

**Russian arms exports reach record high in 2012 **

MOSCOW, April 3 (Xinhua) -- Russian weapons exports reached a record 15.2 billion U.S. dollars last year, making the country a global leader in arms sales, President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday. Putin, speaking at a meeting concerning military-technical cooperation with foreign countries, said the export volume of Russian weaponry and the 12 percent year-on-year increase was "one of the best indicators" that Russia was among global leaders in sales of arms and special equipment. Russia covers over one fourth of the world's arms market, only behind the United States, the world's top weapons dealer, Putin said. Russian-made weapons are supplied to 66 countries, the president said. Putin said that Russia has military-technical cooperation agreements with 85 countries and enjoys broad prospects for forging closer military ties with many countries.