Bolivia (Oct 24)
The signing of a letter of understanding between the Bolivian Government, the Chinese Government and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) sets in motion the satellite project announced to start construction in March 2010 and to be put in orbit in 2013. The agreement signing ceremony was also attended by the representative from the Chinese company that will build the satellite, the Great Wall Industry. … (La Prensa website, La Paz, 24 Oct 09, in BBC PF, 5 Nov 09)

Egypt (Nov 07)
Cairo, 7 Nov (Xinhua) - Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with Egyptian Prime Minister Nazef … After the talks, the two countries’ prime ministers jointly witnessed the signing of an economic and technological cooperation agreement between the Chinese and Egyptian Governments and a cooperation document between both sides’ customs, and unveiled the signboard of the Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone. … (Xinhua, 7 Nov 09, in BBC PF, 9 Nov 09)

Estonia (Nov 02)
TALLINN, Nov. 2 (Xinhua) - Visiting Chinese Vice-Premier Zhang Dejiang held talks with Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip on relations between their two countries. … After their meeting, Zhang and Ansip attended the signing ceremony of the agreements on bilateral economic and trade cooperation. Estonia is the last leg of Zhang's European tour, which has also taken him to Ukraine and Albania. (XNA, 3 Nov 09)

Malaysia (Nov 11)
KUALA LUMPUR, Nov. 11 (Xinhua): China and Malaysia signed five agreements on expanding cooperation in trade and investment as Chinese President Hu Jintao and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak met here on 11 November. President Hu and Prime Minister Najib attended the signing ceremony of the documents on bilateral cooperation after their meeting. The agreements include a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between China Banking Regulatory Commission and Bank Negara Malaysia on banking supervision cooperation. … During their meeting, Hu said Malaysia was China's largest trading partner among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Trade volume between the two countries topped 53 billion US dollars last year. … (XNA, 11 Nov 09)

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 11 (Bernama) - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Chinese president Hu Jintao witnessed the signing of five Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries. The signing ceremony of the MOUs was held at the Prime Minister’s office at Perdana Putra building here. The first MoU was signed between Bank Negara Malaysia and the China Banking Regulatory Commission on banking supervision cooperation. Malaysia was represented by Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz and China by the chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, Liu Ming Kang. The second MoU was signed by the Minister of Higher Education, Datuk Seri Mohammed Khaled Nordin and the China's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Liu Jian, for cooperation in the field of higher education. The third MoU involved the Malaysian government and the Beijing Enterprises Water Group (BEWG) Ltd of China on cooperation in the sewerage services industry. It was signed by the secretary-general of the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, Datuk Dr Halim Man and the chairman and executive director of BEWG, Zhang Hong Hai. Najib and Hu also witnessed the signing of supplementary agreements to the general loan agreement on the utilisation of the preferential buyers credit between the secretary-general of the Treasury, Tan Sri Dr Wan Abdul Aziz Wan Abdullah and the chairman and president of the Export Import Bank of China, Li Ruo Gu. The final MoU was on the preferential buyers credit loan agreement on the Penang second bridge project. It was signed by the chairman of Jambatan Kedua Sdn Bhd (JKSB) Tan Sri Dr Sulaiman Mahbob and Li Ruo Gu. … (Bernama website, Kuala Lumpur, 11 Nov 09, in BBC PF, 12 Nov 09)

The Netherlands (Nov 19)
BEIJING, Nov. 19 (Xinhua) - China and the Netherlands signed a Memorandum of Understanding on police cooperation in fighting crime. The MoU was signed by China’s Public Security Minister Meng Jianzhu and visiting Dutch Interior Minister Giusje ter Horst. … (XNA, 19 Nov 09)

New Zealand (Nov 02)
Tirana, WELLINGTON, Nov. 2 (Xinhua) - Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang praised the New Zealand government for the positions it has taken concerning China. "The New Zealand government has adopted a positive China policy and upheld the one-China policy," Li
said during a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Bill English. ... New Zealand was the first developed country to sign a free trade agreement with China. Bilateral trade and economic cooperation have developed rapidly since implementation of the agreement began in October 2008. ... China is now the second largest trading partner and the third biggest export market of New Zealand, which Li said proved that the economies of the two countries were highly complementary and the free trade deal was in the interests of both sides. ... After the meeting, the two leaders attended a signing ceremony for bilateral agreements on education, food safety and quarantine. Li arrived in New Zealand on 1 November after concluding an official visit to Australia. ... After his visit in New Zealand, Li is also to visit Papua New Guinea. (XNA, 2 Nov 09)

WELLINGTON, Nov. 2 (Xinhua) - China and New Zealand signed a labour market agreement, under which the New Zealand government would ease restrictions on Chinese workers seeking temporary jobs in the island nation. The agreement, part of efforts to fully implement the free trade agreement between the two countries, was signed after visiting Chinese Vice-Premier Li Keqiang held talks with his New Zealand counterpart Bill English. Under the deal, the number of technical Chinese workers in New Zealand could reach 1,000 at any given time while the number in five specially designated sectors was set at 800. Both countries also agreed that the quota system did not apply to Chinese citizens who were permitted to work in New Zealand under the country's immigration regulations. By the end of September, there were about 320 Chinese laborers working in New Zealand. ... (XNA, 2 Nov 09)

Papua New Guinea (Nov 04)

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea, Nov. 4 (Xinhua) - Visiting Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang called for enhanced bilateral relations between China and Papua New Guinea. During a meeting with Vice Premier Puka Temu, Li said China attaches great importance to Papua New Guinea's influence over the South Pacific region and will always regard the island nation as a reliable friend and partner. ... After the meeting, Li and Temu attended a signing ceremony for cooperative agreements between the two nations on preferential loans, liquified natural gas purchases and construction of the Ramu NiCo (Ramu NiCo Management Limited) community. Papua New Guinea was the last stop on Li's three-nation tour, which first took him to Australia and New Zealand. (XNA, 4 Nov 09)

Syria (Nov 18)

DAMASCUS, Nov. 19 (Xinhua) - Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu expressed hope to promote bilateral cooperation in economy, trade and agriculture with Syria during his meeting with Syrian Prime Minister Mohammed Naji Otri here on 19 November ... Syria and China inked [18 November] an agreement on economic and technical cooperation, in which China offers to grant Syria a financial assistance of 20 million yuan (2.93 million US dollars). (XNA, 19 Nov 09)

Vietnam (Nov 18)

BEIJING, Nov. 18 (Xinhua) - China and Vietnam signed a package of agreements on the demarcation of their 1,300-kilometre land boundary. Vice Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Dawei and his Vietnamese counterpart Ho Xuan Son inked these agreements on behalf of the two governments. Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi attended the signing ceremony. The agreements include a protocol on demarcation of the land boundary, an agreement on land boundary management regime and an agreement on land port and its management regime. ... China and Vietnam signed land boundary treaty in 1999 and set up a joint committee for land border demarcation two years later. In late 2008 the committee completed the demarcation along the entire length of China-Vietnam land border with about 2,000 border markers erected. The 1,300-kilometre China-Vietnam border starts at the junction of China, Vietnam and Laos and continues along the Beilun River to the coast. Yunnan Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region are on Chinese side, and Cao Bang, Lang Son, Dien Bien, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Ha Giang, Guang Ninh are in Vietnam. (XNA, 18 Nov 09)

China-Africa (Nov 08)

SHARM EL-SHAYKH, Egypt, Nov. 8 (Xinhua) - Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announced eight new measures the Chinese government will take to strengthen China-Africa cooperation in the next three years.

Wen announced the measures while addressing the opening ceremony of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Shaykh.

The eight new measures, succeeding the eight measures put forward by Chinese President Hu Jintao at the landmark Beijing Summit of the FOCAC in 2006, are aimed at pushing forward China-Africa cooperation in the next three years.

"The Chinese people cherish sincere friendship towards the African people, and China's support to Africa's development is concrete and real," said the premier.

"Whatever change may take place in the world ... our policy of supporting Africa's economic and social development will not change," Wen said.

As the first of the eight new measures, China proposes to establish a China-Africa partnership in addressing climate change. China would enhance cooperation on satellite weather monitoring, development and utilization of new energy sources, prevention and control of desertification and urban environmental protection. China
has decided to build 100 clean energy projects for Africa covering solar power, bio-gas and small hydro-power.

Second, China will enhance cooperation with Africa in science and technology. China proposes to launch a China-Africa science and technology partnership, under which China would carry out 100 joint demonstration projects with Africa on scientific and technological research and receive 100 African postdoctoral fellows to conduct scientific research in China.

Third, China will help Africa build up financing capacity. China would provide 10 billion US dollars in concessional loans to African countries, and support Chinese financial institutions in setting up a special loan of 1 billion dollars for small-and medium-sized African businesses. For the heavily indebted countries and least developed countries in Africa having diplomatic relations with China, China would cancel their debts associated with interest-free government loans due to mature by the end of 2009.

Fourth, China will further open up its market to African products. China would phase in zero-tariff treatment to 95 per cent of the products from the least developed African countries having diplomatic relations with China, starting with 60 per cent of the products within 2010.

Fifth, China will further enhance cooperation with Africa in agriculture. China would increase the number of its agricultural technology demonstration centres in Africa to 20, send 50 agricultural technology teams to Africa and train 2,000 agricultural technology personnel for Africa, in order to help boost the continent’s food security.

Sixth, China will deepen cooperation in medical care and health. China would provide medical equipment and anti-malaria materials worth 500 million yuan (73.2 million US dollars) to the 30 hospitals and 30 malaria prevention and treatment centres built by China and train 3,000 doctors and nurses for Africa.

Seventh, China will enhance cooperation in human resources development and education. China would build 50 schools and train 1,500 school principals and teachers for African countries. By 2012, China would increase the number of Chinese government scholarships to Africa to 5,500, and would also train 20,000 professionals for Africa over the next three years.

Eighth, China will expand people-to-people and cultural exchanges. China proposes to launch a China-Africa joint research and exchange programme to increase exchanges and cooperation, share development experience, and provide intellectual support for formulating better cooperation policies by the two sides. (XNA, 8 Nov 09)

Hong Kong SAR with New Zealand (Nov 13)

SINGAPORE, Nov. 13 (Xinhua) : New Zealand has concluded negotiations on a free trade deal with China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key announced on 13 November. Key and Hong Kong SAR Chief Executive Donald Tsang made the announcement in Singapore on the sidelines of the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting. "Bilateral trade relations between New Zealand and Hong Kong, China, have taken a further significant step following conclusion of negotiations for a New Zealand -Hong Kong, China Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (CEP)," Key said in a media statement. "This is also a step contributing to the further development of Asia-Pacific regional economic integration," he added. The conclusion of the negotiations came just seven months after the New Zealand prime minister and Hong Kong chief executive met in April at the Boao Forum in China, where a joint commitment was made to advancing momentum on the CEP. Key said the deal is broad-based but will benefit New Zealand services firms trying to sell into China's Hong Kong. Firms selling high-tech and education goods and services will benefit in particular. Hong Kong was New Zealand’s 20th largest trading partner last year. Key said a momentum has built up for New Zealand in free trade in Asia over the past two years. This includes deals with China, Malaysia and the 10 nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) area. (XNA, 13 Nov 09)

Mainland China with Taiwan (Nov 16)

Taiwanese government said on 16 November, allowing its banks to tap the mainland's massive market and paving the way for banks on both sides to invest in each other.

The much-anticipated pact, or memorandum of understanding (MOU), will mainly cover cross-border financial supervision and is expected to take effect within two months, Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission said in a statement.

The memorandum covers information exchange, confidentiality, financial inspection, crisis management and continued contact between the two sides’ regulatory agencies, the commission said.

Taiwan also aims to complete regulatory amendments to allow mainland banks to invest in the island’s lenders, commission chairman Sean Chen said. … On the mainland side, the agreements were signed by the China Banking Regulatory Commission, the China Insurance Regulatory Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission. …
According to a 16 November Xinhua article, representatives from the mainland and Taiwan signed the "Cross-Straits Insurance Industry Supervision Management Cooperation and Understanding Memorandum" in Beijing. According to the agreement, both sides will cooperate on information exchange, organizational set-up, and personnel training. The article says that such an understanding will deepen the creation of beneficial terms for the insurance industries on both sides, and will also carry great meaning for the stable and healthy development of those industries. The cooperative framework was partly built by the signing of the "Cross-Straits Financial Cooperation Agreement" on 26 April 2009. (Xinhua, 16 Nov 09, in BBC PF, 19 Nov 09)