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China Presents Action Plan for `One Belt, One Road'

March 30 (EIRNS) — This year's Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) became

a central focus for China's mobilization around the "One Belt, One Road" project for Asia and the world. In his speech on March

28th, President Xi Jinping had traced the development of the Asia-Pacific region during the last 70 years from the end of the

Anti-Fascist War and the founding of the United Nations, to the

historic Bandung conference 60 years ago, where Chinese leader Zhou Enlai and India's Jawaharlal Nehru had laid out the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, including non-interference in

the internal affairs of other nations. "This year we will witness

the completion of the ASEAN Community," Xi Said. With the development of the two new Silk Road projects, China hopes to create by 2020 an East Asian Economic Partnership.

Boao drew 48 nations this year with a much greater participation of world leaders, attracted by the vision of the New Silk Road. Most significantly, China used the opportunity to

present a broad and detailed program of how they envision the development of their "One Belt, One Road."

As they did so, the number of countries applying to be founding members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) rose to 45, with Sweden and Egypt being among those announcing themselves today. Among major economies remaining outside, are {only} the United States, Canada, and Japan. One investment group in China estimated that the AIIB's \$100 billion

capital, "properly borrowed against" with bond issuances, could

provide \$1.3 trillion in financing.

"This is the development we have been pushing for," Lyndon LaRouche noted today, "which Helga and I have been pursuing for a

long time." He characterized it as "far, far greater than a Marshall Plan."

The "Action Plan" is a grandiose vision of trade and development which makes the stalemated PNAC imperial vision of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) pale in comparison. And the

principles of the "One Belt, One Road" laid out in Xi's speech

where the underlying principle is the mutual respect shown to each country's core interests and choice of development paths

contrast starkly with the imperial unipolar world that lies at the basis of the TPP notion.

Entitled "Visions and Actions on Jointly Building Belt and Road," the document, issued on March 28, detailed the various aspects of the envisioned process, involving economy, finance, culture and security. The "framework" of the project includes linking Asia, Europe and Africa by means of the Silk Road Economic Belt through China, Central Asia, Russia and Europe, a

link through Central Asia and West Asia to the Persian Gulf and

the Mediterranean, and a sea-land corridor linking China with Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Indian Ocean, and through

the

South China Sea to the South Pacific. Further corridors will be

developed through China-Mongolia-Russia, China-Central Asia-West

Asia and China-Indochina Peninsula. There will also be a China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and a

Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

Economic priorities involve coordinating, enhancing and accelerating trade and transportation, eliminating obstacles on

the borders with regard to customs and multimodal transport, promoting connectivity of energy infrastructure, enhancing cooperation in oil and gas, in hydropower and in nuclear energy,

and collaboration among the nations in developing new industries,

setting up science centers and cross-border economic and investment zones.

The "Road and Belt" will also be supported through a number of new financial institutions, the action plan continues: the AIIB, the BRICS Bank, the Silk Road Fund. A financial arm will be

established in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and cooperation will be strengthened in the China-ASEAN Interbank Association and SCO Interbank Association. China will also allow

companies and financial institutions with good credit ratings to

issue renminbi bonds in China for their financing needs. They will also create a regional financial risk early-warning system,

and create an exchange and cooperation mechanism for addressing

cross-border risks and crisis.

The cultural exchanges are equally important with the promotion of student exchanges between the "Belt and Road"

countries promoting tourism along the Belt and Road as well as sports exchanges; cooperation in the area of medicine and in the

control of epidemics and other medical emergencies in the region

as well. Joint labs and research centers will be set up to promote innovation in science.

The report goes on to indicate the effects this will have in the continued "reform and opening up" policy in China, including

the development of the northwest region with Xian in the center

and the northeast region with a focal point in Harbin and corridors going north into Russia and Mongolia.

In addition there will be a development of a western corridor from the Yangtze Delta region along the Yangtze River to

Chongqing and to Chengdu, which has become a transportation hub

along the Central Asian Economic Belt. Such a Yangtze River Corridor would also include such inland cities as Changsha, Nanchang and Hefei, the site of the China Science and Technology

University and the Chinese fusion program. The action plan also

indicates accelerating cooperation between the upper and middle

reaches of the Yangtze and their counterparts along Russia's Volga River. [wcj]