

China Confident in Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Antiterrorism Role

OE Watch Commentary: This year's Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit on 9-10 June in Qingdao, China was overshadowed in the media by the summit in Singapore where US President Donald Trump met with North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un. Nevertheless, at the SCO Summit China's head of the International Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security, Liao Jinrong, gave a briefing to the press on China's perspectives on SCO progress. According to the excerpted Chinese language article from *Sohu.com* on 8 June, Liao Jinrong claimed that the SCO had stopped hundreds of terrorist attacks and arrested a large number of members of international terrorist groups. As is typical of SCO-related statements, Liao Jinrong also emphasized the SCO's commitment to stopping religious extremists, national separatists and terrorist forces.

Liao Jinrong also highlighted that the Summit in Qingdao was the first one since the SCO expanded to include India and Pakistan. Some analysts have questioned whether these two rival countries

would slow down the SCO; however, Liao Jinrong focused on the influence that having them would bring the SCO, including in population, geographic area, and economic size. He therefore does not appear fazed by these two countries as member states hampering the SCO.

On the whole, Liao Jinrong sees the SCO space as stable and credits the organization for being one of the factors behind this. Nevertheless, according to his statement, he still sees terrorism as the number one challenge for the SCO in the future. It is likely therefore that future SCO cooperation and training activities will have an antiterrorism focus even though it is easy to forget that the SCO was originally intended to be an economic, not security-based, organization. **End OE Watch Commentary (Zenn)**



Meeting of the Chinese President with the heads of military delegations of the SCO member States (2018). Source: Министерство обороны Российской Федерации, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Meeting_of_the_Chinese_President_with_the_heads_of_military_delegations_of_the_SCO_member_States_\(2018\)_02.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Meeting_of_the_Chinese_President_with_the_heads_of_military_delegations_of_the_SCO_member_States_(2018)_02.jpg), (CC-by-4.0).

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Source: “中国公安部国际合作局局长：上合把反恐作为重中之重” (“Director of the Bureau of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Public Security of China: SCO took anti-terrorism as a top priority”), *sohu.com*, 8 June 2018. http://www.sohu.com/a/234650254_161795

Liao Jinrong, head of the International Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security of China, briefed the first press conference of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Qingdao Summit. “Over the years, through cooperation, member states have stopped hundreds of terrorist attacks, arrested a large number of members of international terrorist organizations, seized a large number of guns and explosives, and destroyed many armed training bases established in the region.” At the press conference, Liao Jinrong first reported the achievements of the SCO in recent years. He said the SCO has signed a series of agreements in the area of cracking down on three forces (religious extremism, national separatism, and violent and terrorist forces) and anti-drugs, border defense, and other law enforcement cooperation fields. In addition, the SCO has also carried out various exercises in recent years, including the Tianshan series of exercises, as well as cyber counter-terrorism exercises.

With regard to the participation of India and Pakistan, Liao Jinrong said that Pakistan and India are very important countries in the region and pointed out that Pakistan and India face different security challenges and there are also different laws and cultures.