

China News Digest

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LATEST NEWS

China, Brazil, and the Gulf States are interested in post-BREXIT free-trade deals with the U.K.

<http://sptnkne.ws/dtbU>

19 January 2017, *Sputnik*

Abstract:

UK Prime Minister Theresa May stated that countries including China, Brazil, and the Gulf States, have already expressed in striking free-trade deals with the United Kingdom after it leaves the European Union and London had already launched trade talks with Australia, India, and New Zealand.



Brazil posts a record trade surplus with China in 2016

<http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/2017/01/17/brazil-posts-record-trade-surplus-with-china-in-2016/>

17 January 2017, *Macauhub*

Abstract:

In 2016 Brazil posted the highest ever surplus in trade with China, amounting to US\$ 11.770 billion, according to figures from the Ministry of Industry Data, Foreign Trade and Services. That increase over the surplus of US\$ 4.888 billion in 2015, was due fundamentally to the fact that Brazilian imports of Chinese products have fallen 23.94% year on year.

Nomura Holdings sees reigniting growth as the key for Brazil in 2017

<https://www.fxstreet.com/news/brazil-reigniting-growth-is-key-in-2017-nomura-201701161143>

16 January 2017, *FXStreet*

Abstract:

This article quotes an analysis by the Japanese financial group Nomura Holdings of Brazil's ailing economy and how to revive it:

"In our view, significant further BRL strength could be derived from: a) faster progress on fiscal consolidation that leads to faster growth or b) from an eventual significant drop in political noise from the current administration. Currently, we believe neither outcome is immediately possible. Similar to Mexico, a 2018 Presidential transition could see slow moving agreements in the local political arena."



China/Brazil Investment Fund to start funding projects in March

<http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/2017/01/11/chinabrazil-investment-fund-starts-funding-projects-in-march/>

11 January 2017, *Macauhub*

Abstract:

Brazil and China intend for the joint investment fund, with a budget of US\$ 20 billion dollars, to start financing infrastructure projects from March, said the secretary of international affairs of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Management of Brazil.

Jorge Arbache, quoted by news agency Reuters, said that the two countries want the fund, which was created in 2016, to finance the construction of railway lines to link regions producing soybeans and corn in Brazil to exporting ports.

The memorandum of understanding to establish an investment fund to finance infrastructure projects in the Brazilian economy was signed in Beijing by Jorge Arbache in October 2016. At the time, it was decided that the fund would have an initial allocation of US\$ 20 billion, of which US\$ 15 billion would be the Chinese contribution and the remaining US\$ 5 billion was the Brazilian contribution.



RECENT BACKGROUND

Latin America and the Asian giants: evolving ties with China and India

<http://americasquarterly.org/content/latin-america-and-asian-giants-evolving-ties-china-and-india>

19 January 2017, *Americas Quarterly*

Abstract:

Washington's policies toward Latin America under a Donald Trump presidency have yet to come fully into view, but many in the region wonder – with good reason – about the future of U.S. engagement. The likelihood that the U.S. will play a diminishing role in economic and political affairs in places like Brazil and Colombia has given Asian nations an opening to assert greater influence. This makes the recently published book *Latin America and the Asian Giants: Evolving Ties with China and India*, which is reviewed in this article, especially timely.



China's blueprint for engagement with Latin America

<http://seekingalpha.com/article/4037810-chinas-blueprint-engagement-latin-america>

19 January 2017, *Seeking Alpha*

Abstract:

This past November, China published a second “White Paper” on Latin America and the Caribbean. The first was written in 2008. Neither of the two policy papers received a lot of initial attention, but they are worth reviewing because they serve as blueprints that cast light on China’s method of engagement and interaction. This is important because China’s influence in Latin America and the Caribbean has serious implications for the region itself, for U.S. policy-makers, and for business & trade.



Donald Trump's trade policy is driving Latin America into China's arms

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/17/donald-trumps-trade-policy-driving-latin-america-chinas-arms/>

17 January 2017, *The Telegraph*

Abstract:

At the core of President-elect Donald Trump's election platform were two promises: to stand up to China, and to bring manufacturing jobs back to the United States. Before he has even been sworn in as president, Trump has claimed victory in securing a string of deals that keep or bring manufacturing jobs to the US. Unfortunately for him, that success will directly undermine the first policy. Not only will Trump not contain China, but he will cede to it primacy in Latin America, a region dominated by the United States ever since the Spanish were forced out in the 1820s.



China takes the global lead in clean energy

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/biz/archives/2017/01/10/2003662811>

10 January 2017, *Taipei Times*

Abstract:

China's overseas investment in renewable energy projects jumped last year by 60 percent to a record US\$ 32 billion, marking its leadership in the global market for clean energy, a report said on Friday, 6 January 2017.

Last year, China finalized 11 foreign deals worth more than US\$ 1 billion each and is expected to pick up the pace this year, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA). On 5 January 2017, China announced that it would sink at least US\$ 361 billion into "renewable" energy resources by 2020, key to the country's transition away from polluting coal power.

