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A gala is staged for the event on May 20, 2014.

while, by the year 2020 China is expected to top world consumption, which implies enormous opportunities for other Asian countries.

Sino-U.S. Cooperation Promotes Asian Security

China and the U.S. are formulating a new-type relationship between major countries that is expected to energize Asian peace and stability. Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Barack Obama reiterated in March at the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague the two countries' commitment to a new type of major-country relationship that features non-confrontation, non-conflict, mutual respect, and win-win cooperation. Asia constitutes the highest density of interwoven China-U.S. interests, and is where their interactions are most frequent. Construction of a new type major-country relationship between the two countries should start in this region.

Chinese and U.S. interests are profoundly interrelated. The two countries have worked closely together in handling unconventional security threats and global challenges. Respecting as it does the traditional influence and pragmatic interests of the U.S. in Asia, China has no intention of elbowing it out of the region. Similarly, it expects the U.S. to respect China's interests and concerns, and to be proactive and constructive in safeguarding peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific. As long as the two parties remain cognizant of one another's reasonable interests and concerns and accordingly expand the intersection of their common interests, appropriately handling any disputes that arise, they can maintain steady development of bilateral ties.

China-U.S. coordination and cooperation on regional

affairs is improving. What were formerly sticking points are becoming highlights of cooperation and growth points of mutual trust, all of which bodes well for regional peace and stability. More and more countries in Asia welcome China-U.S. cooperation. Any attempt to reap selfish gain from conflicts between the two countries runs counter to the global trend. A cooperative system in Asia is one that must be open and inclusive.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of full diplomatic relations between China and the U.S. Chinese tradition holds that a person attains full independence and maturity at the age of 30. We hence have reason to believe that China-U.S. relations will mature and become even more stable; also that the envisioned new-type major-country relationship will revitalize their cooperation and contribute to peace in Asia and throughout the world.

Asian Security Mechanisms

A key participant in construction of the Asian security mechanism, China has, as a major country in the region, honored its obligations with respect to hot issues.

Compared with the brisk progress of economic cooperation among Asian countries, development of security mechanism has been sluggish. More complicated challenges to regional security brook no further delay in that regard.

China is a proactive participant in existing multilateral Asian security cooperation mechanisms. It supports ASEAN's central role in regional cooperation and also helps to advance multilateral regional security cooperation with ASEAN at the core. China works jointly with other Shanghai Cooperation Organization members to combat the three evil forces of terrorism, extremism, and separatism, and to safeguard peace and stability in Central Asia. In the search for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, China acted promptly and at full throttle, working closely with other countries involved. The incident underlines the significance and pressing need to enhance regional security cooperation mechanisms.

China is committed to the pursuit of peaceful solutions to regional hot issues. We are steadfast in promoting denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and urge all parties concerned to move in the same direction. With the nuclear issue of North Korea back on the negotiating table, the six-party talks may then resume. China is also involved in the peace process and reconstruction of Afghanistan. It will host later this year the Fourth Foreign Ministers' Conference of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan. It is hoped that all parties concerned will reach consensus and pool efforts to help the war-plagued country through political, economic and security transitions that leads to lasting peace.

History offers lessons for the future. Asia's remarkable achievements over past years are largely accredited to peace and stability in the region which are also critical to its future development. ■

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