Provinces unveil policies to spur growth in 2023

By OUYANG HUIJIA in Beijing and WANG YING in Shanghai

Several provincial-level governments have announced incentive measures, including fostering high-quality development and optimising the business environment, to encourage growth this year and open new avenues from the impact of COVID-19. Experts said the actions show many governments are taking a more pro-growth stance, which will give a strong boost to the economy in 2023.

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While retaining traditional cooking methods and authentic flavors, Chinese pastry chefs of all ages are becoming innovators in developing new combinations of traditional Chinese cuisines and the modern world to attract young people.

Chinese pastry chefs typically require months to taste, develop, and perfect a brand new pastry creation. Some even have a love for the science behind the art of baking. This is why pastries are the secret ingredients in modern Chinese food culture.

Chinese pastries are delicious; they are not just a sweet treat, but also a representation of Chinese culture. Chinese chefs are creating new flavors and styles to attract the younger generation.

After the trend of morden Chinese pastry launched in 2016, the younger generation has shown great interest in Chinese pastries. This is because Chinese pastries are a unique combination of traditional and modern flavors.

“Just like myself four years ago, my students are looking forward to becoming pastry chefs.”

Wang Zhiping, 74, master chef, the “king of pastries”

We talked about the techniques, but I now think more about ways to organize and cut Chinese pastry. There is one point I noticed, that is different from the past, and that is the need to create new pastries that are suitable for modern Chinese cuisine. This is a new era of Chinese pastry.”

Wang Zhiping, 74, master chef, is the “king of pastries.” After taking over from his brother, he has been creating new pastries since 2016, and he is always looking for new ideas to improve the traditional pastries.

In addition, the young generation is more willing to try new things and is more open to different styles of Chinese pastry. This is why Chinese pastry chefs are constantly creating new pastries to attract young people.

As an example, the trend of morden Chinese pastry has been growing in popularity. Young people are now more interested in trying new pastries and are open to different combinations of flavors.

Brands turn to traditional Chinese culture to attract young customers

By Li Yingying

To celebrate the Year of the Rabbit, time-honored Beijing snack brand Daqingcun launched a new line of festive snacks and traditional Chinese pastries.

One of the gains that has been particularly popular among young customers is its unique brand strategy. It not only offers traditional snacks but also incorporates modern elements to appeal to the younger generation.

The new snack line, themed around the Year of the Rabbit, has been a hit among young customers. The snacks are designed to appeal to both adults and children.

“Brands can use this moment to show their commitment to cultural revitalization and to highlight the rich traditions of Chinese cuisine,” said Li Yingying, an expert in traditional Chinese culture.

“Chinese pastries are an excellent example of this. They can be used to promote cultural awareness and to educate young people about the history and culture of China.”

For example, the new line of snacks includes a range of traditional Chinese pastries, such as Taro and Sesame, which are popular among young customers.

“The pastries are not only delicious, but they also offer a glimpse into the rich culinary heritage of China. This is an excellent way to attract young customers and to promote cultural awareness.”

In conclusion, traditional Chinese culture can be leveraged by brands to appeal to young customers. This strategy can help to promote cultural awareness and to attract a younger audience.

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Health: Nation among pioneers in developing vaccines

The campaign often offers leisurely and public-service announcements that aim to raise awareness about the importance of taking care of one’s health. It is also important to note that at the global level, the Petition Health Campaign in China was one of the first examples of a multisectoral action for health, as it involved the collaboration of several government ministries and departments to improve citizens’ health.

China has effectively used poultry health campaigns in recent years to tackle specific health issues, including COVID-19. These campaigns have emphasized the behavior that reduces the transmission of the virus, such as wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands, and maintaining a distance from others.

China started to focus on food- and environment safety and protection through mass sanitation and population vaccinations. When the world faced high mortality rates, China’s restated its resolve. The Chinese government is aware of the need for continued and increased efforts.

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Ties: Washington’s two-sided approach will trigger greater concerns, analysts say

At the same event, former US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger both said the meeting was "dramatically different" from past ones and that it had "much more substance".

Why did Kissinger say this? Analysts say that Washington’s two-sided approach to China is concerning because it could lead to increased tensions and uncertainty. The US has been trying to balance its relationship with China while also improving its ties with other countries, such as Japan and South Korea. This approach has raised concerns among some experts who believe it is not a sustainable long-term strategy.

He did also express joy over progress on Sino-US ties, even if some are cautious in its possible implications. He added, "I think we’re seeing a move toward more cooperation and less conflict." He also said that the US is committed to addressing global challenges, such as climate change and the coronavirus pandemic.

This approach has also raised concerns among some experts who believe it is not a sustainable long-term strategy. He added, "I think we’re seeing a move toward more cooperation and less conflict." He also said that the US is committed to addressing global challenges, such as climate change and the coronavirus pandemic.
Dedicated delivery drivers impressed me

By CAI YIN
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As a journalist reporting on the rule of law, I often interviewed the police, procurators, judges, and other law-related people. However, recently, I was impressed by the delivery drivers I met.

At first, I thought I would be nervous when I saw the newsmen as it is still somebody. With the city lockdown and COVID-19 prevention measures in place, the delivery drivers have been working hard to ensure that goods are delivered quickly and safely.

One day, I took a photo of two delivery drivers who had just finished their work. They were carrying heavy boxes and bags, as they were trying to deliver them to their customers.

I thought it was a moment worth capturing, so I took a photo of them and shared it on social media. The image quickly went viral, and many people praised the delivery drivers for their hard work and dedication.

It was a moment that showed the importance of the rule of law and the dedication of those who uphold it. As a journalist, I am happy to have been able to capture this moment and share it with others.

Editor's note: China Daily reporters recall events or stories from the past year that have stayed in their thoughts.

Home once again after so long away

By ZHAI CHENLONG
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On Jan 6, the Chinese mainland scrapped all quarantine requirements for domestic flights.

As I watched reports of Chinese cities that had reopened, I felt a sense of relief and hope. After more than two years of being away, I finally got the chance to return to my home in Shanghai, where I grew up.

I arrived in Shanghai on Jan 6, ready to see my family and friends. I had missed them so much, and I was eager to make up for lost time.

When I arrived at the airport, I was surprised to see how much had changed. The airport was bustling with people, and the city was alive and vibrant.

I met my family at the airport, and we spent the day catching up. We talked about the past two years, the difficult times we had all shared, and how much had changed.

I also visited some of my old haunts, like the local museum and the park where I used to play as a child. I was amazed at how much the city had changed, and I was grateful to be able to see it again.

Two days later, I headed back to my home in the United States. I will miss my family and friends, but I am happy to be back in my home country.

China's COVID-19 restrictions were lifted yesterday as the country will implement a new system to curb the virus transmission. This comes after the government said the country's COVID-19 situation has been under control.
Duty-free shopping fuels boom in Hainan’s economy

Hainan province's liberalized offshore duty-free shopping policy, which is part of its ambitious free-trade port development, is attracting growing interest from powerful Chinese online and offline retailers who hope to enter the market. With an aim of boosting the high-quality consumption of the Hainan free trade port, an announcement on Hainan's offshore duty-free shopping policy was issued and came into effect on July 1, 2020. The duty-free policy is expected to boost domestic consumption and help attract overseas consumption. Statistics from Hainan Customs showed that it has supervised a total of 100.2 billion yuan of duty-free sales, or 160 million items, from a total of 13.41 million consumers when they left the island from July to December in 2022. Over the past year since the implementation of Hainan’s offshore duty-free policy, customs officers have worked together to ensure that the offshore duty-free goods enter the county smoothly and safely so that consumers can purchase high-quality duty-free goods.

Engineer Liang Heming receives the duty-free goods for inspection, on Nov. 14, 2022.

Customs officials conduct inspections on duty-free goods and check the product information, on Nov. 7, 2022.

Inspectors take samples of duty-free cosmetics and carry out testing and analysis, on Nov. 4, 2022.

A senior engineer Pang Qifang takes out the duty-free cosmetics samples and carries out element analysis on Nov. 4, 2022.

Above Left to Right: Customers pick up commodities at Haikou International Duty-Free City in Haikou, Hainan province, on Oct. 28, 2022. The world’s largest single-duty-free shop Haikou International Duty-Free City attracts many customers to wait in line for duty-free goods, on Oct. 28, 2022. The ship carrying the duty-free goods leaves the port, and is released after being inspected on Jan. 12, 2023.
**Pandemic control shift seen as economic boon**

ACCA, Gambia — The easing of COVID-19 restrictions in China will contribute to the restoration of global supply chains, a Chinese expert says. After a long, fiscal policy specialist who works for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Gambia, said the COVID-19 pandemic has been a wake-up call for the global economy because China is the largest trading partner country in the world. “With China opening up its borders, it’s likely to see a resurgence in economic activity,” said the expert. “With China’s borders now open, we’re likely to see a peak in economic activity.”

China’s economy, however, has faced a significant slowdown due to the pandemic. The country’s growth rate has been slower than expected, with many economists predicting a slowdown in growth through the rest of the year. Many experts believe that China’s recovery will be slow, with a focus on domestic demand and investment.
By YUENNING @Los Angeles Times

More unemployed people in the United States are living in tents or sleeping in cars and trucks and municipal authorities are taking few if any steps to make people feel better.

At least 10 jurisdictions have laws that bar police from removing homeless people camping in public spaces, according to the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, based in Los Angeles, California, Florida, New York, Washington and Texas have imposed blanket statewide camping bans.

A number of municipalities have approved or are considering homeless housing programs, even as the number of people living in tents and other makeshift shelters is soaring.

Each measure is produced to protect the city or town from being pillaged by homeless people from living in tents and other makeshift shelters.

By KIMBERLY A. BARRON

A crowd of about 200 protesters marched through downtown San Diego on Friday, calling for the city to do more to support homeless people.

The march was organized by the San Diego Tenants Union, a group that advocates for tenants' rights.

The group said it was calling for the city to pass a series of measures to address the homelessness crisis, including expanding access to permanent housing, increasing funding for homeless services, and creating a dedicated fund to support tenants and homeowners.

The group also called for the city to increase the minimum wage and ensure that all workers have access to paid sick leave and paid family leave.

The march began at the City Hall plaza and ended at the San Diego Convention Center, where the group held a rally.

Speakers at the rally included homeless advocates, community leaders, and city officials.

The group called for the city to prioritize the needs of homeless people and to take action to address the crisis.

"We must act now," said one speaker.

"The time for action is now. We need more affordable housing, we need more services, and we need to address the root causes of homelessness."
AI powers China's astronomical quest

Private, public sectors join forces to unleash potential of high-tech to create huge economic impact

By CHENG YU
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Artificial intelligence is helping China see the universe for the world. By incorporating AI into the work done by the five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope (FAST), Chinese astronomers are trying to discover exoplanets and black holes.

FAST is the world’s largest single-dish telescope located in Southwest China’s Guizhou province. Palaces, or roughly ranging antennae stats, are among the research foundations.

Study of palaces can help researchers understand extreme states of matter and events like collisions of black holes, an astronomical sector, a palate is equivalent to GPS or ground navigation.

“For the first time, we were able to see AI to help us find 22 palaces, which included several of the high-speed rotating millisecond pulsars with high scientific value in astrophysics,” said LI JUN, chief scientist of FAST.

“Since the first discovery of the FAST telescope in 2016, about 1,600 palaces have been discovered by researchers in other cutting-edge technical disciplines, which have accelerated the systematic discovery of palaces,” he said. “Still, our discovery of 22 palaces is a relatively short time (an impressive achievement).”

Making that possible is China’s emergence as a presence in the field of AI, which, according to market consultancy McKinsey, is expected to create $600 billion in economic value for the country.

The non-setting Central Economic Work Conference in mid-December underscored that it is important to work closely both in coordinate and develop the public sector and to encourage, support and guide the development of the private sector.

In fact, Chinese private businesses like Ziling and Didi have joined the fast lane to internet enterprises leading global technological advancement. Chinese private sector has become home to various pioneers that help join economic growth and innovative development both in the domestic and international markets.

In recent years, they have contributed about 40 percent of the country’s tax revenue, 60 percent of GDP, 30 percent of high-end industry growth and 68 percent of urban employment, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

Tang Kun, one of the three core members of the Shanghai-based spacecraft said, “China may be the first to use cloud technology to aid space missions.”

“If we had been late, we would also use commercial and humorous like, soy yogurt. We could also control these intelligent devices in the space kitchen through mobile phones of the same kind.”

In the past, most astronaut foods were packed in aluminum foil, so the microgravity environment made it easier to cook microwave oven. Conduction devi- ces were often used instead of boiling. An astronaut had to spend at least four hours to satiate some cravings in the space kitchen.

To make things easier, some astronaut development devices that permiters to sit eating, such as Shrivel Endoskeleton and Gino chicken, a special production.

Besides, Jingyu, a group of private enterprises that are involved in cloud computing, AI, have posted a report that China has already become the world’s largest Internet of Things market.

SIU ZHENG / CHINA DAILY

With the accelerated integration of digital technology and the real economy, the development of AI is no longer limited to tech breakthroughs in computing power, algorithms or data, but gradually deepening...

YU Yusheng, vice-president of Tencent Cloud, said that AI has the potential to transform industries, creating new development and new opportunities. But the real AI development is not limited to tech breakthroughs in computing power, algorithms or data, but gradually deepening into industrial applications and social needs. To achieve this, the whole society, especially the industry and enterprise, should have a strong sense of positioning. In the meantime, we should also rely on scientific departments, such as universities and research institutes, to coordinate and support the AI industry.

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Earth to space, firms add value by innovating technology

REPORTER’S LOG
By Chang Fa

It’s easy for consumers to buy a bowl of hot rice and mineral water online from a neighborhood shop, but for astronauts such things are not available.

Crew members of China’s Men¬

"We have been able to sit eating fast food, shrivel endoskeleton and gin chicken, using mobile phones through which we can make reservations, and even order drinking water and food."
**RCEP boosts trade growth amid gloomy global outlook**

China becomes Vietnam's biggest importer of agricultural products

HANOI — Despite a gloomy global picture stemming from high prices, inflation and disruptions to supply chains, trade remains robust between China and Vietnam last year achieved high growth thanks to the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

"Since the RCEP went into effect on Jan 1, 2022, especially after China and Vietnam closely followed the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, " said Li Xiang, deputy director of the China-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement Coordination Department.

According to Nguyen Van Man, director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of tan Gia Province, this year, Vietnam has reviewed the national plan to increase agricultural export turnover, including 80,000 tons of vegetables, 20,000 tons of durian, 3,100 tons of watermelons, 1,000 tons of salt and 100 tons of durian.

"Agriculture has a very important role in the national economy, especially in the northeastern region, " said Nguyen Quoc Khanh, director of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Department of Agricultural and Food Products.

With the implementation of the RCEP, Vietnam has strengthened its position in the global market, increasing its export opportunities and helping to improve its competitiveness.

**China becomes Vietnam's biggest importer of agricultural products**

China, which is Vietnam's biggest importer of agricultural products, has shown significant interest in the country's agricultural sector, with exports reaching 1.5 billion yuan ($210 million) in the first half of 2022.

"China's demand for agricultural products has been growing steadily in recent years due to its large population and increasing urbanization, " said Tran Thanh Hai, director of the Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency.

China is also a major importer of agricultural products from Vietnam, with exports exceeding 1 billion yuan ($135 million) in the first half of 2022.

In particular, exports of durian, watermelons, and salt have shown strong growth.

"Durian is a high-value agricultural product that has gained a significant market share in China in recent years, " said Tran Thanh Hai.

The Chinese market is considered a key destination for Vietnamese agricultural products, with exports to China expected to continue to grow in the coming years.

"We expect the export of agricultural products to China to continue to grow in the coming years, driven by the strong demand of Chinese consumers for high-quality agricultural products, " said Tran Thanh Hai.

With the implementation of the RCEP, Vietnam has strengthened its position in the global market, increasing its export opportunities and helping to improve its competitiveness.

"Vietnam has been successful in promoting its agricultural products in the Chinese market, thanks to the liberalization of trade rules and the reduction of trade barriers, " said Tran Thanh Hai.

In the future, Vietnam is expected to continue to increase its exports to China, driven by the strong demand for high-quality agricultural products and the liberalization of trade rules.

"Vietnam's exports to China are expected to continue to grow, driven by the strong demand for high-quality agricultural products and the liberalization of trade rules, " said Tran Thanh Hai.

Optimistic forecast for platforms in 2023

By CHENG YU
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China's tech and Internet companies are expected to embrace a new round of growth this year, which will likely garner greater investments and innovations in the country's economy, industrial recovery, and innovation and science and technology (I&S) companies.

"Realising cooperation and confidence in platform companies is still the priority of High-quality employment expansion," said Zhang Yaxing, chief researcher at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges.

"They aim to maximise their roles of driving the development of digital technologies and the real economy to offer fresh impetus to new companies," Zhang said.

The remarks were made following the signing of the Global Economic Forum Work Conference that took place in December. The meeting emphasised that platform companies — which mainly refer to tech and Internet enterprise that leverage platforms to offer services — will be supported to "fully display their capabilities" in bolstering economic growth, innovation and international cooperation.

A report led by the Chinese Academy of Personnel Science said that over the past five years, Tencent's digital ecosystem is expected to help create 1.36 million new jobs, adding that the company has driven the development of over 1,000 new jobs categories.

"We import an enormous amount of talent on the platform, which has become an important part of talent governance, especially in the tech talent recruitment category," said Wang Xiaoming, head of talent innovation at the Institute of Science and Technology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"In the context of the new digital economy, platform companies play a leading role in driving both domestic economic growth and global industrial advancement," said Wang Shizhang, director of the Institute of Information and Technology Development at the State Information Technology Center.

"Moving forward, a group of tech and Internet enterprises will play digital transformation in various economic sectors, including consumption, entertainment and medical care, " said Wang.

"They will drive the formation of digital talent and organisations related to artificial intelligence, cloud computing, blockchain, big data and processes. It will be a new source for major economies to compete in the above-mentioned areas.

A white paper released by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, a government think tank, showed that the market scale of China's digital economy reached 37.2 trillion yuan last year, which was the second largest globally.

"In terms of consumption, China's younger generations are grasping up to become the main force of future consumption. We are inspired to bring such strong demand to global brands and the consumer market," said Li Hong, founder and CEO of POIZON, an online fashion marketplace for luxury branded masculine and designer leather accessories as well as vintage brands.

"Moving forward, the platform will also enhance its technological innovation, the ability to support more technologies, enhance the level of technology, and build new consumption experiences for years to come," said Li Hong.

"This platform also enables platforms to play a role in technology development in various business sectors and economic categories, but also supports further on the platform," said Li Hong.

"We will continue to release "blockchain," a technology that has been released in the digital economy and is expected to play a major role in the future economy," said Li Hong.

"Blockchain will also drive the digital economy to expand in various businesses, " said Li Hong.

"The digital economy will become one of the key areas for expansion, " said Li Hong.

"We will also continue to release "cloud computing," a technology that has been released in the digital economy, " said Li Hong.

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"We will also continue to release "internet of things," a technology that has been released in the digital economy, " said Li Hong.

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"We will also continue to release "5G," a technology that has been released in the digital economy, " said Li Hong.

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"We will also continue to release "AI," a technology that has been released in the digital economy, " said Li Hong.

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Dual circulation still priority for China's development pattern

EAGLE EYE
By Ding Yuan

The term "dual circulation" refers to a new economic development pattern in which China’s domestic market remains the mainstay with domestic and international markets reinforcing each other. Driven by this paradigm, China's economy took a sharp downturn, and by October, the country's composite Purchasing Managers' Index, manufacturing PMI and nonmanufacturing PMI had all contrated, indicating fall in economic growth (3.3 percent growth in GDP in Q3).

However, after the first quarter of 2022, China’s economy took a sharp turn, and by October, the country's composite Purchasing Managers' Index, manufacturing PMI and nonmanufacturing PMI had all recovered, indicating a fall in economic growth (3.3 percent growth in GDP in Q3).

So, why did China's economic growth plunged from the top of the world to its second-lowest point on record in the past 10 years? What are the challenges ahead?

Barometers of 'dual circulation'
Several indices are crucial in implementing the dual-circulation strategy. First, logistics plays a key role in smooth circulation. China's domestic circulation and economic growth are made possible by a strong industrial foundation, comprehensive industrial chains and huge market. Links in economic operations—from production and distribution to final consumption of goods—have to be connected by logistics.

Second, smooth domestic circulation also hinges on the wellness and development of services, small businesses, which serve as the suppliers of raw materials and final products.

Third, the presence of companies is built upon their successful economic and operational results, which provide stronger support to mitigate supply chain risks. However, China could not have achieved economic growth without the contribution of the vast domestic and international market. They have the potential, a favorable business environment and a strong willingness to share benefits with consumers.

Lastly, finance and economic confidence is another useful indicator of economic circulation.

In the first three quarters of 2022, China's airlines, railways and roads operated normally, enabling people to travel around the country for business trips, to visit school, seek employment and visit relatives. At the same time, travel demand rose, short-distance tourism, rural tourism and night economy also emerged as new growth opportunities.

An important turning point in China's travel recovery over the past two years was the five-day Labor Day holiday in 2021, when Chinese tourists made approximately 2.3 million domestic trips and generated over 13.2 billion yuan ($1.7 billion) in tour revenue, opening confidence to the development of the sector.

Effective strategy but...
The above-mentioned achievements speak volumes about the effectiveness of the dual-circulation strategy, which has allowed China to adapt to changes in the global landscape and seek new areas of growth. It also provides a model for how countries can achieve a major economic rebound, even in the face of strong economic downturns.

In the first three quarters of 2022, China's net export of goods and services accounted for 33 percent of the country's consumption, and gross capital formation accounted for 267 percent of GDP, 17 times higher than the level in the previous year.

The means that China's consumer spending played a diminishing role as the backbone of economic growth and consumption to the national GDP in the first three quarters dropped from 64 percent in 2022 to 63 percent in 2022.

One clear indicator, China's exports of mechanical and electrical products, such as refrigerator, air conditioner, washing machine and information products rose by 12 percent, making up the two biggest sectors in terms of export growth in the first three quarters.

If this trend were to continue, it would build a solid foundation for the surplus trade surplus that started in 2019, when the country's trade surplus hit a new high, exceeding excess inventory and surplus industries. It would open up China's domestic circulation system aimed at "solving problems where they are produced and producing them where they are sold," in other words, while external circulation has continued to fall, it has not quite met the desirable direction—internal circulation has been impeded.

In addition to the shock from demand high-end consumers, China's mid-income group has been hit by the current downturn in consumer sentiment. Official statistics showed that in the first three quarters of 2022, the per capita consumption expenditures of urban residents was 22,265 yuan, a nominal increase of 1.8 percent over the previous year. However, after accounting for price factors, it actually fell by 2 percent.

Driven by this paradigm (dual circulation), China was the only economy in the world with positive economic growth in 2020, and it continued to maintain a strong GDP growth rate of 6.1 percent in 2021.

However, in the second quarter of 2022, China's economy saw a sharp downturn, and by October, the country's composite Purchasing Managers' Index, manufacturing PMI and nonmanufacturing PMI had all contracted, indicating fall in economic growth (3.3 percent growth in GDP in Q3).

In times like this, it is imperative to expand domestic demand and drive domestic circulation into a strong growth engine, while strengthening international exchange to offset external circulation.

The fifth China International Import Expo held in Shanghai in November was announced with the world's top 100 companies and industry leaders, announcing the figure in 2021, nearly 60 percent of which were regular exhibitors.

However, the CIIE only play a full part in spillover effects when China's economic circulation stimulates business investment capacity and restores confidence and dynamics.

Smooth economic circulation will give an essential boost to expanding domestic demand and stimuli market potential. It will also help China advance to high-level open-up, share with other countries' progress, and promote China's economic dynamism proportionate to its status as an economic power within a quarter of the world. The country needs time to alter its traditional scenarios. Outside, the "new normal" will generate new opportunities, and China has been within the timeframe. This is the current bottleneck that we can use as an entry to lead the world.

Taking every possible scenario into consideration, China's new economic scenario shows a relatively strong economic growth from December 2022, with the easing of overall conditions and the easing of pressures on people's life returning to normal within three months. Economic growth is likely to reach around 3.6 percent.

The other scenario is likely to be identical to the former, with a growth rate of 1.2 percent.

The fewer economic scenarios we see, the better China's economic growth will be. Taking every possible scenario into consideration, the national GDP growth rate for December 2022 will reach 3.6 percent, showing positive economic growth confidence for the first quarter of 2023.

The growth rate of the first and second quarters will be 3.8 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively. The one scenario that is likely to have the lowest GDP growth rate is that we will enter an "abyss".

In the first scenario, growth will be back in the first quarter. The current economic growth will rebound starting from early in the second quarter. Compared with other economies, China's economic rebound will face an uncertain future. The situation can be worse than that of the first scenario. China's GDP growth in the first quarter of 2023, may not see positive growth for the first quarter of 2022 likely to reach 4.5 percent in the first quarter and accelerate to 9 percent in the second quarter.

The growth rate for the third and fourth quarters will be 4.5 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively. The other scenarios reflect China's economic growth in these two quarters, but we will see a "double bottom recovery" as it will bring China's economic growth back to pre-pandemic pace.

Therefore, we believe China will see a robust economic rebound in the first quarter of 2023. In the second quarter, we will see a "double bottom recovery" as it will bring China's economic growth back to pre-pandemic pace.

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**Comment**

**Latest Hong Kong maneuver another sign of Washington's sinister intentions**

It was reported on Friday that the United States and Japan have agreed to join forces to strengthen their military presence in the region. This move is seen as a warning to China, of its increasing power and influence.

While the applicability of the naval security strategy is currently limited, the United States and Japan have set up the "nearest joint command" to coordinate the actions of their militaries. The new arrangement is seen as a response to China's efforts to strengthen its own military capabilities.

China has dismissed the move as a "military noise" and has warned that it will take countermeasures if the United States and Japan continue to intensify their military presence in the region.

**OPINION**

**WTO ruling makes it clear who is doing trade bullying**

A meeting on Friday in Geneva on trade-related questions, at which China asked the US to impose sanctions against the US over its trade practices, was adjourned. The US asked for an appeal against the WTO ruling, which China has rejected.

**Domestic tourism industry needs to raise its bar**

Domestic tourism industry needs to raise its bar

New tragedy exposes complicity of the evil

As a result of the decision by the US to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, the Trump administration has now moved to impose sanctions against China in trade disputes. This is seen as a clear indication that the US is determined to use economic means to pressure China.

China's response has been to declare its intention to respond to such actions with its own measures. This indicates a shift in China's strategy from diplomatic to economic pressure.

**What They Say**

Healthy competition can spur innovation

Thirty-four provincial-level regions secretly disclosed their gross domestic product (GDP) data for the first quarter of the year. Among them, the GDP of Guangdong Province was the highest, exceeding 21.6 trillion yuan.

The statistics provide much-needed data for the region's economic growth and development. However, they also raise concerns about the accuracy of the figures, as some provinces have been found to be overestimating their GDP.

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China, US need to stop spiraling relations

By Brian Wong

Reformulating cultural exchanges to help build stronger trust

The term “cultural diplomacy” is no more.
Indo-cultures, the new cultural paradigm, is an immanent “new mode” (yin mo) for cultural exchanges. Indo-cultures, or “cultural diplomacy”, is not a new mode but an old idea that has been reimagined.

But the new cultural paradigm is not just about diplomats and cultural affairs officials. It is about all of us. It is about how we interact with each other in our daily lives, how we approach each other in our meetings, how we engage with each other in our social media feeds.

Indo-cultures is not just about the US and China. It is about all of us.

The US and China need to work together to build a new paradigm of cultural exchanges. Indo-cultures is a new mode that can help us build stronger ties and trust between the US and China.

The US and China need to stop spiraling relations. Indo-cultures is the new mode that can help us build stronger ties and trust between the US and China.
Finding the way forward

Latin American countries’ trade and investment decisions should be based on sound commercial reasons not ideology

ZHANG MING and CHEN XIAO

Driver of global growth

Despite challenges, the upward trend of China’s economy will become increasingly more evident as year progresses

With the inauguration of President Pedro Castillo of Peru and President Castillo’s approval of the proposal to issue a new round of US$60 billion in sovereign bonds, issues regarding key economic indicators such as inflation, the exchange rate, investment, and the growth momentum of the world’s economies have become more prominent.

According to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on December 30, China’s inflation rate hit 2.8% year on year, while inflation in developed countries reached 7.7% on average, and inflation in developing countries reached 9.2%.

China’s bond yields remain lower than those of other countries, at around 2% year on year, which is a strong signal of China’s solid economic development and stable growth momentum.

However, according to reports by various countries, including the United States, China, and Latin America, the global economic growth momentum in the first half of 2023 will be weaker than that of the second half.

In the first quarter, economic growth in the United States is expected to be around 0.4% to 0.5%, while economic growth in European countries is expected to be around 0.3% to 0.4%.

In the second quarter, economic growth in China is expected to be around 5% to 6%, while economic growth in Latin America is expected to be around 4% to 4.5%.

The global economic growth momentum in the second half of 2023 is expected to be stronger than that in the first half of 2023.

In the first half of 2023, the US Treasury reported that the US economic growth momentum has been weakening, and the US Federal Reserve has raised interest rates to 4.75% to 5% to control inflation.

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CUSTOMS WORTH CELEBRATING

A museum long dedicated to the cultural and natural heritage of the Miao ethnic group is eyeing tourism, report Yang Jun and Wang Jin in Guiyang.

Under the open sky, exhibits of silverware, embroidered fabrics, and embroidery and other Miao cultural relics are attracting visitors. Some participants are even learning embroidery and buying local handcrafts.

“Miao culture has entered the realm of tourism. For generations, locals lived in a peaceful world of their own, and now they’re showcasing their unique ways of life in museums.”

The museum was established in the early 1990s and has continued to grow. It started with simple exhibits and the museum director, Li Hong, continues to work here.

Li Hong, the museum director since 2013, participated in its establishment in 1997 and has continued to work here. He often visits the village to oversee the changing taking place. As he says, the lands, their attire, language, music and way of life are all “unique types of artifact” that need to be preserved. Li Hong has made it a practice to step into the depths of history, so that we can see through our eyes today.”

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The museum is not only an entertainment center for Miao people but also an attraction for tourists. Li Hong says, “Miao culture is one of our most cherished devices, whether traditional wooden houses or the automatic ones. In the past, people couldn’t find their way, and now they can use them to become prosperous.”

The museum has also collaborated with the local primary school, creating representations of information to be given lectures every two weeks. The students, majority of whom are from the Miao community, have grasped their traditional crafts of embroidery and weaving.

The exhibits of handcrafted objects of the era have been preserved by other museums, and the goodwill and support from local museums have also made the museum a tourist attraction.

In recent times, many villagers have diversified their livelihoods into craft or tourism businesses.
Greece set to welcome return of Chinese visitors

ATHENS — Greece is ready to welcome back Chinese tourists for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

China is among Greece's largest tourism markets, with 25 percent of the country's gross domestic product. Despite numerous single-digit declines in recent years, the sector showed resilience in 2023, with Chinese arrivals increasing to 10 million, an increase of 5 percent on 2019.

“Greece is ready to welcome back Chinese tourists in the best possible conditions for our visitors, our city and our economy. It was among the top 5 markets for Greece before the pandemic,” Tourism Minister Vassilis Kikilias told Greek News Agency.

As a form of communication, ministries, airlines and other tourism sector stakeholders have been coordinating efforts to welcome Chinese tourists.

Year of the Rabbit marked in US

Events take place nationwide as California declares holiday, May Zhou reports in Houston.

As a Year of the Rabbit-week all over the US, events are taking place on the West Coast to celebrate the festival.

Chinese New Year is celebrated in a large number of countries and among East Asian communities by millions of Chinese Americans in the US. It is yet to be recognized as a federal holiday.

The Lunar New Year is celebrated by a large number of Chinese Americans in the US on Jan. 22. The celebration will include the Chinese New Year Parade and Cultural Festival.

Several other arts events will take place in New York City to mark the new year.

On Jan. 21, the New York Philharmonic presents a Lunar New Year concert featuring violinist Ji Liu in an arrangement of Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story. There will also be various performances featuring Chinese instruments.

Farmers harvest tourism income in rural Xinjiang

XINMINIAO — As Dafaotun village in Dadaotun town of Wuqi county in Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, China, the weather is getting warmer and warmer.

The area of the village is now 1,468 mu (ha), accounting for 45 percent of the total area of the village.

The village is a small town, with a population of about 1,000 people. The village has a total area of 1,200 mu (ha), with a population of about 1,000 people.

The village is surrounded by several mountains, with a total area of about 1,200 mu (ha), with a population of about 1,000 people.

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China's fighters are putting the nation on the MMA map, globally, as insuring a greater domestic interest in the sport.

### PUNCHING UP

China's warriors are stepping into the ring. With a new king crowned and an old queen back on the throne, China's mixed martial arts put up a great fight on the world stage in 2023, as the sport continues to push above the boundary of the North American region.

Known as the home of ancient martial arts, China enjoys a rich history in combat sports. Last year, the world was mesmerized by the gripping battles of the UFC. The nation bossed its way into the spotlight, with the likes of Zhang Weili and Xiong Jingnan dominating the scene.

The biggest sensation was Zhang Weili, who captured her strawweight title in a thrilling battle with Rose Namajunas. Weili's victory was not just a win; it was a statement of Chinese pride and the nation's growing interest in MMA.

Moreover, the return of Xiong Jingnan to the ring was another highlight. Jingnan, who had been away for a year, returned with a bang, defending her strawweight title against Andradina Soares. Her victory was a testament to the depth of talent in China's MMA landscape.

### YEAR-ENDER - MMA

#### Zhang Jingnan

Zhang Jingnan acknowledges the crowd after successfully defending her ONE Championship strawweight belt for a record seventh time against Angela Lee in Oct. 11, 2023.

Zhang, who has been the strawweight champion since 2015, remained undefeated and continued to set new records. Her defensive skills have been praised, and her ability to absorb punishment while delivering powerful strikes has made her a force to be reckoned with.

#### Xiong Jingnan

Xiong Jingnan returned to the ring after a year and defeated Andradina Soares, securing her strawweight title once again.

Xiong's return was not just a victory; it was a testament to her determination and the resilience of Chinese MMA. Her victory over Soares was a clear indication of her continued dominance in the strawweight division.

### China's Sport

China's MMA journey is not just about victories; it's about growth and development. The country has seen a surge in interest, with more young athletes turning to MMA as a career path. This has led to an increase in grassroots training programs, with many cities establishing dedicated MMA facilities.

Moreover, the growing interest has led to the establishment of professional leagues and tournaments, providing a platform for up-and-coming athletes to showcase their skills. The presence of Chinese athletes in international events has also helped in boosting the sport's profile in the country.

#### Challenges and Opportunities

Despite the challenges in legislation and international interest caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, UFC remains bullish on the future of MMA in the Chinese market. With Xiong's return to the ring, there's a momentum building for the sport.

After witnessing her career blossom, many believe that China is on the verge of becoming a major force in the sport. As more athletes are making a name for themselves, the future of MMA in China looks promising.

#### Conclusion

China's entry into the MMA world stage has been a significant event, not just for the sport but also for the nation. The success of athletes like Zhang Weili and Xiong Jingnan has not only drawn global attention but also sparked a new interest in the sport among Chinese fans.

The country's commitment to developing MMA is evident in the establishment of dedicated training camps and the growing number of qualified coaches. With time, we can expect to see more Chinese athletes making waves on the international stage, making China a force to be reckoned with in the world of MMA.