

Report on the 2nd China-India Think Tanks Forum

Beijing, Gungzhou & Shenzen

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General Observations

1. The papers presented by the participants on July 24 & 25 were of a very high order.
2. The dominant theme of the Chinese experts were on:
 - A. Made in China 2025 Policy
 - B. Belt & Road Initiative
3. The Chinese speakers also unveiled the impact of 'Made in China 2025' initiative with key areas being:
 - A. Next generation Information Technology
 - B. Innovation
 - C. Establishing New Markets
 - D. Industrialisation
4. Chinese speakers also underscored the historical links between India and China, however flagging irritants such as the disputed border and the presence of the Dalai Lama
5. Prof Li Xiangyang argued that the United States of America was de-globalising under President Donald Trump and it was for China to exploit this by re-globalisation through its manufacturing and economic prowess
6. The sessions on June 24 and 25 gave good insights into Chinese goals for its economy and strategic interests. The discussion at the Soong Ling Foundation was good, but did not allow any time for substantial discussions.
7. Discussions, such as the one at the Soong Li Foundation needed more discussions beyond the presentations

Observations on ICT & Innovation Policy Panel

8. Prof Xin Yongfei, FDDG, Policy & Economics Institute, CACIT made the following points:
 - A. China has been placed as the 22nd most innovative nation by WIPO
 - B. It is the only middle income country to be in the top 25
 - C. LTE (4G) subscribers in China will cross 1 billion users by 2018

- D. Major thrust on Artificial Intelligence for - Basic research; Network Information; Smart Manufacturing; Public Service Delivery
9. Prof Li Xiaohua, Institute of Industrial Economics, CASS made the following points:
- A. China is in the process of launching its Digital 2.0
 - B. It has identified 20 areas for cooperation and policies to boost the digital economy
 - C. The areas of focus will be mobile - new media - sharing economy - cloud economy
 - D. The Digital economy will seamlessly fit into Made in China 2025

Recommendations

- 10. There should be more coordination meetings before the conference between Indian participants
- 11. Papers and positions should be shared well in advance to identify and communicate a coherent message
- 12. Strategic Communication presentations were of a very high order, especially by Prof Madhu Bhalla. However, some of the presentations from the Indian side could have communicated more and suggested roadmaps, especially with think tanks to take up and research.
- 13. The ICT sessions needed more coordination - While The Indian and Chinese speakers had good presentations, there was little scope for an engaged discussion on key points of cooperation in areas such as cybersecurity or ICT for governance and delivery of public services, etc.
- 14. The meetings at Jinan University and the China Institute of Development Studies were exceptional and the most fruitful part of the visit. More such round tables will facilitate deeper discussions, which can then be followed by smaller, more focussed group discussions with clear outcomes/recommendations.
- 15. The time allotted to sightseeing was adequate and helps in an informal understanding of each other. This must be continued.
- 16. Under people-to-people exchange it is recommended that a special category be drawn to focus on the historical ties in martial arts. Such ties have existed for over a millennia and it is believed that some martial arts from Kerala [Kalripayattu] was exported to China. If the focus is on the youth in both nations, then martial arts offers immense scope for such an exchange and exploration. Indians have been inspired by Chinese martial arts for decades. However, the martial arts scene has been dominated by the Japanese with the Shotokan school of Karate and Taekwondo from Korea being the dominant players. However, China, with its proximity and its historical links with India, offers a much broader and deeper scope for engagement on martial arts. This should be added and explored by both governments under the 'People-to-People' exchange.

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