Sino-Israel None Trade Activities in the Context of Sino-Middle East Relationship

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The talk reviews the non-trade financial (infrastructure investment and high-tech M&A) cooperation between China and Israel. The infrastructure part will focus on China’s One Belt One Road initiative background, as well as Israel’s role in the big picture as viewed by the Chinese. A summary of accomplished and planned projects will be given.

The High-tech part of the talk has a focus on the ongoing trend in the past five years, and with examples of different sectors and major events. Earlier Chinese money mainly invests in more advanced-stage companies rather than start-ups. Growing interest by Baidu Ltd. (Nasdaq: BIDU), Alibaba Group Ltd. (NYSE: BABA) and Tencent Holdings Ltd. (HKSE: 700) - in new technologies, thus earlier stage Israeli technologies startups has caught the observers’ attention lately. A series of financing rounds by Israeli venture capital funds and start-ups from Chinese investment companies will be discussed.

Furthermore, expanded collaborations between Israeli and Chinese universities have taken place to set up advanced research centers in which more than $100 million will be invested in the coming years (e.g., Tsinghua XIN Center). Israeli companies collaborating with Chinese cities to completely revamp the water system in order to solve water pollution and scarcity problem.

The speaker wants to invite audience’s thought on what other countries in the Middle East can learn from these activities, and its implication for the future of Sino-Middle East relationship.