

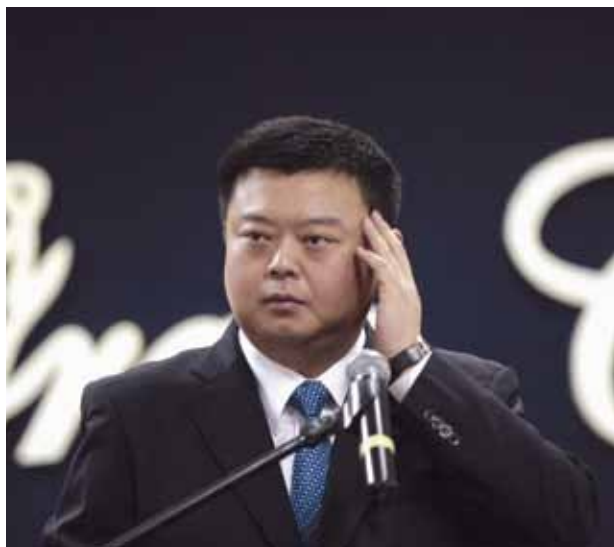
## Wang Jing: Silk Road Inspires Grand Canal

*Wang Jing is the chairman and CEO of HKND, the Chinese company in charge of the Great Inter-Oceanic Canal project. Here are excerpts from his speech on Dec. 22 in Managua, Nicaragua, at the inauguration of the project.*

...2,100 years ago, brave Chinese sages explored and established the Silk Road, which helped to promote the progress of human civilization and benefit the prosperity of many countries and nations. Most importantly, the great spirit of the Silk Road ... remains in history with full vigor over 2,000 years. The Silk Road represents mutual benefits, inclusiveness, and progress; it lays the core value of world civilization, and makes it possible, that after 2,000 years, we can still enjoy a colorful and prosperous society.

The ancestral mark remains in the blood and the heart of Chinese companies. Our Chinese people are making a great contribution to the world in the new era by building a new Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century. This has been our great engine, and the source of our courage and confidence to develop the Grand Canal of Nicaragua.

The distinguished President Daniel Ortega and his government give high importance to the livelihood of the Nicaraguan people, placing the highest priority on combating poverty, with sustainable de-



Xinhua/John Bustos

*Wang Jing at a conference in Managua, July 7, 2014.*

velopment and environmental protections. The desire and enthusiasm of the Nicaraguan people to overcome poverty, to pursue happiness, and to build a better country, are the most powerful guarantee for the success of our project.

Today we began the start-up work for the Grand Canal Project... Though there will be more obstacles to overcome, there is no turning back for a discharged arrow...

Let us bless and create immortal glory for the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st Century, which will carry the dream and happiness of future generations, and promote through Nicaragua a deeper integration and mutual prosperity of East and West. Let's work hard together!