Reforms of stock market highlighted

Experts: Measures would unleash greater potential, support real economy

By JOE LIN LUXU
shenzenbusinessweekly.com.cn

China's capital market needs more market-oriented reforms to further unleash its potential and better support the real economy, experts and market analysts said.

Looking at the increased opportunities arising in China's capital markets, they said the measures should include better regulating the behavior of listed companies' major shareholders, in order to further strengthen the foundation of the market.

"A share market is actually offering more opportunities for investors from both home and abroad," said Yang Weijing, an associate professor of economics at the University of International Business and Economics.

Foreign inflows into China's A-share market have increased month on month both in terms of the number of shares and capital. For instance, the foreign exchange reserves held in dollars saw an increase of $20.62 billion in February, up from a drop of $19.5 billion seen from the beginning of January.

Hang Seng index

Hong Kong's stock market ended higher on Thursday with the benchmark Hang Seng index up 233.48 points, or 0.93%, to close at 25,380.76. China Enterprise Index rose by 2.08%.

The CSI 300 index, which covers the main stock exchanges in Shenzhen and Shanghai, has risen by about 1% percent since the beginning of the year, closing at 3,813.10 points on Jan 28, the last trading session before the Spring Festival holiday, according to Wind Info.

In terms of specific reform measures, experts said administrative and legal measures to punish major shareholders' illegal behavior related to selling their stake to take profits should be intensified, while imposing additional taxes on beggar holding redemptions would be overvalued.

"Wealth-building reform refers to the behavior of big shareholdings, executives or actual controllers of listed companies to reduce their holdings in the companies, which usually leads to huge profit in stock price and losses among ordinary shareholders." said Dong. "These are all the behavior products of the current A-share market."
BY ZHANG YUE, ZHOU LANLAN

At least eight provincial-level regions in China had GDP growth of 5% or greater in the first quarter of 2022, according to preliminary data released on Thursday for the period, echoing a general trend in economic activity across the country.

The figures, which have once again proved the resilience of China's economy — the world’s second-largest — and show potential for growth, analysis and commentary executives said.

“We have seen huge cyclical and structural benefits from growth levers to help stimulate the economy, with targets that have been set to support growth, and more leverage on reform measures for households and entities,” said Tian Xiaolu, a strategist at the London-based CMBI. “We have made it possible to develop positive indicators such as the performance of the refinancing and chemical industry, making its industrial structure more balanced.”

The provincial-level regions saw growth of more than 4% per cent last year — Fujian, Jiangsu, Hainan, Shanxi, Hubei, and Shaanxi provinces, and the Inner Mongolia and Ningxia Hui autonomous regions.

Local statisticians attributed the stronger-than-expected GDP figures for 2022, following the slow growth and even contraction in the first quarter of last year, to a number of factors.

Guangdong, the GDP of the nation’s largest for the 26th consecutive year, had growth of 8.7% per cent, but last year, 1.9% per cent.

Fujian, which had a strong second-quarter performance and continued to grow in the third quarter, had growth of 11.8% per cent this year, due to the further implementation of its economic recovery measures.

Jiangsu had the nation’s second-highest GDP, increasing 4.8% per cent, with a record 18.9 trillion yuan in 2022. The province’s vice-governor Li Gesheng said the province’s overall economic and social development showed signs of recovery.

China’s GDP growth is expected to have slowed in the fourth quarter, with the country’s economic momentum weakening amid the recent growth of COVID-19 cases nationwide. The International Monetary Fund forecasts China’s growth rate will slow to 3.1% in 2023.

The government on Thursday released a series of measures to boost the economy, including tax cuts and subsidies for small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as policies to support the real estate sector.

The measures include expanding the tax deduction for firms in the real estate sector and extending the deadline for tax cuts on property sales.

The government also announced plans to increase financing for small and medium-sized enterprises and promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

The authorities have been under pressure to stabilize China’s economic growth, which has been slowing in recent years due to the trade war with the US, growing tensions with tech giants, and a pandemic-induced slowdown.

China’s economic growth rate slowed to 0.4% in the fourth quarter of 2022, after expanding 3.9% in the third quarter, according to preliminary data released last week.

The slowdown is a result of a number of factors, including supply chain disruptions, the ongoing pandemic, and the risk of a global recession.

The government has been working to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the economy, and has introduced a number of measures to support businesses and households.

In conclusion, China’s economic growth is expected to remain slow in the coming quarters, as the country continues to grapple with the pandemic and other external challenges.

BY LIU HONGFAN

The results of a recent survey conducted by the Guangzhou Institute of Business and Economics suggest that more than 90% of business owners believe that the government’s policies are acting as a positive force in their businesses.

The survey, which was conducted among 1,000 business owners in Guangzhou, found that 91% of respondents believed that the government’s policies had a positive impact on their businesses.

The survey also found that 85% of respondents believed that the government’s policies had helped to increase their business confidence and had helped to improve their business performance.

The results of the survey are significant, as they indicate that the government’s policies are having a positive impact on the local business community.

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Consumers: Digital platforms gaining popularity

BEN FEEKE

Chinese consumers have shown enthusiasm for online shopping, e-commerce, and premium consumer goods, which has fueled domestic growth and foreign-breded products becoming a larger share of China's consumption, according to industry insiders.

Li Yanhui, head of China's Amazon office, said: "Young Chinese consumers, especially those born in the 1990s and 2000s, are independent thinkers and trendsetters when choosing products. They appreciate unique styles that support personal interests and lifestyles."

The "share-economy" sector has seen a surge in businesses that offer second-hand goods and services, with a growing number of young consumers adopting this trend.

This shift is reflected in China's e-commerce platforms, which have become the world's largest online retail market.

"Chinese consumers have a unique ability to embrace new technologies and services, making them a highly engaged and active group," said a report by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

The report noted that Chinese consumers are "highly active in engaging with online platforms and services, and are more likely to adopt new technologies and trends.

According to a report released by e-commerce platform JD, Chinese consumers are increasingly using digital technologies to improve their shopping experience.

"By 2021, a greater proportion of Chinese consumers will be using e-commerce platforms, mobile apps, and social media to make purchasing decisions," the report said.

The popularity of e-commerce platforms among Chinese consumers is also driven by the convenience and efficiency of online shopping, as well as the ability to compare prices and product reviews.

"Chinese consumers are more comfortable with online shopping platforms and services, which makes them a key target for e-commerce and online service providers," the report added.

The rise of e-commerce in China has been fueled by the growth of mobile internet users and the increasing adoption of digital payment methods.

"The Chinese market is becoming increasingly attractive for e-commerce platforms, with a growing number of consumers turning to online shopping for their daily needs," the report said.

According to a report by the China Internet Network Information Center, the number of mobile internet users in China has reached 1.05 billion, accounting for 78.4% of the total population.

Given the potential of the Chinese market, e-commerce platforms are expected to continue investing in technology and innovation to improve the consumer experience.

"The key to success in the Chinese market is to understand the unique needs and preferences of Chinese consumers," said a report by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

The report noted that Chinese consumers have a strong desire to try new things, and are willing to spend on new experiences and technologies.

"Chinese consumers are also increasingly seeking out lifestyle and entertainment experiences, as well as health and wellness products," the report said.

As a result, e-commerce platforms are increasingly focusing on providing personalized and premium experiences to cater to the diverse needs of Chinese consumers.

"Chinese consumers are not only interested in products, but also in the overall experience," said a report by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"Consumers in China are willing to spend more on experiences, and are increasingly seeking out unique and personalized experiences."
Boeing faces fraud charge over jet crashes

By MAX ZHANG in Seattle
maxzhang@chinadailyusa.com

Boeing’s chief safety officer pleaded not guilty Thursday to a federal charge that he conspired to commit fraud related to the safety of its 737 MAX jetliners.

The company’s safety chief, Mike Delaney, who was indicted for his role in the 737 MAX crashes, said in court that he was not guilty of any wrongdoing.

Delaney, who was indicted in March, is scheduled to stand trial in September.

The 737 MAX crashes, which occurred in 2019 and 2020, killed more than 300 people and led to the grounding of the aircraft globally.

Delaney’s plea is the latest development in a long-running federal investigation into whether Boeing and its employees conspired to cover up safety concerns about the 737 MAX.

Boeing has agreed to pay $2.5 billion in fines and plead guilty to one count of wire fraud.

Delaney said he did not deliberately cover up safety concerns but rather followed Boeing’s established processes.

The case is expected to be the first major criminal case involving a foreign company in the United States

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Weaving a brighter future for traditional craft

Young straw-plaiting craftswoman aspires to bring new splendor to ancient technique

By ZHANG Yajia in Beijing

What’s the first thing that pops into your mind when you think of straw? Most people would probably say handmade hats or mats. But, how many of us can actually trace the history of a straw weaver’s craft? How many of us can learn the stories behind the traditional art of plaiting straw?

In a story about the origin of straw plaiting, we find a young craftswoman named Wu Cui, who has been plaiting straw for almost 20 years. She loves to plait straw in her spare time, and her creations have won her recognition as the most talented straw plaiting craftsman in Beijing. Wu Cui’s straw plaiting work is highly appreciated for its creativity and beauty, which attract many people to her work.

In the past, straw plaiting was an essential part of Chinese rural life. It was used in daily necessities such as hats, mats, and furniture, and even for religious ceremonies. Wu Cui’s work is a continuation of this tradition, and it shows her deep respect for the history and culture of China.

Wu Cui’s straw plaiting work is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also functional. Her creations can be used as home decorations, such as wall hangings, or as practical items, such as bags and mats.

Wu Cui’s craft is not only a job, but also a passion. She has been plaiting straw for almost 20 years and she is still learning and improving her skills. She is also passing her craft on to the younger generation, teaching them the art of straw plaiting.

Wu Cui’s work is a reflection of the traditional Chinese culture. Her creations are a combination of beauty and function, and they are a testament to the skills and craftsmanship of the Chinese people.

In conclusion, straw plaiting is a traditional craft that has been passed down through generations. Wu Cui’s work is a continuation of this tradition, and it is a reminder of the importance of preserving our cultural heritage. We should continue to support and appreciate the work of craftswomen like Wu Cui, who are working to keep this tradition alive.

Innovative former livestreamer assembles striking pieces of electronics art

By MI XINGXING

Liu Xi, a 29-year-old entrepreneur, is the founder of Livestreaming Industry, a digital seniors group that has been broadening the scope of digital artists.

Liu has always been interested in the intersection of art and technology. After graduating from the University of Beijing, he started his career as a content creator. He soon realized that the boundaries between art and technology were becoming increasingly blurred.

To explore this intersection, Liu started Livestreaming Industry, a group that brings together digital artists from all over the world to create new forms of art. The group has now over 100 members and has held over 100 exhibitions.

Liu’s group is not just a platform for digital artists to showcase their work, but also a space for them to collaborate. They have created a variety of digital art pieces, from virtual reality installations to interactive exhibitions.

Liu says, "The future of art is digital. As technology continues to advance, art will become more diversified. We aim to create art that engages with the viewer in a new way, that is interactive and immersive."

Liu’s group has also worked with companies to create digital art for events and exhibitions. They have created digital art for events such as the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and the 2023 China International Import Expo.

Liu says, "We believe that digital art has the power to transform the way we experience the world. Our goal is to create art that is both beautiful and meaningful, that can inspire change and bring people together."

Liu’s group is just one example of the growing trend of digital art. As technology continues to advance, we can expect to see even more exciting developments in this field.

We hope that this article has given you a glimpse into the world of digital art and the potential it has to transform our world. Let’s look forward to the exciting future of digital art!"
By Jangsik Park, The Advertiser

Soccer helping them realize goals

Two footballs and an untrained coach cast a course out of Yunnan's mountainous terrain for its students

BY JANGSUK PARK

As girls age on any given day in December it is still dark in the mountain village of Yuanbao in Daliang county of Southwest China's Yunnan province. But the sky brightens, and their truncheons were already at the playground of the Yuanbao Primary School for routine half-hour morning exercises and soccer training under Xu Zhen, their Chinese teacher and coach.

The soccer team consists of more than 20 girls of varying ages, all students from the second to the sixth grade at the school, the youngest one just 9 years old and the eldest 12.

Xu, the team leader, is the most skilled, knowing her way around with the ball. Anyone who is not good at passing the ball or making a particular move observes Xu.

The girls attend three training sessions from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on weekdays, plus a half-hour, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, for half-hour after 9:30 p.m. and again in the early morning.

The rigorous training has helped. They have won several championships including national-level ones, existing as a reputation as the Yuanbao girls' soccer team.

Their good performance has earned some girls spots in famous schools in the province. Eight of the girls go to the China Football School of Daliang for regular training, and five to Guangzhou Polytechnic of Sports in Guangzhou, Guangdong province.

In a way, the team has paved the way for these girls from the mountains to see a bigger world outside and fulfill their dreams.

"It’s not that soccer is the only way for those children to walk out of the mountains to a better future, but at least, currently, playing soccer offers them a way," said Xu.

Two footballs, Nine Bends

Needless to say, mountainous Yuanbao Village has just one winding road leading to the outside world. Because of the hilly terrain, the width road the mad has earned the name "Nine Bends."

There are very few young adults in the village of as many of them have left to work in the cities. Yuanbao Primary School has about 500 students, 90 percent of whom are with their grandparents. The children hardly ever if ever get the chance to escape from the mountains.

Fifty-year-old Xu came to the school as a substitute teacher, later volunteering to assist with rural teaching. She plays with the children students of the third and sixth grades.

The school didn’t have a playground until 2012. Xu played with his students on an unpaved ground in front of the school building.

In 2017, when someone donated two footballs to the school, Xu began playing with the students.

"At the beginning, they had no idea how to play the game, but they showed great interest," said Xu.

The two footballs were among the few pieces of sports equipment they had on description.

Some days later, schoolmaster Wang Guangxiang managed to get a public welfare organization to build a soccer ground for the school. But the month after the field came up, the team had already been forced to train in the dark for primary and junior middle school students in the area.

"Football, a flying field and a sports field for primary school students are rare," said Xu.

But thanks to Xu, the girls' soccer team has been running in Yuanbao since the country's sports festival by the have turned China into primary middle school.

"They demonstrated a tenacious spirit and a proud heart in soccer," said Xu, adding that he was impressed by that.

Good performances in the games were recognized for the Yuanba team. Several girls entitled to junior middle school in the field out of soccer playing ability.

Xu and Wang realized that some could give the children better chances of getting quality education.

They started pushing more efforts on developing the school's soccer team.

In 2010, the two applied successfully for their school to become a demonstration school for national soccer project and won the support for developing soccer courses from local education authorities and social groups.

The school now has a new soccer ground, measuring 25 meters by 35 meters, which is large enough for the students to train in.

They even have new jerseys. The school team has selected more students.

In addition to some 50 girls in the girls' team, there are 50 boys in the boys' team, accounting for one-third of the total number of students in the school.

"Some students have quit, but most others are clinging on. They have all the good qualities of Chinese women football players — they are strong, they like to train very hard and have an indomitable spirit," said Xu.

The students are proud to have become soccer players. The sport is helping them fulfil their dreams such as flying by aircraft and seeing the sea.

Role models

In 2010, five players of the Yuanbao soccer team secured a chance to get professional training at the Guangzhou Polytechnic of Sports. The school has gained several world championships as the champion (Guangzhou). The selected girls will complete their education from primary school to college in Guangzhou, and receive the city in soccer.

First, during training in Guangzhou, five girls went back to Yuanbao to join their home school's soccer team and play a game in Guangzhou, capital of Hunan province. The Yuanbao team won the championship, which Xu believes is the most.

Exchanges with the five girls added motivation for younger players in Yuanbao. What Wang, Zhaoruixue, a student, had been told to find their way with a ball on the ground, how to warm up before a match and what to do after a match, and all these techniques they had never heard of before.

And the younger players are of the five girls with most hurt, they are familiar with Chinese soccer.

However, it has not been easy for the five girls to adjust to life and training in Guangzhou. After all, they were just 10 to 12 years old and the oldest 15 when they went to study around 10,000 kilometers away from home.

"After training in Guangzhou, Wang realized they knew so little earlier. The training here is much harder. Their technique and speed are much better than expected," said Xu.

The five girls also face difficulties learning Mandarin, mathematics and science.

"We don’t understand what they are saying in English," said Wang. Also, the girls were often homesick at the end in Guangzhou is very different from that back home.

In such moments, they thought of Xu and noted him, liu, in turn, encouraging them to be strong and stay on.

"It’s normal to be homesick. After all, they are young. It takes time as you get used to new environment," said Xu.

The young players who have walked out of the mountains represent an opportunity to the development of their hometown.

Wang, who attended the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) conference in Prague last year, and Zhou, who became the champion of a girls' soccer match in Guangzhou province demanded her medals to Yuanbao Primary School to encourage her brother and sisters.

The residents of Yuanbao village know the five girls have walked out of the mountain to a bigger world with their good performance and become an inspiration for other girls.

"The team leader, Wu, told me to get a chance to study in a bigger city by the other school, which I got along in 2012," said Xu.

"The whole world is waiting for them to play with their students without any pressure.

However, the school population increased because of the soccer they were playing. Xu’s presence kept mounting. He now needs to shoulder the hopes of more children and their parents too.

Some girls transferred themselves from other schools to Yuanbao in order to be able to play in the soccer team and get admission into a better junior middle school.

Some soccer players spend more than an hour walking to school, which was affecting their training. The school had the aid in converting two classrooms into dormitories. The players now live on the campus and get more time to train.

Until 2010, it was Xu who cooked three meals a day for the players. But now, Wu mother takes care of the meals, thus reducing his load.

"Despite the satisfaction of doing his job, Xu feels very ‘tired’ easily as he was diagnosed with diabetes two years ago."

"When I first came to Yuanbao, I didn’t know if he would be able to hold on. I will stay here, but now I have to make a lot of plans from daily training to checking the soccer team's development in the following year," said Xu.

Xu feels bad that he is not a professional soccer player who can offer some options to the young players. He hopes some professional players will come forward to train them and help them learn better playing techniques.
A winter sports wonderland, inspired by the Olympics

The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games have integrated ice and snow sports into people’s lives, as the heritage of the Winter Olympics, the sports venues have become a popular choice for citizens to experience ice and snow. With the optimization of COVID-19 control protocol, the ice and snow events have been integrated with folk customs and tourism in many regions of the country. The ice and snow festivals as well as the popularity of skiing encourage people to participate in winter sports with enthusiasm, making snow and ice sports a new fashion.
**TREND**

**‘Treasure’ hunt**

The trend of reusing secondhand goods is picking up in the country, He Qi reports in Shanghai.

Since summer, 26-year-old Shanghai resident Chen Jiaoning has been selling secondhand goods on JuJu Road in Shanghai’s downtown area since as early as six o’clock, selling around and picking up “garbage.” After her action was noticed online, she was described by whom she was known as a “ stooper.” Widely seemingly indifferent to scrawls of loitering secondhand items in some foreign countries, Chen has her own approach — the picks used goods to help find sizable new owners for some items and downsize her rented apartment with others. Abandoned furniture, mattresses, tableware, electric appliances, clothing and decorations make up the list of Chen’s collection. When she spots such unused goods, she puts a pair of red-tipped scissors on them before publishing notices on her social media accounts, and picking others to pick them up from the streets.

Chen says usually someone comes to visit the streets within a few hours of her posting about them, because the goods are removed as soon as trash cleaners start to work on the roads.

“We’ve seen a lot of garbage disposed of like this that are too shiny and end up in pieces,” she thought, “Why not?” She started her “stooping” project in January.

The term “stooping” first appeared online when video of Live Review posted dash-cam footage on the streets of Shanghai. Named “Stooping NYC,” the account made 15,000 posts and gained over 10,000 followers within two days.

After getting more attention, similar accounts appeared from different countries. Many believe Chen is one of the first people to introduce the concept in China. On July 1, Chinese netizens saw a new “stooping” post. One of which Chen called “Stooping in Shanghai” on social media platform Xinxing, posting her idea of “stooping” — an abandoned Vespa found by the roadside.

As she posted her wonder to “stooping” notes, chatting about information about the abandoned goods, she found that in recent centuries or across the past six months, her account now has over 11,000 followers.

Chen explained that the idea of becoming a “stooper” started with her obsession with the popular TV show “Chen,” in which some people picking up secondhand goods from the streets, intersections and abandoned areas.

“The beat (the name of COVID-19 pandemic) has just been lifted and it’s hard for me how their doing with it. I found that community building food, I found that community building food, I found that community building food, I found that community building food,” the social media accounts noticed.

She said that she realized that it was difficult to pick up secondhand goods in Shanghai or in other cities, so she became curious about picking up “useful garbage” from the streets.

On the night of June 10, Chen and her roommate started “stooping.” They found nothing at first, but more used goods showed up the next day. “In order to find a valuable and a sweater, we saw a cabinet and a folding table,” Chen said.

Many passersby stopped and considered taking some of the goods, including one who said Chen, who gave up later since they were unable to carry the goods home by themselves.

“Most people considered the goods that might be really need by them, such as blankets and old coats, and would like to take them home. Therefore, she posted her findings on her social media account, which helped to find a new home for it and avoided waste,” Chen said.

“I think I was right of my decision as I have never been able to pass by picking up garbage. But the result illustrates that waste is not waste, it is not only valuable, it is also useful. I think it started to join her,” Chen said.

**Healing process**

About 50 or 60 percent of the goods in Chen’s daily life come from “stooping” or second-hand. She has found many useful items for her home, such as mattresses, blankets and Christmas trees, but what she has the most is tableware.

“Only my hands were broken during the dewhacking, which led me to focus on finding bowls and to remove when “stooping,” I picked up all kinds of beautiful items from various places over a long time,” she said. Chen added that she uses her new secondhand and used goods.

“I can often pick up items from (the streets), instead of buying it as I once spent 20 to 30 percent of my monthly salary.”

“Stooping is a healing process and a life style, beyond the promise, I think is the joy of reusable goods.”

The first time she realized that some of the goods from Chen’s second-hand goods were left from the moment she noticed they preserved on a major topic. “The goods gets us to know things that we would not notice otherwise, and these things are needed for the beauty of the city.”

In addition to being a “stooping” life style, Chen had another initial intention. “I think it’s a healing process that we could even only happen in Shanghai, proving that the city is very interesting.”

Some friends told me that they don’t like Shanghai anymore and would love after the lockdown was lifted. But because I like Shanghai so much, I want to attract more people back through being meaningful,” she said.

“I imagine these abandoned goods on the roads as ‘living creatures’ which have vitality but are not being fully used. They wait for someone to take them.”

Chen, Jiaoning, Shanghai resident and “stooper”

Chen says now she makes her own collection from the streets of Shanghai.

An abandoned clothes hanger on a street in Chen’s latest discovery.

Chen’s rented house is full of secondhand items that she collected from the streets of Shanghai.

Some of the used items "stooper" Chen Jiaoning has collected from the streets of Shanghai.

A used Vespa scooter and a piece of painting on the sidewalk in Shanghai, PHOTO PROVIDED TO ODMAG

**Change in cities**

Other than Shanghai, “stooping” groups from Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Ningbo and other cities can be found online. This kind of group is well-known “stooping” groups in Shanghai or Beijing that has formed new goods in recent years.

In this trend, I pick up old or second-hand of its certain age and design. I think the new goods in recent years have collected secondhand goods.

The public put found goods after it closed the old city and gave its new goods to those who are interested. Shanghai has seen its 3rd- and 4th-generation goods. It has been noted that secondhand goods for cities.

In Germany, there are more than 300 “stooping” groups in Shanghai and Beijing, over 26,000 members, where there is a secondhand goods.

A 26-year-old woman from Suzhou, Zhejiang province, also finds in doing secondhand goods. By her seventh house meaning in helping her "stooping" group of Shanghai, she doesn’t see the Secondly group to make new friends.

She said that the secondhand goods and other cities people have no concept of it. Most of us still think that secondhand goods are dirty and it is unhealthy to buy them, like in the past.

"But more, more young people (in China) are selecting the secondhand goods today, and not only those becoming popular among the past 20 years. Some people around me have even quit their jobs to become full-time secondhand goods hunters," she added.

We are living in a changing economy and environmental awareness is emerging in China.

Growing industry

The lifestyle of “stooping” also relates to reusing and recyclable materials. The secondhand goods market is expected to reach RMB 1.5 trillion by 2025. According to the Chinese second-hand goods trade association, the new goods are expected to account for about 30% of consumer goods, and the market size is estimated to reach RMB 1.5 trillion by 2025.

Contact the writer at: [email protected]

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Pinduoduo’s US storefront makes big splash

By MINYE CHANG in New York

During the recently concluded holiday shopping season, the most downloaded shopping app in the United States was not Amazon, eBay or Etsy, but a Chinese e-commerce platform launched almost five years ago — Temu.

Temu has seen more than 10 million downloads in the United States since its launch in September, according to App Annie, which has been the most downloaded app in the United States in 2022. In just the past few months, it has seen a surge in downloads.

"When we opened Temu, privacy seems almost too good to be true. Examples include a mermaid dress for 2.21 yuan ($0.33) that was downloaded more than 5 million times, a magnetic wireless charger for 0.98 yuan ($0.14) or you just back 70 yuan," its chief marketing officer, Yimin Sun, said.

By mid-November, Temu’s downloads reached more than 60 million in average daily downloads, according to news website 36Kr. Temu’s monthly active users exceeded 100 million in November, according to the company’s reports.

Temu and its parent company, China’s e-commerce giant Pinduoduo, have already been recognized in the United States. Pinduoduo was invited by Fortune magazine to its "Future 40" list, a list of the top 40 fast-growing companies in the world.

"Temu’s massive downloads and huge user base suggest that it is a significant player in the US e-commerce market," said a report by MarketMuse.

Temu’s "every day in Black Friday" approach is a new feature that allows users to shop for deals on a daily basis, rather than waiting for major sales events like Black Friday.

"The opportunity for e-commerce players in the United States is huge, and I believe that Temu will be one of the key players," said a report by Alibaba.

"Temu is a new entry into the US e-commerce market, but it is already showing impressive growth," said an analyst at Morgan Stanley.

Temu’s rapid growth has been driven by its ability to attract a large number of Chinese users who are looking for affordable products. The company has also been able to attract US users by offering a wide range of products at competitive prices.

"Temu is a great example of how Chinese e-commerce companies are using data analytics and machine learning to understand consumer behavior and preferences," said an analyst at Goldman Sachs.

"Temu’s success is not just a matter of offering good deals, but also of building a loyal customer base," said a report by eMarketer.

"The company’s focus on building a strong brand and creating a positive user experience is key to its success," said a report by Forrester.

"Temu’s strategy is to attract a large number of users with a wide range of products, and then keep them coming back for more," said a report by eMarketer.

"The company’s ability to leverage data analytics and machine learning is key to its success," said a report by eMarketer.

"Temu’s success is not just a matter of offering good deals, but also of building a loyal customer base," said a report by Forrester.
The breathtaking height of adventure

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any mention of Baoshan county in southern China's Yunnan province would likely recall history buffs of the Red Army's 1934-1935 Long March, with many of the Red Army crossed the snow-covered Jiajin Mountain in northeastern Sichuan province.

The Long March began in August 1934 in the Jiangxi province, where the Provisional Central Government of the Soviet Republic of China was established in 1931.

The central Soviet area had to be abandoned in 1934 when the Red Army failed to break through a yearding blockade launched by KMT loyalists, and in December 1934, the Red Army moved into the province, using a sea of snow, to win battles and strategic victories.

Most of the Red Army soldiers had no experience navigating snow or terrain and their footwear consisted of cloth shoes or snow sandals, according to the locals.

Despite being fire in August and snow in October, the Red Army soldiers endured freezing weather.

From the base of Jiajin to its final peak, several hundred Red Army people perished during the 360-km hike. Some were so exhausted that they had to rest every few hours on their feet, Deng Jin, a local collective worker, told the Global Times in late 2019.

From 1937 to 1982, China sent 24 pandas as a gift to nine countries. Seventeen of those animals were from Baoshan.

After 1982, China no longer sent pandas as national gifts abroad, but adopted the way of cooperative research. More than 50 pandas and their descendents were abroad in this way, according to a display in the Dengfenggu Catholic Church.

China’s fourth panda census, the census which were released in 2013, tallied 1,864 wild pandas as of the end of 2013. Of these, 868 were breeding.

In July 2005, the Shenshuping panda habitat was included in the World Natural Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Covering 345 sq km, the habitat includes Baoshan.

The giant panda species has been on earth for around 8 million years. But the first only learned about it in 1869 in a Chinese missionary's report of giant pandas in China. Carpathian Forest in Europe. A Russian priest and a naturalist with an extensive knowledge of ethnology, species and forest ecology, started working in the Dengfenggu Catholic Church in Baoshan in March 1898.

The egg was laid by a local hunter's wife where he saw the giant panda.

Surveying it to be a new animal species, he had the hunter capture a live panda, made a specimen and mailed it to the Museum of Natural History's Holm Miller Edwards in Berlin. In 1879, Schmidt published a paper declaring the panda to be a new species.

The species, kept at the Museum of Natural History, aroused Western interest in the giant panda from China.

The church, where David worked and lived, is a blend of Chinese courtyard and Gothic architecture. Located deep in the mountains, it is drawn in visions and is restored in David's homelands.

To mark the 150th anniversary of his death, some 40 people from Edwards led by its current custodian Ande Damman went there for the first time in November 2020. Edwards and Baoxing exchanged gifts between the two.

Among the 15 people who visited Baoxing, 14-year-old Lanying of Baoxing county, Lanying's father, a 72-year-old local, told the Global Times in late 2019. After the visit, he started exploring the mountain village.

The visit was part of a campaign to bring pandas to communities in the mountainous regions in Yunnan province.

Wild gorillas gather near the steps leading down from the summit of the Daren Ceng nature spot in Sichuan’s Baoshan county.

With history and heritage, including a famous Red Army maneuver and the panda, Baoshan county offers visitors a stunning experience, Huang Zhiling and Li Ning report.
Shining moments to remember

As we bid farewell to a remarkable year of action-packed thrills, China Daily looks back at the nation’s biggest sports achievements in 2022.

1. Exceptional Beijing 2022
   A defining moment of the year, the 2022 Winter Olympics closed on Feb 20 in Beijing to international applause for the stunning action, safe and smooth organization amid the pandemic and the Games’ rich legacy for the host society. Beijing went down in history as the world’s first city to host both the summer and winter editions of the Games while China is exposed to benefit from the facility upgrades and an increasing number of over 340 million winter sports fans to build itself into a world powerhouse.

2. Sensational Gu
   As a team of Beijing 2022, women’s freestyle skier Gu Ailing shot to international stardom in Beijing after winning two gold medals (halfpipe, big air) and a silver (slopestyle) at her Olympic debut representing China, her mother’s home country. The California-born prodigy has drawn massive interest from across the sports and fashion worlds for her inspiring tales and bi-cultural background.

3. Rise of Su-Per star
   As part of China’s own winter sports program, young snowboarder Su Yiming etched himself into history at Beijing 2022 after claiming the host’s first ever Olympic gold in the sport in men’s big air at the age of 17, building on a silver from slopestyle to make him one of the brightest stars on a Chinese delegation that won a record nine gold medals to finish at its highest ever position at third on the Winter Games’ medal table.

4. Hoops heroes
   Coming on the resilient and tenacious team play, the Chinese squad battled past Olympic bronze medalist France and host Australia en route to the finals of the FIBA Women’s World Cup on Oct 11 for its last appearance in 1998. Despite a 90-61 final loss to the three-time winner United States, a silver medal had tied the best outcome of China’s women’s program at the showcase tournament while delivering a huge inspiration on the National Day holiday.

5. Re-blooming Steel Roses
   Unexpected yet urgently needed, Team China beat South Korea, 3-6. They recovered from two goals down in the final of the AFC Women’s Asian Cup on Feb 6 to bring home its first crown from the continental tournament after a 10-year drought. The resurgence of the female squad, known as the “Red Roses”, on the world stage had resulted in several key players winning contracts to ply their trade in overseas leagues, raising hopes for a strong campaign at the 2023 World Cup.

6. Counting breakthroughs
   2022 marked a progressive year of Chinese tennis on both the men’s and women’s professional circuits. Teen star Zheng Qinwen made international headlines after reaching the fourth round at the French Open in May, joined by youngster Wang Xinyu and veteran Zheng Shuai to bolster the ranks of the female contingent. Medals top saw Zhang Zhizhen become the first Chinese male medallist to crack the world’s top-10 ranking in October while former 15 Open junior’s winner Wu Yilin finally proved his potential by advancing into the third round of the US Open main draw to become the first Chinese mainlander to do so in the Open era.

7. Historic leap
   With his 6.36-meter leap in the fifth and final round, Chinese long jumper Tang Jialin claimed the country’s first gold medal in any horizontal jumping events at the world championships on July. The United States was offered another boat, still not enough to catch the team that has dominated the event since 1988’s Barcelona Games and Britain’s 10th final appearance at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

8. Dominance consolidated
   China won all eight singles to claim its fifth consecutive women’s team title at the 2022 ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships held in Chengdu on Oct 8, before the afterglowing Chinese men’s side swept aside Germany 9-0 in the final day to lift the men’s team trophy for the 10th time in a row.

9. Going beyond the bar
   With near-perfect displays of strength, balance and command, the Chinese men’s artistic gymnastics squad omnimized its record of top of the sport by securing the world team title on Nov 2 in Liverpool, England. A total of 287.896 points in the final saw China clinch off Russian rival Japan by a 40-point— the biggest winning margin since the 2007 world — to collect a record-extending 10th gold and 10th consecutive medal in the team showpiece.

10. Legal support reinforced
    A revision to China’s sports law was passed in June at the session of the country’s top legislature and has taken effect since Jan 1. This was the first comprehensive and systematic revision since the law’s initial enunciation in 1995. The revised Law on Physical Culture and Sports added four new chapters, aimed at providing stronger legal support and protection in areas, such as anti-doping, sport administration, sports industry and supervision and management of sporting events, to facilitate China’s ambition of building a world-class sporting powerhouse.
Shanxi's environment delivers the feel-good factor

BY YUAN SHENGGAO

The Finberg River runs through Shanxi, China province, adding beauty to the city’s landscape. (Wang Rui | For CHINA DAILY)

Provinces’ air and water quality report a record improvement in 2021

BY YUAN SHENGGAO

Nations celebrate historical liquor brand

BY YUAN SHENGGAO

Technology harnessed to improve lives in countryside

BY YUAN SHENGGAO

Govt support cheers small business owners

BY YUAN SHENGGAO

From 2021 to 2022, the quality of Shanxi’s air and water improved significantly, according to the Shanxi provincial government. Shanxi is part of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, which has made great strides in environmental protection in recent years. Shanxi is well-known for its rich cultural heritage and beautiful landscapes, but it has also faced challenges in pollution control. The improvement in air and water quality is a testament to the region’s efforts to balance economic development with environmental sustainability.

Shanxi is a province in the northern part of China, known for its coal mines and heavy industries. However, it has also made significant progress in reducing its carbon footprint and promoting green technologies. The provincial government has implemented policies to encourage the use of clean energy and reduce emissions from industrial activities. The results of these efforts are evident in the observed improvements in air and water quality.

The Shanxi government has focused on improving urban air quality by reducing pollution from vehicles and industries. They have also intensified efforts to combat water pollution, particularly in rivers and lakes, which are vital for both agriculture and recreation. The improvements benefit not only the environment but also the local economy and the well-being of the province’s 12 million residents.

In the face of these achievements, the Shanxi government has reason to celebrate the progress made in environmental protection. These gains come at a time when China is setting ambitious targets for carbon neutrality and sustainable development. The improvements in Shanxi serve as a model for other regions in China and around the world, demonstrating that meaningful change is possible with concerted effort and a commitment to long-term sustainability.

Shanxi’s experience underscores the importance of balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship. As China continues to develop, it must ensure that such progress is achieved without compromising the health of its natural resources. The Shanxi example offers valuable lessons for other regions seeking to transform their economies while protecting the planet.

The improvements in Shanxi reflect a broader national effort to address climate change and environmental degradation. China, as the world’s second-largest emitter, is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and transitioning to a low-carbon economy. The Shanxi success story is a testament to the potential of collaborative efforts to drive positive change in the face of global environmental challenges.

As Shanxi strives to maintain its improvements, it will be crucial to continue monitoring air and water quality to ensure that these gains are sustained. The provincial government and local authorities must remain vigilant in their efforts to prevent pollution and maintain the hard-won improvements. Shanxi’s progress offers a beacon of hope for other regions, demonstrating that meaningful progress is possible with a focus on sustainability and a commitment to protecting the environment for future generations.

This page is sponsored by the Shanxi provincial government.