PRC Agreements with Foreign Countries

LIU Jen-Kai

Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BBC PF</td>
<td>BBC Monitoring Global Newsline - Asia-Pacific Political File</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMRB</td>
<td>Renmin Ribao (People's Daily), Beijing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xinhua</td>
<td>Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), chin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XNA</td>
<td>Xinhua News Agency (Beijing), engl.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Australia (Jun 21)

Australia and China signed new deals worth US$8.8 billion, mostly in resources and energy, after talks between Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Vice President Xi Jinping.

Rudd said the 10 agreements reflected the strong and growing co-operation between his country and its top trading partner, a key consumer of Australian raw materials. … One of the agreements, a US$1.2 billion deal between Karara Mining, China Development Bank Corporation and the Bank of China will see the development of port and rail infrastructure in Western Australia. Others support the development and expansion of coal and iron ore mining projects in the resource-rich Pilbara coast of Western Australia. Another is to establish an US$8.0 billion coal project involving the construction of a mine, a railway to port and the construction of a coal loading terminal near Bowen in Queensland. (SCMP, 21, 22 Jun 10)

Austria (Jun 18)

VIENNA, June 19 (Xinhua) - Visiting Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang and Austrian Vice Chancellor Joseph Proell met here and voiced a common desire to further strengthen bilateral relations. … Following their talks, Zhang and Proell attended a signing ceremony for a portfolio of documents regarding governmental and corporate cooperation between the two sides. … (XNA, 19 Jun 10)

Greece (Jun 15)

Greece and China signed 14 bilateral agreements, during a visit to Greece by China's Vice-Premier Zhang Dejiang … The first agreement signed by Economy, Competitiveness and Shipping Minister Louka Katseli and Chinese Transport Minister Li Shenglin provides a favourable charter regime for Greek shipping, while another four agreements to build Greek cargo ships at China Ocean Shipping (COSCO) shipyards was signed between Greek ship owners and COSCO. Greek ship-owners also signed an agreement with COSCO Bulk Carrier on forming a joint-venture and two charter agreements for Greek ships. In the telecoms sector, Hellenic Telecommunications Organization (OTE) CEO Panagiots [Panayiotis] Vourloumis signed an agreement with Huawei Technologies, while China's BCEGI and Helios Plaza signed an agreement for the construction of the hotel and shopping complex Pireaus [Pireaivs] Plaza. Finally, four agreements were signed for the export of Greek olive oil. (Athens News Agency-Macedonian Press Agency website, 15 Jun 10, in BBC PF, 17 Jun 10)

Iceland (Jun 09)

REYKJAVIK, June 9 (Xinhua) - He Guoqiang, a senior Chinese Communist Party (CCP) official, and Icelandic Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir agreed that China and Iceland will work together to further expand their relations in all fields. … Cooperation documents signed by the two sides during his current visit to Iceland are a new achievement in bilateral practical cooperation and can serve as an important foundation for expanding cooperation in all fields, said the CCP official. … (XNA, 10 Jun 10)

Iceland's central bank signed a currency swap deal with China yesterday, a move seen as trying to boost confidence in its battered currency and pave the way for the end of the island's strict capital controls. Iceland is picking up the pieces of its economy after its top banks and krona currency collapsed in 2008. … The currency swap deal with the People's Bank of China should be a further boost for the hard-hit krona. Since December 2008, China has broadened the influence of the yuan by arranging swaps, totalling 650 billion yuan, with South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Belarus and Argentina. These allow importers to pay for Chinese goods in yuan. (SCMP, 10 Jun 10)

Japan (May 31)

Tokyo, 31 May (Xinhua) - State Council Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama in Tokyo on 31 May. … After the talks, the premiers of the two countries jointly attended a ceremony to sign the "Framework Agreement Between China and Japan on Cooperation in Food Safety" and other documents on bilateral cooperation in energy saving, environmental protection, training of capable personnel, e-commerce and other areas. … (Xinhua, 31 May 10, in BBC PF, 2 Jun 10)

Kazakhstan (Jun 12)

Astan, 12 June: Kazakhstan and China have signed a set of new major agreements as part of Chinese President Hu Jintao's state visit to Astan. Particularly, the two countries' governments signed agreements on cooperation in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy and on basic principles of designing, financing, building and launching the second branch of the Kazakhstan-China gas pipeline. Apart from this, representatives from the both sides signed a contract on supplying the national atomic company Kazatomprom with concentrates of natural uranium by the Chinese Guangdong
nuclear and power corporation. The agreements were signed in the presence of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Chinese President Hu Jintao. (Interfax news agency, Moscow, 12 Jun 10, in BBC PF, 13 Jun 10)

**Laos (Jun 16)**

VIENNETIANE, June 16 (Xinhua) - Visiting Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping held talks here with his Lao counterpart Boungnang Vorachit. Both leaders reached comprehensive consensus on further deepening the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries. The two sides signed a total of 18 cooperation pacts covering assistance and cooperation on a wide range of fields, including trade, infrastructure construction, finance and power generation and grid renovation. … (XNA, 16 Jun 10)

**Lithuania (Jun 14)**

VILNIUS, June 15 (Xinhua) - Lithuania is "China's important trading partner in the Baltic Sea region," He Guoqiang, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee and secretary of the CCP’s Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, said during his meeting with Lithuanian Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius. … He Guoqiang and Kubilius witnessed the signing of four agreements on bilateral economic and trade cooperation. The senior CCP official is on a five-nation tour. Before Lithuania, He has already visited Italy, Iceland and Norway. He will also travel to Turkmenistan. (XNA, 15 Jun 10)

**Maldives (May 30)**

Maldives and China have signed a 7.3m US dollar (93m rufiyaa) grant agreement. Foreign Ministry's Additional Secretary Dr Hussein Niyaz and Chinese concurrently Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives Yang Xiuping signed the agreement. … (Miadhu News website, Male, 31 May 10, in BBC PF, 1 Jun 10)

**Mongolia (Jun 01)**

Ulan Bator, 1 June (Xinhua) - Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with Mongolian Prime Minister Sukhbaatar Batbold … The two premiers also jointly attended the signing ceremony of cooperation documents, including the Treaty on Boundary Management Between the Governments of China and Mongolia and documents on economic and technical cooperation between China and Mongolia. … (Xinhua 1 Jun 10 in BBC PF, 3 Jun 10)

China agreed to lend Mongolia US$500 million to help develop the landlocked nation's mining, infrastructure and finance sectors. A total of nine agreements were signed during Premier Wen Jiabao's meeting with his Mongolian counterpart Sukhbaatar Batbold in Ulan Bator. Other deals related to education and nuclear energy. (SCMP, 3 Jun 10)

**Myanmar (Jun 03)**

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar, June 3 (Xinhua) - Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with Myanmar Prime Minister U Thein Sein in Myanmar's capital of Naypyitaw. The two prime ministers also witnessed a signing ceremony of 15 cooperation documents covering areas such as a natural gas pipeline, hydropower station and grant aid. … (XNA, 3 Jun 10)

**Norway (Jun 11)**

OSLO, June 12 (Xinhua) - China and Norway signed eight documents on cooperation in finance, energy resources, environmental protection and culture. He Guoqiang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Central Committee and head of the CCP’s Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, witnessed the signing ceremony. … Norway is the third leg of He Guoqiang's five-nation tour. Before Oslo, he had already toured Italy and Iceland. (XNA, 12 Jun 10)

**Pakistan (Jun 09)**

Islamabad, 9 June: Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani said China's support for Pakistan's security, stability and economic development is a source of strength. … The Chinese delegation was headed by Vice Premier Mr Zhang Dejiang. Pakistan and China signed five agreements. The agreements included Concessional Loan for PAKSAT I-R Project, Cooperation in Port Construction and Port-Management-Training, Cooperation in Information Technology, China-Pakistan Cable System Construction and Maintenance Agreement and contract agreement for engineering, procurement and construction works of the Darawat Dam Project. … (Associated Press of Pakistan news agency, Islamabad, in English 1851gmt 09 Jun 10, in BBC PF, 11 Jun 10)

**Sri Lanka (Jun 11)**

Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang called on President Mahinda Rajapaksa this morning at the President's House. Mr. Dejiang arrived in Sri Lanka on Friday [11 June] on a three-day official visit. China and Sri Lanka Sri Lanka and China signed six agreements to enhance co-operation in the fields of technology, industry, information technology and construction at the Prime Minister's Office. The signing of these agreements took place in the presence of Prime Minister D.M. Jayaratne and Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang. China has offered financial assistance of 200m dollars to build the second phase of the Hambantota Port. The first phase of this deep sea Port is under construction also with Chinese assistance and is expected to be commissioned for operation in the last quarter of the year. China is one of the major development partner of Sri Lanka and among the other major development projects underway with Chinese assistance are the Colombo-Katunayake expressway project, Norochcholai power plant, tank farm project at Hambantota, and the road infrastructure
project. Since 2006, the Chinese government has provided Sri Lanka with 3.06bn dollars financial assistance, of which 35.77m dollars as grants. (Sri Lanka Ministry of Defence, Public Security, Law and Order website, 12 Jun 10, in BBC PF, 13 Jun 10)

COLOMBO, June 11 (Xinhua) - Sri Lankan Prime Minister D. M. Jayaratne and the visiting Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang stressed to enhance the two friendly nations’ cooperation in a wide range of areas including economy, education, culture and international affairs. ... They also witnessed the signing of several economic and commercial cooperation agreements after their talks. ... (XNA, 11 Jun 10)

Turkmenistan (Jun 18)
ASHGADAD, June 18 (Xinhua) - The Chinese government and the Turkmenistan’s President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov. ... After the meeting, the two leaders witnessed the signing of cooperative documents. (Xinhua, 18 Jun 10, in BBC PF, 19 Jun 10)

President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov and the member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Political Bureau then attended the ceremony of signing bilateral documents including an agreement between the Turkmen and the government of the People's Republic of China on technical and economic cooperation, and a general agreement between the governments of Turkmenistan and the People's Republic of China. (Turkmen TV Altyn Asyr channel, Asgabat, 18 Jun 10, in BBC PF, 20 Jun 10)

Uzbekistan (Jun 10)
... Above all, Uzbek President Islam Karimov and Chinese President Hu Jintao signed a joint declaration on the comprehensive deepening and development of partnership ties of friendship and cooperation between the countries. After this, government departments, ministries and agencies, companies and corporations, as well as financial institutions signed bilateral documents. The sides signed a contract on supplies of energy resources; an agreement on gas trade; two agreements worth 194m dollars between OzSanoatQurilishBank [Uzbek bank] and Eximbanks; an agreement on accreditation cooperation between agencies. The sides also signed agreements on expanding cooperation on oil and gas, on technical and economic cooperation and an intergovernmental memorandum on high technologies. An agreement between Uzbekistan and China on visa regulations for diplomatic passport holders was signed as well. (Uzbek Television First Channel, Tashkent, 9 Jun 10, in BBC PF, 11 Jun 10)

Hong Kong SAR with Ireland (Jun 22)
HONG KONG, June 23 (Xinhua) - Hong Kong signed its 13th comprehensive agreement for the avoidance of double taxation (CTDA) with Ireland. Hong Kong's Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, K C Chan, signed the agreement with Ireland in Dublin for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. The Irish Minister of Finance, Brian Lenihan, signed on behalf of his government. Chan said: "The agreement will encourage Hong Kong enterprises to leverage on the success of Irish companies in the areas of technology, research and development, while facilitating Irish enterprises to tap into the Asian market, particularly the vast Mainland market, using Hong Kong as a gateway." Hong Kong is actively seeking to establish a network of CTDAs with major trading and investment partners, and has concluded CTDAs with partners including Belgium, Thailand, Vietnam and the United Kingdom. (XNA, 23 Jun 10)

China Mainland with Taiwan (Jun 29)
CHONGQING, June 29 (Xinhua) - Chinese mainland and Taiwan negotiators signed the long-awaited Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in Chongqing Tuesday afternoon, a move hailed by many as a milestone in cross-Strait relations. Aiming to establish a systematic mechanism for enhancing cross-Strait economic cooperation, the ECFA was agreed upon by the mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) and Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF). The ARATS and SEF handle cross-Strait issues on behalf of their respective authorities. Under the 16-article agreement, the two sides agreed to "gradually reduce and remove trade and investment barriers and create a fair environment" in the two areas. The agreement also provides protection for cross-Strait investments to boost two-way capital flows. The two sides agreed on the items to be included in the "early harvest programme" that will benefit from the pact first with preferential duty cuts and treatment. The "early harvest programme" will launch within six months of the ECFA taking effect, the agreement said. Under the agreement, the two sides will continue discussing agreements for commodity trade, service trade and investment over the next six months. The signing of the agreement was broadcast live on the China Central Television (CCTV). (XNA, 29 Jun 10)

CHONGQING, June 29 (Xinhua) -- Chinese mainland and Taiwan negotiators signed an agreement on intellectual property rights
The Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement was signed live on state television in Chongqing Municipality, bringing the long-term political rivals to their closest point since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949. Tariffs on 539 Taiwanese export items, worth US$13.84 billion, and 267 mainland export items, valued at US$2.86 billion, will be cut to zero within two years. The pact will allow Taiwanese firms access to 11 service sectors on the mainland, including banking, accounting, insurance and hospitals. It should boost bilateral trade already totaling about 110b US$ a year: some 80b US$ in goods flowing to China, and 30b US$ to Taiwan. Despite years of political tension, Taiwanese businesses are already some of the most eager investors in China, having poured at least US$83 billion into the mainland over the past two decades. About 40,000 Taiwanese companies now operate in the mainland. The ECFA is expected to take effect at the beginning of next year. Both sides also signed an agreement on intellectual property rights protection and co-operation. (SCMP, 29, 30 Jun 10)