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WEEKEND

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China, US enhance cybersecurity

By CHEN WEIHUA

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Chinese and US officials meeting in Washington on Wednesday for a bilateral cybersecurity dialogue have agreed to expand cooperation, according to Chinese officials.

Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Guo Shengkun joined US Attorney General Loretta Lynch and Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson in co-chairing the third China-US High-Level Joint Dialogue on Cybercrime and Related Issues.

The two sides reached a new consensus in deepening cooperation in cybersecurity. Achievements made in the meeting cover areas such as cracking down on cybercrimes, cooperation in cybersecurity, improving the hotline mechanism, cyber counterterrorism cooperation and information sharing, according to a press release from the Chinese

The two sides recalled the achievements made since the first dialogue and spoke positively of the importance and necessity of the mechanism, the press release said.

Guo was quoted as saying in the meeting that China and the US established the high-level dialogue mechanism based on the important consensus reached between President Xi Jinping and US President Barack Obama in September

He said the two leaders gave important input to the dialogue when they met in the sidelines of the APEC



State Councilor Guo Shengkun (center), US Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, and US Attorney General Loretta Lynch pose for a photo on the first day of the Third China-US High-Level Joint Dialogue on Cybercrime and Related Issues in Washington. The dialogue will continue on Thursday. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Leaders Summit.

"With the high attention and promotion by the two heads of state, the cooperation in cybersecurity between China and the US has advanced rapidly to become a new highlight in bilateral relations," Guo said at the meeting.

The two-day meeting from Dec 7-8 was attended by top officials from multiple

government departments in both countries, including China's Ministry of Public Security. Cyberspace Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Ministry of State Security and Ministry of Justice and the US' Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, Depart-

ment of State and Federal

Bureau of Investigation.

Guo said the two sides have achieved notable progress in areas such as cracking down on cybercrimes, protecting cybersecurity and sharing information. "(It) has made a positive contribution to ensuring the national security and the safety of the people

He noted that it has been

an important period for the two countries in carrying out their law enforcement cooperation focusing on cybersecurity.

He expressed that the dialogue mechanism should be the main channel for the two countries in communicating cyber-related issues

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Strategy boost for finance ties

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China and Canada will upgrade their economic and financial strategic dialogue to the vice-premier level, which will start in the second quarter of 2017, according to Wang Tianwen, minister and deputy chief of mission of Chinese embassy in Canada.

Speaking at a Canada China Business Excellence Awards luncheon hosted by the Canada China Business Council (CCBC) on Dec 2 in Toronto, Wang said 2016 has been a historic and extraordinary year for China and Canada.

The exchange of visits by Premier Li Keqiang and Premier Minister Justin Trudeau in September added a great boost to bilateral ties, Wang

Financial cooperation between the two sides has grown strong. In November, the National Bank of Canada issued a 3.5 billion yuan panda bond, the first North American financial institution to do so, after Beijing approved its 5 billion yuan bond programme in September.

The Bank of Montreal became one of the first market makers for direct trading of yuan against the Canadian dollar in the interbank foreign exchange market.

Both sides have agreed to launch exploratory discussions on a China-Canada free trade agreement (FTA). which will be held early next

year in Beijing.
"A bilateral FTA not only

our economic and trade cooperation but also sends a clear signal of promoting trade liberalization and investment facilitation to the international community," said Wang.

Several small- to mediumsized companies, universities and Chinese investment organizations in Canada received awards during the ceremony.

"The winners honoured today have, over the past two years, made tremendous strides in growing their enterprises and deepening their ties with China," said Graham Shantz, new president of CCBC, who has lived and worked for almost six years in China and speaks fluent Mandarin.

"We have committed to having the leaders get together once a year," Shantz added. "That provides the opportunity for two governments to talk about issues important to them, and our members will be invited to contribute to the consultation."

Sinopec Canada, Zongshen Industrial Group and Huawei Technologies Canada received Chinese Investment in Canada Awards presented by the CCBC.

"It's a reflection of how well Canada has integrated the Chinese and Canadian business cultures," said Kevin Long, vice-president of Sinopec Canada.

"We are a unique hybrid in Canada and a real model

Montreal ready to ring in New Year

By NA LI in Toronto

From colourful lanterns adorning the Montreal downtown to the annual dragon and lion dances in Chinatown, Montreal will be ringing in the Year of the Rooster in different ways all over the city. Plans were announced at a press conference on Tuesday for the First Celebration of the Chinese Spring Festival in Chinatown.

"On June 1, 2016. Year was officially recognized as a holiday by the Parliament of Canada. Now we are organizing a series of celebrations around

Montreal for the coming holiday," said Sun Ruijuan, one of the organizers

"For the first time, more than 60 Chinese communities will come together to create this wonderful event, which will certainly be a milestone in the Chinese community's history," Sun added.

Chinese New Year 2017 starts on Jan 28. The celebration will kick off with a grand opening followed by a series of activities right up until Feb 11, featuring performances by artists from China and local art troupes.

"Montreal is the most diverse

city in Canada. The series of 'Happy Chinese New Year' activities will share Chinese culture and art with local people, promote mutual understanding and friendship among every one," said Shan Chenglin, Chinese consul in Montreal.

Canada is a multicultural country and the Chinese culture has been greatly recognized in the country. Today Chinese Canadians make up 4.5 percent of the nation's population. They have played an important role in Canada's development since the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway 135 years ago.

For the first time, more than 60 Chinese communities will come together to create this wonderful event."

Sun Ruijuan, festival organizer



Chinese musical masterpieces enchant Toronto

The China Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra presented the Folk Music Gala Enchanting China: Masterpieces of Chinese Music on Dec 2-3 at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto. The celebration featured more than 70 Chinese performers who collaborated with the Ottawa Bach Choir and Canadian singers for an ebullient performance of Peking Opera, classical hits and folk music on traditional Chinese orchestra instruments. NALI / CHINA DAILY

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Will China take advantage of US President-elect Donald Trump's decision to effectively scuttle Asia's biggest trade deal ever, the TPP? > p4

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Japanese professor Shozo Fujii's fascination with one of China's foremost literary figures has sparked a lifelong interest. > **p11**

BUSINESS

Charging up

China will further open up the segments of batteries for new energy vehicles and automotive electron ics to foreign investment

DIPLOMACY

Pick of Branstad for US envoy to China praised

By CHEN WEIHUA

chenweihua@chinadailyusa US President-elect Donald Trump's pick of Iowa Gover-

nor Terry Branstad to be the next US ambassador to China has been well received in both countries. $Trump\,announced\,his\,intent$ to nominate Branstad for the job, according to a statement

on Wednesday afternoon from

Trump's transition team.

"Governor Branstad's decades of experience in public service and long-time relation-ship with President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders make him the ideal choice to serve as America's Ambassador

to China," Trump said in the

press release.
"He successfully developed close trade ties with China while serving as chief executive of the Hawkeye State. That experience will serve him well as he represents America's interests and further develops a mutually beneficial relationship with Chinese leadership."

The possible pick had been circulating for weeks, but Jason Miller, spokesman for Trump's transition team, confirmed it on Wednesday morning. He described Branstad as "someone who has a lot of



President Xi

Jinping for many years and consider him an old friend."

Terry Branstad. Iowa governor, choice for US ambassador to China

experience and a great grasp of trade issues, agriculture issues, a tremendous understanding of China and Chinese people, and is someone who very much impressed the president-elect not just in their meetings on the campaign trail but also in meetings after the election".

"After long discussions with my family, I am honored and humbled to accept Presidentelect Trump's nomination to represent our great country as Ambassador to China," Branstad was quoted in the press

"I have known President Xi Jinping for many years and consider him an old friend. I look forward to building on

our long friendship to cultivate and strengthen the relationship between our two countries and to benefit our economy."

The announcement was made just days after Trump's controversial phone call with Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen on Dec 2, drawing much criticism both in China and the US for its break with decades of bilateral diplomatic protocol between China and the US since they established diplomatic ties in

The Chinese government reacted favorably to the choice. Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang, when asked about news reports about the possible nomination, said on Wednesday that "Mr Branstad is an old friend of the Chinese people, and we welcome his greater contribution to the development of China-US

Cheng Li, director of the John L. Thornton China Center of the Brookings Institution, said such a soon pick of US ambassador to China reflects the high attention Trump pays to China.

"By picking his own people to the position, Trump wants to lead the China-US relations according to his own thinking,

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