

Beat: Business

CHINA-INDONESIA HIGH-SPEED RAILWAY PROJECT LINKING JAKARTA AND BANDUNG

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON HONG LEI

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USPA NEWS - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference on January 20, 2016.

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At the invitation of Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will pay an official visit to China from January 25 to 28.

QUESTION : What is the itinerary of State Councilor Wang Yong in Indonesia ? How will the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway project affect China-Indonesia relations ?

ANSWER : During State Councilor Wang Yong's visit to Indonesia, he will meet with Indonesian President Joko Widodo and join him in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway which is a cooperation project between China and Indonesia. The high-speed rail will be the first of its kind in Indonesia. It will help improve infrastructure and connectivity in Indonesia.

China-Indonesia relations are developing with a sound momentum. The building of the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway, as the two countries' joint undertaking, will further promote practical cooperation between the two sides in infrastructure and other fields and push forward the comprehensive strategic partnership.

QUESTION : Regarding Afghan Foreign Minister's visit to China, can you give us more details about his agenda? What is China's expectation for this visit ?

ANSWER : China and Afghanistan are close neighbors. Our friendship goes back a long way. This is Foreign Minister Rabbani's first visit to China since assuming office and also the first high-level exchange between China and Afghanistan this year. Both sides attach great importance to this visit. During Foreign Minister Rabbani's stay here, Chinese leaders will meet with him, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will hold talks with him.

Last year marked the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between the two sides as well as the Year for China-Afghanistan Friendly Cooperation. Leaders from the two sides met on several bilateral and multilateral occasions. Exchanges and cooperation in various fields were productive. Bilateral relations have been moving forward. We hope that through this visit, the two sides can implement consensus reached by the two leaders, chart the course for bilateral relations in this year, promote cooperation in trade, security, culture, as well as international and regional affairs, and move forward China-Afghanistan Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

QUESTION : China and Saudi Arabia issued a joint statement during President Xi Jinping's visit, affirming their support for the legitimate regime of Yemen. What is China's consideration behind that ?

ANSWER : With peace and stability of the Middle East and the fundamental interests of the Yemeni people in mind, the Chinese side has been making active efforts to promote peace talks. It is hoped that Yemen would end conflicts, realize reconciliation, restore

stability and achieve economic and social development at an early date. The Chinese side will always be on the side of peace in the Middle East and the Yemeni people.

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