

The One Belt and One Road: Opportunities for Marine Science Research

When Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Central Asia and Southeast Asia in September and October, 2013, he raised an initiative of building ‘the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road’ (Lower Left). In the full text of an action plan on the China-proposed ‘One Belt and One Road’ initiative, there is one Bridge (the Eurasian Land-Bridge), five Economic Corridors (China-Mongolia-Russia, China-Central Asia-West Asia, China-Pakistan, Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar, China-Indochina Peninsula), and one Road (the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road). Major sea ports along the Belt and Road are key connections. A comparison table shows that there are many differences between the ancient and the new Silk Road (Lower Right).



Type	The Silk Road Economic Belt		The Maritime Silk Road	
	Past	Now	Past	Now
Products	silk, porcelain, tea, gemstone and fine horses	Oil, Natural Gas, Technologies,	Spice, Silk, Porcelain, Art	Oil, Cars, Technologies,
Transportation	Camel, Horse	high train, Airplane, car,	Boat, Canoe	Ship, Airplane
Representative figure	Zhang Qian (BC 1-2) Xuanzang (AD 6) Marco Polo (AD 12)	Many	Zheng He (AD 12)	Many
culture	Buddhism Christianity	Multi-culture	Mazu (Sea God)	Marine culture

In a narrow sense, the areas cover 4.4 billion people, 63% in the world, 66 countries, 18 provinces in China, and a GDP of US\$ 21 trillion or 29% in the world. Generally, the initiative is open to any country. In China, there are two Centers (Xinjiang Province and Fujian Province) and 4 Pilot Free Trade Zones (Shanghai, Tianjin, Fujian and Guangdong) for building of the One Belt and One Road (Lower Left).

“Oceania is a natural extension of the ancient maritime Silk Road, China is open to Australia participating in the construction of the 21st century Maritime Silk Road.” (His Excellency Mr XI JINPING, 2014)

Source: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SPEECH Monday, 17 November 2014

http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/genpdf/chamber/hansardr/35c9c2cf-9347-4a82-be89-20df5f76529b/0005/hansard_frag.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf



The Memorandum of Understanding of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was signed in October, 2014. Now there are 57 Prospective Founding Members (PFM). The AIIB subscribed capital will be over US\$ 100 billion. The Silk Road Fund was set up on December 29, 2014, which China will contribute US\$ 40 billion. Combined with the AIIB, the Silk Road Fund, is to provide investment and financing support for infrastructure construction, industrial cooperation and other projects related to connectivity for countries along the One Belt and One Road. The 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road strategy will provide many opportunities to study and develop marine science including maritime transportation, marine culture (underwater cultural relics, marine tourism, underwater experiences etc.), marine laws, regulations and policies, and marine technologies (marine fisheries, marine mining, marine monitoring and observation).

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