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The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference on April 10, 2014
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Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei held a press conference on April 10, 2014.

Hong Lei updated the press on China's search for the missing Malaysian plane MH 370 over the past day.

Haixun 01, East China Sea Rescue 101, South China Sea Rescue 115 as well as Chinese naval vessels Jinggangshan, Kunlunshan and Haikou carry on their search in waters to the west of Australia. Haixun 31, South China Sea Rescue 101 and the Chinese naval vessel Yongxingdao are still searching the eastern part of the Indian Ocean. We have come to a crucial stage in the search for the black box. Chinese vessels will do their utmost.

Q: It is reported that Mr. Hu Deping is visiting Japan. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida have met with him and expressed Japan's willingness to repair China-Japan relations and promote bilateral talks. Please give us more details.

A: As far as I have learned, Mr. Hu Deping was invited to attend non-governmental exchange activities in Japan. China's position on China-Japan relations is clear-cut. We urge the Japanese side to abide by the principles and consensus enshrined in the four political documents, properly deal with the outstanding problems between China and Japan, show sincerity and take concrete actions to remove the political stumbling blocks of their own making and make real efforts to bring China-Japan relations back to the correct track.

Q: The P5 conference will soon be held in Beijing. Please give us more details.

A: China will host the P5 conference in Beijing from April 14 to 15. Delegations from China, France, Russia, the UK and the US will have in-depth discussions on strategic security, international stability, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, peaceful use of nuclear

energy and other issues. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong will attend and address the opening ceremony.

Q: The US House of Representatives deliberated and passed the Taiwan Relations Act Affirmation and Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014 the other day. What is China's comment?

A: The so-called Taiwan Relations Act unilaterally made by the US goes against the spirit of the three joint communiqués between China and the US. China's firm opposition to the act is consistent and clear-cut.

US arms sales to Taiwan constitute a severe violation of principles of the three joint communiqués, especially those of the August 17 Communiqué and interfere in China's domestic affairs. China firmly opposes that. We urge the US Congress to stop moving ahead with relevant Taiwan-related bill, and the US administration to take measures to prevent the adoption of the bill by the US Congress so as to avoid hurting China-US relations and disturbing the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations.

Q: The third round of talks between the P5+1 and Iran was just concluded in Vienna. Please brief us on the outcome of the talks.

A: The P5+1, the EU and Iran, during the new round of talks from April 8 to 9 in Vienna, had in-depth discussions on the components of a comprehensive agreement on resolving the Iranian nuclear issue. The atmosphere of the talks is positive in general. All parties are sincere about promoting talks and willing to reach a comprehensive agreement at an early date. Progress has been made in the talks.

Since the Iranian nuclear issue is intricate and complex and negotiation on a comprehensive agreement is difficult, it is only natural that the P5+1 and Iran don't see eye to eye on everything. What is important is that all parties are constructive about handling differences, willing to resolve each others' concerns and ready to press ahead with negotiation for converging interests. In the next phase of negotiation, China will continue to play a constructive role and encourage all parties to reach a comprehensive agreement at an early date.

Q: Special Representative Wu Dawei of the Chinese Government on the Korean Peninsular Affairs is going to visit the US, and the Six-Party Talks negotiator of the ROK is going to visit China. Please give us more details.

A: China is in communication with all the other parties of the Six-Party Talks, including the US. As a close neighbor to the DPRK and the ROK and a responsible major country, the Chinese side will continue its unrelenting efforts for the proper settlement of relevant issues.

Q: The Russian side said that they would sign a natural gas deal with the Chinese side. How does China respond? Will that deal be signed?

A: Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich held a meeting as co-chairs of the China-Russia energy cooperation committee in Beijing on April 9. They had an in-depth exchange of views on China-Russia energy cooperation and reached new consensus on cooperation.

Chinese and Russian companies are actively engaged in negotiation on the eastern gas program. We hope that the two sides can step up negotiation, reach an agreement on the basic price of gas and sign the purchases and sales contract on the eastern gas program at an early date.

