

Copyright 2005 Financial Times Information
All rights reserved
Global News Wire - Asia Africa Intelligence Wire
Copyright 2005 BBC Monitoring/BBC
BBC Monitoring International Reports

March 14, 2005

LENGTH: 257 words

HEADLINE: CHINESE PM SAYS BEIJING TO TIGHTEN TRADE, ECONOMIC
TIES WITH RUSSIA

BODY:

Text of report in English by official Chinese news agency Xinhua (New China News Agency)

Beijing, 14 March: Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Monday (14 March) he would discuss with his Russian counterpart Mikhail Fradkov about trade and economic cooperation, particularly that in oil and gas exploration, when they met in the second half of the year. China and Russia have reached a consensus on energy cooperation, Wen said, citing Russia's promise to enlarge oil export to China to 10m tons for 2005 and 15m tons for 2006, based on last year's 9m tons.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has made it clear that Russia would give first consideration to China in building an oil-gas pipeline in Siberia, he said, adding that the two countries would also strengthen cooperation in oil and gas exploration and development. China-Russia energy cooperation is an important part of the bilateral cooperative friendship and is based on equality and mutual benefit, Wen said at a press conference shortly after the end of the Chinese parliament's annual session.

Describing the China-Russia relationship over the last few years as being in "the best period" since the settlement of the border issues left over from history, Wen said the two countries had set a goal to expand their trade to 60bn-80bn US dollars by 2010. Last year, China and Russia established a strategic partnership of cooperation and their trade reached 20bn US dollars.

Source: Xinhua news agency, Beijing, in English 0458 gmt 14 Mar 05

) BBC Monitoring

JOURNAL-CODE: WBMS

LOAD-DATE: March 14, 2005

