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The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

ON THE RECEPTION MARKING 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION AND 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCH OF THE SCO SECRETARIAT

On 11 July 2014 a reception took place in Beijing on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the creation of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the 10th anniversary of the launch of the SCO Secretariat.

Heads of government departments and public institutions of the People's Republic of China, heads of diplomatic missions and offices of international organisations accredited to China, scholars, masters of culture and art, influential Chinese diplomats and media representatives were in attendance.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the PRC Wang Yi and the SCO Secretary-General D. Mezentsev delivered welcoming statements.

Minister Wang Yi noted that since its founding the Organisation had gained major achievements in fighting against "the three evil forces" – terrorism, extremism, separatism, other modern security challenges and threats, as well as in developing regional trade economic cooperation, in the field of cultural and social interaction, in the sphere of deepening the traditional relationship of friendship among the SCO member states.

Secretary-General D. Mezentsev said that within a short historical space of time the SCO had established itself as a prestigious international organisation. New quality directions, he stressed, will be outlined in the SCO Development Strategy till 2025, which is currently being drafted. He expressed gratitude to the Chinese side for its significant contribution to the fulfillment of the decision of the foreign ministers of SCO member states on providing a new spacious office building for the SCO Secretariat in Beijing city centre.

He noted a symbolic fact – 10th anniversary of Mongolia's obtaining of the status of SCO observer.

The solemn reception featured performances of the music bands “Zabaikalye Ornament” and “Baikal Quartet”. They performed national songs of the SCO member states.

As for the cultural part of the programme, the International West Lake Artists Association staged an exhibition of well-known artists from SCO member states.