

Business Briefs

Trade

India Reorients to China, Eurasia

"India-China relations have today transcended their bilateral dimension and have acquired global and strategic significance," Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said in a written interview with *Xinhua* published Jan. 11. Indications that India is re-emphasizing the importance of its relations to China, and downgrading the non-productive "U.S.-Australia-Japan-India" orientation, emerged in the days before Singh's three-day visit to China, starting Jan. 13.

The two nations will sign five agreements during the visit, including a pact between the two state-run railways, Press Trust of India reported. The accords are also to cover housing, geo-sciences, land resource management, and traditional medicine. "The memorandum of understanding covering the rail sector will promote cooperation between the Chinese and the Indian railways," Information and Broadcasting Minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi said.

Fusion Energy

China To Contribute \$1.4 Billion to ITER

China will contribute \$1.4 billion to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) fusion energy development project, almost 10% of the project's overall cost, *China Daily* reported Jan 10. The "goal of the project is to find a shortcut to solve our energy shortage," stated Luo Delong, deputy director of the ITER China Office, speaking at the Jan. 6 Oriental Science and Technology Forum in Shanghai.

The ITER tokamak is under construction in Cadarache, France. Fusion would provide an almost unlimited source of electrical power and high-energy density process heat, using deuterium from ordinary seawater as fuel.

China was the first nation to build a superconducting experimental tokamak fusion device, which went on line in September 2007. However, China does not have enough

trained scientists and technicians to carry the work forward on the scale necessary for success, and has just reached an agreement with Japan for enhanced cooperation in research and training of scientists. About half of China's contribution to ITER will be spent during the ten-year construction phase. Chinese researchers will be in charge of building components such as heating, diagnostic and remote maintenance equipment, as well as transporting it to France.

Nuclear Power

Ghana To Build First Nuclear Plant

Ghana will commission its first nuclear plant by 2018, *Modern Ghana* reported Jan. 8. A Nuclear Power Committee was set up last year by President John Agyekum Kufuor, to prepare a feasibility study for expanding Ghana's power generation, including nuclear. After five months of study, the committee, chaired by Prof. Daniel Adjei Bekoe, presented the government with a roadmap for adopting nuclear power, *Modern Ghana* reported.

Bekoe said that the decision to acquire nuclear power technology would be a natural progression in the country's technological advancement.

When Ghana starts exploiting its new-found oil reserves, Bekoe is quoted as saying, "it will be even more economical to generate electricity by the least cost and environmentally friendly nuclear power option," so that the country can use "its oil for transportation and export."

The report now goes to the cabinet and the parliament for approval.

Monetary System

French Officials Back New Bretton Woods

A significant number of mayors of French cities and towns, including members of Parliament, is publicly backing the recent call, issued by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, for governments to agree on a new international monetary system, returning to the principles

of Bretton Woods, to replace the collapsed global casino called the "floating-exchange-rate system."

A Jan. 9 press release by Solidarité et Progrès in Paris, headed by LaRouche ally Jacques Cheminade, states:

"André Gérin, mayor of Venissieux, and Gerard Charasse, both parliamentary deputies, and also vice president of the Poitou-Charente region, Paul Fromenteil, and some 40 mayors [of cities and towns in France] have signed the appeal for a 'New Bretton Woods' launched by Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche in September 2007.

"The list of signatories is being made public just when the former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan has declared, in an interview with National Public Radio, that "something unexpected" threatens "to bring the system down" within the coming weeks.

"Along with former French Presidential candidate Jacques Cheminade—the only candidate who, in his 1995 campaign, warned of the coming disintegration of the international financial system—also supporting the call is Etienne Chouard, whose Internet site catalyzed the opposition in France to the globalist European Constitutional Treaty in May 2005, and the founder of Réseau Voltaire, author Thierry Meyssan."

The complete list of signatories is at www.solidariteetprogres.org.

Transportation

Chinese Academy Report Okays Maglev Projects

An expert review by the Chinese Academy of Environmental Sciences found no evidence whatsoever of the alleged "negative" effects of the Shanghai maglev train, either on the environment or on the regional population. That finding, made public Jan. 7, implies that similar arguments have no relevance for envisaged new projects, such as the planned extension of the existing 32-kilometer Transrapid line in Shanghai, or a regional maglev transport grid.

The report scuttles the phony arguments (pollution of air and water, vegetation, and the like), brought up in Germany by adversaries of the Munich maglev project.