

▶ Trip to boost collaboration in sustainability

Finnish president kicks off four-day state visit to China

By Fan Anqi and Yin Yeping

Finnish President Alexander Stubb kicked off his four-day state visit to China on Monday. Juha Tuominen, chairman of Finncham China Beijing, told the Global Times in an exclusive interview on Monday that the visit will definitely boost cooperation, including collaboration in sustainability, between Finnish and Chinese companies.

Stubb arrived in Beijing on Monday afternoon, which also marked the day of the 74th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries, China Central Television reported.

China and Finland have been steadily advancing their relations as the pair decided to establish a new type of future-oriented partnership in 2017, which was unique in China's

foreign relations.

Stubb will discuss bilateral relations as well as the war between Russia and Ukraine and other security issues, his office said in a statement. Reuters reported.

In recent years, in particular, China has made notable strides in green transformation and the digital economy, areas in which Finland hopes to draw lessons from China's experience, Wang Yiwei, a professor at the School of International Relations at Renmin University of China, told the Global Times on Monday.

As a country that has long prioritized green initiatives and climate change response, its policy focus aligns with China's proposal to develop new productive forces, thus creating significant opportunities for collaboration, Wang said.

The Finnish business community

sees this state visit as an important signal on trade relations between the two countries, and "it will definitely boost cooperation between Finnish and Chinese companies as well," Tuominen said.

China remains an important market for Finnish companies, Tuominen said, noting that the collaboration in sustainability between Finnish and Chinese companies is an important area for both sides.

Stubb's visit is the first since Finland joined NATO in April last year, becoming the group's 31st member. While elaborating on whether the move will have an impact on China-Finland ties, Wang said China hopes Finland remains vigilant against the dangerous trend of an eastward expansion by the group, which undermines the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific.

Jaishankar's remarks show 'joint efforts needed to overcome accumulated mistrust'

By Liu Xin

Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar's recent remarks on border issues with China, hinting that further de-escalation will require reciprocal steps from the Chinese side, are primarily a response to domestic pressure, said Chinese analysts. They emphasize that joint efforts from both India and China are needed to overcome the mistrust accumulated over the past few years and to implement the resolution on China-India border issues.

While addressing a press conference in Mumbai on Sunday, Jaishankar said that the disengagement of troops at two places in the border areas is the first step and the next step is de-escalation, which will not happen until India is sure that the same thing is happening on the other side as well, New Delhi Television reported, noting that Jaishankar was "obviously referring to China."

It is incorrect for Jaishankar to place unilateral blame on China for the border issue, or for the Indian side to suggest that China is seeking concessions from India. Improving relations requires genuine effort and sincerity from both sides, avoiding overreactions and the creation of new issues. Cooperation is essential, and it is unreasonable to place all demands solely on China, Long Xingchun, a professor from the School of International Relations at Sichuan International Studies University, told the Global Times.

Lin Minwang, deputy director at the Center for South Asian Studies at Fudan University, said that Jaishankar's remarks on Sunday showed that, despite the agreements, there's still a lack of mutual trust between the two countries, and Jaishankar's stance serves to address domestic political pressure. However, from China's perspective, it has consistently maintained equality and mutual respect during negotiations and has always honored agreements, Lin said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Lin Jian said at a press conference on October 22 that over a recent period of time, China and India have reached resolutions on issues concerning the border area.

The resolutions reached by both sides represent a breakthrough in addressing the border disputes since 2020. However, Jaishankar's remarks indicate that the mistrust accumulated over the past four years will take time and efforts to overcome, said Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the Global Times on Monday.

▶ ATM explosion



Police officers investigate a blown-up ATM in front of a drinks market in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, on October 28, 2024. Unknown persons blew up the machine early morning and also slightly damaged the facade of the building. The amount of damage was initially unknown. According to the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern State Office of Criminal Investigation, 12 ATMs were blown up in 2023. Photo: VCG

China says it opposes violation of sovereignty as tensions in Middle East run high

By Zhang Yuying

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Monday expressed opposition to violating the sovereignty and undermining the security of other countries, as well as the abusing of force, when asked to comment on the recent situation in the Middle East, including Israel's attack on Iran on Saturday.

The tensions in the Middle East are running high. Relevant parties need to refrain from further increasing the overall security risks in the region, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson

Lin Jian said at a routine press conference, noting that the international community, especially major countries with influence, should take concrete actions to play a constructive role and create necessary conditions for the deescalation of regional tensions.

Iran requested a UN Security Council meeting, claiming that Israel violated international law with its direct strikes against it early Saturday, CNN reported.

According to Islamic Republic News Agency, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian

said on Sunday that the Islamic Republic does not seek war, but will defend the rights of its people and will give a proportionate response to the latest Israeli aggression against the country.

Iran has sent a signal to the international community that it does not seek war and does not wish to become the focal point of conflicts in the Middle East, said Sun Degang, director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Fudan University.

However, Iran has also reserved the right to retaliate against Israel, indicating that tensions between the two coun-

tries persist, but a large-scale war may be avoided, Sun said.

Sun noted that the US, Israel, and Iran have a tacit understanding that they do not wish for a full-scale war, and neither are they prepared for one. "The hardline stances they display are intended for domestic consumption," Sun said.

Echoing Sun, Zhu Weilie, distinguished professor of the Middle East Studies Institute of the Shanghai International Studies University, said that a regional war is a scenario that the US, as well as the regional countries and the global com-

munity, wish to avoid.

Reuters reported the Swiss UN mission said the Security Council meeting scheduled on Monday had been requested by Iran with the support of Algeria, China and Russia.

The convening of the Security Council is timely, and what may be a matter of urgency is to work to achieve a prolonged ceasefire period, and allow humanitarian supplies to enter the region, Zhu said.

