

Introduction

Although they are far apart, China and Latin America enjoy a long history of friendly exchanges. Legend has it that some Chinese monks sailed to Mexico as early as the 5th century AD. And according to documentary records, the maritime Silk Route, in the Wan Li period of the Ming Dynasty (late 16th century) greatly facilitated communication and trade between the Chinese and Latin American peoples.

Today, cooperation between China and Latin America is in full swing, exemplified by frequent bilateral meetings and communication between state leaders and heads of government. So far, China has established strategic partnerships with Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Peru respectively. In the past decade, the Sino-Latin American relationship has entered a new period of rapid growth, with comprehensive, wide-ranging and multilateral cooperation achievements made in finance, energy, infrastructure, high-tech and agriculture.

Since 2001, the trade volume between China and Latin American countries has seen an average annual growth rate of more than 30%, reaching USD 261.24 billion in 2012. China has signed free trade agreements with Chile, Peru and Costa Rica. With its non-financial investment in Latin America exceeding USD 54 billion, China has become the region's second largest trading partner and a major investor.

At a similar stage of development and with highly complementary industries, China and Latin America have vast potential for cooperation. Chinese companies have entered into numerous cooperation agreements with the governments of Ecuador and Venezuela in fields such as energy, infrastructure

and telecommunication, which not only brought new investment opportunities to Chinese companies but also helped boost local socioeconomic development. This ever-deepening and expanding mutually beneficial cooperation has pioneered a new model of "South-South Cooperation".

Latin America is a true cradle of ancient civilization. The Indians are the pioneer and creator of the ancient civilizations of the Americas, and contributed greatly to the development of human culture by rearing crops and livestock. With their brilliant wisdom, the Ancient Indians created the splendid Mayan Civilization, the Aztec Civilization and the Inca Civilization. With the unfolding of history, Latin America has become a hub for various ethnic and racial groups, where Asian, European and local culture experienced convergence and fusion, culminating in a rich, diverse and unique Latin American culture.

As an envoy of friendship, CNPC entered this beautiful land in 1993, seeking cooperation opportunities with Latin American counterparts. Over the past 20 years, we have built sincere and trustworthy relationships with local industrial players. Today, CNPC is present in Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Colombia and Cuba, cooperating with our partners in oil and gas exploration and development. In particular, we share our experience and expertise in exploring and tapping complex hydrocarbon reservoirs, boosting reserves and the output of mature fields, ultra-heavy oil extraction, and horizontal well drilling. Our excellent performance in management, technology, HSE and social responsibility has been highly recognized by the governments, enterprises, partners and communities of host countries.

