

China

News and Report

中国新闻与报道

NO. 3

February 1, 2012

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President Hu Jintao's 2012 New Year Speech: **Jointly Promoting World Peace and Development**

On the eve of 2012, President Hu Jintao delivered a New Year message entitled Jointly Promoting World Peace and Development via China Radio International, China National Radio and China Central Television. Following is the full text:

The New Year's bell is about to ring and it is time to bid farewell to the old and usher in the new. At this happy moment, I'm delighted to extend, via China Radio International, China National Radio and China Central Television, New Year wishes to Chinese people of all ethnic groups,

to compatriots in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macao Special Administrative Region and Taiwan, to overseas Chinese and to friends all over the world!

The year 2011 marked the beginning of the implementation of China's 12th Five-Year Plan. Pursuing the domestic agenda of advancing reform, boosting development and ensuring stability was not easy while the international situation remained complex and volatile. Despite this, the Chinese people came together with firm determination and pressed ahead with reform, opening up and the socialist

modernization drive. China's economy maintained steady and fairly fast growth, and new progress was recorded in the endeavor to build a society of moderate prosperity in all respects. Meanwhile, China strengthened exchanges and cooperation with countries around the world and took an active part in international cooperation aimed at promoting world economic growth and financial stability, improving global economic governance and addressing the issues of international and regional hotspots. China has made new contributions to peace and the development of humanity.

In the coming year, we will continue to hold high the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, follow Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thought of Three Represents and fully implement the Scientific Outlook on Development. We will do our utmost to consolidate the sound momentum of the economic and social development. This requires continued efforts to strike a balance between maintaining steady and fast economic growth, adjusting the economic structure and managing inflation expectations, continued acceleration of the shift of the economic growth model and economic structural adjustment, and continued focus on ensuring and improving people's wellbeing. We will stick to the policies of "one country, two systems," "Hong Kong people administer Hong Kong," "Macao people administer Macao," and a high degree of autonomy. We will work together with compatriots in Hong Kong and Macao to ensure the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao. We will keep to the policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems," con-

tinue to promote peaceful development of cross-Straits ties, uphold the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation and advance the shared interests of people living on both sides of the Taiwan Straits.

Peace, development and cooperation represent the calls of the time and the common interest of people throughout the world. At present, the trend towards a multi-polar world and economic globalization is gathering momentum and interdependence between countries is deepening. On the other hand, the world's economic recovery is beset by a number of factors, growing instability and uncertainty, as well as recurrent problems in international and regional hotspots. World peace and development face both opportunities and challenges. China will continue to pursue the foreign policy goal of upholding world peace and promoting common development, follow an independent foreign policy of peace and remain committed to the path of peaceful development and a win-win strategy of opening up. We will develop friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation with countries across the world on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and actively participate in international cooperation to address global issues.

I am confident that so long as people of all countries work together as one, we will be able to handle any difficulties and risks on our way ahead and make new strides towards the goal of building a harmonious world of durable peace and common prosperity.

Finally, from here in Beijing, I wish you all happiness, peace and good health in the New Year.

Commentators Applaud President Hu Jintao's New Year Message

International media, foreign government officials and overseas Chinese praised Chinese President Hu Jintao's 2012 New Year message—Jointly Promoting World Peace and Development. Hu's speech showed China is willing and determined to promote peace, development and coop-

eration and will continue to contribute to the well-being of humanity, they said.

Hu's speech, with its proposal for peaceful development, was in line with both the world's development trends and the benefits of African people, said Rangarirai Shoko,

Editor-in-Chief of New Ziana, Zimbabwe's official news agency. African countries identified with and supported Hu's views. They are eager to safeguard world peace, promote economic growth and improve people's living standards along with China.

Hu's calls for peace and development showed China's willingness to shoulder responsibilities for and make contributions to the world as a country with a growing global status, said a senior official from the Netherlands' Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of the Chinese people, China achieved stable economic growth in 2011 in keeping with its reform and opening-up policy, said Mohamad el-Saket, former Arab League Ambassador to China. Since peace and development are the overriding themes of the 21st century, China will continue its friendly cooperation with other countries, he said. In particular, China will share its successful experience with other developing countries to promote common development.

Nour Suleiman, Chief Economic Editor of *Manifesto*, a newspaper of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), said an increasing number of people in the Arab country were in favor of expanding economic and trade cooperation with China, the world's second largest economy. At a time when the world economic recovery is beset with rising factors of instability and uncertainty, China and the UAE should expand mutually beneficial cooperation and make joint efforts to overcome difficulties in economic development.

U.S. financial news agency Bloomberg highlighted Hu's comments on balancing growth and inflation. "We will

continue to manage well the relationship between stable and relatively quick economic growth, structural adjustment and inflation. Global interdependence is deepening while instability and uncertainty in the world's economy's revival is increasing," it quoted Hu as saying in the speech.

Wu Huiqiu, President of the Washington D.C.-based National Association for China's Peaceful Unification, said Hu promised China will speed up economic restructuring as well as the change in economic development pattern in a bid to improve people's living standards. His vows to make progress while maintaining stability and give priority to people's livelihoods demonstrated the Chinese Government's vision of governing for the people.

Wu Jiansheng, Secretary General of a writers association in the Philippines, said the principles of "peaceful reunification" and "one country, two systems" Hu stressed in his speech, underlined the Chinese Government's determination to promote the peaceful development of relations across the Taiwan Straits, safeguard the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation and broaden shared interests between compatriots on both sides of the straits. His words made overseas Chinese confident about the development of cross-Straits relations.

An Indonesian scholar of Chinese origin said Hu's New Year speech delivered a positive message that China will safeguard world peace and promote common development. As far as China and Indonesia are concerned, flourishing trade ties and increasing cultural exchanges have helped enhance friendship between people in the two countries, the scholar said.

China Issues White Paper on Space Voyages

Since 2006, China has sent 79 spacecraft into orbit, said a government white paper titled China's Space Activities in 2011. The document, released by the State Council Information Office on December 29, 2011, elaborated China's progress in space exploration since 2006 as well

as its main tasks in the five years to come. It is the Chinese Government's third white paper on China's space program.

Breakthroughs

2011 marked the 55th anniversary of China's space

program. Since 2006, China has made rapid progress in its space industry. It has made breakthroughs in major space projects, including human space flight and lunar exploration. While space technology has been upgraded, China's space applications have generated increasing economic and social benefits. It has also made innovative achievements in space science.

Since 2006, China's Long March rockets have accomplished 67 successful launches, sending 79 spacecraft into planned orbits--74 satellites including four satellites developed by foreign countries, two lunar probes, two spaceships and a space lab.

China's Beidou satellite navigation system has been established in the Asia-Pacific region. It has recently begun to provide services to neighboring countries on a trial basis.

Since 2006, China has engaged in international exchanges and cooperation in space technology. It has exported communications satellites to Nigeria, Venezuela and Pakistan. It has also provided commercial launch services for Eutelsat Communications' W3C satellite.

Research Plans

In the next five years, China will strengthen the basic capacities of its space industry, accelerate research on cutting-edge technology, and continue to implement important space projects. The projects include human space flight, lunar exploration, the high-resolution Earth observation system, the satellite navigation and positioning system, and new-generation launch vehicles.

The Chinese Government has formulated policies and measures to ensure the completion of the goals and tasks. Priority will be given to satellites and satellite application. China will build a space infrastructure framework composed of Earth observation satellites, communications and broadcasting satellites and navigation and positioning satellites while developing the capacity to provide long-term, sustained and stable services. China will also develop new types of scientific satellites and technological experimental satellites.

"China will push forward human space flight projects

and make new technological breakthroughs, creating a foundation for future space exploration," the white paper said. It will launch the *Shenzhou-9* and *Shenzhou-10* spaceships and achieve unmanned or manned rendezvous and docking with the in-orbit *Tiangong-1* vehicle in 2012.

China will conduct studies on a preliminary plan for a human lunar landing. It will improve its ground facilities for receiving, processing, distributing and using satellite data, while developing calibration fields and other facilities. It will improve its space telemetry, tracking and command (TT&C) network, build deep-space TT&C stations, develop advanced TT&C technologies, and enhance its TT&C capabilities in all respects to satisfy the needs for remote TT&C.

The Chinese Government holds that all countries enjoy equal rights to freely explore, develop and utilize outer space and its celestial bodies. China is willing to strengthen international exchanges and cooperation on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, peaceful utilization and common development.

China's space industry will face new opportunities for development in the next five years, the white paper said.

Benefits

China's investment in space ventures is in proportion with its economic development and has brought about remarkable economic and social benefits, said Zhang Wei, a spokesman of the China National Space Administration. Progress in the space industry is closely related to people's lives, he said.

Since China is a developing country, its top priority remains economic and social development, Zhang said at a press conference at the State Council Information Office. China puts resources into space activities based on its national conditions and the needs of economic and social development.

"China's input in space activities, which is commensurate with the country's economic development, has ensured the rapid and sound development of its space industry," he said. "Progress in China's space industry has delivered tangible economic and social benefits and is of great relevance to people's lives."

White Papers Present China to the World

China increased the use of white papers to present itself to the world in 2011 when the Chinese Government released more white papers than any previous year.

These documents covered a wide range of topics--from national defense to space activities, from foreign aid to foreign trade, from Chinese laws to China's progress in rural poverty alleviation and policies and actions against climate change, and from peaceful development to the 60th anniversary of Tibet's peaceful liberation.

As their impact grew, they showed the world a real, developing China.

Publicizing progress

White papers are official documents in which the Chinese Government states its positions and policies. The State Council Information Office published China's first government white paper, Human Rights in China, on November 1, 1991, marking the beginning of the country's efforts to present itself to the world through white papers.

Over the past two decades, the Chinese Government has issued 78 white papers on diverse issues. In 2011, in particular, it issued nine white papers, more than in any previous year. The white papers gave an objective and accurate account of the Chinese Government's policies on a series of important issues. They publicized China's progress in economic, political, cultural, social and ecological sectors from various perspectives. The documents, which helped the international community gain a better understanding of China, were widely welcomed and applauded.

"The Chinese Government's white papers are closely related to China's development and progress as well as profound changes in the relationship between China and the outside world," Wang Chen, Minister of the State Council Information Office, told Xinhua News Agency. "China's positive response to the concerns of the international community shows the country's openness, liberal-mindedness and confidence."

Government white papers have become important documents for people at home and abroad to learn about

China's basic national conditions, values, development path and domestic and foreign policies, he added.

Addressing concerns

China's rapid emergence has caught the world's attention. Apart from cheers and expectations, it has sparked concerns that the Chinese Government has to address.

The State Council Information Office released a white paper titled China's Peaceful Development on September 6, 2011. It was China's second white paper on peaceful development following the December 2005 white paper, China's Peaceful Development Road.

International media commented the white paper showed China's commitment to the world. It demonstrated the country's growing confidence as well as its determination to pursue development peacefully and not to seek hegemony.

A BBC report said the white paper laid out China's vision for its future. "It says it wants to be a rich, strong nation at peace with other countries," the report said.

The white paper also sparked a heated debate in cyberspace. Chinese Internet users said the official document clarified China's strategic choice of a peaceful development road with accurate statements based on the country's national conditions.

In the run-up to the Durban UN Climate Change Conference in November 2011, the world community took a keen interest in the Chinese Government's positions and role in climate negotiations as well as the measures it will take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in China.

In China's Policies and Actions for Addressing Climate Change, a white paper issued on November 22, 2011, the Chinese Government made a comprehensive response to these international concerns. A BBC report said the white paper included not only specific goals, tasks, policies and measures but also concrete actions China has taken.

In 2011, the Chinese Government also published a white paper titled China's Foreign Aid to dispel international suspicions about the country's international aid and fos-

ter its image as a responsible country. As Tibet celebrated the 60th anniversary of peaceful liberation, China released a white paper titled 60 Years since Peaceful Liberation of Tibet. While reviewing Tibet's eventful history in the past six decades, the document showcased the region's remarkable achievements.

Making China heard

The Socialist System of Laws with Chinese Characteristics, released on October 27, 2011, is China's first white paper on the establishment, composition and features of its legal system. It was published after China announced it had put in place a socialist system of laws. The document offered a window through which the outside world can learn about Chinese laws.

"China announced the establishment of a socialist system of laws with Chinese characteristics at the beginning of 2011 after accomplishing the legislative goals set at the 15th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 1997 on schedule," said the Singaporean newspaper *Lianhe Zaobao*. "The newly released white paper further explained the system's features to the public."

Hong Kong's *Wen Wei Po* commented, "The establishment of a system of laws with Chinese characteristics is an important milestone in China's efforts to promote democracy and the development of its legal system. It is also a prominent sign showing China's socialist system is maturing."

Apart from the legal system, the Chinese Government made China's progress in many other fields known to the

world through white papers in 2011.

The State Council Information Office published China's Foreign Trade as the country marked the 10th anniversary of its entry into the WTO. International media said the white paper showed historic progress in China's foreign trade as well as its determination to follow the path of reform and opening up.

China's National Defense in 2010 is the seventh national defense white paper China has published since 1998. The *Financial Times* said the document gave a complete picture of China's national defense, from security environment, national defense policy, defense expenditure to arms control.

New Progress in Development-Oriented Poverty Reduction Program for Rural China presented China's achievements in reducing poverty and improving people's livelihoods. The document was carried by a large number of news websites and Internet forums around the world. Only one day after its release, it generated more than 80,000 publications on various websites.

China released the third white paper on its space program at the end of 2011. An AFP report said progress in China's space industry is a symbol of the country's growing global influence.

China is set to draw greater attention from the world in 2012. Wang Chen said the State Council Information Office has begun to make plans for government white papers this year. "In the New Year, we will redouble our efforts to enable white papers to play a bigger role in interpreting government policies and spreading China's voice," he said.

Chinese Dragon Facing the World

2012 January 23 marks the Spring Festival of China's lunar Year of the Dragon. Western observers will find that in every corner of the "oriental dragon nation," there is the image of the dragon—on New Year wall calendars, on red paper-cuts, on Chinese children's T-shirts, in shopping malls' toy piles and among dragon dancers on squares and in streets—welcome to the Year of the Dragon.

The West has long been familiar with the "Chinese dragon" but the Western understanding of the "dragon" differs from that of the Chinese.

The image of "the Chinese dragon" has appeared on the cover of the popular magazine *Time* several times. During the first 20 years following the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the dragon image com-

monly featured as a representation of China. On one edition of *Time* issued in March 1954, the image of the dragon depicted can only be described as terrible. The dragon had fiery red eyes and flicked out its forked tongue like a serpent, with its cold shiny sharp claws clutching at bamboo-made fences. Another edition issued in August 1950 described the dragon's mouth as a sharp beak, poised to swallow "Formosa," a Western name for Taiwan.

The caricature style of *Time* is intertwined with Cold War thinking, so it describes an unfriendly "Chinese dragon" to Western readers.

Similarly, the British magazine the *Economist*, which is very prestigious in the English world, thinks in the same way as its American counterparts do in terms of their imagination of the Chinese dragon. In an article issued by *Phoenix Weekly* of Hong Kong in 2006, the writer talked about the image of the "Chinese dragon" in Western political caricatures. After looking at 30 caricatures concerning China, issued by the *Economist* between 2003 and 2006, he found that 18 pieces centered on dragons as the major symbol of China and "a distorted dragon image is the major means adopted by Western countries to highlight China's threat."

"No one is more afraid of using the word 'dragon' to describe their strength than the Chinese (in Western culture, dragon symbolizes greed, evil and misfortune)," says a comment from *Times of India* on China surpassing Japan as the world's second largest economy. "China hopes to be regarded as 'loong' the genial and auspicious Chinese dragon, rather than the outwardly strong but inwardly weak and eruptive evil monster," the article from *Times of India* continues.

The above comments partly tell the truth. Although "loong" is used to replace "dragon," so as to remove Westerners' stiff impression of the Chinese. The arguments on the choice of words prove that the Chinese hope to give an objective and real image to the rest of the world.

Before they take advantage of dragon to describe and comment on China, Western writers need to look into the origin of the "Chinese dragon" together with the Chinese. Dragons are fictional creatures, and after years of evolution

the dragon has become a symbol of China.

The traditional image of the Chinese dragon is like this: An animal with a deer's horns, a horse's mane, a pig's nose, a snake's body, a fish's scales and an eagle's claws. Dragons under the eaves of houses in royal cities and in vast rural areas look similar, only with slight differences in terms of the fineness of craftsmanship. Functionally speaking, during the time of the feudal monarchy the dragon was the exclusive symbol of the royal family's dignity and nobility. As for the grassroots classes, the dragon was something that looked down at them from heaven. The dragon represents the personification of natural power. That is why legendary Chinese dragons live in lakes, rivers and the ocean, where they control rainfall.

Different from Westerners' cruel imagination, the Chinese dragon, while equipped with supernatural powers, is never an enemy or a predator of human beings. In an old Chinese legend, a man named Lord Ye loves the dragon so much that his house is full of dragon pictures and sculptures. In order to satisfy its crazy fan, the friendly dragon comes down from heaven into Lord Ye's house, but unfortunately frightens the gentleman. The idiom "Lord Ye's Love of Dragons" stems from this story. This story is more like a comedy, totally different from Hollywood's *Reign of Fire*.

Nowadays, Chinese like to label themselves as "descendants of the dragon"—the song "there is a dragon in old Orient and its name is China," "black hair, black eyes and yellow skin, we are forever the dragon's descendants" can be heard in any town or city in China. You may hear it in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and even in Chinatowns in Western countries. However, neither Westerners nor the Chinese have realized that the dragon is so closely intertwined with the Chinese' nation's identity and so deeply rooted in people's hearts. Although the dragon is very relevant to traditional Chinese culture, in the past century, it has undergone a "modernization transition."

In the late 1930s, Chinese poet Wen Yiduo moved all the way down to Kunming in southwest China's Yunnan Province together with teachers and students from Tsinghua University, under the shadow of the Japanese invasion. He published a theory in Kunming in 1942, proposing the

concept of the “dragon totem.” “It is a kind of totem, which only exists among totems, but never in the real biological world. It is a fictitious thing, because it is a combination of many different kinds of totems.”

The search for the totem is to seek for the common origin of the Chinese nation. The dragon is the symbol of every Chinese. This is a Chinese scholar’s expression and also the Chinese people’s inborn identification. In the past few centuries, the Chinese nation struggled through a miserable history and this experience helped to set up the dragon as the symbol of this nation, because dragons are very tolerant and resilient. Even if it is silent and hidden, it never loses its greatness. It offers a perfect symbol for the Chinese to prove their self-respect and self-support.

When they use dragons as a clear metaphor to imply a “China threat,” Western writers have not realized that, the modern version of the Chinese dragon is a product of being threatened by slaughter. It is actually a kind of cultural resistance to an external threat, or it is the symbol of a national renaissance.

Undoubtedly, China’s striking position in the global economic map against the gloomy global economic picture makes the 2012 Year of the Dragon particularly interesting. China’s rapid economic growth and its assistance to other countries inspire the world’s media to publish such headlines as “the Chinese dragon keeps flying.” However, such headlines have many implications, either praising or dissatisfactory. For example BBC broadcast the documentary *the Chinese are coming* at the beginning of 2011. In this documentary, the anchorperson tried to seek Chinese from Africa to South America. The style is new but the content is old: The Chinese are coming to buy raw materials, destroying the environment and grab local people’s jobs. This documentary is undoubtedly based on prejudice.

Actually, although the Chinese dragon is growing more and more strong, it does not mean to play the role of predator or savior.

The Chinese people believe that we need to first manage our own affairs. How to achieve this goal? To move forward with stable steps will be the guiding principle for the whole year of dragon. China will try to keep basic stability in its macro economic policy, stable and relatively rapid economic growth, and basically stable prices. While trying to keep overall social stability, China will make efforts to make progress in its economic development pattern, new breakthroughs in deepening reform and opening up and new achievements in improving people’s livelihoods. China believes that this kind of pattern will help it to achieve sustainable development.

If the title of British scholar Martin Jacques’s *When China Rules the World* is unacceptable, at least some of his opinions are worthwhile: Western modernization is not the only way out, and with China’s rising, the Chinese pattern will dominate the world.

It’s still too early to define the “Chinese pattern,” but looking back to China’s practices since it adopted the reform and opening up policy in the late 1970s, China has achieved marvelous results. However these achievements are scored neither through outbound plundering which was adopted by the Western world in their modernization mode of zero sum game, nor does China depends on the external world. On a planet inhabited by so many people and with such limited resources, an independent, peaceful and open Chinese dragon is coming. Probably, more and more people will get to find that it is more of a modern symbol that is able to maintain the world’s peaceful balance and sustainability than a symbol of the power of a nation or civilization.

Comments and suggestions from our readers are appreciated. **E-mail:** shuangqin2004@china.com.cn

Distributed by CHINA NEWS AND REPORT Circulation Department

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