

Xi's speech at CIIE draws positive reactions

President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the China International Import Expo in Shanghai on Monday.

The import expo, or CIIE, which ends on Nov 10, is expected to give firm support to trade liberalization and economic globalization, and actively open the Chinese market to the world.

Here is a collection of comments from international participants of the expo.

Pan Jianjun, spokesman of Bright Food (Group) Co Ltd

Among the many highlights in the speech by President Xi Jinping on the opening ceremony of the CIIE, we are most encouraged by the government's decision to set up new areas in the Shanghai Free Trade Zone. The move will help Bright Food better reach out to the vast overseas market and facilitate outbound financing and investment, in a bid to bring in more quality imported goods and meet the demand of high-quality goods of the Chinese consumers.

The Yangtze River Delta Region is the primary and largest market for Bright Food. Lifting the region to a "national strategic level" will help Bright Food deepen its integration into the area, advancing the building of the "Four Brands" of Shanghai, namely services, manufacturing, shopping and culture.

Pan Qing, a member of the board of management of Jaguar Land Rover and executive director of Jaguar Land Rover China

As the UK's largest automotive manufacturer, Jaguar Land Rover welcomes China's pledge to further open up its markets. This means greater market access and huge potential.

China's auto industry has emerged as the world's largest automobile market over the past four decades thanks to the opening-up and reform.

Jaguar Land Rover witnessed, participated in, contributed to and benefited from reform and opening-up. Today, China has become Jaguar Land Rover's No 1 single-country market. The introduction of a total of 37 product variants in 15 series and cumulative sales of 800,000 units in eight years show Jaguar Land Rover's deep commitment to China.

We believe China's firm support for trade liberalization and economic globalization will further boost the confidence of global auto OEMs, thus driving innovation and technology upgrade in the auto industry. This move will ultimately benefit Chinese consumers and lead the auto industry to a new era of prosperity.

Denis Depoux, China CEO of global consultancy Roland Berger

President Xi's speech was much awaited by the international community, especially as it comes at a time when protectionism is on the rise. In this respect, we are reassured by President Xi's strong voice that the opening-up policy will be reinforced and strengthened. After Davos and Boao, this is another pledge to international trade, and the associated multilateral rules.

I have confidence in the announcements made about further opening-up, encouraging foreign investment and lowering tariffs. Of course, these are general announcements but similar announcements had been rapidly followed by concrete measures for the opening up of various sectors, financial services for example, after President Xi's speech at Boao Forum.

The integration of the Yangtze River Delta area as national strategy also will be a game changer in the Shanghai area, with very positive effect on the economy. This, combined with further expansion of the free trade zone and the pilot stock market for science and technology innovation enterprises, will create new opportunities not only on the infrastructure side, but also in establishing Shanghai as a technology hub.

(562 words)