



# Boao Forum for Asia Paris Conference

## Session Summary (No. 1)

Boao Forum for Asia Institute

September 15, 2017

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### Session 1

#### **Infrastructure Connectivity**

**Time:** 10:15-11:45 a.m., September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Venue:** Scene BC, Level 0, Conference Center, Paris Marriott Rive Gauche Hotel

**Moderator:** Walter PFEIFFER, Senior Partner, Global Energy & Chemicals Competence Center, Roland Berger Düsseldorf

**Panelists:**

- Stéphane AVER, CEO of AAQIUS
- Amer Z. DURRANI, CEO, Secur Global
- OU Xiaoli, Counsel, Department of Western Region Development, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)
- Sok SIPHANA, Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia
- SUN Ziyu, Vice President, China Communication Construction Company Ltd.
- WANG An, President & Party Leadership, China International Engineering Consulting Corporation; Member, Chinese Academy of Engineering



### **Key points:**

- Technological breakthrough is the key in the global energy transition period.
- Infrastructure will drive the economic recovery of various countries.
- We should stick to the principle of joint contribution for win-win results.
- Global allocation is the irreversible trend for resource allocation.

### **Synopsis:**

Panelists believed that infrastructure is of vital importance for the recovery of global economy. Both developed and developing nations are focusing their attention on infrastructure. Under the principle of “extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits”, the “Belt and Road” Initiative promotes infrastructure in countries along the routes and facilitates connectivity between Asia and Europe. In the future, a “Belt and Road” coordination and cooperation mechanism in countries along the Belt and Road should be set up to enhance policy coordination and realize connectivity between Asia and Europe.

### **Infrastructure Gets the Most Attention in Global Economic Recovery**

OU Xiaoli noted that on the two ends of the Eurasian Continent-West Europe and East Asia are the two development highlands and the hinterland countries in between boast tremendous potentials with their large populations and abundant resources. The “Belt and Road” Initiative not only benefits China,



Europe, and hinterland countries of Central Asia, but also exerts a very positive influence on the world economy.

OU Xiaoli pointed out that after the financial crisis, the global economy has been slowly recovering and is currently in a period of deep adjustment. Historical experience shows that infrastructure can stimulate economic recovery. At present, the equipment in developed countries is obsolete and in the stage of upgrading and renewal; the emerging market economies are experiencing rapid development, and infrastructure's restricting effect on the economy is becoming more and more obvious; the underdeveloped countries lag behind in infrastructure.

He noted that in view of the above situation, all the countries focus their attention on infrastructure and their plans include the nine corridors of pan-European railway network, China 2050 high-speed rail plan, Japan's infrastructure "life plan", India's high speed railway "350 KM/H+" plan, Russia's high-speed rail plan, and Africa's "railway network, road network, regional airline network and industrialization" plan and so on.

### **Asia and Europe Share the New Opportunities Brought by the "Belt and Road" Initiative**

Amer Z. DURRANI noted that thanks to China's support and assistance, Pakistan will benefit from the "Belt and Road" Initiative. Electric power development is of great importance for Pakistan. China and Pakistan will share many opportunities presented by the energy infrastructure and the



Pakistan-China Economic Corridor. In addition, China can export its commodities to the markets in Africa and Middle East with Pakistan's advantages in technology and market.

Sok SIPHANA pointed out that Cambodia enjoys great advantage in its open domestic economy. However, its small market size has become a barrier in attracting foreign investors. The "Belt and Road" Initiative will accelerate the development of the ASEAN markets. As the gate of the ASEAN market, Cambodia is no longer a small market. In addition, thanks to the "Belt and Road" Initiative, Cambodia's infrastructure, such as airport, highway and port and so on, has been strengthened, greatly promoting its connectivity with neighboring countries.

Stéphane AVER noted that at present, the world is in the energy transition phase. At this stage, first of all, we need to solve problems related to technology, such as breakthrough in the hydrogen storage technology. The "Belt and Road" construction can bring new energy to the local area, prompt various countries to achieve energy transformation, promote sustainable development, and realize the goals set out in the *Paris agreement* on climate change. Currently, AAQIUS is deploying hydrogen energy programs in France, China, the United Arab Emirates and Morocco to establish a range of standards for local production and consumption.

WANG An pointed out that across the world, countries are endowed with different resources, so energy and information connectivity is vital. We



should adopt a global perspective and mechanism to allocate resources. Global allocation is the irreversible trend for resource allocation. As big data are being utilized by more and more people, in the future, information resource will become more valuable than any natural resource.

### **The Key Points in Advancing Infrastructure Connectivity**

SUN Ziyu pointed out that in order to promote infrastructure development in Asia and Europe, the first thing to do is achieve connectivity; second, it is important that we formulate unified standards; third, we need to stick to the principle of “extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits”.

He noted that a single company can’t finish everything on its own and should join hands with excellent local or third-party partners. At the same time, we need to make sure the achievements are shared by all because shared benefits will lead to win-win results. Both in the west and east, it is true that by putting the interests of others first, one will also benefit in the end.

OU Xiaoli noted that to benefit Eurasian Continent through infrastructure connectivity involves three crucial points. First, we should have a plan and discuss the problems of common concern in the infrastructure connectivity of the Eurasian Continent. Second, cooperation should be carried out through some key channels and at some key junctures gradually. Third, we should set up some coordination and cooperation mechanisms, especially multi-lateral cooperation mechanism.