China, Georgia eye greater cooperation on Silk Road Economic Belt initiative

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TBLISI — China and Georgia agreed on June 3 to conduct deeper cooperation on China's initiatives of building Silk Road Economic Belt, vowing to speed up FTA negotiation.

The consensus was reached during Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli’s respective meetings with president and prime minister of the Transcaucasian country.

In the meeting with Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili, Zhang hailed the traditional friendship with Georgia and the achievements scored on bilateral relationship since the establishment of diplomatic ties 24 years ago.

“It is in line with both countries’ fundamental interests to develop bilateral relationship featuring equality, friendliness and mutually beneficial cooperation,” Zhang said.

Speaking highly of the good geographical location and sound investment environment of Georgia, Zhang said the two countries are economically complementary to each other.
Georgia’s national strategy of turning itself into a logistic and transport hub coincides with China’s initiative of building Silk Road Economic Belt, said Zhang, encouraging both sides to take it as an opportunity to synergize each other’s strategies so as to provide platforms for expanding substantial cooperation.

He called on both countries to explore cooperation on hydro-electricity, automobile, locomotive, mechanical and electronic products in the hope of cultivating a new growth point of production capacity cooperation.

Margvelashvili said the Silk Road Economic Belt initiated by China is of great significance to Georgia.

Georgia is willing to give full play to its unique geographic location and enhance cooperation with China in areas including railway transportation, port and road construction, the president said, adding that Georgia welcomes more Chinese enterprises to invest in the country.

Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli meets with Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili in Tbilisi, Georgia, June 3, 2016. [Photo/Xinhua]