

CHINADAILY

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EDITORIALS

Charting a sea of peace

RESPONDING TO SOME REMARKS ON THE South China Sea during the East Asia Summit in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, on Thursday, Premier Li Keqiang said that freedom of navigation in the South China Sea has never been an issue and will never be one.

As part of his address to the EAS, Li's response should dispel the unnecessary concerns over freedom of navigation in the South China Sea that have emerged amid China's disputes with some ASEAN member states. That every year about 100,000 cargo ships freely navigate the waters of the South China Sea is clear evidence of freedom of navigation not being an issue.

Freedom of navigation is, therefore, only a pretext used by some countries to raise the South China Sea issue at international forums like the EAS. Such moves are politically motivated and intended to mislead international opinion.

Li's speech at the EAS embodies China's determination to build the South China Sea into a symbol of peace, cooperation and friendship despite the disputes.

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have been pushing for negotiations aimed at resolving the disputes peacefully. China and ASEAN member states held two important meetings last month and agreed to work together to effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and hold consultations to forge a binding code of conduct for the South China Sea.

Li's speech at the EAS reiterates China's resolve to properly handle the South China Sea disputes and uphold peace and stability in the region. But, as Li said, the EAS is not the proper forum to discuss bilateral disputes.

Since the disputes involve China and only a few ASEAN member states, Beijing and ASEAN have agreed that they should be resolved peacefully between the disputing countries. Other parties should not get involved in the issue.

As a leaders-led strategic forum and a bridge of cooperation between East Asia and the Asia-Pacific, the EAS cannot be distracted by the disputes in the South China Sea.

The job of the EAS is to promote balanced, inclusive and sustained development of the region. Therefore, it should expand its efforts to build consensus among countries in the region and ensure equality and fair play by following the regional trend of pursuing economic growth.

A triumph over adversity

A TARGETED APPROACH, COUPLED WITH PROFESSIONAL expertise, will boost disaster relief efforts in Yuyao, a city in East China's Zhejiang province, which was inundated by Typhoon Fitow, a storm of once-a-century intensity, this week.

When more than 70 percent of the city suffers a deluge, it is possible that some stranded residents may go without food or aid for a couple of days before relief efforts kick in. Caught unawares, the governments need to overcome any obstacles that delay aid or prevent evacuation efforts.

Some of the city's 1 million residents may be impatient, but relief efforts on such a scale and the logistic necessities require time to get organized properly. It takes time just to locate those in most need.

On the part of both the local and central governments, it does not make any sense, in such a time, to bother about accusations regarding belated warnings, inadequate preparations in advance and foot-dragging in disaster relief. There will come a time when these issues can be addressed but right now the priority lies elsewhere.

Given the easy access to both *weibo* (micro blog) and *weixin* (micro message), it is natural that complaints will be raised about this and that, and it is, unfortunately, not uncommon for rumors to spread when flooding has all but paralyzed a populous city. What the local government needs to do is direct and deliver relief to where it is urgently needed and raise the morale of residents.

It is the right thing to do for the local government to organize 155 emergency response teams of more than 4,000 members to help the storm-stricken residents. The teams are required to ensure access to every inundated building, every flooded house and all drainage equipment operating in every submerged residential area. Food and medicine, as well as equipment must be sent to the worst-hit areas.

There is a long way to go before residents of the city can get their life back to normal. But seeing relief work carried out professionally and compassionately will help pave the way to a better tomorrow.

Patience, perseverance and hard work, from all sectors of society and the local government, will ensure an eventual triumph over adversity.

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CHINA FORUM | ROBERT LAWRENCE KUHN

Partners on cutting-edge frontier

China and the United States could collaborate on a host of high-tech projects that are mutually beneficial

China and the US need common ground. How to find this magic land? (Finding grounds of contention, even of confrontation, is sadly not hard.) Sure, there is thwarting terrorism, avoiding financial crises, containing global warming, preventing infectious diseases, interdicting drug trafficking and fighting organized crime. Important, but these deeds are good because they proscribe bad things. What about good deeds that promote good things?

Our best bet is on technology, where benefits are synergistic, not zero-sum; accretive, not depletive; multiplicative, not (necessarily) competitive. With technology, the more you use it, the more you have it. Green technologies and alternative energy are exemplars. A priority, I suggest, should be information technology because IT enhances all aspects of contemporary society and improves multiple facets of human lives.

Recently I helped catalyze an annual China-US "summit", called IT 2020, on the future of cloud computing and big data analytics, in which computer and IT scientists from China and the US met in candid and collegial engagement (www.it2020.net). Co-hosted by the Chinese Academy of Engineering and EMC Corporation, and held at CAE headquarters in Beijing, IT 2020 focuses on the opportunities and challenges of establishing robust and trustworthy cloud computing and of developing paradigm-shifting applications in big data.

The Chinese Academy of Engineering is comprised of elected

members; to be a CAE "member" (also called "academician") is to hold the highest honor in China's engineering and technology communities. CAE promotes scientific excellence and supports policy decision-making of the nation's leaders by conducting strategic studies and providing consultancy on all matters of engineering and technology. EMC Corporation and its federated companies are global leaders in cloud computing (VMware), big data (Pivotal), Internet trust/security (RSA), and data storage (EMC).

The worldwide revolution brought about by IT is accelerating, changing familiar patterns. Mobile technology, social networking platforms, and various new-generation applications are melding, thus transforming the way information is used. But the IT revolution cannot just "happen". It requires advanced technology platforms, including systematic structuring and integration, new hardware design, novel operating systems, industry-specific applications, and the like. It also requires fresh guidelines to handle big data analytics, diversified businesses, creative technologies, society and government implementation, and data robustness, protection and privacy.

IT 2020 emphasizes new ways of thinking by bringing together experts, scholars, scientists and executives from around the globe. Over 300 technology leaders from industry and academia attended the first IT 2020 "summit", whose subtext is active cooperation between China and the US in the long process of gathering, sharing, and discussing ideas and technologies on the frontier of the IT revolution. Through IT 2020, CAE and EMC/VMware

aim to establish a platform where new thought patterns enable IT to develop as a new form of wealth, an opportunity for innovation, and a driving force for industrial transformation and social progress.

China has emerged as a global center of this global revolution, and this is the reason why the first IT 2020 was convened in Beijing. Chinese experts, such as CAE member Gao Wen, professor of computer science at Beijing University and vice-chairman of China's National Natural Science Foundation, joined their international peers to examine cloud computing and big data through different perspectives. China is a significant and growing market for IT and is increasingly influencing the global industry.

In the cloud computing session, Cao Shumin, president of the Chinese Academy of Telecommunications Research under the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, and Pat Gelsinger, CEO of VMware, shared ideas and insights on how cloud computing would change technology and the user experience, and how all this will impact the social and economic challenges facing China and the world. Given that Gelsinger estimates that by 2020 over 60 percent of all cloud computing will be consumed by the US and China markets, the "criticality", he said, of such US-China discourse and collaboration is obvious.

In the big data session, Zhang Liangjie, Chief scientist and senior vice-president of Kingdee International Software Group, and Jeremy Howard, president and chief scientist of Kaggle, stressed that massively growing data — which humanity

is accumulating with increasing volume and velocity — will radically alter whole categories of commerce, and that meaningful insights from big data can disrupt private and public sector practices, thereby unlocking business and societal value. Howard showed how machine learning can solve seemingly intractable problems by applying new techniques of data analysis even without content-specific expertise.

Healthcare and medical research are a prime application area, especially with China's leaders committed to improving substantially the healthcare of its vast population, and with containing healthcare costs having become an urgent worldwide imperative. Isaac Kohane, director of Biomedical Informatics Center of Harvard Medical School, explained how big data approaches to disease treatment and prevention, especially leveraging each individual's unique genome (DNA sequence), will revolutionize medicine.

A recurring theme is building trust in the cloud, making sure that data continues to be robust and indestructible as well as private and secure — key concerns to overcome in order to enable further progress.

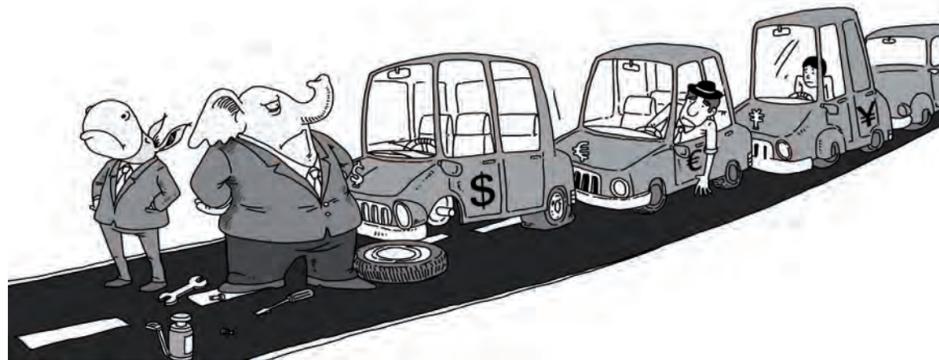
Wu Hequan, a leader in optical and broadband networks and a pioneer of China's next generation Internet project, and former vice-president of CAE, called for experts on both sides of the Pacific to sit at the same table brainstorming the key technological challenges facing both China and US. William Teuber Jr., vice-chairman of EMC, suggested that thought leaders of multinational corporations, especially those in technology, consider their Chinese peers as co-development partners, not only for proper participation in the Chinese market but also, as a matter of necessity, for maintaining worldwide competitiveness.

This is a critical year. As cloud computing and big data begin to transform industry and society, particularly consumer markets (such as financial services), it is apropos that IT 2020 has commenced as a China-US partnership.

I try to be an optimist about US-China relations, though "facts on the ground," as they say, often get in my way. What I witnessed at IT 2020 bolsters my optimism.

The author is an international corporate strategist advising multinationals on doing business in China.

LI FENG



CHEN WEIHUA

Switching to a win-win mindset

The partial US federal government shutdown, which reached its 10th day on Thursday, has been a mess for tens of thousands of Chinese tourists visiting the US during China's National Day holiday week.

Major attractions, including the Statue of Liberty, Yellowstone and Yosemite national parks and the National Mall with its dozen museums, have been closed since Oct 1.

A simultaneous fight over raising the US debt ceiling has caused deep concern for China and other major US debt holders.

However, some US pundits believe that the Chinese have reason to celebrate.

At least that was the feeling I got at an Oct 2 function when several pundits at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington talked about how US President Barack Obama's cancelation of trips to the Philippines and Malaysia represented a win for China and a loss for the US. They might have said just two days later that it was huge victory for China when

Obama decided to abort the whole East Asia trip.

Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations and a former State Department official, shared this view in his article discussing the repercussions resulting from Obama's Asia absence.

It seems that without the benefit of Obama's presence, East Asia will suddenly fall apart or China will take the opportunity to rock the boat.

What we have seen, though, is that President Xi Jinping has not altered his plans in order to take advantage of Obama's absence. What we have also seen is that Chinese leaders laid out their vision for common prosperity, peace and stability in the region. That kind of peace, stability and economic integration has benefited the region, including China. So it would be foolish to suggest that China wants to see conflict in the region.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Obama said that US cooperation with China is not a zero-sum game. And there are a lot of areas where China and the US agree.

However, a sense of pique seemed to be evident with what Obama went on to say. "I'm sure the Chinese don't mind that I'm not there right now, in the sense that, you know, there are areas where we have differences and they can present their point of view and not get as much of push-back as if I were there."

It is surprising to see that instead of focusing on the real reason that caused the partial government shutdown and a possible default on Oct 17, some US pundits, politicians and news organizations have tried to find fault with China.

It is indeed true that the shutdown looks bizarre to many Chinese, but such an exceptional phenomenon actually seems bizarre to many people the world over.

The ugly fight among the two parties, Republican and Democratic, certainly looks like a joke when they get stuck in an endless election campaign mode. Neither wants the other to score despite the fact that the lives of so many people, including Chinese tourists, is negatively affected.

Apart from financial worries, the

impasse has also dealt a huge blow to those who look up to the US political system but now find it increasingly dysfunctional.

That again is not China's fault.

Larry Summers, former US Treasury secretary, said that he could visualize a world in which China and the US both prospered or one in which neither prospered, but he could not visualize a world in which one prospered and the other did not.

In their informal summit in Sunnyslands, California, in early June, Xi and Obama pledged to defy historical rivalry that has usually plagued relations between a rising power and the existing power and seek a win-win situation.

Clearly, those who interpret Obama's absence as a win for China and a loss for the US need to evolve with the times and change their mindset. They should not get stuck in the Cold War era.

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