

# 'Historic' China-Japan opportunity

Xi tells Abe to help safeguard multilateralism, support free trade, promote an open global economy

By AN BAIJIE

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President Xi Jinping called on Oct 26 for more efforts with Japan to expand common interests, safeguard multilateralism, support free trade and promote building an open global economy.

China and Japan rely on each other more and more in a rapidly changing global situation, and the two countries have a wider range of common interests and concerns in multilateral relations, Xi said while meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

**Comment**  
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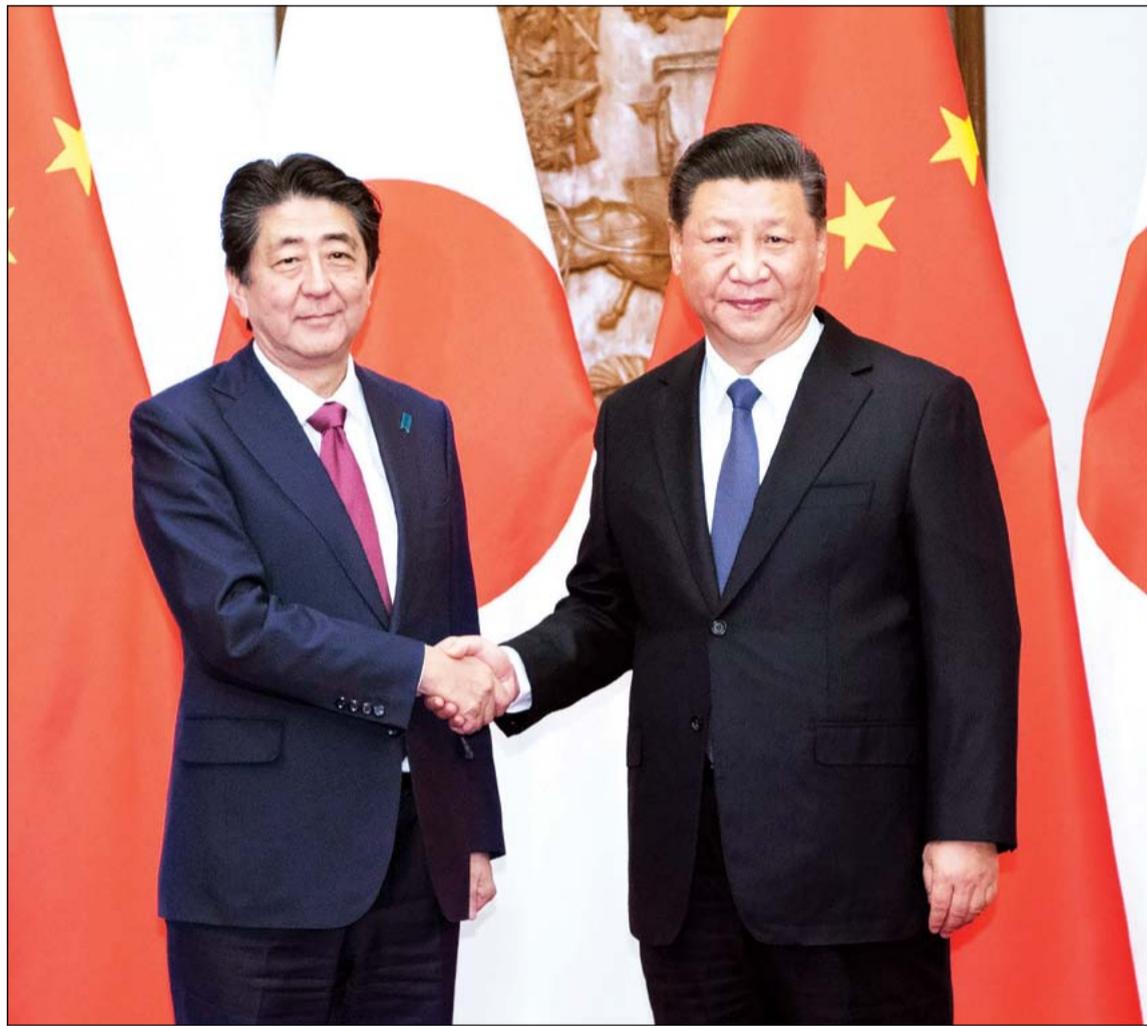
Abe visited China from Oct 25 to 27, the first official visit by a Japanese prime minister since 2011.

"We should seize this historic opportunity and make it become a new historic orientation for the development of Sino-Japanese relations," Xi said.

The healthy development of China-Japan relations is good for the interests of the people of both sides, and it is also the expectation of the region and the international community, Xi said.

Noting that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship, Xi said the bilateral relations face new opportunities for development.

The treaty set the direction for everlasting peace and friendship between the two countries and provided the basis for the two sides to cooperate for mutual benefits, seek common development and properly handle sensitive issues, including



President Xi Jinping meets with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Beijing on Oct 26. LI TAO / XINHUA

history and Taiwan, Xi said.

The president added that recalling the history of the treaty is helpful for the two sides to beef up their determination to pursue peace, friendship and win-win cooperation.

The two countries should follow the principles laid out in the four political documents signed between the two sides, move in the direction of peace and friendship, continue to

deepen mutual beneficial cooperation and promote new development of Sino-Japanese relations, Xi said.

Since July last year, Xi has held multiple bilateral meetings with Abe on the sidelines of international meetings including the G20 Summit, the APEC Informal Leaders' Meeting and the Eastern Economic Forum, and they have maintained contact.

Mentioning his meetings with Abe

in recent years, Xi said he appreciated Abe's positive willingness to improve and develop Sino-Japanese relations.

"We can say that we both have started and led the process of improving and developing Sino-Japanese relations," Xi told Abe.

With joint efforts made by the two sides, China-Japan relations are returning to the normal track with

positive momentum, which should be cherished by the two countries, Xi added.

The two countries should enhance strategic communication, correctly understand the other side's developmental strategic intention, implement the political consensus of "being cooperative partners, not being a threat to each other", and enhance mutual political trust, Xi said.

China is continuously deepening reform, and the country's door will open wider and wider, which will provide more opportunities for all countries, including Japan, Xi said, adding that the Belt and Road Initiative has provided a new platform for China and Japan to deepen cooperation.

The two countries should build a constructive bilateral security relationship, stick to the path of peace and development, and safeguard regional peace and stability, Xi said.

Abe said he expected that, through this visit, the two countries could start a new era that replaces competition with coordination in bilateral ties.

Japan and China, as neighbors, should uphold the spirit of mutual beneficial cooperation and posing no threat to each other, as well as promote bilateral relations under the consensus reached in the four political documents, Abe said.

Japan welcomes and supports China to boost opening-up, and it would like to participate in the process of China's development, he said.

Abe also said Japan would like to make joint efforts with China to strengthen high-level exchanges, properly handle disputes and promote regional peace and prosperity.

Calling the BRI a proposal with potential, Abe said Japan would like to expand cooperation with China in all areas.

## Develop AI to spur growth: Xi

President stresses urgent need for technological innovation as economy transitions to high-quality development

By CAO DESHENG

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Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, on Oct 31 called for stepping up efforts to develop the new generation of artificial intelligence (AI) technology to inject a fresh driving force into the country's high-quality economic growth.

Xi, also president, made the call while presiding over a group study

session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on the development of AI.

Xi stressed that China is in urgent need of major technological innovation such as the new generation of AI as its economy has been transitioning from rapid growth to high-quality development — a pivotal stage for changing the economic growth model, improving the economic structure and fostering new growth drivers.

AI should play an important role

in the reform for better quality, higher efficiency and more robust drivers of growth, Xi said.

He called for reforms of various industries by taking advantage of AI technologies and fostering new growth areas and drivers of growth in medium to high-end consumption, innovation-driven growth, the green and low-carbon economy, sharing economy, modern supply chains and human capital services.

Xi hailed AI as a key driving force

for a new round of technological revolution and industrial reform.

Highlighting the significance of speeding up AI development, Xi said more solid and coordinated efforts should be made to promote integration of the technology with socioeconomic growth, and advance healthy development of the new generation of AI. AI is emerging as an important factor to profoundly influence economic growth, social progress and the international political and

economic landscape, he said.

In developing AI technologies, Xi said, the emphasis should be on strengthening innovations and creativity, and the main direction for all-out efforts should be to have a good command of key core technologies.

He called for more input in theoretical research in AI development to ensure the country takes the lead in the field.

Xi stressed cultivating professionals in AI development.