

It is good China and US are cooperating over nuclear security

Your editorial, "Xi and Obama find common ground" (April 5) pointed out that in Paris last December, both Beijing and Washington showed the world they shared common ground on climate change.

At the recent nuclear security summit in Washington, President Xi Jinping (習近平) and President Barack Obama identified another area to work together through cooperation on global nuclear security.

Hong Kong people, a quarter of a century ago, were more concerned about nuclear power contamination.

A local Christian pastor reportedly galvanised one million people to take to the streets voicing their fears over nuclear power contamination from the nearby Daya Bay nuclear power plant.

As a member of an Exco-Legco group at the time, I visited France's newest nuclear plant. Outside the 20km restricted perimeter around the plant, there were many villages that were invited to send groups to the plant to learn about operations and the safety measures in place to protect people from nuclear contamination.

The Daya Bay plant was built as a joint China-French venture, with Hong Kong financial participation and top French technical cooperation. Today it continues to supply Hong Kong with part of our electricity power needs.

Currently, China has 30 nuclear power plants in operation with at least 22 more plants under construction.

Also, under the next five-year national plan, it hopes to build six to eight nuclear plants annually so as to significantly reduce dependence on heavily-polluting coal-fired power stations.

It is timely that Mr Xi and Mr Obama agreed at the summit to initiate joint efforts to combat nuclear terrorism and to establish an annual bilateral dialogue.

Speaking at the summit, Mr Xi said nuclear terrorism was the common enemy of all mankind, and in this age of connectivity, no country can deal with such problems alone.

It now appears that global climate change and global nuclear security could be agenda items of equal importance at future meetings of the top leaders of both China and the United States.

I think climate change and nuclear security are subjects very relevant to the living conditions of our seven million people, while fighting for Hong Kong independence by any political group would be a lost cause leading to nowhere.

It would be more relevant politically to strive for more and better public housing, educational, health-care and welfare services for the underprivileged in our society.

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為核安全聯手 中美喜見合作
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貴報社論「習奧謀得一致立場」(4月5日)指出，去年12月在巴黎，北京和華盛頓向全世界顯示在氣候變化議題上找到一致的立場。

最近在華盛頓舉行的核安全高峰會上，習近平主席和奧巴馬總統找到另一個合作的範疇，就是中美可在全球的核安全問題上聯手。

四分之一個世紀之前，香港人更關注核能污染的問題。

據當年報道，本地一位基督教牧師號召一百萬人上街抗議，表達對毗連香港的大亞灣核電廠產生核能污染的憂慮。

當時我是行政和立法兩局小組的議員，曾遠赴法國考察最新的核電廠。該廠方圓20公里是禁區，其外則有多條村落。核電廠邀請這些村落派代表團入廠參觀，了解核電廠的操作和各項保障村民不受核污染的措施。

大亞灣核電廠由中國和法國合作興建，香港在財務上有參與，法國則在頂級技術上予以協助。大亞灣今天仍供應香港部分電力所需。

中國目前有30座核電設施在運作，而且最少有22座在興建中。

在接著的全國五年計劃裡，更預計每年會增建六至八座核電廠，以有效減低對火力發電廠的依賴，因為這些燒煤的發電廠造成的污染非常嚴重。

習主席和奧巴馬總統適時地在峰會上同意展開共同行動，對付核恐怖主義，並且設立每年舉行的雙邊對話。

習主席在會上發言時說，核恐怖主義是全人類的公敵，「核安全的影響超越國界，沒有哪個國家能夠獨自應對。」

現時看來氣候變化和核安全才是與我們七百萬人生活情況息息相關的事情，任何政治團體鼓吹香港獨立都失其方向，註定失敗。

為我們社會上的弱勢社群爭取更好的公共房屋、教育、醫療和福利服務才是正途。
土瓜灣張有興