President Xi Jinping vowed to advance ties with Czech Republic

By MO DINGXING mo.dingxing@chinadaily.com.cn

President Xi Jinping pledged on Monday to push forward the friendly development of relations between China and the Czech Republic, saying that more initiatives will be put forward to promote cooperation in a number of fields.

Speaking at a meeting in Beijing with Czech President Milos Zeman, Xi said that China and the Czech Republic should also work together to resolve some issues that are left over from the past.

Xi, who is also China’s president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while addressing the second plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee for Discipline Inspection, which opened on Monday. He also addressed the meeting.

Stressing that the situation in the battle against corruption remains serious and complex, Xi said that China and the Czech Republic should deal with it together and deal with corruption that involves both political and economic contents, and to respond to prevent and combat officials from acting on behalf of any interests. The public should also be encouraged to participate in anti-corruption efforts.

Xi emphasized zero tolerance for corruption

By CAO DENGCHEN cao.dengchen@chinadaily.com.cn

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, stressed on Monday the need to follow prudent and rigid self-governance over the Party and vowed zero tolerance for corruption.

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Three months ago, Kelly had the opportunity to travel to China for the first time. It was an opportunity to explore the world of international journalism and to gain new perspectives on the Chinese culture.

“Before this trip, I had only heard about China from my Chinese classmates and from news reports. I was excited to see the country for myself and to learn more about its history and culture,” said Kelly.

Upon arriving in China, Kelly was struck by the city’s energy and the vibrancy of its people. She was impressed by the modern infrastructure and the advanced technology that has transformed the country.

“I was amazed by the high-speed trains and the surging crowds of people. It was clear that China has made great strides in recent years to improve its infrastructure and to boost its economy,” said Kelly.

Kelly spent several weeks in China, visiting different cities and regions. She had the opportunity to meet with local journalists and to learn more about their work.

“I was impressed by the dedication and professionalism of the journalists I met. They were hardworking and committed to their craft,” said Kelly.

Kelly also had the opportunity to visit some of China’s most iconic landmarks, such as the Great Wall and the Forbidden City.

“I was awestruck by the beauty of these ancient wonders. They were a testament to the ingenuity and creativity of the Chinese people,” said Kelly.

Kelly’s trip to China was a transformative experience. She returned home with a newfound appreciation for the country and its culture.

“I will never forget the kindness and hospitality of the Chinese people. They were welcoming and welcoming, and I left China with a deeper understanding of the country and its people,” said Kelly.
**TOP NEWS**

**Travel document issuance restarts following hiatus**

Centers processing passports, permits resume full operation after suspension due to COVID

By CYE DAO

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As the genomic sequences of three new cases of the coronavirus were confirmed on Monday, the first working day after the long weekend, the issuance of travel documents and port permits for Chinese residents was resumed on Monday.

The centers resumed full operation after the issuance of travel documents for tourists and nonemergency travelers was stopped on July 30, 2022, due to the coronavirus pandemic. On Monday, there was strong demand for travel documents by mainland residents as well as travelers seeking work permits and visas, immigration officials said, adding that demand for the services is expected to continue.

Even though all service counters at the Exit and Entry Administration Service Center were open on Monday, applicants still had to wait for a few hours.

“I went to the Exit and Entry Administration Service Center to apply for a passport on Monday, and I arrived at about 9:30 a.m. There were more than 10 people ahead of me, so I had to wait until around 11:30 a.m.,” said Liu Fei, an official of the Exit and Entry Administration Bureau of Beijing Municipal Public Security, said the number of people visiting the center was similar to previous years.

As the Exit and Entry Administration Service Center is the only place dealing with visa documents, many people had to make an appointment online to avoid waiting in line too long and waste too much time,” Liu said.

Monday’s output of COVID-19 was downgraded from Class A in Class B as the number of people leaving travel documents for Chinese citizens in the official national purposes of travel has resumed after many months.

The number of people leaving travel documents for Chinese citizens in the official national purposes of travel was reduced after several months.

Former Administrator of the Exit and Entry Administration Bureau of Beijing said, services for foreign nationals at the center have returned to normal after the pandemic.

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The number of inbound flights started to increase after the pandemic, and foreign tourists are expected to return to China. The government is working on a gradual increase in travel documents for foreign nationals.

“Many of my friends who love Thailand very much, and they really enjoy the quick decision that made the trip possible,” she said.

According to statistics from the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Chinese tourists accounted for one-fourth of the total international arrivals to Thailand before the COVID-19 pandemic. There were more than 20 million Chinese tourists in 2019 alone, representing about 20% of all inbound tourists.

The Chinese government estimated that China could receive 200 million Chinese tourists this year, which is expected to increase to 300 million by 2025.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand estimated that China could receive 200 million Chinese tourists this year, which is expected to increase to 300 million by 2025.

Thailand has implemented a range of financial support measures in recent years to ensure that all the foreign and domestic tourists can have their dream holidays in Thailand.

To this end, the government has launched various initiatives to attract foreign tourists.

In 2019, the government spent more than 162 million yuan ($23.5 million) on scholarships, loans, grants, medical aid and subsidies, providing more than 8% of the Chinese tourists to finish their degree courses, and ensuring a report of the Thai Daily.

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Govt to cover treatment costs until at least March

By Li LEI
leli@chinadaily.com.cn

Patients needing treatment for COVID-19 will not have to foot primary costs for hospitalization, according to the National Health Commission, which oversees medical facilities. Authorities said outpatient costs will be more generously funded if patients are treated at smaller hospitals serving rural areas, they add.

The policies were outlined in a circular released on Dec 20 by the National Health Security Administration of Finance, the National Health Commission and the National Administration for Disease Prevention and Control. For the last few years, the State has set aside extra expenses for the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 patients in the public facilities.

Payment liability issues were only brought to the fore in the last few months, when health authorities allowed patients to be treated at any hospital that charged normal tolls.

The circular said the State will continue to provide hospitalization cost until March, if a patient’s medical expenses had reached the treatment standard for normal hospitalization services, as defined in the Chinese laws. The so-called “December 20” circular specified that the payment liability will be covered by the public medical insurance (PMI) funds.

Healthy beverage

People drink a few traditional Chinese medicine concoction provided by a pharmacy chain in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, on Dec 23. The city’s request for grass roots medical facilities to make the concoction to boost people’s immunity has been reported.

The district has 20 hospitals of various levels with over 4,000 medical staff. Some 231 people under isolation have received the concoction to date.

Xiao Yun, who works at the Beijing General Hospital of Capital Medical University, said, “We hope to offer doctors and nurses who have been working hard on the front a tasty and nutritious food, to give them a good rest and ride as soon as possible.”

FLYING HIGH

By JOE BEHARI

With the management of COVID-19 downgraded from critical to moderate, many provinces have released their own COVID-19 prevention and control policies to contain the pandemic. Many hospitals have improved the medical standards and policies to mobilize resources and manpower for the fight against the virus.

Among the provinces, Hunan province has released an updated version of its COVID-19 prevention and control policy on Dec 21. The new policy has been in force since Dec 25, and has been updated to cover the latest developments in the fight against COVID-19.

The new policy has been issued by the Hunan Province Medical Commission, and it includes new measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. The policy covers all aspects of the healthcare system, including the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and contact tracing of COVID-19 cases.

The policy also includes new measures to improve the healthcare system, including the training of healthcare workers, the implementation of new technologies, and the expansion of healthcare facilities.

The policy is expected to help the province achieve its goal of controlling the spread of COVID-19 and improving the healthcare system.

In Hunan, the local government has released a new policy to contain the spread of COVID-19. The new policy includes new measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, and to improve the healthcare system.

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China’s Ministry of Education and the National Health Commission have also released new policies to contain the spread of COVID-19. The new policies include new measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19, and to improve the education and health systems.

The new policies include new measures to improve the education and health systems, including the training of teachers and medical workers, the implementation of new technologies, and the expansion of education and health facilities.

The policies are expected to help the country achieve its goal of controlling the spread of COVID-19 and improving the education and health systems.

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**The sweet magic of Harbin’s sugar figurines**

**Inheritor is one of women in the country recognized for art**

By ZHOU HE (E-mail: zhouchunzi@zy.net.cn)

Children gaped as they watched Wang Chunzhang create sugar figurines out of molten sugar in minutes at her stand in Harbin, Heilongjiang province.

Their emotions did not surprise the 82-year-old, who has been fashioning the traditional Chinese folk art for more than a decade.

The process begins with heating sugar over an open flame. She then uses a ladle to coat different shapes. “To make a successful piece, I have to do it in three times,” Wang said.

But for Wang Chunzhang, 82, from Harbin’s Songjiang county, she understands the children’s amazement as she has been crafting sugar figurines since she was a child. “I brought home my grandfa­ther’s sugar into a sugar smel­ler to support the family,” she said, adding that she started making them as a child, as he was a sugar maker.

Wang began making sugar figurines when she was 17. After graduating from senior figh­school in 1956, she moved to Harbin, the provincial capital.

Wang spent three years mastering the skills and then returned to different provinces, including Gaoming, Nanning, Shenzhen, Fuzhou, and the Guangzhou Branch of the seaweed association, where she is now living, making sugar figurines.

During her stay, she was asked to make sugar statues. “I began to remember my time as a child, when we were making sugar statues,” she said.

Wang’s work at one of her sugar figurine stores.

Over the past years, they have taught 13 students from across the country.

Wang returned to Harbin, where her parents lived. “I like her village and her yard,” she said.

She started our sugar figurine business, which is based in Harbin and is one of those with a light brown color, but I can make them into different colors,” she said. “I always put a slice of attention to refining details, such as the nose, eyes, mouth, and mouth.”

Wang has also tried out ideas for new shapes and figures.

To celebrate the successful return of one of the country’s master chefs, Wang spent three days creating the sugar figurine. She didn’t remember how many times she failed, she said. “I was not disappointed and, after working out what I was doing wrong, I finally created a satisfactory figure.”

“Harbin’s sugar figures are derived from a historical work on a sugar factory,” she said. “Making sugar figurines is a very complex process that involves three steps to an imaginative artistic style. For as far as I know, there are less than 10 people in China who can make sugar figurines, and even fewer are young female students,” she added.

**China-Laos railway to bring bounty for all**

**By XINHUA**

— After arriving at the Vientiane railway station on the China-Laos Railway and enjoying plentiful interaction with the local pigeons, tourists usually walk to Nongkhai about a kilometer away for a cultural experience.

The village in the Southwestern Dai autonomous prefecture in Yunnan province is attracting visitors by offering a number of experiences that trace into traditional cultural heritage.

“Visitors can experience tradition­al cultural elements such as low-wheel pottery making, palm-leaf embroidery, and brick-making,” said Lin Yuan, a villager whose father is an inheritor of Dai low-wheel pottery making.

“In summer 2021, about 30 people spent two hours each day experi­encing pottery making. Last summer, the number of tourists doubled thanks to the opening of the China-Laos Railway,” she added.

The village has 11 restaurants and 24 rooms to serve the growing num­ber of tourists.

Mark the Asano, a number of one-chance villagers along the line have gradually become popular leisure desti­nation. “The villagers saw the opportunity brought by the railway and turned their modest homes into hotels,” said Al Hang, a resident of the Dai village of Changyi. Located in Menghai county, Changyi is well known for its quality goods and rural tourism.

“The key is to bring tourists to the line, since it is developing rural tourism and tourism in the vicinity of the railway,” said Chen Pei, manager of the China Railway Kunming Bureau Group.

**Boutique B&Bs lead mountain village’s revival**

**SEIDAERZHAO — Dean Jing­he is renovating his courtyard home in Nanyu village, located in Lashi county in Hebei province.**

The 30-year-old two­generation home in the village in the Taihang Mountains is being renovated by a new generation in Taihu Lake, Beijing.

“Although it is a low season, we can take advantage of the time to improve the greenhouse,” Dean said.

Dean worked as a store­keeper after graduating from high school, but as he saw new tourism develop in the village, he decided to return home to start a business. In 2019, he turned his unused house into a B&B. The venue, which is furni­tionally designed, and its esthet­ic and antique features attract a steady stream of customers.

“For the past two years, although we were affected by the epidemic, profits in peak season were really good. In the summer of last year, we earned 300,000 yuan ($43,075),” Dean said.

Nanyu, a picturesque village since the Ming and Qing dynasties, is known for a variety of tourist attractions.

“People from other parts of China travel here to tour traditional Chinese villages and experience traditional life,” Dean said.

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**From left:** Wang Chunzhang makes sugar figurines at one of her stores in Harbin, Heilongjiang province. Wang prepares sugar syrup in a bowl. Wang makes a sugar creature at one of her absurbs. A sugar dinosaur made by Wang. **PHOTO COURTESY OF WANG.**

We are located in deep moun­tains,” said Dean Chunzhang, vil­lage chief. “In the past, the transportation was inconvenient, there was little demand, and people were not rich. Most young people chose to leave the village to work.”

In 2019, thanks to the opening of a major highway that has an end near Nanyu, Nanyu’s fortune was turned around. With the tourism industry becoming more prosperous, the village’s geographic advan­tages began to drive the develop­ment of tourism.

“The village has more than 1,000 people and its economy is well­developed, but there is little available space,” Dean said.

Nanyu, with an area of 16.9­square-kilometer, has a total of 200 houses, and 52 out of the village’s 220 households are recognized as pov­erty-stricken.

In 2012, per capita income there was less than 1,000 yuan, and 52 out of the village’s 220 households are recognized as pov­erty-stricken.
Ozone layer’s change could slow climate change

By RENELA ROBINSON
in New York

An influential panel of US-based scientists has said that airborne chemicals called ozone-depleting substances (ODS) could play a bigger role in slowing climate change than previously thought, which could help repair the thinning layer of gases surrounding Earth.

The US National Environmental Program (NEP) panel, which includes scientists from the US and abroad, reviewed the evidence on whether ODS contribute to climate change and its impact on health, the environment, and the economy.

"The evidence indicates that ODS could play a significant role in slowing climate change," said the panel, which met in May and June. "We believe that ODS could help reduce the warming caused by other greenhouse gases." ODS are chemicals that can harm the earth's atmosphere and climate.

"If we continue to use ODS, they could reduce the warming caused by other greenhouse gases," said the panel. "We believe that ODS could help reduce the warming caused by other greenhouse gases." ODS are chemicals that can harm the earth's atmosphere and climate.

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Immigration politics on summit agenda

By LI ZHU | June 9, 2023

Seattle public school district has filed a lawsuit against TikTok, Facebook, and Google, accusing the tech giant of services and products that violate a federal law by failing to protect children from harmful material.

The school district states that the social media platforms fail to protect children from harmful content, including social media feeds, social media posts, and other forms of media.

The school district alleges that the social media companies have failed to implement adequate safeguards to prevent children from accessing harmful content. The lawsuit seeks to hold the social media companies accountable for their actions.

Seattle public school district is not the first district to take action against social media companies. Other districts across the country have also filed lawsuits against social media companies, seeking to protect children from harmful content.

The school district’s lawsuit is part of a broader effort to hold social media companies accountable for their role in exposing children to harmful content.

The school district’s lawsuit follows a series of high-profile incidents of children accessing harmful content on social media. These incidents have prompted calls for stronger regulations to protect children from harmful content.

Seattle public school district is seeking a court order requiring the social media companies to implement adequate safeguards to prevent children from accessing harmful content. The school district is also seeking compensatory damages.

The school district’s lawsuit is part of a broader effort to hold social media companies accountable for their role in exposing children to harmful content. The school district’s lawsuit is expected to set a precedent for other districts seeking to hold social media companies accountable for their actions.

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Brazilian corn to help meet demand

**By ZHU WENQIAN**
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Brazilian corn is set to help rebuild Brazil's hog herd by boosting in vitro feed mixtures and offer another source of protein to feed producers after the world's largest maize exporter, Brazil, cut its exports in 2021.

Brazilian corn, already an attractive feed ingredient in China, is being reassessed for its role in rebuilding hog herds, as the world's largest maize importer and consumer looks to diversify its feed supply and replace maize meal with cheaper, more reliable feedstuffs.

**Inbound Ravel, Suzhou-based Tongcheng International Logistics**, said its interest in Brazilian corn exports is based on the quality of the grain, as well as price, and the potential for increased volumes.

"Brazilian corn is expected to be available in large quantities in the coming months," said Xie Zhirong, a logistics official from Tongcheng International Logistics.

Brazil cut its 2021/22 corn exports to 10 million tonnes from 36.5 million tonnes a year earlier, after falling prices sent a bumper harvest to domestic processors and ethanol producers.

"The Brazilian corn market is expected to rebound, and back up supply," said Xie. "We are looking to increase our orders, especially in the coming months, and increase the amounts we purchase from Brazil."
Duty-free shopping heats up in tropical province

By ZHOU WENGJIAN zhounengjian@chinadaily.com.cn

The offshore duty-free shopping market in Hainan province has continued to exhibit a steady sales performance following the government’s efforts to further consolidate the optimization of COVID-19 prevention and control measures. During the Spring Festival holiday, the daily average sales of duty-free products in Hainan reached 300 million yuan ($48 million). Since mid-December, average daily sales have exceeded 100 million yuan, according to Hainan Customs.

Over the holiday, some 41,000 people went duty-free shopping on the tropical island and purchased a total of 111.8 million units of duty-free products. Their average transaction amount reached 5,626 yuan per person, which rebounded to a similar level compared to the same period last year, Hainan Customs said.

After China’s optimization of the COVID-19 measures, business operators expect that the number of duty-free products sold will continue to grow. According to the Hainan Free Trade Port Development Commission, duty-free shopping has become one of the most popular segments in recent years, and many enterprises would like to seize the opportunities to satisfy growing consumer demand despite the reduced shipments from COVID-19. “We expect to release pork products” said Pan Xiaojun, head of a Mousand duty-free store.

Major duty-free groups increased their investments in Hainan. Domestic duty-free company Hainan Duty-Free Group plans to launch a new duty-free mall in Wanning, Hainan, in January, and the mall has entered the trial operation stage. After the opening of the new mall, the total number of offshore duty-free malls in the province is expected to reach 20 by the end of this year, joining the ranks of duty-free malls across the country.

Meanwhile, Chinese companies such as Beijing Electronic Corporation, Guangzhou Lingnan Group Holdings Co Ltd and Zhongbai Group have intentions to operate duty-free businesses. However, they haven’t been approved for duty-free business in Hainan yet. According to the administration, the administration will further promote the country’s duty-free consumption reform and enhance the service level of duty-free business. In order to further promote duty-free consumption, the government is expected to further improve the quality of consumption, and to help raise the quality and consumption scale and promoting the development of international shopping, Zhongxi said.

China pushes efforts for new power system

Increase of clean energy seen as key to achieving nation’s carbon goals

By ZHENG XIN zhengxin@chinadaily.com.cn

The government’s efforts to build a new type of power system with a gradual increase in the proportion of clean energy will further consolidate renewable energy’s role in the country’s energy mix while fulfilling the country’s carbon neutrality goals, said industry experts.

The National Energy Administration recently solicited public opinions on the development of the country’s new type of power system on Tiktok. In the blue ticked video released by the administration, it emphasized the importance of increasing new energy sources as a relative alternative to their traditional peers.

It also vows to further boost the integrated development of power generation, grid and new energy storage, in addition to increasing new energy transmission and power prediction technologies. According to the analysis and findings in the power system will accelerate the country’s pace of achieving its carbon peak while balancing resource allocation.

Wang Yongtao, deputy director of the center for clean energy studies at China National Electric Power University, said the traditional power system has been challenged by extreme weather, high costs, and increased access to new energy sources as well as the need for quick response in recent years.

In summary, the government has set the policy to invest in a new type of power system in the country, the blue book released by the administration made the transformation more crucial in sectors and pace.

According to a plan released in October by the State Council, China will continuously improve the comprehensive regulation capability of the power system and accelerate the construction of flexible power regulations to build a strong smart grid and improve the grid security level. It will also actively develop the storage system for new energy to support the national allocation of energy storage systems for distributed new energy sources.

CITIC Securities said in a note that the document released by the administration has since changed the importance of hydrogen in the energy system, highlighting the importance of hydrogen in energy storage as well as a hydrogen-dominant coupling.

The efforts will further promote the scope and depth of hydrogen energy applications in the energy system in the country. It is expected to bring about a report released by the National Energy Administration, planning for a new energy system in Hainan and leading the entire country to further develop a hydrogen economy and new energy system.

As Wang said, according to the energy transformation plan, new energy can be used for hydrogen and other energy storage, also well as as well as electricity market reform and a hydrogen economy. The outcome will put efforts into creating an energy system with a hydrogen-dominant coupling in the coming decades.

Experts highlight role of quality assets in expanding REITs pilot program

By ZHENG XIN zhengxin@chinadaily.com.cn

China should encourage local governments and companies to bring a larger number of quality assets into the real estate investment trusts (REITs) pilot program to expand the size and scope of REITs, said industry experts at an online conference releasing research findings on China’s publicly traded REITs.

Xue Guoxian, member of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Congress and former minister of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, said the country should include all types of assets suitable to join the pilot program for REITs as soon as possible and accelerate the expansion of the program, in order to build a broad new financial system around the theme of REITs.

Participants of the pilot program must work together to help establish a sense of market perception about REITs, build a credit-first project database, further strengthen the coordination among regulatory agencies, local government and local governments, and speed up the approval of REITs projects, said Xue at the conference.

The China Real Estate Association said recently that the market for real estateREITs is still at an early stage. According to the various types of assets in the program, the government will help China’s publicly traded REIT market to grow further and become mature, said Zuo Lin, chairman of the CBRE, said the securities regulator will further expand the pilot program for the real estate industry and increase its assets in infrastructure sectors such as new energy, water conservancy and the new economy.

In addition, China will add to the development of affordable social housing projects in the REITs market and conduct research on expanding the pilot program to cover more infrastructure sectors such as education, water conservancy and new energy.

According to the conference, investors in the REIT market should pay more attention to the additional offerings of infrastructure REITs, which will determine the suitability and expansion capacity of REITs products, and investors should closely monitor real estate, commercial and real estate sectors, Liu said as a result of the conference.

Expanding the scope of the REIT pilot program and sharing the various types of assets in the program will help China’s publicly traded REIT market to grow further and become mature, said Zuo Lin, managing director of the investment banking committee and co-general manager of the Fixed Income Financing Department of China Merchants Securities Co.

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**BUSINESS FOCUS**

Country remains magnet for long-term investment

**We are full of confidence in the huge potential in China and are even more committed to our long-term investment in the country.**

Mitsuo Uchiyama, CEO of Nissan Motor Co.

**BEIJING** — The COVID-19 outbreak and the downsized economic pressure posed short-term challenges to certain market players in China in 2020. But many foreign-funded firms have remained upbeat and even upped their local investments, underlining their confidence in the country’s growth over the long run.

In the first 11 months of 2022, China’s foreign direct investment (FDI) reached $161.6 billion (1.02 trillion yuan), up 15.9 percent year-on-year. The amount has already surpassed the tally for 2021.

Over 90 percent of the surveyed foreign-funded firms are confident about China’s economic outlook in 2023, and 97 percent said they would maintain and expand their investment in China, a report by the Council for the Promotion of International Investment said last month. As China continues to expand domestic demand, paired with advanced industrial innovation and facilitating the circulation of domestic and international markets, many foreign-funded firms are seeking to realign their roles in the country’s new development pattern and will further expand long-term confidence in opening up in China.

**Flower tasting test**

Items to the largest middle-income group in the world, the Chinese economy has registered a powerful guarantee for land-based opening-up.

On Jan. 12, 2023, the world’s second-largest economy achieved the milestone, which was a comprehensive and fundamental set of legal standards for foreign investors and aims to better protect the rights and interests of people, as the law in effect for three years now, has witnessed the spread of the Chinese market can be seen in the clear skies of foreign capital inflows.

Foreign direct investment into the Chinese mainland, in actual use, reached $164.8 billion (114.6 billion euros) in 2022 and jumped to $121.6 billion in the January-November period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In the first 11 months of 2023, FDI inflow expanded 10.7 percent year-on-year to nearly 130.6 billion yuan, guaranteeing that China would achieve a record FDI inflow for another year.

The Foreign Investment Law ensures China’s investment environment and foreign-investment-related research institutes offering a fundamental guarantee for land-based opening-up.

**Legal protections make nation more attractive place to conduct business, spur commerce**

**A view of GLP’s booths during the third China International Import Expo in Shanghai in November 2022. The Singapore-based company serves as a global logistics provider and investment capital.**

**Better legal protection**

Withnalized persons for the entry, promotion, protection and management of foreign investment, China’s Foreign Investment Law addresses foreign-investor concerns and provides facilitation and ease of foreign investment.

China has stressed a level playing field for domestic and foreign companies, banned forced technology transfer and improved the mechanism for foreign-invested firms to file complaints, according to the law and in implementing regulations.

For example, foreign invested enterprises in China are entitled to equal treatment under law, regardless of the country of origin, as long as they fulfill the conditions for foreign investment. Pursuant to the Law, the state will ensure the rights, interests and benefits of foreign-invested enterprises in China.

According to the Law, foreign-invested enterprises in China enjoy the same treatment as domestic enterprises, regardless of the country of origin, as long as they fulfilled the conditions for foreign investment. Pursuant to the Law, the state will ensure the rights, interests, and benefits of foreign-invested enterprises in China.

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**Broader opening-up**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of China’s modernization policy of establishment of special economic zones, which was adopted at the 11th National People’s Congress in 1979.

Since then, China has implemented major opening-up reforms to establish national-level economic zones, such as the Shanghai Free Trade Zone, the west-facing and eastern Shandong economic zones, and the Yangtze River Delta.

Opening-up has brought China closer to the world and has enabled it to better integrate into the global economic system.

From November 2022 to 2023, China stopped taxes and tariffs on all foreign-invested firms, widened the market access for foreign-invested firms, and conducted major opening-up reforms.

As the country remains the world’s second-largest economy, the global economy has become more stable and less parochial. The Chinese market is among the world’s top five economies.

GLP is a global investment manager and real estate business operator in logistics, data infrastructure, renewable energy and related technologies.

As China’s business environment becomes more stable, more foreign-invested firms are expected to expand new business volume continuously expanding, with assets under management in China hitting $52 billion.

GLP has witnessed a continuous improvement of the business environment in China, with higher levels of internationalization and opening-up, said Zhang Zong, executive vice president of Schneider Electric and president of Schneider China.

Foreign investors, especially high-tech foreign-funded enterprises, are more aware of intellectual property protection than in the past. The Foreign Investment Law has established a fair competition environment with rules and transparency, said Zhao Zhi, chairman of the China Intellectual Property Research Center.

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**China’s economic benefits are now recognized by global companies, making it a more attractive place to operate in China.**

**We have full of confidence in the huge potential in China and are even more confident in opening up in China.**

Mitsuo Uchiyama, CEO of Nissan Motor Co.

**Country remains magnet for long-term investment**

**We are full of confidence in the huge potential in China and are even more committed to our long-term investment in the country.**

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Tokyo's new militarism leading Japan astray

The focus of the upcoming high-level talks in Japan and the United States, which will culminate with a summit meeting between President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden in the coming weeks, will inevitably draw attention to the militarization of Japan. This is especially true of how the US and Japan have been making in light of the actual situation both militarily and forcefully by abrogating and nullifying its own policies on the so-called "defense of the Japan-US alliance" and the "response of the Japan-US alliance".

The so-called "AUKUS" security talks will reportedly synchronize the two countries' national security strategies. This is a tool the US uses to implement its explicit goal of containing China.

In addition, in his meeting with Biden, Kishida made the so-called "US alliance" and the so-called "Japan-US alliance" a key point in his strategy for Japan-US Defense Cooperation. This stipulates the two nations' mutual defense relationship and the Self-Defense Forces and the US military.

Former Prime Minister Abe made big strides toward normalizing Japan and, Kishida's government is advancing further along that path as it seeks to revive Japan as a regional military power.

To realize such an ambition, Japan has not only taken steps to increase its military but is also using the country's military alliance with the US to share the work, in effect, voluntarily serving as a stronger force of the US in Washington's implementation of "Indo-Pacific Region" strategy.

On Dec 3, the Japanese Cabinet approved three defense documents, the National Security Strategy, the National Defense Framework Guidelines and the Mid-term Defense Program, which pass the so-called "2+2 nucleation" for Japan's biggest post-war investment in its defense forces.

According to the Japan Times, Japan will spend 4.6 trillion yen (830 billion) in the next five years to boost its military, equaling China's annual defense spending.

This means that in the next five years, Japan will foster all aspects of its military, especially defensive, to counteract the US's efforts to contain China and reshape the regional security system.

The US and Japan will try to create a China threat in order to normalize its military forces and then use them to contain China. This is the logic of its military strategy.

Tokyo's new militarism leading Japan astray

For all the above-there is no sign of fear from China. The US-Japan military alliance is also facing the risk for its false confidence thanks to the two allies' mutual interest to contain China and feel for their own strategic gains in the Asia-Pacific region.

The US has been moving closer to the position of a major nuclear power in the world.

The US-Japan alliance is also facing growing strain on China. If the Japanese government insists on retaining China as a major threat, it will ultimately come to pay for it from money contributed by the people, and thus those who make their profits from China's problems will be the ones who have to pay the bill.

Therefore, the US-Japan alliance can only come to a dead end sooner or later. The current situation is just a necessary condition for that to happen. China will force the US to retreat, just as it is doing now.

The Chinese government will act to ensure the country to avert its problems by increasing its efforts on the international scene. The US-Japan alliance is thus facing difficulties in the near future as it will face the real challenge of its own policies. In the long run, China can and will adapt itself to the US's situation and act in response to it.

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Evil tactics to demonize fight against virus

Because of the widespread increase in human activities in cities of all sizes, from forest fires in the Amazon to deforestation in China, including natural and domestic environments, animals, and diseases caused by infections with viruses and bacteria, the situation has become more frequent and complex. Such threats come not only from Russia, but also from the United States and the United Kingdom. The World Health Organization and many countries are aware of this trend, and they have been increasing their efforts to prevent the spread of disease.

During the pandemic, the mortality rate was extremely high, with more than one million deaths. Naturally, during this period, countries took strict measures to prevent the spread of the virus. Some countries did not even allow their residents to leave the country, and some had to quarantine the entire country. In these cases, the spread of the virus was minimal, and the mortality rate remained low.

But the situation is changing. In recent years, countries have been easing up on their lockdown measures, and the mortality rate has started to increase again. This is why we must be very careful and take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Chinese government has recently announced that it will impose new measures to prevent the spread of the virus, including stricter travel restrictions and a ban on large gatherings. These measures may cause some inconvenience to the people, but they are necessary to protect their health and safety.

We must also remember that the virus is still very dangerous, and it can spread very quickly. We must all work together to prevent the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones. Thank you.
GLOBAL VIEWS

Getting it in good repair

Policymakers are taking measures to address the challenges facing Chinese economy and boost its recovery

Last year’s Central Rural Work Conference stressed that a strong agricultural modernization is the foundation of a strong and modern country, and agricultural development is indispensable to meeting people’s needs for a better life, achieving high-quality development and solidifying the foundation of national security. Building an agriculturally strong country should be based on not only domestic but also international development experience and external resources. Analyzing the basic features of agriculturally strong countries and identifying the gaps between China and these countries will help to develop pathways for China to become an agriculturally strong country.

China’s agricultural development has made remarkable achievements and the agricultural economy has seen rapid growth for more than 60 years. The annual growth rate of the country’s food output has been above 6% even in the past two years. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) data shows China’s total agricultural output value accounted for 22.1% of the global total ranking first in the world in 2021. However, China’s agricultural development still faces many challenges.

First, China’s agricultural labor employment share is still high and labor productivity is lower than that of the world agricultural economy. In 2021, the number of employed agricultural labor accounts for 27.5% of total labor force employment. The number was 28.1% in 2010, 30.5% in 2000, and 38.7% in 1990. Second, China should give more emphasis to the supply chain to mitigate the risk of food and agriculture. The FAO mentioned that the world’s GDP was 10.5% in 2015, only 2.1% in 2020. China’s agricultural supply chain in 2010, which was far lower than the agriculturally strong countries, such as the US, where the added value of agriculture and related industries is more than eight times the added value of agriculture.

Finally, while China is an agriculturally intensive country, it is still not developing well and its agriculture is relatively small in number and scale. The scale of China’s agricultural companies is smaller than the US and China has few large-scale agribusinesses. China’s agricultural production is focused on developing intensive agricultural production and modern agricultural production systems in developed countries in Europe and the US, with 9% in Europe and 5% in China. In 2022, COFCO (China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Import and Export Corporation) was ranked as No. 1 in the world. In 2020, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture announced that China’s agricultural production was 4.2% of the world’s total GDP, which was 12% in 2010.

To transform China into an agriculturally strong country, it is critical to draw on international experience and adapt to local conditions with characteristics.

First, according to the report of agricultural development and rural revitalization in China, the foundation of food security is to make the transformation of agricultural innovation and development a system. The agricultural innovation and development system should be built, and multiple measures should be taken to encourage the prime sector to invest in agricultural modernization. The innovation of agricultural technology is an important part of agricultural innovation and development of agricultural S&T. The production should also improve land productivity and labor productivity through land management and application of modern technologies.

Second, agricultural-policy support should be strengthened to achieve the multiple goals including productivity improvement, nutrition diversification, and environment protection. Agricultural policy support for nutrition, health and sustainable food should be increased, especially for climate adaptation, green agricultural R&D and extension. There may be some trade-offs for the non-agricultural policies such as psychological expectations and the feedback of national and micro-level. The food chain can be repaired quickly to affect the food security.

Second, China’s macroeconomic policy should undergo a multi-dimensional change with two positive environments, tightening in the middle-term and relaxation over the past three years. The tightening policy has faced the China’s surplus monetary policy, led by the relaxation of international food supply, solving new food sources, and promoting the development of a nutrition-oriented food system which contributed to the transformation pattern.

Third, the agricultural supply chain should be optimized to improve economic efficiency. The construction of infrastructure for the agricultural product supply chain should be strengthened, including the construction of communicators and a modern agricultural circulation system. Textile and agro-industrial supply chain should be enhanced to the maximum potential, and improve farmer income.

Fourth, the development of transnational agricultural companies should be supported and cultivated. The agricultural trade and transnational agricultural imports should be diversified to reduce the risk of supply shocks. The country should also strengthen technological cooperation with developing regions and economies along the Belt and Road routes and South-South cooperation and methodology to transfer food security to these countries as well as China.

Policymakers are taking measures to address the challenges facing Chinese economy and boost its recovery.

In 2023, the Chinese government has launched a series of measures to promote agricultural development. The government has emphasized the importance of agricultural modernization and technological innovation. The government has also launched a series of policies to support agricultural development, including the establishment of agricultural universities, the development of agricultural technology, and the promotion of agricultural education.

China’s exports in dollar terms fell in October and the decline further expanded in November. In this case, market consensus holds that the contraction of external demand in 2023 will become more evident on China’s economic growth. However, the impact of the lower-than-expected downward pressure on China’s economy is relatively small and the Chinese government has been taking measures to stabilize the economy.

The government has announced a series of policies to support agricultural development, including the establishment of agricultural universities, the development of agricultural technology, and the promotion of agricultural education. These measures aim to enhance the innovation capabilities of agricultural enterprises, promote technological progress, and improve the efficiency of agricultural production. The government has also been taking measures to promote agricultural exports, including the establishment of agricultural trade zones, the promotion of agricultural products, and the establishment of agricultural trade facilitation measures.

In conclusion, China’s agricultural economy is an essential component of its overall economic development. By implementing measures to promote agricultural development, the government can enhance the innovation capabilities of agricultural enterprises, promote technological progress, and improve the efficiency of agricultural production, while also promoting agricultural exports and enhancing the overall economic performance of China.
Tourists make up for lost time

People across the country hit the trail again, much to the relief of travel agencies, Yang Fetyue reports.

Zhang Guangxi included his wondrous tour with a vengeance.

The Beijing resident boarded a plane to Sanya, capital of south China’s Hainan province, on Dec 25, about a week after his full recovery.

"I just felt like I needed to get out of my apartment," said Zhang.

He was assured that he wouldn’t catch the virus again, at least, in the near future, which convinced him to see other parts of the country. After enjoying the sunshine, swimming in the hot spring and savoring the distinctive local cuisine, Zhang went on with his journey, traveling to Guilin in South China’s Guangxi Autonomous region and then Guilin, capital of Guilin province, in the assortment of the country, to experience what those places had to offer.

He wrapped up his journey at the end of January, just in time to celebrate the New Year with his family.

"We had a nicely five-hour hotpot dinner at Hanfu restaurant to usher in the New Year, and then caught a 10-hour flight back to Shanghai," Zhang says. "Everything finally feels like it getting back to normal."

Zhang is just one of many people whose wanderlust has been ignited by the relaxation of the country’s travel controls that were put in place to curb the spread of the pandemic.

For the past New Year’s Day holiday, a robust recovery took the tourism market by storm, as the major domestic online travel agency Trip.com Group saw nearly 60 percent of the country’s provincial trips during the holiday, as opposed to 40 percent in the same period last year.

Revenue was swelling at the busiest airports, such as Beijing Capital International Airport and Shanghai Pudong International Airport, also showing a major peak on the rise.

By the volume, a whole domestic tourism market, 0.21 billion trips were made during the holiday, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. It represented a year-on-year increase of 64 percent and accounted for 106 percent of the year-end levels in 2019.

Revenue during the holiday broke 26.22 billion yuan (3.8 trillion), up 4.9 percent year-on-year, the ministry reports.

Traffic was steady from Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu in Sichuan province and other provincial capitals.

Domestic tourism offered a mild climate and frequent sunshine, proving popular among the holiday travelers, most of whom decided to give themselves a treat after their COVID-19 recovery.

Flight bookings to those destinations, including Sanya, Hainan province; Zhuhai, Guangdong province; and Xishuangbanna and the Dai Bai autonomous prefecture, Yuanan province, all rose by more than 10 percent, according to the travel agencies.

Those born after 1980 were the driving forces of the tourism recovery, with trip bookings from this age group jumping by 10 percent year-on-year, while those from family travelers rising by 14 percent.

"We reserved the first batch of tourists at the beginning of last month, and a considerable number of our guests chose to stay for as long as 15 days," says Zhao Ming, a private tour operator in Sanya. "We can reserve their expressions to relax and have fun."

Most of his clients placed orders without much planning, while some couldn’t wait to reach the beaches they dreamed of visiting during the New Year holiday and online travel agencies offered more favorable prices.

"Although the trip was much, we’ve always believed tourism will bounce back and thrive," Li says, adding that the revival was necessary to lift the economic downturn of Chinese workers and small businesses, which were hit hard by the pandemic.

"We remain confident in the future, and we’ll start a second homestay in the New Year," Li says.

Beijing also saw its tourism and cultural activities bouncing back to pre-COVID-19 levels during the New Year holiday. Approximately 27 million people visited the city’s 115 key scenic spots over the holiday, reaching 96.4 percent of the number registered in the same period of 2019, according to the Beijing Bureau of Culture and Tourism.

The tourist attraction reported a total revenue of about 36 million yuan, up 44 percent from 2019, the bureau reports.

The number of cultural activities on offer also rose, compared with the same period a year ago. The city’s 39 theaters held 30 commercial performances, reaching 47 percent of the levels of 2019, according to the Beijing Cultural and Tourism Bureau.

"We feel like we’ve made up for lost time," says Yang Minan, a Beijing-based university student.

"The public needed to blow off steam after being trapped at home for a long time due to the pandemic."

He showed about 200 tourists in the city’s performance market, noting that his company’s booking rates don’t plan to return to normal and will continue offering standby prices during the peak season throughout the spring festival.

Now that the country has ramped up the quantitative requirements for international aviation and domestic tourism, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the China Tourism Academy have predicted a tourism recovery in the second quarter of 2021.

"The recovery is very significant," says Zhang Qiang, deputy director of the China Tourism Academy.

"We’ve seen some of my friends already planning for a trip to Thailand or Singapore," he says.

For bookings registered by the previous year-on-year during the New Year holiday, while the figure has surpassed 260 percent for the Spring Festival holiday, the ministry’s reports.

Before the outbreak of the pandemic, Zhang Guangxi usually took a trip to the coastal city for a week or two.

"It’s still checking on the tourism policy of destinations I have to see and will make the bookings when the right time comes, but the prices of those hotels are favorable," he says.

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Top: Tourists play on the beach of Hainan Island in Haikou, capital of south China’s Hainan province, on Jan 2. Above left: Tourists cycle by Nanshan Lake in Taihe, southwest China’s Yunnan province, on Jan 5. Above right: A family spends a relaxing time at the beach in Haikou, south China’s Hainan province, on Jan 4. Photos provided to China Daily.

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Have a really cool time

Strength - Confidence - Diligence - Passion
Maketh the Right View:

Martial arts enthusiasm from the US finds its place in Wudang, writing a book, a happy family life and an online following. Yang Feliy says.

I slowly found that the foundation of martial arts has helped me a lot in trying to play the bamboo flute.

John Pinski, living in Princeton

The Wudang Mountains are famous for the Taoist temples and monasteries, and the area is widely considered to be the birthplace of Taoism. The region's deep history with traditional martial arts has appealed to many flute practitioners from home and abroad.

The united front, about 48,000 international visitors came to the mountains for sightseeing and to appreciate the culture, according to the Wudang Mountain management committee.

More than 6,000 of those visitors have time for a break, heading straight from the mountains via train, bus and taxi. It was a long journey but I was so happy getting there, because I didn’t speak any Chinese.

His history, however, was set at an early age at the age of 5, when he first met his masters, the 19th generation Pinski family of Wudangshan. In 2002, he chanced upon the website of Yang’s academy and signed up for the program for three years.

I thought he had a great opportunity to learn Wudang and other disciplines and experience a new challenge,” he recalls.

When he was still a child, he joined the Wudang Mountains’ public training and full-time training program for foreigners. He shared with his family, who were supportive, that the experience would be beneficial for his survival.

Pinski then had to change his journey, so he started working two jobs. In the spring of 2020, he was bestowed a teaching license and became a teacher. He also made a volunteeer trip to Wuhan, Hubei’s province capital.

Wudang was settled but steady, as he took four flights, lost his luggage and managed to get into Wuhan. Unexpendtedly.

Ruins of secret passages on Great Wall discovered

TIANJIN — Ruins of over 10,000 hidden rooms in the 1,200-meter-long Secret Passage have been discovered in Tianjin near the Sleeping Warrior site. The site is close to an ancient mud-brick wall and at a vantage point above the city, with the local topography. In history, the Great Wall was a natural barrier, a means of defense and aeway to pass through, while some experts believe the passage was a means of communication between inside and outside of the Great Wall, for study and culture in ancient times.

According to some official documents dating back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), nomadic tribes were forced to be living on the Great Wall between northwest China’s Gansu province and Fujian, a province with a abundant winter and great snowfall at that time. Some practice tools also evidenced by some large secret rooms that could allow two horses to pass in both directions, according to Zhang Yakan, a professor from Tianjin University and head of the research team. “These help prove that the Great Wall was not only completely closed, but also open in other directions,” Zhang adds.

Pinski has written more than 500,000 characters about his experience of study and life in the Wudang Mountains. He has published a book titled "the Great Wall is my life," which is translated into French.

Yang Feliy studies the classical philosophical treatise Five-Element Aigle and plans bamboo flute with his daughter in Yuncai Temple, Wudangshan. Photos provided to Chimedi
Innovation boosts vocational success

Hands-on experience gives students practical lessons, Xing Wen reports

E XINAN, a student from Shenzhen secondary vocational school in Shenzhen, has been determined to be a housewife ever since she was 12 years old. To show her father how she can take good care of her hometown, she decided to set up livestreaming.

Shenzhen is a bustling city that has experienced rapid growth in recent years. With the increasing popularity of online shopping, livestreaming has become a popular way for small and medium-sized businesses to attract customers.

Xinan started her livestreaming business at the age of 12. She was inspired by her classmates who were streaming and making money, and she decided to follow in their footsteps.

In the beginning, Xinan faced many challenges. She had to learn how to use the technology and how to communicate with her audience. But she never gave up and continued to improve her skills.

Over time, Xinan's livestreaming business has become more successful. She has gained a large following and has been invited to speak at various conferences.

Innovation boosts vocational success

The livestreaming industry has become increasingly popular in recent years, particularly among young people. With the rise of e-commerce, livestreaming has become a new way for people to sell products and earn money.

Many vocational schools have integrated livestreaming into their curriculum, providing students with hands-on experience and practical lessons.

This has helped students develop new skills and gain valuable experience, which is crucial for their future careers.

The integration of vocational education with industries is a trend that is expected to continue in the future. With more vocational schools offering livestreaming courses, students will have even more opportunities to succeed in the job market.