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Speech by Xi Jinping at the China-U.S. Provincial Governors Forum (full text)



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Xinhua News Agency, Seattle, USA, September 22nd. On September 22nd, President Xi Jinping attended the third China-US Provincial Governors Forum in Seattle and delivered a speech. The full text of the speech is as follows:

Speech at the China-U.S. Provincial Governors Forum

(September 22, 2015, Seattle)

President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping

Dear Governor Brown of California, Dear Governor Inslee of Washington State, Dear Governor Branstad of Iowa, Dear Governor Snyder of Michigan, Dear Governor Brown of Oregon, all provinces and cities in China are responsible Comrades, ladies and gentlemen, friends:

It is a great pleasure to attend the 3rd China-US Provincial Governors Forum. First of all, I would like to express my warm congratulations to the success of the forum! I would like to express my high appreciation to the leaders of provinces and states for their long-term active efforts to promote the development of Sino-US relations!

Just now, I listened carefully to your speeches, and everyone spoke very well. Every time I communicate with local leaders in China and the United States, I am very inspired. In 2012, when I visited the United States, I attended the meeting of the governors of the Central and American provinces in Los Angeles. In 2013, I met with representatives from both sides participating in the 2nd Provincial Governors Forum in Beijing. Everyone talked freely about local cooperation and offered suggestions for the development of bilateral relations. I still remember it vividly.

I have worked in the local area for a long time, and I am fully aware of the heavy responsibility of local leaders and the difficulty of work, and I also know that local cooperation plays an important role in developing state relations. In the final analysis, state-to-state relations need the support of the people and ultimately serve the people. The place is the closest to the people. Whether the local cooperation is done well depends on whether the cooperation at the national level can take root. For this reason, I have always attached great importance to Sino-US local cooperation. Over the past 30 years, the development of Sino-US relations has benefited from the support of the localities and peoples of the two countries. In the future, we will still rely on the localities and benefit the localities.

I am glad to see that in recent years, China-US local exchanges and cooperation have shown a new trend of vigorous development. China's 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have established 43 pairs of sister provinces and states and 200 pairs of sister cities with 50 states of the United States. In the past 10 years, 42 states in the United States have achieved triple-digit growth in exports to China. According to U.S. statistics, China's annual investment in the U.S. has averaged more than \$8 billion over the past five years, and the growth rate is still accelerating. Among the five states in the

United States who came here today, China is your top four export market and the main source of foreign students. Among the six provinces and cities in China that participated in the meeting, some have the United States as their largest trading partner, some have attracted thousands of American companies to invest, and some have increased their trade volume with the United States by more than 40% a year. These exchanges and cooperation have benefited the two peoples.

At present, Sino-US relations have generally maintained stable development. Practical cooperation in various fields has been comprehensively deepened. During my visit this time, I hope to have exchanges with President Obama and all walks of life in the United States, so as to draw up a blueprint for the development of bilateral relations. From an international point of view, economic globalization continues to develop in depth, industrial upgrading is brewing new breakthroughs, and various production factors are speeding up the flow around the world. Against this background, there is a broader space for local exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.



First of all, both sides should effectively take advantage of the opportunities brought about by the huge economies of China and the United States. Size is opportunity. China and the United States sit on the top two economies in the world, which in itself is a huge treasure for cooperation between provinces and states. As the world's largest economy, the United States has a vast market space and a strong ability to absorb external commodities, investment, and talents. From the perspective of China, we have a population of more than 1.3 billion, and the population of Shandong and Sichuan provinces is close to 100 million. The combined population of the six provinces and cities here is equivalent to the total population of the United States. We are vigorously promoting new industrialization, informatization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization, and implementing an innovation-driven development strategy. This process will generate massive demand for external commodities, technologies, and services. In the next five years, it is estimated that China will import goods worth 10 trillion U.S. dollars, invest more than 500 billion U.S. dollars abroad, and the number of outbound tourists will exceed 500 million. We welcome US states to strengthen cooperation with Chinese localities.

Second, the two sides should share the benefits of the reform and development policies of China and the United States. Change is the trend of the world today. China will unswervingly continue to reform and open up, and all parts of China are exploring reform and opening up in various aspects. The United States has worked hard to adjust its economic structure, adopted policies such as "reindustrialization" and the return of manufacturing industries, and formulated many strategic plans to encourage technological innovation and industrial upgrading to promote sustained economic recovery. Some states have introduced many methods of attracting investment, and the conditions are even more favorable than ours in the 1980s. This creates opportunities for collaboration. We encourage more Chinese places to come to the United States to carry out higher-level exchanges and cooperation to achieve their own development and further benefit the local society.

China is formulating its economic and social development plan for the 13th Five-Year Plan period. We will focus on implementing a new round of high-level opening up, and accelerate the establishment of a new system of open economy. In this regard, we encourage some qualified regions to try first. For example, we have set up four pilot free trade zones in Shanghai, Guangdong, Tianjin, and Fujian, adopting a management model of pre-establishment national treatment plus a negative list; in Beijing, we have opened up six service industries including finance, tourism, and medical care to foreign investment. Pilot, wait. We will take effective measures to promote the coordinated development of domestic regions, urban and rural areas, and accelerate the development of underdeveloped regions. We will accelerate the construction of the "Belt and Road" and build a platform for domestic regions to expand cooperation with foreign countries. For example, Xinjiang is the "core area" of the Silk Road Economic Belt, and Yunnan is the "bridgehead" for the "Belt and Road" to open to the southwest. The Belt and Road Initiative welcomes the active participation of all countries in the world, including the United States. These measures will create opportunities for local cooperation between China and the United States.

Third, the two sides should work hard to tap the potential of China and the United States to complement each other's local advantages. Making full use of strengths is the key to successful cooperation. The advantageous fields of China and the United States have their own characteristics and are highly complementary. The two sides should adapt to local conditions, "Eight Immortals cross the sea, each showing their special abilities." For example, Iowa is known as "the granary of the United States", and Oregon is also an important agricultural area in the United States. We can strengthen cooperation with China's major agricultural provinces such as Shaanxi, Hebei, and Heilongjiang. Hewlett-Packard of California has built a global computer production base in Chongqing, and the two sides can develop cooperation around the information industry. Michigan is the largest motor vehicle production place in the United States. Provinces and cities where the Chinese side is present are all actively developing the auto industry. The two sides can explore more cooperation projects. The two parties can also actively explore and open up third-party markets.



China is vigorously promoting the construction of ecological civilization. This is also a key direction of our 13th Five-Year Plan. Roughly calculated, we have invested nearly 200 billion U.S. dollars in environmental protection every year these years, and environmental protection investment in various places is growing rapidly. In this regard, China has needs and markets, and the United States has technology and experience. Washington State has advantages in environmental protection and coastal zone protection, so it can strengthen cooperation with some Chinese provinces or coastal provinces that invest heavily in environmental protection. The first China-U.S. Climate-Smart/Low-Carbon Cities Summit held in Los Angeles not long ago was also very effective. In many places, provincial and state emission reduction targets are ahead of national targets, playing a leading role. Such efforts deserve recognition and encouragement. Exchanges and cooperation in the field of environmental protection between the two countries should become an important aspect of China-US joint efforts to tackle climate change and promote sustainable development.

I attach great importance to people-to-people and cultural exchanges between China and the United States. "The closer the relatives are, the closer the friends are." The more frequent the exchanges between Chinese and American people, the stronger the foundation of friendship between the two countries, and the more prosperous the practical cooperation will be. All provinces and states should carry out exchanges and cooperation in a wide range of fields such as education, tourism, sports, and youth, and support all walks of life and people to move around and communicate frequently.

Employment is a matter of great concern to the governors of the provinces. Through these cooperations, we will promote growth, create jobs, and benefit the people.

Every province and city in China today has dozens or hundreds of colleges and universities, and some provinces have more than one million students. In 2006, when I was working in Zhejiang, I attended the signing ceremony for the joint establishment of Wenzhou-Kean University between Wenzhou University and Kean University. After years of hard work, Wenzhou-Kean University was formally established last year and is currently operating well. There are also nearly 100 primary and secondary schools in Zhejiang Province that have formed sister relationships with schools across the United States, and the exchanges are active. The two sides should explore various forms of educational cooperation and jointly cultivate high-quality talents for the future. China will sponsor a total of 50,000 international students from the two countries to study in the other country in the next three years. The United States will also strive to achieve one million American students learning Chinese before 2020. The two countries will hold a tourism year in 2016. These measures will provide more platforms for strengthening people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the provinces and states of the two countries. I hope that everyone will work together to build a wider and stronger bridge of friendship between the people of China and the United States.

The Chinese often say "Seize the day and night". Westerners pay attention to "doing things while taking advantage of the opportunity". The time is right for China-US local cooperation. I hope that you will actively promote the provinces and states of the two countries to seize the opportunity, take advantage of the momentum, and jointly write a new chapter in China-US local cooperation.

thank you all.



Responsible Editor: Jiang Chen

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