

Peace Can Only Be Preserved With Strength, Says China

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BEIJING, March 4 (Bernama) -- While China subscribes to the belief that peace can only be preserved with strength, it has never treated any country as enemy or a threat.

Nevertheless, as a major global power, the country is responsible to uphold regional peace and security, said Fu Ying, spokesman of the Second Session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC).

Dismissing notions from some quarters that China's growing military power threatened neighbouring countries, she urged them to view it as the best way to ensure regional peace.

"Based on our history and experience, we believe that peace can only be preserved with strength," Fu told a press conference here on Tuesday, when responding to questions on China's rising military power.

Currently, China and its neighbouring countries were more focused on economic cooperation and development, she said, adding that a series of cooperation initiatives and proposals had been made during visits by China's leaders in the past year.

"Despite some territorial disputes with certain countries, we may look into the possibility of jointly developing unresolved territories," she added.

China and some Asean countries have been involved in territorial disputes in the South China Sea for decades.

China's announcement on the controversial Air Defence Identification Zone - its first air defence zone in the East China Sea last November - has also drawn global attention.

The NPC, which is China's Parliament, will convene its nine-day annual session on Wednesday, where Premier Li Keqiang is expected to announce the government's 2014 gross domestic product growth target, inflation target and government's budget, despite disclosing the first work report since he took office in March last year.

The 2014 economic growth target is expected to be set at seven per cent or 7.5 per cent, while the government is expected to maintain the inflation rate at 3.5 per cent.

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