action Plan on Jointly Promoting Agricultural Cooperation Along the Belt and Road with partner countries, and signed agricultural and fishery cooperation documents with almost 90 partner countries and international organizations. The trade value of agricultural products with BRI partners has reached US\$139.4 billion. China has sent more than 2,000 agricultural technicians to over 70 countries and regions, and introduced more than 1,500 agricultural technologies and hybrid rice to many of these countries. It has helped with rural poverty reduction in Asia, Africa, the South America, and the Caribbean, developing modern agriculture and helping to increase farmers' incomes.

Job-creating employment is an important element of poverty reduction. In the process of BRI cooperation, China has built industrial parks with participating countries and provided guidance for Chinese enterprises to create jobs through high-level industrial cooperation. The jobs provided to locals have helped to lift their families out of poverty. A survey revealed that Chinese firms in Africa recruited 89 percent of their employees locally, contributing significantly in an effective way.

World Bank has estimated that by 2030, BRI-related investments could lift 7.6 million out of extreme poverty and 100 million out of moderate poverty.

Panel 3 *Juncao* poverty alleviation wins worldwide acclaim

China's *Juncao* technology makes comprehensive and efficient utilization of major agricultural resources – light, heat and water. It makes circular agriculture based on plants, animals, and fungi possible, combines economic, social and environmental benefits, and supports food, energy, and environmental security.

Juncao technology was first launched as an official assistance project in 2001, in Papua New Guinea. Over the last two decades, China has hosted more than 270 national training courses on *Juncao* technology, for more than 10,000 trainees in 100 countries. It has also established *Juncao* technology demonstration centers in 13 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the South Pacific region. Today, *Juncao* technology is being applied in more than 100

14 The Sweet Spring Project improves people's wellbeing in the Lancang-Mekong Region

In January 2020, China launched the Lancang-Mekong Sweet Spring Project, a demonstration rural water supply safety technology in the Lancang-Mekong region. Water supply facilities were built in rural areas of Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, markedly improving local water supply capacity and safety. Through the project, China has helped to improve the lives of local people and played an important role in helping the Lancang-Mekong region to access clean water and sanitation, one of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

As of December 2022, 62 demonstration sites had been built in the project area, providing safe drinking water for more than 7,000 local people. China had also trained over 400 personnel from the region in rural water supply management and maintenance.

The Silk Road Community Building Initiative has promoted projects in more than 20 areas, including poverty alleviation, disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, environmental protection, and women's exchanges and cooperation. These initiatives have had an extensive impact.

Building vitality to economic globalization

Against a rising tide of de-globalization, the BRI is committed to global connectivity and interconnected development. It has opened up the main arteries of economic globalization, facilitated the flow of information, capital, technology, industry and people, and promoted closer and broader international cooperation. By expanding the benefits of globalization and distributing its benefits fairly, the BRI aims to promote global development that is balanced, coordinated, and shared by all, and that brings win-win cooperation and common prosperity.

Strengthening the momentum for global development. The BRI has connected the vibrant East Asia economic circle and the developed European economic circle at the other, and the countries in between with huge potential for development, and fostered closer economic cooperation with African and Latin American countries. It has formed a development dynamic in which the Eurasian continent is fully connected with the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans and is integrated with the sea. It has expanded the scope and coverage of the international division of labor, economic and geographical space, and enlarged the global market, which ultimately promoted new global

At the same time, through infrastructure connectivity, the BRI has proved a catalyst to international investment. It has increased global interest in and enthusiasm for investment in infrastructure, which provides economic growth and employment in participating countries. These efforts have effectively addressed the shortage of international public goods and sustained impetus for world economic growth.

Promoting deeper regional economic cooperation. In strengthening infrastructure connectivity, the BRI has enhanced connectivity between countries in many directions and various fields. The BRI turns dots into lines and lines into networks, amplifying the radiation effect of development. It encourages countries to coordinate economic policies and mechanisms, and innovate cooperation models, conduct broader, deeper and closer regional cooperation, and jointly build an inclusive and balanced regional economic cooperation architecture that benefits all. It has facilitated a freer flow of economic factors, more efficient allocation of resources, and deeper integration of markets, and has enhanced trade connectivity and vitality between countries and regions, and the overall position of participating

the world by 1.8 percent, and reduce trade costs along the China-Central Asia-West Asia economic corridor. This has greatly facilitated global trade and boosted economic growth. The study projects that trade growth between 2.8 and 9.7 percent for corridor economies and between 1.7 and 6.2 percent worldwide, and global GDP to increase by 0.7 to 2.9 percent.

Maintaining the stability of global supply chains. An efficient and interconnected international transport network under the BRI framework plays an important role in maintaining the stability and smooth flow of global supply chains.

During the Covid-19 outbreak, ports and logistics companies canceled or reduced services for shipping, which had dealt a hard blow to those global supply chains which were highly dependent on shipping.

5 China-Laos Railway turns land-locked Laos into a land-linked country

China-Laos Railway is an electrified railway directly connecting Kunming City of China with Vientiane City of Laos. It is the first transnational railway project under the BRI, funded mainly by Chinese investment, operated jointly by Chinese and Lao sides, and connected directly with China's railway network. The 1035-km-long railway officially opened for business on December 3, 2021. On August 1, 2023, the China-Laos Railway started cross-border passenger services, with 10 trains running directly in both directions between Kunming and Vientiane.

As an important part of the central section of the pan-Asia railway network, the China-Laos Railway has helped Laos to realize its long-cherished dream of becoming a land-linked country from a landlocked one. It has promoted transport, trade, investment, tourism, and injected new impetus into the economic development of Laos and areas along the line. By August 31, 2023, the railway had a total of 20.79 million passenger trips and carried 25.22 million tonnes of cargo. It has become a safe and efficient international passageway connecting Laos with neighboring countries and regions and generating mutual benefits.

China-Laos Railway is a project that wins the heart of the people and an example of clean management. The leaders of China and Laos reached an agreement on making the China-Laos Railway a clean project. The inspection and supervision departments of the two countries established a government-level supervision and coordination mechanism, and the enterprises in construction had taken incorruptibility as a top priority from project approval to deployment through to implementation and review. Effective systems were in place to enforce this principle throughout construction, and new methods and measures to fight corruption were tested. Through the efforts of both parties, the China-Laos Railway has become a road of friendship, integrity and happiness.

According to a World Bank study – “From Landlocked to Land-Linked: Estimating the Potential of Lao-China Rail Connectivity” – the China-Laos Railway could raise Laos' aggregate income by up to 21 percent over the long term. The transit trade through Laos along the line is estimated to reach 3.9 million tons per year by 2030, which would include a shift of an estimated 1.5 million tons of trade from maritime transport to the railway.

gaining more recognition for the concept of global governance. The BRI's core principles of "extensive contribution, and shared benefits" have appeared in important documents from international organizations, including the UN and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

The vision of a global community of shared future has developed deep roots. A number of bilateral communities between China and other countries, including Laos and Pakistan. Steady progress has been made in regional communities, including those between China and Africa, the Arab States, Latin America, ASEAN, Central Asia, and Pacific Island countries. Practical results have been achieved in building communities in functional areas, including maritime cooperation, and health for all.

According to the China's National Image Global Survey released by the Academy of Contemporary China in 2020, the BRI is the Chinese proposal with the highest level of acceptance overseas, with more than 70% of respondents recognizing the positive impact of the BRI on individuals, states and global governance. European think tanks released a paper titled "Global Trends in Countries' Perceptions of the Belt and Road Initiative" in April 2021, stating that the BRI is generally positively received in the world, and Central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, show positive sentiment towards the BRI.

Improving multilateral governance mechanisms. The BRI upholds the principles of mutual respect and inclusiveness, and win-win results. It enshrines multilateralism by securing international fairness and justice, and protecting the rights and interests of developing countries.

The BRI helps improve the existing multilateral governance mechanisms by firmly upholding the authority and effectiveness of the WTO. It actively promotes new multilateral governance mechanisms such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. It works with participating parties to promote governance mechanisms in emerging areas such as the deep sea, outer space, internet and artificial intelligence.

The BRI has strengthened the position and role of developing countries and emerging economies in the world and increased their discourse power in regional and global economic governance. As a result, the aspirations of developing countries are increasingly included in the global agenda – a significant improvement in global governance.

Formulating and optimizing global governance rules. Taking into account the differences in the level of development, factor endowments, and cultural and religious traditions of relevant parties, the BRI has not preset any ideological lines, nor does it draw ideological lines. Instead, it formulates new rules to solve new problems through full cooperation and exchanges, based on the wishes and needs of the parties involved.

Participating countries seek synergy in their strategies, plans, mechanisms, projects, and rules and standards. The BRI optimizes the rules for BRI cooperation, and supports the transition from opening up based on the flow of goods and services to opening up based on rules and related institutions. Some rules and standards with strong practical application have been formulated in this process, which has effectively filled in gaps in the global governance system in these areas.

Strengthening strength for the progress of human civilization

Exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations drive human progress and global peace and development. In the face of those who persist with black and white thinking, concoct such concepts as the "clash of civilizations" and "super-civilization", and provoke large-scale ideological confrontation, the BRI advocates equality, mutual respect, and inclusiveness among civilizations, and promotes the shared values of humanity. It has charted a path of exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations for all to prosper individually and collectively, in order to achieve the common development of all peoples and link up the cultures and hearts of all countries.

...ral and people-to-people exchange programs have won wide acclaim, including the Silk Road Community the Kit of Love of medical supplies, Luban Workshops of technical vocational training, the Happy ...ng project, the Brightness Journey program of free cataract surgeries, the Panda Pack Project of school sup ...rch Program of educational assistance, the Belt and Road Tour of Acupuncture-Moxibustion promoting t ...edicine therapies, and the Confucius Classroom of cultural exchanges.

...ese goodwill activities, quality brands, and signature projects continue to emerge, they have become an ...rough which all parties can join to strengthen people-to-people ties. This reinforces the sense of ide ... of the peoples of all BRI participating countries.

...anizing the power of youth. The future of the BRI belongs to the youth. Over the last 10 years, young ...ing countries have engaged proactively in people-to-people exchanges and programs that create a better ...generation has galvanized the tremendous power of youth for strengthening people-to-people bonds and ...development.

Panel 6 Luban Workshops

...an was an ancient Chinese woodcraft master and inventor. The Luban ...o, an international exchanges platform for vocational education named ...master, has become a well-known Chinese initiative for introducing ...vocational education internationally. Luban Workshops are mainly opened ...N, SCO and African countries.

...workshops offer a combination of academic education and vocational ...and share the approach, technology, and standards of Chinese vocational The project has built training centers, provided advanced teaching ...t, and sent Chinese teachers and technicians to help train technical ...for participating countries.

...the first Luban Workshop opened in Thailand in 2016, Chinese ...es and colleges have established dozens of Luban Workshops with more ...participating countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe, which offer courses in ...170 directions, including industrial robots, new energy, and the Internet The workshops have trained tens of thousands of technical personnel for ...ing countries, helping more young people to find work.

...gh small in scale, the workshops respond to people's desire for a better ...facilitate the realization of the dream of common development.

Chinese Youth Global Partnership has received a positive response from all over the world. More than 10 ...anizations and international organizations have established ties and cooperative relations with China.

...ven events of the Belt and Road Youth Story have attracted more than 1,500 young people from par ...

Focusing on poverty alleviation and reduction, climate change, and pandemic response cooperation, pa ...th the audience their stories and experience in promoting social development and their own developme ...monstrated the right way to view the world from the perspective of appreciation, mutual learning, and shari ...r successful activities have also taken place, including the Silk Road Incubator Youth Entrepreneurship Prc ...-Central and Eastern Europe International Forum for Young Innovators, which have become important plat ...

gently bridge differences through dialogue, oppose rifts with unity, and promote development through co-
operation. In this backdrop, the BRI becomes more meaningful and is an initiative to be welcomed.

In the long term, the trends towards multipolarity and economic globalization, the trend of our times towards
peace, cooperation and win-win outcomes, and the desire of the people of all countries for a better life
will continue to provide momentum behind the rise of developing countries as a whole and the status and responsibility
of China as the largest developing country in the world. The BRI faces some difficulties and challenges; however, its
success, as long as all countries can manage threats, address challenges, and advance cooperation by considering
short-term interests and the overall interests of humanity.

As a large and developing country that meets its responsibilities, China will continue to promote the BRI
implementation plan and its top-level design for opening up and win-win international cooperation. It will open up
more areas, and in greater depth. It will steadily expand institutional opening up with regard to rules, regu-
lations and standards, and establish new mechanisms for a more open economy. It will achieve high-quality
development through opening up, and provide new opportunities for the world with that development.

China is ready to increase its resource input in global cooperation and do its best to support and help other
countries to progress faster. It will work to achieve a greater say for emerging economies and developing countries
in global affairs, and contribute to the common development of all countries. China sincerely welcomes more coun-
terpart organizations to join in cooperation under the BRI, and will support any initiative that can genui-
nely help developing countries build infrastructure and achieve shared progress, thereby promoting global connectivity and
development.

Countries involved in high-quality BRI cooperation are equal participants, contributors and beneficiaries.
China will work with all other parties to strengthen confidence, maintain resolve, and advance BRI cooperation in the
spirit of mutual consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. China hopes that all parties can consolidate the founda-
tion, reach, and optimize the projects of cooperation. Working together, all can create new opportunities,
create new space, and share new fruits of development. All can form closer partnerships in health, connectiv-
ity, development, opening up, inclusiveness, innovation and clean government, and all can thereby participate in
fruition and provide new and powerful impetus for building a global community of shared future.

Conclusion

The Belt and Road Initiative has given new life to a history of cultural exchanges that dates back more than two
thousand years, and has inspired more than 150 countries with the zeal to realize new dreams.

In the 10 years that have passed since its launch, cooperation under the BRI framework has brought remar-
kable change to the world and become a major milestone in the history of humanity.

The BRI is a long-term, transnational and systematic global project of the 21st century. It has succeeded in taking
a long journey. Continuing from this new starting point, the BRI will demonstrate greater creativity and
will be more open and inclusive, and generate new opportunities for both China and the rest of the world.

In the future, the BRI will find itself confronted by new difficulties. But as long as all parties involved com-
municate and work together and persevere, we will be able to overcome these problems and raise our extensive consulta-
tion, and shared benefits to new heights. Cooperation will thrive, and the BRI can look forward to an ever-
brighter future.

China stands ready to work with other countries to pursue closer and more fruitful cooperation under the BRI fr
om the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, and