

Sowing the Seeds of Cooperation

June 2015

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Sowing the Seeds of Cooperation

As the first half of 2015 draws to a close, hope is in the air as the U.S. and China had an opportunity to sit down and review issues where cooperation was possible and share their opinions on issues that have divided the two great powers at the Strategic and Economic Dialogue which was held in Washington D.C. from June 22 - 24, 2015. Prickly topics such as cyber security and disagreement over China's actions in the South China Sea were certainly at the top of the agenda, but there were also many areas where collaboration was easy, particularly environmental policy. Yet time stops for no man and the two nations had a host of other pressing and urgent issues to deal with outside of the Dialogue during the month. The following summarizes key issue areas emphasized by the U.S. and China during June 2015.

Face-to-Face

Both the United States and China came away from the seventh meeting of the Strategic and Economic Dialogue calling it a success.¹ There was significant agreement particularly in the area of environmental protection with both sides agreeing to work together to achieve a successful global climate agreement, protect the world's oceans, and advance efforts to combat wildlife trafficking.² Since the environment appears to have been the area of greatest success, the Strategic and Economic Dialogue could be seen as a precursor to the Paris talks later this year.

The Chinese and American governments were also able to come together on various other issues concerning counter-terrorism, stability in Iraq and Syria, and interestingly the nuclear issues surrounding Iran and North Korea.³ Although China's official position on North Korea has not changed, it did call for restraint after the test firing of missiles on June 15th and proclaimed a desire to resume the

¹ UCR June Issue 2015 – Bilateral Relations, Issue 1 pg. [10](#)

² Ibid, pg. [9](#)

³ Ibid, pg. [9](#)

Six Party Talks.⁴ Both China and the U.S. stated that a comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran during the P5+1 Talks in Vienna is vital to the international non-proliferation regime and to regional stability.⁵ Despite numerous agreements, the areas where the possibility of cooperation seemed more remote were glaringly obvious and tensions on several issues continued throughout the month.

Choppy Seas Still Ahead?

China continues to exert its influence over the South China Sea, particularly in the Spratly Islands where it has expanded the construction of numerous facilities.⁶ It has rebuffed prominent criticisms, specifically from the U.S. that its land reclamation project or construction efforts on islands in the South China Sea are illegal according to international law.⁷ China maintains that both Japan and the U.S. are not parties that should be concerned with the South China Sea issue.⁸ The U.S., while continuing to appeal to China for a halt to reclamation, has been reticent about other means of peacefully convincing China to stop its activities in the South China Sea.⁹ Several times throughout the annual U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue, the U.S. called for immediate cessation of reclamation and militarization in the region, in the interest of good neighborliness and regional stability.¹⁰ Both countries agree that the future of bilateral diplomatic relations should rest on peaceful cooperation, but their stances on the South China Sea seem indicative of more conflict to come.

⁴ UCR June Issue 2015 – Korean Peninsula, Issue 7 pg. [29](#)

⁵ UCR June Issue 2015 – Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8 pg. [32](#), [33](#)

⁶ UCR June Issue 2015 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes, Issue 9 pg. [36](#)

⁷ Ibid, pg. [34](#)

⁸ Ibid, pg. [40](#)

⁹ Ibid, pg. [34](#)

¹⁰ Ibid, pg. [36](#)



The Japan Factor

Tensions continue to rise over Japan's changing military posture. China criticized Prime Minister Abe's attempts to push through an unpopular collective self-defense security bill, as well as the revised U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation Guidelines, which strengthen elements of collective security.¹¹ The U.S., on the other hand, welcomed increased military cooperation with Japan in areas such as missile defense, which was incorporated into the revised guidelines.¹² China also criticized Japan's stance on China's activities in the South China Sea, seeing Japan's position as a way to divert attention away from the Senkaku/Diaoyudao Islands and calling once again for the U.S. and Japan to stop meddling in disputes they are not party to.¹³ Yet also noticeable this month was China's toned down rhetoric on Japan's historical aggression and attempts to revise history, perhaps indicating a Chinese desire to improve Sino-Japanese relations.

Seeking Cooperation on Cyber Snooping

Tensions between the U.S. and China have been increasing due to suspected spying and cyber attacks from both sides respectively, although both have voiced a commitment for closer security ties.¹⁴ Many cyber security experts in the U.S. cite Chinese government affiliates as being responsible for the recent OPM hack, despite the fact that both the U.S. and Chinese governments are quick to avoid outright labeling China as being responsible.¹⁵ They are, however, willing to acknowledge and talk about those differences based on military and security issues, including those based on cyber security, as evidenced by the Strategic and

Economic Dialogue. Still, the Chinese have voiced concern about possible U.S. espionage attempts.¹⁶ Moreover, neither side has been particularly specific on how to defuse tensions, leaving it ambiguous how the situation will develop in the future.

The Back and Forth Continues

On the eve of the 26th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Protests of 1989, the U.S. released a statement urging China to "uphold its international commitments to protect human rights."¹⁷ Throughout June, the U.S. continued to release reports on how the current human rights standards are not up-to-par with China's political and economic influence on the global stage, citing the suppression of the Hong Kong democratic protests and the repression of the ethnically Tibetan population as examples.¹⁸ China responded by stating that many of these claims of the U.S. were ungrounded and inaccurate.¹⁹ They also followed up by stating that the U.S. has humanitarian issues of their own as shown by a string of riots that exploded in U.S. cities in response to police brutality.²⁰

¹¹ UCR June Issue 2015 – Asia Pacific Issues, Issue 6 pg. [24](#)

¹² Ibid, pg. [23](#)

¹³ UCR June Issue 2015 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes, Issue 9 pg. [38](#)

¹⁴ UCR June Issue 2015 – Military and Security Relations, Issue 3 pg. [15](#)

¹⁵ Ibid, pg. [16](#)

¹⁶ Ibid, pg. [14](#)

¹⁷ UCR June Issue 2015 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, Issue 4 pg. [18](#)

¹⁸ Ibid, pg. [19](#)

¹⁹ Ibid, pg. [19](#)

²⁰ Ibid, pg. [18](#)



June 2015:

TIME PERIOD: June 1 - June 30

MAIN ISSUES:

1. **U.S. – China Bilateral Relations:** The U.S. and China Prepare for and Hold the Security & Economic Dialogue

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 1, Remarks by Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications Marie Harf ● June 16, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry ● June 23, U.S.-China Strategic & Economic Dialogue / Consultation on People-to-People Exchange ● June 24, U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue VII Strategic Track Select Outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 11, <i>People's Daily</i>: Clear Orientation Needed in Sino-U.S. Ties ● June 22, <i>People's Daily</i>: Commentary: Upcoming China-U.S. Dialogue Key Occasion for Repairing Trust ● June 23, Remarks by Liu Yandong, Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China For USA Today ● June 23, Remarks by Wang Yang, Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China for The Wall Street Journal ● June 24, Remarks by Liu Yandong at the Seventh Round of China-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue and Sixth Round of China-U.S. High-Level Consultation on People-to-People ● June 24, <i>People's Daily</i>: Commentary: Focus on Common Interests Conducive to Better China-U.S. Ties ● June 25, <i>People's Daily</i>: Could China and U.S. Afford a Break-up? ● June 25, <i>People's Daily</i>: Dialogue Crucial for Stabilizing Sino-U.S. Relationship ● June 26, <i>China Daily</i>: Hand-in-hand after Face-to-face Talks ● June 29, <i>People's Daily</i>: Pushing Sino-U.S. Relations Steadily Forward

2. **Economic Relations:** Both the U.S. and China Welcome Investment in Infrastructure in Asia Despite Differing Opinions on the AIIB and Both Countries Push Forward Their Respective Free-trade Agreements

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 2, USTR Releases Report Detailing Tariff Barriers that will be addressed in TPP ● June 2, Remarks by the President in Town Hall with YSEALI Initiative Fellows ● June 8, Op-Ed by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry: Congress Needs To Help American Trade Grow ● June 15, Remarks at the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council Annual Gala ● June 18, Remarks by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue ● June 25, Passage of Trade Promotion Authority ● June 29, Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 2, Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce ● June 18, Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce ● June 18, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference ● June 25, <i>People's Daily</i>: Commentary: Dialogue Ushers in New Beginning of China-U.S. Economic Ties ● June 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● June 30, <i>China Daily</i>: Inclusiveness of AIIB Lays Ground for Common Growth



3. **Military and Security Relations:** The U.S. Hopes to Cooperate with China on Cyber Attacks; China Responds to U.S. Hacking Allegations and Seeks Military Cooperation

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 2, Statement by the State Department's Bureau of Counterterrorism: Budget, Program, and Policies ● June 16, Remarks by U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Michele J. Sison at a UN Security Council Open Briefing by Subsidiary Bodies ● June 18, Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue ● June 22, Remarks on China Aerospace Studies Institute by Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work ● June 22, Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby ● June 22, Background Briefing on the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue ● June 23, Speech at GEOINT Symposium 2015 by Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work ● June 25, Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● June 6, <i>People's Daily</i>: Commentary: U.S. Wronging of China for Cyber Breaches Harm Mutual Trust ● June 10, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● June 15, <i>China Daily</i>: Maturing Military Ties with U.S. Help Build Trust ● June 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference ● June 24, <i>China Daily</i>: Parade to Celebrate V-day Against Invasion ● June 25, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference ● June 25, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference ● June 25, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference ● June 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference

4. **Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues:** The U.S. Urges China to Adhere to International Norms on Human Rights; China Responds in Kind to Criticism from the U.S.

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 3, On the 26th Anniversary of Tiananmen Square ● June 11, Remarks at the FHI Gender 360 Summit ● June 15, Remarks Delivered at the "Lockdown in Tibet" Event ● June 18, Remarks by Daniel R. Russel Assistant Secretary Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue ● June 25, Remarks by Tom Malinowski Assistant Secretary Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the Briefing on the 2014 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 2, <i>People's Daily</i>: U.S. Should Improve its Own Human Rights Record before Fingerprinting ● June 11, <i>People's Daily</i>: More People Share the 'Dividend' of Reform and Development ● June 11, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● June 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference

5. **Climate Change and Environmental Issues:** The U.S. and China Work Together on Environmental Issues during the S&ED

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 18, Remarks by Daniel R. Russel Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue ● June 23, U.S.-China Strategic & Economic Dialogue / Act on Climate: Celebration of Energy and Environment Cooperation Panel ● June 24, United States and China Strengthen Climate Change Cooperation ● June 24, United States and China Highlight Cooperation on Combating Wildlife Trafficking at the 7th U.S.-China Strategic & Economic Dialogue ● June 24, The United States and China: Protecting and Conserving the Ocean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 11, <i>People's Daily</i>: China's Unique Way to Build Ecological Civilization ● June 22, <i>Xinhua</i>: China-U.S. Cooperation on Climate Change "Very Successful": Official



6. **Asia Pacific Issues:** The U.S. Remains Steadfast with its Rebalancing Policy and Continues to Confirm Alliances; China Continues to be Wary of the Direction of Japan and Speaks of Cooperation in the Region

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 3, U.S. Refugee and Migration Policy and Programs in Southeast Asia ● June 11, Retreat or Revival - A Status Report on Democracy in Asia ● June 12, Missile Defense, Extended Deterrence, and the Future of America's Alliances ● June 22, Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby ● June 26, Remarks by the Vice President to the Truman National Security Project and Center for National Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 9, <i>Xinhua</i>: News analysis: Abe Turning Up Heat on Cold War Maneuvers Threatens Stability in East Asia Region ● June 12, <i>China Daily</i>: Suu Kyi's Visit Boosts Bonds of Neighbors ● June 12, Toward Win-win Cooperation Through Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit and Inclusiveness ● June 15, <i>People's Daily</i>: Japan Needs to Shed Light on Their Dark Chapter ● June 17, <i>China Daily</i>: Abe in Need of Deed to Match His Words ● June 17, <i>People's Daily</i>: Commentary: China-Australia FTA Conducive to Bilateral, Regional Cooperation ● June 17, <i>People's Daily</i>: Abe's Disastrous New Security Bills ● June 25, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference ● June 25, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference ● June 25, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference ● June 27, China's Role in the Global and Regional Order: Participant, Facilitator and Contributor

7. **Korean Peninsula:** Both Countries Continue to Monitor the Situation in North Korea and Improve Cooperation with South Korea

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 2, Remarks by Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications Marie Harf ● June 4, Remarks by Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications Marie Harf ● June 12, Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke ● June 12, Missile Defense, Extended Deterrence, and the Future of America's Alliances ● June 17, Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby ● June 18, Remarks by Daniel R. Russel Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue ● June 25, Remarks by Tom Malinowski, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 15, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference ● June 15, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference ● June 25, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference



8. **Middle East and Africa Issues:** The U.S. and China Continue Crisis Management and Negotiations with Iran

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 1, Background Briefing on the June 2 Paris Counter-ISIL Coalition Small Group Ministerial ● June 5, Statement on the Secretary General's Announcement of an External Independent Review of Allegations of Sexual Abuse in the Central African Republic ● June 7, Remarks of Secretary Jacob J. Lew at The 4th Annual Jerusalem Post Conference ● June 18, Remarks by Daniel R. Russel Assistant Secretary Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue ● June 29, Background Briefing: P5+1 Negotiations with Iran in Vienna, Austria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 1, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● June 2, Remarks by Wang Min UN Ambassador at the 69th Session of the General Assembly ● June 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● June 16, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference ● June 29, <i>China Daily</i>: Substantial Aid to Fight Against IS Badly Needed ● June 30, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference

9. **Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes:** The U.S. Continues to Urge China to Halt Reclamation Work in the South China Sea; China Reiterates its Claims in the South China Sea and Demands the U.S. Stay Out of the Discussion Between Claimants

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 1, Joint Press Conference by Secretary Carter and Minister of National Defense Thanh, in Hanoi, Vietnam ● June 1, Remarks by Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications Marie Harf June 7, Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the G7 Press Briefing ● June 17, Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby ● June 18, Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby ● June 18, Remarks by Daniel R. Russel Assistant Secretary Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue ● June 22, Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 1, <i>China Daily</i>: HK Lawmakers' Responsibility ● June 2, <i>People's Daily</i>: Binary Mentality Blinds U.S. South China Sea Policy ● June 3, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● June 4, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● June 4, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● June 4, <i>People's Daily</i>: Commentary: Manila's Shortsightedness on South China Sea Disputes Will Backfire ● June 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● June 8, <i>Xinhua</i>: Commentary: Abe's Anti-China Attempt at G7 Summit Futile, Counterproductive ● June 8, <i>People's Daily</i>: South China Sea not a U.S. Political Playfield ● June 8, <i>People's Daily</i>: China's Construction on the Nansha Islands is Legitimate ● June 9, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● June 10, <i>China Daily</i>: G7's Veiled Criticism Deviates from Truth ● June 10, <i>People's Daily</i>: Australia Should Stay Away from South China Sea ● June 11, <i>China Daily</i>: Military Visit to U.S. Can Help Build Trust ● June 18, <i>China Daily</i>: Critical Time for HK Reform ● June 19, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● June 22, <i>Xinhua</i>: Commentary: Japan's Meddling in South China Sea Nothing but Miscalculation ● June 23, <i>People's Daily</i>: China Should Prepare for Philippine Provocations



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● June 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference● June 25, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference● June 26, <i>Xinhua</i>: Commentary: Discontent Grows in LatAm Over U.S. Meddling in Name of Fighting Drugs● June 29, Remarks by Hua Chunying Foreign Ministry Spokesperson on the Philippines' Playing up and Airing of a Documentary on the South China Sea Issue● June 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference |
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Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: The U.S. and China Prepare for and Hold the Security & Economic Dialogue

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 1, 2015 – Remarks by Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications Marie Harf (State Department) Quote: “We have an interest in a comprehensive, durable, and mutually beneficial partnership with Taiwan. But that is fully consistent with our One China policy, and that’s something we’ve said consistently, that’s based on the three joint communiques, and the Taiwan Relations Act. So we believe you can support Taiwan’s security and freedom from coercion, you can promote Taiwan’s economic prosperity, and help people in Taiwan enjoy the respect they deserve in the international community while supporting at the same time our policy that hasn’t changed. We believe we can do both.” ● June 16, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry (State Department) Quote: “I am going to be spending a fair amount of time in the next few days focused on China for the Security & Economic Dialogue, which is coming, obviously, at a time of some importance in terms of what has been going on in the region as well as conceivably some of the interests that we have with respect to trade, economy, and other interests. So it’s going to be a very, very important meeting, and I’m confident that we’re going to have a full-throated discussion of all of the issues that confront us.” ● June 23, 2015 – The U.S.-China Strategic & Economic Dialogue / Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (State Department) Quote: “And let me be crystal clear, and I know my friends and I have become – have made some friendships in your leadership. Let me be clear: We do not fear China’s rise. We want to see China rise, to continue to rise in a responsible way that will benefit you most, China, because you have an important role to play. A rising China can be a significant asset for the region and the world, and selfishly, for the United States.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 11, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Clear Orientation Needed in Sino-U.S. Ties (People’s Daily) Quote: “As some Chinese scholars put it, the U.S. should learn how to deal with an emerging power on an equal footing instead of attempting to boss it around [...] The difficulty in defining the U.S.’ role is the geopolitical fact that there are still many Asian states placing their hope on the US in regional affairs. This difficulty has already emerged when China asks the U.S. to show respect to China and deal with it equally.” ● June 22, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Commentary: Upcoming China-U.S. Dialogue Key Occasion for Repairing Trust (People’s Daily) Quote: “Washington should be wise enough not to let a loose tongue further harm its overall relations with Beijing, given the increasing interdependence between the two countries. The S&ED, designed to promote mutual understanding, augment mutual trust and broaden mutually beneficial cooperation, has proven an efficient mechanism for the two sides to manage their disputes so as not to affect the overall health of bilateral ties.” ● June 23, 2015 – Remarks by Liu Yandong, Vice Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China For USA Today (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China is looking forward to working with the United States to promote people-to-people exchanges, enhance mutual political trust, and deepen economic cooperation and trade. Progress in these fields will be inter-related and mutually reinforcing. Let us do more to build a new type of major-country relationship, so as to make the life of our peoples more beautiful and the world at large more peaceful and prosperous.” ● June 23, 2015 – Remarks by Wang Yang, Vice Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China For The Wall Street Journal (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China-U.S. relations are facing a rare opportunity for development. Yet many challenges remain. [...] We look forward to engaging in candid dialogue with our U.S. colleagues to achieve broader consensus, better solutions and sustainable success. Let’s work together to add more building blocks to the new model of major-country relations for the benefit of our peoples and the world.”



- **June 24, 2015 – U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue VII Strategic Track Select Outcomes** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “On the occasion of the Strategic & Economic Dialogue (S&ED) June 23-24, 2015, the United States and China agreed to, among other things: Work together to achieve a successful global climate agreement: Building on the historic joint announcement on climate change by President Obama and President Xi last year, the United States and China renewed their resolve to achieve an ambitious global climate agreement in December in Paris [...] Protect and conserve our ocean: The ocean is critical to the economic vitality of the United States and China, and the two countries committed to an ambitious agenda to conserve and protect it [...] Strengthen global health security: Building on their substantial contributions and close coordination to combat the Ebola epidemic, the United States and China decided to work together to help West African countries rebuild health systems that are stronger and more resilient than they were before [...] Support a peaceful, stable, and unified Afghanistan: The United States and China continued their close cooperation in support of Afghanistan’s government of national unity, economic development, and security forces [...] Address nuclear proliferation challenges: The United States and China highlighted their determination to address the nuclear proliferation challenges posed by Iran and North Korea [...] Deepen counterterrorism cooperation: The United States and China committed to enhance their counterterrorism cooperation, including by convening a meeting to discuss best practices on stemming the illicit flow of components used by terrorists worldwide in improvised explosive devices [...] Promote stability in Iraq and Syria: The United States and China emphasized the importance of political reconciliation and compromise between the major ethno-sectarian groups within Iraq [...] Address the growing global need for humanitarian assistance: The United States and China agreed to continue providing support to refugees and internally displaced persons in Iraq and Syria, and they called on the international community to step up humanitarian assistance in accordance with UN guiding principles [...] Combat International Bribery: The United States and China decided to enhance cooperation in the fight against international bribery, including through the implementation of G20 commitments.

- **June 24, 2015 – Remarks by Liu Yandong, Vice Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China At the Seventh Round of China-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue and Sixth Round of China-U.S. High-Level Consultation on People-to-People** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “President Xi Jinping stressed that it is a priority in China’s foreign policy to jointly build a new model of major-country relationship with the U.S. and achieve non-conflict and non-confrontation, mutual trust and win-win cooperation. In the face of complex and ever-changing international situation, China and the U.S. should and could cooperate in broad areas. We should seize the correct direction of the bilateral relations. As long as China and the U.S. keep the general goal in sight, respect and consider the core interests and major concerns of each other, stick to constructive ways and avoid strategic misunderstandings and miscalculation, can divergences be managed and controlled and common interests be safeguarded. Both teams should make persistent efforts to give better play to mechanisms such as the S&ED and CPE and promote China-U.S. mutual trust and cooperation to make sure that the China-U.S. relations constantly benefit the two peoples and others in the world.”

- **June 24, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Commentary: Focus on Common Interests Conducive to Better China-U.S. Ties** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The U.S. side first has to stop unwarranted accusations against China. In the long run, China and the United States should work jointly to establish norms and enforcement mechanisms to guide their use of cyber space, so that both sides can better navigate the still uncharted domain. [...] The United States, which is not a claimant to the South China Sea disputes, should stop its lopsided approach of exerting pressure on China while pampering other claimants like Vietnam and the Philippines [...] It is hoped that Washington is on the same page with Beijing in building a new type of relationship between major countries which features win-win cooperation and mutual respect, instead of confrontation and zero-sum games.”

- **June 25, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Could China and U.S. Afford a Break-up?** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The China-U.S. relationship has no other choice but to cement cooperation and explore establishing a new type of major power relations in the 21st century against what are certain to be bumps in the road. With the ramifications mounting if there were to be a serious mistake in the Sino-U.S. relationship, the possibility of making such a blunder is diminishing. Nowadays, China and the U.S. still have to sit down and communicate frankly. This will become a critical point in history.”



- **June 25, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Dialogue Crucial for Stabilizing Sino-U.S. Relationship** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “With China as the largest developing country and the U.S. as the largest developed country, Sino-U.S. cooperation brings benefits to the world, while Sino-U.S. confrontation would lead to global disaster.”

- **June 26, 2015 – *China Daily*: Hand-in-hand After Face-to-face Talks** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “But the just concluded China-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue reassuringly showed the Sino-U.S. relationship, volatile as it has been, remains manageable, and the widely feared clash is not inescapable, as long as they share a political will to keep it at bay.”

- **June 29, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Pushing Sino-U.S. Relations Steadily Forward** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “After the seventh round of the S&ED and the sixth round of CPE, Sino-U.S. relations have taken a significant step forward. Future dialogue can be more constructive, frank, and pragmatic, and conducted in an atmosphere of greater mutual respect and greater peace of mind. China has become a more proactive participant as a builder of and contributor to the international system.”



Issue 2 – Economic Relations: Both the U.S. and China Welcome Investment in Infrastructure in Asia Despite Differing Opinions on the AIIB and Both Countries Push Forward Their Respective Free-trade Agreements

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 2, 2015 – USTR Releases Report Detailing Tariff Barriers that Will be Addressed in TPP (Office of the U.S. Trade Representative) Quote: “American manufactured goods face tariffs of up to 100% on certain goods in TPP markets, and American agriculture exports face tariffs over 700% on some products. TPP is a unique opportunity to level the playing field for Americans by eliminating tariffs and gaining significant access to new markets for our workers, businesses, farmers and ranchers. Through this agreement the Obama Administration is also fighting to level the playing field by raising labor and environmental standards in the Asia-Pacific.” ● June 2, 2015 – Remarks by the President in Town Hall with YSEALI Initiative Fellows (White House, Speeches and Remarks) Quote: “I think there is still under-investment of infrastructure in that region. I know there was some controversy a while back because China wanted to start an Asia infrastructure bank; we haven’t yet signed on to participate. I want to be very clear – we actually want China to invest in infrastructure in that region. We want to make sure that the investments are actually good for the people in those countries, which means transparency in terms of how decisions are made at this new bank. But we’ll continue with the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank and other institutions, and try to encourage not only investment in human capital, but also the infrastructure that’s needed.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 2, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce) Quote: “China-Korea FTA is the booster of the economic integration of the Asian-Pacific area. China and Korea are important economic entities of the Asian-Pacific area, whose economic aggregation accounts for 25% of the total APEC members, among which trade in goods accounts for 29% of the whole trade. The establishment of a high-level FTA of the two countries is of great indicator significant with regard to promoting the economic integration of Asian-Pacific area. [...] On the basis of the general balance of the interests, the two countries made the system arrangement of further strengthening cooperation and regulation integration, which will exert an extensive demonstration effects on the regulation integration of the Asian-Pacific area. Foreign and domestic critics said that as an important FTA in North and East Asian area, China-Korea FTA symbolizes that the FTA construction of Asian-Pacific area has made an important step, which will play a strong impelling role in promoting China-Korea FTA, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and even the Asian-Pacific FTA, and will also play a deep and active role in promoting the construction of ‘One Belt and One Road’ and the economic integration of the Euraisa continent.” ● June 18, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce) Quote: “The China-Australia FTA is the first free trade agreement China signed with a major developed economy of considerable size. It is also one of the free trade agreements with the highest degree of trade and investment liberalization that China has signed so far with other economies. These two are the most prominent features of the FTA.”



- **June 8, 2015 – Op-Ed by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry: Congress Needs To Help American Trade Grow** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Beyond these economic merits, TPP is an indispensable tool for one of the most important projects of our time. Since World War II, U.S. leadership of the global trading system has helped usher in an era of peace and prosperity unparalleled in history. It has brought jobs to our shores, partners to our defense and peace and prosperity to those around the world who have embraced openness, fairness and freedom [...] First, TPP would deepen our alliances and partnerships abroad and underscore our lasting commitment to the Asia-Pacific. In meeting after meeting across the region, we hear calls about the importance of TPP and the desire for more U.S. engagement. Like the rest of President Obama's rebalance to the Asia-Pacific, finalizing TPP would reaffirm that America will be a leader in the region for decades to come. Second, TPP would help us promote a global order that reflects our interests and our values. The success of our efforts cannot be captured in economic terms alone. While helping to increase global growth, we've also provided a framework that bolsters cooperation, accountability and greater respect for human dignity. TPP would improve on this tradition by setting the highest standards of any trade agreement in U.S. history. TPP would create the mechanism to establish and enforce strict labor and environmental standards. For the first time in any trade agreement, TPP would address state-owned enterprises and ensure that the Internet remains open and free. These efforts are as critical for leveling the playing field for American workers and businesses as they are for promoting a democratic and stable international economic order. Third, TPP would contribute to global growth and stability by promoting inclusive development. One of the greatest bulwarks against the spread of violent extremism is to replace poverty with opportunity, and TPP would create economic growth and unlock opportunities for workers and businesses across the region. We have the chance not only to spur growth, but also to ensure that growth is more inclusive and sustainable.”

- **June 15, 2015 – Remarks at the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council Annual Gala** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “This partnership (TPP) is not, in any way, an attempt to isolate China or to keep it down. This is not a zero-sum game. We welcome China's peaceful rise. The more trade, the more investment we see in developing nations – especially in infrastructure – the better off we all are. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's efforts can be complementary to our own, and we'll look for opportunities for collaboration while continuing to champion high standards for multilateral financing.”

- **June 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The purpose of the AIIB is to help developing economies in the region to overcome some practical difficulties they are faced with and lead the region to achieve common development and prosperity. We believe, when dealing with the practical problems confronting the regional countries, the right attitude is to put our heads together to find solutions instead of finding fault with efforts to solve those problems. Many countries in Asia are developing countries, having both immense demand for infrastructure and major financing bottleneck and gap in infrastructure investment. It is good to provide them with more platforms for investment and financing and more financing options for common development. [...] 57 countries within and beyond the region, including China, stand ready to discuss how to find a good way to promote regional development. [...] But if some countries, who themselves are not willing to join, keep carping about others' efforts to solve problems, then that is not quite desirable.”

- **June 25, 2015 – *People's Daily*: Commentary: Dialogue Ushers in New Beginning of China-U.S. Economic Ties** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “Opening China's domestic sectors to foreign investment is in the interest of China itself and China will do this in a careful and steady manner. The U.S. side should also be more open-minded in allowing Chinese investment in key sectors such as telecommunications, energy and banking. The national security reasons should not be abused to fend off Chinese investors [...] The conclusion of the seventh round of the dialogue is a new beginning. With Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming visit to the United States, the China-U.S. economic ties are expected to enter a new phase and the two people will benefit more.”



- **June 18, 2015 – Remarks by Daniel R. Russel Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue ([State Department](#))**

Quote: “First, let me say that the United States has not only welcomed, but has assisted China’s entry into the organizations that write the rules for world trade. The U.S. assisted China in its entry to the WTO. The United States welcomed and supported China in the G20. The United States works very closely with China in APEC. And because China’s such a huge trading nation and trading partner for the United States, of course on a bilateral basis, we work together very closely. And there’s no doubt that both countries and the world benefit from cooperation between the U.S. and China on trade and on economics more broadly.”

- **June 25, 2015 – Passage of Trade Promotion Authority ([State Department](#))**

Quote: “This bipartisan action grants President Obama the authority to negotiate trade deals that will simultaneously ensure our national security and guarantee our prosperity. It also provides a concrete framework that will enable our country to complete one of the most significant trade agreements in our history, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and encourage progress on a similar deal with Europe.”

- **June 29, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner ([State Department](#))**

Quote: “Q: I had a couple questions about the AIIB opening ceremony that took place.

A: I would say it’s a positive sign for China to look to play an expanded role in providing that kind of infrastructure investment. And then just I would add that we want to see the AIIB be an organization that employs the kind of high standards and governance reflecting the way international financial organizations like the World Bank and the IMF have operated over the past 70 years.

Q: According to reports, the Government of Philippines declined to sign that document, I guess over disagreements they had with China over land reclamation in the South China Sea. Is that something that you consulted with the Philippines Government over?

A: I’m not aware that we raised that particular issue with them, no.”

- **June 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

Quote: “He pointed out that China’s proposal of setting up the AIIB means to advance the infrastructure building and connectivity in Asia, deepen regional cooperation, and realize common development. This proposal is well responded by countries inside and outside the region. The signing of the Agreement demonstrates the practical efforts by all parties to seek common development through unity and cooperation in the principle of openness and inclusiveness. As long as all parties carry on with the spirit of multilateral cooperation, we are sure to build the AIIB into a new platform featuring openness, inclusiveness and win-win results and make positive contribution to the infrastructure building in Asia. During the meeting with President Xi Jinping, representatives from Switzerland, New Zealand and the ROK all said that China’s proposal of establishing the AIIB is timely and significant. The AIIB, together with the Belt and Road initiatives, will substantially alleviate the bottleneck and the funding restrictions on this region’s infrastructure building, strengthen trade connections and connectivity among regional countries, deliver special assistance to countries that are poor in infrastructure, and promote Asia’s development.”

- **June 30, 2015 – *China Daily*: Inclusiveness of AIIB Lays Ground for Common Growth ([China Daily](#))**

Quote: “Having observed the need in Asia for infrastructure development and that the existing international lenders have been unable to meet the huge demand for funds, China is using its experience in infrastructure development and the foreign reserves it has accumulated over the years to initiate the multilateral organization so as to produce win-win outcomes for all the parties involved.”



Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: The U.S. Hopes to Cooperate with China on Cyber Attacks; China Responds to U.S. Hacking Allegations and Seeks Military Cooperation

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 2, 2015 – Statement by the State Department's Bureau of Counterterrorism: Budget, Program, and Policies (State Department) Quote: "The Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) is working to promote cooperation, strengthen partnerships, and build civilian capacity around the world to address the full spectrum of terrorist threats – both those threats that exist today and those that may emerge tomorrow. We are requesting additional resources in Fiscal Year 2016 to expand and broaden our partnership efforts. As the U.S. military expands its efforts with foreign militaries, it is equally critical that we strengthen the capacity of civilian security agencies to ensure effective, whole-of-government approaches to terrorism challenges. It is also critical that we expand our partnerships with non-governmental actors who can help counter violent extremist recruitment and messaging in key regions around the world. Lastly, with governments and non-governmental actors alike, we must do more to address the drivers that fuel the spread of violent extremism." ● June 16, 2015 – Remarks by U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Michele J. Sison at a UN Security Council Open Briefing by Subsidiary Bodies (Mission to the United Nations) Quote: "Since the last Council briefing on this topic, the United States has continued to strengthen its efforts to combat proliferation. Notably, the United States has moved toward ratification of four important international nonproliferation instruments: the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and two Protocols to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, SUA. We urge all member states to cooperate with the 1540 Committee in supporting the Review. The United States remains unwavering in its support for the NPT and for achieving the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons. The lack of a consensus final document at the Review Conference does not change that central fact or the role the Treaty will continue to play in promoting global security." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "Cyber attacks are usually conducted anonymously and across borders, making it hard to trace back. It is not responsible nor scientific to always use terms such as "likely" or "suspected" instead of conducting thorough investigations. It is the consistent position of China to firmly combat all forms of cyber attacks. China itself is a victim of cyber attacks. We are ready to carry out international cooperation on this issue and build a cyber space that is peaceful, secure, open and cooperative. We hope that the U.S. side would discard suspicions, refrain from making groundless accusations, and show more trust and conduct more cooperation in this area." ● June 6, 2015 – People's Daily: Commentary: U.S. Wronging of China for Cyber Breaches Harm Mutual Trust (People's Daily) Quote: "After the breach was defined as a national security matter, the U.S. investigators have been probing China as a "possible culprit" [...] Such moves undermine mutual trust and respect between the two countries, a cornerstone of building a new model of major-country relationship, a consensus reached between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama in June 2013." ● June 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "China has made positive efforts and significant contributions in arms control and nonproliferation for many years, and the U.S. has repeatedly offered approval to this through bilateral channels at various levels in the past year. Nevertheless, the U.S. once again harped on the same old tune of making presumptuous comments on China's compliance with its commitments in this year's Report issued by the State Department. The Chinese side is confused and astonished by this, and also dissatisfied with this. The U.S. Report made baseless and irresponsible accusations against China, we hereby express opposition to this. What the U.S. did will not help advance international cooperation on arms control and nonproliferation based on equality, mutual trust and respect."



- **June 18, 2015 – Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Cyberspace is one of the important dimensions in which the U.S. and China interact, and in which the U.S. and China must cooperate. We are the two biggest consumers of the internet. Our businesses, our organizations, and our people are vulnerable. The President said yesterday that the intrusions and attacks against us all aren’t going to stop. If anything, they’re likely to accelerate. And that requires that we significantly enhance our capacity to safeguard the information and the interests and the ability of our citizens to utilize cyberspace. Many, many major IT companies – U.S. companies in the main – operate extensively in China. And so protecting cyberspace, protecting internet and communications technology, protecting the integrity of the cyber system is critically important not only to U.S. businesses, but to the Chinese economy. So we each have an important interest. That means that there is a need for dialogue. It means that there is a need for real transparency between us. And it means that there’s a need for cooperation. So we’re both vulnerable. This is an issue that will be discussed, I’m confident, in both the strategic track and the economic track of the S&ED. It will also be discussed, without a doubt, in the SSD. The Strategic Security Dialogue really is germane to building a relationship of trust between the U.S. and China.”

- **June 22, 2015 – Remarks on China Aerospace Studies Institute by Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “It [China]’s a rising power and a growing economy and impressive weight in military technical capabilities. And it’s going to present a more significant and perhaps enduring strategic challenge to our nation over the next 25 years, if not beyond, and one the DOD has to be particularly focused on. This does not mean to suggest I think that we are doomed to have an overtly hostile relationship. Indeed, our future relationship, the way we see it, will have elements of cooperation and competition and not open hostility. Accordingly, DOD continues to pursue military-to-military cooperation, confidence-building measures with China. In order to increase transparency on both of our sides, expand our dialog on a wide variety of security issues, to improve crisis stability, and reduce the risk of military miscalculation in the Western Pacific. But at the same time, DOD cannot overlook the competitive aspects of our relationship, especially in the realm of military capabilities: an area which China continues to improve at a very impressive rate. We must also be aware of historic precedents. A Harvard study has shown that in 15 cases where a rising power interacts with the established power, 10 have ended in war. Now, China itself is very keenly aware of this historical dynamic. In its new military strategy, it states “international competition for the redistribution of power, rights, and interests is tending to intensify.”

- **June 15, 2015 – *China Daily*: Maturing Military Ties with U.S. Help Build Trust** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “(General) Fan suggested the two sides should seek to ensure the success of the upcoming summit between the two heads of state by striving to complete the consultations on signing the Code of Safe Conduct on Naval and Air Encounters by August and actively pushing forward the construction of the mechanism on mutual reporting on major exercises.”

- **June 23, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China has stated its position on the cyber security issue many times. The cyber security issue is a challenge facing the whole international community, calling for effective cooperation of the international community on the basis of mutual respect. There had been a sound dialogue mechanism between China and the U.S. concerning the cyber security issue, until it was suspended due to a well-known reason which was not caused by China. The resumption of this dialogue requires the U.S. side to properly handle the relevant issues and create conditions for the dialogue.”

- **June 24, 2015 – *China Daily*: Parade to Celebrate V-day Against Invasion** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “And while a strong military force can be a war machine for warmongers, it can also be a deterrent against military aggression. In this sense, this coming military parade is also meant to demonstrate to the world China’s resolve to defend itself not just against a military threat but also uphold world peace. The worldwide peacekeeping missions China’s military forces have participated in are evidence of the contribution it is making to maintain world peace.”

- **June 25, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “At the invitation of the U.S. side, a PLA Navy task group took part in the Rim of the Pacific 2014 Exercise held in Hawaii. Taking part in this exercise is conducive to strengthening professional exchanges and practical cooperation among navies of different countries. Currently, the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and the two militaries is to further strengthen military-to-military exchanges and cooperation. We are willing to promote interactions with the U.S. side in the Asia-Pacific region and enhance the capability of meeting challenges together.”



- **June 22, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby (State Department)**

Quote: “Q: So the senior State Department official says on the OPM hack there will – the issue will be addressed directly to Chinese during the S&ED dialogue. Does that – doesn’t that mean U.S. Government thinks that’s what the China did on this–

A: There’s been no allegation levied against any actor, state or non-state, with respect to that particular breach. It remains under investigation by the FBI.”

- **June 22, 2015 – Background Briefing on the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (State Department)**

Quote: “So the issue of cyber security – I mean, it’s certainly featured prominently, actually, in the agenda for the Strategic Security Dialogue which is going on, actually, right now in – at the State Department upstairs. It’s been a topic on the agenda for the Strategic Security Dialogue for the last, I think, six years. So it’s not a new issue. Of course, some of the revelations are fairly recent, and those will certainly be talked about in very direct terms, both at the Strategic Security Dialogue, but also in all of the other sort of tracks where we have a chance to raise these issues, both in the strategic track of the S&ED but also in the economic track.”

- **June 23, 2015 – Speech at GEOINT Symposium 2015 by Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work (Department of Defense)**

Quote: “Indeed, we see our future relationship with China as having elements of both cooperation and competition, and not open hostility. Accordingly, we continue to pursue military-to-military cooperation, as well as confident-building measures with China in order to increase transparency, expand our dialogue on a variety of security issues, improve crisis stability and reduce the risk of military miscalculation. But at the same time, I think everyone in this audience recognizes that DOD must not overlook the competitive aspects of our relationship, especially in the realm of military capabilities— an area which China continues to improve at an impressive rate.

- **June 25, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of National Defense)**

Quote: “Q: On June 18, the U.S. Senate passed the Defense Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2016, which includes an additional item of inviting Taiwan to take part in military exercises. May I know your response and your comment on that?”

A: We are firmly opposed to any country’s developing military ties with Taiwan in any form, and this position is consistent and clear. We urge the U.S. to observe the three China-U.S. joint communiqués, take a prudent attitude in dealing with the Taiwan issue and take concrete actions in maintaining the overall interests of China-U.S. state-to-state and military-to-military relations.”

- **June 25, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of National Defense)**

Quote: “Under the context of building a new type of China-U.S. military-to-military relationship, exchanges and cooperation between the two armies have been developing with a good momentum. Not long ago, during Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission General Fan Changlong’s visit to the U.S., an Army-to-Army Dialogue Mechanism Framework Document was signed. It was the first cooperation agreement signed between the two armies. It is of great significance for pushing forward army-to-army cooperation between the two countries. According to the agreement, the two armies will carry out cooperation in such fields as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, United Nations’ peacekeeping missions, officers’ education and training, military medicine, military engineering and so on. In the next step, both sides will continue to enrich and expand army-to-army cooperation by utilizing the institutionalized channels.”

- **June 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Q: The Director of U.S. National Intelligence Clapper said yesterday that China was the leading suspect in a massive hack that targeted Washington government files. Is there any reaction from China?”

A: We have noted that although the investigation is still under way, China has been named as the suspect based on subjective suspicion. This is absurd, because as far as I know, the U.S. exercises presumption of innocence instead of presumption of guilt.”



- **June 25, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby (State Department)**

Quote: “Q: Yesterday, Secretary Kerry said at the close of the Strategic Dialogue that the U.S. and China had agreed on a need to work towards a code of conduct for cyber issues. I’m wondering if you could tell us a little more about that and whether in their conversations they agreed on some sort of mechanism on how to move that forward, if there’s a where and a when.

A: Yes, it was this idea of pursuing norms of behavior, as the Secretary put it, a code of conduct, inside the cyber realm – was discussed. But it was discussed in the context of this is a – this is something we need to start having serious discussions about and something worth addressing and considering, and I don’t think it got much beyond that.”



Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: The U.S. Urges China to Adhere to International Norms on Human Rights; China Responds in Kind to Criticism from the U.S.

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 3, 2015 – On the 26th Anniversary of Tiananmen Square (State Department) Quote: “While China has achieved social and economic progress since 1989, we remain concerned that human rights abuses continue. We are closely monitoring developments with respect to pending legislation in China relating to national security, counterterrorism, and the regulation of NGOs that appears to call into question China’s commitment to increased openness and could, if enacted in current form, result in rights abuses. On this twenty-sixth anniversary, the United States urges the Chinese government to uphold its international commitments to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to end the harassment, detention, and other mistreatment of individuals who peacefully seek justice and fairness, to practice their religion, or to express their views.” ● June 11, 2015 – Remarks at the FHI Gender 360 Summit (State Department) Quote: “So 2015 is a historic opportunity for the world to come together and define a common vision for the world we want to see in the year 2030—a world where political systems and economies are far more inclusive, a world where we are stemming the impacts of climate change and have healthier oceans and forests, and a world where well-governed, peaceful societies are the norm. But to realize any of these goals, gender equality must be at the core of the development agenda. To realize any of these goals, the world needs to come together and declare 2015 as our next Beijing moment—the year that we move the conversation forward in the same powerful way that the UN conference did back in 1995.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 2, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: U.S. Should Improve its Own Human Rights Record before Finger-pointing (People’s Daily) Quote: “The death of Michael Brown whose killing sparked the Ferguson unrest and a series of UN reports revealing myriad U.S. human rights violations are all stark reminders for the United States that there are a lot of human rights violations on its own soil [...] While the freedom and rights of its own citizens are being increasingly jeopardized, the United States needs to reflect on its own human rights situation before attacking others on this issue.” ● June 11, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: More People Share the 'Dividend' of Reform and Development (People’s Daily) Quote: “For decades the United States and other Western countries have tried to politicize human rights and engage in human rights diplomacy, often being overcritical towards other countries including China. China advocates international human rights exchanges and cooperation on the basis of mutual respect, and promoting the healthy development of international human rights. China’s tremendous achievements in human rights are the most powerful response to those Western countries or NGOs who criticize China’s human rights.” ● June 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: Fugitive corrupt Chinese official Yang Xiuzhu applied for political asylum in the U.S. in a New York court this week. How will the Chinese government communicate with and persuade the U.S. government to extradite Yang Xiuzhu to China? A: Corrupt suspect Yang Xiuzhu who fled overseas has been caught in the U.S. The U.S. side should repatriate Yang Xiuzhu, who is suspected of corruption in China, so that she can be subject to the legal punishment. China and the U.S. have conducted good cooperation on many cases through the China-U.S. Joint Liaison Group on Law Enforcement Cooperation. The two sides will deepen cooperation on judicature and law enforcement, and work in concert to combat cross-border crimes. Corruption is a cancer of the human society. There is no “safe haven” for the corrupt in the world. No matter how long and how far the corrupt have fled, the Chinese government will bring them back to justice and hold them accountable.”



- **June 15, 2015 – Remarks Delivered at the "Lockdown in Tibet" Event (State Department)**

Quote: "We believe that the Tibetan people, like people all around the world, should be able to enjoy their fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The State Department's country reports on human rights noted that China "engaged in the severe repression of Tibet's religious, cultural, and linguistic heritage by, among other means, strictly curtailing the civil rights of China's ethnic Tibetan population, including the freedoms of speech, religion, association, assembly, and movement." So there is no more fitting place to discuss the barriers and challenges that Tibetans face than here in Geneva on the margins of the Human Rights Council. The problem of Tibet is, of course, also a problem for China. For the United States, just as for many countries represented here today, China is a vital strategic partner, and we welcome its participation and leadership in the web of international norms, laws and practices that have helped preserve global stability since the end of World War II. As we look at the past 70 years, one of the key long term lessons is the cost and fragility of the repressive state. Thus, as we look for China to play a growing role in the international community, we also look for it to abide by its international commitments with respect to the human rights of people in Tibet."

- **June 18, 2015 – Remarks by Daniel R. Russel Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (State Department)**

Quote: "It [the dialogue] also allows us to discuss our concerns about human rights in China, and that's a topic that is a feature of all of our engagement and every high-level dialogue that we have [...] So when it comes to human rights, I have no doubt that the issue of the constriction of space for civil society to operate in China; the obstructions that you, journalists, face operating in China; the very problematic NGO law, the draft law that has elicited so much concern and opposition – I have no doubt that these are among the issues that can and will be taken up over the course of the Strategic & Economic Dialogue and the CPE."

- **June 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "Q: The U.S. State Department released its Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014. In the section relating to Hong Kong, it mentioned that protestors were beaten up by the police and that the suffrage of Hong Kong citizens was restricted. The report once again criticized China's human rights condition. What's your comment on that?"

A: The U.S. releases such kind of report year in and year out. Many of the contents are not in line with the real conditions. During relevant incidents in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong police took actions according to law, on which the central government and the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region have reached a fair conclusion. The U.S. side has also spoken positively on this during its contact with the Chinese side. I wonder on what basis the report was compiled. As to the voting on the universal suffrage bill by the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, the U.S. has also made its stance clear in public. The views in the report are inconsistent with the positions the U.S. has taken. The Chinese people are in the best position to tell how the human rights condition is in China. The China section in this report is absurd as it is a mere repetition of subjective prejudice in disregard of the facts. We have already told the U.S. side that we stand ready to conduct candid and constructive dialogues on the human rights issue with other countries in the spirit of mutual respect and equality. It is futile for any country to apply double standards and attempt to interfere in China's internal affairs under the pretext of human rights. We suggest the U.S. take good care of its domestic affairs first and stop lecturing other countries on human rights."



- **June 25, 2015 – Remarks by Tom Malinowski Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the Briefing on the 2014 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “A: In China, while the government cracked down on corruption, it also convicted civil society activists associated with the New Citizens Movement in retribution for their public campaign to expose official corruption, including Xu Zhiyong and Yang Maodong. China has now introduced draft laws on foreign NGOs, national security, and counterterrorism which appear to call into question its commitment to the path of opening to the world that has supported its transformation over the past three decades. We expressed our very serious concerns about these draft laws at the Strategic & Economic Dialogue this week and we will continue to do so.

Q: When you raise the kinds of concerns that you just mentioned to us to Chinese officials, [...] do you feel they’re being receptive at all to it, or do you [...] feel like [...] you’re repeating the same thing over and over again and it’s just falling on deaf ears?

A: We’ll see. In my diplomatic career, I don’t think I’ve ever had a meeting in which people on the other side respond to a brilliant point that I’ve made by saying, “You know? You’re right, and we’re wrong, and we’ll change what we’re doing.” I think that the Chinese side received a very, very strong and unified message at the S&ED not just from me or the Secretary of State but from people from every agency on the dangers of this NGO law. And the reason why it was a unified message was that this affects everybody who does business in China. It potentially affects foundations. It potentially affects businesses. Potentially affects cultural exchange, student and educational exchange, in addition to people who are working on issues like rule of law and human rights. And whatever China does, I think it is going to find that moving in this direction will result in a very concerted and unified push from quarters that it doesn’t necessarily – that it isn’t necessarily used to hearing from. And so we will see what happens. We’re very concerned about the implications of it and about the rhetoric of fear of cultural infiltration that the Chinese Government is using to justify this law domestically and what that says about China’s future development.”



Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: The U.S. and China Work Together on Environmental Issues during the S&ED

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 18, 2015 – Remarks by Daniel R. Russel Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (State Department) Quote: “Last year’s dialogue, just as an example, was instrumental in teeing up progress on the climate deal that President Obama and President Xi were able to announce in November. This year promises further cooperation on climate. We’re still the two largest emitters in the world. We’re trying to position ourselves and lead, frankly, the international community into the Paris conference where we seek to make real progress in December.” ● June 23, 2015 – U.S.-China Strategic & Economic Dialogue / Act on Climate: Celebration of Energy and Environment Cooperation Panel (State Department) Quote: “So today it is significant that we have a list of initiatives on which we are cooperating as a result of the announcement made by President Xi and President Obama. We have a major initiative we’re going to engage in here, which is a zero bus emissions effort, to reduce the static emissions that are constantly coming out of our ports and harbors and ships that are sitting there. There are many ways to reduce emissions. We’re looking at heavy duty and other vehicles as part of the working group. We’re looking at smart grids. We’re working on carbon capture utilization and storage. We’re looking at energy efficiency in buildings and industry. We are collecting and managing greenhouse gas emissions data so that we’re all operating off of good input. We are looking at climate change and forests and that interrelationship and steps we can take together. We’re looking at low-carbon cities, boiler efficiency, fuel switching, and we’re also working on the issue of HFCs, hydrofluorocarbons, and an enhanced policy dialogue.” ● June 24, 2015 – United States and China Strengthen Climate Change Cooperation (State Department) Quote: “Additionally, the United States and China demonstrated progress by announcing over 50 outcomes reflecting concrete cooperation on climate change and clean energy, a number of them developed through the U.S.-China Climate Change Working Group (CCWG). The CCWG was launched by Secretary Kerry and State Councilor Yang in 2013, and it is the premier mechanism for U.S.-China cooperation and dialogue on climate change.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 11, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: China’s Unique Way to Build Ecological Civilization (People’s Daily) Quote: “At the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), in 2007 it was officially proposed that China should build an “ecological civilization,” creating more sustainable relations between production, consumption, distribution, and economic growth. At the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, “ecological civilization construction” was written into the CPC Constitution [...] There is no doubt that Chinese leadership has made significant steps toward a more sustainable development. Due to the large role of planning China has been able make rapid changes in a number of areas, going at times against the logic of economic growth.” ● June 22, 2015 – <i>Xinhua</i>: China-U.S. Cooperation on Climate Change “Very Successful”: Official (Xinhua) Quote: “Xie noted that the Chinese government has attached great importance to the issue of climate change. For example, if China is to achieve its target of capping greenhouse gas emissions around 2030, it’s estimated a total investment of 41 trillion renminbi yuan (about 6.72 trillion U.S. dollars) is needed to improve energy efficiency and develop renewable energy.”



- **June 24, 2015 – United States and China Highlight Cooperation on Combating Wildlife Trafficking at the 7th U.S.-China Strategic & Economic Dialogue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States and China pledged to increase cooperation and intensify collaboration to address the global challenge of wildlife trafficking. Specifically, the United States and China agreed to take steps to further restrict imports and domestic trade in elephant ivory and, for the first time, tackled marine species, agreeing to collaborate in stemming the illegal trade in totoaba and sea turtles, share public education best practices, and work jointly on enforcement

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- **June 24, 2015 – The United States and China: Protecting and Conserving the Ocean** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Today, the United States and China decided to: Combat marine litter through stronger waste management and public awareness practices in China and the United States, join international commitments to prevent and reduce marine debris (i.e., through APEC), and develop sister city and third country cooperation arrangements to reduce the impact and sources of marine debris around the world. [...] Combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by implementing port state measures as well as recognizing the Port State Measures Agreement as a step forward to stem IUU fishing by foreign vessels; increase domestic and international law enforcement by our coast guards and other enforcement authorities; and address the trafficking of at-risk species like totoaba and sea turtles. Expand cooperation among both countries’ coast guards and maritime enforcement authorities by beginning discussions on having Chinese officers embark on U.S. Coast Guard ships to enforce international laws related to IUU fishing in the North Pacific, committing to professionalized behavior at sea in accordance with international law, and conducting vessel visits and senior-level exchanges over the next year. Strengthen U.S.-China cooperation to support international work on ocean conservation (e.g. Our Ocean conference and APEC), develop a “Green Ports” initiative to reduce marine pollution, more accurately observe changes to the ocean and climate, jointly conduct ocean acidification monitoring in the Arctic and other ocean areas, establish a transparent and effective South China Sea Tsunami Warning Center, improve bilateral marine scientific collaboration, establish a formal bilateral fisheries dialogue, and improve maritime safety, navigation, and crisis response.”



Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: The U.S. Remains Steadfast with its Rebalancing Policy and Continues to Confirm Alliances; China Continues to be Wary of the Direction of Japan and Speaks of Cooperation in the Region

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 3, 2015 – U.S. Refugee and Migration Policy and Programs in Southeast Asia (State Department) Quote: “The U.S. looks forward to continuing to consult with governments in the region regarding their needs and I’ll be meeting with Indonesian government officials later today. And we want to find the best ways we can support them in providing humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable migrants.” ● June 11, 2015 – Retreat or Revival - A Status Report on Democracy in Asia (State Department) Quote: “The U.S. government’s “rebalance” to the Asia-Pacific recognizes that our future prosperity and security are inextricably tied to the region. Over the past three decades, the region has experienced an unprecedented period of prosperity, propelling hundreds of millions out of extreme poverty. A growing middle class has expanded trade opportunities and driven reciprocal growth in countries around the world, including the United States.” ● June 12, 2015 – Missile Defense, Extended Deterrence, and the Future of America’s Alliances (State Department) Quote: “In the Asia-Pacific, we are continuing missile defense cooperation through our bilateral alliances and key partnerships. For example, the United States and Japan are working closely together to develop the SM-3 Block IIA interceptor, which will make a key contribution to the EPAA as well as ship-based deployments in the Asia-Pacific and elsewhere around the world. We also recently deployed a second AN/TPY-2 radar to Japan, which will enhance the defense of both the United States and Japan. We engage with Japan on missile defenses issues quite regularly, including at our bilateral Extended Deterrence Dialogues. And finally, we are continuing to work on enhancing interoperability between U.S. and Japanese forces, which will be aided by the recent changes to the updated U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation Guidelines. The inclusion of missile defense in these guidelines reflects the valuable contribution of BMD to our collective self-defense.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 9, 2015 – Xinhua: News analysis: Abe Turning Up Heat on Cold War Maneuvers Threatens Stability in East Asia Region (Xinhua) Quote: “Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s latest multi-pronged push to recast the nation’s military and assert more of its control in East Asia has been a protracted and strategic one, but should the hawkish leader’s plans come to fruition and see his “brains” turn to brawn, the prospects for the region will darken severely if not become cataclysmic.” ● June 12, 2015 – China Daily: Suu Kyi’s Visit Boosts Bonds of Neighbors (China Daily) Quote: “Suu Kyi’s visit has helped establish more channels of communication for the two countries to cement mutual trust, and as she said, “will promote further development of friendly relations between the two peoples, parties and countries.” ● June 12, 2015 – Toward Win-win Cooperation Through Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit and Inclusiveness (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China has established partnerships with most countries in the region and played a positive role in Afghan peace and reconstruction, joint counterterrorism and other regional affairs. “Neighbors become closer when they engage with each other more often.” China stands ready to strengthen political mutual trust and friendly exchanges with South Asian countries. We will support people of all countries in choosing development paths in keeping with their national conditions. We will promote mutual understanding and support on issues concerning each other’s core interests, enhance coordination in international and regional affairs and jointly uphold the interests of developing countries.” ● June 15, 2015 – People’s Daily: Japan Needs to Shed Light on Their Dark Chapter (People’s Daily) Quote: “We hope that Prime Minister Abe will acknowledge Japan’s war time aggression by using examples of what really did happen [...] No country can run from their history. Japan cannot run from their World War II history. We see this as a historic moment not just for Japan but the rest of the world. Japan needs to open the door and shed light on their dark chapter by doing so I believe the world will in turn see them as the great nation they want to be.”



- **June 22, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Could I get your reaction to the dual statements issued by Prime Minister Abe and President Park on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of relations?”

A: Well, I mean, we certainly welcome the – their agreement to participate in those events [...] we more broadly welcome efforts to improve the bilateral relationship between Japan and Korea.

Q: Are you hopeful that this will lead to perhaps a more substantive dialogue directly between the two leaders? They didn’t actually address each other in these statements, obviously.

A: I think it’s an important step that they’re – that they’ve agreed to attend this commemoration together. That President Park is willing to go and do that, I think that’s not insignificant. And certainly, should that lead to better relations, better cooperation, better dialogue between the two, that’s always welcome, too. I wouldn’t be in a position to try to predict what attendance at this commemoration would do, but certainly, we look forward to that relationship getting broader and deeper.”

- **June 26, 2015 – Remarks by the Vice President to the Truman National Security Project and Center for National Policy** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “But we’re committing to building up the U.S.-China relationship where we can, but also to push back where we must, including on the freedom of navigation, and in the maritime domain. China, like all nations in Asia, benefits from the stability and prosperity the United States has helped maintain for over 60 years. And we’re going to continue to play that role in decades to come. [...] What happens in the Pacific affects us significantly. And we’ve made clear that the United States will remain a Pacific power. And a major part of managing the U.S.-China relationship rests on our ability to demonstrate staying power and leadership in the region.”

- **June 17, 2015 – *China Daily*: Abe in Need of Deed to Match His Words** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Yet Abe has insisted on going further along his wrongly chosen road and is seeking greater military status for Japan in the region and even beyond. With some of the changes already being reflected in the newly inked U.S.-Japan defense cooperation guidelines, the new security bills are just part of Abe’s ambitious strategy. However, Japanese people’s concern about the bills is clear proof that Abe’s revisionism and wild dreams have begun to backfire. If the Japanese leader still wants to be a responsible politician, he should heed the voices of those at home calling on him to change direction. The waning public support could cost him his credibility and even legitimacy.”

- **June 17, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Commentary: China-Australia FTA Conducive to Bilateral, Regional Cooperation** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Furthermore, the new agreement is a crucial step towards connecting other Asian partners with trade. As Chinese President Xi Jinping said, a closer China-Australia relationship not only benefits the two nations, but also the Asia-Pacific region. The signing of the China-Australia FTA is of significance in promoting the process of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP), as well as accelerating the economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region and achieving common prosperity.”

- **June 17, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Abe’s Disastrous New Security Bills** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “On June 14, 2015, about 25,000 protesters surrounded Japan’s Diet building, urging Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to step down and expressing strong opposition to his efforts to ram through new security bills, which were considered unconstitutional by legal experts of Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) [...] The Abe government has acted wilfully and pushed Japan into a dangerous situation. The Japanese people have every reason to oppose him in order to defend the country’s peaceful future. Every person of conscience in the world should support the Japanese people’s struggle for peace and justice.”



- **June 25, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “The sixth Xiangshan Forum jointly sponsored by the China Association for Military Science and the China Institute for International Strategic Studies will be held in Beijing from October 16th to 18th. The hosts will send invitations soon to defense and military leaders of Asia-Pacific countries and other relevant countries, to representatives of resident offices of some international organizations, to former government and military dignitaries, and to renowned academics. The theme of this year’s forum is “Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific: Reality and Prospect”. Delegates will exchange views on such issues as trends in Asia-Pacific security situation, Asian security concept, maritime security and counter-terrorism. The Chinese side hopes that this forum will be conducive for all participants to strengthening mutual trust, accumulating consensus, promoting regional security cooperation and jointly maintaining regional peace and stability.”

- **June 25, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “Conducting joint exercises under bilateral framework and under the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has become routine between China and Russia. Such kind of joint exercises will help both militaries to enhance their capacities in meeting new challenges and threats, and will also be conducive to safeguarding regional peace and stability. According to plan, the two navies will conduct two joint maritime exercises this year. The first joint maritime exercise has been completed. On the specific arrangement for the second maritime joint exercise, consultation is still going on between the two sides.”

- **June 25, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “The first question is about China-Japan maritime and air liaison mechanism. This is the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries as well as the leaders of the two defense departments. To establish such a mechanism is conducive to avoiding maritime and air accidents as a result of misjudgment and strengthening mutual trust in the field of defense and security. Due to reasons known to all, consultations on establishing this mechanism have been stalled for a period of time. Since China and Japan reached a four-point principled agreement on improving bilateral relations at the end of last year, relevant talks on establishing such a mechanism have resumed [...] Both sides discussed technical issues on establishing this mechanism and reached some consensus. Both sides agreed to accelerate the pace of establishing this mechanism.”



- **June 27, 2015 – China's Role in the Global and Regional Order: Participant, Facilitator and Contributor** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: "We will continue to safeguard contemporary international order and system. Seventy years ago, China was directly involved in designing and building the international order and system with the United Nations as the centerpiece. Naturally we wouldn't overturn what we had helped to build, nor would we want to start everything anew. We will join other countries in safeguarding and further developing the existing order and system [...] We will continue to promote peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific. China is committed to the path of peaceful development, a commitment that is of immediate relevance for the Asia-Pacific [...] We will continue to expand the good momentum of economic development in the Asia-Pacific [...] We will continue to advance regional cooperation and integration in the Asia-Pacific. Regional cooperation is a trend of the times. And our aim should be to achieve trade and investment liberalization on a global scale. We will promote coordinated progress in cooperation mechanisms, such as the APEC, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three, China-Japan-ROK Cooperation and East Asia Summit, in an effort to build an architecture of Asia-Pacific cooperation that is more open, inclusive, mutually beneficial and complementary."



Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: Both Countries Continue to Monitor the Situation in North Korea and Improve Cooperation with South Korea

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 2, 2015 – Remarks by Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications Marie Harf (State Department) Quote: “Q: On North Korea. North Korea announced yesterday that North Korea would not be – participate at the Six-Party table and any bilateral dialogue with the United States. Would you comment on that? A: Well, our position on a return to Six-Party Talks has not changed. We remain open to dialogue. We want to get back to credible and authentic negotiations, but the onus is on North Korea and remains on North Korea to take meaningful actions towards denuclearization, refrain from provocations. Obviously, we’ve seen them do the opposite recently. So our position is clear, and the onus is really on them. Q: But the last time trilateral talk with the nuclear envoys meeting in Seoul, and they had agreed of pressure and sanctions to North Korea, but the China and Russia is disagree on this [...] A: Well, I’m not sure that’s an accurate representation. We and our Six-Party partners are committed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The Secretary’s had conversations when we were in China recently with senior Chinese officials about the need to increase pressure on North Korea. He also had conversions with the Russians as well.” ● June 4, 2015 – Remarks by Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications Marie Harf (State Department) Quote: “To be clear, any satellite launch that uses ballistic missile technology would be a clear violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions that require North Korea to suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile program, re-establish a moratorium on missile launches, et cetera, et cetera – it goes on and covers quite a few things. Any rocket capable of placing an object in orbit is directly relevant to the development of long-range ballistic missiles, as many ballistic missile and space launch vehicle technologies are virtually identical and interchangeable. So we’ll be watching this. It could very likely contravene UN Security Council resolutions.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: The DPRK reportedly test-fired three missiles yesterday. What is China’s comment on the move taken by the DPRK? A: The situation on the Korean Peninsula is still rather complex and sensitive. We hope that all parties concerned could refrain from actions that may further strain and complicate the situation, meet each other halfway, and take more actions that will help ease the tension and facilitate the resumption of the Six-Party Talks.” ● June 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: The Chinese side has recently met with some of the other negotiators of the Six-Party Talks for discussions on resuming the Talks. Has China’s position on the resumption of the Talks changed? Does China believe it is possible to restart the Talks without first neutralizing the nuclear facilities in the DPRK? A: We have released information about the separate meetings of the Chinese side with nuclear negotiators from the U.S., Japan and the ROK. I have nothing more to add. China’s stance on the Korean nuclear issue remains unchanged. We stay committed to realizing denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, safeguarding peace and stability of the Peninsula and properly resolving relevant issues through political means such as dialogues and consultations of all parties.” ● June 25, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of National Defense) Quote: “For China and the Republic of Korea to establish a direct telephone link between the two defense ministries is conducive for both sides to strengthening mutual trust and avoiding misjudgment. Currently, a technical working group from the Chinese side is visiting the Republic of Korea and the two sides are carrying out consultations on technical issues of establishing the direct telephone link between the two defense ministries.”



- **June 12, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: North Korea has written to the UN Security Council and asked it to open an investigation into what it says are U.S. – targeting it with live anthrax. This clear – appears to have come from the Pentagon’s admission recently that some samples of live anthrax were mistakenly shipped to a variety of places, including bases in South Korea. One, are you aware –

A: We have seen the letter which was submitted by the DPRK to the United Nations. The allegations are ridiculous. They don’t merit a response, other than to say we have been clear, as has the Department of Defense, about the circumstances that led to this inadvertent shipment.”

- **June 12, 2015 – Missile Defense, Extended Deterrence, and the Future of America’s Alliances** ([State Department](#))

Quote: We also work closely with the Republic of Korea on missile defense issues. In 2013, we agreed to develop a comprehensive alliance counter-missile strategy to detect, defend, disrupt, and destroy North Korean WMD and missile threats. Another important component of our cooperation is the Deterrence Strategy Committee, which looks at not only U.S. extended deterrence efforts, but also areas—such as missile defense—where we can work together to deter North Korea and defend against attacks. In his visit to Seoul last month, Secretary Kerry affirmed that “The U.S.-Republic of Korea alliance has literally never been stronger...we are united firmly in our determination to stand up against any threats from the DPRK.”

- **June 17, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: [...]The North Korean state media is reporting that the country faces its worst drought in 100 years. I was wondering if you have any reaction or --

A: Seen the reports about the drought. I don’t have any specific information about the validity of the drought.

Q: Would the United States consider humanitarian assistance, like food aid, if the situation warranted?

A: I’m not aware of any such plans, no. ”



- **June 18, 2015 – Remarks by Daniel R. Russel Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: Well, the good news on North Korea is that there is a very close alignment between the U.S. and China, and obviously the ROK and Japan are very closely aligned with us – I think we could put Russia in the same category – on the goal. The goal is the verifiable and complete and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which means for all practical purposes the denuclearization of North Korea. All of us want to avoid a crisis, and all of us are firmly committed to fully implementing the UN Security Council resolutions that categorically prohibit North Korea from continuing down the track of developing ballistic missile technology and developing nuclear capabilities. That's the good news. So we're aligned on what the goal is. The bad news is that North Korea, which itself has committed clearly, directly, authoritatively under the 2005 joint statement to the complete denuclearization of the peninsula and has affirmed that that's the goal of the Six-Party Talks, is in continued defiance. Now, North Korea harbors the fantasy that it can have its cake and eat it too. North Korea is hoping to be able to rescue itself from the economic failure of its system through external aid while simultaneously and brazenly carrying forward on its nuclear and missile program. That's just not going to happen. However, North Korea has the option of tapping into the goodwill of the international community simply by honoring its own commitments, by coming into compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions, and by beginning credible, authentic negotiations on the nuclear issue. In the upcoming dialogue, we have opportunities both in the SSD and in the strategic track of the S&ED to talk through and think through together where things stand now with North Korea, as well as to ask ourselves how we can further adjust our posture to accelerate the realization on the part of North Korea's leadership that negotiations to end their nuclear program are the only path available to them that allows for economic growth."



- **June 25, 2015 – Remarks by Tom Malinowski, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, ([State Department](#))**

Quote: "Q: Concerning on the human rights situation in North Korea, what is the United States destination for the improvement of human rights in North Korea currently?"

A: Well, our destination still appears quite off – far off, that our destination is that the people of North Korea should enjoy the same rights and freedoms as the people of South Korea and the people of every country in the world who are able to speak their minds and elect their leaders and to travel where they want, and not to be, for goodness sakes, placed in labor camps because of something they've said or thought or because of who their relatives are. Now that, as I mentioned, destination seems very difficult to achieve, but I think it is very, very interesting that in the last several years we have seen inside North Korea far greater awareness among the population of what their rights are and of how people outside of North Korea live. What has sustained this regime over many, many years is – has been its ability to deny people that knowledge. And its ability to do that has eroded considerably in the last few years and we are doing everything we can to try to get knowledge and information to the people of North Korea so that this trend continues. I think one lesson we've learned from changes in many other countries is that change takes time, but when it comes it often surprises us and goes very quickly. And I think that day will come when we see that happen in North Korea.

Q: Do you feel that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un bring into ICC – International Criminal Court – in the near future?

A: I think that the leadership of North Korea is under more pressure on human rights today than it has been at any point in its history, and that is partly, frankly, because of the efforts of this Administration and our allies and partners in Japan and South Korea and all over the world to support this commission of inquiry and its recommendations and to bring this issue to greater public attention. And it is interesting how the North Koreans have responded. People used to think they didn't care what we think about their human rights record. That is clearly not true."



Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: The U.S. and China Continue Crisis Management and Negotiations with Iran

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>June 1, 2015 – Background Briefing on the June 2 Paris Counter-ISIL Coalition Small Group Ministerial (State Department)</p> <p>Quote: “The common objective is to defeat ISIL in all aspects of its organization, and really to asphyxiate it. That includes the military line of effort with a focus on activities in Iraq and Syria, and that’s important because Iraq and Syria is the heart of its perversely claimed caliphate, which is attracting foreign fighters from all around the world. The second line of effort is the foreign fighter networks, trying to cut down on the foreign fighter flows into the Syria and Iraq theater. The third line of effort is the financing, cutting down on ISIL’s attempts to finance itself and also to access global financial markets. The fourth line of effort is focusing on the humanitarian crisis, which has been generated by the fighting. And the fifth is countering ISIL in the messaging space. And the sixth is a new line of effort that we created a couple months ago focused on stabilization, and that is really (inaudible) cleared of ISIL, how do you flush resources into those areas, how do you take care of people, how do you bring services back. So that is the stabilization piece, which also brings an element of police with some coalition members really stepping up to help the Iraqis in policing.”</p> <p>June 5, 2015 – Statement on the Secretary General's Announcement of an External Independent Review of Allegations of Sexual Abuse in the Central African Republic (State Department)</p> <p>Quote: “Since horrific allegations came to light that international soldiers may have abused children in the Central African Republic, the United States has been calling for a full and impartial investigation into these disturbing reports as well as into the manner in which they were handled. We thus welcome the Secretary General’s recent announcement of the establishment of an External Independent Review to examine the UN system’s response to the allegations.”</p> <p>June 7, 2015 – Remarks of Secretary Jacob J. Lew at The 4th Annual Jerusalem Post Conference (Department of the Treasury)</p> <p>Quote: “The international coalition that put together the current multilateral sanctions regime remains united in the view that Iran must face the full force of international sanctions if it fails to meet its obligations under the agreement. We are still developing the exact mechanisms by which sanctions stemming from UN Security Council Resolutions would be re-imposed. But we will not allow such a snapback to be subject to a veto by an individual P5 member, including China or Russia.”</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>June 1, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</p> <p>Quote: “The Iranian nuclear talks are advancing with a generally positive momentum, with all parties displaying strong political will to reach an early agreement and coming up with ideas about how to solve the focal issues. All parties are speeding up the negotiation on the text of the comprehensive agreement, and the negotiation has come to its final stage. China hopes that all parties would cherish what has been achieved, accumulate more favorable conditions, remove all interference, make a prompt political decision and strive to reach the comprehensive agreement as scheduled. China is willing to make joint efforts to this end with all parties.”</p> <p>June 2, 2015 – Remarks by Wang Min UN Ambassador at the 69th Session of the General Assembly (Chinese Mission to the UN)</p> <p>Quote: “China congratulates Liberia for having been declared the “Ebola free”, and is gratified that the fight of Sierra Leone and Guinea against the epidemic is, on the whole, taking a turn for the better. I wish to make the following observations regarding our future work in this area: First, we must remain relentless till the epidemic is totally eradicated. There is an ancient Chinese saying: “One should work as hard towards the end as at the beginning”, meaning that the closer we are to success, the less should we relax efforts. [...] Secondly, we should take a holistic approach and pay more attention to the post-epidemic recovery and reconstruction. With the entry of these countries in the “post-Ebola” period, the international community should gradually shift the focus of its work to post-epidemic recovery and reconstruction. The key in this aspect is to help strengthen the public health system of the affected countries and carry out pragmatic cooperation in disease prevention and control, personnel training, and pharmaceutical research and development and so on. [...] China is also discussing with the African Union the building of an “African Center for Disease Control and Prevention”, and planning to offer 12 training sessions on public health and epidemic prevention and control for trainees from Africa this year. China noticed the considerable gap in the UN Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund. We have already donated 6 million U.S. dollars and are considering more donations to further help the affected countries combat the epidemic, and attain economic recovery and social development.”</p>



- **June 18, 2015 – Remarks by Daniel R. Russel Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “China has a growing ability to make a positive impact beyond its own borders. And for example, its work to combat Ebola in West Africa was important and was a milestone. China’s assistance to Afghanistan has been essential to creating an environment that fosters the smooth transition of that country.”

- **June 29, 2015 – Background Briefing: P5+1 Negotiations With Iran in Vienna, Austria** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We and the Iranians both understand that this is an important moment in these talks. We have come very far successfully negotiating and implementing the Joint Plan of Action and then getting agreement on broad parameters that we outlined in Lausanne. What we’re trying to do now is to put all of the details behind those parameters – details which are so crucial to ensuring the world that this is a strong, long-term, verifiable deal...And in terms of what is still under discussion, everything is under discussion. Let me give you an example. We have, as I think you all know, decided on a modified Arak reactor that will ensure that there is not weapons-grade plutonium produced in Iran. There are myriad details involved in that, everything from how is that project going to be managed, who’s going to do it, who’s going to certify the design, how will it be monitored, what happens to the heavy water, what happens to the spent fuel, and about a hundred other details that underlie that decision – many details. All of those have to be agreed to. We have to understand what we have agreed to here.”

- **June 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: A report issued by Small Arms Survey on June 10 said that militants in Iraq and Syria were found using portable anti-aircraft missiles made by China, and that extremists in Libya may have also accessed the same kind of weapons. Moreover, it is still a question whether countries such as South Sudan that purchase weapons from China can ensure the security of depots housing the weapons. What is your response to this?”

A: The report of relevant organization is inconsistent with the fact. China does not export military goods to non-state entities or countries and regions under embargo sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. In military trade and cooperation, we ask recipient countries to provide certificates of end-users and end uses, and make explicit commitment of no transfer to third countries without China’s approval. China always and will continue to exercise rigorous and effective administration on military trade.”

- **June 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The Iraqi Foreign Minister is visiting China. Any readout on the talks between the Chinese and Iraqi sides?”

A: At the invitation of Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari of the Republic of Iraq is on an official visit to China from June 13 to 17. During the visit, State Councilor Yang Jiechi will meet with Foreign Minister Jaafari, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will hold talks with him. The friendly relationship between China and Iraq runs deep. Pragmatic cooperation between the two countries in various fields has been developing fast, especially over recent years. We hope that the two sides will have a thorough exchange of views on deepening China-Iraq relations and enhancing bilateral cooperation in different fields and discuss international and regional issues of common interest during this visit.”

- **June 29, 2015 – *China Daily*: Substantial Aid to Fight Against IS Badly Needed** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The fight against the IS has thus far been ineffective, not because the extremist group is invincible, but because the government forces in Iraq and Syria are too weak, and the West too half-minded to deliver substantial assistance.”



- **June 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: “Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong is now in Vienna for the P5+1 Foreign Ministers' meeting on the Iranian nuclear issue. We believe that a comprehensive and enduring solution to the Iranian nuclear issue is of great significance to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and regional peace and stability. At the current critical stage of negotiation, we hope that all parties would further display a flexible and constructive attitude, make early political decisions, and strive for a comprehensive agreement that is mutually beneficial, equitable and balanced at an early date. The Chinese side will continue to play a constructive role with an unbiased and equitable stance.



Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: The U.S. Continues to Urge China to Halt Reclamation Work in the South China Sea; China Reiterates its Claims in the South China Sea and Demands the U.S. Stay Out of the Discussion Between Claimants

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 1, 2015 – Joint Press Conference by Secretary Carter and Minister of National Defense Thanh, in Hanoi, Vietnam (Department of Defense) Quote: “Well, in the first place, I will just repeat what I said, both in Honolulu and in Singapore, namely, that the United States opposes militarization and the creation of tensions in the South China Sea. Even though we are not a claimant to the South China Sea we, like every other country in Asia and really around the world, have an interest in freedom of navigation, freedom of the seas and peaceful resolution.” ● June 1, 2015 – Remarks by Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications Marie Harf (State Department) Quote: “Well, I think Secretary Carter spoke at length to this during the Shangri-La Dialogue. He said we want a peaceful resolution to these disputes; immediate, lasting halt to land reclamation by any claimant; and oppose any further militarization of disputed features. He also made very clear that the U.S. will operate wherever international law allows. That means flying, sailing, any of the above where international law allows, as we do all over the world. And I think that the reason we are so concerned about this is the potential for miscalculation or increasing tensions in the region with some of China’s neighbors. That’s what we’ve been clear we find concerning, and that’s why we think there should be an immediate and lasting halt to all reclamation.” ● June 7, 2015 – Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the G7 Press Briefing (White House) Quote: “I don’t know if there will be a declaration on this separately. If there is, I don’t have anything to preview. We have been clear, particularly as it relates to the South China Sea, about the importance of the free flow of commerce in that region of the world. Disrupting that flow of commerce would have a significant impact on the global economy and would have a corresponding negative impact on the U.S. economy. [...] I think the same could be said for economies of the G7 member nations. But at this point, I don’t know whether or not there will be a formal declaration or a formal statement out of the G7. But I’d encourage you to take a close look at the communique when it’s issued tomorrow.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 1, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i>: HK Lawmakers' Responsibility (China Daily) Quote: “The central government firmly supports universal suffrage in Hong Kong, but will never allow the radical fraction of the opposition camp, especially a tiny minority of activists who want to turn Hong Kong into an independent political entity, to challenge Beijing’s jurisdiction over Hong Kong.” ● June 2, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Binary Mentality Blinds U.S. South China Sea Policy (People’s Daily) Quote: “The worst American policy would be one of hypocrisy: Oppose a good idea like the AIB for self-serving reasons and force a simple-minded Cold War analytic framework on South China Sea issues that don’t fit contemporary reality. And it is here that you worry: further high-profile American involvement could push the South China Sea issue into that dreaded superpower showdown that no one wants. Rather than raise its South China Sea profile, the U.S. should bob and weave out there with the utmost care, no matter how allegedly saintly its intentions. Asia watcher Bill Hayton, in his invaluable new book <i>The South China Sea</i>, quotes a well-regarded Asian diplomat as warning: “If you bring in one superpower to oppose the other, then superpower dynamics begins to push the issue and marginalizes a peaceful settlement.” He has got that down right.” ● June 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The international law has been constantly brought up by some countries when it comes to the South China Sea issue. If they did read closely the international law, then please tell us which article in the international law forbids China to carry out justified construction on its own islands and reefs? Which article allows the vessels and aircraft of one country to monitor the islands and reefs of another country at a close distance? Which article gives the green light to one country's infringement upon another country's sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests with the excuse of navigation freedom? We are against the arbitrary distortion of the international law. If it is not a practice of double standard, then it must be driven by some hidden motives.”



- **June 17, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby ([State Department](#))**

Quote: “Q: A few days ago, the Chinese foreign ministry came out and said that they’re going to stop the land reclamation in the Spratly Islands. Can – do you have a reaction to that?”

A: Yeah. We’ve seen the announcement that they’re going to stop land reclamation. We also saw that they intend to continue to militarizing the ones that they’ve reclaimed. And we’ve made it very clear privately and publicly that that only increases tensions, that – and that it’s unhelpful, and we continue to call for a cessation of land reclamation and militarization of them in the region. It doesn’t do anything to increase the stability and security.”

- **June 18, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby ([State Department](#))**

Quote: “Q: Can you explain exactly how the land reclamation project is exacerbating tensions in the area? Is it a matter of changing the character of the waters around the Spratly Islands? Is it a matter of interfering with international commercial shipping? What’s – what are the problems that the U.S. sees with the planned reclamation?”

A: There are potential issues with the freedom of navigation caused by some of these, but I think the most concerning aspect of them is the militarization of at least some of them, which, again, given their proximity to islands claimed by others in the region, just increases tension.”

- **June 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

Quote: “The Chinese side follows closely the development of the situation in Ukraine and always believes that dialogue and consultation is the only way out for the Ukrainian issue. It is hoped that all parties could stay level-headed, exercise restraint, put into practice the consensus reached in Minsk on February 12, cement the ceasefire which comes at a great cost, and move forward the process of resolving the Ukrainian crisis through political means, so as to restore peace and tranquility to Ukraine at an early date.”

- **June 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

Quote: “China's attitude on the South China Sea issue is responsible and its policy consistent, clear and unchanged. I want to reiterate that the Chinese side stays committed to safeguarding peace and stability of the South China Sea with ASEAN countries, resolving relevant disputes through negotiation and consultation with countries directly concerned, improving regional mechanisms and rules, including the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the advancement of consultation on the code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC), and promoting common development and practical cooperation in the South China Sea in a bid to achieve win-win outcomes.”

- **June 4, 2015 – *People's Daily*: Commentary: Manila's Shortsightedness on South China Sea Disputes Will Backfire ([People's Daily](#))**

Quote: “China's claim of the South China Sea islands is about protecting its sovereignty, which cannot be compared to Nazi Germany's expansion prior to World War II. Moreover, Aquino is also an amateur politician as he never hesitates to sacrifice national interests and the Sino-Philippine relations to gain military support from the United States and Japan [...] Furthermore, neither the United States nor Japan is a concerned party to the South China Sea issue. It is advisable that both of them keep away from the disputes [...] However, a wise U.S. administration will not let the South China Sea issue damage its relations with China—one of the most important bilateral ties in the world. Both Manila and Tokyo should understand that they will be dismissed by Washington as cannon fodder when the issue affects U.S.-China relations”



- **June 18, 2015 – Remarks by Daniel R. Russel Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Issues, at the Preview of the Seventh U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “There is an unwavering determination on the part of the United States to avoid military confrontation, including with China. That serves no one’s interest. And frankly, that is not the issue that faces us in the South China Sea. As important as the issue of the South China Sea is in the U.S.-China discussions, it’s not fundamentally an issue between the U.S. and China. This is an issue between China and the other claimants. It’s an issue between China and the ASEAN countries. And frankly, it’s an issue between China and international law. It’s a question of China’s future and China’s choices. If China, as it grows, is committed to act in concert with international law and global norms; if China, as it grows, is determined to maintain strong, healthy, positive relationships with its neighbors, then we would hope its behavior in the tense area of the South China Sea would reflect that. The recent announcement out of Beijing that the Chinese Government intends to continue and expand the construction of facilities on the reclaimed outposts that it’s been constructing in the South China Sea is troubling not just to us, but to the countries in the region. Frankly, we’re concerned, and others are concerned. The simple fact is that neither that statement nor that behavior contributes to reducing tensions. And reducing tensions is what we all should want. Certainly, the prospect of militarizing those outposts runs counter to the goal of reducing tensions. And that’s why we consistently urge China to cease reclamation, to not construct further facilities, and certainly not to further militarize outposts in the South China Sea. But we make that same request to all of the claimants – all of the claimants. It’s a matter of good policy, it’s a matter of good neighborliness, and frankly, it’s a matter of common sense.”

- **June 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side holds a consistent and clear position on the Taiwan Question. We are staunchly opposed to anyone’s engagement in “Taiwan independence” separatist activities in any form on international occasions. It is hoped that the U.S. side would abide by the one-China policy and the three joint communiqués between China and the U.S., stay firmly against “Taiwan independence”, refrain from sending any wrong signal to “Taiwan independence” forces, and make tangible efforts to support the peaceful development of the cross-Straits relations and the steady growth of China-U.S. relations.”

- **June 8, 2015 – Xinhua: Commentary: Abe’s Anti-China Attempt at G7 Summit Futile, Counterproductive** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “Japan is not among the claimant states in the South China Sea issue. Its interference in the disputes aims to divert Beijing’s attention and resources from the East China Sea, where China-Japan tension over the Diaoyu Islands has been rising. [...] Firstly, China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and the adjacent waters in the South China Sea and the construction works there are reasonable and lawful. China is a staunch proponent of peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region and the world, and is committed to resolving disputes through negotiation with directly concerned countries.”

- **June 8, 2015 – People’s Daily: South China Sea Not a U.S. Political Playfield** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The U.S. should learn lessons from the failure of its covert involvement in the Syria and Ukraine crises. It must realize that there is always a price to be paid for intervening in other countries’ affairs, and South China Sea is not a good playfield for practicing power politics.”

- **June 8, 2015 – People’s Daily: China’s Construction on the Nansha Islands is Legitimate** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The U.S. makes irresponsible observations about China’s construction work within China’s area of sovereignty, while turning a blind eye to the massive construction projects undertaken earlier by the Philippines and Vietnam on their illegally occupied Chinese islands and reefs [...] China is firmly opposed to these U.S. actions, but considering peace and stability in the South China Sea, it has taken a very restrained attitude and has always been committed to solving issues with the parties directly involved through negotiation and consultation. Meanwhile, the U.S. has chosen to keep silent on other countries’ activities and pointed an accusing finger at China.”



- **June 22, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby (State Department)**

Quote: “Q: And the senior Administration official also said the S&ED is very important because – in order to narrow the differences. But the fact is that China has almost finished the reclamation work in the Spratly Islands, and they have – also have the outpost there. So my question is: Does the U.S. Government admit and accept the status quo – or I mean additional island – as an established fact?”

A: We’ve made clear our concerns about those land reclamation activities that they now claim to have stopped and the militarization of them, which they have claimed that they won’t stop. Nothing’s changed about our position on the concerns that we continue to have over that activity, and I do think – again, I think you’ve heard that it will certainly be a topic of discussion over the next couple of days.

Q: How are you going to raise the issue on Hong Kong universal suffrage? As you know, they – I mean, what is the U.S. position of the rejection of the bill last week in Hong Kong?

A: I don’t know – I can’t – I don’t know if I can read out that it’s going to – that Hong Kong legislative reform is necessarily going to be addressed. It very well could. I don’t – it’s not a specific agenda item. But we encourage the Hong Kong authorities, the central government authorities, and the Hong Kong people to continue to work together towards the goal of achieving universal suffrage in accordance with the Basic Law and the aspirations of the people of Hong Kong. As we’ve said previously, we believe the legitimacy of the chief executive would be greatly enhanced if the chief executive were selected through universal suffrage and if Hong Kong’s residents had a meaningful choice of candidates.”

- **June 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “China has indisputable sovereignty over the Diaoyu Dao and its affiliated islands, as well as the Nansha Islands and the adjacent waters. China’s construction on relevant Nansha islands and reefs falls entirely within China’s sovereignty, and other countries have no right to interfere. Once completed, the relevant construction will mainly provide considerable civilian functions apart from a few defense services, in a bid to better fulfill China’s international obligations in maritime navigation and search and rescue. The Chinese side remains committed to safeguarding navigation and overflight freedom in the East and South China Seas. [...] If someone deliberately stirs up troubles that pose a threat to the freedom of navigation and overflight in relevant waters, China will be the first to stand up against it.”

- **June 10, 2015 – *China Daily*: G7’s Veiled Criticism Deviates from Truth (China Daily)**

Quote: “Though the G7 leaders have cloaked their language by avoiding mentioning China, it is obvious that they intend to exert pressure on China over its island building in the South China Sea. The wording of the statement pretty much resembles that used by U.S. officials lashing out at China over the maritime disputes.”

- **June 10, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Australia Should Stay Away from South China Sea (People’s Daily)**

Quote: “Responding to such speculations, Admiral Sun Jianguo, deputy chief of the General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army, told reporters on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue that China has never said it will establish an air defense zone over the South China Sea, which makes Australia’s concern unnecessary. As a country thousands of miles away from the South China Sea, Australia has nothing to do with the disputes and should have been wise enough to keep away from them. But because of its military alliance with the U.S., Australia feels obliged to follow in the footsteps of Uncle Sam, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.”

- **June 11, 2015 – *China Daily*: Military Visit to U.S. Can Help Build Trust (China Daily)**

Quote: “Washington needs to clarify that its military maneuvers in the Asia-Pacific are not aimed at trying to contain China. It should also recognize China’s legitimate concerns over its territorial integrity in the South China Sea. For the positive momentum in bilateral military ties to continue, these are just some of the necessary steps Washington needs to take.”



- **June 18, 2015 – *China Daily*: Critical Time for HK Reform ([China Daily](#))**

Quote: “The reform proposals fully conform with the Basic Law and the legal framework laid down by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress under the “One Country, Two Systems” principle. Having taken the oath of allegiance to the Hong Kong SAR of the People’s Republic of China, the lawmakers are also duty-bound to abide by the Basic Law and support the “One Country, Two System” policy.”

- **June 19, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

Quote: “We have recently informed the U.S. on multiple occasions of the development regarding China’s construction activities on islands and reefs in the South China Sea. I would like to point out that construction activities on some of the Nansha islands and reefs fall within China’s sovereignty. The main objective is to better fulfill China’s international responsibilities and obligations, provide better services and guarantee in maritime search and rescue, disaster prevention and mitigation and navigation safety. As the Chinese saying goes, just as distance tests a horse’s strength, time will prove a person’s sincerity. China has been and will always be an important force for regional peace and stability.”

- **June 22, 2015 – *Xinhua*: Commentary: Japan’s Meddling in South China Sea Nothing but Miscalculation ([Xinhua](#))**

Quote: “Tokyo’s recent obsession to meddle in the South China Sea aims to press Beijing to divert resources from the East China Sea, where China-Japan tension over the Diaoyu Islands, which was started by Japan’s nationalization of the islands, has been rising [...]. By seeking to portray China as a bully in the South China Sea and ganging up with China’s rival claimants there, Tokyo also aims to create the right atmosphere for the adoption of a new package of security bills which will significantly expand the scope of overseas operations by the country’s self-defense forces.”



- **June 23, 2015 – *People's Daily*: China Should Prepare for Philippine Provocations** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "The biggest danger for China as Philippine President Benigno Aquino III nears the end of his term is for an "accident" to happen in the South China Sea that could lead to permanent damage in China-Philippines relations, and more importantly, harm the image of China in the regional and international arena [...] The Philippines, under the current administration, is a rare country that publicly supports Japanese President Shinzo Abe's plan to revise Japan's pacifist constitution. It is well documented, but not widely known that Aquino supports Japan's right-wing militarist party. There is already a growing following in the Philippines of anti-China sentiments, and the government and the media have not allowed other views or opinions to counter these anti-China movements, in public or in private. It is important for China to prepare for the worst-case scenarios, and ensure it does not respond with knee-jerk reactions."

- **June 23, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "China has clearly stated its position on the construction activities on the islands and reefs of Nansha many times. Relevant construction activities on China's own territory fall within China's sovereignty [...] Meanwhile, I have taken note of Assistant Secretary of State Russel's remarks that the issue of the South China Sea is "not fundamentally an issue between the U.S. and China", and that the U.S. would avoid confrontation with countries including China on this issue. In fact, we've been telling the U.S. that the South China Sea issue is not and should not become an issue between China and the U.S."

- **June 25, 2015 – Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: "Q: It is reported that the Pilipino navy conducted a joint exercise with maritime self-defense force of Japan, which was aimed at strengthening surveillance against China in the South China Sea. What is your comment?"

A: It is our consistent position that bilateral military cooperation should be conducive to regional peace and stability, and should not compromise the interest of any third party. Some regional nations drag countries outside the region to interfere in the South China Sea issue, demonstrate muscles, and intentionally play up regional tensions. This behavior would only bring harm to the situation in the South China Sea."



- **June 26, 2015 – *Xinhua*: Commentary: Discontent Grows in LatAm Over U.S. Meddling in Name of Fighting Drugs** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “The controversial war has brought continuing violence and U.S. meddling in internal affairs in the region in the name of the war. [...] If Washington is serious about being seen as an equal partner, it cannot continue to attach paternalistic economic and political conditions to collaboration. Latin American countries need help and support, not judgment or threats. Furthermore, it is the United States that needs to reflect on its domestic anti-drug policies, as the root of the drug trade remains the incessant demand for hard drugs across the country.”

- **June 29, 2015 – Remarks by Hua Chunying Spokesperson of Foreign Ministry on the Philippines’ Playing up and Airing of a Documentary on the South China Sea Issue** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side has taken note of the Philippine documentary and the relevant reports. The Chinese side is strongly dissatisfied with the groundless criticism by the Philippine documentary which ignores the facts and confuses right and wrong, and is deeply concerned about the sitting Philippine government’s hyping up of the South China Sea issue and fueling of confrontation between the Chinese and Philippine peoples. By misleading and deceiving the public, the Philippines plots to gain sympathies and play the “victim”. Nevertheless, history brooks no denial and facts no fabrication. It is the Philippines that caused the relevant disputes with China in the South China Sea due to its adoption of an expansionist policy in the South China Sea in blatant violation of China’s sovereignty and rights and interests.”

- **June 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China has repeatedly elaborated on its position regarding the construction on Nansha islands and reefs. Relevant construction falls entirely within China's sovereignty. It is different in nature from some countries' "unlawful construction" on illegally occupied Chinese islands and reefs, and has nothing to do with unilaterally and coercively changing the status quo. Moreover, China has never recognized the so-called "status quo" created by other countries' illegal occupation of some maritime features of the Nansha Islands. It is hoped that the U.S. side would refrain from discriminating in favor of its allies, act on the own merits of the case and respect China's sovereignty and rights and interests, stop making any irresponsible remarks that deliberately fuel regional tensions and confrontation, and do more things that will genuinely contribute to regional peace and stability. This is also in the interests of the U.S. itself.”



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