

China News Digest

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Leite, Tosto e Barros
A D V O G A D O S

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LATEST NEWS

Brazil and China promote trade and cooperation in the services sector

<https://macauhub.com.mo/2017/08/02/pt-brasil-e-china-fomentam-comercio-e-cooperacao-no-sector-dos-servicos/>

2 August 2017, *Macauhub*

Abstract:

Brazil and China have agreed on a plan of action to promote trade and cooperation in the services sector under a protocol signed on Tuesday in Shanghai, the Brazilian Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services said in Brasilia.

Signed by the Secretary of Trade and Services, Marcelo Maia and the deputy minister of the Ministry of Commerce of China, Wang Shouwen, the action plan aims to implement the memorandum of understanding in the services sector signed in October 2016 by the Minister of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services, Marcos Pereira and China's Minister of Commerce, Gao Hucheng.

BRICS 'require more capacity cooperation'

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1058769.shtml>

30 July 2017, *Global Times*

Abstract:

BRICS countries will develop a mechanism for capacity cooperation, boost cooperation in key sectors and encourage deep cooperation in emerging sectors such as next-generation information technology and new energy, according to an action plan that the five countries signed on Saturday.

China leads infrastructure investment, demand

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1058017.shtml>

25 July 2017, *Global Times*

Abstract:

China is the leading force in fulfilling a massive demand for global investment, particularly in Asia, and its internal need for infrastructure projects is also the largest in the world, according to a report released Tuesday by Global Infrastructure Hub (GIH), an organization under the Group of 20 nations, and Oxford Economics.

Latin America confidence, domestic demand remain weak, warns IMF

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/07/25/latin-america-confidence-domestic-demand-remain-weak-warns-imf.html>

25 July 2017, *CNBC*

Abstract:

The recovery among several Latin American economies is expected to continue into 2018, according to the latest note from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but low confidence in the region and weak domestic demand are predicted to drag on growth.

“After disappointing growth in the past few years, economic activity in Latin America remains on track to recover gradually in 2017–18 as recessions in a few countries—notably Argentina and Brazil—are coming to an end,” the Fund noted in a blog post entitled “Latest Outlook for The Americas: Back on Cruise Control, But Stuck in Low Gear,” published on Tuesday.

IMF Global Outlook Strong, but Pockets of Weakness Remain

<https://sourcingjournalonline.com/imf-global-outlook-strong-but-pockets-of-weakness-remain/>

24 July 2017, *Sourcing Journal*

Abstract:

Global output is projected to grow 3.5% in 2017 and 3.6% in 2018, although the upbeat climate isn't widespread, according to the International Monetary Fund's "World Economic Outlook Update" released Monday.

U.S. growth projections are lower than IMF's April report, reflecting the expectation that fiscal policy will be less expansionary. Growth has been revised up for Japan and the Euro Area, where positive activity in late 2016 and early 2017 point to solid momentum.

China's growth projections have also been revised up, reflecting a strong first quarter of 2017 and expectations of continued fiscal support. Inflation in advanced economies remains subdued and generally below targets, with declines in several emerging economies, like Brazil, India and Russia.

RECENT BACKGROUND

Is Latin America Trying to Further the TPP Without Trump?

<http://thediplomat.com/2017/08/is-latin-america-trying-to-further-the-tpp-without-trump/>

4 August 2017, *The Diplomat*

Abstract:

Fulfilling one of his most important campaign promises, Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) a few days after taking office in January. This action was part of a set of measures seeking to erase former President Barack Obama's foreign policy legacy. The ambitious TPP agreement was part of the "pivot to Asia" launched by Obama in 2011, aiming to create a new trade area in the Asia-Pacific in order to counterbalance Chinese economic interests in the region.

China's debt troubles are rapidly going global

<https://asia.nikkei.com/print/article/283065>

2 August 2017, *Nikkei Asian Review*

Abstract:

The search for cautionary tales to explain where the world's second-biggest economy is headed lead most observers to Tokyo. Certainly, Beijing's dueling bubbles in credit, debt, shadow banking and complacency are too Japan-like for comfort. But the sudden and panicky crackdown on a handful of companies -- Anbang Insurance Group, Dalian Wanda Group, Fosun Group, HNA Group -- suggest Beijing also has a chaebol problem on its hands. The reference here is to the giant, family-run conglomerates that toppled South Korea's economy in 1997. Signs are that Beijing faces a similar tail-wagging-the-dog problem.

Latin America counts losses as NAFTA talks loom

<https://www.gtreview.com/news/americas/latin-america-counts-losses-as-nafta-talks-loom/>

2 August 2017, *Global Trade Review*

Abstract:

Mexico will be the biggest loser from North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiations, with a host of other Latin American countries set to suffer negatively from US President Donald Trump's trade and economic nationalism.

Renegotiations over the 22-year old trade deal between Canada, Mexico and the US are set to commence in mid-August, with trade credit insurer Coface saying that Mexico is likely to be the initial target of Trump's protectionist policies.

Chinese investors zero-in on Latin America

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/democraciaabierta/sean-miner/chinese-investors-zero-in-on-latin-america>

31 July 2017, *democraciaAbierta*

Abstract:

The new Atlantic Council – OECD Development Centre report, Chinese FDI in Latin America: New Trends with Global Implications, shines a light on an area previously clouded by unclear data: annual investment flows by Chinese firms to the region have averaged over 10 billion dollars over the previous five years. This new reality establishes China as a major partner for trade, lending, and now, investment for Latin America.

Latin America's commodity-driven fortunes

<https://www.worldfinance.com/wealth-management/latin-americas-commodity-driven-fortunes>

31 July 2017, *World Finance*

Abstract:

Despite facing a number of challenges, the macropolitical landscape in Latin America appears to be transforming for the better. As populism gives way to more conventional politics, many of the region's largest economies are starting to benefit from the pro-business policies of their new, market-driven leaders. This political stability has helped negate investors' fears, encouraging an influx of foreign investment and driving economic growth across Latin America.

China Sells Arms and Gains Influence in America's 'Backyard'

<http://www.rfa.org/english/commentaries/latam-china-07282017143820.html>

28 July 2017, *Radio Free Asia*

Abstract:

Venezuela's national guard chief said on July 2 that that the Latin American country was "saving lives" by using riot-control gear supplied by China when confronting anti-government protests.

This public mention of China reminds us that China has also in recent years sold self-propelled artillery, armored vehicles, rocket launchers, helicopters, and fighter planes to a variety of Caribbean and Latin American nations.

China's conduct and the logic of power

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/cvQxKI5NXXgmRLtEUZ6XFL/Chinas-conduct-and-the-logic-of-power.html>

24 July 2017, *Livemint*

Abstract:

As the India-China standoff continues at the Doklam plateau, reams have already been written about the sources of Chinese conduct. All sorts of analyses are doing the rounds, from the centralization of power under Xi Jinping and the forthcoming Communist Party Congress to the growing belligerence of the Chinese media and Beijing's growing need to show its displeasure to New Delhi for boycotting the Belt and Road Initiative and underline who the real boss is in South Asia. While all these factors can shed some light on recent Chinese behaviour, the ultimate factor remains a structural one—China's growing power is altering its view about its own interests, which are now in an ever-expansive mode.

China, EU and Japan are making up for slower US growth, says IMF

<https://www.ft.com/content/aa7b6b24-6ff1-11e7-aca6-c6bd07df1a3c>

24 July 2017, *Financial Times*

Abstract:

Broad global upswing compensates for stalled Trump agenda and faltering UK.

China and the Venezuela Crisis

<http://thediplomat.com/2017/07/china-and-the-venezuela-crisis/>

24 July 2017, *The Diplomat*

Abstract:

On July 16, seven million Venezuelans voted to reject President Nicolás Maduro's plans to convene a constitutional assembly. This did nothing to curb Maduro's desire to rewrite the Venezuelan constitution, prolonging the humanitarian, economic, and political calamity unfolding before everyone's eyes. With the crisis reaching a tipping point, Venezuela now represents a tough test for the rest of Latin America and – perhaps unsurprising in this globalized age – the United States and China.

Quest for sustainable development and China's race against time

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/perspective/features/2017/07/25/Quest-for-sustainable-development-and-China-s-race-against-time.html>

24 July 2017, *Al Arabiya English*

Abstract:

Twenty years ago, in July 1997, Asia was shuttered by an historic recession marked by investors fleeing the region and population plagued by layoffs and inflation.

Until the eve of the crisis, global financial institutions were blinded by what they perceived as an irresistible Asian take-off based on export-oriented economic policies. They blatantly disregarded the dangers of a dependency to short-term foreign credits and real estate speculation. Sadly, in a matter of a few days the house of cards crumbled.

Fast-track to 2017: Asian countries seem at first glance to have addressed their systemic weaknesses. Flexible or semi-flexible exchange rates have enabled them to regain competitiveness, stimulating exports. Their current balances now generate surpluses.

Latin American Economy Is Improving but Significant Risks Persist, Particularly from China Slowdown

<http://www.financecolombia.com/latin-america-economy-improving-significant-risks-persist/>

23 July 2017, *Finance Colombia*

Abstract:

With Brazil and Argentina emerging from recession this year, the overall economic picture in Latin America is continuing to improve, but significant risks remain for a region-wide recovery, stated Fitch Ratings in a new report.

Stronger global growth and a mild improvement in commodity prices have been the key factors in Latin America's improvement, according to the New York-based credit rating agency's new regional "Risk Radar" report for the second quarter. "Moderate" currency appreciation and easing inflation in many countries has also contributed to the recovery.