

Two presidents must work towards concept of Pacific community

I write as a former legislator. China's war anniversary parade on September 3, commemorating the country's victory after 14 years of Japanese military aggression, was impressive.

President Xi Jinping (習近平) said in his speech China would reduce its armed forces by 300,000 from the current size of 2.3 million.

This is no doubt part of the modernisation drive that included an ongoing anti-corruption campaign and revitalising the People's Liberation Army to put it on a par with the advanced nations of the West. The massive parade was an affirmation of loyalty to the Communist Party and Xi's authority, as chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Present at the ceremony were presidents and prime ministers from 30 countries, representatives of 19 others and the heads of 10 international organisations, including Ban Ki-moon, UN secretary general.

According to media reports, senior Japanese officials had urged Ban to stay "neutral" and not to visit China at that time since it would be looking to the past rather than the future.

Ban said the UN was an impartial organisation "so learning from the past and also looking for a better future - that is the main purpose of my visit to China this time". The ceremony commemorated the millions of Chinese soldiers, Kuomintang and Communist, who struggled against great odds when fighting the Japanese armies in China.

The pinning down of one million battle-hardened Japanese soldiers on Chinese soil inflicted great hardship on millions of Chinese families.

The resistance movement was China's contribution to the West's historic struggle against the forces of fascism during the second world war.

This month, Xi will meet his counterpart, President Barack Obama in the US. Major issues will be discussed, including the Bilateral Investment Treaty, strengthening military cooperation and seeking more progress in fields such as energy and infrastructure.

The two countries should aim to submit together to the UN their credible plans to cut carbon emissions ahead of talks in Paris in December to seek a new global deal on curbing greenhouse gases, which is potentially one of the greatest threats to humanity.

It would be timely for both leaders, coming from the two sides of the Pacific, to envision the concept of a Pacific community and create a strategic plan to engage countries on both sides of the Pacific to build on common interests for a better life and future for their nations and peoples respectively.

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中美領袖攜手 營造太平環境

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我以前立法局議員身份寫本文。中國於 9 月 3 日舉行的抗日戰爭勝利紀念閱兵場面壯觀。當年為抵抗日本侵略，中國奮戰十四年才取得勝利。

習近平主席在致詞時說，中國將會從現時的 223 萬兵力中裁減 30 萬人。

這無疑是推行現代化的環節之一，除了反貪腐外，亦改革解放軍的軍力，俾能與西方先進國家看齊。大型閱兵亦顯示軍隊對共產黨和中央軍委會主席的習近平的效忠。

出席觀禮的有 30 位國家元首及總理，有 19 個國家和 10 個國際組織亦派代表出席，其中包括了聯合國秘書長潘基文。

據傳媒報道，日本的高級官員要求潘基文保持“中立”，不要在這時候訪問中國，因為此行之意只是往後望而非向前看。

潘基文則說，聯合國是中立組織，“既要從過去吸取經驗，亦須前瞻更好的未來，所以這是我今次訪問中國的主要目的。”閱兵儀式紀念當年以百萬計的共產黨和國民黨士兵對抗日軍的艱苦作戰。

日軍久經戰陣，但有一百萬兵方被制於中國土地，亦令中國數以百萬的家庭陷於水深火熱的苦難之中。

第二次世界大戰西方與法西斯力量的歷史性戰爭，中國的抵抗起了作用。

本月，習近平主席將與美國總統奧巴馬會面。商討的主要議題包括雙邊投資協定、加強軍事合作，以及在能源和基建項目上尋求更大改善。

兩國的目標應在 12 月的巴黎會談前向聯合國提交可行的減少碳排放方案，巴黎會談商討的是尋求一個全球應對溫室效應這個人類最大威脅的策略。

太平洋兩岸的這兩位國家領袖正好是時候構想一個太平的環境，與太平洋沿岸的國家一起為國家和人民帶來更好的生活和未來。

土瓜灣張有興