

[China hosts 15th East Asia Forum](#)

The 15th East Asia Forum was held Friday in central China's Hunan Province, discussing the construction of East Asia economic community among other major agendas.

The forum focused on reviewing 20 years of APT (ASEAN Plus Three) cooperation, motivating small and medium-sized enterprises in regional integration and formulating a blueprint for the East Asia economic community.

Nearly 100 officials, entrepreneurs and scholars from ASEAN countries plus China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (10+3), as well as representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, attended the event in Changsha, provincial capital of Hunan.

The 10+3 cooperation model has become a prominent feature of East Asia and has boosted common, sustainable development and connectivity in infrastructure, trade and finance and people-to-people exchange, said Liu Zhenmin, vice foreign minister of China.

Under the new circumstances, all sides should strengthen coordination and deepen practical cooperation to push the 10+3 cooperation to new levels, he said.

China proposed to use the forum to draw a blueprint for the East Asia economic community as early as possible, said Liu.

The first East Asia forum was held in 2003 as an exchange mechanism under the 10+3 framework.

[President Xi attends gala show for HK's 20th return anniversary](#)



Chinese President Xi Jinping (C, front), also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Central Military Commission, steps onto the stage and sings in chorus the song "Ode to the Motherland" with the performers and the audience during a grand gala marking the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, in Hong Kong, south China, June 30, 2017. (Xinhua/Ma Zhancheng)

President Xi Jinping attended a grand gala marking the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China at the waterfront Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center Friday night.

The gala brought together artists from both the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the mainland, showcasing patriotism and Hong Kong's cultural diversity.

The show culminated when Xi stepped onto the stage in the company of HKSAR Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying and Chief Executive-elect Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, and sang in chorus the song "Ode to the Motherland" with the performers and the audience.

Xi, also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Central Military Commission, arrived here Thursday to attend celebrations for Hong Kong's 20th return anniversary and the inauguration of the HKSAR's fifth-term government.

Inspection of the HKSAR is also on the schedule for his three-day stay.

Xi meets former HK chief executive Tung Chee-hwa



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) meets with Tung Chee-hwa, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, in Hong Kong, south China, June 30, 2017. (Xinhua/Ma Zhancheng)

President Xi Jinping met with Tung Chee-hwa, the first chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Friday, calling him "a pioneer" in practicing "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong.

Xi praised Tung for the large amount of trailblazing work he has done in this regard.

Tung, now vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), became the first chief executive of the HKSAR when Hong Kong returned to China from British rule on July 1, 1997.

As vice chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, Tung has continued to

dedicate himself to the development and progress of the country and Hong Kong, Xi said, adding that Tung has set a good example for his successors.

The president expressed his hope that Tung could continue to play a positive role in the development of the country and Hong Kong in the future.

Tung said he is confident in the sustained prosperity and stability of the HKSAR under the "one country, two systems" principle, and he would do what he can to contribute more to the country and Hong Kong.

Xi arrived here Thursday to attend celebrations for Hong Kong's 20th return anniversary and the inauguration of the HKSAR's fifth-term government. Inspection of the HKSAR is also on the schedule for his three-day stay.

[Xi calls on HK youths to serve HK, country](#)

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday called on Hong Kong youths to choose the right path and serve Hong Kong and the country, a day before the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China.

Xi made the remarks when visiting the Junior Police Call (JPC) Permanent Activity Center and Integrated Youth Training Camp, where he talked with JPC members and asked about their life, study and training.

Youths are the future and the hope of the country, he told JPC members.

"There would be no promising future for the country without the healthy growth of the youths," Xi said.

"Every generation of youths has its own historic missions and opportunities. Contemporary youths of Hong Kong shall seize the historic opportunities, and choose the right path forward to serve Hong Kong and the country," he said.

The president also praised Hong Kong's over 30,000 police officers, saying they had played a key role in safeguarding the rule of law and maintaining Hong Kong's stability and prosperity over the past 20 years.

Noting that the Hong Kong police attaches great importance to law-related education among the youth, Xi said it is a far-sighted move.

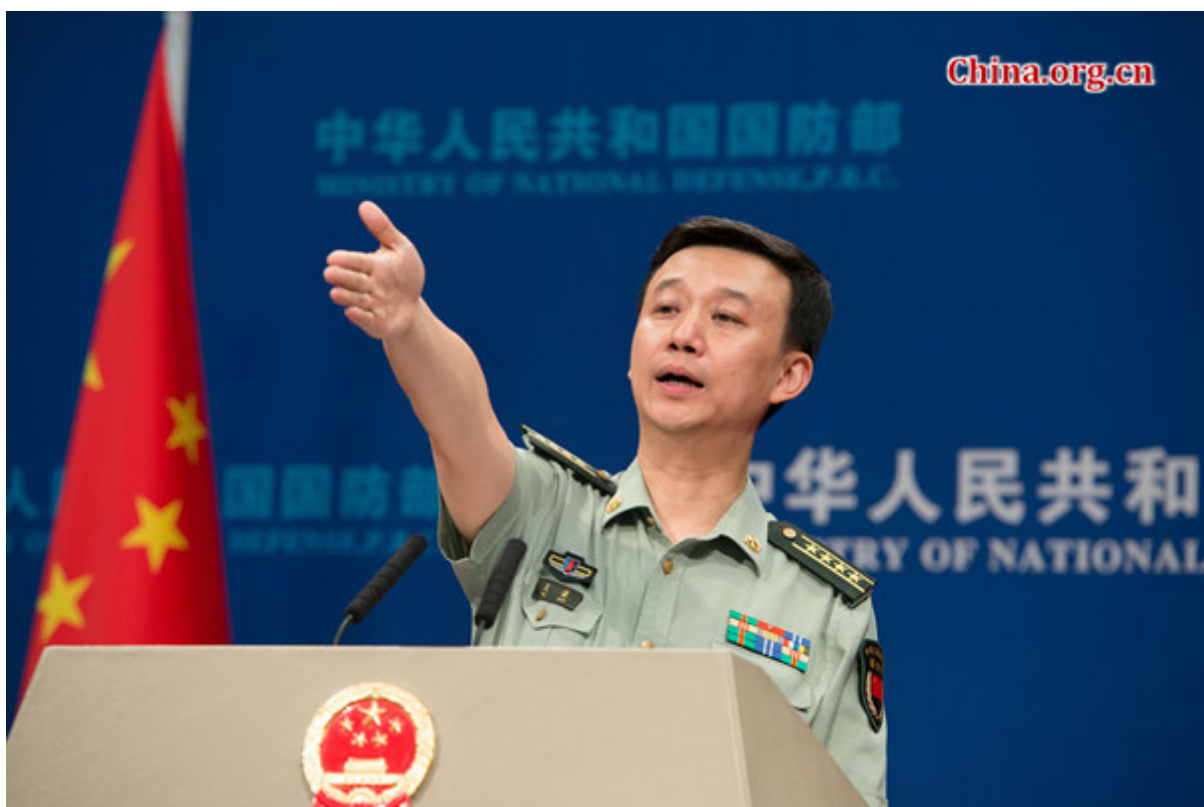
Affiliated to the Hong Kong Police Force, the JPC is a major youth organization in Hong Kong with a membership of more than 180,000. Xi called on the JPC to make further efforts to cultivate a new generation of youths in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) who love both the country and Hong Kong.

HKSAR Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying accompanied Xi during the visit.

Also on Friday, Xi's wife Peng Liyuan visited an elderly center in the company of Leung's wife Regina Leung Tong Ching-ye.

At the TWGHs Jockey Club Sunshine Complex For the Elderly, Peng asked the senior residents about their life, daily routine and rehabilitation treatment. She also joined them in making handicrafts and expressed her wishes for their happy life.

[PLA demands India withdraw intruding troops](#)



Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense of China, responds to media questions on June 29, 2017, at a routine press briefing in Beijing. [Photo by Chen Boyuan/China.org.cn]

The Ministry of National Defense (MOD) has once again demanded India remove troops trespassing across the border in the Sikkim section and obstructing Chinese border guards' normal activities.

Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for the MOD, told a press conference on June 29 that Indian border guards had crossed the border into Chinese territory. He accused the Indian troops of obstructing People's Liberation Army (PLA) normal activities in the Donglang area.

"Our border guards have taken necessary measures in response and they will resolutely preserve the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

His remark amounted to a reiteration from the PLA demanding India halt its encroachments. Earlier on June 26, Colonel Ren Guoqiang, another MOD spokesman, warned India not to obstruct PLA road construction in the Donglang area. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs made similar representations to India.

Some Indian media claimed that it was Chinese soldiers that trespassed onto the Indian side before they used bulldozers to dismantle some facilities.

Wu justified the PLA's road construction, stressing that "the incident took place on Chinese territory."

"We have explicitly demand India correct its errors immediately and withdraw its personnel that illegally crossed the Chinese border," he said.

At the same time, the MOD spokesman criticized Indian Army Chief Bipin Rawat over his statements of preparations for a multi-front war.

General Bipin Rawat recently said, "Indian Army is fully ready for a two-and-a-half front war."

Deeming such remarks "extremely irresponsible," Wu urged certain people in the Indian military to "learn from the history and stop airing such dangerous, belligerent remarks."

A video made public shows that a new type of PLA tanks recently appeared on the Tibetan plateau for exercises. Military observers noticed it was the 35-ton light main battle tank and its barrel was adjusted to a higher position to cope with mountain warfare.

Recent U.S. media reports claimed this tank featured an even stronger front protection than the PLA's latest 96A tank, far exceeding the Indian army's 90S tanks.

The MOD spokesperson confirmed that PLA's new tanks were being tested in a high-altitude environment in Tibet. However, he rebuffed allegations that linked the tank with recent border tensions with India, saying the tests targeted no country.