《IMF的常务董事：北京将成为它的新家》

The International Monetary Fund (IFM) could be based in Beijing in a decade if growth trends for China and other big emerging markets continue, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said on Monday.

Lagarde said at the Center for Global Development event in Washington that such a move was "a possibility" because the Fund will need to increase the representation of major emerging markets as their economies grow larger and more influential.

"Which might very well mean, that if we have this conversation in 10 years' time... we might not be sitting in Washington, DC. We'll do it in our Beijing head office," Lagarde said.

Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, at the Center for Global Development event in Washington, DC on July 24, 2017. /AFP Photo

She added that the IMF's bylaws call for the institution's head office to be located in the largest member economy.

Since the IMF was launched in 1945, that has always been the United States, which currently has an effective veto over IMF decisions with a 16.5-percent share of its board votes.

But economists estimate that China, with growth rates forecast above 6 percent, will likely overtake US gross domestic product sometime over the next decade to become the world's largest economy in nominal terms. Some, including the IMF, have argued that China already contributes more to global growth on a purchasing power parity basis, which adjusts for differences in prices.

The IMF last revised its quota system, or voting structure in 2010, but is set to launch another review next year.

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