

# *CHINA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS*

*2013*

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Department of Policy Planning  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
People's Republic of China



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## *Foreword by the Foreign Minister*

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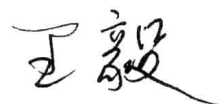
The year 2012 was of special significance in the course of China's development. The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was successfully held. It set the grand goals of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society and deepening reform and opening-up in an all-round way and adopted a comprehensive plan for advancing the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. China entered a new historical phase in its development.

In 2012, the international situation was characterized by both stability and turbulence. New and major changes in the international and regional landscapes were in the making. Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, we met challenges head on, made steady progress, and fostered a favorable external environment for the success of the 18th CPC National Congress and full implementation of the 12th Five-Year Plan. Chinese leaders attended a series of major multilateral and bilateral diplomatic events, actively promoted China's cooperation with other parties and raised China's international influence. We properly responded to and handled disputes concerning China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, such as those over Diaoyu Dao and the South China Sea, and resolutely upheld China's sovereignty, security and development interests. We made new progress in relations with the United States, Russia and major European countries, and worked actively to build a framework of major-country relations featuring general stability, relative balance and win-win cooperation. We continued to promote friendly relations and deepen shared interests with neighboring countries. We pushed forward mutually beneficial cooperation and strengthened traditional friendship with other developing countries. We worked with other parties to seek solutions to global and regional hotspot issues and actively played a constructive and responsible role as a big country. We conducted intensive public diplomacy and people-to-people exchanges to solidify the social foundation of China's relations with other countries. We actively promoted innovation in diplomatic theories and practices, advocated the spirit of equality, mutual trust, inclusiveness, mutual learning and win-win cooperation in international relations, and

worked to bring about a just and equitable international order and system.

China is at a decisive stage in completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. It is working to meet tough challenges in deepening reform and opening-up and accelerating the shift of the growth model. China's diplomacy is also at a new historical starting point. As diplomats, we carry daunting tasks and a noble mission. We will fully implement the guidelines of the 18th Party Congress and serve the overall agenda of the Party and the state. We will build on past achievements, maintain general stability in China's external relations, actively seek new progress and open up new prospects for China's diplomacy.

Like past editions, the 2013 edition of *China's Foreign Affairs* provides an insightful overview of the international and regional situations and a comprehensive and systematic account of China's relations with other countries and diplomatic work in various fields. Rich in contents and statistics, this volume will help its readers gain a good understanding of China's diplomacy. I sincerely hope that you will continue to follow *China's Foreign Affairs* and support the further development of China's diplomacy.

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two main characters, '王' (Wang) and '毅' (Yi), written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wang Yi  
March 2013

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