

City has role in UK-Sino friendship

After many years as an urban councillor and legislative councillor during Hong Kong's pre-1997 colonial days, I still retain a positive interest in Sino-British affairs.

President Xi Jinping's (習近平) maiden state visit to Britain, accompanied by China's first lady Peng Liyuan (彭麗媛), was a "political blockbuster", to say the least.

Even before the visit, Prime Minister David Cameron announced to the world that Britain would be the first Western country to join the China-initiated Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

At the state banquet for Xi at Buckingham Palace, Queen Elizabeth said the UK and China have "truly a global partnership" and referred to Xi's state visit as a "defining moment" for the future of Sino-UK relations.

The Chinese president said China and Britain, with their outstanding civilisations, have been influencing each other for centuries. He also said "a growing China-UK relationship benefits both countries and the world as a whole".

As the *Financial Times* reported, the visit "marks a momentous geopolitical shift".



Sino-UK relations are poised to enter golden era. Photo: Xinhua

Back to Hong Kong, where do we now stand after that highly successful UK state visit? Mr Xi, through his meetings with top British political leaders, laid a solid "golden era" foundation for Sino-British economic relations, in which the Hong Kong SAR must continue to play its vital economic role beneficial to both countries.

The visit is a reaffirmation of the "one country, two systems", linked to the rule of law and the common law, which will revitalise Hong Kong's competitive spirit and support China's new economic initiatives, such as the "One Belt One Road".

This will in turn attract even more British and European companies to use Hong Kong as a stepping stone to do business in Asia.

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中英兩個友誼 香港可出分力

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在香港回歸前的殖民地歲月裡，我曾出任市政局和立法局議員多年，至今仍關心中英事務。

習近平主席由夫人彭麗媛陪同，首度赴英國作國事訪問，應該可以說是一次政治上的非凡事件。

在這次訪問之前，英國首相金馬倫已向全世界宣告，英國將會是第一個西方國家加入中國牽頭成立的亞洲基礎建設投資銀行。

在白金漢宮的國宴上，英女王提到，中英兩國「確實有全球性的伙伴關係」，而習主席的國是訪問是中英關係的「注腳」。

習主席則表示，中英兩國都有優秀的文化，幾百年來互相影響。他說「中英關係的發展對兩國以至全世界都有利」。

正如《金融時報》報道，這次訪問「標誌了地緣政治的重大轉移」。

再說香港，這次極為成功的英國國是訪問之後，我們的位置在哪裡？習主席與英國政治領袖們會面，為中英的經濟關係的「黃金時期」奠下了紮實基礎，香港特區必須發揮對兩國均有利的的重要經濟角色。

這次訪問是再次肯定了關係法治和普通法的「一國兩制」，香港的競爭精神亦得以重振，而且也可支援中國新的經濟計劃，例如「一帶一路」。

反過來，這亦可吸引更多英國和歐洲的企業利用香港作為在亞洲經營的踏腳石。

土瓜灣張有興

圖片說明：中英關係勢將進入黃金時期。