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Peace, harmony, good-neighborliness -- goal of China's diplomacy

BEIJING, Nov. 14 (Xinhua) -- Peace, harmony and good-neighborliness have always been and will continue to be the core elements and primary goal of China's good-neighbor foreign policy.

Chinese leaders have reiterated on many occasions China always seeks cooperation with other nations in promoting peace and development and achieve win-win results, stressing that China never poses a threat to any other nations.

In recent interviews with Xinhua, some world leaders, experts and media commentators have spoken highly of China's foreign policy of peace.

#### CHINA ADHERES TO A FOREIGN POLICY OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP

Bambang Suryono, editor-in-chief of the Indonesian International Daily News, said that as a matter of fact, the Chinese nation has always advocated a foreign policy of peace and friendship since ancient times.

China has made tremendous contributions toward building a harmonious world by engaging itself in friendly exchanges and interactions with other countries, Suryono said, citing the seven epic voyages by China's great explorer Zheng He.

Zheng, an excellent navigator and diplomat in China's Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), led a royal fleet and sailed to many destinations in Asia, Africa and the Middle-East, offering generous assistance to local people in whatever countries and regions he reached, he noted.

History shows that China has never invaded and occupied other countries' territory nor terrorized other countries, and it did not do so even when it was one of the most powerful countries in the world.

Suryono added that in recent years, Chinese leaders have put forward a new initiative of "Harmonious Diplomacy" aimed at promoting a peaceful, harmonious and friendly diplomatic approach throughout the world.

Moreover, China has provided assistance with no strings attached to countries hit by natural disasters or facing other difficulties, benefiting many people in Asia, especially Indonesian people, said Suryono.

Chen Gang, a research fellow at the East Asia Institute of the National University of Singapore, said China's foreign policy of peace has made substantial achievements over the past two decades.

In general, China has succeeded in maintaining a peaceful security environment in neighboring regions around it, which is conducive to achieving its overall strategic objective of economic growth and opening-up, Chen said.

#### CHINA'S INCREASING CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL PEACE, STABILITY

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari described China as the best and most reliable friend of Pakistan, and expressed his appreciation for China's assistance for the flood-affected country.

He appealed for more investment from China and hoped Pakistan will be a destination for Chinese companies to put up industries, adding that he has seen the growth of China as a growth engine for the region.

Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said China has played an important role in promoting cooperation in East Asia and has contributed to peace, stability and development in the region and the world.

The establishment of an economic corridor of the Greater Mekong Sub-region is an important regional cooperation project between China and ASEAN, and it will play a key role in promoting regional economic growth and ASEAN's integration process, said Abhisit.

Chheang Vannarith, executive director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, said Cambodia and China are "natural allies."

Cambodia sees China as an important, stabilizing force and the chief engine of economic growth in the region, Vannarith said, adding China is a country seeking peaceful development.

Vannarith said China has made positive contributions to regional stability and development, as evidenced by its signing of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and being the most important Dialogue-Partner of ASEAN.

China has offered valuable assistance to other countries in the region, in poverty reduction and humanitarian relief efforts, he said.

Vannarith also pointed out that China has made great contributions to promoting world and regional peace and development. However, Western media have only given scanty reporting on the country's achievements and contributions, in their attempt to tarnish China's image, he said.