

# Philippines' remarks on ships praised

Beijing, Manila have huge potential for cooperation if disputes 'set aside'

By AN BAIJIE  
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China welcomes Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's move to allow Chinese research ships to enter waters close to the Philippines where Chinese survey ships were spotted last year, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said on Tuesday ahead of a senior official's trip to Manila.

China fully respects the Philippines' continental shelf rights over Benham Rise, and such rights have never been challenged by China, spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular news conference.

Hua said that according to the basic norms of international laws, continental shelves and exclusive economic zones do not belong to territory. A coastal state's rights over a continental shelf should not affect other countries' freedom of navigation, as supported by international laws, she said.

"As President Duterte mentioned, China and the Philippines have already communicated on the relevant issues, exchanged views in a friendly manner, established the facts and handled the issue properly," she said.

Duterte told reporters on Monday that he had agreed to allow Chinese research ships to sail in Benham Rise waters. "Let us not fight about ownership or sovereignty at this time, because things are going great for my country," Duterte said.

"Some people are just blowing it up. We previously agreed. It is a research ship and we were advised of it way in advance," he said.

The Philippine president's remarks were in stark contrast to those of the country's defense secretary, Delfin Lorenzana, who said last week that he had "ordered the navy, if they see this service ship this year, to accost it and drive it away".

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Rodrigo Duterte,  
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Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that in 2012, the United Nations Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf approved an application from the Philippines for a 200-nautical-mile outer continental shelf limit in Benham Rise.

Accordingly, the Philippines may exploit natural resources there, but it cannot regard it as its territory, Geng said.

Vice-Premier Wang Yang will visit the Philippines from Thursday to Sunday. He will meet with Duterte, attend the opening ceremony of the China-ASEAN Year of Tourism Cooperation and deliver a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the China-Philippine Economic and Trade Forum, Hua said.

Bilateral ties were undermined by an arbitration case against China in relation to the South China Sea that was unilaterally launched by former Philippine president Benigno Aquino III. However, relations between the two countries have improved since Duterte's visit last year.

Jin Yong, a professor of international relations at Communication University of China, said that China and the Philippines should set aside their maritime disputes, as the two sides have huge potential for cooperation in areas including infrastructure and trade.

## On target



SWAT team members conduct a training session to mark International Policemen's Day in Shenyang, Liaoning province, on Tuesday. Local residents and relatives of the officers attended the event.

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## Scenic spot around telescope to open to tourists

By YANG JUN in Guiyang and XU WEI in Beijing

The scenic spot in which the world's largest radio telescope is located will be opened to tourists for free, authorities have announced, with the telescope expected to start a test run in the second half of this year.

Authorities in Pingtang county, Guizhou province, said in a statement that the scenic spot where the telescope is located will limit the number of tourists to 2,000 per day to avoid causing disturbances to the functioning of the telescope.

Construction of the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope, or FAST, was completed in September. The single-aperture telescope, which has a diameter of

500 meters and is the size of 30 soccer fields, sits in a bowl-shaped valley between hills.

Although entrance to the scenic spot will be free, local authorities announced a fee of 50 yuan (\$7.2) for shuttle bus tickets between the entrance and the telescope, and a fee of 50 yuan for a tour of an astrology museum nearby.

The Pingtang development and reform bureau said in the statement on Jan 20 that the price of tickets was decided after a hearing on the issue.

Wei Farong, director of the county government's news office, said that construction of the FAST has made the county a new favorite among tourists.

"We will try to make the scenic area around the telescope a new landmark for the county," Wei said.

## Colorful performance



Bai ethnic performers dance during an event to mark Shangwang Festival in Nujiang, Yunnan province, on Monday. Local residents participated in the event to pray for a bumper harvest and a happy life. CHEN HAINING / XINHUA

## Quality of agricultural products to improve

By XU WEI  
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The Ministry of Agriculture has published a five-year plan to improve the quality of agricultural products, including measures to ensure that products such as apples, tea and pork can be traced back to their producers.

According to the ministry's plan, which was made public on Monday, more than 97 percent of major agricultural products involved in routine monitoring will pass quality tests in the next five years.

In 2015, 96.1 percent of vegetables, 99.4 percent of poultry and livestock, and 95.5 percent of aquatic products passed routine quality tests, the ministry said.

The ministry will also speed up the development of a platform that can trace agricultural products to their origin, according to the plan.

The tracing platform will first be implemented in more developed areas, and for products such as raw milk and turbot, it added.

The government will also encourage nongovernmental organizations to supervise the quality of agricultural products, with a mechanism that encourages whistleblowing set to be established.

Chen Xiaohua, vice-minister of agriculture, told a news conference in December that the platform that traces agricultural products to their origin has already been in test operation in some areas.

He added that the top legislature is now mulling a revision to the Law on Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products, which is expected to include items on ensuring that agricultural products can be traceable.

The ministry said there are



A customer traces the origin of her products at a market in Hefei, capital of Anhui province, in January.

GE YINIAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

still issues involving pesticide residue and environmental pollution in the places of origin of agricultural products.

"The public's demand for agricultural products has also shifted from merely filling stomachs to a need for good, safe and nutritious products," it said.

Han Changfu, minister of agriculture, said on the sidelines of the two sessions — the annual gatherings of the

national's top legislature and its top political advisory body — in Beijing on March 8 that the country will launch a campaign to curb diseases at livestock and poultry farms to fight pollution in rural areas.

The excessive use of fertilizers in horticultural sectors, such as the cultivation of fruits and vegetables, will also be targeted as the authority tries to increase the use of organic fertilizers, Han added.

In the past five years, the ministry has already set 4,140 standards for pesticide residue in relation to agricultural products, and another 1,584 standards for veterinary drug residue in relation to livestock and poultry products.

The total number of standards for residue levels for the two categories will reach 10,000 in five years, according to the plan.

## Shanghai issues draft guidance for bike-sharing

By WU YIYAO in Shanghai  
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Shanghai has launched draft guidance for bike-sharing service providers to better regulate the rapidly expanding sector, which will have a "significant impact" on users' safety and service providers' profits, according to a circular issued by the Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision on Monday.

The bureau said in the circular that the finalized version will be rolled out after authorities receive public opinion. The guidance is the first of its kind nationwide that regulates bike-sharing service providers.

It states that each rental bike must have a GPS function that updates its location, and that users must be aged between 12 and 70, and between 145 and 195 centimeters in height. Users

above 70 years of age must provide proof to service providers to show that they are in good health before using rental bikes, according to the guidance.

It states that rental bikes that have been in service for three consecutive years must be discarded as unserviceable and may not come back into service.

The guidance also states that service providers must return the balance of deposits to users upon request within seven days.

Bike-sharing has grown increasingly popular among Shanghai residents, particularly young users who see it as a flexible, affordable and environmentally friendly mode of transport.

It is estimated that more than 280,000 rental bikes are in service in Shanghai, with the number expected to reach

### 500,000

Estimated number of rental bikes in service in Shanghai by June

500,000 by June, according to Guo Jianrong, secretary-general of the Shanghai Bicycle Association.

Guo said the guidance aims to improve the quality of bike-sharing services and ensure the safety of users of both bicycles and electric bikes.

"I think it will be a positive move if service providers follow the guidance, particularly on the deposit return policies. I also think it is important to have guidance for users, especially for the parking of rental bikes, which would enhance

efficiency and prevent people from needing to take so long to locate a bike," said Zhang Xueqian, a 20-year-old college student in Shanghai.

However, for bike-sharing service providers, the guidance could mean increased costs for recalling bicycles that do not meet requirements such as being equipped with a GPS function.

Liu Xiaoyue, a consultant at Shanghai-based Shen Yue Law Office, said the draft guidance is self-regulation and not yet the law.

According to Ofo, a bike-sharing service provider, the company is in close collaboration with authorities, providing market feedback for policymakers.

Mobike, another service provider, had not commented on the draft guidance by Tuesday afternoon.

## Briefly

### HEILONGJIANG 17 killed in coal mine accident

Rescue workers have recovered the bodies of 17 coal miners trapped underground after an accident on March 9, local authorities said on Monday. The miners were in a cage that fell when its electric cable burned out in Dongrong Second Mine at Longmay Mining Holding Group's Shuangyashan branch. More than 200 miners escaped, but 17 were left trapped. Two welders have been detained by police over alleged serious violations of safety regulations, while the mine manager has been suspended from his post, the local government said.

### New air route to link Harbin, Paris

Flights between the north-eastern Chinese city of Harbin and Paris will begin on March 30. The round-trip flight, operated by Russia's Ural Airlines, using an Airbus A320, will ply the route once a week and stop in the Russian city of Ekaterinburg, according to Harbin Taiping International Airport. The Paris-bound flight will leave Harbin at about 1 am every Thursday and return to Harbin an hour after its arrival in Paris. The flight will take 14 hours, slashing the current travel time between Harbin and Paris, which requires a transfer in Beijing or Shanghai and takes 16 to 19 hours.

### GANSU Heavy snowfall leaves one dead



Heavy snowfall across the province has killed one person and affected more than 8,000 others. The estimated economic loss is about 4.7 million yuan (\$680,000), China News Service reported on Tuesday. Rain and snow fell from Friday through Monday, resulting in snowfall of 22 centimeters in some areas. The weather is expected to clear up on Monday, according to the provincial meteorological bureau.

### GUANGXI Nanning to host China-ASEAN Expo

The 14th China-ASEAN Expo has been scheduled for Sept 12 to 15 in Nanning, capital of the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, local authorities announced on Monday.

This year's expo will highlight the theme of "Jointly Building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and Boosting Regional Economic Integration Through Tourism", Wang Lei, secretary-general of the expo, said at a conference of senior officials from China and ASEAN. Brunei will be the country of honor this year and will send more than 100 business representatives to the expo.



### Institute set up for marine research

The State Oceanic Administration will open its fourth institute for marine research in Beihai in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. According to a memorandum signed by the administration and Guangxi, the institute will be key to achieving a strategy for becoming a maritime power, the Belt and Road Initiative and integrated oceanic management.



A worker cleans the guardrail of a sightseeing platform near the world's largest single-aperture telescope in Pingtang county, Guizhou province, in September. ZHAO HUI / FOR CHINA DAILY

They hosted a hiking competition in February to invite tourists to experience the unique landscape and sceneries near the telescope.

Visitors to the scenic spot are required to deposit all digital devices, including cellphones

and digital cameras, in lockers before going into the signal-free zone, as the radio telescope tolerates zero disturbance from cellular services.

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