

2022 Olympic Winter Games facility construction launched

Cai Qi, Mayor of Beijing, attended a meeting on the construction of the ancillary facilities and venues for the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games on March 31, marking the first meeting of its kind and officially launching the construction work of the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games venues and related infrastructure.

Beijing is responsible for the construction of 31 venues and the related infrastructure. The major venues and facilities will be completed by the end of 2019.

Beijing Mayor Cai Qi said the city needs to ensure a “wonderful, extraordinary and outstanding” Olympic Winter Games as it is a major event in China and has brought development opportunities to Beijing.

Cai said the construction needs to create a “Winter Olympics speed” while ensuring safety and quality.

The plan for the National Speed Skating Stadium needs to be improved, and the National Stadium (Bird’s Nest) and the National Swimming Center (Water Cube) needs to be upgraded.

Cai also said that the venue in Yanqing District should follow the rules of the games and the requirements of the International Olympic Committee. He said the construction of the venues should follow the principles of cost-saving and environmental friendliness.

Premier Li: Unleash productivity through thorough reforms

China is prioritizing reforms to bring better economic vitality and higher living standards for its people.

The State Council’s executive meeting on Wednesday came with an outline for specific plans for this year’s economic reform, short-listing areas that require focused reform. The meeting was presided over by Premier Li Keqiang.

“Chinese economy is fundamentally motivated by the country’s reform efforts,” Li said. “To deliver results we have projected for the year, it is still down to how well we carry on with reforms.”

He pointed out that reforms will inevitably touch the cheese of vested interest, and joint efforts are called from all government departments.

Efforts in deepening economic reform will be carried out in several aspects in 2017.

Improvements were urged in areas such as cutting overcapacity, destocking, deleveraging, reducing corporate costs and shoring up weak links through using force of the market and law-based measures, aiming for a more effective economic growth with high quality.

Efforts in transforming government functions and streamlining administration will continue with stricter and more comprehensive regulation, creating a more inviting business environment for the real economy.

Innovation and entrepreneurship will be further encouraged with an incentive mechanism. The government will also come out with wider and more effective regulation on private property protection.

Fiscal and tax reform as well as reform in state owned enterprises (SOEs) were also urged. The country will also enhance reform measures on furthering opening up, environmental protection as well as the agricultural supply-side structural reform.

The new guideline also suggested inviting private capital participation in social welfare, including medical care, education reform, and social organizations.

“The government needs to focus on key reform steps that catches greater traction. This is similar to clenching our fist firmly when holding something vital,” Li pointed out.

“The key to reform is to unleash the hitherto pent-up productivity,” Li added. “Our job is to make big businesses stronger, small businesses more vibrant, through means firmly adhered to market principles and the rule of law. Given greater latitude for their own initiatives, all businesses, big or small, will work together to invigorate the Chinese economy.”

[World-class transport system suggested for Xiongan New Area](#)

Xiongan New Area, a new economic zone near Beijing, should have a “world-class transport system” that is green and smart, a policy advisor said Wednesday.

Transportation in the new area should mainly focus on rail and bus transit

options, complemented by bike-sharing and other “green, advanced and highly intelligent” transportation options, said Lu Huapu, from Tsinghua University and a member of the expert committee advising the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region (Jing-Jin-Ji).

Public transportation, parking, traffic management and logistics should all be supported by smart systems, Lu told Xinhua in an interview.

He also suggested smooth and easy transit between Xiongan and the metropolises of Beijing and Tianjin, saying this was essential to attracting high-level talent from those cities and key to the new area’s development.

There should be “seamless connections” between Xiongan and the airports of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, Lu noted.

China announced plans to create Xiongan New Area on Saturday, which authorities described as a “major historic and strategic choice” that would be “crucial for the millennium to come.”

The new area, some 100 kilometers southwest of downtown Beijing, is designed to advance coordinated development in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and cure “urban ills” such as traffic congestion and air pollution in the capital.

Establishing Xiongan New Area will help with the ongoing drive to transfer “non-capital” functions out of Beijing, officials said.

[China to lodge representations to India over Dalai Lama’s visit](#)

China said on Wednesday it will lodge solemn representations to India over the Dalai Lama’s visit to the disputed border region.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying made the remarks at a routine press conference, responding to media reports that the Dalai Lama, regarded by China as a political exile who has attempted to split Tibet from Chinese territory under the cloak of religion, arrived in the so-called “Arunachal Pradesh” for a visit on Tuesday.

Despite China’s concerns, India persisted in arranging the Dalai Lama to visit the disputed zone in the eastern part of the China-India border area, severely damaging China’s interests and China-India relations, Hua said.

“China firmly opposes this and will lodge solemn representations to India,” Hua said.

“Our stance on the eastern part of the China-India border is clear and

consistent,” Hua said. “Well aware of the Dalai Lama’s role, India reneged on its commitments on Tibet-related issues and stirred up the border dispute by hosting the Dalai Lama in the sensitive disputed region,” Hua said.

This move runs counter to the development of bilateral relations and will not bring any good to India, the spokesperson said, warning that China will take necessary measures to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and legitimate interests.

The spokesperson demanded India immediately stop using the Dalai Lama to damage Chinese interests and refrain from playing up the sensitive issues between the two countries or damaging the foundation for border talks and bilateral relations.

“India should work to protect the big picture of bilateral relations with real action,” Hua said.

[Officials removed after fatal road accident in China](#)

Three officials have been removed from their posts after a road accident in central China’s Hunan Province Monday killed 12 people, local authorities said Tuesday.

A truck owned by a landscaping company overturned at about 5:50 p.m. Monday as it was transporting workers after they finished their tree planting work in Chenzhou City, the city’s publicity department said.

Another 19 were injured and receiving treatment.

According to the department, Zhou Yong, deputy head of the city’s Suxian District, who oversees the district’s forestry work, has been removed from office on Tuesday night. The director and chief engineer of the district’s forestry bureau were also removed from their posts.

The investigation continues.