

## ADVERTORIAL

# Celebrating the 71<sup>st</sup> National Day of the People's Republic of China and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Singapore



## Message

### H.E. Hong Xiaoyong

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Singapore

Today, the People's Republic of China is celebrating its 71st birthday. The staff of the Chinese Embassy in Singapore shares the joy of the festival with Chinese compatriots working, studying, and living in Singapore. We wish our great motherland prosperity. We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to friends from all walks of life in Singapore who have long been supporting the development of China-Singapore relations.

Seventy-one years ago, the founding of the People's Republic of China put an end to more than 100 years of poverty, weakness, and humiliation. The Chinese nation has since then entered on the path of realising national rejuvenation.

Over the past 71 years, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Chinese people of all ethnic groups, with perseverance and strenuous efforts, have embarked on the path of Socialism with Chinese characteristics and created a miracle of economic development. This year, China will achieve the strategic goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. The Chinese people's aspiration to live a "moderately prosperous" life is what the whole nation has been pursuing relentlessly for over two millennia. Now this goal is going to be realised by the Chinese people.

Seventy-one years on, China actively participates in global governance and promotes the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Today, China not only creates a favourable international environment for closer global cooperation, but also contributes to world peace, prosperity, and stability. China has become a significant force in safeguarding multilateralism, pursuing cooperation for mutual benefits, and achieving common development.

China has made extraordinary achievements over the past 71 years. We owe everything we have accomplished today to the talent, hard work and enormous endeavours of our people.

China's achievements are impossible without the strong leadership of the CPC. The leadership of the CPC is the most essential attribute of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the greatest strength of this system. It is under the leadership of the CPC that China has achieved national independence and liberation, and conducted the great practice of reform and opening-up. We have triumphed over many difficulties, fended off risks and challenges, and embarked on a new journey towards great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Entering a new era, under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, the Chinese people of all ethnic groups are united as one, and making advances for the realisation of the long-held goal of national rejuvenation.

China's achievements cannot be imagined without the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is blazed through relentless exploration. It is based on a profound grasp of the future and destiny of the party and the country, an intensive summary of the socialist revolution and development, a keen insight into the trend of our times and an acute understanding of the people's expectations and needs. This path has proven to be in line with China's national conditions and will bring a bright future to the country and the people. It is a path that China has every confidence in, and will firmly uphold and march on.

China's achievements are inseparable from the close bond between the CPC and Chinese people. The CPC comes from the people and is rooted in the people. Seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation are its original aspiration and founding mission. From national independence and liberation to building a socialist society, the CPC has always rallied the people and relied on the people. With regard to the people's aspirations to live a better life as the abiding goal, the CPC has won firm support from the people. It is impossible for any individual or any force to sever the ties or stoke confrontation between the CPC and Chinese people.

China cannot enjoy its achievements without the fundamental policy of reform and opening-up. This policy has enabled China to succeed in transforming a closed and semi-closed economy into an all-round open economy, and drastically changed China's relations with the world. China has integrated its own development with human progress across the globe. China has become a driving force for global economic growth and a stabiliser for world peace by proposing to build the Belt and Road Initiative and forge global partnerships. We appreciate and value the cooperation with Singapore and other countries based on equality and mutual benefit.

Confronted with the sudden outbreak of Covid-19, China has made great efforts and realised important gains in fighting the epidemic. China scored 3.2 per cent in GDP growth in Q2, making it the first country to resume growth during Covid-19. Such a performance also laid a solid foundation for the future development.

The epidemic has proven that building a community with a shared future for mankind is a sure way to address the challenges facing human beings and develop a more prosperous and beautiful world. Just as President Xi Jinping stated at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, we are living in an interconnected global village with a common stake. All countries are closely connected and share a common future. China stands ready to work with other countries to uphold the values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom shared by all so as to build a new type of international relations, a community with a shared future for mankind, and to make the world a better place for everyone. President Xi Jinping's statement once again expressed China's deep conviction about and direction for this major issue.

Facing profound changes in international affairs, China proposed a "dual circulation" development pattern in which domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay. This approach aims to further unleash the potential of China's domestic demand, better utilise the two markets and resources, and facilitate connectivity between the domestic and international markets. The new pattern is a more positive and higher quality opening-up initiative that is adapting to the new situation.

The China-US relations have drawn great attention from the international community. We believe that confrontation between major countries based on the Cold War mentality is attempting to turn back the wheel of history. We believe that the aspiration of countries in the region and the world to promote openness, cooperation and common development will remain unchanged. We believe that the trend of peace, cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win will not be reversed. We stand ready to develop a China-US relationship featuring no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation based on coordination, cooperation and stability. In the meantime, China will never surrender its principles and will firmly defend its sovereignty, security and development interests.

China will stay committed to the path of peaceful development, implement the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness, and neighborhood policy of building friendship and partnership. We will treat countries in the region equally, deepen friendship and promote lasting peace and common prosperity in the region and the world.

On the eve of the 71st National Day, our Embassy received congratulatory letters and flower baskets from Singaporean friends, to whom I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for their best wishes!

On October 3, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Singapore. Thirty years ago on this day, our two foreign ministers signed the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two governments at the UN Headquarters in New York, which marked the beginning of diplomatic relations. The past 30 years saw an extraordinary journey of China-Singapore relations. Guided by successive generations of leaders from both sides, the two countries have enjoyed more political mutual trust, expanded shared interests and closer cooperation. The bilateral relations have grown strong with more vitality.

In 2015, President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Singapore, during which the two sides established the All-Round Co-operative Partnership Progressing with the Times, ushering in a new era for bilateral cooperation. With expanding scale and

improving quality, the cooperation is now more forward-looking, strategic and sets a good example for countries to cooperate with each other.

Generation after generation, it is the time-honored exchanges and the efforts made by friends from both sides that have promoted a rapid development of China-Singapore relations in the past 30 years. I wish to take this opportunity to extend sincere thanks and pay high tribute to those who made contributions to the development of our bilateral relations! Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the China-Singapore diplomatic relations is to review our original aspiration, summarise the past experience and look forward to the future.

Mutual respect lays the solid foundation for mutual trust. Our two countries enjoy profound historical and cultural connections. Such affinity is a natural advantage for rapidly increasing cooperation between both sides. At the same time, this advantage builds on mutual respect. China and Singapore have been treating each other as equals, learning from each other, accommodating each other's core interests and major concerns, seeking consensus and cooperation through communication and consultation. Our bilateral relations are a fine example of mutually beneficial cooperation between countries of different sizes.

Mutual benefit underpins the driving force for the long-term China-Singapore relations. Our bilateral relations in the past 30 years coincided with the deepening globalisation and China's reform and opening-up. China and Singapore share common understanding on global trends and the development ideal of openness, cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win. Singapore has actively engaged in China's reform and opening-up, and China's openness has in return provided vast opportunities for Singapore. Shared interests propel common development, while common development brings about more shared interests, and enlarges our cooperation. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been a major platform for bilateral cooperation. Under the BRI, the third market cooperation is well underway, and the New Land-Sea Corridor started to forge synergy with the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation. The mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Singapore has gone from strength to strength, which has delivered tangible benefits to our two peoples and peoples in the region.

Progressing with the times enriches our bilateral relations with a new spirit. The Suzhou Industrial Park, Tianjin Eco-city, and Chongqing Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity have been successively launched over the years, keeping pace with various development stages of China's industrialisation, urbanisation and regional economic integration. These projects have generated sound economic and social benefits, and created a new cooperation model and ideal. Today, facing the new trends of connectivity, digital economy and information technology, China and Singapore have upgraded cooperation on new initiatives including Guangzhou Knowledge City and Shenzhen Smart City, aiming to help transform the economy through scientific and technological innovation.

Close official exchanges and people-to-people communication add a unique advantage to China-Singapore relations. It is a defining feature of the bilateral relations that people from both countries have great enthusiasm to enhance connections through official and non-official channels. With the governments as a pacesetter, private sectors are more actively engaged in bilateral cooperation and generating dynamism. Singapore has established a local cooperation mechanism with eight Chinese provinces and municipal cities. In some cities of China, Singapore invested in many facilities related to people's livelihoods, such as hospitals and shopping malls. In Singapore, many residential buildings and public facilities are built by Chinese companies. Cultural exchanges like "Spring in the City" are a long-running boom. Newly released movies and TV series have a large fan base in both China and Singapore. Sub-national and people-to-people exchanges between our two countries defy the geographical distance, and high-level consensus has been translated into real stories of friendship and cooperation.

Our world is going through profound changes unseen in a century and Covid-19 has posed another challenge to all of us. The 30-year-old China-Singapore diplomatic relations are standing on the new starting point, and the time has come to embrace a more mature and comprehensive development stage. China is ready to work with Singapore to advance the All-Round Co-operative Partnership Progressing with the Times, and further contribute to our two peoples' well-being — and to the peace, stability and prosperity of the region as well as the whole world.