

► Basic structure for bilateral ties 'stable, constructive'

Chinese ambassador urges Japan to take rational policy

By GT staff reporters

Despite some ups and downs, China-Japan relations are moving forward, the top Chinese diplomat to Japan said in an interview with Japanese media, calling on Japan to work with China to implement the consensus reached by their top leaders. Given some recent warming signals in bilateral ties brought by increasing exchanges, analysts urged the Japanese government to listen to the rational voices in Japan and stop following some other country in hyping the "China threat" theory or provoking China on its core interests.

China and Japan are important neighbors and cooperation partners, and realizing mutual benefit has always been the mainstream of China-Japan cooperation, Chinese Ambassador to Japan Kong Xuanyou said in an interview with Kyodo News on Thursday.

When asked if President Xi Jinping will make a state visit to Japan, Kong noted that high-level exchanges have played an irreplaceable role in guiding bilateral relations, and that since

this year, the top leaders have maintained positive interactions via various channels to promote bilateral relations. President Xi's meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Bangkok, Thailand on November 17 pointed out the future direction for bilateral relations.

Kong expressed hope that Japan will work with China in the same direction to keep the momentum on communication at different levels and in different fields in order to further promote mutual trust and create a positive environment for top leaders' interactions.

Xi and Kishida's meeting in Bangkok was held at a time when China-Japan relations face a slew of challenges, and experts said it is crucial for the two countries to explore cooperation potential while drawing clear red lines on matters concerning China's core interests, especially on the Taiwan question, as Japan is working to further strengthen its alliance with the US.

Kong also stressed to Kyodo News the importance of the one-China principle, and said most countries in

the world, including the US and Japan, had made a commitment to China on the Taiwan question, and this is also an important political base for establishing bilateral relations with China.

The basic structure for China-Japan relations is stable and constructive, but China should again stress its bottom line to Japan given the Japanese government's take on the Taiwan question, the Diaoyu Islands and Tokyo's active engagement in the US' strategy to contain China, Da Zhigang, director of the Institute of Northeast Asian Studies at Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times.

Amid US' increasing confrontation against China, analysts called on Japan to maintain strategic independence and cherish its hard-won relations with China. They urged Japan to listen to rational voices instead of following the US in containing China.

We hope Japan will gain a clear knowledge of the general trend and follow it and make the strategic choice that truly fits its own and the region's interests, said Kong.

China-Arab report stresses mutual respect, opposes global hegemony

By Chen Qingqing and Fan Anqi

Ahead of the highly anticipated first China-Arab summit, which is scheduled to be held in early December in Saudi Arabia, the Chinese Foreign Ministry released a long report fully reviewing China's long-standing relations with Arab countries, and highlighted the strategic mutual trust in China-Arab ties in the new era, which Chinese experts believe points out the future direction of China-Arab cooperation.

Amid the profound changes unseen in a century, China and Arab states face similar opportunities and challenges. China has all along viewed Arab states as strategic partners in our pursuit of peaceful development, further cooperation with developing countries and building a community with a shared future for mankind, Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

The comments were made after the Chinese Foreign Ministry released a report titled "China-Arab Cooperation in the New Era" on Thursday night, which looks back at the long-standing friendship between China and Arab countries and highlights the strategic mutual trust of China-Arab ties in the new era.

The report is a comprehensive review of China-Arab relations, from historical exchanges and build-up of strategic ties in various areas to deepening cooperation in political mutual trust, trade cooperation and cultural exchanges, laying out the principle of China-Arab relations and direction of future ties, said Liu Zhongmin, a professor at Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University.

Both China and Arab countries advocate respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and equality and mutual benefit. They both oppose external interference and all forms of hegemonism and power politics, according to the report.

Saudi Arabia plans to host the Chinese-Arab summit on December 9, according to Reuters.

► Twins' birthday leisure

Giant panda twins Ohin (L) and Tohin play at Adventure World in Shirahama in Wakayama Prefecture, western Japan, on their eighth birthday on December 2, 2022. Photo: VCC



Major cities scrap checks on COVID results on metro, buses

Several major Chinese cities, including Beijing and Tianjin, announced on Friday they would scrap checks of two-day or three-day valid COVID-19 test results previously required for passengers of public transportation. Residents in cities such as Chengdu and Guangzhou no longer need to show test results when entering most public places.

Beijing announced on Friday that 48-hour valid nucleic acid tests are no longer needed

on buses and subways starting next Monday. Passengers must still keep their masks on, officials said.

The capital's health commission on Friday urged residents to fulfil their duties in preventing COVID-19, and "be the first person responsible for your own health," a phrase recently used by the local government after the release of the country's optimized COVID-19 response measures.

Beijing reported 1,738

COVID-19 infections on Friday as 3 pm, including 1,390 silent carriers. Among them, 123 were found outside quarantined areas.

The subway operators in Tianjin, Beijing's close neighbor, also scrapped checks for 72-hour valid nucleic acid tests for passengers starting Friday.

The move followed Chengdu, which, in addition to cancelling checks for nucleic tests for taking subways, told residents on Thursday that nucleic

acid tests were not needed to enter most public places, and only green health codes were required. However, test results were still needed when entering medical institutions.

The southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, which has been hardest-hit by recent COVID-19 wave, was among the first to cancel checks of nucleic acid tests in public places in low-risk areas.

Many Chinese cities are further optimizing epidemic

response with a "consistent strategy and flexible measures." Xinhua News Agency published an editorial urging cities to impose restriction measures fast and lift those measures quickly, calling for the impact on people's lives to be minimized.

Global Times

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