Arab-GCC ‘ties with China vital’

“China is the second largest trade partner of the GCC states after the European Union and will be ranked first in the coming couple of years,” said Timothy Niblock, Emeritus Professor of Middle East Politics at the University of Exeter.

DOHA: The Arab world has remained a ‘black hole’ in the Chinese strategy for a long time, the Arab World and China: Future Prospects of Relations with a Rising Power conference at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Doha yesterday.

By Mohammed Doman

The Peninsula

FROM LEFT: Rabeh Zaghouni, Depang Sun, Marwan Kabalan, Kadhim Naama and Wu Bingling at Session One of ‘The Arab World and China: Future Prospects of Relations with a Rising Power’ conference at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Doha yesterday. Pic: Salim M / The Peninsula

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The strategy deals with Arab governments not populous addresses common economic interests and cooperation, underlining support for human rights and democracy, he added.

The two-day conference brought together more than 40 researches from China, the Arab world and beyond to discuss 30 research papers focusing on the world’s changing political and economic landscape and its effects on Arab-China relations.

The free source of the conference saw discussion of the Chinese strategy towards Arab, Arab vision with the strategy and China’s approaches and policies toward the Arab Spring and, more specifically, towards the Syrian crisis.

China's strategy towards Arab countries is based on principles that include respect of sovereignty, integrity of territories, non-interference, pursuit of political and peaceful solutions of conflicts, and the Chinese Veto regarding the current Syrian crisis should be seen in this context, said Wu Bingling, Senior Research Fellow at Institute for International and Strategic Studies (ISSOS) in Peking University.

In his paper, Bingling underlined that China’s strategy and policies in the Arab world are built on common interests — political and economic and security cooperation — to fight extremism and terrorism, in addition to national interests enhancing dialogue of civilizations.

China’s view of the Arab world developed through stages from a region exporting ideology and revolutions to one promoting geopolitical and energy security, enhanced investment and guaranteeing markets for Chinese trade.

“The incoming economy of China, the Arab region has become more vital for China and its policies has changed to geopolitical onetransferred to sell military presence in the region to provide economic interests,” said Rabeh Zaghouni, Lecturer in International Relations at Guelma University, Algeria.

China uses its soft military presence in Somalia and is likely to build logistic military base in Djibouti, in addition to its participation in UN peacekeeping missions temporarily aiming at promoting its practical interests, but not to influence governments of the region, said Deng Sun, Professor at the Middle East Studies Institute, Shanghai, China. So far China does not need hard military bases in the Middle East as China perceives the region as a “market” beleaguered.

China is the second largest trade partner of the GCC states after the European Union and will be ranked first in the coming couple of years, said Timothy Niblock, Emeritus Professor of Middle East Politics at the University of Exeter.

He underlined the importance of placing GCC states into the wider geographical cooperation and coordination which China is building across Central Asia and over the Indian Ocean. He said that this network includes roads, rail lines and oil pipelines aiming to link China and Europe in a vast Eurasian trading system with oilfields to other Asian countries and parts of Africa.

The ministry will then take action to ensure the compliance of shops.

The circular has defined under which circumstances the law explicitly compels shops to return or exchange products.

First: If the consumer finds that the product is defective or fails to meet the value or purpose of its intended use.

For instance, if the delivered product is not the same as the item ordered or is of a different colour than the colour mentioned on the package.

In this case, the consumer is entitled to exchange the product. If the product cannot be exchanged, the dealer has to refund the consumer.

Second: The non-conformity of a product with standard specifications. For instance, a consumer buys an electrical device from a shop, for example, that fails to conform to the standard issued by the Qatar General Organization for Standards and Metrology.

Third: When the item fails to meet the purpose for which it was bought.

For instance, when a consumer purchases an electronic device on the basis that it has multiple functions (a TV, mobile phone) ... and finds that some of these functions do not exist. Or whether the dealer fails to service a real changing room although the nature of the product requires consumers to try it before purchasing it.

The ministry has also outlined three other cases in which consumers are entitled to request a partial or full refund through these cases do not fall under the exchange and return policy as defined by the Consumer Protection law.

First: When the supplier advertises that it is selling a product at the lowest market price and the consumer finds that the same product is being sold at a lower price at another shop.

In this case, the shop should compensate the consumer for the price difference.

Second: When the dealer contracts a transaction such as selling consumers expired food or counterfeit car parts.

In this case, the consumer is entitled to exchange the defective product or request a full refund.

Third: If the consumer buys a product that doesn’t comply with the terms of his agreement with the dealer.

For instance, if the delivered product is not the same as the item ordered or is of a different colour than the colour mentioned on the package.

In this case, the consumer is entitled to exchange the product. If the product cannot be exchanged, the dealer has to refund the consumer.

They can also negotiate with shops any additional terms as part of the exchange and return policy and document these terms on the basis of these.

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The consumer finds it difficult convincing the shop to return or exchange the product.

They have been advised to check the product is functional and that the size of the item is suitable for the consumer’s needs according to the size of the item is suitable for the consumer’s needs.

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