

CHINA DIGEST

Quotable

“It took too long for China and Panama to establish diplomatic ties, and we should seize every minute to carry out comprehensive cooperation.”



WANG YI, foreign minister, speaking at the opening of the Chinese embassy in Panama on Sept 17. In June, Panama became the second Central American country to establish diplomatic relations with China after cutting “diplomatic” ties with Taiwan. Costa Rica was the first in 2007.

ESTEEMING VIRTUES

Zhengzi said: ‘A superior person will exhaust all efforts to correct his own faults. He will examine his own shortcomings, break through his limitations, get rid of his selfish desires, and do what is right in accordance to the righteous principles. This can be said to be true scholarship.’

Scroll 35: Zheng Zi

Editor’s note: This is an extract from *The Governing Principles of Ancient China*, based on 360 passages excerpted from the original compilation of *Qunshu Zhiyao*. *Qunshu Zhiyao* or *The Compilation of Books and Writings on the Important Governing Principles*, commissioned by Emperor Tang Taizong of the Tang Dynasty in the seventh century, contains advice, methods and historical notes on the successes and failures of the imperial governments of China. Today it continues to be relevant as a source of inspiration for self-improvement, family management and interpersonal relations.

Build political trust, Xi tells Singapore PM

Strengthening political trust between Beijing and Singapore and moving the relations forward are good for both sides, President Xi Jinping said on Sept 20.

He made the remark at a meeting with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who was on his first official China visit since 2013.

Keeping high-level contact is a good tradition to continue from the leadership of past generations and is the embodiment of close bilateral ties, Xi said.

“Beefing up mutual political trust and continuing to consolidate and develop bilateral ties are in line with the interests of both countries and their people and will also benefit regional and global peace, stability and prosperity,” the president said.

The two nations share a variety of interests, Xi noted. He proposed that both sides better align development strategies, enrich cooperation and also beef up civilian exchanges and do more to bond the two peoples.

Shanghai forum reflects on city’s growth goals

Shanghai needs and desires high-quality international workers “more than ever” as it works to become a global city of excellence, Shanghai Mayor Ying Yong said at a forum discussing the city’s master plan for the next two decades.

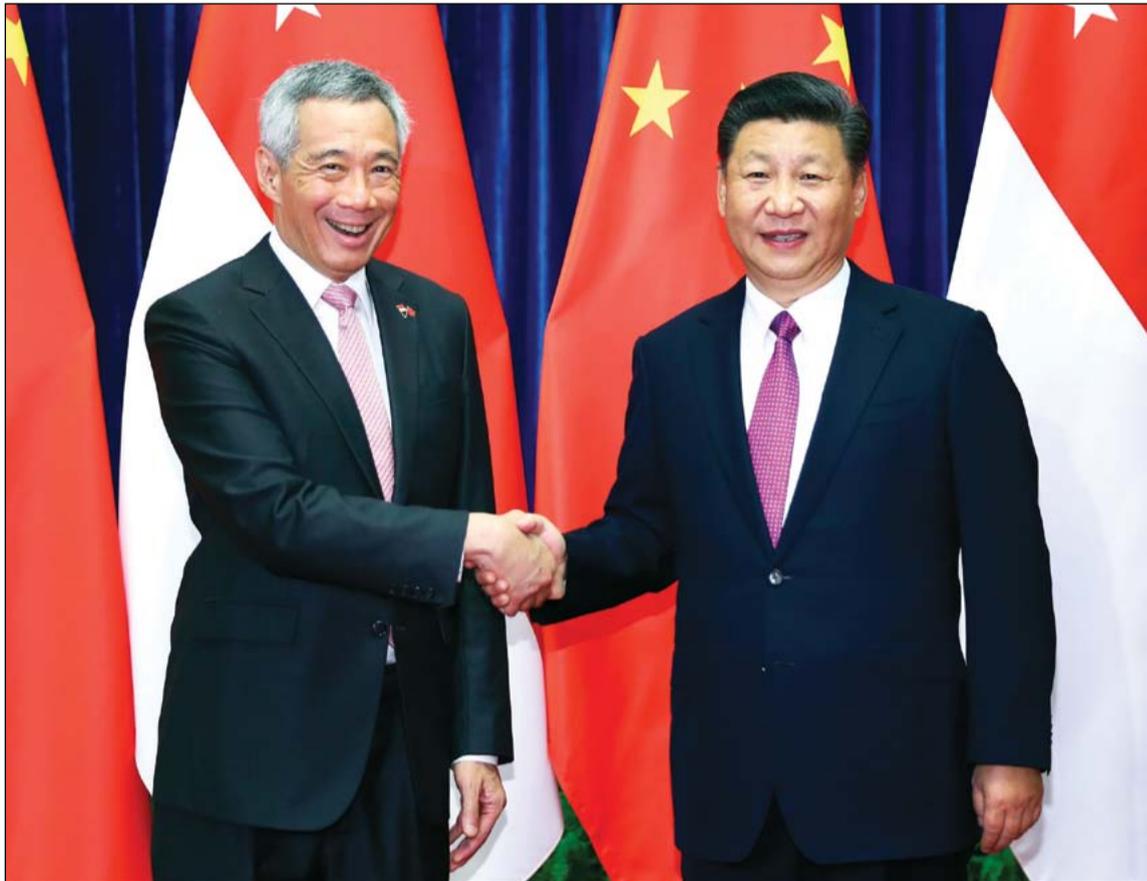
Ying’s comment came during the 29th International Business Leaders’ Advisory Council for the Mayor of Shanghai on Sept 17.

The council was initiated by Zhu Rongji, who was Shanghai mayor in 1989. It is an annual forum for global business leaders, providing strategic advice on the city’s development and growth. The membership has expanded from 12 representing seven countries to nearly 50 from 16 nations.

President calls for more security innovation

President Xi Jinping has called for more systematic and innovative social governance, stressing the need to improve the capability to predict and prevent security risks.

Xi, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, was speaking on Sept 19 at a Beijing conference to award individuals and units that have made



President Xi Jinping meets Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Sept 20. Xi proposed increasing cooperation between the two nations. XIE HUANCHI / XINHUA

outstanding contributions to the public security governance sector in the past five years.

Since late 2012, people working in political and legal affairs have innovated social governance methods and dealt with large numbers of outstanding problems, making the general public feel safer, the president said.

The sense of security of the Chinese public has increased from 88 percent in 2012 to 92 percent in 2016, according to data released on Sept 19 by the Central Committee for Comprehensive Management of Public Security, a central-level authority in charge of social governance in China.

Government moves to tighten dating sites

China moved a step toward helping people find love on Sept 18, with the issuance of a guideline governing dating websites.

Government bodies will coordinate to promote real-name registrations and authentication on dating sites and crack down on marital fraud and other crimes related to matchmaking services, according to the guideline issued by the Central

Committee of the Communist Youth League of China, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

“It’s a common need of young adults and a big issue in life to fall in love and get married,” the guideline said. “The work related to young adults’ love and marriage will not only affect their healthy development but is also related to social stability and harmony.”

FM pledges to support sustainable growth

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China, which attaches great importance to sustainable development, has included “ecological construction” in its national development strategy.

Wang called on developing countries to fully participate in global environmental governance at a summit launching the Global Pact for the Environment at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Sept 19.

The summit was based on a French proposal for the global pact aimed at creating a binding international code of environmental law. Wang said China supports

strengthening dialogue and cooperation to address sustainable development issues, including environmental protection through multilateral platforms.

“We have held innovation, coordination, green, open and shared as our concepts of development, and we have already incorporated ecological environmental construction into the national development strategy,” he said.

Cross-border zones to facilitate e-commerce

China will set up more cross-border e-commerce pilot zones to facilitate trade and boost China’s global competitiveness, under a decision made at a State Council executive meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang on Sept 19.

The meeting decided to extend the success of such zones to more cities with good infrastructure and strong trade and e-commerce development potential. The State Council set up the original initiative in Hangzhou, in East China’s Zhejiang province, in 2015 before it was expanded to another 12 cities, including Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing, starting in early 2016.



China Daily Asia Weekly’s circulation is audited by BPA Worldwide



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