

PERU

Obama says goodbye to world stage

Historic presidency and charisma have made him a rock star on international scene

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Lima

US President Barack Obama bid farewell to the world stage on Sunday, pondering his legacy, offering advice to his successor and discussing his post-presidential life at the end of his final foreign tour.

His historic presidency and charisma have made Obama a rock star on the international scene, even at times when the daily grind of politics dimmed the glow around his election as the United States' first black president in 2008.

Obama spoke to both the US people and the world as he gave his final foreign news conference in Lima, Peru.

But ultimately, those two audiences are inseparably linked, he insisted.

It was a key message as he prepares to hand over to President-elect Donald Trump — who has spooked some in the international community with his volatile style and isolationist rhetoric.

Several of Obama's fellow world leaders said an emotional goodbye as they wrapped up a summit.

"It's a great moment, but a sad moment, to have our last meeting," said Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

"I am going to miss having Barack around," said Canada's Justin Trudeau, in comments that were tinged with a sense of uncertainty about things to come.

Here are some key points from Obama's remarks:



US President Barack Obama leaves a news conference during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit on Sunday in Lima, Peru. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI / AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

President Trump

It was an awkward trip for Obama, who campaigned against Trump as an unfit successor but now wants to reassure US allies on the future.

He asked the world to treat the brash billionaire as he himself vowed to do: "Wait and see".

At the same time, he sought to pre-empt his successor on some key issues.

He said Trump's presidency would likely be far different from his candidacy.

"Once you're in the Oval Office, once you begin interacting with world leaders, once you see the complexities of the issues, that has a way of shaping your thinking," Obama said.

“At the end of the day and at the end of eight years, I can look back and say that I consistently did what I thought was best.”

Barack Obama, US president

Legacy

Obama voiced regret that, despite high approval ratings, he was stymied on issues like gun control, a minimum wage increase and infrastructure spending.

But he defended the values

of his presidency. "The touchstone is what's good for the American people," he said.

"At the end of the day and at the end of eight years, I can look back and say that I consistently did what I thought was best. Doesn't mean you don't make mistakes. But it means you're

being true to your oath and the commitments you made to the people who elected you."

Life after presidency

Obama was clear about his first priority for post-presidential life: "Take (First Lady) Michelle on vacation."

The president said he wants to "get some rest, spend time with my girls and do some writing, do some thinking".

He does not plan to immediately wade back into politics.

"I want to be respectful of the office and give the president-elect an opportunity to put forward his platform," he said.

SOUTH KOREA

Opposition parties moving toward Park impeachment

By AGENCIES in Seoul

53 companies

South Korea's opposition People's Party will start collecting signatures for an impeachment motion against President Park Geun-hye, while the main opposition Democratic Party will review the conditions for impeachment, party spokesmen said on Monday.

Prosecutors plan to push a face-to-face questioning of Park though Park's attorney said the president would reject any interrogation request from the prosecutors.

Prosecutors said on Sunday they believe the president was an accomplice in an influence-peddling scandal that has rocked her administration.

Park's close friend Choi Soon-sil and former presidential aide An Chong-bum have been charged with abuse of power by pressuring 53 major companies to contribute funds to nonprofit foundations controlled by Choi at the center of the scandal.

Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets of Seoul on Saturday in the fourth straight weekend of protests against Park, in the biggest public demonstrations the country has seen since the 1980s.

Park, whose five-year term ends in February 2018, has resisted calls to resign but has apologized twice, saying she only sought to benefit the economy not herself, but acknowledges carelessness in her ties with Choi.

The People's Party, with 38 seats in the single-chamber 300-member Parliament, has started efforts to remove Park from office and will talk with other parties to get signatures for an impeachment motion, said party spokesman Lee Yong-ho.

were pressured by Park's close friend Choi Soon-sil to donate tens of millions of dollars.

An impeachment motion requires at least half of the Parliament to start and needs a two-thirds majority to pass.

If an impeachment motion passes parliament, it is reviewed by the Constitutional Court, which has to confirm it with at least six of its nine judges. Political analysts say an impeachment motion against Park has a good chance of passing.

The Democratic Party, which has 121 seats, said on Monday that it would start reviewing the conditions for impeachment proceedings but did not commit to starting the motion.

"Impeachment proceedings need perfect preparations as much as possible," Choo Mi-ae, head of the Democratic Party told a party meeting, adding the best scenario was for Park to step down.

'Not pushing hard'

Political analysts have said opposition parties are not pushing hard for impeachment because if the motion fails, it will improve Park's chances of surviving the crisis.

In 2004, Parliament voted to impeach then-president Roh Moo-hyun, only to have the motion overturned by the Constitutional Court. The move was unpopular with the public, which saw it as an abuse of power by the opposition, which had a majority then.

REUTERS-XINHUA

Chengdu report

West China city becoming a national center

By ZHUAN TI
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Chengdu, a megacity in western China, recently established a new target to become a national central city. To achieve this target, it will work from its solid industrial foundation to strengthen its role as western China's center for science, technology, cultural creativity and international exchanges, as well as becoming a comprehensive transportation hub.

Automotive industry

Chengdu is a major auto-manufacturing base in western China and expects to produce 1.1 million vehicles this year, with output value of 200 billion yuan (\$29.7 billion). It has attracted automakers including Dongfeng Peugeot-Citroen Automobile Ltd, FAW-Volkswagen Automobile Co, Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Co and Volvo AB, as well as many car component suppliers.

The first Peugeot 4008 car produced at the Chengdu plant of DPCA, a joint venture of French carmaker PSA Peugeot Citroen and Chinese automaker Dongfeng Motor Corp, rolled off the production line in September. The Chengdu plant is DPCA's fourth manufacturing plant in the country and boasts a planned annual production capacity of 360,000 units.

"The operation of the Chengdu plant marks a solid step forward for the development of DPCA and Dongfeng Motor in western China," said Zhu Yanfeng, chairman of Dongfeng Motor. He added that Chengdu is the gateway for the company to implement its westward strategy.

Railway hub

Chengdu is also making huge strides in transforming itself into a world-class



A technician tests a Volvo S60L car at the Volvo Chengdu factory. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

rail transit center.

The first aluminum-alloy Model A vehicle created by CRRC Chengdu Co Ltd finished production in September. The vehicle will be used on Chengdu Metro line 7. Lan Yuzhen, general manager of CRRC Chengdu, said the success of the Model A vehicle is a testament to the city's solid progress.

"The new technologies and products will support the development of Chengdu's rail transit industry and help the city enter a new era of metro line development," he said.

CRRC Chengdu signed an investment agreement with Xindu district in August 2014 to build the China Railway Rolling Stock (Chengdu) Rail Transit Industrial Park in the district.

Meanwhile, the city has also set up research and development headquarters in the Jinniu district and another

manufacturing center in Xinjiao county.

To boost the scientific and technological development of rail transit in the city, Chengdu is also working with Southwest Jiaotong University to apply for the construction of a rail transit national laboratory, and is supporting the university and CRRC to build a rail transit industrial technology research institute.

According to the city's plans, it will be able to produce 4,000 rail transit vehicles a year by 2025. The whole industrial chain will generate revenue of 20 billion yuan annually.

Cultural creativity

Chengdu is the birthplace of a great number of cultural and creative companies and parks, including Redstar 35, Blue Roof Art Museum, Eastern Suburb Memory, Ming Tang Creative Center, and Nongyuan International Art



The Umbria Jazz Festival, one of the world's most influential jazz festivals originating in Italy, is held in Chengdu in October.

Village, which are well known across the country.

The added value of the city's cultural industry reached 56.7 billion yuan in 2015, which represented about 5 percent of the city's GDP.

Although it already has a rich cultural scene, Chengdu is upgrading its infrastructure to support the further development of its creative and music industries.

Some major cultural and sports facilities are in the pipeline, including a music hall, a grand theater, an Olympic sports center and a natural history museum.

Construction on the music hall started on Oct 18 and it will open to the public in 2018. The venue will achieve world-class standards in terms of its exterior design, scale, functions and tech facilities.

International ties set to accelerate opening-up

By ZHUAN TI

90m passengers

Backed by the central government's strategy to continue the opening-up of western China, Chengdu, a hub city in western China, is expanding its ties with the world.

Switzerland is scheduled to open a consulate general in the city in November to promote business between China and Switzerland and strengthen Sino-Swiss bilateral relations. It is the 16th foreign consulate approved to open in Chengdu. The city has the largest number of foreign consulates in western China.

"To open the consulate general in Chengdu recognizes the exciting prospects this city and region holds for Sino-Swiss relations," said Swiss Ambassador to China Jean-Jacques de Dardel.

Chengdu has been rapidly expanding its friend circle as it becomes more international. It currently has 32 sister cities and has established friendly relations with another 39 cities.

By the end of last year, Chengdu had direct economic and trade relations with 223 major cities worldwide.

The city is now strengthening these connections with the world through more international flights.

The Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport has opened nearly 100 international routes, connecting it to more than 70 international cities including San Francisco, Paris, Frankfurt, Melbourne and Doha.

To build itself into a world-class aviation hub, Chengdu began construction of a second airport, Chengdu Tianfu International Airport, in May.

The airport will be put into operation in 2020. The long-

targeted annual handling capacity of the Chengdu Tianfu International Airport

term target for the airport is to have an annual capacity of 90 million passengers and 2 million metric tons of cargo a year.

According to the city's plans, it is expected to have 70 international direct flights by 2020.

The city is also operating the Chengdu-Europe Express Rail, the fastest and most frequently used express rail service linking China and Europe. It began operation in April 2013, in line with the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

On Nov 2, the express rail was expanded to Rotterdam in the Netherlands. A one-way trip takes about 13 days.

Previously, the express rail was linked to European cities including Lodz and Kutno in Poland, Nuremberg in Germany and Tilburg in the Netherlands.

According to the latest plan, Chengdu will operate two more cargo rail routes to Europe, one to Istanbul in Turkey, and another to Russia.

"We have run three test trains to Istanbul. We expect the route to be put into official operation by the end of this year," said Chen Zhongwei, director of the Chengdu Port and Logistics Office.

He said the third link, the Chengdu-Russia route, is scheduled to open this month. Chen expects the express rail to run 400 journeys this year and 1,000 journeys next year.