

Inner Mongolia special

中国日报 CHINA DAILY

Three nations form think tank alliance

By YUAN HUI
yuanhui@chinadaily.com.cn

A founding ceremony for a China, Russia and Mongolia think tank alliance and the first trilateral think tank forum was held on Sept 17 in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia.

The forum was jointly hosted by the bureau of international cooperation at China's Development Research Center of the State Council, the Inner Mongolia development research center, the Institute of Far Eastern Studies affiliated with the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and the National University of Mongolia.

A constitution for the alliance was passed at the ceremony. More than 120 representatives attended the conference on behalf of over 30 think tanks as members of the alliance, among which the Inner Mongolia development research center, IFES and the MAS are president members, as well as foreign ministries of the three countries.

The theme of the forum that followed the ceremony was to propel the construction of a China-Russia-Mongolia economic corridor by a full exchange of ideas on policies. Representatives from think tanks in all three countries shared their views on strategic coordination; infrastructure co-construction; cooperation on trade, economy, culture and tourism matters; as well as ecological protection and agricultural development.

A highlight of the discussions was the Belt and Road Initiative, as both Russia

and Mongolia play major roles in this grand plan initiated by China.

Jiang Xiheng, vice-director of the bureau of international cooperation at the DRC, said it is a trend for think tanks to strengthen global cooperation. As part of the modern national governance system, think tanks participate increasingly more in drafting public policies and act as bridges between policymaking and academic research, the government and the public, as well as among different states.

Professor Matveev Vladimir Aleksandrovich from IFES said that with accelerated globalization, the existing Eurasian land transportation network is no longer sufficient to meet China's potential demands of trade with Europe. Safer, more convenient land transportation lines are needed to connect it with Europe, Russia, Central Asia and Middle Eastern states, he said.

T Dorj, an academican and vice-president of MAS, said the Grassland Road initiative of Mongolia and the Russian plan of connecting Eurasia with railways match China's Belt and Road Initiative. Cooperation among the three is of key importance to all three countries and the Asia-Pacific region.

As close neighbors, the three nations have long realized the importance of cooperating with each other. The alliance of think tanks will do policy research on the economic corridor of the three nations, boost innovative thinking and offer consultation for decision-making, so as to support the long-term prosperity of the three countries.



Aershan National Forest Park, to the south of the Greater Hinggan Mountains, is a place of natural beauty. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A camel caravan treks through the Badain Jaran Desert in Arxan in North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region. The Badain Jaran Desert, the second-largest desert in China, has an area of 47,000 square kilometers and is sparsely populated. HASBAGENA / FOR CHINA DAILY

Youth exchanges take relations to new high

By ZHENG JINRAN
zhengjinran@chinadaily.com.cn

China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region has stepped into a golden age with its neighboring Mongolia to deepen their mutual cooperation in economic and cultural development, which has been strongly fueled by frequent youth exchanges.

The China, Russia and Mongolia Roundtable Meeting for Young Leaders in 2015 began on Sept 27 in Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia, with a theme of development and exchanges among young people. The meeting is part of the Belt and Road Initiative, which is expected to help upgrade China's economy.

In the three-day meeting, representatives of the three governments discussed how to implement a strategic development plan on the economic belt — a national blueprint approved by all three state leaders in July — and how to deepen communication among young people.

After the trilateral meeting, the participants concluded with agreements that include building a regional club for young entrepreneurs, marking a new phase of development and cooperation for the youth organization.

The meeting also bore witness to expanded cooperation between the Inner Mongolia autonomous region and Mongolia in recent years, which has presented opportunities to further business and cultural cooperation.

"The massive Chinese market has presented huge potential on cooperation for Mongolia in many sectors, such as the

organic food market, minerals and the animal husbandry industries," said B Battubshin, president and CEO of the Mongolian Youth Federation.

In Mongolia, young talents have sprung up in many fields, including politics, economics, culture, art and sports, he said.

"Many young people have a strong interest in economic development, and the rapid growth in economy and infrastructure development has presented excellent models for our young people," he said.

In addition, to promote cultural exchanges, Inner Mongolia hosted Mongolia Cultural Week in Hohhot and Erdos from July 5 through 9, to showcase the neighboring culture through activities including exhibitions, dance shows and forums.

"The cultural communication could help us approach each other and bring us closer plan in mind," said Tong Guoqing, head of the culture bureau of the autonomous region's government at the opening ceremony of the cultural week.

He said Inner Mongolia connects with Mongolia and shares similar cultural origins and a long friendship throughout history, making the two good neighbors.

Gantugla, head of the primary education department of the culture and education ministry of Mongolia, said the cultural week promotes cooperation between the neighbors.

"I hold high confidence on our carefully prepared shows and exhibitions to demonstrate the rich contents of our culture, history, natural scenery and living customs," he said.

Region has much more than grasslands culture for tourists to enjoy

By ZHUANTI
zhuanti@chinadaily.com.cn

The Inner Mongolia autonomous region in the north of China is a tourist attraction with a grasslands culture and unique characteristics.

The region has 88 million hectares of grassland, which account for 21.7 percent



Inner Mongolia, an area that borders both Russia and Mongolia, has rich tourism resources. The region is launching cross-border tourism projects, including sightseeing railway services...

Wei Guonan, head of the autonomous region's tourism bureau

of the country's total. Nevertheless, there is much more to the region's diverse landscape than grasslands alone. Giant deserts, vast forests and grand ice and snow scenes also give Inner Mongolia incomparable tourism resources.

Aershan, Hinggan League, by the Greater Hinggan Mountains in the northeast of Inner Mongolia is such a resort, offering abundant experiences. It is among the cities with the highest latitude in China, and shares more than 90 kilometers of national boundary with Mongolia. There is also a crucial frontier port in Aershan that connects with Mongolia.

One of the country's biggest volcano clusters in the area makes the city a hub for the finest springs in Asia. Some rivers remain frozen during winter, which is a natural miracle for a place whose annual average temperature is below 0 C.

Aershan National Forest Park, which spreads over 103,149 hectares, was established in 2000 and about 80 percent of its area is covered in forests. It is also home to 522 species of plants and 90 kinds of wild animals. About 70 natural springs are scattered through the park, a scale that is rare in China. Tourists are also able to find vestiges of volcanic explosions from more than 1.6 million years ago.

2.13
million
visitors to Aershan from January to September, an increase of 21.8 percent year-on-year

286
million yuan
in tourism revenue for Aershan through the first nine months of 2015, an increase of 22 percent

The region's infrastructure is also being improved to embrace more visitors from around the world. Since July, Aershan airport has resumed with newly opened direct flights to some key domestic destinations, including Beijing, Hangzhou and Hohhot. The launch of international flights to Ulan Bator, Mongolia, connects the small port to the world and are expected to help turn it into a world-renowned tourism destination.

According to statistics from the Aershan tourism bureau, about 2.13 million visitors came to the city from January to September, an increase of 21.8 percent from the same period in 2014. Its tourism income within the nine months was 286 million yuan (\$45 million), increasing 22 percent.

Inner Mongolia, China's only area that borders both Russia and Mongolia, has rich tourism resources. The region is launching cross-border tourism projects, including sightseeing railway services from Erenhot to Mongolia, and from Manzhouli to the Russian Far East, said Wei Guonan, head of the autonomous region's tourism bureau.

By YUAN HUI
yuanhui@chinadaily.com.cn

Traditional Mongolian medicine, TMM for short, has become a new point of cross-border cooperation between China and Mongolia.

After an agreement was signed in Hohhot, the capital of the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, in April, medical practitioners from Mongolia now have the chance to attend a training program in China at no charge.

The State-owned Inner Mongolia International Hospital based in Hohhot provides free courses to nurture grassroots medical practitioners from



Horses roam across the grasslands in Ar Horqin Banner, Chengfeng, Inner Mongolia. HASBAGENA / FOR CHINA DAILY

TIES STRENGTHENED VIA INNER MONGOLIAN PORTS

AUTONOMOUS REGION CONNECTS CHINA TO MONGOLIA, RUSSIA AND EUROPE, EXPANDING THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF GOODS, YUAN HUI REPORTS.

Legends of the Grassland Silk Road continue in the vast lands of the Inner Mongolia autonomous region.

The autonomous region covers 1.18 million square kilometers spreading from northwest to northeastern China. It shares 4,261 kilometers of boundary with Mongolia and Russia, which accounts for 19.4 percent of China's total land borders.

Inner Mongolia has 16 State Council-approved frontier ports, including two railway ports, 11 road ports and three airway ports. Nine of the ports connect with Mongolia and account for 95 percent of the total freight volume of Sino-Mongolia trade, and four connect with Russia, conveying 65 percent of China's land trade volume with Russia.

The trade volume between the Inner Mongolia autonomous region and Mongolia in the first half of this year reached 10.65 billion yuan (\$1.68 billion), an increase of 6.6 percent from the first half of 2014. Mongolia is the biggest trade partner of Inner Mongolia. The trade volume between Russia and

Inner Mongolia from January to June was valued at 764 million yuan.

In the first six months of this year, Inner Mongolia's export and import value was 38.12 billion yuan. Inner Mongolia's businesses dealt with more than 100 countries and regions during the period. It exports to 56 countries and regions, and imports from 63. Trade between Mongolia and Russia accounted for 48 percent of Inner Mongolia's total overseas trade.

The major imported goods from the two countries were natural resources including coal, iron ore and lumber, and Inner Mongolia mainly exported machines, daily articles and food to them.

The continually upgraded cooperation with Mongolia and Russia and the rapid economic development of Inner Mongolia nurtures a rapid increase in exports and imports through its frontier ports. Some 26,786.6 metric tons of freight and 5.28 million vehicles passed through ports in Inner Mongolia from 2011 to 2014, surpassing the total of 2006 to 2010.

Four ports in Inner Mongolia have the

annual capacity to handle 10 million metric tons of cargo. These are Manzhouli, Erenhot, Gantsmoli and Tseke. Freight traffic at Manzhouli port surpassed 30 million tons in 2013, topping all land ports in China. More than 2 million people transit through Erenhot every year. As two crucial spots on the Eurasia Continental Bridge, Manzhouli and Erenhot also cooperate with other provincial administrative regions in China to facilitate customs clearance processes.

Since a regular railway freight transport line connecting Suzhou, Jiangsu province, with Poland via Inner Mongolia started operations in 2013, more and more international railway freight transport between the two continents transits through the two ports. The routes include Chongqing-Inner Mongolia-Europe and Guangdong-Inner Mongolia-Europe, both via Manzhouli; and Chengdu-Inner Mongolia-Europe and Zhengzhou-Inner Mongolia-Europe via Erenhot.

In 2014, 467 trains passed through the two land ports. Inner Mongolia's frontier ports administration offices have regular dialogue with their counterparts in Mongolia and Russia to further facilitate clearances.

In August 2014, President Xi Jinping visited Mongolia to upgrade the countries' bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership. Xi also met Russian President Vladimir Putin and Mongolian President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj in Ufa, Russia, in July, where they reached many important agreements.

Against that background, the preparation of cross-border economic cooperation zones has begun to turn the top leaders' plans into reality. Construction of an economic cooperation zone that includes Erenhot and Mongolia's Zamy-Uud is expected to start by the end of this year. A financial park, tour-



The cooperation between the two countries has encountered numerous unprecedented chances with the autonomous region's abundant resources, solid industry foundation and strong support from the central government."

Bataar, governor of the Inner Mongolia autonomous region

ism areas and production and processing facilities are also being designed. The first bilateral consultation meeting was held in March.

"China and Mongolia have geographic affinity, emotional resonance and long friendship," said Bataar, governor of the Inner Mongolia autonomous region.

"The cooperation between the two countries has encountered numerous unprecedented chances with the autonomous region's abundant resources, solid industry foundation and strong support from the central government."

Contact the writers through yuanhui@chinadaily.com.cn

Forum nurtures friendship between China and Mongolia

By YUAN HUI and WANG XING

The 6th China-Mongolia Media Forum opened on Oct 15 in the town of Bayanhot in Alxa League, in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region. Officials and journalists from China and Mongolia attended the forum, which aims to strengthen ties between the two countries through media cooperation.

Cui Yuying, vice-minister of the State Council Information Office of China, said during the opening ceremony that the relationship between China and Mongolia is at its "best time" in history, and cooperation between the two is expected to reach a higher and more substantial level.

Cui said the two countries are neighbors with similar cultures and close connections between their people. Cooperation between media in the two countries is a crucial part of that friendship.

She said media in both countries should promote a deeper connection between the two. Stories of how people in the two countries communicate and cooperate should be delivered through media.

Ulaan, head of the Inner Mongolia's Department of Publicity, said at the opening ceremony that media cooperation between China and Mongolia has made substantial progress. Media professionals in both countries, as a bridge in the friendship, should keep proposing suggestions and ideas to deepen bilateral ties, she said.

B Galaarid, president of the Journalists Association in Mongolia, said there have been frequent high-level visits between the countries in recent years. The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China plays a significant role in promoting comprehensive and strategic cooperation between the two countries. Media in the two countries should act as facilitators in the relationship, he said.

Scholars and experts shared their opinions in the forum and released a proposal for media cooperation and exchange.

The China-Mongolia Media Forum has been held for five successive years since it was established in 2010 and has become increasingly important in promoting understanding between the two countries.

President Xi Jinping visited Mongolia last year during the 65th anniversary of the countries' bilateral relationship. The visit heralded a new era for the friendship.

Inner Mongolia, as China's gateway to further open up its southern part, plays an increasingly important role in the cooperation through carrying out high-level visits and other exchanges.

The first China-Mongolia Expo will begin on Friday in Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia. The five-day event will offer a platform for both countries to seek business opportunities and economic cooperation.

Contact the writers through yuanhui@chinadaily.com.cn



Officials and journalists from China and Mongolia take part in the China-Mongolia Media Forum that opened on Oct 15 in the town of Bayanhot in Alxa League, Inner Mongolia. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Young professionals from China, Russia and Mongolia participate in the trilateral Roundtable Meeting for Young Leaders, that began on Sept 27 in Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Agula, vice-president of the Inner Mongolia Medical University, treats a patient with a device he invented and has patented. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Traditional medicine provides new point of cross-border cooperation

the other side of the national border. The hospital has also begun cooperating with Mongolia's Arkhangai province in various fields including scientific research, medical assistance and academic studies.

According to Ulaan, the director of the hospital, 1,200 employees at the hospital can speak both Mandarin and Mongolian, which facilitates service for Mongolian patients. Since the opening of the hospital in 2012, it has received more than 10,000 patients from Mongolia. The hospital also has clinics in Mongolia with experts stationed there long term.

Traditional Mongolian medicine has been practiced for many centuries, but it remains little known outside the Mongo-

lian community. Nevertheless, sometimes it is more efficient in curing patients than orthodox Western medicine, Ulaan said.

For example, Mongolian bone setting was named one of China's national intangible cultural heritages in 2011.

Similar to traditional Chinese medicine, traditional Mongolian medicine also relies on herbal remedies, with prescriptions made into pills rather than the herbal infusions used in TCM.

"There was no province-level TMM hospital in Inner Mongolia before, and the ancient therapies were only preserved on the vast grasslands, some of which cannot be explained by modern science," Ulaan said.

"If there is nobody to inherit the tradition, it will probably be forgotten. Now we have a chance to gather the knowledge."

She estimated that the cost of TMM is generally 40 to 50 percent lower than Western medicine as it relies more on the doctor's experience than sophisticated medical instruments and expensive drugs. Education is also key to preserving the tradition. About 77 students from Mongolia currently study at the Inner Mongolia Medical University based in Hohhot.

About 1,000 kilometers away, another institution in Inner Mongolia is also devoted to such educational exchange-

es. In Tongliao, a city to the east of the autonomous region, the Inner Mongolia University for the Nationalities endeavors to spread the healing tradition.

O Ulzi, dean of the TMM College at the university, said 145 students from Mongolia have graduated from the college, with 121 currently studying at the college. The world's first doctoral section of TMM was established in the college.

In the past 20 years, more than 500 medical students from Mongolia have studied at these two universities.

"When the Mongolian ethnic groups from both countries join hands to promote TMM, maybe there will be more space for the tradition," Ulaan said.



中国—蒙古国博览会
МОНГОЛ-ХЯТАДЫН ЭКСПО
CHINA-MONGOLIA EXPO