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THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN BELARUS AND CHINA

The development of relations with China is a priority of foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus.

The People's Republic of China is one of the fastest growing countries in the world of direct interest for the Belarusian enterprises as a vast market for manufactured products and raw materials.

Successful development of the relations between Belarus and China was predetermined by the preceding development of the bilateral relations: experience of interaction between the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the People's Republic of China during the Soviet period, broad friendly relations between the two nations. There are three key factors, which determined the strategic character of the development of the Belarusian-Chinese relations.

First, our relations have never been strained either in the last 20 years or in previous decades when Belarus was part of the USSR. The elder generation of the Chinese still speak highly of the financial and moral support given by the Belarusian people when the political and economic independence of sovereign China grew stronger, assistance provided by Belarusian specialists, who worked in China after the PRC formation, high-quality equipment supplied from Soviet Byelorussia.

Second, China has always been a predictable and reliable partner for Belarus.

Third, Belarus has always been a predictable and reliable partner for China as well. Belarus is a country with a favourable geographic position, peaceful, industrious and educated people, who respect and love China and the Chinese.

About ten big companies of Belarus have opened their representative offices in China and have already made their statements. Among them are Gomselmash, Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ trademark), Belarusian Automobile Works (BelAZ trademark), Belaruskalii and Belneftekhim.

Important products of Belarusian exports to China are: dumpers "BelAZ", lubricating materials, machines and mechanisms for harvesting and threshing of crops, tractors, stacked organic solvents, parts and accessories for motor vehicles and tractors, pipes, flax raw or processed flax, electronic integrated circuits, combed wool, diodes and transistors, wood in the rough.

Exports to China reached 94.1 million dollars USA.

China is the largest exporter of goods to all countries of the world. Many large corporations in the world have their own factories and production in China.

The major imports from China are: transmitting equipment for communications, broadcasting and television, raw materials for the chemical and related industries, medicaments, agricultural products and seafood, cloth, machines for automatic processing of data, bearings, transformers and electric accumulators.

China's exports to Belarus amounted 213.7 million dollars USA.

In opinion of the Chinese Ambassador, at this stage of the bilateral cooperation there is a need to boost trade and economic contacts. A key role in this process should be assigned to joint projects what will increase the mutual trade.