

# Xi launches tour, deepens economic ties

President highlights pragmatic cooperation with Spain, Argentina, Panama and Portugal

By CHINA DAILY and XINHUA

The state visits of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Panama and Portugal after Spain and Argentina are expanding pragmatic cooperation that will not only bring benefits to the respective countries but also contribute to global peace and prosperity.

Moreover, the president's remarks and meetings at the 13th Group of 20 (G20) Leaders' Summit highlight China's will for multilateral and inclusive globalization and more opening to the outside world.

Xi started his state visit to Spain on Nov 27, the first visit by a Chinese head of state to the country in 13 years. He arrived at Buenos Aires later on Nov 29, where he also attended the G20 summit.

In a signed article titled "Opening up a New Era in China-Argentina Relations" and published on Nov 28 in Argentine daily Clarin, Xi said the bilateral friendship has overcome geographical distance and grown even closer.

"Our bilateral relations have stood the test of changing international circumstances and set an example of

solidarity and cooperation for common development between the two emerging economies and developing countries," he said.

That struck a chord with many Argentines, including Gonzalo Tordini, an expert in international economic cooperation who once studied at the University of International Business and Economics in China.

The friendship between the two peoples, said Tordini, is the biggest success of China-Argentina relations. He suggested that Argentina officially become part of the Belt and Road Initiative for global development. "It will be an opportunity to improve our connectivity, in a wider sense," he said.

"Improving infrastructure, people-to-people exchange, increasing trade and cultural knowledge are necessary to continue to deepen our ties with China," said Tordini, who is also president and co-founder of the Argentina-China Association of Former Scholarship Recipients.

In a signed article published on Nov 27 in the Spanish newspaper ABC, Xi said a major aim of his trip to Europe and Latin America and his attendance at the G20 sum-



**President Xi Jinping's state visits to Spain, Argentina, Panama and Portugal**

**Leaves Beijing for Madrid, Spain on Nov 27**

- Meets with Spanish King Felipe VI
- Has talks with Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez
- Meets with president of the senate and president of the parliament, and addresses the two houses

**Leaves Madrid for Buenos Aires, Argentina on Nov 29**

- Attends 13th Group of 20 (G20) Summit
- Attends informal meeting of leaders of BRICS countries
- Has talks with Argentine President Mauricio Macri
- Attends signing of joint action plan and cooperation documents

**Leaves Buenos Aires for Panama City, Panama on Dec 2**

- Has talks with Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela
- Attends signing of cooperation documents

**Leaves Panama City for Lisbon, Portugal on Dec 3**

- Has talks with Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
- Meets with Prime Minister Antonio Costa
- Attends signing of cooperation documents

**Leaves Lisbon for Beijing on Dec 5**

mit in Argentina is to discuss with leaders of major economies ways to strengthen the unity of the international community and improve global governance.

Though geographically far apart, Xi said China and Tarragona in Spain were first connected over 2,000 years ago via the ancient Silk Road, and were drawn to each other's culture.

Bilateral relations between the two countries have endured the test of international vicissitudes since diplomatic ties were established 45 years ago, Xi said.

China and Spain have always respected and treated each other as equals, and conducted mutually beneficial cooperation to push forward the sound and stable development of their relationship, he added.

The past years have been a period of deepening mutual trust, increasingly close contacts and a blending of cultures, he said.

In order to create a better and brighter future for bilateral ties, he suggested the two countries consolidate the political foundation of their relationship, strengthen align-

ment of their development strategies, deepen pragmatic cooperation, expand people-to-people exchanges and maintain close cooperation in international affairs.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Europe, and deepening this partnership is in line with the common interests of both sides under the current situation, the president said.

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## China's role aligned with G20's goals

Nation seen as champion of global economic governance, free trade

By CAO DESHENG

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China can play a big role in boosting the international community's confidence in safeguarding the multilateral trading system, experts said on the eve of the G20 Leaders' Summit.

President Xi Jinping attended the two days of meetings, on Nov 30-Nov 31, in Argentina.

The meeting in the capital, Buenos Aires, took place amid the slowing growth of global trade and investment at a time of growing worries about protectionism.

China's foreign policies, featuring

mutual respect and win-win cooperation, remain in step with the purpose and goal of the G20, so it can push for the forum to play a more important role under the new circumstances, said Xu Xiujun, vice-director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

As an important contributor to global economic governance, China has been actively engaged in macro-economic policy coordination and multilateral cooperation under the framework of the G20, Xu said.

Xu highlighted the role of the G20 in coping with the financial crisis 10 years ago, saying the G20 economies

should take collective action to deal with the challenges that the existing trade system are facing in a bid to enhance global economic growth.

Speaking highly of China's role in ensuring the success of the G20 summit held two years ago in Hangzhou, Cambridge University professor Alan Barrell said he expected a more significant role for China this time in advancing globalization, according to Xinhua.

Barrell lauded China's consistency and determination in pursuing common development and advancing globalization. He questioned the anti-globalization actions of some countries, saying protectionism is

not the answer to global trade.

"Protectionism eventually brings bad things ... It always has shown to be bad in the long run," he was quoted as saying.

He said Xi's speech at the recent China International Import Expo in Shanghai demonstrated China's resolve to further open up and push for more balanced global trade, because "China is not only exporting, but also welcoming imports".

With economic globalization suffering setbacks and free trade under threat, the G20 summit in Argentina, themed "Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development", will focus on issues like global economy,

trade and investment, sustainable development, infrastructure and climate change.

Argentine President Mauricio Macri said that as host, his country will continue the consensus and results achieved at the summit in Hangzhou.

Zhou Fangyin, a senior researcher at the Guangdong Institute for International Strategies, said the effectiveness of the G20 in international coordination of economic policy should be emphasized.

The effectiveness of the G20 comes from countries' commitment to multilateralism and united actions, Zhou added.