

# China News Digest

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## LATEST NEWS

### China ramps up role in Brazilian transport infrastructure

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-brazil/china-ramps-up-role-in-brazilian-transport-infrastructure-idUSKCN1BC507>

1 September 2017, *Reuters*

#### Abstract:

Chinese companies signed commitments on Friday to finance and build railways and ports that will help Brazil export iron ore and soybeans, the two main commodities it sells to China, during a state visit by Brazilian President Michel Temer.

China Communication Construction Co Ltd (601800.SS) agreed to finance the expansion of the Amazon basin port of Itaqui in the state of Maranhão, Brazilian Transport Minister Maurício Quintella told reporters in Beijing. He gave no further details.

## Venezuela and China Hold Meetings

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2442591&CategoryId=10717>

1 September 2017, *Latin American Herald Tribune*

### Abstract:

China will augment its already significant oil and financial presence in Venezuela, with the Asian giant and the oil-rich yet embattled Latin American nation discussing new ventures in the Orinoco oil belt, the largest concentration of crude oil known to man.

Wednesday, a “high level” Chinese-Venezuelan commission met in Caracas, in which the parties “agreed to an expansion of commercial relations between both nations”, state oil company PDVSA informed Thursday.

## China invites leaders of five more countries to BRICS summit

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1063944.shtml>

30 August 2017, *Global Times*

### Abstract:

China has invited the leaders of Egypt, Guinea, Mexico, Tajikistan and Thailand to the upcoming BRICS summit, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday.

The model of BRICS Plus, which is an expansion of BRICS, is meant to “strengthen dialogue cooperation between BRICS nations and other emerging markets and developing countries, to promote the establishment of broader partnerships and to foster mutual development and prosperity on a larger scale,” Wang said at a press conference in Beijing.

## Chile Week in China Aims at Bolstering Economic Relations

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2442517&CategoryId=14094>

30 August 2017, *Latin American Herald Tribune*

### Abstract:

The third Chile Week in China opened Wednesday in Beijing aiming to bolster economic relations, commercial partnership and attract more investment and technology cooperation.

Former Chilean President and Ambassador on Special Mission to Asia-Pacific Eduardo Frei addressed the opening of the event, which aims at attracting Chinese investment in Chile and promoting joint ventures.

## **Brazil looks to China to finish nuclear power plant**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/brazil-nuclear-china/brazil-looks-to-china-to-finish-nuclear-power-plant-idUSL2N1LFOWN>

**29 August 2017, Reuters**

### **Abstract:**

Brazil will seek China's expertise and financing to complete its third nuclear power plant when President Michel Temer makes a state visit to Beijing on Friday, Brazilian government officials said on Tuesday.

The Brazilian nuclear energy company Eletronuclear will sign a cooperation agreement with China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), signaling their intent to establish a partnership to finish the Angra 3 plant, the officials said.

## **Mexico President to Visit China to Boost Trade Amid NAFTA Talks**

<https://www.voanews.com/a/mexico-president-china-trade-nafta/4004802.html>

28 August 2017, *VOA News*

### **Abstract:**

Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto will travel to China next week to discuss trade and investment, as Mexico looks for ways to decrease its dependence on NAFTA, especially trade with neighboring United States.

He will hold a bilateral meeting with China's President Xi Jinping and participate in a summit of the BRICS nations, a grouping that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, on Sept. 4 and 5, Mexico's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.



## RECENT BACKGROUND

### How Trump's NAFTA threats are bringing Mexico and China Together

<http://business.financialpost.com/news/economy/how-trumps-nafta-threats-are-bringing-mexico-and-china-together>

1 September 2017, *Financial Post*

#### Abstract:

Donald Trump's repeated threat to terminate the North American Free Trade Agreement could bring a little bit closer together the two U.S. partners who he's complained about most: Mexico and China.

At first glance, the two are more natural competitors than allies. Both thrive on cheap labor and assembling products to sell to consumers in wealthier nations. When China comes looking to buy goods from Latin America, it's usually commodities to fuel its own boom – iron ore from Brazil or copper from Chile – rather than finished products from Mexico. Yet they find themselves on the same side of the globalization argument – opposite the U.S. – advocating more trade as the pathway to growth.

## **Interview: Closer ties with China promote growth of Costa Rica**

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/01/c\\_136574708.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-09/01/c_136574708.htm)

1 September 2017, *Xinhuanet*

### **Abstract:**

Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solis told Xinhua in a recent interview that closer relations with China have helped promote the country's development.

The president made the remarks following the inauguration of a Chinese-built and funded National Police Academy in the country's east-central province of Limon.

Cooperation between China and Costa Rica has been raised to a new level since they forged diplomatic relations 10 years ago.

## China's VAT reform helps expand cooperation in Belt and Road Initiative

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2017-08/29/content\\_31280109.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2017-08/29/content_31280109.htm)

29 August 2017, *China Daily*

### Abstract:

A resort hotel in Yangling, an agricultural high-tech demonstration zone in Northwest China's Shaanxi province, has seen its tax drop by 670,000 yuan (\$101,200) since May last year. The company's revenue was 20 million yuan during the same period.

The same was also seen in Yuchai Group, a leading machine manufacturer in South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, whose tax burden was cut by 70 million yuan last year.

All these changes would not take place had a nationwide value-added tax reform not been implemented in May last year. The reform replaced all business taxes with value-added tax, the most significant tax overhaul in China for two decades.

## **Brazil and the crisis of the liberal world order**

<https://www.ft.com/content/43900a92-89ae-11e7-bf50-e1c239b45787>

28 August 2017, *Financial Times*

### **Abstract:**

Polarised politics and the rise of nationalism echo Trump's US and Brexit Britain.

## **BRICS Summit provides framework to overcome challenges**

<http://www.ecns.cn/business/2017/08-25/270690.shtml>

25 August 2017, *China News Service*

### **Abstract:**

The upcoming BRICS Summit, which will open on September 2, in Xiamen, East China's Fujian Province, is expected to provide a pragmatic framework for the five members to overcome challenges in their economy, society and politics, Chinese analysts said.

The past decade has seen the growth of the BRICS cooperation platform into an influential international mechanism, and has helped bring changes to global economic governance structures. This includes greater voting rights for China and India in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

## The greatest drama of the 21st century

<http://www.manilatimes.net/greatest-drama-21st-century/346387/>

24 August 2017, *The Manila Times*

### Abstract:

“THE rise of China,” international relations theorist John Ikenberry said, “will undoubtedly be one of the great dramas of the twenty-first century.” China’s dramatic economic growth and increasing prominence in international politics propel its ascendance. America’s pre-eminence has now met its rival. And Uncle Sam can already feel on his nape the moist hot breath of this dragon.

## A Latin American Battle: China vs. Taiwan

<http://thediplomat.com/2017/08/a-latin-american-battle-china-vs-taiwan/>

19 August 2017, *The Diplomat*

### Abstract:

Chances that the United States may retreat from the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region raised many eyebrows – why would the United States leave its backyard open to anyone else? China had already been present in the region, predominantly aligned with the socialist regimes in Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina and Ecuador. Lately, however, this has changed with the economic breakdown in Venezuela and with the changes in attitudes towards China owing to centrist regimes in elsewhere in the region. The ever-increasing Chinese involvement in LAC prompted suggestions that it would soon fill the vacuum created with the withdrawal of the United States and engender further conflict between the two.