



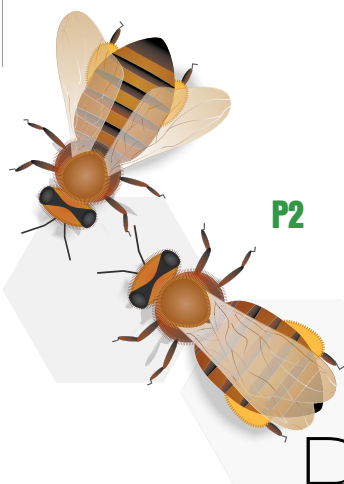
Six builders in projects along the Belt and Road were invited to share their stories in the Thematic Session of People-to-people Connectivity at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on May 14 in Beijing.

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Projects



Deliverables of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation supporting in-tracountry connectivity



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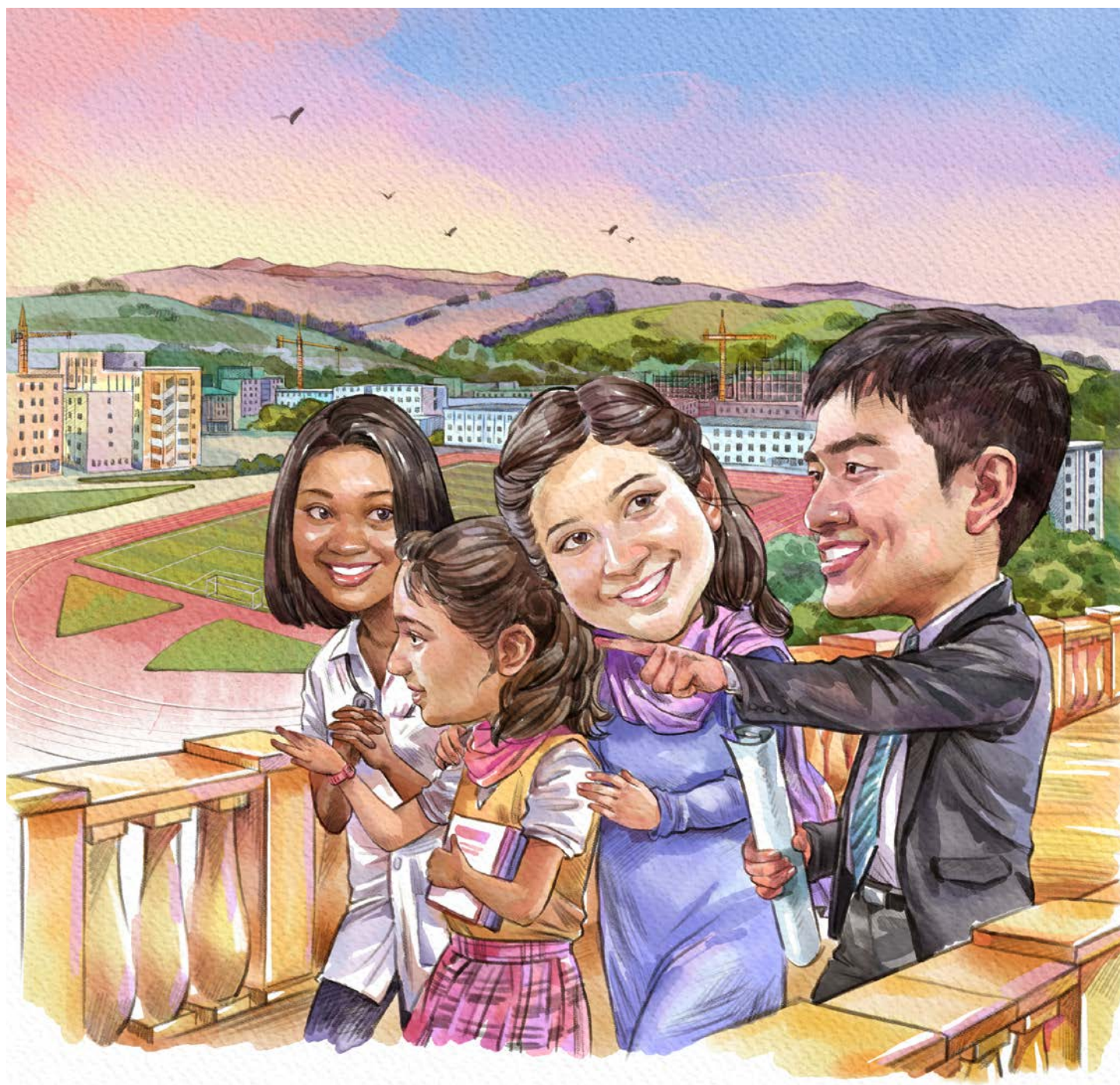
new stories of the Silk Road

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pressoffice@idcpc.gov.cn

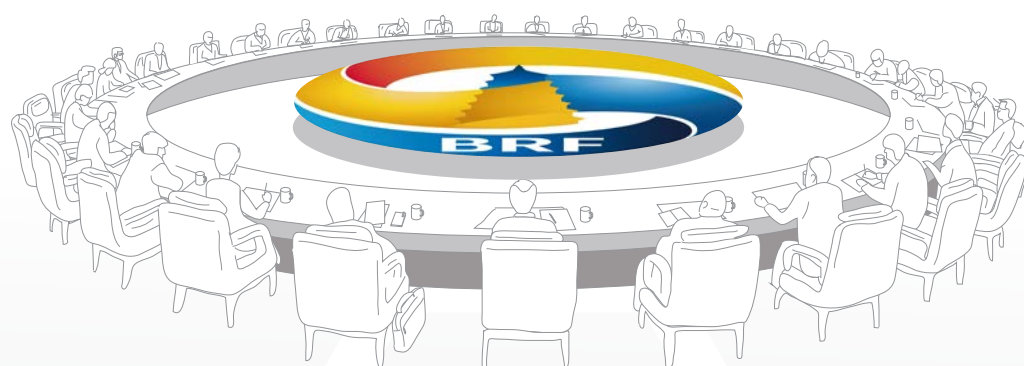


By Li Min/ China Daily

Belt and Road Initiative – Bringing People Together

The Thematic Session on People-to-People Connectivity of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was hosted by the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and co-hosted by 12 ministries and commissions of China that may be involved in efforts to build ties between people from China and other countries in areas such as culture, education, health, science and technology and tourism.

Deliverables of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation supporting intra-country connectivity



1. The Chinese government will increase its assistance to the developing countries along the Belt and Road. The total assistance over the next three years will be no less than RMB 60 billion.

2. The Chinese government will provide support and financial aid to relevant countries and organizations.

3. The Chinese government signed cultural agreements with the government of Lebanon, Tunisia, and Turkey.

4. The Chinese government signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation (2017-2020) with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

5. The Chinese government signed the Governmental Tourism Cooperation Agreement with the government of Poland.

6. The Chinese government proposes to launch the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, including the Science and Technology People-to-People Exchange Initiative, the Joint Laboratory Initiative, the Science Park Cooperation Initiative and the Technology Transfer Initiative.

7. The Chinese government signed assistance agreements with several international organizations.

8. The Ministry of Education of China signed agreements on education cooperation with the relevant departments of Russia, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Laos, Cyprus and established a music education alliance with the countries along the Belt and Road.

9. The Ministry of Science and Technology of China signed memorandums of understanding with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport of Mongolia and the National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Xinhua, people.com.cn

10. China issued the Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Cooperation Plan, established the Big Data Service Platform on Ecological and Environmental Protection, and announced the Joint Initiative to Establish the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road with the UN Environment.

11. The Ministry of Finance of China will establish the Research Center for the Belt and Road Financial and Economic Development.

12. The National Health and Family Planning Commission of China signed health cooperation agreements with the health authorities of the Czech Republic and Norway.

13. The National Tourism Administration of China signed tourism cooperation agreement with Uzbekistan, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Furthering Tourism Cooperation with Chile, and signed the Implementation Plan for Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation with Cambodia.

14. The State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of China signed cooperation documents with the Radio and Television Supreme Council of Turkey and the General Commission of Audiovisual Media of Saudi Arabia. China Central Television will set up the "Belt and Road News Alliance" with mainstream media of relevant countries.

15. The State Council Information Office of China signed the memoranda of understanding on media cooperation exchanges with Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, the UAE, Palestine and Albania.

16. The State Council Information Office of China signed the memorandums of understanding on plans to promote think tank cooperation with Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, Israel, Palestine and Albania.

17. The China Development Bank will set up the Experience Sharing and Capacity Building Cooperation Program for Belt and Road Partners, and the Belt and Road Scholarship.

18. China NGO Network for International Exchanges and over 80 Chinese NGOs jointly launched the Chinese Social Organizations' Action Plan for Stronger People-to-People Connectivity along the Belt and Road (2017-20). China NGO Network for International Exchanges and over 150 civil organizations jointly set up the Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network.

19. China signed the MoU on Cooperation in Jointly Building the Belt and Road Initiative with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The Silk Road Think Tank Network, with over 50 international members and partners, released the Silk Road Think Tank Network Declaration on Joint Action.

20. The China International Cities Development Alliance signed Letter of Intent on Urban Development Cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the World Health Organization and United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific.



Six builders in projects along the Belt and Road were invited to share their stories in the Thematic Session of People-to-people Connectivity at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on May 14 in Beijing.

Born in Salingyi Township of Myanmar, Tun Tun, like his ancestors and many villagers, was a peasant leading an impoverished life. The villagers were at a loss when they heard of a resettlement to come with the copper mine project operated by Wanbao Mining Copper Ltd Co. But after the company learned their requirements through door-to-door consultations, it offered every relocated villager a satisfactory job and unemployment compensation. Tun Tun became a driver for the project. The company bought the drivers vehicles for a transport fleet of their own in October 2013. With the company's support, villages set up many small businesses. The locals became better at operations, gaining job experience and skills. Therefore, the economy and living standards have been improved. The large mine project operated by Wanbao, a subsidiary of China North Industries Group Corp, will cost approximately 1 billion dollars and run about 30 years. It is one of the demonstration projects of the Belt and Road. The company has stressed social responsibility. It has promoted localized administration and operations, community assistance and development plans. It intends to integrate the project with the local economy and share the benefits with the community and villagers.



Myanmar: Tun Tun, a driver for the Let-padaung copper mine project



Uzbekistan: Ismailova Zukhra, a beneficiary of the "Seeds for the Future" project



Enjoying a long history, Uzbekistan, with a population over 32 million, 60 percent of whom are youths, has developed rapidly in modernization. Every year, its universities foster over 10,000 highly-educated and talented people, about 5 percent in the information and communication technology (ICT) field. The project, launched by Huawei in 2008, supports Uzbek college students to study ICT and cross-culture business management in China. By training professionals and enhancing people's knowledge and interests in ICT, the project is aimed at boosting the industry in Uzbekistan. Zukhra said that when she found they could visit China and learn Huawei's latest technology, she thought it was a dream opportunity. Her wish is to set up an IT company to promote the new technologies to the world.

Baloch works at the only school in Gwadar, Baluchistan Province of Pakistan -- the China-Pakistan Government Primary School. He said although seeking knowledge is a duty upon every Muslim, the Faqeer Colony was not able to offer it. The China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) sponsored the school that stands on land donated by Baloch's father. Baloch is studying Chinese in China under the CFPD's support. He always feels astonished by the country's modernization. When he finishes his studies, he plans to teach Chinese in the primary school as part of a program where children can get better education through mutual efforts. The CFPD has strengthened friendly exchanges and cooperation between China and other countries, especially in people-to-people connectivity, by developing projects based on people's livelihood along the Belt and Road route. As a social organization, it will continue that cause and promote the concept of win-win cooperation.



Pakistan: Naseem Baloch, a teacher at Faqeer primary school



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Born in Tanzania, Malecela never thought of coming to China and working as a professional voice actress in TV dramas.

Before Chinese companies came, a Tanzanian family had to pay \$30 to \$50 each month to watch TV, a luxury for ordinary families.

After the StarTimes Group entered Africa, the fee was reduced to just \$3 to \$5, dozens of channels were added, and many great Chinese programs were translated into Swahili and Hausa. Now people here can afford and understand good TV programs.

When the Swahili channel became available in Tanzania, Malecela became a huge fan of Chinese movies and TV dramas.

In 2013, the group supported Malecela to come to China, where she worked as a voice character for four months and participated in several TV dramas, including Jin Tailang's Happy Life and The Desire of the Old Daddy.

After going back to Tanzania, she tried her best to integrate the skills she had learned in China with her own work.

In 2016, the group held the first Star TV Drama Dubbing Contest in Tanzania and chose potential contestants to work in China. Malecela won first prize and got a chance to work at its headquarters.

"Many African people used to know little about China and some had never even heard of China. Now they love watching Chinese films and TV dramas. As the Belt and Road Initiative has developed deeper, the Chinese TV dramas brought by the StarTimes have provided them with a window on the lives and culture of Chinese who live more than 9,000 kilometers away," she added.

At the beginning of 2017, Malecela came to work in Beijing. In addition to dubbing, she has learned other TV skills such as editing and recording. She is also a qualified sound engineer.

"In the future, I want to be a cultural ambassador to promote the Sino-Tanzania relationship, bringing more good Chinese dramas to the Tanzanian people," she said.



Tanzania: Hilder Edimund Malecela, a dubber of the StarTimes Group



Sri Lanka: Sanjeewa Alwis, a participator in the Colombo Port City project



Alwis, a Sri Lankan, graduated from Tsinghua University more than 20 years ago. When he heard about the Colombo City project, he returned home and joined it to build his country with Chinese friends.

"I hope Colombo City will become the next Manhattan of New York or Lujiazui of Shanghai, where support facilities are perfect and people lead happy lives. Let's roll up our sleeves and work harder!" said Alwis.

The project is Sri Lanka's largest investment from a foreign enterprise, and will turn the city into a high-end CBD by reclaiming 269 hectares of land.

It is also of great significance for enhancing the local economy, the city's status and the country's image.

One of Alwis's jobs is to communicate with municipal government departments and supply facilities to promote development of the city's construction.

Vamvakidis was born in Piraeus, a beautiful old port city in Greece. He followed in his father's footsteps to work in the shipping industry and now so have his sons. He hopes his grandchildren will also join the business.

Since Vamvakidis was nominated business manager of Piraeus Container Terminal S.A (PCT), COSCO Shipping's subsidiary at Piraeus, in 2010, he has seen great changes. Piraeus has risen in the rankings of the world's container ports to 38th in 2016 from 93rd as a result of COSCO's presence. In August 2016, COSCO acquired a majority controlling interest in the PCT with 368.5 million euros.

"As a Greek, I am very lucky to witness Sino-Greece friendship through the port and work with the Chinese like family members," said Vamvakidis.

The PCT faces the entire Piraeus port in the east. The port project under the Belt and Road Initiative and all the investments will remain here for dozens of years. Now that the ancient port has been awakened Vamvakidis wants to be a child of Piraeus forever.



Greece: Tassos Vamvakidis, an employee of the Piraeus port

