

China News Digest

March 21, 2017



Contents

Latest news	01
China grants US\$15 billion in loans to Brazil in 2016	01
Latin America's finished steel imports from China surged 35% in January	02
Recent background	03
China's greater openness represents opportunity for LatAm: Ecuadorian experts	03
Brazil wants to expand trade partnership with China	04
China's Belt and Road Initiative exciting, transformational: world renowned economist	05
Interview: Chile-China relations model of successful free trade: expert	06
LatAm countries yearn for expansion of Asia-Pacific free-trade zone	07
How China Can Use US TPP Mistakes to Solidify Own Positions in Asia-Pacific	08

LATEST NEWS

China grants US\$15 billion in loans to Brazil in 2016

<http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/2017/03/06/china-grants-us15-billion-in-loans-to-brazil-in-2016/>

6 March 2017, Macauhub

Abstract:

Financial institutions in China in 2016 granted loans to Brazil of US\$15 billion, a record which coincided with one of the most economically and politically turbulent years in Brazil, newspaper El País Brasil reported. China granted loans worth US\$21.2 billion to Latin America in 2016, more than the loans granted by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank together, and 72% of that total was for Brazil. Most of the funds were granted to Petrobras, a company that was at the center of a corruption scandal and embezzlement of public funds to finance its growing debt, and the loans are being repaid by sending oil to China.

Latin America's finished steel imports from China surged 35% in January

<https://news.metal.com/newscontent/100727424/latin-america%E2%80%99s-finished-steel-imports-from-china-surged-35-in-january>

13 March 2017, SMM News

Abstract:

The latest statistics published by the Latin American Iron and Steel Institute (ALACERO) indicates that finished steel imports from China surged significantly higher by 35% in January this year. Also, consumption of finished steel by the Latin American and Caribbean region dropped nearly 8% during the previous year.

RECENT BACKGROUND

China's greater openness represents opportunity for LatAm: Ecuadorian experts

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2017-03/07/content_28467704.htm

7 March 2017, *China Daily*

Abstract:

The unprecedented opening-up measures announced by Chinese leaders during the ongoing “two sessions” -- the annual gatherings of the country’s top legislature and the political advisory body -- represent an opportunity for Latin America, said Ecuadorian experts.

This year’s “two sessions,” namely, the fifth session of the 12th National People’s Congress (NPC) and the fifth session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), are being held on March 3-15.

Brazil wants to expand trade partnership with China

<http://macaudailytimes.com.mo/brazil-wants-expand-trade-partnership-china.html>

9 March 2017, Macau Daily Times

Abstract:

China is considered a priority market in the work plan of the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Apex), said the chairman, Ambassador Roberto Jaguaribe. In this context, exchange with the Pan Pearl River Delta can help to improve the relationship between Brazil and China, the diplomat said during a meeting with a delegation of about 50 representatives of the nine provinces of the region, as well as Macau and Hong Kong, who arrived on Monday in Brasilia.

China's Belt and Road Initiative exciting, transformational: world renowned economist

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2017-03/14/content_28546239.htm

14 March 2017, *China Daily*

Abstract:

Renowned economist Jim O'Neill, who coined the term “BRIC”, said China's Belt and Road Initiative could “completely transform” the global economic outlook for the better. The initiative, proposed by China in 2013, aims to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient Silk Road trade routes. The initiative demonstrates China's rapid progress in becoming the center of the global economic sphere, the economist said.

Interview: Chile-China relations model of successful free trade: expert

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-03/15/c_136130621.htm

15 March 2017, *China Daily*

Abstract:

As Chile hosts a summit that may lay out the future trade relations in the Asia-Pacific region, many eyes are focused on China's contributions at the High-Level Dialogue on Integration Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific: Challenges and Opportunities. One leading expert believes "countries cannot simply remain with their arms crossed, especially if their interests to deepen economic cooperation happen to coincide." "China, Chile and other countries of the Asia-Pacific region that share this vision must be ready to make all needed efforts to advance in this line," said Juan Esteban Matusalem, President of the Chile-China Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (CHICIT), in an interview with Xinhua.

LatAm countries yearn for expansion of Asia-Pacific free-trade zone

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1037680.shtml>

14 March 2017, *Global Times*

Abstract:

The Latin American country of Chile is to hold a two-day meeting on Asia-Pacific economic integration starting on Tuesday, and has invited countries such as China, South Korea and Colombia to attend. In face of the United States withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Chile's initiative reflects Latin American countries' desire to expand the free-trade zone in the Asia-Pacific region.

How China Can Use US TPP Mistakes to Solidify Own Positions in Asia-Pacific

<https://sputniknews.com/business/201703151051606145-china-pacific-integration/>

15 March 2017, *Sputnik News*

Abstract:

Representatives of 15 countries will have trade talks in Chile on March 14-15, with the key issue on the agenda being how to integrate the economies and trade relations in the Asia-Pacific Region. The meeting is taking place after United States President Donald Trump signed an executive order to withdraw the US from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade deal. Intensively promoted by the administration of Barack Obama, the agreement was labelled by Trump as bad and dangerous for the American labor market. Commentators note that although China has agreed to participate in the negotiations in Chile, Beijing has stated that they are not related to the TPP agenda.