

Minister Counsellor Wang Qi: China at 70: Looking Back; Looking Ahead
Summary of Presentation
SACU Panel Discussion, 16 October 2019, King's College London

Minister Counsellor Wang Qi presented an impressive array of statistics illuminating China's profound change and remarkable success in catching up with the rest of the world, developing from an impoverished nation to the second largest economy in the world, its GDP having increased by 70 times in the past 70 years, lifting more than seven hundred million rural people out of poverty.

Minister Counsellor Wang Qi cited some of China's contributions to mankind's progress, from manned space travel, super hybrid rice, high performance computers, high speed rail, to treatment for malaria. Chinese life expectancy has increased from 35 to 77, and illiteracy rate decreased from 80% to 4.9%. China is committed to peaceful development and is the second largest contributor to the UN regular budget. Since 1990 China has sent 40,000 military personnel on peacekeeping missions.

China is making an important contribution to efforts regarding climate change. Contributing more than 30% to global growth, China is a most important economic powerhouse. China has sent more than 400 billion RMB to 166 countries and sent 600,000 aid workers. China is still the largest developing country, with its per capita GDP one-sixth of the USA, and a quarter of the UK.

China is continuing to work hard to meet the Chinese people's aspirations for a better life and is committed to the pursuit of happiness for its people, and the rejuvenation of the nation.

The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics meets Chinese conditions, winning the wholehearted support of the Chinese people - The 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer shows that 86% of the Chinese people have expressed their trust in the government. China is opening up and undergoing market reform.

The Belt and Road Initiative is the largest platform for co-operation in the world, involving 166 countries and international organisations.

Minister Counsellor Wang Qi stressed China's commitment to peaceful development of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, it has the lowest level of military expenditure, both as percentage of GDP and in per capita terms, at only one-eighteenth that of the US, and one-ninth of the UK.

By 2017, China had fulfilled its promise of cutting carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 40 to 50 percent compared with 2005, three years in advance, and is the largest investor in renewable energy. As a demonstration of Chinese people's commitment to environmental protection, Wang noted that Bao Yongqing, a Chinese

photographer, is the winner of this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year award.

In 2015 President Xi Jinping visited the UK, launching the Golden Era, a new historical starting point of China-UK relations.

There is enormous potential for China-UK co-operation across the world. The world is undergoing profound changes, bringing new opportunities and challenges. China will always be a defender of world peace, a contributor to world development, and an upholder of the international order.

Minister Counsellor Wang Qi concluded by thanking SACU for providing a broad platform for co-operation between the two countries.



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