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CHINA UPDATE

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QUOTES OF THE WEEK

“Amid talk of a new round of economic reforms under President Xi Jinping, this year’s report serves as an important reminder that China is no closer to granting its citizens basic human rights than when China entered the World Trade Organization nearly 12 years ago. Increased trade ties have not improved working conditions or the environment, and Chinese citizens still do not enjoy the freedoms of expression, assembly, and religion to which they are entitled under international law. To the contrary, China’s new leaders continue to heavily censor the Internet, repress Tibetans and Uyghurs, and violate international trade rules by unfairly subsidizing state-owned enterprises, failing to stop the massive theft of intellectual property, and undervaluing its currency at the expense of American businesses and workers.” – Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Co-chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, on the CECC’s 2013 Annual Report

“In the strongest terms used to date, this report underscores the abuse of women and the draconian repressive policies which remain firmly in place, such as the one-child policy which has involved egregious abuses such as forced abortions and forced sterilizations. President Xi Jinping and the new Chinese leadership talk about reform but their actions show that the Communist Party remains preoccupied with maintaining their rule at the expense of guaranteeing citizens’ rights. As a result of the Chinese government’s barbaric attack on mothers and their children, there are some 40 million more males than females in China today. With respect to Freedom of Religion, the report shows that practitioners continue to be harassed. Brave citizens such as Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo remain in jail. And China continues to violate internationally recognized worker rights by not allowing workers to freely associate and form independent trade unions.” – Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ) Co-chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, on the CECC’s 2013 Annual Report

U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

Consular Operations Open Despite Government Shutdown

All U.S. consular operations in China, including visa and American Citizen services, will continue normal operations during the U.S. Government shutdown.

Senate U.S.-China Working Group to Form this Fall

On October 8, The Honorable Cui Tiankai, China's ambassador to the U.S., met with Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) to discuss U.S.-China relations and the creation of the Senate U.S.-China Working Group later this fall. Other issues discussed included the global economic recovery, bilateral trade issues, military cooperation and enhancing people-to-people ties. Senator Kirk was a founder of the House U.S. -China Working group in 2005 when he served in the House of Representatives.

CECC Issues Annual Report on Human Rights & Rule of Law in China

On October 10, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China released its 2013 annual report for human rights and rule of law developments in China. The CECC's 2013 Annual Report is the Commission's 12th since it was created by Congress in 2000. The CECC consists of Senators, Members of the House of Representatives, and senior Administration officials appointed by the President. The current Commissioners are Senators Sherrod Brown, Max Baucus, Carl Levin, Dianne Feinstein, and Jeff Merkley; Representatives Christopher Smith, Frank Wolf, Mark Meadows, Robert Pittenger, Tim Walz, Marcy Kaptur, and Michael Honda; and Deputy Secretary of Labor Seth Harris, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Francisco Sánchez, and USAID Assistant Administrator for Asia Nisha Desai Biswal. In addition to its annual reports, the Commission maintains an extensive database of political prisoners in China, many of whom are cited in its reports. The report can be found [here](#).

CHINA NEWS

Fifth China-U.K. Economic and Financial Dialogue

On October 15, the fifth China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue will be held in Beijing. The dialogue will be co-hosted by Chinese Vice Premier of the State Council Ma Kai and the British Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne and attended by senior officials of the economic and financial authorities of the two sides. The dialogue will include discussions of macroeconomic policy, international economic policy coordination, trade and investment ties, financial supervision, development, cooperation and other issues.

Official Visits to China

From October 16-19, at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh will pay an official visit to China.

From October 18-24, Governor General of Canada David Johnston will visit China at the invitation of President Xi Jinping.

From October 22-23, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev will visit China where he will join Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to co-host the 18th regular meeting between Chinese and Russian Prime Ministers.

From October 22-24, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will pay an official visit to China at the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Judge Dismisses Ralls Corp. Challenge on Wind Project Decision

On October 9, a judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia dismissed a challenge to the Obama Administration's decision to stop Ralls Corp., a Delaware company owned by Chinese nationals, from purchasing several wind projects close by to an Oregon naval base. The Administration's decision was based on national security concerns.

Minamata Convention Signed

The Minamata Convention, a United Nations Environment Programme [treaty](#) to curb industrial mercury use, was signed by 110 nations in Japan on October 10. Should at least 50 of the signatories ratify the convention, it will enter into force. Brazil, China, Germany, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, and the European Union are among the signers.

TRADE

China to Submit Fourth Revised Offer to Join GPA

On October 9, at a meeting of the World Trade Organization's government procurement committee, China indicated that it will submit a revised offer to join the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA). This will be China's fourth revised offer. As a part of its accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001, China agreed to join the GPA.

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