



From Asia ... Hope comes again

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The Chinese capital Beijing hosted the second summit of the "Belt and Road" forum, launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, and expanded to include some 150 countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as announced by the Chinese president at the opening session of the forum.

This summit witnessed two things that are fraught with many indications. The first is related to the initiative itself, and the second relates to the nature of the Egyptian participation.

As for the initiative, Chinese President Xi Jinping laid out in his speech many new dimensions of the road and road initiative, some of which are related to the same initiative and his call upon the participating countries to adhere to free trade, economic cooperation and cooperation in the field of infrastructure and facilitating trade. Some of the Chinese president's remarks are related to China's contribution to the initiative's countries. The first was the promise not to reduce the currency in order to safeguard the interests of China's trading partners, as well as the opening of the Chinese economy to foreign investment in all fields, the establishment of more free zones, the holding of more trade liberalization agreements and hosting thousands of innovators, community leaders and intellectuals from the countries of the initiative in an unprecedented exchange in all fields between the belt and road countries.

These steps paved the way for a new phase of the initiative. It can be said that the countries of the belt and the road are now able to lay the foundations of a new and more equitable international economic and trade system than the one imposed by the West on the world since the end of the Second World War. It is a system based on mutual benefit, common solutions to problems and challenges, cooperation in science and research and enhancing the comparative advantage of each country, which encourages more trade and job creation for all peoples.



The Egyptian participation in the forum has borne many indications, starting with the special hospitality that the Chinese side and the forum accorded to President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. The forum focused on Egypt's geographical, economic and strategic importance within the belt and road cluster system.

At the same time, President Sisi spoke on behalf of the African continent. In his address to the main session of the forum, he focused on the Cairo-Cape Town axis, as well as the river-linking project between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean. These projects are of particular interest to the initiative so as to achieve the common benefit of a large number of peoples.

Once again, the solutions come from the Asian continent, the reservoir of human capital, the reservoir of wealth and the leadership of the new economic renaissance through broad cooperation with dozens of countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and others.

In this sense, the “Asian Perspectives” periodical continues its role in spreading awareness of the continent's issues and sheds light on the great hopes that this region has for the world. In this context, the current issue included many topics of interest to Asia and the whole world. The main file of the current issue is about nuclear files in Asia and efforts to address and deal with them as well as studies on the tentative polar silk road, including the opportunities and risks involved. The issue also includes a large number of studies and other reports covering the situation in many regions and countries in Russia, Japan, South Korea, Pakistan, Iran, India, China and others in three languages: Arabic, English and Chinese.

We hope that these studies will contribute to further shed light on Asian issues and its regional and international interactions in politics, security, economy, education, society and all fields.