

Museum alliance will shed light on ancient Silk Road

By **WANG KAIHAO**
wangkaihao@chinadaily.com.cn

An international museum alliance initiated by China was established on Thursday in Beijing to enhance cross-border studies of the Silk Road, the ancient Eurasian trade route.

The more than 100 participating organizations in the new Silk Road Museum Alliance include museums and research institutes from areas along the ancient route stretching through Central Asian countries, the Middle East and Russia.

Also involved are institutions with a large collection of cultural relics related to the Silk Road, such as the British Library, which has a large collection of Dunhuang manuscripts in its inventory.

4,873

The number of registered museums on the Chinese mainland in 2016

Proposed by the Chinese Museums Association, the alliance was launched in the Capital Museum, China's main venue for the celebration on Thursday of the 41st International Museum Day. Its goal is to better share resources of participants through activities such as exhibit exchanges, training in cultural relic conservation and symposiums.

Liu Yuzhu, director of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, said a major exhibition — that already was displayed in 13 provinces

around China with 20 million visitors and combines collections in museums in five province-level administrative regions in Northwest China — is being planned for an expanded worldwide tour.

“We expect higher-level international cooperation on cultural heritages along the Silk Road,” Liu said. “More specific platforms will follow in fields including supervision of cultural heritage, joint scientific expeditions and improvement of archaeological technology.”

China's Belt and Road Initiative participants also endorsed the alliance.

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has witnessed many heritage collection and education centers on the Silk Road,” said Muhammad Akhter Javed, former general director of the Pakistan Museum of National History.

“Museums can be bridges between nations, peoples and communities,” said Peter Keller, director general of the International Council of Museums. “This event on International Museum Day conveys a message that museums are important tools for cultural exchange, development of mutual understanding, and peace.”

The achievement is probably based on the fast development of museums in China in recent years. There were 4,873 registered museums on the Chinese mainland last year, an increase of 181 compared with the previous year, according to the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, which released the statistics on Thursday. Eighty-seven percent of those museums are free and open to the public.

Court reforms swell filings in civil cases

By **ZHANG YI**
zhang_yi@chinadaily.com.cn

The judicial reform launched two years ago has made it easier for lawsuits to be filed, resulting in a rapid rise in the number of court cases, the nation's top court said on Thursday.

In response to public complaints about the difficulty and inconvenience in filing lawsuits, the Supreme People's Court implemented a new litigation policy in May 2015.

Courts at all levels were prohibited from declining a case if it meets basic legal criteria, and a preliminary review of merits was waived. As a result, more than 31 million lawsuits were filed in courts nationwide between May 1, 2015, and March 1, up by 34 percent from the period from July 1, 2013, to April 30, 2015, data from the top court show.

“There's a consensus in society that the reform has greatly facilitated litigation, improved efficiency and eased the burden on litigants,” said Gan Wen, deputy head of the top court's Case Filing Tribunal.

He Jianwei, deputy head of Zhejiang High People's Court, said courts in the province have made efforts to facilitate

litigants by making online filing of lawsuits possible.

Plaintiffs may register to file a case and submit their documents online.

“The platform is particularly helpful for residents in remote villages and islands,” He said.

In Shanghai Pudong New Area, plaintiffs are allowed to file complaints through WeChat, a popular social media app in China.

“Simply by scanning the QR code given by the court and typing in information as required, a new QR code for individual cases is created,” said Zhang Bin, head of the Pudong New Area People's Court.

A case filing process is completed after plaintiffs submit the new QR code on their smartphone screen to the case filing window at court. The process takes on average 15 minutes to complete, he said.

Zhang said that more than 23,700 cases were filed through WeChat in the past year, accounting for about 17 percent of all cases filed in that period.

Across the country, 2,605 cases have provided online case filing services as well as online reservation services for filing a cases in person, according to the top court.

and New Zealand this week involves the South China Sea.

People have to question the real concern of Japan, which spares no effort in attempting to cause a flaring of so-called tensions that do not exist at all

Deployed to Lebanon



Two Chinese peacekeeping soldiers take a selfie during a send-off ceremony at Kunming Changshui International Airport in Kunming, Yunnan province, on Thursday. They were among 200 Chinese peacekeepers dispatched to Lebanon for a one-year tour of duty.

China tells ROK envoy fixing relations crucial

Foreign minister calls THAAD deployment key impediment

By **ZHANG YUNBI**
zhangyunbi@chinadaily.com.cn

China hopes the Republic of Korea will take effective measures to “remove the stumbling block” so it can get its relationship with China back on the track of healthy development, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Thursday.

Wang met on Thursday in Beijing with former ROK prime minister Lee Hae-chan, a special envoy sent by the new ROK President Moon Jae-in.

“Since last year, the bilateral relationship has suffered an undeserved frustration, which we are not willing to see,” Wang told Lee in his opening remarks.

Lee's trip comes at a time when the ties between the two countries have been impacted by the deployment in the ROK of the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, anti-missile system over Beijing's objections.

The bilateral ties have made remarkable progress, since being established 25 years ago, to the benefit of the two sides, a fact that both countries should cherish and endorse, Wang said.

This is the second time Lee visited China as a presidential special envoy. Fourteen years ago, he came as a representative of ROK president Roh Moo-hyun.

Lee told Wang that before his China trip, Moon had asked him to enter into intensive dialogues with China.

Seoul recognizes the damage to the ties prompted by the THAAD deployment, it understands Beijing's concerns and is ready to seek a solution to tackle the issue, Lee said.

“The overall ties should be brought back to a stable status.”

Jin Canrong, professor of international relations at Renmin University of China

Observers said it remains to be seen how Moon's new administration will tackle the problem triggered by THAAD.

Jin Canrong, a professor of international relations at Renmin University of China, said Moon is embracing opportunities at this moment.

China rightfully criticizes the THAAD deployment, which damages China's strategic interests and brings no good to the region, Jin said.

Domestic chopper for export takes maiden flight

By **ZHANG ZHIHAO**
in Beijing and
ZHOU HUIYING in Harbin



An armed Z-19E helicopter makes its maiden flight in Harbin, Heilongjiang province, on Thursday. The domestically built aircraft is made by Harbin Aircraft Industry Group, part of Aviation Industry Corporation of China, and will be exported. LIU YANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

slightly less than that of the Z-19, 4.51 tons, according to its maker, Harbin Aircraft Industry Group, part of Aviation Industry Corporation of China.

Compared with international competitors, the Z-19E is smaller, lighter and can spring into action quickly for both day and night missions, such

as escorts or to eliminate targets, said Li Shengwei, deputy chief designer for Harbin Aircraft Industry Group.

As for weapon systems, the export version can hold gun pods, two rocket-launching nests and eight powerful air-to-ground missiles for targets such as tanks and fortifications.

To protect its two pilots, the cockpit is designed with seats positioned in tandem and armor plated. The pilots also operate the chopper with a more modernized and compact flight system that can ensure high mobility and versatility even in challenging weather conditions.

The price of the new chopper has not been made public. Though Harbin officials did not reveal identities of potential buyers, its deputy chief engineer Ma Dequan hinted most of them would be traditional buyers of Chinese aircraft such as the Z-9 series helicopters and Yun-12 series cargo planes. So far, 55 of the Z-9 series multipurpose helicopters have been sold to 13 countries, including Pakistan, Kenya and Laos, making it the most widely sold Chinese helicopter, he said. The Z-19 is based on the Z-9 design.

“The success of an export helicopter depends on us

FDI: Room to grow still remains

From page 1

companies invested \$110 billion in the US, meaning the US corporate footprint in China remains larger than that of Chinese companies in the US.

“The broad-based increase of Chinese activity in the US and demonstrably strong interest of US companies to expand investments in Chinese growth sectors shows that there is room for annual flows the size of China's 2016 outlays in the US, in both directions, even with stepped up national security screening on both sides,” it said.

The report suggested that it would be a good time for the US and China to work together in defining acceptable security-related restrictions to FDI flows, especially as they continue to discuss a bilateral investment treaty.

Following the Mar-a-Lago meeting between President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump in early April, Premier Li Keqiang said on April 10 that China is willing to work with the US to move forward on negotiations for a bilateral investment treaty.

An investment agreement would be helpful for the two countries, while speeding up structural reform and opening its market is China's best strategy to avoid economic conflict with the US, according to a report released by the China Finance 40 Forum and the Peterson Institute for International Economics in May.

Stephen A. Orlins, president of the National Committee on US-China Relations, said, “Bilateral investment is a cultural as well as economic bridge between countries.”

Orlins said in a foreword to the report that 30 years ago, when Japanese companies began investing heavily in the US, they encountered plenty of skepticism. But he said the public “warmed to the notion of Japanese investment because of the hundreds of thousands of jobs it created.”

Sea: Nations at meeting said to be pleased with stability

From page 1

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Thursday that “it is very inappropriate” that the joint statement made by Japan

given the current situation, Hua said at a news conference.

Chee said at the joint conference with Liu Zhenmin that countries attending Thursday's meeting are encouraged

to see that the situation in the South China Sea has been stable.

The high-level officials also approved on Thursday the results from a test run of a hotline for senior diplomats and a

document related to establishing three technical committees.

Sources with the Foreign Ministry said the three committees focus on navigation security and search and rescue technology cooperation, mari-

time scientific research and environmental protection, and fighting maritime cross-border crime.

Ruan Zongze, vice-president of the China Institute of International Studies, said the approval of the COC draft framework means that discussion on measures to work through the South China Sea

issue and expand marine cooperation is back on track.

“Although the COC won't directly solve the South China Sea issue, it will create favorable conditions for peace and stability there, and for future settlement of the problems.”

Contact the writers at zhangzhihao@chinadaily.com.cn

Contact the writers at lixiaokun@chinadaily.com.cn