

Platform for change

At the Boao Forum, China highlights the need for openness and bold reforms to drive global prosperity

By DAVID HO in Hong Kong
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The Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference takes place from April 8 to 11 in a world that is, in many ways, quite different from just a year ago but one in which Asian countries continue to grow in wealth and influence.

The highlight of this year's event in Boao, South China's Hainan province, is the keynote address by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the opening. He previously attended in 2010 as vice-president, and in 2013 and 2015 as president.

At the first major diplomatic event hosted by China this year, Xi will elaborate on the country's achievements and unveil a slew of measures to further promote China's reform and opening-up, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

As Socialism with Chinese Characteristics enters a new era, the Chinese side will brief guests on the nation's goals and the opportunities it will bring to the world, he said.

This year's Boao Forum theme, An Open and Innovative Asia for a World of Greater Prosperity, harks back to a speech Xi delivered at the event in 2015, when he foretold some of the challenges and opportunities that Asia and the world now face.

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