

Greater trust with Japan urged

Premier Li meets visiting Japanese PM Abe, calls for joint efforts to improve bilateral ties

By XU WEI

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China and Japan should step up mutual political trust and see bilateral relations as a partnership rather than representing any threat, Premier Li Keqiang said on Oct 25.

Li's remark came as he and visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe each delivered a speech at a reception to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of China-Japan Peace and Friendship.

Abe arrived in Beijing on Oct 25 to start his three-day official visit to China, which is the first official trip to China by a Japanese prime minister in seven years.

Li said the treaty enshrined the joint desire of the two countries to live in perpetual peace and friendship, and includes the concept that Japan should deeply reflect on its wartime acts and its adherence to the one-China policy.

The treaty, along with the other three key political documents, represents what is necessary for the healthy development of bilateral relations, he said.

The two sides should follow the general direction of peace, friendship and cooperation, and jointly work toward more full-fledged, stable, pragmatic and enterprising bilateral relations, he said.

It is important for the two sides to constructively manage disputes and differences, and create a better environment for the stable and healthy development of bilateral relations, he added.

Li said that China is in the course



Premier Li Keqiang and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe tour an exhibition about bilateral economic and trade cooperation progress in Beijing on Oct 25. Abe's visit marks the first official trip to China by a Japanese prime minister in seven years. XU JINGXING / CHINA DAILY

of further expanding its reform and opening-up, which will create greater space and more opportunities for the two countries to conduct cooperation at higher levels.

On Oct 26, China and Japan inked agreements worth billions of dollars on strengthening bilateral ties, pledging to step up cooperation in areas from finance and trade to innovation and securities listings. Both sides recognized that free trade should be

safeguarded, and expressed willingness to advance bilateral relations.

The two nations should steadily advance pragmatic cooperation, give play to complementary strengths and jointly explore third-party markets, Premier Li said.

China welcomes Japan to actively take part in the building of the Belt and Road and bring mutually beneficial cooperation to even more platforms, he said.

As major countries in Asia and leading economies in the world, the two nations should jointly safeguard multilateralism, free trade and regional peace, as well as promote regional development and prosperity, Li said.

Li also voiced support for intensified people-to-people exchanges between the two countries and expanded cooperation in culture, education and sports at local levels.

China supports promoting

exchanges between the two peoples, especially among the young, to cement public opinion in favor of friendship, the premier added.

Abe said in his speech that Japan and China both played irreplaceable roles in Asia's economic growth and around the world.

The Japanese leader said he hopes the two nations can work together to bolster the lasting development of bilateral friendship and cooperation.

Abe underlines economic teamwork

Japan PM calls for strengthening free trade and WTO, jointly building infrastructure across Asia

By CAI HONG and WANG XU

It is important to strengthen the global economic order based on the rules of freedom and justice, and trade protectionism does not benefit anyone, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in Tokyo.

In a written interview with Chinese media, Abe said on Oct 23 that Japan values the World Trade Organization and always contends that any steps should be consistent with WTO rules.

The prime minister arrived in China on Oct 25 for a three-day official visit to China, the first of its kind by a Japanese prime minister in seven years.

"Japan and China are the largest beneficiaries and should cooperate on strengthening multilateral free trade systems such as the WTO," he said.

Two-way China-Japan trade amounts to some \$300 billion annually, with Japan's investment in China hitting \$3.3 billion last year, according to official statistics.

Abe said the two economies are inseparable.

He noted that Japanese companies have set up more than 30,000 branches and factories in China, with Japan benefiting from the dynamism of the Chinese economy.

"Undoubtedly, the fact that Chinese economic growth means huge opportunities for Japan and the

world is welcomed," Abe added.

"It is of great importance to meet the high demand for infrastructure in Asia, which is the center of global economic growth. Japan and China should develop cooperation in this field," Abe said.

Premier Li Keqiang visited Japan in May, during which time the two countries agreed to set up a commission to deliberate the specific projects for cooperation in third-party markets.

"During my stay in China, the two countries will hold a forum on exchanges between Japanese and Chinese private enterprises," Abe said.

The forum is expected to attract

1,000 people from Japanese and Chinese companies in Beijing.

Abe said he expects that private companies from the two countries will join hands to deal with Asia's rising demand for infrastructure facilities.

"Japan and China have an indispensable and significant responsibility for global peace and prosperity. The two countries need to pool efforts to assume this responsibility in response to the expectations of the international community," Abe said.

He noted President Xi Jinping's call for building a community with a shared future for mankind during a speech at the opening ceremony of the Communist Party of China in

Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing in December.

Abe added that 40 years ago, China and Japan signed a treaty of peace and friendship, which serves as the foundation of bilateral ties.

"The treaty ... is the origin of Japan-China relations. We should keep bearing in mind the important principles of developing 'lasting relations of peace and friendship', using 'peaceful means to settle all disputes' and not seeking hegemony within the Asian and Pacific regions or in any other region," the prime minister said.

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