



Portugal's Belt & Road Think Thank



## NSRF Newsletter

NEW SILK ROAD FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

### Events NSRF

From December 2018 to July 2019

#### **Book release "China and the Ancient Silk Roads - New Vector of World Trade" NSRF 2nd Anniversary Commemorative Dinner**

The book "China and the Ancient Silk Roads - New Vector of World Trade", coordinated by Prof. Fernanda Ilhéu and by Arch. Leonor January, and published by NSRF in cooperation with the International Institute of Macao was released and brilliantly presented by Prof. António Costa e Silva, on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018. All the authors of the various chapters are members of the NSRF.

The launching of this book was followed by the NSRF commemoration of its 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary with a dinner, attended by numerous Friends and the Ambassadors of China in Portugal and of Portugal in China, respectively, Dr. Cai Run and Dr. José Augusto Duarte Jesus. Both communicated their vision of Portugal on the "New Silk Road - The Future". They both expect a very positive cooperation on the bilateral trade development, reciprocal investment and closer cultural and friendly relationship between the two people.



#### **II "Intercultural Dialogues Portugal-China" International Congress**

The II "Intercultural Dialogues Portugal-China" International Congress took place from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at the University of Aveiro. The initiative and organization were in charge of the Confucius Institute of the University of Aveiro, headed by Prof. Carlos Morais, an associate of NSRF, who had the collaboration of the ANRS Friends; Fernanda Ilhéu, Teresa Salter Cid, António Costa e Silva, Paulo Duarte, António Augusto Fernandes, Shao Lin, Celina Veiga de Oliveira, Ênio de Sousa, Maria José Freitas. The opening session was attended by the Chinese Ambassador in Portugal Mr. Cai Run.



## Intercultural Dialogue with Macau in the future

The NSRF participated on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 the Colloquium “Our Future - Macao Essential Role in Luso-Chinese Relations”, organized by the Luso-Macanese Students Association of Lisbon University. NSRF was represented by Prof. Fernanda Ilhéu, who was a speaker at the economy panel together with Dr. Alda Oliveira from AICEP and Eng. Alberto Carvalho Neto, President of AJEPC. This panel was moderated by Dr Yipei Wu, the General Secretary of the Association for Economic and Cultural Promotion between Portugal and China.



## Common Goals and Ideals: 40 Years of Cooperation between Portugal and China Retrospect and Prospect

the Conference “Common Goals and Ideals: 40 Years of Cooperation between Portugal and China Retrospect and Prospect”, held on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019, respectively at the Rectory of the University of Lisbon and at ISEG, was jointly organized by NSRF with Confucius Institute of the Lisbon University, ISEG - Lisbon School of Economics and Management and the Diplomatic Institute of the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In this conference, the 40 years of diplomatic relations between Portugal and the People's Republic of China were dynamically analyzed, projecting them for the future, namely prospecting the economic cooperation of Portugal and China in the New Maritime Silk Road of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Distinguished guest speakers connected with Portugal-China relations, such as the former Foreign Minister Paulo Portas and the Minister of the Sea Ana Paula Vitorino gave their views on the prospected cooperation. The Conference was closed by Mr. Cai Run, Chinese Ambassador in Portugal, and had the participation, as moderators or speakers, of the Friends Teresa Salter Cid, José Duarte Jesus, Mário Matos dos Santos, Paulo Figueiredo, Fernanda Ilhéu, José Luis Cacho, Choi Man Hin, Rui Pereira, Alberto Carvalho Neto, Artur Lamy, Bernardo Mendia and Jitendra Tulcidas.







## BRI Forum for “Interconnected Land-Sea Development”

The NSRF was invited by the Chinese Embassy in Lisbon, to be present at the BRI Forum for “Interconnected Land-Sea Development”, held in Chongqing on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 and was organized by China Center for Contemporary World Studies in conjunction with the CPC International Department and the Chongqing Government.

NSRF was represented by the Friend Bernardo Mendia who presented NSRF and delivered a communication on the theme “Role of People-to-People Connectivity in Interconnected Land-Sea Development: Towards Closer People-to-People Friendship”



# BRI PRESS NEWS

## The Role of Macau in the New Silk Road, by Chui Sai On

Macau should take advantage of the opportunities offered by the construction of the "Belt and Road" initiative to deepen cultural and human exchanges and promote understanding among people through the creation of an exchange platform, said Macau Chief Executive in Beijing. Mr. Chui Sai made the following remarks during the debate at the 2<sup>nd</sup> "Belt and Road" Forum for International Cooperation.

*"Macau is a city with historical features and cultural importance, which, with Chinese culture as the predominant one, preserves the harmonious coexistence of diverse cultures."*

Source: <http://www.aplop.org/sartigo/index.php?x=35137>

## Vado Ligure: The new Italian city integrating the new Silk Road

A traditional industrial city, which recently witnessed a downturn in the local economy, Vado Ligure was placed on the international maps as a mark of Chinese commercial interests in Italy.

The Italian government will attend a summit of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Beijing - just a month after becoming the first G7 country to join the strategy and sign various trade and infrastructure agreements with the China.

Source: [https://www.dw.com/pt-br/a-pequena-cidade-italiana-aonde-a-nova-rota-da-seda-da-china-j%C3%A1-chegou/a-48461713?maca=bra-newsletter\\_br\\_Destaques-2362-html-newsletter](https://www.dw.com/pt-br/a-pequena-cidade-italiana-aonde-a-nova-rota-da-seda-da-china-j%C3%A1-chegou/a-48461713?maca=bra-newsletter_br_Destaques-2362-html-newsletter)

## Opportunities and challenges for BRI in Europe

Although lagging other countries, Italy is playing a lead role in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the first G7 nation to have signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation within the BRI framework.

For Italy, the Chinese market remains a strategic target. Current Italy exports to China about 13 billion euros (\$ 14.6 billion). Italy also aims to seize the opportunities that will emerge in other countries involved in the BRI, implementing know-how in Africa and the Balkans by means of trilateral cooperation.

According to estimates, the BRI could increase global trade of the EU by up to 6 percent, and of Italy by up to 7 percent. This is particularly the case if trans-Eurasian rail corridors are further modernized (container transportation). Fully fledged participation in the BRI (if salient connectivity projects are completed) may contribute to overcoming the region's traditionally peripheral economic position in Europe.

Source: <https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/ghsl/wksl/84696.htm>

## East African ports linked to the Chinese BRI

The ports of Mozambique, Angola and São Tomé and Príncipe will be linked to the Chinese "Belt and Road" initiative, which will have a "central node" in East Africa, attests researcher Paul Nantulya.

The researcher, in a study of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, said that East Africa, as "central node" in the Chinese strategy, will be linked by "designed and / or operating ports, pipelines, railways and power stations built and financed by Chinese companies and lenders".

The emblematic mark of the importance of the region is the already inaugurated Mombasa-Nairobi railway, as well as the electric railway line from Addis Ababa to Djibouti, where China has established its first naval base abroad and has holdings in a deepwater strategic port.

Source: <http://www.aplop.org/sartigo/index.php?x=35102>

## Macao Forum needs more visibility

Although efforts have been made in recent years, Xu Yingzhen told Lusa that the Forum created in 2003 still "needs to reach out to more people" to better serve the cooperation and deliver more concrete results.

The business meeting was held on July 8 and 9 in São Tomé and Príncipe - the last country to join the Macau Forum in 2017. After giving his diplomatic time to Taiwan - there is, in his opinion, an opportunity to increase the Forum. "This can be the first meeting between the cities of China and the Portuguese-speaking countries," she said.

Source: <https://www.dn.pt/lusa/interior/entrevista-forum-de-macau-precisa-de-mais-projecao-para-aumentar-eficacia---secretaria-geral-11060942.html>

## The 17 agreements signed at Xi Jinping's visit to Portugal

The media age for the table of the festive culture to the networks of the transport of energy and nanotechnology, the visit of two days of the President of China the Portugal culminated with a signature.

Source: <https://www.publico.pt/2018/12/05/economia/noticia/17-acordos-assinados-vista-xi-jinping-portugal-1853673>

[www.anrs.pt](http://www.anrs.pt)

[info@anrs.pt](mailto:info@anrs.pt)

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/amigos-nova-rota-da-seda/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ANRS>

[info@anrs.pt](mailto:info@anrs.pt)