

Chapter XII

BRI is the China Plan for Jointly Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind

In September and October, 2013, when President Xi Jinping visited Kazakhstan and Indonesia, he successively proposed major initiatives to jointly build the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

The joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative is a major strategic decision made by the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core after taking into consideration the overall political, diplomatic, and economic and social development. It is a master plan for opening-up in the new era and a China plan for building a community with a shared future for mankind.

With the joint efforts of all parties, the joint building of the BRI has evolved from *freehand brushwork* at the stage of planning into *delicate painting*, which features focus on details and fine strokes, at the stage of implementation. It expands horizons for China's openness development and provides a new alternative for building an open world economy, thus injecting new impetus into the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

I. The BRI Starts A Chorus of Openness Cooperation

The joint construction of the BRI is rooted in history and aims at the future. It is not only a concept but also an action. It originated in China and belongs to the world. It has built an international public good of openness cooperation.

1. Reflecting combination of history and future

It has profound historical and humanistic origins. The ancient Silk Road stretches

for thousands of miles and had last for thousands of years. It creates wealth, embodies friendliness, promotes exchanges among civilizations, opens a window for friendly exchanges among countries, and ultimately forming the Silk Road spirit featuring such main characteristics as peace and cooperation, openness and tolerance, mutual learning, mutual benefit and win-win outcome.

It adds modern contents to the ancient Silk Road. As we jointly build the BRI to face squarely the real problems that have frequently challenged mankind, we have put forward a “seven-road” solution through which those problems could be solved — road to peace, road to prosperity, road to openness, road to green growth, road to innovation, road to civilization, and road to clean government — to give a serious answer to the question of “What’s been wrong with the world and what shall we do?” so that the ancient Silk Road can regain its vitality.

It depicts a promising picture of future common development. The joint construction of the BRI focuses on the common aspiration of mankind to pursue peace and development, advocates the concept of open development, common development and prosperity, and countries “meeting each other halfway”, which is in line with the general direction of human civilization and progress.

2.Reflecting combination of concept and action

It enriches governance philosophy. The BRI adheres to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and inherits the essence of traditional culture, such as “helping others to succeed while seeking one’s own success”, “keeping a balance between justice and interests”, “putting justice before interests”, and “harmony despite difference”. It does not have high entry threshold, and it refrains from engaging in clique politics; and it abandons zero-sum thinking and advocates multilateralism, which reflects the spirit of equality and mutual benefit and provides new thinking for global governance.

It has produced vivid experiences. In the joint construction of the BRI, practical measures have been taken to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, which has been closely integrated with the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has actively promoted balanced and inclusive global development and produced vivid experiences for promoting the construction of an open world economy.

Real benefits have been achieved. The construction of the BRI is not an empty slogan, but a practical move that is visible and tangible. Many countries have actively participated. The interconnecting structure that is composed of “six corridors, six routes, multiple countries and multiple ports” has been largely completed, with a large number of cooperation projects having been well-established; and the outcomes during the two summit forums have been successfully implemented, bringing tangible benefits to relevant countries.

3. Reflecting China’s integration with the rest of the world

It dovetails with development requirements of participating countries. In the joint construction of the BRI, participants advocate openness and inclusiveness, focus on inter-connectivity, deepen pragmatic cooperation, and all parties are welcome aboard the *express train* of China’s development for free, which caters to the needs of countries seeking to accelerate their development.

It responds to the expectations of people of countries involved in the initiative. The joint construction of the BRI is to integrate the Chinese dream with the dreams of the people of all countries involved in the BRI, so as to improve the productivity of relevant countries, make life of their people more convenient, and bring a sense of gain and happiness to the local people.

It provides an answer to the question of how the world can achieve development. In today’s world, issues such as development imbalances, distribution gaps, digital divides, and governance predicaments urgently need to be resolved. The joint construction of the BRI focuses on the fundamental issue of development, strengthens strategic alignment and cooperation with other countries, promotes infrastructure connectivity, and expands economic and trade cooperation and cultural exchanges, thus constituting new driving force for promoting prosperity and development of the world (Box 12-1).

Box 12-1 World Bank Report: BRI Promotes Inclusive Global Growth

In June, 2019, the World Bank issued a report, titled by Belt and Road Economics: Opportunities and Risks of Transport Corridors, which pointed out that the joint construction of BRI has following positive effects on infrastructure construction, international trade and cross-border investment, and inclusive and sustainable growth of

countries and regions involved in the initiative.

Decline in transportation times. The completed and planned BRI transportation projects will shorten the freight times of economies involved in the initiative by up to 12%, and the global shipping times by an average of 3%.

Increase in trade and investment. The newly-built transportation networks due to the BRI will increase trade of economies involved in the initiative by 2.8%-9.7%, and global trade by 1.7%-6.2%; foreign direct investment flowing into low-income countries is expected to increase by 7.6%.

Boosting economic growth. The joint construction of the BRI will increase the real incomes of economies involved in the initiative by up to 3.4% and global incomes by 2.9%. It will help 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty (with an average daily income of less than \$1.9), and help 32 million people get rid of moderate poverty (with an average daily income of less than \$3.2).

II. Remarkable Results Achieved in Carrying Out BRI

In the past eight years, the cause of jointly building the BRI has advanced through explorations. It has developed and improved; and it has grown amid cooperation, becoming a popular international public good. The BRI has been written into important outcome documents, such as UN Security Council resolutions, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, and Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Its circle of friends has continued to expand and remarkable results have been achieved.

1. *Win-win version of economic globalization*

The joint construction of the BRI has built a platform for deepening international trade and investment cooperation, provided opportunities for coordinated development of relevant countries, and made a positive contribution to promotion of economic globalization.

Scale of trade has grown steadily. The joint construction of the BRI has improved the level of trade facilitation, and the “pie” of trade has become bigger and bigger. From 2013 to 2020, China’s trade in goods with countries involved in the BRI has accumulated to \$9.2 trillion, and the proportion of its trade in goods with those countries to its total foreign trade in 2020 increased by 4.1 percentages from 2013.