

Diplomat: Tokyo 'playing with fire'

Former State councilor cautions against inciting territorial tensions

By ZHANG YUNBI
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Japan's strategy of labeling China as a major threat is actually "playing with fire", an influential senior Chinese diplomat said on Thursday.

Former State councilor Tang Jiaxuan made the remarks at a meeting of the 21st Century Committee for Japan-China Friendship, an influential advisory panel on bilateral relations.

This is believed to be the first official panel meeting after the Japanese government unilaterally announced its decision to "nationalize" some of China's Diaoyu Islands in September 2012, a tipping point in Sino-Japanese relations that increased tensions.

At a hotel in Nagasaki prefec-

ture, committee members from both countries convened for the low-key two-day session.

Taizo Nishimuro, president and CEO of Japan Post Holdings Co and the committee chairman, expressed his concern about the situation in the East China Sea, saying "the tension should not be ignored".

Former State councilor Tang, the committee chairman for the Chinese representatives, told Japanese panelists that territorial issues are "highly sensitive in any country".

"A territorial issue is likely to fan national sentiments and people should resist the temptation of precariously touching the issue," said Tang, who is also president of the China-Japan Friendship Association.



Tang Jiaxuan, former State councilor and president of the China-Japan Friendship Association

However, "it is an irresponsible move, playing with fire, if Japan uses it (the territorial issue) as an excuse to exaggerate external threats, accuse China of 'changing the status quo by force' and deliberately provoke a confrontation", Tang said.

Nishimuro, a powerful industrial figure who once chaired Toshiba Corp and the board of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, echoed Tang's sentiments. "Neither country should label the other as an

enemy or a threat," Nishimuro said.

Gao Hong, a senior expert of the Institute of Japan Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said resuming the committee meetings "is a part of combined efforts and endeavors by both countries" to explore possibilities of repairing the nations' relationship.

A "tangible and substantial discussion on sensitive issues" is the top goal of the meeting, Gao added.

The panel meeting was held just days after Beijing and Tokyo traded barbs over close encounters between their military aircraft above the East China Sea during a Sino-Russian naval drill in late May.

Tokyo, meanwhile, has spared no effort in hyping a China "threat" in the South China Sea on diplomatic occasions lately, said Feng Wei, a professor of Japanese studies at

Fudan University in Shanghai.

At the recent Shangri-La dialogue in Singapore, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said "Japan offers its utmost support for the efforts of ASEAN countries as they work to ensure the security of the seas and the skies", and he offered to provide coast guard vessels to any neighboring countries that are "wary of Beijing's tactics".

As for the official position of China over the Diaoyu Islands, there is "no room for concession in regard to territorial sovereignty", Tang said.

"We have consistently endorsed and dedicated ourselves to dialogue and reconciliation for a peaceful resolution of the problems," he added.

Tang will meet with the governor of Nagasaki and attend a Sino-Japanese friendly-exchange event at Fukuoka.

Media reports said Tang has no plans to meet with Abe.



Humankind does not need another war field in cyberspace."

LI BAODONG
VICE-FOREIGN MINISTER

Vice-minister calls US cybersecurity gripes hypocritical

By ZHANG ZHOUXIANG and CAO YIN

China has criticized the United States for being hypocritical and hegemonic in cybersecurity and urged it to stop eavesdropping on other countries and individuals, said a senior Chinese diplomat, following a series of spats between the two countries involving cyberspace.

Li Baodong, vice-foreign minister, accused the US of having a double standard on the cyber issue, drawing lines out of its selfish interests, and concocting "regulations" only applicable to other countries, "instead of reflecting on its own behavior that undermines the sovereignty of other countries and the privacy of citizens".

Li made the remarks at an International Workshop on Information and Cyber Security on Thursday in Beijing, the first such discussion that China and the United Nations held together.

It is also the first international dialogue that China held with other countries and international organizations since the US Justice Department charged five Chinese military officers with cybertheft of commercial information from US corporations.

Li stressed that cyberspace development should follow principles including sovereignty, peace and universal benefit, and advocated "bilateral, regional and international development cooperation".

"Humankind does not need another war field in cyberspace", he said, emphasizing that efforts should be made to enable everyone to benefit from the opportunities brought about by the Internet and share in its achievements.

His opinion was echoed by Jarmo Sareva, deputy secretary general of the Conference on Disarmament and director of the UN Office for the Disarmament Affairs Geneva Branch. Sareva said that cyberspace is concerned with every aspect of modern life. "We have to ensure cyberspace is available for villages as well as for cities," he said in a speech.

To that end, Li said, it

is necessary to formulate fair international norms accepted by more countries, an essential step toward keeping cyberspace in order.

Sareva also said he expected China and the US to better coordinate for the building of an international norm. "China and the US as two leading powers need to cooperate not only in terms of the economy, but also in terms of security, especially cybersecurity," he told China Daily.

Ning Jiajun, a senior researcher at the Advisory Committee for State Informatization, said some developed countries, such as the US, have refused to discuss cyberspace issues on international stages.

On Wednesday, Harald Range, the German attorney general, said he decided to launch a criminal investigation into the US National Security Agency's alleged hacking of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone.

The incident has had some negative effects on German-US relations and the two nations are holding intense discussions in order to rebuild confidence, said Martin Fleischer, head of the International Cyber Policy Coordination Staff at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

In the push for a new international norm on cyberspace, "China is playing a constructive role", Fleischer told China Daily, adding that Germany, like many Western countries, has many interests in common with China and it is important for them to cooperate, despite differences on many issues.

Thomas Duke, deputy director of cyberissues for the US Department of State, said he was not optimistic about the push for international cyber-norms because "disagreements exist not only between China and the US, but also among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, among the G7, and among the G20".

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Japanese party leader aims to bridge divisions

By CAI HONG in Tokyo
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Tadatomo Yoshida, Japan's Social Democratic Party leader, said he will use his upcoming trip to Beijing to sound out the Chinese government about a possible summit between the nations.

"I will ask the Chinese government for its conditions on a summit meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe," Yoshida said in an exclusive interview with China Daily.

After his trip from June 23 to 25, he said he will relay his discussion with the Chinese government to the Abe Cabinet and Japan's parliament.

"We are trying to find a way out of the stalemate between Japan and China," the SDP leader said.

Yoshida said Abe has not had a meeting with Xi mainly because

of the Japanese prime minister's December visit to the Yasukuni Shrine, where 14 Class-A war criminals are enshrined.

"This matter exposes how the two countries are divided on their viewpoints of history," he said.

The SDP delegation, led by Yoshida, comes on the heels of visits to Beijing by several groups of Japanese officials and lawmakers in April and May.

After Tokyo Governor Yoichi Masuzoe's visit to Beijing in April, Masahiko Koumura, vice-president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, led a delegation from the Japan-China Friendship Parliamentarians' Union to Beijing in early May. He conveyed Abe's message of holding talks with Xi on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Beijing in November.

A day after Koumura's delegation left, a group of LDP lawmakers landed in Beijing,



Tadatomo Yoshida, Japan's Social Democratic Party leader

"All these trips are good because they help inform the Chinese side of what is going on in Japan," Yoshida said. "But they shouldn't be done unilaterally (by the ruling party)."

The SDP, one of the opposition parties in Japan, doesn't trust Abe's viewpoint on history, Yoshida said.

In 1995, the socialist Tomichi Murayama, the former prime minister of Japan from 1994 to 1996, issued his "heartfelt apology" for atrocities Japan committed in World War II.

"The landmark 1995 statement that carries his name has

played a vital role in the development of the Japan-China ties," Yoshida said.

He said he is proud of being Murayama's successor and of inheriting and developing the essence of his statement.

"First of all, Japan should do some soul-searching on the Pacific War and the pain it inflicted on other Asian countries," the SDP leader said. "Based on that, bilateral relations can move forward."

He said it is important for the two countries to talk.

"The guiding principle we hold is that Abe should announce explicitly that he will no longer visit the Yasukuni Shrine," Yoshida said. "As long as Abe continues to visit the shrine, his words that the door to cooperation is always open can't be accepted by China."

There have been trade talks between the two countries in recent months. The two countries' trade ministers held dis-

52 websites probed for publication of porn, violence

By XU WEI
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China's media regulator announced on Thursday that it will investigate 52 websites on suspicion of publishing online literature that contains pornography and violence.

The State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television announced the campaign as part of its ongoing campaign to clean up the Internet.

The administration said that the 52 websites include Baidu Tieba, the largest Chinese communication platform provided by the Chinese search-engine company Baidu Inc; and NetEase Blog, provided by Internet giant NetEase Inc.

A publicity officer with Baidu Inc said on Thursday that the company would not comment on the authority's decision.

The move is part of a campaign called "Cleaning the Web 2014", launched by the National Office Against Pornographic and Illegal Publications under the media authority from April to November to weed out illegal content and keep it out of the reach of children.

Other websites investigated include video-sharing website tudou.com and doc88.com, an online platform for sharing documents.

The authority said it will impose punishments on the websites if the allegations, including publishing content

that has violence and pornography, are confirmed.

Many of the websites published unhealthy "fairy tales" for children, with some bearing similar names to the classic German collection *Grimms' Fairy Tales*. Among them was one collection called *Horri-fying Grimms' Fairy Tales*, written by an online writer under the name of Tongshengcao.

An online forum on *Horri-fying Grimms' Fairy Tales* at Baidu Tieba, which has run posts with complete stories, was still accessible at around 4 pm on Thursday.

But the forum was quickly closed and all the posts were deleted one hour later.

The investigation into the 52 websites followed an investiga-

tion in April into Sina Internet Information Service Co, one of China's Internet giants, which was suspended from engaging in Internet publication and audio and video dissemination for placing pornographic content online.

The authority later revoked the two licenses of Sina.com, including those for Internet publication and network distribution of audiovisual programs, and fined the company up to 5 million yuan (\$800,000) for publishing as many as 20 obscene articles in its reading channel and posting four Internet audiovisual programs that spread obscene information.

Ding Junjie, a media professor at the Communication University of China, said online

literature is more difficult to censor due to the large number of sources and the difficulty of obtaining evidence.

"The online platforms may never have meant to host such content. But it is their duty to supervise it," he said.

Bu Wei, director of the Research Center for Media and Children with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said online service providers have obligations to protect their audiences, especially children, from unhealthy contents online, as is stated by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international human rights treaty.

Gao Yuan contributed to this story.

Tour showcases Guizhou's cultures

By FU CHAO and YANG JUN
in Guiyang

Photographers and journalists from major Asian media organizations gathered in Guiyang for the kickoff event of an interview tour of Guizhou province on Wednesday.

With support from China Daily and the Guizhou provincial government's publicity department, the tour aims to spotlight the province's cultures, scenic environment and natural resources.

The six-day trip will cover some of the province's most popular tourism spots, like the Confucius School and the Miao Village, Guizhou

Deputy Governor He Li said in a speech at the launching ceremony for the tour.

The West China province is home to 17 ethnic groups whose housing, clothing and religious practices have remained the same over the ages, He said.

The deputy governor added that the province has a large energy reserve, including coal, and a booming economy, which adds to its appeal to investors.

Fu Yingchun, head of the Guizhou Tourism Administration, also gave a speech at the ceremony, saying Guizhou is a wonderland for photographers as it has picturesque landscapes

and a population that is "born to dance and sing".

Fu said Guizhou is known for its natural environment and various folk cultures and is recognized in the country as the "park province". Its 176,000 sq km are covered with scenic spots and heritage sites.

Huang Yingfeng, an expert on Guizhou's folk culture from Taiwan, spoke at the ceremony about his visits to the province.

Huang said he has visited the province more than 100 times and has acquired a large collection of artifacts, including more than 10,000 traditional Miao ethnicity costumes.

He said that the traditional *diao jiao lou*, or hanging house,

of the Miao people has been an important inspiration for modern architecture.

China Daily Deputy Editor-in-Chief Kang Bing also helped kick off the tour with a speech.

The photographers on the interview tour will have an opportunity to experience Miao culture later in the trip.

After the ceremony, they visited the Confucius School, a wetland park and Qianling Mountain Park in Guiyang, which is famous for having wild monkeys that wander freely throughout the park.

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ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

Photographers from Asian media organizations cover a Miao ethnic toast ritual in the Qiongdongnan Miao and Dong autonomous prefecture in Guizhou province on Thursday.