

‘Belt and Road’ initiative tightens China-Russia bonds: diplomat

China and Russia will depict strategic deployment on their ties during Chinese President Xi Jinping’s upcoming state visit to Russia, Chinese Ambassador to Russia Li Hui wrote in an article published on the People’s Daily on Thursday, adding that the visit will bolster both sides’ efforts to dovetail the “Belt and Road” initiative with Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

Xi will kick off his Russian trip on July 3, followed by a visit to Germany, the Foreign Ministry announced on Tuesday.

China and Russia have maintained their comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination at a high level in recent years, which can be evident by their more frequent high-level exchanges, closer pragmatic cooperation, booming cultural communication, increasingly intensified international collaboration, as well as sound exchange mechanisms between governments, enterprises and the public.

The social foundation backing good-neighborly and friendly ties have been cemented as well. The mature, stable and healthy China-Russia relationship has grown into a role model for the new type of state-to-state relationship in contemporary world and ballast stone for regional and world peace and stability, said the article.

Russia, as China’s biggest neighbor and an indispensable stop along “Belt and Road” routes, echoed the China-made proposal in an active way.

The joint statement on aligning the “Belt and Road” initiative with the EEU signed by Xi and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in May 2015 has proven the unwavering will of the two countries in building a community with shared future.

It also significantly expanded their strategic cooperation space, and added new energy for China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination.

The article also outlined the fruits yielded from their alignment since the statement was issued two years ago, citing the examples of energy sector, connectivity, cooperation in big projects, financial investment, economic and trade areas as well as people-to-people exchanges.

The eastern section of the China-Russia natural gas pipeline is under smooth progress, and Russia is to supply China with natural gas as planned upon its completion.

Besides, the first-stage construction of the Yamal liquid natural gas project involved by both countries will be completed by the year end.

In terms of connectivity, both the cross-border railway bridges linking Northeast China and Russia’s Far East region, and the big transport corridors are under steady construction. China Unicom, China’s leading telecommunications operator, also established its business in Moscow.

In addition, China and Russia have made progress in some big projects, including the development of long-range and wide-body aircraft and heavy-lift helicopters.

China Development Bank and Export-Import Bank of China have secured a series of big investment deals with Russian financing institutions, the ambassador said, adding that Russia's central bank has set up its office in China, while RMB clearing center was launched in Moscow.

Two-way trade between China and Russia recovered as well. The amount totaled at 223.1 billion yuan (\$32.8 billion) in the first five months of 2017, up 33.7 percent on year-on-year basis.

Agricultural products as well as oil and gas equipment have grown into new engines of bilateral economic and trade cooperation. The booming cultural exchanges can be proven by media's enthusiasm for Year of China-Russia Media Exchange, as well as the institutionalization of their media forum.

Documentaries such as "This is China" and "Hello, China" co-produced by the two nations also draw people in both countries closer, he said at last.

中国驻俄罗斯大使：一带一路，巩固中俄世代友好新纽带

中国国家主席习近平即将对俄罗斯进行国事访问，中国驻俄罗斯大使李辉 6 月 29 日在人民日报刊发署名文章称，此访将为中俄双边关系发展作出战略部署，着力将“一带一路”建设与欧亚经济联盟建设对接合作推向更高水平

文章指出，近年来，中俄全面战略协作伙伴关系持续保持高水平运行，高层交往更加频繁，务实合作稳步推进，人文交流蓬勃发展，国际协作日益密切，政府间、企业间、民间各领域交流机制运行良好，发展睦邻友好合作关系的社会和民意基础不断巩固。成熟、稳定、健康的中俄关系，已成为当今世界新型国家关系的典范和维护地区和世界和平稳定的压舱石。

文章指出，作为中国最大邻国和推进“一带一路”建设中不可或缺的重要一环，俄罗斯积极响应和参与“一带一路”建设。2015 年 5 月，习近平主席和普京总统共同签署中俄关于丝绸之路经济带建设和欧亚经济联盟建设对接合作的联合声明，充分表明两国打造命运共同体的坚定意志，极大地拓宽了双方战略合作空间，为中俄全面战略协作伙伴关系继续向前推进注入新的强大动力。

文章从六个方面介绍了两年多来，中俄在对接合作方面取得积极成果。一是能源领域，中俄东线天然气管道建设进展顺利，俄将按计划向中方供气。双方共同参与的亚马尔液化气项目一期工程将于今年完工；二是互联互通，连接中国东北地区和俄远东地区的跨境铁路桥建设、“滨海 1 号”、“滨海 2 号”大型交通走廊建设稳步推进，中国联通（俄罗斯）运营有限公司在莫斯科开业；三是大项目合作，中俄联合研发远程宽体客机、重型直升机等项目取得进展；四是金融投资，中国国家开发银行、进出口银行与俄多家金融机构确定了新一批重大投资合作项目，俄央行在中国开设代表处，俄罗斯人民币清算中心在莫斯科启动；五是经贸领域，

双边贸易额回升，并于 2017 年前 5 个月达到 2231 亿元人民币（约 328 亿美元），同比增长 33.7%，农产品、油气设备等日益成为两国经贸合作新的增长点；六是人文交流，两国媒体参与“中俄媒体交流年”的热情高涨，中俄媒体论坛实现机制化、常态化，中俄合拍纪录片《这里是中国》《你好中国》等一批批优秀作品相继播出，使两国民众彼此了解更深，心与心贴得更近。