

# China

## *News and Report*

## 中国新闻与报道

NO. 6

March 15, 2015

- **President Xi Jinping's Speech at Spring Festival Gathering**
- **Serving the Country as Building the Family**  
— Overseas People Speak Highly of President Xi Jinping's Speech at the Spring Festival Gathering
- **Strong-Minded and Encouraging**  
— Overseas Chinese and Foreign Nationals Praise President Xi's Spring Festival Speech
- **International Seminar on the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Kicks off in Quanzhou**
- **Carry On the Silk Road Spirit**
- **China's Voice Wins International Support**  
— China Convened a Security Council Open Debate on Maintaining International Peace and Security

### **President Xi Jinping's Speech at Spring Festival Gathering**

(February 17, 2015)

Comrades and friends,

“With spring the east wind returns, waking flowers on branches.” China's traditional holiday, the Spring Festival of the Year of Goat, is coming. Today, we are full of joy as

we gather here to bid farewell to past year while ushering in the new.

I would like to extend my holiday wishes to you on behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party

---

**Published by the Editorial Board of *CHINA NEWS AND REPORT***  
**Information Office of the State Council, People's Republic of China**  
Printed by Foreign Languages Printing House, Beijing, China

of China (CPC) and the State Council! Happy New Year to people of all ethnic groups in China, to our compatriots in the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions and Taiwan, and to overseas Chinese!

The turn of the year is a time to review the past. Last year was one of hard work and good rewards. It was also the beginning year for comprehensively deepening reform, when the task of carrying out domestic reform and development and maintaining stability was arduous and the international situation was volatile. All Party members and people in the country were united as one, sought progress steadily, deepened reform quickly and firmly, pushed ahead development continuously and vigorously, and improved people's livelihood solidly and effectively. We strengthened our national defense and the army in an all-round manner, actively carried out foreign affairs, governed the Party with full attention, and promoted the rule of law comprehensively. We made significant new progress in reform and opening up as well as in the socialist modernization drive.

We are proud of our great country and we are proud of our great people! We must give our respect to the work of the industrious and courageous Chinese people and their extraordinarily innovative spirit and achievements.

The turn of the year is also a moment to make plan for the new year. Times and tides change, while our dream continues. This year, we are facing situations no less challenging and complicated, and we must stay close to the people and promote reform, innovation, justice and a higher standard of living with more vigorous efforts. We must rely on the people, borrowing wisdom and drawing strength from them. We will comprehensively implement the decisions of the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the CPC, the third and fourth plenary sessions of the 18<sup>th</sup> CPC Central Committee, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Development.

To comprehensively establish a moderately prosperous society, deepen reform, advance the rule of law and strictly govern the Communist Party of China, we will push forward economic development more solidly, promote reform and opening up more firmly, encourage creativity more actively, maintain equity and justice more effectively, ensure and improve people's livelihood more vigorously, further improve the Party and the government's work styles, and create more wealth for the country, more benefits for the people and more glory for the nation.

The need for socialism with Chinese characteristics

that we are pursuing is an unprecedented one. The road ahead will not be smooth. We must gear up for many fights with new historic characteristics. "Things look simple in the beginning may turn out to be difficult in the end." We must keep a sober mind, carry on with our pioneering spirit, avoid empty talk, overcome all challenges and make the socialist road with Chinese characteristics a sure route to national prosperity and rejuvenation and a sure way to make new and greater contribution to the world.

The Spring Festival is a wonderful time for family reunions. How joyous it is to reunite with returning children, kin and friends and renew affinity. Even in ancient times the Chinese nation has attached great importance to family bonds and kinship. This is embodied in Chinese people's beliefs that a harmonious family will prosper, family union is happiness, seniors should be respected and children should be loved, a wife should be understanding and a mother should be loving, the wife should help her husband and educate her children, and one should be industrious and thrifty in running one's home.

The poem *A Traveler's Song* by Tang Dynasty poet Meng Jiao reads, "The thread in the hands of a fond-hearted mother makes clothes for her departing boy. Carefully she sews and thoroughly she mends, dreading he will not return home soon. But how much love has the inch-long grass, for three spring months of sunlight?"

The poem vividly depicts the profound affection between Chinese family members. Families are the cells that make up the society and the first schools in our lives. Regardless how much the times and life styles will change, we should always attach importance to family bonds, family education and family culture. We should carry forward traditional Chinese family virtues alongside core socialist values, promote harmony and affinity between family members and kin, and let children grow healthily and properly care for our seniors. We should make families the important foundation for national development and social harmony.

Comrades and friends,

Spring is the time to sow and autumn the time to harvest. Let us take the life that people have wished for as our goal, do everything well in a down-to-earth manner, and work together to create a more beautiful future for the motherland.

Last but not the least, I wish good health to you and happiness to your family. All the best for you in the Year of the Goat!

## Serving the Country as Building the Family

### — Overseas People Speak Highly of President Xi Jinping's Speech at the Spring Festival Gathering

Chinese President Xi Jinping extended Spring Festival greetings to Chinese people at home and abroad on February 17. In his speech, Xi expressed appreciation for accomplishments during the past year and pledged to create more wealth, benefits and glory for the nation in the upcoming year. With the Spring Festival being an important time for family reunion in China, the president expounded the close relationship between the nation's development and family's progress. Overseas Chinese, students as well as foreign media claimed that Xi's speech showed his far-reaching strategic vision and also demonstrated the Chinese people's sincere and ardent sentiments of treating the motherland as their own family.

William Jones, an official of the U.S. weekly news-magazine *Executive Intelligence Review*, told *People's Daily* that Xi's Spring Festival speech showed a kind of pride and confidence. The pride comes from the remarkable achievements gained during past year's comprehensive reform. The speech passed confidence and appealed to Chinese people to work together with the government to continue the path of reform and development. Family has a special meaning for Chinese people. Happy families make a prosperous country. Xi's speech demonstrated the Chinese nation's traditional virtues of attaching great importance to family.

Lu Sentong, a Chinese overseas student studying at Moscow State University, said in an interview with *People's Daily* that Xi's speech has stimulated Chinese students' motivation in learning and strengthened their firm desire to serve the motherland after finishing study abroad. The socialist road with Chinese characteristics is the only way in achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. As the successor of the socialist causes, young people are confident in their ability to contribute to national renewal. Xi's speech told us the harmony of family is the basis to promote national development. Harmonious family can lead to the success of all. Though the overseas students study abroad, their hearts are with their family members and the motherland. Overseas students sincerely wish the motherland to make greater achievements in the future.

A researcher with European Institute in Nice, France

said Xi's speech stressed family-building, which is of strategic significance as family-building consists of social construction and national construction. It is not only of pragmatic significance for China to build a harmonious society, but also of deep significance for the harmonious coexistence of all countries. As a sociological theory says, harmonious family relations can help shape the right outlook on the value of human beings while it is of great significance for social stability and social development.

Wang Lei, secretary-general of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association UK and a doctoral candidate at London University, said Xi's speech, particularly what Xi mentioned in the speech including "empty talks would lead the country astray, and hard work can rejuvenate the nation" and "attach importance to family bond," impressed the overseas students most. Xi's speech has told the students two most basic and important principles in life: performing real deeds and maintaining sincere feelings. Wang said whenever Spring Festival is mentioned, "family" will come to the mind of overseas students. President Xi's calling for attaching importance to the family bond conforms to their inner feelings. The overseas students will surely answer President Xi's call of doing real deeds sincerely, inheriting the traditional virtue of the Chinese nation.

A researcher with BRICS Policy Center in Brazil told *People's Daily* that Xi's speech stressed family bonds and attached big importance to family-building, which is a right reflection of the traditional Confucian culture and embodies the thousands years' tradition of the Chinese nation. It is the wealth of the Chinese nation that is worthy to cherish. The amity of a family is the basis of national harmony and social development. President Xi's own harmonious family has set a good example for Chinese households.

Chen Yuhua, a leader of a Chinese society in Germany, said to *People's Daily* in an interview that working hard, being thrifty, respecting the old and loving the young as well as being ready to help others are all traditional virtues of the Chinese nation that unite the overseas Chinese. From the micro-perspective, most Chinese families attach great importance to education, particularly to moral quality cultivation of the next generation. From the macro-perspective,

though overseas Chinese are living abroad, their hearts are with the motherland. In recent years, under the call of the Chinese society in Germany, many Chinese-Germans donate actively to poverty-stricken students in Yunnan Province, reflecting their patriotism and their aspiration to make contribution to the motherland and society.

A scholar in Johannesburg, South Africa, said to *People's Daily* that Xi's speech is not only a sincere and warm festival greeting but also reflects the determination

of the Chinese Government in governing for the people. The socialist road with Chinese characteristics has made remarkable achievements. He believes that a more prosperous and stronger China will bring more benefits to the Chinese people and make greater contribution to the development of human being.

South Korean media, such as the KBS TV website and Yonhap News Agency, all gave prominence to President Xi's Spring Festival speech.

### **Strong-Minded and Encouraging** — Overseas Chinese and Foreign Nationals Praise President Xi's Spring Festival Speech

Chinese President Xi Jinping made an important address during the Spring Festival gathering, where he reviewed the work in the past year and planned for 2015 while expounding on the relationship between national development and family union. *People's Daily* interviewed some overseas Chinese and foreign nationals, who believe that China must take the road of development suitable to its own national conditions. President Xi's remarks reflect the Chinese leadership's determination to initiate an unprecedentedly great cause.

Shen Yiyao is a Chinese-American who is nearly 90. He said that President Xi's comment that "we must gear up for many fights with new historic characteristics" is exciting. Through my own experience I know that China must go along with a road suited to its own national conditions, instead of blindly following Western practices.

Melanie Hart is Director of China Policy at the Center for American Progress. "I feel that President Xi's remarks reveal the Chinese leadership's firm determination to initiate unprecedentedly great cause, and also he is full of humanity and very close to the people," she said.

After watching President Xi's speech, the director of the United Nations Economic Development Council said that overseas Chinese are deeply touched by President Xi's remarks and feel greatly encouraged by China's achievements in various areas. Huge achievements have been made in the effort to fight corruption and build up a clean government. Economic transformation has started while the rule of law

pushes forward comprehensively. Although they live outside China, overseas Chinese still pay close attention to China's development. A strong and prosperous motherland is the source of their confidence. Overseas Chinese will try their best to help China with its development in various forms.

Gai Lin, Secretary General of the EU-China Friendship Group of the European Parliament, said President Xi mentioned the importance of family in his remarks, which shows that he is very concerned about ordinary people's lives and sees the improvement of people's lives as his mission. He also affirmed the role of people, stressing that the government must rely heavily on people. This fully shows the Chinese Government's emphasis on the people and people's lives. President Xi also made it clear in his remarks that we are still faced with tough challenges in the efforts of revitalizing the Chinese nation, which requires us to make further and greater efforts.

A professor from Pakistan National Defense University said that President Xi's remarks reflected China's emphasis on people's livelihood and would strengthen the unity of the Chinese society, which would help pool resources to tackle major issues and empower people to face any challenges on the way forward of reform and development. Furthermore, Xi's speeches also implied the inseparable connection between a country's development and people's support, and also the relationship between the nation and families. Harmonious families and people's hard work pave the way for a country's development. This is part of China's

traditional virtues, and lays the foundation for the building of a harmonious society.

Guo Ning, Executive Chairman of French-Chinese Friendship Association, said President Xi mentioned the importance of family construction and stressed family, family education and family rules. These are not only virtues of the Chinese nation but also virtues of the French nation. The two peoples will achieve greater success by joining hands.

Ye Xingqiu, President of the Association of Chinese History in Europe, said as an overseas Chinese who has been living outside China for many years, he feels the increasing importance of the Spring Festival to families and society. Overseas Chinese get to enjoy being reunited with families during the most important traditional Chinese festival. In recent years, as China becomes more powerful, Chinese living in France increasingly feel that the Spring Festival is becoming a common festival for both Chinese and French.

Andre is a municipal official in Westland of the Netherlands. He said that family is a component of the society and also the root for everyone. Harmonious families are the foundation for social harmony. He is glad to see that Chinese leaders are so close to the people. President Xi's speech is practical and can arouse common feeling among

the people, shortening the distance between state leaders and ordinary people.

A professor with the Thailand National Institute of Development Administration said President Xi's remarks on emphasizing family and upholding traditional Chinese virtues resonated among overseas Chinese. Families are very important components of a society. Only harmonious families can help promote national prosperity and stability. Against the backdrop of massive changes and transformations, stressing family construction is farsighted and suits the demands of the era and also social reality.

Lu Hang, Secretary General of the Chinese Alumni Association of Greater Washington, said during an interview with *People's Daily* that President Xi stressed the importance of family, and this is quite right. Valuing family bond is a traditional virtue of the Chinese nation and family is the foundation for the society. People need family support in life and work. Without a harmonious family, it's difficult to do well in other things.

Director of Chinese Students and Scholars Association in South Korea, Li Zhe, told *People's Daily* that President Xi's remarks are very impressive. Through his remarks, we feel the strength from the united hundreds of millions of people, and the connection between dreams of individuals and the Chinese dream.

## International Seminar on the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Kicks off in Quanzhou

Liu Qibao, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, who is also head of the CPC Central Committee's Publicity Department, delivers a keynote speech at the international seminar on the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road held in Quanzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province, on February 12, 2015.

Liu said the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiatives proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping have provided fresh opportunities for the common development and common prosperity of countries along the two silk roads. To build the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, nations along the maritime road

should carry forward the spirit of the Silk Road, develop a sense of "open development," "cooperation development" and "win-win development." They should look forward as well as pool wisdom to build an interconnected corridor of trade and cultural exchange.

Liu stressed that countries alongside the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road enjoy a shared destiny. They should establish an open and inclusive silk road of mutual trust with joint effort, supporting each other and seeking common points while reserving differences, to safeguard regional stability and development. They should jointly create a win-win situation for mutually beneficial cooperation, deepening trade and investment cooperation, advancing intercon-

nections and developing maritime cooperation partnership.

Liu also urged the nations to build the Silk Road into a peaceful and harmonious road, settling disputes peacefully through diplomatic approaches, safeguarding and enjoying peace together; to build the Silk Road into a road of

friendship of mutual learning, to strengthen exchange of governing experiences and boost cultural, technological and educational exchange; to build the Silk Road into a road to realize people's dreams, connecting Chinese dream with dreams of peoples of nations along the road.

## Carry On the Silk Road Spirit

— Jiang Jianguo, Minister of the State Council Information Office

In September 2014, President Xi Jinping visited Sri Lanka. The leaders of the two countries reached a consensus on building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and signed several cooperative agreements. As an official in charge of press and publishing, I also accompanied President Xi to the visit. In the National Museum of Colombo, I saw a stele inscribed with Chinese, Tamil and Persian characters that faithfully recorded Zheng He's seven voyages to countries in Southeast Asia and along the Indian Ocean, including Sri Lanka, to spread peace and friendship. The ancient Maritime Silk Road witnessed aid between people along its length and the Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, which is a spiritual asset shared by people in the countries concerned.

Today, the building of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road has closely integrated the interests and destinies of the countries concerned. We should spread the Silk Road spirit far and wide and pass it down to the next generation. We should also regard the spirit as our guidance on jointly building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road through consultation to bring benefits for all. In this way, we can create new prosperity along the ancient Maritime Silk Road.

To carry forward the Silk Road spirit, we should build a solid foundation for political mutual trust. With different histories and cultures, the countries along the Maritime Silk Road are at different stages of development, and pursue diversified interests. This requires us to treat each other sincerely, respect each other's development path and acknowledge our differences in resource endowment. We should expand common ground while accepting and resolving the differences. We should also enhance our political mutual

trust.

To carry forward the Silk Road spirit, we should give new impetus for the mutually beneficial cooperation. At present, we have entered a new phase of practical cooperation. We should stick together to promote win-win development. We should join hands to draw up plans, undertake projects and share benefits. We should also create more converging interests and new stimulus of growth. In this way, the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road can bring us common prosperity and progress.

To carry forward the Silk Road spirit, we should keep faith in peaceful development. Thanks to the peaceful sailing along the Maritime Silk Road, countries along it have enjoyed peaceful development despite differences in race, religion and culture. This has served as a fundamental guarantee of the continuous prosperity of the Maritime Silk Road for centuries. The Chinese people are willing to uphold human conscience and international justice with people from all countries along the route, and we are willing to make the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road all about peace, amity and harmony.

To carry forward the Silk Road spirit, we should reinforce the cultural bond between countries along the route. To build the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, we should link both our roads and our hearts. We should also explore the profound culture of the ancient Silk Road and tap full potential of people-to-people communication. Through the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, people living along the route will meet, understand, trust and respect each other, and people in the Eurasian and African continents will stick together to embrace a better tomorrow despite differences in language and culture.

## China's Voice Wins International Support

### — China Convened a Security Council Open Debate on Maintaining International Peace and Security

On February 23, an open debate was warmly welcomed at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York City in sharp contrast to the chilly winter outside. Ministerial representatives from over 80 countries gathered in the council hall to attend the discussion, which was organized by China.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the world anti-fascist war and the founding of the UN. Holding rotating presidency of the Security Council for February, China proposed holding this open debate so as to work with all other countries to take history as a mirror and open up the future. The topic of the discussion—Maintaining International Peace and Security: Reflect on History, Reaffirm the Strong Commitment to the Purposes and the Principles of the Charter of the United Nations—resonated with attendees strongly. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi presided over the discussion.

In a bid to maintain international peace and security, Wang Yi called on all countries at the discussion to seek peace rather than conflict, seek cooperation rather than confrontation, seek justice rather than hegemony, and to seek a win-win rather than zero-sum approach.

Many representatives spoke highly of Wang Yi's views on international relations in the 21st century. They stressed that on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the UN, this meeting is very timely and important. China's four-point proposal reflects that China works with all other countries to advance world peace.

**“Thanks to China for inviting non-members and providing us the opportunity to express our views”**

“I thank the People's Republic of China for organizing today's discussion on reaffirming commitment to the Charter in this year in which the United Nations marks 70 years since its founding,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his address during the discussion.

“At the heart of the Charter is a commitment to the prevention of armed conflict through the peaceful settlement of disputes and the protection of human rights,” Ban Ki-moon said. “The aspirations of ‘we the peoples’ enshrined in the Charter remain just as valid, valuable and vital.”

Remembering history prevents the same mistakes in

the future, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at the discussion.

“The open debate organized by China is a start to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of the world anti-fascist war and the founding of the UN in this year,” Lavrov said.

More importantly, “the discussion reminds people of never forgetting the world anti-fascist war,” Lavrov said, adding that “it tells attendees that the history should not be falsified and reaffirms the strong commitment to the purposes and the principles of the UN Charter.”

“If a country doesn't respect history, it will repeat the same mistakes,” German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said at the open debate.

Today, Germany is willing to learn lessons from the past and undertake historical responsibility, Steinmeier said. Since the end of the Second World War, the German Government has been taking actions to confess war crimes and make sincere apologies, which helps Germany obtain forgiveness of victim countries and the respect of the world.

“Some say the Security Council is designed for several powers. Thanks to China for organizing the open debate and inviting non-members along, which provides us the opportunity to express our views,” said Foreign Minister Aurelia Frick of Liechtenstein. Frick stressed that to maintain the purposes and the principles of the UN Charter, all countries must adhere to the principle of sovereign equality and non-interference. All nations, whether they are big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, shall have equal rights to participate in international affairs.

Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez of Venezuela said that the international community should settle disputes through dialogues and peaceful means. In the five permanent members of the Security Council, China deployed the biggest peacekeeping forces today. China undertakes the responsibility of playing an important role in maintaining international peace, Rodriguez said.

Without democracy and rule of law in the international relations, smaller states could not get deserved respect for their national interests, said Swiss Foreign Minister Didier

Burkhalter at the open debate. He called on all UN members to follow universally recognized international laws and principles of international relations. He also said the international community should use unified and applicable rules to make a clear distinction between right and wrong, promote peace and seek development.

Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margalo said that in the face of challenges of a changing world, China proposes to build new type international relations based on win-win cooperation. It is an innovation.

Anifah Aman, Foreign Minister of Malaysia, said in the discussion that the international community has been increasingly interdependent along with fast economic and social development. Peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit are the theme of the times.

### **“China plays a positive, responsible and constructive role in international community”**

Yuri Tavrovsky, Professor from Moscow-based Peoples' Friendship University of Russia said in an interview with *People's Daily* that on occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the UN, China organized the Security Council open debate on maintaining international peace and security, which is very timely and significant. The meeting provides all representatives an opportunity to consider how to deal with security threats.

The UN Charter is not only an important fruit of the world anti-fascist war but also the foundation of the whole international system. In the past 70 years, the purposes and principles of the Charter was maintained consistently. But the international community faces increasing challenges of a changing world. The meeting reaffirms commitment to the Charter and reflects that China is a responsible permanent member in the Security Council, Tavrovsky said.

Head of China Research Department under the Kasikorn Research Center of Thailand told *People's Daily* that it is of significance that China initiates a discussion on maintaining international peace and security. Despite the general peace in current world, regional conflicts occur one after another. Especially in recent years, conflicts are rising on amount and intensity, which makes the world upset.

The history of the world tells people an important experience that prevention of wars must act from outset. The international community should nip a conflict in the bud. China always cherishes peace. China often calls on to solve international disputes through active negotiations. China's diplomacy thought is very valuable in today's world, the head said.

“China plays a positive, responsible and constructive role in the international community,” Fazal-ur-Rahman, Executive Director of the Pakistan Council on China, said in an interview with *People's Daily*. The Chinese Government consistently commits itself to maintaining international peace, security and stability. China, as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, plays an important role in participating in regional and international affairs and makes great contribution to the maintenance of regional peace and stability, said Fazal-ur-Rahman.

Director of Africa Center, Institute of International Relations under Kenyatta University told *People's Daily* that China always actively participates in peace and security affairs in Africa and supports African countries in solving their problems by themselves. In the battle against the Ebola outbreak, China lends West African countries strong and timely support. China's aid is indispensable for helping these epidemic areas to control the outbreak, showing that China is a responsible power in the world.

---

---

Comments and suggestions from our readers are appreciated. **E-mail:** [shuangqin2004@china.com.cn](mailto:shuangqin2004@china.com.cn)

**Distributed by CHINA NEWS AND REPORT Circulation Department**

**Address:** 225 Chaoyangmennei Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100010, People's Republic of China

**Tel:** 0086-10-65592310

Available through the China Internet Information Center at

**http://www.china.org.cn** and **www.cri.cn**

---