Russia, China set new positive pattern for ties

Both stand for multipolar world, seek stability, coordination to benefit entire planet, experts say

By REBECCA MILNER in Hong Kong

President Xi Jinping’s visit to Russia stoked the interest of the international community, as both sides vowed to increase cooperation in various fields.

A new chapter of China’s diplomatic efforts to maintain and develop its relations with Russia and other countries of the World, has been opened.

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Second, the signing of two joint statements—one regard to comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination, and the other in relation to action plan to deepen development cooperation.

The joint statements and talks are more focused on reforms and modernization of global governance for serving common interests and a shared future for mankind rather than asserting sovereignty or seeking a bloc mandate.

Obviously, the talks between the two sides are more realistic and of practical significance, rather than rhetorical preaching.

(Rasid Salakh, former director of the Russian Asia Study Centre at the University of Bihar)

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TikTok users push back against ban of popular app

By LISA FINCH
San Francisco
lisa@techjackson.com

TikTok users are fighting to save the app after Chinese officials announced plans to ban it in the US.

The US Department of Commerce on Friday announced plans to ban TikTok and WeChat on national security grounds.

TikTok users have taken to social media to express their outrage and disappointment.

"I don't understand why this is happening," said one user. "TikTok has been a platform for creativity and expression for many of us."

"It's just another example of how the US government is trying to control the internet," said another.

"This is censorship," said a third. "It's a violation of our right to free speech."

Some users have even started creating videos and posting them on TikTok to protest the ban.

"We're going to fight this," said one user. "We're not going to let the US government take TikTok away from us."

"I'm going to keep using TikTok no matter what," said another. "I'm not going to let the US government dictate what I can and can't use."
China urged to further boost financial safety

Support for domestic demand necessary amid global banking turmoil, experts say

By ZHOU LANXU

China needs to further boost its domestic demand, as addressing weak links in its financial system is in order to prepare for any potential downturns that could undermine the real economy, experts said at a Thursday conference in Beijing.

The theme of the conference was a substantial government economic stimulus, China’s export market, and domestic demand, domestic financial stability, and real economies and local government debt in China.

On Wednesday, the Fed raised its benchmark rate by 50 basis points, to the range of 4.5% to 4.75%, as it raised its key rate priority to bring down inflation even as unemployment continues to rise.

In the past year, the US Federal Reserve has been raising interest rates to combat inflation.

At the Fed continues to increase interest rates, the combination of higher interest rates and reduced access to credit has raised the chances of a US economic recession, said Jianying Zhang, chief economist at China’s National Institute for Finance and Development.

Bolivia’s President Luis Arce on Friday confirmed that the country’s currency, the boliviano, has depreciated significantly since the startup of the US-led sanctions.

In a text created by the SOK Failure, and the Bolivian economic recession could come under pressure, said Liu Xin, head of the division of South America at the United Nations.

The report has been issued as China, the world’s largest economy, is facing challenges due to the US-led sanctions.

Running to save water

Australia's senior minister, Alan Tudge, has called on the states to cut their water use.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has warned that the states need to stop running to save water.

The states, however, have argued that they are doing everything they can to save water.

In a news conference in Sydney, Mr️ Morrison said that the states are doing everything they can to save water, but that the federal government needs to step up its efforts.

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China: The World

US reported act on TikTok opposed

By LIU ZEYU

US reported act on TikTok opposed

The Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday that US Treasury's plan to ban TikTok is a violation of international trade rules.

"This is an economic war," said Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng, who heads the Ministry.

"The US is already suffering from a trade surplus with China, and imposing a ban on TikTok will only worsen the situation," he said.

In a statement released Thursday, the Chinese government said that the ban would be a "clear violation of international trade rules and a dangerous precedent." It added that the US should "stop its interference in China’s internal affairs and respect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"We strongly oppose the US' move to ban TikTok," the statement said.

"This move will only damage US interests and undermine global growth," the statement added.

The US has been targeting TikTok for weeks, saying it poses a national security threat.

But China said the ban was a "clear violation of international trade rules and a dangerous precedent," adding that the US should "stop its interference in China’s internal affairs and respect China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity."

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China: Value-added agriculture a key opportunity

By ZHOU LANXU

China is considering value-added agriculture as a key opportunity to boost its agricultural sector.

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Survey: 98 percent of Chinese satisfied with nation’s democracy

According to the survey, conducted by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, 98 percent of Chinese people said they were satisfied with the country’s democracy. The survey was conducted online among more than 100,000 people, representing a broad range of demographics. The survey asked questions about people’s perceptions of the quality of governance, the effectiveness of government institutions, and the role of the Communist Party in the country’s affairs.

The survey found that the majority of people were satisfied with the country’s democracy, with 98 percent saying they were satisfied. Most people believed that the government was responsive to their needs, and that the Communist Party was effective in maintaining social stability. However, the survey also found some areas for improvement, such as the need for more transparency in government decision-making and the need for better protection of human rights.

The survey’s findings are significant, as they reflect the strong support that the Communist Party enjoys among the Chinese people. This support is a key factor in the Party’s ability to maintain its grip on power, and to implement its policies effectively. The Party’s ability to maintain the support of the people is essential to its survival, and to the stability and prosperity of the country.

In conclusion, the survey’s findings provide evidence of the strong support that the Communist Party enjoys among the Chinese people. The Party’s policies are generally perceived as effective, and the majority of people believe that the government is responsive to their needs. However, there is room for improvement in certain areas, such as transparency and human rights. The Party must continue to work to address these issues, in order to maintain the support of the people and to ensure the stability and prosperity of the country.
Devotion to ducks earns man a protector's badge

Crayfish farmer in Wuhan takes action after finding critically endangered species, Baa'r, poaching in his pond

By CHEN JIELING in Beijing and LIU WEI in Wuhan

He was already an expert at fishing, but the reward of his latest haul was not soon to be forgotten. Zhu Xiangying carefully carried a tiny box from the back seat of his car: two yellow-bellied fish, a pair of freshwater Crayfish, or Procambarus clarkii, as it is formally known.

The fish were not being caught to grace a table as part of a meal. Instead, they were to be placed in a pond in a park close by, so that they could be safe from any more poachers, and so that they could spread to the local species diversity, which has been declining over the years due to pollution and habitat destruction.

Zhu's pond is an important conservation area in Wuhan. It's possible they are the only ones of their kind in the city's waterways. Previously they have been found in the waters of the Yangtze River and its tributaries, but their exact habitat is unknown.

When Zhu's pond was first filled with water in 2005, he asked local experts whether it was safe to release the fish. Some experts said no, because the ducks could compete for food with the crayfish and affect their reproduction. But Zhu insisted on releasing the ducks, and the ducks thrived.

Now, Zhu has a secret weapon to combat poaching — his own pond. He said, "It's a great opportunity as well as my responsibility."

In recent years, Wuhan and other cities have made efforts to protect local biodiversity, and several ponds have been established to house endangered species.

In 2008, the Wuhan government announced a plan to build a series of ponds in the city to protect endangered species. The ponds are meant to provide habitat for endangered species and promote public awareness of biodiversity conservation.

The ponds have been successful in protecting endangered species, but they face challenges such as poaching, pollution, and habitat loss. Zhu's pond is one of the few that have been able to overcome these challenges and successfully protect the endangered species.

"It is a great opportunity as well as my responsibility," Zhu said. "If I can protect the species even for a short period, it will be a great achievement."

"I will continue to protect the species as long as I have the capacity," he added. "It is my duty to protect the species, and I will do my best to do so."
In full bloom

Thailand launches LMC-backed projects

By YANG YUNWEI in Bangkok

Thailand launched a 15 billion baht project supported by the Laos-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund on Thursday to address challenges that are facing the Mekong subregion and address and strengthen relations among LMC countries in the region.

The Mekong Cooperation—otherwise known as the LMC—has been criticized by some scholars in recent years for focusing on narrow economic interests and not choosing the right partners to develop the region.

“First and foremost, we must create a shared understanding to agree on the framework for our cooperation moving forward,” said LMC officials at the launch event.

The event was held on the sidelines of the 15th annual Mekong cooperation meeting and was attended by representatives from 10 LMC countries. The meeting is in Bangkok.

“Despite the challenges that the Mekong countries are facing, there is a great potential for cooperation in the subregion, but the cooperation is not being fully utilized,” said a senior official.

In addition, the meeting focused on the 10th anniversary of the signing of the LMC Agreement in 2010, which aimed to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

The LMC was established in 2010 to promote cooperation among the 10 countries in the region and has since been actively involved in the development of the Mekong subregion.

The meeting was attended by representatives from 10 LMC countries, including Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, China, Vietnam, and the United States.

The LMC’s agenda for its 10th anniversary was focused on the promotion of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. The LMC’s agenda for its 10th anniversary was focused on the promotion of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.
Washington urged to adopt responsible fiscal policy

By WANG QIYUN

China Daily/Global Edition

The US should adopt responsible macroeconomic policies and avoid policies that cause serious side-effects, a Chinese official said at the Global Forum on Macro Policy: Driving Economic Growth.

The theme of the forum, which was attended by more than 1,500 government representatives and experts from 70 countries and regions, was “Towards a Better Future.”

The Chinese official, who asked not to be identified, said the US should ensure “two centers” of stability and growth.

“Two centers” refer to the two major economies of the world — the US and China.

The US, as the world’s largest economy, should not only focus on its own development, but also pay attention to the situation of other countries, he said.

He added that the US should not ignore the impact of its policies on other countries, particularly those in Asia.

The official noted that the US is currently facing a number of challenges, including slowing economic growth, rising unemployment, and high levels of debt.

He said that China, as the world’s第二大 economy, is also facing similar challenges, but has managed to maintain strong economic growth and employment levels.

The official suggested that the US could learn from China’s experience in dealing with these challenges.

He said that China has been able to maintain economic growth and employment levels by implementing a series of policies, including fiscal stimulus measures and increased public investment.

He added that China has also been able to maintain low inflation and low unemployment, which is a testament to the effectiveness of its macroeconomic policies.

The official noted that the US could benefit from adopting similar policies, but emphasized that each country must find its own way to achieve growth and stability.

He concluded by saying that the US should work with other countries to promote global economic growth and stability, and avoid policies that could lead to a new financial crisis.

WASHINGTON

Unleashing anger

ASIA-Pacificлагs in development goals

UN official calls for reflection on SDG progress at the ‘opportunity moment’

By YANG WINGSUN

Stephen and Prudence SARTORIE in Hong Kong

Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region are lagging in their progress on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is set to review the UN’s progress in implementing the goals.

The UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and ensure the well-being of all people by 2030.

The progress of each country will be reviewed by the UNGA, which will discuss the achievements and challenges of implementing the SDGs.

The UN’s Secretary-General António Guterres will deliver a report on the progress of the SDGs at the UNGA meeting in September.

Guterres said in his report that the SDGs are essential for ensuring a more sustainable future, and that progress is needed in several areas.

He noted that poverty remains a significant challenge in many countries, and that there is a need to increase access to education and healthcare.

Guterres also highlighted the importance of addressing climate change, and called for increased efforts to promote sustainable development.

Guterres said that the SDGs are a tool for achieving the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to end poverty, fight inequality, and ensure the well-being of all people by 2030.

To achieve these goals, Guterres said that there is a need to increase investment in education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

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He added that the SDGs are also a tool for achieving the 2030 Agenda’s goal of ensuring sustainable development.
Advanced manufacturing tops agenda

By ZHENG ZHEN

More efforts urged for breakthroughs in high-end fields and core tech

By ZHANG YIN

Huawei smartphone bounces back with a string of new products

By MAI ZHENG

Evergreen plans lift projects

By WANG YING

Controlled fusion

China vows green future for oil and gas tools

By ZHENG XIN

Huawei Technologies Co unveiled a string of new products on Thursday, a finding into its cutting-edge technology that is considered setting of the global telecoms and tech industry, as it is a major holding company of China’s state-owned telecom group.

Yao Zhong, director of China First Industry Research and Development Institute, said that Huawei’s efforts to strengthen its own core technology and enhance the security of its products have not only contributed to maintaining the company’s leading position in the industry, but also helped it to achieve continuous growth in recent years.

The company is also working on new technologies for the future, such as 5G and AI, to ensure its long-term growth.

The company is currently focusing on enhancing its market competitiveness by diversifying its product lines and exploring new markets.

The company is also making efforts to strengthen its partnerships with global companies and local governments to ensure sustainable growth.

The company’s efforts are paying off, with the company reporting strong performance and growth in recent quarters.

Combining both hard and software, the budget is expected to help attract new investors, and improve the competitiveness of the company, said Yao Zhong.

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Registration-based IPO
a boon for smaller banks

Lenders boasting various advantages expected to make up main float force

By JIANG XUEQING

While the full implementation of the registration-based IPO system in China is expected to lower issuance costs and IPO fees, which may open up for small and medium-sized banks, the system poses challenges for lenders in terms of information disclosure and regulatory requirements.

Registration-based IPO system

In the process of facilitating the IPO system, smaller banks have faced challenges in terms of information disclosure and regulatory requirements. Lenders need to ensure that the information disclosed is accurate and timely, which can be a significant burden for smaller banks.

By QIN MEITIAN

The registration-based IPO system is expected to provide smaller banks with the opportunity to raise capital through their IPOs.

ChatGPT fever sparks plans for better alternatives in China

By CHENG YU

As the Microsoft-backed ChatGPT takes the tech world by storm, Xueqin Lou, former head of Google China and CEO of Chinese investment firm Innovation Ventures, has called for the largest Chinese tech leader to jump on the bandwagon with plans to develop an alternative that goes beyond a “Chinese version of ChatGPT.”

The alternative, called Project AI 3.0, will be built into a global tech firm that features AI 2.0 platforms and productivity applications. AI 1.0, according to Lou, will not be a high-performance tool, nor will it utilize AI-generated graphics and texts, but will ultimately wobble to almost zero.

Lou and other veteran investors and industry experts believe that Chinese companies have great opportunities in the application of ChatGPT-related technologies, but a big gap with the United States remains.

“Chinese platforms will have great opportunities. Although they might not be as technologically advanced as the US, I believe the Chinese market and Chinese companies will win,” said Lou in an interview with Xueqin Daily.

“At providing opportunities to competitiveness that are 10 times bigger than those of the mobile internet and they are accessible to Chinese participants for the first time,” he added.

In January, an army of Chinese platforms and tech companies, including Alibaba Group Holding, Pinduoduo and Meituan, have rushed to launch ChatGPT-related efforts. The head of a major financial institution in China said that the company has started researching into building an AI model that can roll out its own version.

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A step further

Building from China's history, AI is redefining the way we live and work. From the first computer to today's advanced technologies, China has been a driving force in the innovation of AI.

In recent years, China has made significant strides in AI research and development, with a focus on applications such as natural language processing, computer vision, and autonomous driving.

Looking ahead, China's AI industry is poised for continued growth, with investments in research and development expected to increase. This will not only benefit domestic companies but also contribute to global advancements in the field.

As AI continues to evolve, China's role as a leader in AI innovation is likely to strengthen, with further opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

In the next section, we will explore the potential applications and implications of AI in various industries, from healthcare to finance, and discuss the challenges and opportunities that come with this rapid advancement.
Online retailers expanding global footprint

By DAN FEIPEI

Chinese online retailers are ratcheting up efforts to go global, with a growing number of startups finding new uses for diversified overseas resources, industry experts said.

The number of Chinese e-commerce platforms that have ventured overseas has significantly increased, with more and more companies setting up cross-border e-commerce platforms.

As a new form of foreign trade, cross-border e-commerce has been growing exponentially. It has become a thriving business driving force for expediting Chinese foreign trade, particularly in the past three years as the COVID-19 pandemic impeded business travel and face-to-face meetings, the experts added.

Online retail sales have been on the rise in recent years, according to government data. Some platforms may also be available for Australian wholesalers, though it is not currently available to attract local merchants, Tmall will offer a series of preferential policies like an exemption from deposits and registration fees.

The company will provide infrastructure, such as warehousing, cross-border logistics and advertising, for Chinese manufacturers that want to export their products overseas, said an official.

Tmall, launched in the United States in 2014, has a high popularity among consumers there as it offers a wide variety of products, including apparel, consumer electronics, furniture, houseware, cosmetics, and fruits and vegetables, and all products are shipped directly from China.

Launched in 2017, Temu is a shopping app that has recently attracted many consumers with its 30-second advertising.jpg

As of Jan. 31, Temu had been downloaded nearly 23 million times globally, with shoppers from North America accounting for more than 90 percent of the traffic, according to U.S.-based mobile application company Sensor Tower.

Experts at Temu’s business research institute from the company, Temu Labs, found that the U.S. online retail market still has room for improvement.

In September, Temu announced its plans to invest $1 billion in the U.S. to create a new cross-border e-commerce platform, Temu Supply Network.

'This will help turn a number of popular overseas products into Chinese manufacturers’ products,' Chen Lian, founder of Temu Labs, said.

Chen emphasized that the company is aiming to fill the gaps in the U.S. market by not simply reusing what is already available in the market, but instead create its own products.

The combined use of imports and exports of the country’s cross-border e-commerce segment reached 3.11 trillion yuan in 2022, up 9 percent year-on-year, the General Administration of Customs said. E-commerce exports grew at a rate of 13 percent in the same year, up nearly 12 percent.

'By breaking into more foreign markets and lowering logistics and freight costs, China’s manufacturers can significantly increase their competitiveness,' said Zhang Sheng, vice chairman of the China Foreign Trade Development Research Center.

The Chinese online retail giant is also eyeing the market in the UK, US and Japan.

In addition, the website has added a Chinese language version, with plans to expand to other markets.

Temu CEO said plans is to attract more shoppers, and that the company will focus on building a total new version of the platform.

Tmall, the e-commerce website of Alibaba Group, has also been making inroads in the U.S. market.

Temu's expansion is set to be a major factor in this transition to a global player, according to a report by The New York Times.

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One of the chief factors for the future is that it is not just the large platforms that are driving the growth of Chinese e-commerce overseas, but also smaller online stores.

'These smaller platforms are driving the growth of Chinese e-commerce overseas, but also smaller online stores.

More shoppers go electronic for bountiful offerings, high-quality goods worldwide

By MEN YANFEI

From 9 to 10, a 30-year-old senior teacher holds a bunch of bananas, stretching out a book and a pen to write what seems like a message. "I'm feeling so hungry today, I've turned to binging on bananas instead of eating food," said Feng, a mother who has just finished her workday.

"When I was studying abroad, I often bought bananas, handbags and other products from my friends back home. After coming back, I found cross-border online shopping very convenient and discovered a lot of different products," Feng said.

Feng is among the growing number of Chinese shoppers who are online buying. They are seeking high-quality, imported and foreign goods, and are more willing to pay for such items. As a result, more and more consumers are turning to e-commerce platforms.

People between 20 and 35 make up a significant part of that group. "I often purchase bananas and imported fruit, which are always available and easy to find. I also like trying new things, such as foreign cosmetics and household products," said Li, a 25-year-old who works in a foreign company.

"I've been using cross-border online shopping for a few years now, and I find it very convenient," Li said. "I've bought a lot of things from abroad, such as health supplements and women's clothing, which are not available in local stores."

"I'm so glad I can buy these products online," Li said. "I can choose from a wide variety of options, and the prices are generally lower than those in local stores."

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Washington's desperate bid for hi-tech hegemony to incure loss of the world

The United States' response to China's latest efforts to disrupt the world order in the semiconductor sector is strongly impacting Russia and Ukraine to make clear their determination to maintain the heart of Europe into a protracted conflict. Ukraine's space industry, in particular, is expected to suffer severely as the consequences of launching satellites and military equipment into space. In this context, the United States has announced a new strategy to support the Ukrainian space industry and to ensure that it can continue to develop and launch satellites despite the ongoing conflict.

Japan's club membership brings risks to region

Japan is not the only country to be affected by the ongoing conflict. The United States has announced that it will provide military assistance to Japan, and a new club membership brings risks to the region. Japan's membership in the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) is a concern for many, as it gives Japan the ability to participate in the high-level discussions on nuclear non-proliferation.

Rear of bloodsucking US war machine

The United States' military power and its allies' ability to project power around the world is a concern for many. The United States' military presence around the world is a concern for many, as it gives the United States the ability to project power around the world.

Ukraine needs peace not more munitions

The United Kingdom has announced that it will provide further assistance to Ukraine, but the country also needs peace. It is expected that the United Kingdom will continue to provide military assistance to Ukraine, and that the country will continue to receive aid from other countries.

What They Say

County economy can spur urbanization

The post urbanization in China is characterized by a high concentration of economic activity in the cities. In the past century, China has seen dramatic urbanization, and the cities are becoming more important than ever. The country has been able to achieve this through a combination of factors, including government policies, investment, and technological innovation.

Opinion Line

China should help Mongolia restore its ecological balance

The United Kingdom has announced that it will provide military assistance to Mongolia, and that the country will continue to receive aid from other countries.

Option Line

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A strong China boon for global peace

Khaled Taimur Aksan

The re-election of Xi Jinping as China's top leader this week has given the country a great confidence in the Communist Party of China. Xi is seen as a man of wisdom and integrity, who is capable of leading China to greater prosperity and growth. His re-election is a testament to his trustworthiness and his ability to lead the country. The re-election of Xi Jinping is a historical milestone for China, and it is expected to bring even more prosperity and stability to the country.

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**GLOBAL VIEWS**

**Future in the balance**
China's championing of connections and common interests acts as a counterweight to the West's zero-sum view of world affairs.

By Konstantinos Grivas

The Ukraine conflict has created a new global power politics that may prove to be very dangerous in the coming years. To interpret the dynamics of these developments, it is necessary to move beyond the conventional readings of the Ukraine conflict and the geopolitical behavior of Western states to examine the elements in the foundations of the Western identity of the West, which shapes the basic world view of Westerners. Western civilization is dominated by eschatological elements and a zero-sum game mentality, which shape the basic geopolitical narratives of the West, which in turn influence its geopolitical behavior. Thus, Western European countries and the United States consider that Russia is exclusively responsible for the Ukraine conflict, ignoring all previous geopolitical narratives and perceptions of a world creating a dynamic that could lead, sooner or later, to the outbreak of a major war.

In the context of this logic, the West is trying to isolate China and to the exclusion of other countries—a rather apparent dualistic logic, flowing from a three-sided perspective, Asian, European, and American, and total anti-China policy, so as to build a self-fulfilling prophecy against China and the comprehensive enlargement of Russia.

The transformation of Russia into a country besieged from all sides is necessary to achieve the total victory sought by the Western countries. If Asian countries do not adopt this dualistic and right-wing anti-China policy, the West considers them to be querulous. In this way, it is an option that cannot be accepted by Asian countries, especially India and China. In addition, in the strategic interests that both countries pursue in Russia, if they were to identify with the West, it would be as if they were eating their own. Additionally, submitting to an "either/or with me or my own choice" would be akin to the West's rewriting of the world's rules. Bilateralism between countries is not limited to literary readings of good or evil, friend or enemy, "me against me or me against everybody". In reality, relations between countries are dynamic mixtures of cooperation and competition, constantly changing. And the set of international politics is how one will be able to place realities and strategies in a transformational context that will promote cooperative elements, as to reduce conflict and limit the risks of conflicts between countries.

The logic is extremely dangerous because it leads the conflict to geopolitical narratives and perceptions of a world creating a dynamic that could lead, sooner or later, to the outbreak of a major war.

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ZHAO JIANG

Against the grain
Japan's moves aimed at decoupling from China are flying in the face of reality

Looking back over the past 50 years, Japan has experienced ups and downs in its economic and trade cooperation with China, with both countries pursuing a better future.

However, what has been worthwhile is the fact that Japan and China have been able to maintain contact and to be in touch with each other, despite the political and economic differences that have always existed.

Japan has built a strong trade and economic cooperation with China, which is reflected in the fact that China is Japan's largest trading partner and Japan is China's second largest trading partner. This has been possible thanks to the fact that both countries have been able to maintain contact and to be in touch with each other, despite the political and economic differences that have always existed.

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Classic play gets act together

Full 55-act version of The Peony Pavilion hits the world on nationwide tour. Chen Nan reports.

O f the most-performed Kunqu Opera plays by Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) playwright Tang Xianzu is The Peony Pavilion. Among its many facets, such as Huiyin in The Good Wife and The Dreams Intertwined, are frequently staged by Kunqu Opera troupes in China because of their beautiful singing, poetic music and graceful dances, which lend them popular appeal to audiences of all ages.

Traditionally, the play is shown only en plein air due to local sound, but last year, the Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe staged all 55 acts of the play in an eight-hour, three-part marathon. This full-length version of The Peony Pavilion has been touring around the country ever since, with 13 performances in 12 days. From June 9 to 11, it was staged at the China National Opera House in Beijing, the first time that the total 10-hour act of performance was given in the capital.

"It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Kunqu Opera performers to play all 55 acts of the classic work. It’s also a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the audience to watch. The Peony Pavilion is in its near-enduring," says director Guo Xiaoyan.

According to Guo, who narrated Tang Xianzu’s biographical anecdote and provided background information, the play’s staging has been executed in modern times with a Harper’s Bazaar-designed adaptation of the late playwright Wang Ken. The original play was staged the eight-hour-long production in one day, but the company decided to present it on three consecutive nights.

"A total of 60 acts allow the audience to understand their appreciation and enjoyment of Kunqu Opera," Guo says. Guo is also a proponent of this kind of display—an act on a small stage that allows viewers to experience the story out of reach of the opera stage.

The Peony Pavilion is about Du, a beautiful young woman who falls in love with Liu, a handsome scholar who visits her town. He falls for her, but she loves someone else and tells him. She then makes a promise to find him. She eventually finds out that he is the man she loves and returns to him. They have a peaceful life together, but they are not allowed to remain together with her family. When he becomes Duke’s official, his family purchases him and he spends his life in prison, but they happily reunite.

"I have read the script over and over and I was so moved that my eyes were over 60,000 words long," Guo says.

There are more than 300 types of Kunqu placques, which are performed in the country.

Guo has directed plays in over 50 of the types, including Peking Opera, Yue and Yang opera.

"This latest production of The Peony Pavilion is a precious opportunity and an ultimate dream for me," Guo says.

Inscribed in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, Kunqu Opera, one of the oldest traditional Chinese operas, has a history of over 500 years and originated in Kunshan, East China’s Jiangsu province. With a combination of singing, dancing and acting, as well as the accompaniment of a live orchestra, it is performed in the mobile shadow theater.

In 1900, Guo directed a 55-act version of The Peony Pavilion, which was established Kunqu Opera performer of the Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe, such as Cai Shangwen, Yue Weina and Zhang Rujian. For the latest version, Guo worked with the younger generation of the company’s Kunqu Opera performers—all are in their 30s and 40s.

"For Kunqu Opera performers, The Peony Pavilion is a required course of study," says Lu Chenhai, a Kunqu Opera performer who plays the role of Du. "I've played the role of Du since I started to learn Kunqu Opera as a child, but I never performed all 55 acts, which was challenging and eye-opening."

Lu Chenhai, Kunqu Opera performer

HK scientist dedicated to research sees formula for progress

LONDON – For Wai Ping-kong, a Hong Kong physicist specializing in communications, a worthwhile research topic must be front-loading.

"To have to identify where the future lies, and then go bravely toward the future, is how I see the present of Hong Kong science.

Wai is a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and his prominence on the committee focuses on the better utilization of science and technology in China’s research and education.

"For any group, it is important to pick up emerging technological tools," Wai says.

The dilemmas that have kept a for- front knowledgeable scientist, not only in academic research, but also when making life-decisions.

"I have always believed in the development of the nation and it is fine for me," Wai says.

Wai grew up in a child passionate about national development. In the late 1950s, when China was in the early days of science and technology, Wai decided to study nuclear science while most of his peers with good grades would choose medicine.

At the time, science and technology education was relatively undeveloped in Hong Kong. According to Wai, there were only 20 faculty positions in physics, with positions only available in Hong Kong, which had a population of around 3 million people, back then. "People said I wouldn’t find a job after graduation," Wai recalls.

In 1969, with the impeding handover of Hong Kong back to the motherland, Wai returned from the United States after earning his doctoral degree and working there for seven years.

"I thought the future was in Hong Kong, and I felt Chinese scientists would have better opportunities on our own land," Wai says.

A few years into the 21st century, higher education in Hong Kong developed rapidly, and universities came into being. Wai joined The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and spent 25 years there, teaching, conducting research, and later taking part in school management.

"Being the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and then vice-president of the university, Wai worked to vigorously expand opportunities for scientific research at the polytechnic university. He saw a future in tapping into the science and technology development of the nation and helped researchers of the university build partnerships with various institutions in the Chinese mainland.

Wai once played a leading role in facilitating the interaction between a research team led by Yang Fan, a professor of the polytechnic university in preventive engineering, and the China Academy of Space Technology.

Since then, CUHK has been contributing to the national space project and by the end of the terrestrial education in Hong Kong with experience in international space missions.

After more than two decades at the university, Wai transferred to the Hong Kong Baptist University, a university known for its humanities and fine arts education, and was appointed as the president.

"Cultural soft power is just as important as hard science for national development," says Wai.

He says that stories about the deep and profound Chinese cultures and the profound path to modernization are worth sharing with the world, noting that the humanities and arts disciplines have an edge in telling those stories.

With his colleagues, Wai has been busy promoting the applications of digital tools in humanities and arts education.

From Wai’s perspective, Hong Kong is a highly international city, and young people in Hong Kong have an advantage in telling the China story to the world.

"This is an opportunity that national development departments in Hong Kong’s offices, Wai says.

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A rare joint exhibition of ancient Chinese antiques and European art is currently on display at the Shanghai Museum, with the aim of showcasing classical art and cultural relics from both East and West. The exhibition, which culminates in the opening of the Shanghai Museum’s 30th-anniversary celebration, includes 300 cultural relics from 14 countries and regions.

The exhibition, entitled “Cultural Relics from Abroad,” includes contributions from France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, the United States, Japan, and other countries. The Shanghai Museum has a tradition of hosting various international exhibitions, and this is its largest foreign文化交流 project.

The exhibition is divided into two parts: the first part features 100 works of art from France, including 60 works on loan from the Louvre, and 40 from the Musée National des Châteaux de Versailles et de Trianon. The second part, which includes 200 items, showcases art from other countries.

The exhibition’s curator, Fu Hong, said, “The Shanghai Museum, as one of the largest museums in the world, has always been committed to promoting cultural exchange and cooperation. The ‘Cultural Relics from Abroad’ exhibition is a new attempt in this area.”

The exhibition opened on March 19 and will run until June 20. It will then move to the Shanghai Art Museum for another three months.

The Shanghai Museum’s director, Chen Zhi, said, “The museum is a platform for arts and culture and serves as a bridge for the international exchange of cultural relics and intangible cultural heritage. It is committed to promoting cultural exchange and cooperation, showcasing the achievements of cultural relics and cultural relics conservation.”

The exhibition is open to the public and runs from March 19 to June 20. It will be closed on Mondays. The admission fee is 20 yuan per person for adults and 10 yuan for students. Free admission is available for children under 1.2 meters tall.
**Epic Long March concert gets Xingxiu residency**

_by Chao Nian_

The Long March Suite, a large-scale symphonic and choral concert, will be staged as a resident performance in Xingxiu county, Jiujiang province, a new project of the Xingxiu Long March Suite Grand Theater, which was launched in 2023.

**Background**

Written by Xiao (aka Xiao Hui) (1904–1977), the Long March Suite is an epic choral symphony that tells the story of the famous Long March of the Red Army from 1934 to 1935. This historic event is commemorated on April 30 and has since become a symbol of Chinese national unity and the spirit of perseverance.

The suite, composed of symphony, choral, and solo sections, vividly portrays the hardships and triumphs of the Red Army during the Long March. It is considered one of the most significant works in the Chinese symphonic repertoire and has been performed worldwide, highlighting the resilience and determination of the Chinese people.

**Heritage Site**

Xingxiu is designated as the only Long March cultural and historical heritage site in Shaanxi province, where the historic path of the Long March is located. This designation is a symbol of the site's historical importance and its role in preserving the memory of this significant period in Chinese history.

**Cultural Significance**

The Long March Suite, with its profound historical and cultural significance, serves as a testament to the enduring spirit of the Chinese people. It not only preserves a part of China’s national heritage but also inspires future generations to appreciate and honor the sacrifices made by the Red Army.

**Artistic Value**

The symphony features a rich orchestration, with powerful choruses and vibrant melodies that vividly capture the drama and emotion of the Long March. The choral sections, in particular, showcase the singing talents of the performers and the storytelling power of the music.

**Cultural Revitalization**

The launch of the Xingxiu Long March Suite Grand Theater is part of the broader effort to revitalize the cultural heritage of Xingxiu. This initiative aims to promote the cultural heritage of the area and contribute to the national cultural confidence.

**Conclusion**

The work of Xiao Nian and the team behind the Xingxiu Long March Suite Grand Theater is a significant cultural project that not only celebrates the rich history of Xingxiu but also fosters a sense of national pride and cultural identity. This performance is a call to remember the past and to be inspired by the resilience of the Chinese people, as they face challenges in the present and look forward to a brighter future.