PRC Agreements with Foreign Countries

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**Abbreviations**

- BBC PF: BBC Monitoring Global Newsl ine - Asia-Pacific Political File
- RMRB: Renmin Ribao (People’s Daily), Beijing
- Xinhua: Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), chin.
- XNA: Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), engl.

**Burma (Dec 20)**

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Dec (Xinhua) - Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping held a meeting with Maung Aye, vice chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of Burma. The two sides reached broad agreement on how to further deepen good-neighbourly and friendly cooperation relations between China and Burma. ... After the talks, Xi Jinping and Maung Aye jointly attended a signing ceremony for a deal on China's preferential loan to Cambodia. Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping and Maung Aye jointly attended a signing ceremony for a deal on China's preferential loan to Cambodia. (Xinhua, 20 Dec 09, in BBC PF, 22 Dec 09)

Xinhua Domestic Service on 21 December carries a report by reporters An Bei and Zhang Yi, saying the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) announced on 21 December that it recently signed an agreement with Burma's Ministry of Energy on rights and obligations of the China-Burma oil pipeline. The agreement has clearly defined rights and obligations of the Southeast Asia Oil Line, which is a CNPC subsidiary, in construction and operation. China and Burma earlier signed a memo on construction, operation and management of the oil pipeline with a designed capacity of 22 million ton per annum. (Xinhua, 21 Dec 09, in BBC PF, 26 Dec 09)

**Cambodia (Dec 21)**

Phnom Penh, Dec. 21 (Xinhua) - China will make joint efforts with Cambodia to achieve a win-win cooperation, Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping said. "Furthering relations with Cambodia has long been China's consistent policy," Xi told Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen during talks. ... After their talks, the two leaders attended a signing ceremony for a deal on China's preferential loan to Cambodia. (XNA, 21 Dec 09)

China signed pacts worth US$1 billion in aid to Cambodia on 21 December and thanked Phnom Penh for its controversial decision to deport a group of Uyghurs seeking refuge back to Chinese soil. ... The decision came ahead of a three-day visit by Vice-President Xi Jinping, who held talks with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and witnessed the signing of 14 bilateral agreements. The pacts were worth US$1.2 billion in aid and loans to Cambodia, according to government spokesman Khieu Kanharith, who said the two countries agreed to strengthen ties in all fields. China and Cambodia have long had close relations, with Beijing previously giving US$930 million in aid and loans to Phnom Penh since 1992, Khieu Kanharith said. (SCMP, 22 Dec 09)

**Canada (Dec 03)**

Beijing, 3 Dec (Xinhua) - State Council Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the Great Hall of the People. Both sides said they will be dedicated to further pushing forward China-Canada strategic partnership. ... After the talks, the premiers of the two countries jointly witnessed the signing of documents on bilateral cooperation in climate change, mineral resources, culture, agriculture, education and other areas. The two sides also issued a China-Canada Joint Statement. ... (Xinhua, 3 Dec 09, in BBC PF, 5 Dec 09; SCMP, 4 Dec 09)

**Congo (Dec 28)**

BRAZZAVILLE, Dec. 28 (Xinhua) - The Republic of Congo has received a donation of 3.5 billion FCFA (about 7.6 million U. S. dollars) from China to finance the central African country's health facilities. An agreement on the donation was signed by Congolese Finance Minister Gilbert Ondongo and Chinese Ambassador to Congo Li Shuli. At the signing ceremony, the Chinese diplomat announced that his government will continue channelling public aid to the country for its development despite the global financial crisis. Under the agreement, the financial aid will go to the construction of Mfilou Hospital in the 7th Brazzaville district, the Landini Hospital in the Pointe Noire region and other projects to be agreed upon by the two sides. The funding is part a public aid agreement between China and African countries, which also conforms to the promise made in November by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao during the 40th ministerial conference on Sino-African cooperation held in Egypt. During the conference, China and African countries agreed on the implementation of the action plans reached at the Beijing summit. They also adopted the 2010-2012 action plan to reinforce Sino-African cooperation. The cooperation covers agriculture, food production, medicine, health, education, as well as academic and scientific training in the areas of energy and drinking water. (XNA, 29 Dec 09)

**France (Dec 21)**

BEIJING, Dec. 21 (Xinhua) - China and France signed two agreements on aviation cooperation during French Prime Minister Francois Fillon's China visit. According to the deals, the aerospace giant CFM International is to build an assembly line in China to supply engines to the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China for the country’s home-grown jetliner C919. The CFM is jointly established by the French aerospace and defence industries group Safran and US conglomerate General Electric. It is reported that the
the contract is worth an initial 5 billion US dollars each to Safran
and GE, and its value over 30 years could total 15 billion dollars.
"The introduction of the assembly line will suit to the research and
manufacturing of the C919," said Lin Zuoming, general manager of
Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) that will participate in
the assembly line project. Jean-paul Herteman, CEO of the Safran
Group, said the amount of engines manufactured would depend on
the research and manufacturing of the C919. The Commercial
Aircraft Corporation of China plans to put its 168-seat C919
passenger plane into market in 2016. According to a press release
from the company, the LEAP-X1C developed by the CFM is the
only foreign engine selected for the C919. "We are glad to
cooperate with CFM in C919. With advanced engine technologies
and the advantage of integrated propulsion system, we will produce
planes that are very competitive in the global market," said Zhang
Qingwei, broad chairman of the Commercial Aircraft Corporation
of China. China and France altogether signed 12 deals on bilateral
cooperation after talks between Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao
and Fillon. The other deals covered cooperation in such areas as
energy, culture and water resource utilization. China and France
also unveiled a nuclear energy company Monday, marking the
establishment of the biggest Sino-French new energy joint venture.
Chinese Vice-Premier Li Keqiang and Fillon attended the ceremony
in Beijing, which also marked the official start of construction of the
Taishan nuclear power station in south China's Guangdong
Province. The joint venture, Guangdong Taishan Nuclear Power
Joint Venture Company Ltd., is to take charge of constructing and
operating the first-phase project of the power station. According to
China Guangdong Nuclear Power Holding Co. Ltd. (CGNPC), the
joint venture has a registered capital of about 16.7 billion yuan (2.5
billion US dollars). Electricite de France holds a 30-per cent stake
and CGNPC 70 per cent. (XNA, 21 Dec 09)

Guyana (Dec 22?)
Georgetown, Guyana: The Guyana government has signed a
US5.9m dollars grant agreement with China to advance technical
and economic cooperation between the two countries. Finance
Minister Ashni Singh and the Chinese Ambassador to Georgetown
Zhang Jungao signed the agreement earlier this week. … Guyana
and China initiated relations in November 1971 when the two
countries signed an agreement on the mutual establishment of
commercial offices, with diplomatic relations established on June
27, 1972 when China established its embassy in Guyana. Over the
years, Guyana has benefited from assistance from China totalling
more than US22.3million dollars (Caribbean Media Corporation
news agency website, Bridgetown, 24 Dec 09, in BBC PF, 25 Dec
09)

Kazakhstan (Dec 12)
Asta, 12 December: Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev
and Chinese President Hu Jintao, who is on a visit to the Central
Asian republic, have held talks. On the results of the talks, the sides
signed a number of documents on cooperation in the fuel and
energy sector. The documents include an individual loan agreement
on a project to upgrade the Atyrau oil refinery by the Chinese company Sinopec as part of a general loan agreement on
cooperation in the fuel and energy sector. Moreover, the Samruk-
Kazyna national welfare fund joint-stock company and China
Guangdong Nuclear Power Corporation signed an agreement on
cooperation in joint development of renewable energy resources.
The sides signed a memorandum of understanding on issues of
financing the second section of the Kazakhstan-China gas pipeline.
… (ITAR-TASS news agency, Moscow, 12 Dec 09, in BBC PF, 13
Dec 09) … In 2008, two-way trade between the two countries stood
at 17.5 billion US dollars, up 26 per cent from the previous year.
(XNA, 13 Dec 09)

Sri Lanka (Dec 23)
Three framework agreements amounting to US$ 410 million were
signed between Sri Lanka and China under which the Chinese
government will provide concessional funding for several projects in
Sri Lanka, including the second international airport at Mattala. A
statement from the Foreign Affairs Ministry noted that Treasury
Secretary P.B. Jayasundera and the Chinese Vice Minister of
Commerce Chen Jian inked the agreements on Wednesday [23
December]. The framework agreements were signed during a
day-three official visit to China undertaken by the Secretary to the
Treasury. An annual granting agreement was also signed with the
Commerce Ministry of China to the value of US$ 7 million during
this visit. That statement remarked that, "Dr. Jayasundera used the
opportunity to apprise Vice Minister Chen Jian of the progress
achieved by the government of Sri Lanka in the fields of power,
ports and highways as well as new construction and development
initiatives undertaken by the government, particularly in the
Northern and Eastern regions." It noted that the Treasury Secretary
brieﬂed Chinese ofﬁcials on the intention of the government to
speed up reconstruction efforts, especially the construction of roads
and railroads, to link the North and South which would contribute to
improving the living conditions and livelihoods of the people in those
provinces. The Vice Minister of Commerce of China indicated
further development assistance to improve the general living
standards as well as to achieve a higher growth rate for Sri Lanka.
The Sri Lankan delegation also held discussions with the Finance
Ministry of China, and assessed the progress of ongoing projects
with Chinese Contractors. (Daily Mirror website, Colombo, 25 Dec
09, in BBC PF, 27 Dec 09)

Turkmenistan (Dec 13)
Asgabat, 13 December: China has allocated soft loans to
Turkmenistan to finance the supplies of oil and gas,
telecommunications equipment and railway passenger carriages.
Intergovernmental agreements were signed on 13 December on the
results of talks between Turkmen President Gurbanguly
Berdimuhamedow and Chinese President Hu Jintao. The soft loans were given to Turkmenistan for 20 years by the Export-Import Bank of China, and their amounts are not being made public. The Chinese president arrived in Ashgabat on 13 December on a two-day working visit to open the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline on 14 December. The presidents of the gas transit states - Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan - will also take part in the ceremony. Among the other Turkmen-Chinese documents signed today are the agreements on avoiding double taxation; on cooperation between the Turkmen Ministry of Communications and the Chinese company Huawei; and a protocol of intention on cooperation with the Chinese company Lenovo on supplying computers to schools and higher educational establishments of Turkmenistan. (ITAR-TASS news agency, Moscow, 13 Dec 09, in BBC PF, 15 Dec 09)

ASHGABAT, Dec. 13 (Xinhua) - Visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov agreed to continually advance bilateral cooperation in an all-round and sustainable way. ... After the talks, Hu and Berdymukhamedov attended the signing ceremony of a number of cooperation documents in trade, investment, and telecommunications. ... (XNA, 13 Dec 09)

Venezuela (Dec 23)
Venezuela and China signed a package of 15 cooperation agreements. Foremost among them were the exploration of new oil reserves and the increase of exports to the Asian power to more than 600,000 barrels per day, from 2010. "We will get one million soon," Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said. He added that shipments will increase regularly by 130,000 barrels from current sales (500,000 barrels). "All the oil needed by China for its development, for its momentum, might be everywhere in the world, but especially here, in Venezuela. Therefore, it is important to speed up the agreements," Chavez noted. In a ceremony led by Chavez and Zhang Ping, the Chinese Minister of Economy and Planning, government officials from the two countries agreed to build a refinery in the state of Guarico and the development of Boyaca 3 oil block at the Orinoco oil belt, a very rich deposit of oil with an area of 21,357 square miles. In the oil sector, the parties are discussing a plan to develop the Junin 4 block, at the Orinoco belt, that could eventually produce 400,000 bpd with Chinese investments estimated at $16 billion. (El Universal website, Caracas, 23 Dec 09, in BBC PF, 25 Dec 09)

Yemen (Dec 28)
Sanaa, Dec. 28 (Xinhua) - China and Yemen signed on Monday three cooperation agreements worth 105 million yuan (15.4 million US dollars), state-run Saba news agency reported. Under the agreements, China will allocate 50 million yuan to promote economic and technical cooperation between the two sides. Beijing will also give Sanaa as much funds in support of the country's development projects. China will provide a relief assistance of five million yuan through the agreements to the displaced people who fled the fighting between government troops and Houthi rebels in the southern province of Saada, the report said. Yemeni Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul-Karim al-Arhabi was quoted by Saba as expressing appreciation at China's contribution to support development process in the country. Chinese ambassador to Yemen, Liu Denglin, who signed the agreements with the Yemeni minister, said his country is keen on enhancing cooperation ties with Yemen. (1 US dollar = 6.83 yuan) (XNA, 28 Dec 09)

Hong Kong SAR with Canada (Dec 06)
HONG KONG, Dec. 6 (Xinhua) - Hong Kong and Canada signed a working holiday arrangement to benefit young people from the two places starting on March 1, 2010. The Memorandum was signed by Hong Kong Secretary for Labour and Welfare Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, and Canada's Minister of International Trade Stockwell Day. Canada is the sixth country to establish such a bilateral arrangement with Hong Kong. According to the scheme, 200 participants from each side will be allowed to stay for up to one year in each other's place for a holiday, and take up employment to finance their stay. Hong Kong has established such working holiday schemes with New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, Germany and Japan. More than 9,450 Hong Kong young people have benefited from these schemes. (XNA, 6 Dec 09)

Macau SAR with Mainland China (Nov 26)
MACAO, Nov. 26 (Xinhua) - Officials from Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) and Ministry of Water Resources of the central government signed a formal agreement to financially support Datengxia Hydroelectric Project in China's southwest Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, aiming to safeguard Macao's water supply in the long term. Edmund Ho Hau Wah, chief executive of Macao SAR, and Jiao Yong, vice-minister of the Ministry of Water Resources of the central government, attended the signing ceremony. According to the agreement, Macao SAR will provide 800 million RMB to support the project, which would be mainly used for the relocation of residents and for the soil and water conservation in the affected areas due to the construction. Macao has been threatened by the salinity problem in recent years due to drought upriver. Although Macao's water supply has been ensured every year thanks to the relieving measures of neighbouring province and the support of central government, it is of vital importance to fundamentally solve such a problem. Lau Si Io, Secretary for Transport and Public of the SAR, said at the signing ceremony that Datengxia Hydroelectric Project, which costs a total of 25 billion RMB and is going to take nine years to complete, is the long-term solution. (XNA, 26 Nov 09)
Mainland China with Taiwan (Dec 22)

TAICHUNG, Dec. 22 (Xinhua) - Chinese mainland and Taiwan negotiators Tuesday agreed to cooperate in farm produce quarantine and cross-Strait employment of fishermen, as well as to deal with different product quality standards. Three agreements were reached at the talks between negotiators of the mainland’s Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) and Taiwan’s Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), which handle cross-Strait issues on behalf of their respective authorities.

FARM PRODUCE

Under the pact on farm produce quarantine, the two sides agreed to deal with the difference of food safety standards and set up a mechanism to cope with farm produce quarantine emergencies. They promised “prompt information sharing, quick investigation and assistance to each other” in emergencies. The mainland and Taiwan will inform each other of epidemic outbreaks related to farm produce and report regularly on safety problems found in farm produce exports and imports, such as toxic substances and harmful infestations. They will also set up a system to trace farm produce quality across the Strait, which means Taiwan would assist mainland importers to investigate production and processing of its farm produce and vice versa. Both sides will ease quarantine measures on produce that passes investigations, according to the pact. Farm produce, especially fruit, is an increasingly important part of cross-Strait trade and many Taiwan farmers and agriculture firms invest in the mainland.

STANDARDS MEASURING

The ARATS and the SEF signed the agreement on the cooperation in standards measuring, inspection and certification in a bid to facilitate economic and trade contacts and improve the safety and quality of trade products. It was hoped that the agreement would improve cross-Strait industrial cooperation, create a favourable investment environment and protect rights of consumers on both sides. Under the agreement, the two sides agreed to work together on the establishment of common standards in key areas and construction of an information platform to share standards. Cooperation in legal measurement and information exchanges in measuring techniques and control would also be strengthened. The two sides also agreed to carry out technical cooperation in inspection and measuring of product safety, and promote the establishment and implementation of certification and accreditation systems in new areas. The two sides agreed to establish a bulletin system of goods safety information and intensify communication and coordination on handling unqualified goods. They would set up a special working group separately to decide concrete plans and further cooperation, according to the agreement.

FISHERMEN EMPLOYMENT

With an agreement signed after the talks, Taiwan fishing boat owners can hire people from the mainland to engage in offshore and deep-sea fishing and vice versa. Crew of the same rank on board the same fishing boats from both the mainland and Taiwan are entitled to the same payment and labour protection measures, according to the pact. Both sides agreed to respectively establish a system to allow fishing boat owners and crew file complaints and set up a mechanism to settle disputes on labour cooperation as well as guide business entities to settle labour disputes and emergencies. The mainland and Taiwan will inform each other massive safety emergencies in a timely manner, jointly adopt measures to settle emergencies and severely punish business entities that violate the pact, it said. The two sides also agreed to evaluate the execution of the pact regularly through work meetings and exchange of visits. The agreements are supposed to take effect no later than 90 days after they are signed. (XNA, 22 Dec 09; full Chinese text of the agreements: RMRB, 23, 24 Dec 09)

International Agreements

Nanjing, 30 November (Xinhua): China and the European Union signed five cooperative documents after the 12th China-EU summit held in eastern China city of Nanjing. The five agreements cover areas of technological cooperation, near-zero emission coal utilization project, energy-efficiency and quality on buildings, the sustainable development of China’s trade and investment, and environmental management. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt attended the signing ceremony. (XNA, 30 Nov 09)