

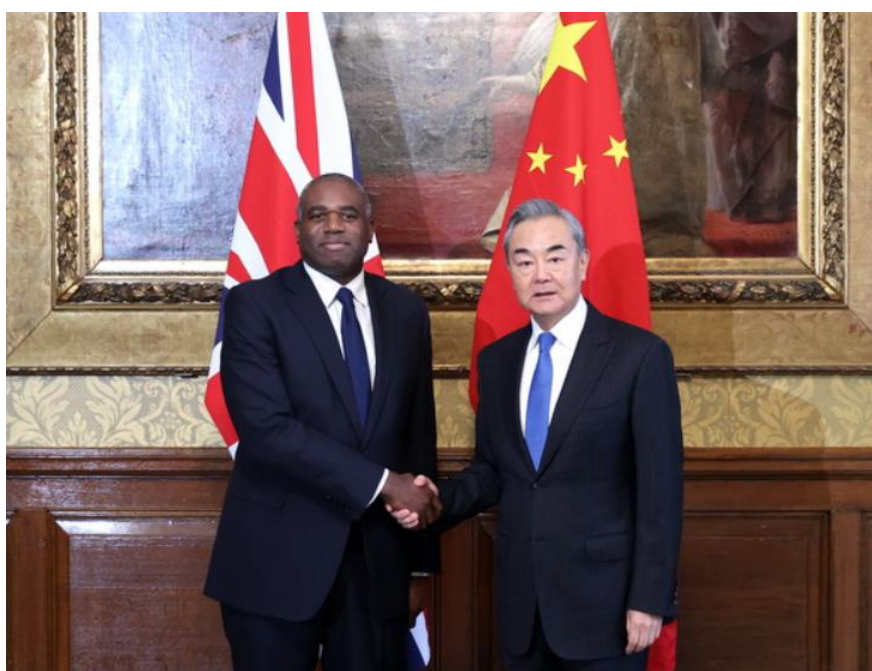


China Newsletter

(Issue No.116, 27 June 2025)

- Special Edition -

Highlights on positive developments of UK-China relations
in the first half year of 2025



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I. Bilateral high-level engagement

(1)

China, UK vow to strengthen economic, financial cooperation —11th China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue held in Beijing



BEIJING, Jan. 11 -- China and the United Kingdom have agreed to further expand economic and financial cooperation, as the two sides held the 11th China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue here on Saturday.

The dialogue was co-chaired by Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng and British Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves, serving as the lead persons of the dialogue.

He said that China is willing to work with the UK to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, uphold the positioning of strategic partners, strengthen communication and dialogue, further expand economic and financial cooperation, and provide more impetus for the development of stable and mutually beneficial China-UK relations.

Reeves said that the UK is willing to strengthen practical cooperation with China in the fields of economy and finance, and develop a consistent, lasting and mutually respectful relationship between the two countries.

During the dialogue, the two sides reached a series of mutually beneficial outcomes and consensus. He and Reeves also attended the fourth China-UK Financial Services Summit.

(https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202501/11/content_WS678267c9c6d0868f4e8eebd.d.html)

(2)

China ready to work with Britain to consolidate bilateral ties —The 10th China-UK Strategic Dialogue held in London



LONDON, Feb. 13 -- Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here on Thursday that China is willing to collaborate with Britain to consolidate the positive momentum towards stabilizing and improving bilateral relations.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said this during a meeting with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Wang first conveyed the cordial greetings from Chinese President Xi Jinping to Starmer, saying the successful meeting between Xi and Starmer at the end of last year has launched the process of improving and developing China-Britain relations.

Under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries, the recent China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue has produced fruitful results and exchanges at all levels have been resumed, Wang said.

This demonstrates the huge potential of practical cooperation between the two countries, and also fully proves that the Labour government's rational and pragmatic policy towards China is in line with the interests of the country and people and conforms to the trend of the times, he said.

He said China stands ready to work with Britain to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, deepen and expand cooperation in infrastructure, trade and investment, clean energy and other fields, bringing more benefits to the people of both countries.

Wang noted that the world is becoming volatile and changes unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace. As permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, China and Britain should strengthen strategic communication, enhance mutual understanding and trust, demonstrate their responsibilities as major countries,

and deepen cooperation in key areas concerning the future of humanity, including climate change, artificial intelligence, and green development, thus to contribute greater certainty and stability to the world, he said.

Starmer asked Wang to convey his sincere greetings to Xi, noting that the current cooperation between Britain and China in various fields has made positive progress. He added that he looks forward to candid and constructive dialogues between the two countries to promote the sustained and stable development of Britain-China relations. During his visit to Britain, Wang also met with Jonathan Powell, British prime minister's national security adviser, and co-chaired the 10th China-UK Strategic Dialogue with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202502/14/content_WS67b13168c6d0868f4e8efada.html)

(3)

China and UK pledge to jointly address climate change —Energy Secretary visits China to launch climate dialogue



BEIJING, March 17 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang met with Ed Miliband, UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, in Beijing on Monday. The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in jointly addressing climate change.

Ding, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said developing stable and mutually beneficial relations between China and the UK serves the common interests of the two peoples, facilitates global economic growth, and promotes joint efforts to address global challenges.

China is ready to work with the UK to earnestly implement the important consensus

reached by the leaders of both countries, consolidate the momentum for improvement and development of bilateral ties, deepen cooperation in areas such as financial services, trade and investment, and low-carbon development, and jointly address climate change to better benefit the people of both countries and the world, Ding added.

Miliband said the UK government sincerely hopes to enhance engagement with China, is committed to developing a long-term and constructive bilateral relationship, and stands ready to strengthen cooperation with China on energy security and addressing climate change.

(<https://english.news.cn/20250317/c12225a67ffa4f4b8c54bedbd1a095d2/c.html>)

Chinese and UK ministers hold dialogue on energy cooperation

Published: Mar 17, 2025 10:51 PM

Wang Hongzhi, head of China's National Energy Administration (NEA) and Ed Miliband, UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, co-chaired the 8th China-UK Energy Dialogue in Beijing on Monday, during which they had in-depth exchanges on topics including clean energy technologies, the energy transition path, energy security and international energy governance, according to a statement on the NEA's website.

The dialogue marked the first time that Chinese and UK ministers met in Beijing for the first formal talks to accelerate climate action in nearly eight years, according to a press release on the UK government's website.

Notably, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding on clean energy partnerships after the meeting, which outlines key areas of cooperation such as electricity market reform, power grids, battery storage, offshore wind power, and carbon capture, utilization and storage, as well as clean, low-carbon and renewable hydrogen, according to the NEA statement.

During the meeting, Wang said that China and the UK share broad common interests in the energy sector and have a solid foundation for cooperation. He expressed willingness to work with the UK to actively implement the important consensus reached by the two countries' leaders and promote more mutually beneficial outcomes in China-UK energy cooperation, the NEA statement said.

Miliband noted that he looks forward to strengthening exchanges between the two countries in the energy sector through mechanisms such as the China-UK Energy Dialogue, and the two countries could work together to make greater contributions to global efforts in tackling climate change, according to the NEA statement.

Cui Hongjian, professor of the Academy of Regional and Global Governance at

Beijing Foreign Studies University, told the Global Times on Monday that the dialogue is in line with the overall improvement of China-UK relations.

"The UK faces rising energy costs due to the impact of international industrial market price fluctuations, which undercut its economic competitiveness. Meanwhile, China is a major energy consumption country and has major green transition plans. Therefore, the prospect of bilateral energy cooperation is very promising as both sides share a consensus and a solid foundation," Cui said.

Cui also noted that China-UK cooperation will likely gradually increase. "China and the UK could focus firstly on areas of consensus with a solid cooperation foundation, where tangible technological results could help build mutual trust. Such a basis then will create greater room for addressing more difficult issues," he said.

Miliband was also quoted as saying in the UK government statement that "it is simply an act of negligence to today's and future generations not to engage China on how it can play its part in taking action on climate."

A Guardian report noted that "the UK is hoping to shape a new global axis in favor of climate action along with China and a host of developing countries, to offset the impact" of policy changes in the US.

"Considering the US policy shift, strengthening China-UK energy cooperation could inject much-needed stability into the global green transition agenda. It will also set an example for China-Europe cooperation in the joint efforts against climate change," Cui noted.

Also on Monday, Wang Wentao, China's minister of commerce, met with Swire Group's CEO Merlin Swire. Wang said that the Chinese consumer market has enormous potential and vast development space, and "trade-in" and other policies have been introduced to boost consumption, expressing hope that Swire Group can seize these opportunities.

Swire said that the company attaches great importance to the Chinese market, and has achieved restorative growth in all business segments in China in recent years, according to a statement from the MOFCOM.

(<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202503/1330292.shtml>)

(4)

General Liu Zhenli holds talks with UK Chief of Defense Staff —Head of British military makes first Beijing visit in 10 years

BEIJING, Apr. 9 -- General Liu Zhenli, member of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) and Chief of Staff of the CMC Joint Staff Department, held talks with the visiting Admiral Tony Radakin, Chief of the Defense Staff of the United Kingdom in Beijing, on Wednesday. The two sides conducted in-depth exchanges on China-UK relations and mil-to-mil relations, international and regional situations and issues of common concern, and had communication on strengthening exchanges and cooperation between the two militaries.

(http://eng.mod.gov.cn/xb/News_213114/TopStories/16379765.html)

(5)

China and the UK hold dialogue on artificial intelligence



On May 20, 2025, the China-UK Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence (AI) was held in Beijing. The event was co-chaired by Director-General of the Department of Arms Control of the Foreign Ministry Sun Xiaobo and Director of the International Science and Technology Department at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Chris Jones. Officials from the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, and the Cyberspace Administration of China, as well as from the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, the Cabinet Office, the Department for Business and Trade, and the British Embassy in China attended the event.

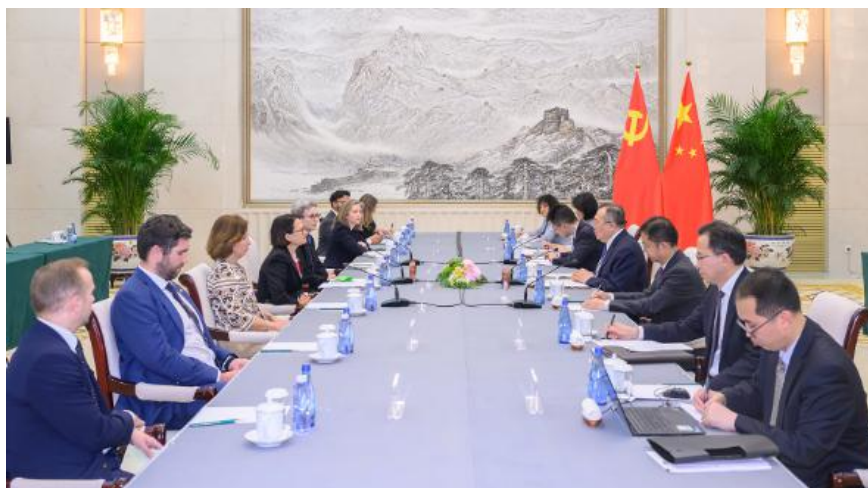
The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on the opportunities and challenges

in AI development and their respective policies. Both sides expressed support for continued exchanges, mutual learning, and practical cooperation to promote the sound, safe, and orderly development of AI in both countries. The two sides agreed to maintain communication and coordination on global AI governance, advance the implementation of the Global Digital Compact adopted at the United Nations Summit of the Future, help developing countries strengthen capacity building, and ensure that AI develops for the good and for the benefit of all.

(https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/wjbxw/202505/t20250521_11629987.html)

(6)

Head of IDCPC meets with FCDO Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Catherine West



Beijing, May 26th—Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC), met here today with Catherine West, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK.

Liu said that since the beginning of this year, China and the UK have restarted institutional dialogues in various fields, and bilateral relations have shown momentum of improvement. China regards the UK as an important strategic partner and is willing to work with the UK to implement the new important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthen exchanges and dialogues, and expand cooperation in trade, investment, finance, clean energy, artificial intelligence and other fields. The current international situation is fraught with turbulence, with increasing instability and uncertainty. As permanent members of the UN Security Council and major economies in the world, China and the UK should strengthen communication and coordination on international and regional affairs and work

together to meet global challenges. The CPC is willing to work with major political parties of the UK to continue to make good use of mechanisms such as the China-UK Senior Leadership Forum, engage in frank and open dialogues, and enhance mutual understanding.

West said, since the beginning of this year, the 2025 UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue and UK-China Strategic Dialogue have been held successively, and contacts between the departments of both sides have increased. The UK is willing to, together with China, strengthen exchanges and cooperation to consolidate the positive momentum of bilateral relations, and at the same time, engage in candid dialogues on issues where the two sides have differences, so as to further promote the development of bilateral relations. The current international situation is turbulent experiencing increasing difficulties and challenges. But all parties cannot give up easily and need to respond to them together. The UK looks forward to holding the 13th China-UK Senior Leadership Forum with China.

The two sides also exchanged views on international and regional issues.

Caroline Wilson, British Ambassador to China, was present.

(https://www.idcpc.org.cn/english2023/bzhd/202505/t20250530_167056.html)

(7)

13th UK-China Senior Leadership Forum held in London



London, June 9th—The 13th UK-China Senior Leadership Forum was held here today under the theme of UK-China: the bilateral relationship in a fast-changing world. Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, David Lidington, Honorary President of the Great Britain-China Centre (GBCC) and former Minister for the Cabinet Office, Catherine West, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of

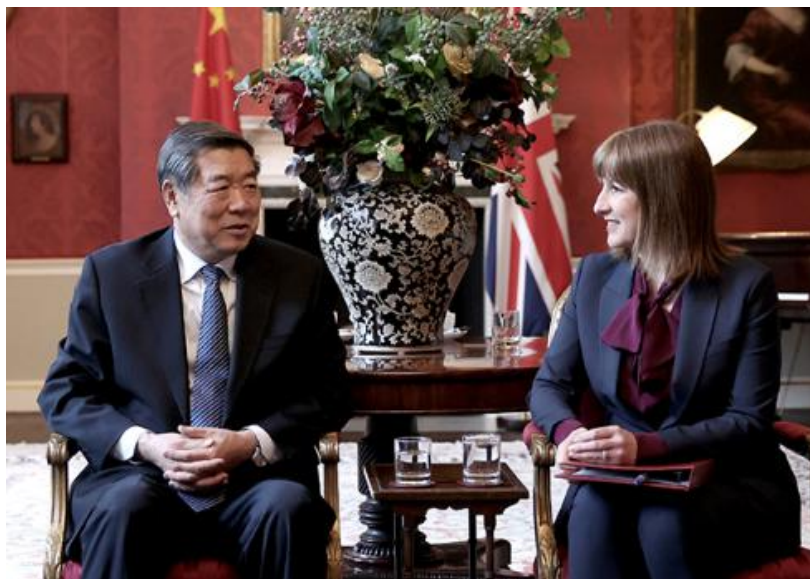
the UK, Andrew Rosindell, the Conservative MP who undertakes the role of Shadow Parliamentary Under Secretary (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs), attended and addressed the function. Nearly 50 people, including relevant officials from the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, Office of the Central Commission for Financial and Economic Affairs, Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, CPC Beijing Municipal Committee and members of Parliament from the Labour Party, Conservative Party, and Liberal Democrats.

The two sides believed that the world today is experiencing unprecedented challenges, with increasing instability and uncertainty. A healthy and stable China-UK relationship is very important for both countries and the world. The two sides should strengthen communication and dialogue, enhance mutual understanding and trust, expand cooperation in economy, trade, investment, scientific research, education, health, artificial intelligence, and climate change, reinforce people-to-people and cultural exchanges and enhance friendship between the two peoples, jointly maintain the international system with the United Nations at its core and promote world peace and development. The two sides had constructive exchanges and interactions on topics such as "the role of political parties in the future of China-UK relations" and "upholding multilateralism and jointly responding to global security concerns and global challenges". The two sides had candid and in-depth exchanges and discussions on issues where they differed. The two sides agreed to continue the Forum and make efforts to enhance understanding, manage differences, expand consensus and strengthen cooperation.

(https://www.idcpc.org.cn/english2023/bzhd/202505/t20250530_167056.html)

(8)

Chinese vice-premier meets British chancellor of exchequer on economic, financial ties



LONDON, June 9 -- Visiting Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng on Sunday held talks in London with British Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves on enhancing economic and financial cooperation between the two countries.

He, who leads the Chinese side to the China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue, had an in-depth exchange of views with Reeves, the British head of the dialogue, also on issues of common concern.

He called on China and Britain to make joint efforts to implement the important consensus between Chinese President Xi Jinping and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, promote the effective implementation of the outcomes of the dialogue, further deepen exchanges and cooperation in various fields of economy and finance, promote mutual benefit and win-win results, and maintain the sustained, healthy and stable development of China-Britain economic relations.

Reeves said that Britain attaches great importance to its cooperation with China and stands ready to enhance its communication with China, implement the outcomes of the dialogue, and inject new impetus into Britain-China economic cooperation.

(https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202506/09/content_WS6846dfadc6d0868f4e8f3320.html)

(9)

China-UK Climate Ministers' Dialogue and China-UK environment Ministers' Dialogue held in London



On June 16 local time, Huang Runqiu, Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment attended the first China-UK Climate Ministers' Dialogue with Ed Miliband, British Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero Emissions in London, and attended the first China-UK Environment Ministers' Dialogue with Steve Reed, British Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

At the China-UK Climate Ministerial Dialogue held in the morning, the two sides had in-depth exchanges on topics such as the multilateral process of climate governance, their respective policies to address climate change, and the next step of climate cooperation. The dialogue was chaired by Kate, the UK's Special Representative for Climate Change.

Huang Runqiu said that President Xi Jinping delivered a speech to the Climate and Just Transition Leaders' Summit, proposing important initiatives such as adhering to multilateralism, deepening international cooperation, promoting just transition, and strengthening practical actions. He stressed that no matter how the international situation changes, China's active response to climate change will not slow down, its efforts to promote international cooperation will not weaken, and its efforts to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind will not stop. China will fully implement President Xi Jinping's important speech, firmly fulfill its commitment to carbon peak and carbon neutrality, actively respond to climate change, and accelerate the comprehensive green transformation of economic and social development. He stressed that in the current situation where global climate governance and international cooperation are facing many challenges, China is willing to work with the UK to adhere to multilateralism, promote the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, support Brazil in successfully hosting the United Nations Climate Change Belém Conference, and make greater contributions to the global response to climate change and the promotion of sustainable development.

Miliband spoke highly of China's achievements in addressing climate change and its

leading role in promoting the multilateral process of global climate governance. He said that the UK is willing to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with China, maintain communication and exchanges on key issues of the Belém Conference, and demonstrate the leadership of both sides in promoting global climate governance.

After the meeting, Huang Runqiu and Miliband jointly signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Climate Change Cooperation between Chinese and British ministries. The two sides agreed to deepen exchanges through the ministerial dialogue mechanism on climate change, strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the fields of climate change adaptation, carbon market construction, climate investment and financing, and methane emission control, and jointly promote the multilateral process of climate governance.

At the China-UK Environment Ministers' Dialogue held in the afternoon, the two sides had in-depth exchanges on topics such as the latest progress in environmental pollution prevention and control, negotiations on international instruments on plastic pollution, and biodiversity protection. The dialogue was chaired by British Special Representative for Nature Davis.

Huang Runqiu pointed out that under the scientific guidance of Xi Jinping's ecological civilization thought, China has coordinated the promotion of carbon reduction, pollution reduction, green expansion and growth, continuously improved the quality of the ecological environment, and made great strides in the construction of a beautiful China. China-UK environmental cooperation has a long history and remarkable results. It is hoped that the two sides will follow the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries, uphold the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, strengthen dialogue and exchanges, deepen practical cooperation, promote the implementation of the goals and tasks of the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (hereinafter referred to as the "Kunming-Montreal Framework"), and actively respond to the challenges of biodiversity loss; jointly promote the negotiation process of international instruments on plastic pollution and deepen cooperation in plastic pollution control.

Reed highly appreciated China's leadership in promoting the "Kunming-Mongolia Framework" as the chair of the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. He said that the UK is willing to deepen cooperation with China in ecological and environmental policy research, biodiversity protection, circular economy transformation, formulation of international instruments on plastic pollution, and promotion of coordination among multiple environmental conventions, so as to contribute to the global environmental and climate governance process.

Chinese Ambassador to the UK Zheng Zeguang attended the dialogue.

(https://www.mee.gov.cn/ywdt/hjywnews/202506/t20250619_1121560.shtml)

(10)

Senior CPC official visits Britain



LONDON, June 23 (Xinhua) -- Yuan Jiajun, a senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official, led a party delegation to visit Britain on Sunday and Monday at the invitation of the British government.

Yuan, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the secretary of the CPC Chongqing Municipal Committee, met with British National Security Adviser Jonathan Powell, attended a roundtable meeting between leading Chinese (Chongqing) and British enterprises, and held talks with Nicholas Lyons, lord mayor of the City of London, and Sherard Cowper-Coles, chair of the China-Britain Business Council, among others.

Yuan said that under the strategic guidance of Chinese President Xi Jinping and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, China-Britain relations are developing with a good momentum.

China is ready to work with Britain to uphold the positioning of the two countries as strategic partners, further strengthen dialogue and cooperation, enhance strategic communication, deepen political mutual trust, jointly meet challenges, and continuously expand practical cooperation in economy and trade, science and technology, people-to-people exchanges, local affairs and other fields, to jointly promote a stable and mutually beneficial China-Britain relationship, Yuan said.

Chongqing is willing to leverage its strengths in industrial foundation, its role as a comprehensive hub and its status as a mega-city to deepen exchanges and cooperation with Britain in areas such as intelligent manufacturing, trade and logistics, financial services and urban governance, contributing local strength to further advancing China-Britain relations, Yuan said.

The British side said that the Britain-China relationship is of strategic significance and the cooperation between the two sides is conducive to world peace and development. The British side stands ready to enhance exchanges with China, deepen cooperation in such areas as economy and trade, science and technology, investment, education, and jointly safeguard multilateralism and the free trade system.

During the visit, Yuan also met with executives from Jardine Matheson and other business representatives.

During the meeting, he elaborated on China's high-quality development and reform measures, and highlighted new opportunities brought by deepening reforms and high-level opening-up.

He also paid visits to the City of London, Battersea Power Station and Canary Wharf.
(<https://english.news.cn/20250624/dab9f49ccebe4dd4aa6d5fa0907b4e3e/c.html>)

II. Major activities of the Chinese Ambassador to the UK

(1)

Ambassador Zheng Zeguang attends "China in Springtime: Sharing Opportunities with the World" Global Dialogue UK Session and shares key messages from China's Two Sessions



On 17 March 2025, H.E. Ambassador Zheng Zeguang attended the "China in Springtime: Sharing Opportunities with the World" Global Dialogue UK Session hosted by the China Media Group, the China Chamber of Commerce in the UK, and the China-Britain Business Council at invitation and delivered a keynote speech entitled "Seizing New Opportunities of China's Development and Creating a New Future for China-UK Cooperation," providing an in-depth briefing on the Two Sessions to people from different sectors in the UK.

Ambassador Zheng shared the key messages the Two Sessions convey to the world. First, with strong confidence and real actions, China will continue to advance Chinese modernisation with high-quality development. The Two Sessions have projected the main targets for development this year, including GDP growth of around 5%, over 12 million new urban jobs, and CPI increase of about 2%.

China will implement a more proactive fiscal policy and a moderately accommodative monetary policy, strengthen policy coordination, and make sure that policies once set are effectively delivered. China will boost consumption and expand effective investment. The Central Government has launched a special initiative to optimise the consumption environment and encourage people to spend. At the same time, China will ensure greater support for major national projects. Private investment will be encouraged in major infrastructure projects.

China will promote the development of new quality productive forces, fostering industries such as biomanufacturing, quantum technology, embodied AI, and 6G, and

continuously advancing the AI Plus initiative and AI application in different industries. China will expand higher-standard opening up, strengthening policies to stabilise foreign trade and foreign investment, and increasing the number of countries eligible for visa-free entry. China will promote green and low-carbon transition, improving incentives for green consumption, and accelerating the development of a green and low-carbon economy.

Despite the challenges and pressure, China remains confident in achieving our expected development goals.

Second, China will firmly act as an "enabler," and provide more stability and positive energy for the world. China will continue to be a major engine for the global economy, a strong propeller for global sci-tech innovation, a firm leader in global green transition and a resolute defender of global peace and stability.

China champions an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation. We are ready to work with other countries to implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilisation Initiative, and build a community with a shared future for mankind and create a bright future of world peace and development.

Third, China's political system is based on our national condition. It works and it delivers. The Two Sessions are a vivid practice of the whole-process people's democracy under the leadership of the CPC. This system ensures public participation throughout the entire process of governance, covering all aspects of democratic process and all sectors of society. China's political system is our most important advantage and the secret behind the two miracles of rapid economic development and long-term social stability over the past more than 70 years.

Ambassador Zheng pointed out that China and the UK should seize opportunities, expand collaboration and create a new future of mutually beneficial cooperation. In the face of a turbulent and changing world, a stable and constructive China-UK relationship is even more important to both countries and the world.

President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Keir Starmer met in Brazil, pointing the way forward for the growth of bilateral ties. Foreign Minister Wang Yi made a successful visit to the UK and held the China-UK Strategic Dialogue with Foreign Secretary David Lammy, agreeing on the roadmap for bilateral exchanges.

China's continued and stable development presents new opportunities for the development of China-UK relations. The two sides need to make concerted efforts to maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges, implement the outcomes of the China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue, the China-UK Strategic Dialogue, and the China-UK Energy Dialogue, and create new highlights of cooperation in financial services, clean energy and AI.

The two sides must uphold the principles of mutual respect, non-interference in each

other's internal affairs and equality, and properly handle differences and sensitive issues. We must say no to those who have been trying to talk China down. We must say no to those who have been trying to undermine normal exchanges between our two countries. We must say no to those who have been trying to disrupt China-UK collaboration.

As permanent members of the UN Security Council and major countries with important international influence, China and the UK should enhance communication and coordination in the UN and other multilateral fora, work together to bring stability and certainty to the world.

It is hoped that people of insight from all walks of life in China and the UK will work together, promote mutual understanding, explore new opportunities for cooperation, and bring China-UK relations onto the track of steady and sound development.

Shen Haixiong, Vice Minister of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee and President of China Media Group, delivered a video message. Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, Chair of the China-Britain Business Council, Lord Neil Davidson, Member of the House of Lords and former Shadow Secretary of State for Law and the Exchequer of the Labour Party, Michael Mainelli, the 695th Lord Mayor of the City of London, Xue Wenxia, Vice Chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce in the UK, and Vincent Keaveny, the 693rd Lord Mayor of the City of London, also delivered remarks.

Participants in the dialogue exchanged views on topics such as China's high-standard opening up, AI, and China-EU cooperation, discussed the future of China-UK trade cooperation, and expressed their willingness to continue to actively participate in and promote mutually beneficial cooperation and friendly exchanges between China and the UK, and play an active role in promoting the stable development of China-UK relations. More than 150 Chinese and British guests from the government and business communities attended the event.

(http://gb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/dshdjyh/202503/t20250321_11579494.htm).

(2)

Ambassador Zheng Zeguang attends Hunan culture and tourism promotion event in UK



On 3 April 2025, Chinese Ambassador to the UK Zheng Zeguang attended and addressed the "Meet in Hunan" culture and tourism promotion event in London. Governor of Hunan Province Mao Weiming and Head of Tourism Affairs at VisitBritain Rachel Farrington also made remarks. The event was attended by more than 130 people from the cultural and tourism communities in China and the UK.

Zheng Zeguang said that China is committed to promoting Chinese modernisation through high-quality development and that China's development will continue to bring new opportunities for global development. At a recent meeting with global business leaders in Beijing, President Xi Jinping underscored that the Chinese government highly values the important role of foreign-funded enterprises in China's reform, opening up and modernisation, that China will remain an attractive place for foreign enterprises to invest and prosper in the long run, and that China will work earnestly to address the challenges faced by foreign businesses operating in China, further expand high-standard opening up, protect fair market competition, and step up service and support. China welcomes companies from the UK and other countries to seize the opportunities and broaden mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

Zheng Zeguang expressed China's firm opposition to the tariff hikes on Chinese products the US announced under the pretext of "reciprocity". He said that China will take necessary measures to firmly safeguard its legitimate interests. In the face of common challenges, the international community should work more closely to reject unilateral, protectionist and trade bullying practices and to keep the multilateral trading system stable.

Zheng Zeguang described the development of Hunan Province as a microcosm of China's high-quality development. Hunan has a long history, a rich cultural heritage,

and beautiful mountains and rivers. The Zhangjiajie scenic area, for one, is well known in and outside China. All these are part of Hunan's rich cultural and tourism resources. Hunan is pursuing technological empowerment and striving to become a world-class cultural and tourism destination. Different communities in the UK are welcome to seize the opportunity to strengthen cultural and tourism cooperation and broaden economic and trade cooperation and people-to-people exchanges with Hunan. China has introduced facilitation measures such as a 240-hour visa-free transit policy for the UK and 53 other countries, and there are direct flights connecting London with Changsha and several other Chinese cities. Both China and Hunan welcome more visits from British friends. The Chinese Embassy in the UK will provide convenient services for the British people.

Governor Mao Weiming briefed the audience on Hunan's development achievements in culture, tourism and other undertakings and highlighted opportunities for cooperation between Hunan and the UK. He invited people from all sectors in the UK to visit and invest in Hunan and to promote mutual benefit and people-to-people connections through cultural exchanges.

The promotion event included an intangible cultural heritage performance and a photo exhibition. The guests were captivated by the unique charm of Hunan culture.

(http://gb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/dshdjhh/202504/t20250405_11588876.htm).

(3)

Ambassador Zheng Zeguang attends and addresses RMB sovereign green bond issuance ceremony in London



On 3 April 2025, a ceremony was held at the London Stock Exchange for the launch of RMB-denominated sovereign green bonds. Chinese Ambassador to the UK Zheng Zeguang, Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance Liao Min, Economic Secretary to the Treasury Emma Reynolds, and London Stock Exchange Group CFO Michel-Alain

Proch attended and made remarks at the event. Also present were representatives from various sectors in China and the UK.

In his remarks, Zheng Zeguang congratulated on the successful issuance of RMB sovereign green bonds. He identified green transformation and sustainable development as a major feature of Chinese modernisation. The issuance of RMB sovereign green bonds in the UK by the Chinese Finance Ministry is an important step taken by China to deliver the policy outcomes of the 11th China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue. It is also another concrete action taken by China toward green and low-carbon development. Opening up is a defining feature of Chinese modernisation. China is committed to sharing development opportunities and carrying out mutually beneficial cooperation with countries around the world. At a recent meeting with global business leaders, President Xi Jinping reaffirmed that opening up is China's fundamental state policy, that China remains committed to reform and opening up, that its door will open still wider, and that its policy of utilising foreign investment has not and will not change. China looks forward to the active participation by the financial, industrial and commercial sectors of the UK in China's high-quality development and broader practical cooperation in various fields between the two sides.

Zheng Zeguang highlighted the vast potential for China-UK cooperation in clean energy, green transformation and climate change. The two sides should, in accordance with the important consensus reached by their leaders and under the principles of mutual respect, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, implement the outcomes of the Economic and Financial Dialogue, the Strategic Dialogue and the Energy Dialogue while advancing dialogue and cooperation in other fields, in a bid to bring more concrete benefits to the two peoples and to contribute still more to the green and low-carbon transformation and climate action around the globe.

In response to the "reciprocal tariffs" on China announced by the US, Zheng Zeguang noted that the tariff hikes declared by the US on imports from China and a number of other countries and regions under the pretext of "reciprocity" seriously violate WTO rules, severely undermine the multilateral trading system, and cause serious harm to the interests of all parties. China firmly opposes such a move and will take necessary measures to safeguard its legitimate interests. There are no winners in trade wars or tariff wars, and protectionism leads nowhere. In the face of common challenges, the international community should work more closely to reject unilateral, protectionist and trade bullying practices and to keep the global trading system stable.

(http://gb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/dshdjyh/202504/t20250405_11588820.htm)

(4)

Keynote address by Ambassador Zheng Zeguang at 2025 Sino-UK Entrepreneur Forum



On 14 May 2025, HE Ambassador Zheng Zeguang attended the 2025 Sino-UK Entrepreneur Forum and delivered a keynote address titled "Upholding Openness and Cooperation, and Promoting Exchange and Mutual Learning". Hosted by the 48 Group and China Daily, the forum gathered nearly 200 participants from the British government, financial, trade, science and education sectors. The full text of the Ambassador's address is as follows:

It is my great pleasure to attend the 2025 Sino-UK Entrepreneur Forum. Thank you to the 48 Group and China Daily for the kind invitation.

At a time when AI is leading a new wave of sci-tech and industrial revolution and profoundly changing the human society, this forum is highly relevant with the theme of "Smart Decisions for Smart Technologies".

The Chinese government places great importance on AI development.

In recent years, we have been making efforts to improve top-level design and strengthen overall planning, achieving systematic and comprehensive advancement of China's AI capabilities.

At the same time, we also remind ourselves of the need to face up to the gap and redouble our efforts to advance AI technological innovation, industrial development and application in all sectors, so that we can firmly maintain the initiative in AI development and governance.

China's AI development can be characterised by the following key features:

First, expanding scale. China is home to over 4,500 AI-related enterprises, with the core AI industry valued at nearly 600 billion yuan and the AI chip market exceeding

150 billion yuan.

Second, flourishing innovation. In 2024, AI patent applications from China accounted for 61.5% of the global total.

Chinese tech companies have launched models such as Baidu's "Wenxin Yiyan", ByteDance's "Doubao", Tencent's "Yuanbao", Alibaba's "Tongyi", and Huawei's "Pangu".

The open-source large language model DeepSeek, developed by a young Chinese team, gained global popularity upon release.

The world's first fully autonomous AI agent, Manus, has the capacity to function without human micromanagement.

Third, improving computing power. China's supercomputers account for 45% of the global total. With over 4 million 5G base stations, China has built the world's largest mobile communication and fibre broadband networks.

In 2024, data production in China exceeded 41 zettabytes (ZB), a 25% year-on-year increase, achieving both quantitative and qualitative growth.

Fourth, increasing application empowerment. The vigorous development of AI is a reflection of China's high-quality growth.

Technologies represented by AI are fostering new industries and business models, and transforming those traditional industries. They have also helped bring the Chinese economy to the higher-end, and made it smarter and greener.

— Statistics show that, in 2024, the added value of China's new industries, new business formats and new business models accounted for over 18% of the GDP. The number of Chinese enterprises utilising AI technologies grew by over 37%, covering R&D, production and sales.

High-tech sectors such as integrated circuits and industrial robots achieved significant growth.

— In the first quarter of this year, the added value of high-tech manufacturing grew by 9.7% year-on-year, and digital product manufacturing grew by 10.2%.

In the first four months, China's high-tech product exports reached 1.52 trillion yuan, up 7.4%.

— China is now the world's largest renewable energy market and equipment manufacturer, the largest exporter of clean technology, and leads the world in renewable energy installed capacity.

The combined installed capacity of wind and solar power has now surpassed thermal power for the first time.

— From January to April, China's vehicle production and sales both exceeded 10 million units for the first time, of which those of NEVs reached 4.4 million and 4.3 million units respectively, up 48% and 46% year-on-year.

BYD has launched its "Super e-Platform", enabling a 400-km range with just 5

minutes of charging. CATL has released its second-generation Shenxing superfast-charging battery, achieving over 520-km range with 5 minutes of charging. Going forward, China will focus on basic research in AI, and pursue breakthroughs in core technologies.

We will integrate AI sci-tech innovation with industrial innovation, and build an enterprise-led innovation ecosystem that fosters synergy among businesses, universities, research institutes and end users.

We will make integrated use of policies concerning intellectual property rights, and fiscal and taxation incentives.

Efforts will be made to promote AI education across all academic stages to cultivate a steady stream of talent.

We will formulate and improve laws, regulations, policies and systems, to guarantee AI's safety, reliability and controllability.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While AI technologies bring unseen opportunities for humanity, they also present unprecedented risks and challenges.

In response, China has proposed the Global AI Governance Initiative in 2023.

The initiative outlines 11 proposals concerning the development, security and governance of AI.

On development, we emphasise a people-oriented approach, and believe that all players must respect the sovereignty of other countries. We must create AI for good and uphold mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit.

On security, we emphasise the need to establish a risk-testing and assessment system, to formulate and improve relevant laws, regulations and rules, and to ensure fairness and non-discrimination.

On governance, we emphasise the importance of having an ethical review and governance system and actively developing technologies to help us do so. We need to increase the representation and voice of developing countries and support discussions within the United Nations about establishing an international governance institution.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that AI can be an international public good that benefits humanity. We will carry out extensive international cooperation on AI, help Global South countries strengthen technological capabilities, and make China's contribution to bridging the global intelligence gap.

To promote international cooperation, in 2024, China facilitated the adoption of a UN General Assembly resolution on "Enhancing International Cooperation on Capacity-building of Artificial Intelligence", and initiated the establishment of a Group of Friends for this purpose.

Just two days ago, we held the second Workshop on AI Capacity Building in Beijing, with participants from nearly 40 countries and international organisations.

In July this year, we are going to hold the 2025 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in Shanghai.

Ladies and gentlemen,

China and the UK have had some exchanges on AI.

In 2023, China sent a delegation to the UK's AI Safety Summit. More recently, the UK participated in a meeting of the Group of Friends for International Cooperation on AI Capacity-building hosted by China.

We would welcome the UK sending a senior delegation to the upcoming AI conference in Shanghai.

For further exchanges and collaboration, it is important to correct some misconceptions about China and get rid of political interference. Some in the UK continue to view China through an outdated lens. They hold on to their ideological biases, overstretch the concept of national security, and try to disrupt China-UK sci-tech exchanges.

It must be pointed out that both countries have a solid sci-tech foundation and enjoy unique strengths. We can very well learn from each other.

China is home to around 400,000 high-tech enterprises and ranks second globally in the number of unicorn companies.

China has established the world's most comprehensive academic disciplines and the largest talent pool.

China leads the world in the number of top 100 global innovation clusters, full-time equivalent R&D personnel, high-impact research papers, and PCT international patent applications.

Actually, both countries have benefited from exchanges and collaboration.

For example, 11.4% of the research papers published by British scholars are co-authored with their Chinese counterparts.

Over the past five years, 24.8% of China-UK co-authored papers have had a citation impact twice the global average.

More recently, moon dust samples retrieved by China's Chang'e-5 mission have been shared with seven institutions in six countries. Professor Mahesh Anand of the UK Open University has also been loaned this extremely rare material.

We hope people here will be more confident and open-minded, and there will be more of such mutually-beneficial, two-way cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we speak, changes unseen in a century keep accelerating and the new round of sci-tech revolution is booming. The development and governance of AI urgently requires international cooperation.

At the same time, unilateralism, trade bullying, and tariff war run rampant. International sci-tech cooperation faces unprecedented disruptions.

We must uphold true multilateralism and champion international sci-tech exchanges. We must firmly oppose decoupling, the severing of the global industrial and supply chains and "small yard with high fence", and say no to any exclusive blocs or arrangements, bilateral or multilateral.

This is what is needed for sci-tech innovation and governance and for the advancement of human civilisation.

We need to actively implement the important common understandings reached between our leaders, follow through on the constructive outcomes of the strategic dialogue, the economic and financial dialogue, the energy dialogue, the health dialogue and the high-level military dialogue.

Moving forward, there are more dialogues that need to be restarted.

I believe these dialogues will create a more favourable political and policy environment for exchanges and cooperation in AI and other areas.

I hope businesses from both countries will seize the opportunity presented by this forum to deepen mutual understanding, promote practical cooperation, and bring more tangible benefits to people in both countries.

I wish this forum great success.

Thank you..

(http://gb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/dshdjyh/202505/t20250515_11623177.htm)

(5)

Ambassador Zheng Zeguang delivers written remarks at unveiling ceremony of Memorial for Dongji Fishermen's Rescue of British Prisoners of War



On 20 May 2025, the unveiling ceremony of the Memorial for Dongji Fishermen's Rescue of British Prisoners of War was held on Qingbang Island of Dongji, Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province. Chinese Ambassador to the UK Zheng Zeguang provided written remarks for the occasion.

Ambassador Zheng cited President Xi Jinping's words that the Lisbon Maru rescue is a significant testament to China and the UK fighting side by side as allies during WWII, united in their resistance against fascist aggression. Eighty-three years ago, braving a hail of Japanese gunfire, Zhoushan fishermen risked their lives to rescue 384 British POWs. Their righteous actions embodied the Chinese people's compassion and commitment to peace. The heroic episode stands as a lasting symbol of the friendship between the Chinese and British peoples.

Ambassador Zheng noted that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the world Anti-Fascist War. Looking back on those tumultuous years of conflict, we are reminded of the hard-won nature of peace and cherish even more the bonds forged between the Chinese and British peoples amid the flames of war. As permanent members of the UN Security Council and countries with significant global influence, China and the UK bear important responsibilities for safeguarding international peace and security. We must remember history, carry forward our friendship, strengthen exchanges, and deepen cooperation to further cement the foundation of goodwill between our peoples and ensure the steady and sustained development of China-UK relations.

In October 1942, the Japanese military requisitioned the Lisbon Maru, a passenger and cargo ship, to transport more than 1,800 British POWs from Hong Kong to Japan. While passing through waters near Zhoushan, the vessel was torpedoed by the US forces. A total of 843 POWs perished, while 384 were saved by local Chinese fishermen who risked their own lives.

To commemorate this rescue effort, the Zhoushan People's Government built the Memorial for Dongji Fishermen's Rescue of British Prisoners of War on Qingbang Island and held this unveiling ceremony. Eighteen descendants of the rescued British POWs joined the descendants of the fishermen in unveiling the memorial.

(http://gb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/dshdjyh/202505/t20250521_11629988.htm).

(6)

Ambassador Zheng Zeguang attends and addresses opening ceremony of China Film Festival 2025



On 23 May 2025, Chinese Ambassador to the UK Zheng Zeguang attended and delivered remarks at the opening ceremony of the Chinese Film Festival 2025 in London. Nearly 200 Chinese and British guests attended the event, including Lu Liang, deputy head of the China Film Administration; Stanley Johnson, key creator of the documentary *In the Footsteps of Marco Polo*; John McLean OBE, Chairman of the China UK Business Development Centre; and Martin Albrow, Fellow of the British Academy of Social Sciences. The guests watched the opening film *The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru* together.

Ambassador Zheng noted that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. During those tumultuous years, the Chinese and British peoples fought shoulder to shoulder against fascist aggressors, made huge sacrifices, and contributed greatly to the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. The Lisbon Maru incident was a true story that happened 83 years ago in 1942, at the height of WWII. The heroic act of Chinese fishermen risking their lives to rescue British POWs is a powerful testimony of the special bond forged between the two peoples during the war. Ambassador Zheng expressed his delight that a memorial for the rescue was unveiled a few days ago in Zhoushan, China, and that the UK Parliament rendered its recognition on 15 May. In today's turbulent world, it is all the more important to cherish this memory, carry forward the friendship, safeguard the outcome of the victory of WWII, uphold the UN-centered international system, and work for peace, stability, cooperation and development in the world.

Ambassador Zheng noted that cultural exchanges are the most effective way to enhance people-to-people understanding and eliminate misperception. He hoped that

the four films screened at the festival will help the British audience better understand China, its people and China-UK relations. He also encouraged the British audience to actively participate in China-UK cultural exchanges and contribute more to the understanding, friendship and cooperation between the Chinese and British people. Lu Liang spoke about the solid foundation, mutual complementarity and vast prospects of China-UK film collaboration. He hailed the rich experience and results already achieved by Chinese and British filmmakers in co-production, technical exchange, and film and cultural education. He called for more efforts to take this film festival as an opportunity and write a new chapter in friendly interactions between the two peoples and in film cooperation between the two countries. The opening ceremony drew a full audience. The story of the brave rescue of British POWs from the Lisbon Maru by Chinese fishermen deeply touched and resonated with the audience. The film festival runs for four days on 23-26 May. Three other outstanding Chinese films — My Country, My Parents, The Composer, and Ne Zha 2 — will be screened in addition to The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru. (http://gb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/dshdjih/202505/t20250526_11633337.htm)

(7)

Ambassador Zheng Zeguang attends opening ceremony of UK Chinese Dragon Boat Festival



On 25 May 2025, Chinese Ambassador to the UK Zheng Zeguang attended the opening ceremony of the 11th UK Chinese Dragon Boat Festival. The event was co-hosted by the Xinhua Chinese Association (XCA), the Salford City Council and the British Dragon Boat Racing Association. Over 50 dragon boat teams from London, Greater Manchester, Liverpool and Cambridge participated in the race. Local dignitaries including Deputy Mayor for Greater Manchester and Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett and Lord Mayor of Manchester Carmine Grimshaw, Chinese

community leaders including XCA President Xu Yanzhong and Chairman of the London Chinatown Chinese Association Tang Chuting, wife of Ambassador Zheng Zeguang Madam Hua Mei, Chinese Consul General to Manchester Tang Rui, and General Manager of Bank of China London Branch Fang Wenjian joined British people from various sectors in watching the race.

In his remarks, Ambassador Zheng extended warm congratulations on the event. He said that the Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional holiday observed by the Chinese people to commemorate the patriotic poet Qu Yuan, and that the dragon boat racing, an important activity of the festival, has long been celebrated and is now widely embraced around the world. Thanks to the active promotion by Chinese community organisations like the Xinhua Chinese Association and the strong support of the Salford City Council, the UK Chinese Dragon Boat Festival has become the most influential Dragon Boat Festival event in Europe and a cultural hallmark of Salford, symbolising the spirit of unity, cooperation, friendship and the pursuit of excellence.

Ambassador Zheng noted that the Chinese community in Greater Manchester is working hard, actively giving back to the local community, and playing an important role in promoting local growth and cultural exchanges between China and the UK. He underscored that China values its cooperation with Greater Manchester and will continue to support closer exchanges and cooperation in such fields as trade, technological innovation, education, culture and sports between Chinese cities like Tianjin, Wuhan and Yangzhou and British cities like Manchester and Salford, to deliver greater benefits to the people of both sides.

Mayor Dennett and Lord Mayor Grimshaw spoke highly of the Chinese community's contribution to local economic and social development. They noted that the UK Chinese Dragon Boat Festival has grown into the largest dragon boat event in Europe and a major showcase of traditional Chinese culture. They expressed hope that the festival would further promote people-to-people exchanges and wide-ranging cooperation between the two countries and the friendship between the two peoples.

Ambassador Zheng joined the Chinese and British guests in cutting the ribbon for the opening ceremony, presenting paddles to the participating teams, and awarding prizes. Prior to the event, Ambassador Zheng had separate meetings with local dignitaries including Salford Mayor Dennett and Chinese community leaders including XCA President Xu.

(http://gb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/dshdjyh/202505/t20250527_11634684.htm).

(8)

Ambassador Zheng Zeguang attends and addresses "Dialogue Among Civilisations: Chinese Tea and Costume" event



10 June 2025 is the first International Day for Dialogue Among Civilisations. On 13 June, the Chinese Embassy in the UK and Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology (BIFT) jointly hosted an event in London themed "Dialogue Among Civilisations: Chinese Tea and Costume" and invited people from various sectors in the UK to celebrate this special occasion. Over 100 Chinese and foreign guests attended the event, including Chinese Ambassador to the UK Zheng Zeguang, his wife Counsellor Hua Mei, Chair of the BIFT Council Huang Keying, Baroness Uddin of the House of Lords, Professor Martin Albrow of the British Academy of Social Sciences, Professor Alan Macfarlane of the University of Cambridge, and Director of the Royal Museums Greenwich Paddy Rodgers. A video address made by Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi for an event celebrating the first International Day for Dialogue Among Civilisations was shown at the event. Ambassador Zheng and Chair Huang delivered remarks.

Ambassador Zheng noted that President Xi Jinping's Global Civilisation Initiative calls for upholding the common values of humanity, emphasizing both heritage and innovation and strengthening international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, thus setting the course for efforts to promote dialogue among civilisations. In his video remarks, Foreign Minister Wang elaborated on the necessity and urgency of promoting dialogue among civilisations. In the face of a turbulent world, countries should place greater value on civilisation, embrace the principles of harmony in diversity, harmonious coexistence, and mutual prosperity for all, and strengthen dialogue, exchange and mutual learning among civilisations to promote peace and stability in the world and progress of human civilisation.

Ambassador Zheng pointed out that both China and the UK are countries with long histories and splendid cultures, serving as important representatives of Eastern and

Western civilisations. The two sides should uphold mutual respect and equality among civilisations, support dialogue, exchange and mutual learning, and continue coordination and cooperation to advance human civilisation. The two sides should respect each other's independent choices of development path and social system, firmly oppose talks of "clash of civilisations" and acts of unilateral bullying, and jointly uphold fairness and justice; strengthen dialogue and coordination to address climate change, biodiversity loss, pandemics and other common challenges facing humanity; and encourage people from all sectors in both countries to engage in exchange and dialogue to deepen mutual understanding and friendship and to promote practical cooperation in various fields. Citing figures of mutual visits and international students, Ambassador Zheng highlighted the achievements of China-UK people-to-people exchanges and expressed hope for various sectors to further deepen interactions and contribute to dialogue between the two civilisations.

At the event, a Tang Dynasty-style tea ceremony was performed, and Chinese and British scholars offered comparative insights about the tea cultures of the two countries. BIFT presented a costume display themed "Coexistence along the Silk Road", in the form of both exhibition and fashion show, highlighting the rich heritage and modern innovation of Chinese costume culture. Amid the aroma of tea and the splendour of Chinese costume, Chinese and British guests immersed themselves in the joyful atmosphere of intercultural dialogue and deepened their understanding and appreciation of each other's cultural traditions.

(http://gb.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/dshdjih/202506/t20250616_11648882.htm)

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