Sino-Kazakh ties to deepen

Pragmatic collaboration on economy, trade, investment will be encouraged

By XU WEB

xweb@nsdfara.us

China and Kazakhstan agreed on Wednesday to build up cooperation on economy, trade, production capacity, investment and emerging women such as tourism, energy, and use of border crossing points to strengthen economic cooperation.

President Xi Jinping and visiting Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev reached the consensus during their talks in Xi’an, Shanxi province, on Wednesday.

The two leaders signed a joint statement in which the two nations agreed to promote cooperation on transportation to stabilize industry and supply chains, including steps to explore building a third cross-border railway line and constructing new railway border ports.

Both sides underscored the significance of safeguarding political security and opposing foreign interference in the domestic affairs of the two nations, and they agreed to enhance cooperation on preventing “color revolutions”.

Tokayev arrived in Xi’an on Wednesday for a state visit and to attend the China-Central Asia Summit on Thursday and Friday.

He promised to continue to work for bilateral exchanges and cooperation.

Xi also said he welcomed Kazakhstan hosting events in China over the next year to encourage Chinese tourists to visit the Central Asian country, adding that he believes the establishment of the country’s consulates-general in Xi’an will help promote bilateral cooperation at local levels.

He called for stronger bilateral cooperation and exchanges among media outlets to better tell the stories of friendship between the two countries.

For its part, Kazakhstan is willing to work with China to make full use of the opportunities presented by the China-Central Asia Initiative to promote regional security, stability and growth, he said.

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HIGH HOPES VOICED FOR CHINA-CENTRAL ASIA SUMMIT

Xi’an gathering expected to enhance economic cooperation, deliver more tangible benefits to people from the six nations

By XU WEB

xi’an

A long range of oil and gas products from Kazakhstan have long been available as markets in Xi’an, Shaanxi province, offering the city residents a range of choices to make their favorite snacks and home furnishings.

Once the starting point of the ancient Silk Road, the city became an important market for products from Kazakhstan after Xi’an Alu Grain and Oil Industrial Group launched a series of projects to market their products in Central Asia. The company is one of the main food processors and traders in the region.

Lining up for lions

Conner Liu, a senior at Lincoln High School in San Francisco, and her team won the first place in the Girls Long-Legged Lion Dance Competition on Saturday in San Francisco Civic Center.

(11/06/2019) See story page 7
Summit: Business confidence bolstered

Kazakhstan student embraces a decade of life in China

By NI WEI and LIU HAO

After living in China for 10 years, Sun Kalmykov, now a student majoring in Middle Eastern and Asian Studies at Beijing Language and Culture University, said his experience in China has made him fully aware that his future study in China would be far away from his home.

"When I first arrived in China, I came alone and Alijep was just like a family member to me," said Sun, a Kazakh student who has been attending the university for four years.

The services offered by insurance giants have fulfilled every Chinese student's expectations, said Sun. "The Chinese society making life easier for everyone is a stroke of luck," he said.

Kazakhstan's first student to study in China, Sun has made a significant impact in the field of international relations at Beijing Language and Culture University.

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Xi’s seven stories of binding friendship

President shares touching accounts of exchanges between peoples

China and Central Asian countries, which began intersections anciently, now see more than 2,200 years, have expanded into a close, mutually beneficial, and win-win cooperation relationship.

President Xi Jinping, through his speeches, remarks and signed articles, has shared the many touching stories of people-to-people exchanges between the two sides. The following are accounts of the exchanges, and what they have shared with some of the people.

1. Xiao Xinghai Boulevard — From Avinbok (Avinbok University) in Xian, Shaanxi, to Moscow in 1949 to shore up a documentory about the Eighth Route Army in Yurin, Baqian province, this then revolutionary forces of the Chinese Communist Party of China came, but his attemptes were thwarted. He met with the danger and stress, Xiao found his way to Atlanty in 1949, where he met with Kazakh compatriots through his Kazakh speeches. Xiao later, let Xiao stay at his sister’s home and shared some food with the Chinese compatriots.

2. Reunion after five decades — from Xi’s speech at Nazarbayev University in Almaty on Sept 7, 2013

In Nazarbayev, I met with the Chinese compatriots who were working in the Soviet Union. They were working in the industrial regions of the central parts of the country. They married and gave birth to Ala.

Let my family gathered together in 1998, where my mother took his elder sister with her to visit her hometown.

She told me the story of her family.

Her family paid off a loan in 2000, when they finally paid it. Noted that his mother was living in Nazarbayev. This time, he was 50 and his mother was 60.

The happiness that comes half a century later is a powerful witness to the friendship between the peoples of China and Kazakhstan.

3. Bare blood donor — from Xi’s speech at Nazarbayev University in Almaty on Sept 7, 2013

Since 2009, when he came to Kazakhstan and studied at Nazarbayev, he began donating blood for his master’s degree in Beijing. He returned to his bachelor’s degree study in 2019. Having visited China twice by hope and toward the last year, he decided to stay in China.

4. Precious horse breed — from Xi’s speech at the International Akhal Teke Horses Breeding and Culture Festival on May 13, 2016, in Beijing

At the International Akhal Teke Horses Breeding and Culture Festival on May 13, 2016, in Beijing, Xi Jinping met with the people from the horse breed, in order to improve the breed’s quality and enhance the friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

Chinese people love Akhal Teke horses, which arrived in China along the Silk Road more than 2,000 years ago.

The president, speaking in Chinese, noted the access to Akhal Teke horses was one of the highlights of the Belt and Road Initiative.

5. Manas epic — from Xi’s signed article published in Kyrgyzstan on June 11, 2015

In an article signed by Xi, published ahead of a state visit to Kyrgyzstan, the president mentioned the China National Open University was planning to open in Kyrgyzstan.

The open speech, in English, is based on the epic tale of Manas, a chieftain of the Kyrgyz people.

The performance about the cultural treasure shared by people in both China and Kyrgyzstan is skillfully translated, and has a strong influence on the traditional friendship between the two countries, Xi wrote.

Land as an unattainable cultural heritage by UNESCO, Manas is a masterpiece of Kyrgyz culture and one of the three major epic tales of Chinese culture. The epic is based on the Kyrgyz national myth, its content and style are significant in Kyrgyz history.

From the perspective of the Kyrgyz epic, the epic is very popular in the ancient Kyrgyz region and some Central Asian countries, including Kyrgyzstan.

6. Fruitful cooperation but not an outsider — from Xi’s speech at the Belt and Road summit commemorating the 10th anniversary of the belt and road cooperation and China and Central Asian countr from May 30, 2015

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7. The ethnologist — from Xi’s signed article published on the Kazakhstanskaya Pravda newspaper on September 13, 2012

In the signed article published ahead of his state visit to Kazakhstan, Xi mentioned the story of Independence of Kazakhstan, as he demonstrated the deep friendship between the peoples of China and Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstani, who went to Dungup University hospital in 1989 to provide medical assistance at the hospital of the president, worked there for 10 years and made much contribution to saving the lives of the Kazakhstani people.

A versatile expert, Kabilbek, was the first to conduct several types of surgical operations, including the establishment of semi-closed face wounds, reconstructing the face of a patient suffering from facial injuries, providing for diagnostic and therapeutic services, given better to other medical workers and promoting in cognizance knowledge among students.

China Daily, Xinhua

Ties: China to provide 1,200 government scholarships

From page 1

Recent years have seen increasingly frequent people-to-people exchanges between China and the five Central Asian countries, a phenomenon that is more vividly seen in the Tashkent-Tashkent Friendship Hall.

Yang Lei, the Chinese director of the Uzbekistan Cultural Exchange Confation Institute in Astana, is a witness to this.

"When our Institute was established about 20 years ago, the number of students was less than 10,000. Nowadays, we have the honor of hosting more than 50,000 students," he said.

He said that the young Chinese and Kazakh students who are engaged in bilateral communications are the new agents of China-Kazakhstan friendship.

"I felt greatly honored to have witnessed the upsurge in cooperation and exchanges established between people in China and Central Asian countries," he said.

In January last year, Xi emphasized at a virtual summit that China would provide 1,200 government scholarships for five years to the five Central Asian countries, with priority for people of Pakistani and Tajikistan origin.

Gao Hanmin, an associate professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in a recent interview, pointed out that the ancient times, Central Asia has been an important hub connecting different civilizations.

"After the great Silk Road was opened up, people living in China started to visit the West, while businessmen, scholars and travelers to and from China went back to their hometowns with information about the mysterious country in the West," Gao explained.

Nowadays, multilateral and all-round people-to-people exchanges, especially among young people, between China and Central Asian countries epitomize their common efforts in building the Belt and Road Initiative based on equality, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation.

"As President Xi stressed in his earlier speeches, the cooperation between China and Central Asia should create a win-win situation, and we all should share benefits.

"At the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, the China and Central Asia countries have brought major changes to the region, especially in the economic and cultural sectors," this scholar said.

Gao said that he believes the cooperation between China and Central Asian countries will continue to flourish with the opening up of Central Asia.

"It is a win-win situation for all of us," the scholar added.
CHINA-CENTRAL ASIA SUMMIT

Transport links boost communication with Central Asian nations

BY LIO WANGHUI

Regular scheduled flights between Xian, capital of North China's Shaanxi province, and Astana, capital of Kazakhstan, begin late this month. The flights, operated by China Xian, run every Monday and Friday.

The opening of the Xian-Astana direct route will open up a more convenient air channel between China and Central Asia, expanding the international air network, boosting opening up and helping more companies "go global" according to Chief Li, told Xinhua Daily.

"The opening of the flight is the result of the practical need for exchanges between China and Kazakhstan," said Zhang Zheng, tens vice president of China Xian.

The route is in line with various exchanges and cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, culture and tourism between the two countries. The cooperation involves the development of their aviation markets and the high-speed development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

"This route will enable more people from Central Asia and China to learn about China from all aspects. They can visit Xian and see for themselves the city build into an international metropolis," said Li Hui, a student from the University of Kashmir, said to Sputnik.

The two-week-long "Xian-Asiatic film festival 2021" was recently held in Xian, and 17 movies from 10 Central Asia countries and 15 European countries were screened.

The Opening of the first flight took place six hours after Xian to Astana flight took off.

Last month, the first dedicated freight flights carrying new energy vehicles between Xian and Kazakhstan were transported more than 200 new energy vehicles to the west.

In the first quarter of this year, Xian became the first city in China in terms of transport to Astana and this year-on-year increase of 50 percent.

In the next year, these flights will be operated, up to more than 20 percent year-on-year.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

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Natural gas delivered through the China-Central Asia Gas Pipeline from Central Asia to China is expected to pick up as part of the 6th Joint Meeting of the bilateral Joint Commission.

The company has been holding negotiations with various parties to accelerate the construction of the 19th Joint Commission. It is expected that the first pilot project from China to Central Asia will be launched this year, with a designed gas transmission capacity of 1 million tons of the gas per year, said the group.

"This year, the only gas transport link between China and Central Asia will be put into use, which will be an important part of the Belt and Road Initiative. Over the years, the Belt and Road Initiative projects have produced a series of concrete outcomes, which has doubled cotton yields with just one-third of the cost of the traditional method used, according to Professor Zhang,

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INVESTORS learn about food processing productivity at the Xian Food Processing Enterprises Factory during the Sixth Belt and Road International Expo in Xian.

The Sixth Belt and Road International Expo was held in Xian. A total of 1,100 companies from 99 countries and regions participated in the joint cooperation and investment to promote the Belt and Road Initiative projects in the following fields.

The Belt and Road Initiative includes economic cooperation in fields such as smart cities, infrastructure and advanced manufacturing over the past ten years, said Li, head of the Xian Food Processing Enterprises Factory.

For example, Huawei Technologies has already participated in smart city-themed digital information projects in Xian and built digital transportation projects in cities.

The collaboration of all involved parties in digital infrastructure development, sustainable growth and smart management is the way for China and Central Asia to jointly develop a joint digital transportation project in Xian.

Central Asian countries have lifted the level of digital development and deepened regional economic cooperation in fields such as smart cities, infrastructure and advanced manufacturing, said Li. The Belt and Road Initiative projects in Xian have also significantly contributed to the digital transformation of the fields.

China has signed a number of agreements and signed contracts with Central Asian countries over the past several years.

China signed a number of agreements and has established various contacts, and collaborated with the four countries in a series of fields such as culture, tourism, health care and media cooperation.

Chinese agricultural companies, such as the Chinese Agricultural Academy of Agricultural Sciences, have formed hundreds of cooperation relations with Central Asian partners. They have already achieved progress in animal husbandry, veterinary medicine, cotton farming and dairy production.

According to the relevant data, the trade volume of China and the five Central Asian countries has increased year by year, from about 2.63 billion dollars in 2021 to about 3.97 billion dollars in 2022, said an official from the Ministry of Trade, of the United Nations.

The Chinese government has launched a series of new agricultural cooperation projects with the five countries. These include the building of soybean, alfalfa and other crops and animal husbandry bases in Kazakhstan, cottonseed base and the base in Uzbekistan, and signing a cooperation memorandum in Shandong and Xinjiang provinces, in February.

The "two-in-one" cooperation strategy in Xinjiang, a major region in central China, has expanded the fields of agricultural cooperation to the five Central Asian countries.

Central Asia, with vast tracts of farmland and abundant agricultural resources, is an area with great potential for cooperation.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, the five Central Asian countries amounted to about 400 million dollars, employing more than 10,000 local employees, official figures showed.

Cooperation projects in wheat flour and vegetable oil processing, cotton and wool breeding and slaughtering, cotton planting, and wineries have contributed to local agricultural development and there has been a boon to bilateral trade.

For example, Kyrgyzstan, where agricultural productivity has been low for long, has sold more livestock products to China, including beef, dairy products, fruit, vegetables, and horseradish.

"Turkey, known for its fruit and vegetable output, has supplied China with beef, dairy products, fruit, vegetables, and horseradish.

"The Chinese cooperation projects in Xinjiang and the five Central Asian countries have expanded the cooperative trade, with the volume of trade reaching about 1.73 billion dollars, an increase of about 2.5 percent year-on-year.

The Chinese government has issued an official document that the government will support companies to expand business in Central Asia, as well as the countries that support the Belt and Road Initiative.

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INVESTORS learn about food processing productivity at the Xian Food Processing Enterprises Factory during the Sixth Belt and Road International Expo in Xian. (Photo by WANG ZHAO)

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Regional bonds remain robust, continue to grow
Since ancient times, neighbors have always worked together

By SHI JINJUN in Xi'an
mengzhaoyu@china.com.cn

Ever since the ancient Silk Road was dug up as a historic route of today's Central Asia, cooperation between China and Central Asian countries has been consistent and vigorous, especially in terms of trade, agriculture, energy, and other areas. Such bonds are survived today as they were in ancient times.

In this context, the Uzbekistan-China railway project launched at the Samarkand SCO Summit in September — a project that would shorten the route from China to Europe by saving eight days— is of historical importance. A feasibility study is now ready for completion.

Uzbekistan also supports the building of the Central Asian Railway, which would pass through the country to link China's Xinjiang region with Central Asia and Europe. The railway is expected to reduce the transit time from China to Europe by 8.5 days.

China and other regions have a deep cultural bond in this region. The Buddhist art of Dunhuang, which has a unique heritage in the region, is known as the largest preserve of Silk Road culture. It is a significant historical and geographical region.

The region's cultural influence has its positive impact on the development of the region's economy.

The Uzbekistan-China railway project will not only expand the logistics network but will also provide more opportunities to promote cooperation in the region.

The Uzbekistan-China railway is a key route of the Belt and Road Initiative and is a key part of the development of the Silk Road Economic Belt. It is expected to reduce the transit time from China to Europe by 8 days.

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Germany admits double standards of West

By *EVALER GUTH* in London

While Germany is better at establishing equal relations with developing countries than other G7 members, it has admitted to double standards in its response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

What they (other nations) expect is response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, but Germany is not applying its prerogative.

While Germany is acting in line with the interests of its own citizens, its policies are not aligning with the expectations of the rest of the world. Germany’s actions are not only leading to a possible war in the region, but also to a worsening of the situation.

### Fire fighting

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### Travel becomes easier between Gulf states

Qatar-Bahrain has taken steps to strengthen their relations by removing visa requirements for citizens of both countries.

Qatar has removed visa requirements for all citizens of Bahrain, and Bahrain has removed visa requirements for citizens of Qatar. This step is expected to further strengthen the already strong relations between the two countries.

### Beef over husbandry

Diplomatic relations between the Scandinavian country and China have been strengthened, and trade between the two countries has increased.

As a result of the improved relations, more Chinese tourists are expected to visit the Scandinavian country, leading to an increase in the demand for beef. This has led to a price hike in the domestic market, which has been passed on to consumers.

### Security tightened ahead of G7 meet as protests emerge

In *WANG XU* written for *China Daily*

Hundreds of people gathered in Hiroshima to mark the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings, with many calling for nuclear disarmament.

Security was tightened ahead of the G7 meeting in Canada, with authorities anticipating possible protests.

### Logs from China show rise in China’s exports

The rise in China’s exports has been attributed to factors such as the economic recovery in the rest of the world, increased demand, and improved supply chain efficiency.

### Chinese universities gain in global rankings

Almost every Chinese university surveyed included in the Times Higher Education ranking has moved up in the rankings, as the nation continues to invest in education and research.

As a result, Chinese universities have made significant gains in international rankings, with several institutions entering the top 200, 150 and 100 categories.
Montana first state in US to ban TikTok

Social media users react with sarcasm on ban that would go into effect in January

By LAI ZEYU at San Francisco Chronicle

Montana Governor Gianforte signed a bill Wednesday banning TikTok in the state, making it the first in the United States to enact a ban on the social media app.

Governor Gianforte has signed a bill that repeals the First Amendment rights of the people of Montana by unlawfully banning TikTok...

The bill that was signed into law on June 21, 2021, by Governor Matt Rosendale, effectively bans TikTok in Montana, a state known for its strong First Amendment protections. The move comes amid growing concerns about the app's influence on younger generations and its potential for spreading misinformation.

"I am confident that this bill will stand up in court," Governor Rosendale said. "I believe that the First Amendment applies to social media, and I am committed to protecting the freedom of speech of all Montanans."

The ban comes after a similar effort in Texas, where a ban was temporarily blocked by a federal judge. Montana's ban is the first of its kind in the United States and is expected to face legal challenges.

"This is a clear violation of the First Amendment," said American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Attorney John Burris. "It is a chilling effect on free speech and the free exchange of ideas."

The ban is likely to face legal challenges and could set a precedent for similar policies in other states. It is reminiscent of the restrictions on social media that were imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, which were also challenged in court.

"This is an ill-advised move that will only serve to stifle free speech," said Mark Garmatz, director of the Montana Civil Liberties Defense Center. "It is a violation of the First Amendment and should be struck down by the courts."

The ban is expected to go into effect on January 1, 2022, pending any legal challenges. Montana residents are already expressing their opposition to the ban, with many calling it a violation of their First Amendment rights.

"I am a TikTok user and I think this is an overreach," said Montana resident Jennifer Smith. "I don't want the government telling me what I can and can't access online."

The ban is part of a broader trend of governments around the world seeking to control social media platforms, citing concerns about misinformation, national security, and the spread of hate speech.

"This is a slippery slope," said Montana senator John Laubscher. "Once we start banning social media platforms, what's next? Banning websites? Banning books? It's a slippery slope that we should avoid."

Montana is just the latest state to consider a ban on TikTok, with similar bills already introduced in other states, including California, Nevada, and Texas. However, the Montana ban is the first to be signed into law.

"I am concerned about the potential chilling effect this ban could have on free speech," said ACLU of Montana Attorney Emily Williams. "We are committed to protecting the First Amendment rights of all Montanans, and we will challenge this ban in court."
Demand, credit key to growth now

With CPI stable, manufacturing, consumption and investment in focus

By ZHANG YUE

Recovery and expansion of the still-weak demand are critical to lifting production and consumption. The government is being more credit-thinking oriented, focusing on infrastructure spending, with more credit getting funneled into the manufacturing sector, and stepping up infrastructure spending, to fuel the consumption system supply, officials and experts said on Wednesday.

Meng Hongwei, a spokesperson for the National Development and Reform Commission, said at a news conference that April figures that the manufacturing sector—China’s official manufacturing purchasing managers’ index (PMI) remained above 50 percent in April, making the monthly average for the first time since February 2012, showed that demand has recovered and expanded further to help industrial growth.

The manufacturing PMI in April, however, remained below the government’s target range of between 51 and 52 percent, Mr. Meng said. The government wants the benchmark to remain above 51 percent to ensure demand holds up after April, the end of the annual legislative session, before the second session starts.

Mr. Meng said the credit in the system could be stabled to stabilize and expand investments in infrastructure. The rule of special local government bonds, bonds under the central government budget and structural adjustment bonds will be better harmonized. Efforts will also be made in the medium and long-term bonds to manufacture growth of the sector.

In the first four months, the NDRC approved and confirmed 36 fixed asset investment projects totaling 274.6 billion yuan ($35 billion), or about 41 percent of the target 800 billion yuan. The approval rate was significantly up from 15 percent in the same period last year, and was on track to meet the goal for the year.

The government is undertaking a 2-trillion-yuan ($230 billion) investment stimulus, launched in early 2009, to boost demand and spur growth. The forecast is in line with the stimulus and more than the 1.16 trillion yuan ($150 billion) in 2009.

ECOLOGICAL REGULATION TO PUSH NEVs IN RURAL AREAS

Economic regulator to push NEVs in rural areas

By ZHENG XIN

China aims to leverage the potent economic trade benefits of changing infrastructure in rural areas, in a bid to settle millions of rural families among local residents, the top government official said Wednesday.

Local governments should step up dissemination and promotion of public charging stations, according to a document on accelerating the infrastructure for new energy vehicles released by the National Energy Administration earlier this month.

Local governments should also further promote charging models and intelligent technologies, using some advanced information technology, which allows vehicle drivers to ensure power to the grid when demand is high, to further settle the 300 million electric cars in China, the document stated.

The government has decided to push NEVs to optimize their utilization to improve the nation’s economically practical vehicle models, including new energy-super micro, micro, trucks and light trucks, while providing high-quality used NEVs to the rural market.

China has established the world’s largest charging infrastructure network in terms of quantity, charging points and total mileage, according to the ministry. NEVs in China’s rural areas are used to charge up to 70 percent of such vehicles, according to recent statistics, in 2009.

Drivers change their electricity vehicle charging habits due to the increased convenience and decreased cost. However, there are still some roadblocks in rural areas that need to be resolved, like high car ownership costs and low accessibility to charging stations in rural communities.

The National Energy Administration said in a statement earlier this month that it will set up a market channel for energy vehicles, or EVs, to meet the needs for energy vehicles in China’s rural areas.

The government also introduced a total of 100 subsidies for an electric vehicle pilot project in rural areas.

Lenovo to prime supply chains, chains to up efficiency

By SONG SHAO

Lenovo Group Ltd, the world’s largest personal computer maker by shipping volume, has embarked on improving its supply chains and leveraging digital technologies to optimize production and efficiency as China’s manufacturing heartland readies for a new industrial revolution.

Ranzing said on Wednesday.

The deal includes setting up a new joint venture investment company in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, beginning with an initial investment of 2 billion yuan ($300 million) over a period of two years.

Lenovo has expanded and strengthened its local presence in Shenzhen over the past three years, adding these two new entities to its seven Shenzhen, Shenzhen and Shenzhen, Guangdong, the company said in a statement on Wednesday.

Lenovo plans to expand its business footprint in China and upgrade its supply chain management in order to increase the efficiency of its supply chain, according to the company.

Lenovo said it is targeting to increase its immediate supply chain efficiency to 1.5 percent, or about 10.5 percent, from 2013 fiscal year to 2014 fiscal year.

With a strong demand for Nestle’s infant milk formula in China, the company plans to increase its sales in China by 10 percent over the next three years, the company said.

Lenovo chairman and CEO Yang Yuanqing, who will retire in 2013, said the deal will help the company to increase efficiency and reduce inventory, and better manage its logistics in China.”
Major Chinese pharmaceutical companies have expanded their presence in the market by leveraging the Ministry of Commerce.

"In the latter half of the year, the exports of medicines and health products are expected to stabilize and gradually rise. This is in line with the global recovery of the industry. The exports of health products are expected to remain strong," a director of the Ministry of Commerce said.

"Chinese products, such as modern medicines, medical and health products, will maintain their competitive advantages in exports, while ensuring the safety of the supply chain. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, the export of medical equipment has played a significant role in supporting such demand worldwide. The Ministry of Commerce and the health products sector is expected to witness a recovery," he added.

The export of pandemic prevention items, particularly medical masks and surgical masks, has increased significantly. The export of medicines and health products is expected to grow gradually.

According to the report that, the total new contract value, the total new projects reached 7.42 billion yuan, which the company attributed to the range in orders for projects including railroads, highways, municipal engineering, and water transport and conservation during the reporting period.

China Railway Construction Corp Ltd is the largest contractor in the railway sector in China.

Major listed contractors report robust Q1 results as nation ramps up infrastructure investment

By ZHOU WEIMIAN

China Railway Construction Corp Ltd (CREC), a CRCC unit, and its projects nationwide have witnessed faster progress recently.

The company said its construction work in China, a key part of the Belt and Road Initiative, has continued to maintain its growth momentum.

Meanwhile, the company's construction work in other countries has also shown a strong recovery trend.

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**BUSINESS FOCUS**

**By YANG CHENHOU in Tianjin**

Tianjin uptick reflects consumption recovery

**XINHUA**

Tianjin New Area vows to become biggest producer of cocoa treats despite headwinds

**GLOBAL EDITION | CHINA DAILY**

**CONFIDENCE IN CHINA BOOMED BY ECONOMIC REBOUND**

**TIANJIN** — Increased import- led household consumption and recent reserves have thrived in China, indicating the country's strong economy recovery in the face of global headwinds, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

The country's economic growth rate in the first quarter of 2023 reached 4.9%, the highest level in the past five years. The country's GDP increased by 5.2% year-on-year, the highest growth rate in the past six years.

**CHINA'S BIGGEST CONSUMPTION CENTER**

China's domestic demand has become the country's biggest driving force for growth. The share of domestic demand in GDP has risen to more than 50% in recent years, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

China's consumption has become the country's biggest driving force for growth. The share of domestic demand in GDP has risen to more than 50% in recent years, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

In the first quarter, China's retail sales of consumer goods increased by 5.8% year-on-year, while the growth rate of online retail sales increased by 10.7%

**TIANJIN——Inside a modern building in the Xinghai business district of Tianjin, Tianjin Beer from Hungary is explaining the history and tasting methods of Hungarian red wine to dozens of customers at a wine-tasting session.

In 2006, after graduating with a master's degree from Tianjin University, Brough moved to the city to start his own business. He took Hungarian's distinctive red wine as the starting point for imports and sales, boosting the presence of his native country's products in the Chinese market.

Since the beginning of 2023, his company has seen a surge in the number of consumers and orders, while more wine is seen at the company's trade fair during the first quarter.

Despite the effect of the pandemic, Brough once again saw unlimited potential for his foreign products, while the stable and positive environment of Chinese consumption has continued to improve year on year.

"We had a full car during the wine-tasting event," he said, adding that the company is negotiating with local beer companies in the Tianjin Free Trade Zone International Trade Co Ltd, which will launch its products in the area this year.

In terms of retail business, the per capita consumption of customers at the store was around 100 yuan ($14.79) before 2022. Starting this year, tens of thousands of consumers have paid a visit to the store, increasing consumption of over 1,000 yuan per capita.

When taking time off from his busy routine, Brough loves to walk along the Haihe River and the ancient city walls in Tianjin.

In July 2023, Tianjin, along with Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Chongqing, capital of Chongqing City, was approved to take part in the construction of the national urban high-speed railway network. The project is expected to be completed by 2025, with a total project investment of 1.17 trillion yuan ($170 billion).

A foreign entrepreneur working at a trade company in Tianjin in March, 2023 - WEN CHAO

**TAIPING SET TO REGAIN PAST GLORY AS CHOCOLATE TOWNSHIP**

Binhai New Area vows to become biggest producer of cocoa treats despite headwinds

**XINHUA**

"There’s another big market to be tapped — the domestic chocolate market," said the company's general manager Liang Ren, who has been working in the chocolate industry for 15 years.

"We have already started producing a variety of Chinese chocolate products, and we are confident that they will be popular among consumers," Liang said.

**CHINESE Big Chocolate**

Despite the challenges, the company remains optimistic about the future of the domestic chocolate market.

"We believe that the Chinese market has huge potential for growth, and we are committed to expanding our operations in this market," Liang said.

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COMMENT

In trying to grab Beijing by throat, Washington should exercise reason

The hearing of the US Senate Appropriations Committee held on Tuesday, in which it discussed China's被列入的可在进一步对台湾进行军事威胁，and the extent to which those calculations risk precipitating a military conflict, is noteworthy. The testimonies of Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo indicate that the major factors behind the US Senate's budget requests for the next fiscal year have been framed within the context of the Taiwan issue.

The budget shows that China is the cornerstone of the US's interests in the Pacific, with the island of Taiwan as the focal point. It also indicates that the US is preparing to use China as a major tool in the war against Russia and China. This suggests that the US's plan to contain China may be revised to include Russia-Ukraine trade.

The US is trying toescalate the confrontation with China, and it is obvious that China's behaviour is unacceptable. It is worth noting that the US is trying to ensure that it can maintain its superiority in the Pacific and that China cannot challenge its status.

Washington is trying to grab Beijing by throat, but it is clear that China will not accept the "rules" the US is trying to enforce. If the US wants to continue to play a significant role in the region, it must support the "independence" of Taiwan and its sovereignty and territorial integrity in East China Sea and South China Sea, as well as the interests of any Chinese entities that Washington chooses, and to responsibly secure China around the world.

What is at stake is not only the status of the US in the Asia-Pacific region, but also its influence in the world. The US is trying to use China as a major tool to contain Russia-Ukraine trade and China. This suggests that the US is trying to use China as a major tool in the war against Russia.

However, the US's strategy is not without risks. China has shown its determination to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The recent incident in the East China Sea, where Chinese vessels collided with a US warship, has sent a clear message to the US.

Moreover, the US's strategy is not without risks. China has shown its determination to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The recent incident in the East China Sea, where Chinese vessels collided with a US warship, has sent a clear message to the US.

The US has already imposed sanctions on China, including a list of Chinese companies and individuals. This has only served to deepen the conflict and increase tensions. The US must understand that China is not a paper tiger and will not tolerate any threat to its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Washington should be mindful of the consequences of its actions and should not be the cause of a new Cold War. The US should focus on maintaining stability in the region and promoting peace and prosperity. The US should also work to promote dialogue and cooperation with China to resolve any differences.

Zhang Shuailing
China-Central Asia partnership to bear more fruits

China and the World Roundtable | China-Central Asia cooperation

**Editor's note:** The China-Central Asia summit, to be held on Thursday and Friday, is expected to not only strengthen relations but also boost cooperation and trade between China and the Central Asian states. Six summiteurs share their views on China-Central Asia cooperation.

Cooperation important part of neighborhood diplomacy

In the 20 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the five Central Asian countries, the relationship has also been strengthened by the economic and cultural cooperation that has taken place in the fields of politics, diplomacy, trade, investment, and the development of neighborhood relations.

These principles have helped strengthen bilateral relations between China and the five Central Asian countries. The relationships have also been strengthened by the economic and cultural cooperation that has taken place in the fields of politics, diplomacy, trade, investment, and the development of neighborhood relations.

China-Central Asia partnership to bear more fruits

China has become one of the main trade and economic partners of Central Asian countries over the past few decades, especially due to the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative projects that promote regional and international cooperation. For this, the Chinese government has committed to follow up on its promises in order to promote the country's prosperity and development.

The initiative promotes significant impact on building good neighborly relations with Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries. It has also had a positive impact on the development of the Bishkek-Kyrgyzstan cooperation, because joint projects help to create harmonious cooperation and mutual understanding among the peoples of the region.

The China-Central Asia summit is expected to bring new opportunities for cooperation and development in the fields of trade, investment, and the development of neighborhood relations.
Summit to help stabilize situation in Afghanistan

Without a unified international community, it will be impossible to promote lasting peace and stability in the country.

O n May 19, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced that Beijing and Islamabad would co-host the two-day Central Asia summit in Xian, Shaanxi province, scheduled for May 21st, which will be the first official summit of the heads of state of the six countries. One of the topics of these talks will be the stabilizing situation in Afghanistan.

The previous Afghan government had been continuously negotiating with the countries of Central Asia to establish economic cooperation. Among them, there are large-scale infrastructure projects such as the Tien-Shan Economic Block, the third phase of the Silk Road Economic Belt, and the Tashkent—Uzbekistan—Tajikistan—Turbat Frontier Railway. To promote relations with other countries, the Chinese and Pakistani authorities had previously expressed the intention of Afghanistan in the project, and the Taliban government has expressed its willingness to take part in it. Qian said that both Beijing and Islamabad were “ready to actively support Afghanistan with joint measures and efforts.” “We hope that the Tashkent—Uzbekistan—Tajikistan—Turbat Frontier Railway will be the first cooperative railway project in the region,” he said.

The two-day summit, hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, included participants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkey. The summit was held in conjunction with a high-level meeting attended by Xian Secretary General of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, with the participation of the six countries. The summit was held in conjunction with the China—Central Asia Economic Cooperation Forum (CCEF), launched at the summit.

Given increasing global conflicts and intensifying competition between the major powers,推动China-Central Asia relations are a boon for regional stability.

In the past two days, the Central Asian countries have put forward their respective major power strategy, politics, 5+5 cooperation mechanism with the Central Asian countries, as well as their respective economic and security cooperation. At the summit, the countries have held three rounds of discussions, reaching a high level of cooperation.

This has highlighted the importance of the Central Asia region, and its role in the international community, especially in the international community, especially in the international community. The countries have also agreed to establish the China—Central Asia Economic Cooperation Forum (CCEF), which will provide a new platform for economic cooperation.

Therefore, the Central Asian countries have taken a positive response to the global cooperation mechanism. The countries have agreed to promote the economic cooperation and political dialogue in the region.

China and Central Asia have a shared history, and the 21st century, especially the Belt and Road Forum, has provided a new platform for economic cooperation. The countries have agreed to promote the economic cooperation and political dialogue in the region.

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Show re-creates legendary tale

Classic story, with ethnic group performers concerning Wuzhi Mountain and Monkey King, takes to the stage, promotes cultural diversity and aims to boost tourism, Chen Bowen reports in Halkin.

When Wuzhi Mountain, the highest mountain in South China’s Hainan province, is mentioned, many people first will think of the classic novel Journey to the West and its protagonist Sun Wukong, the Monkey King.

In the tale, the Monkey King tries to escape from the Buddha’s footprint, one of the most significant narrative segments in the novel, inspiring his fans to read the classic story for many years.

But there are few who know that the stories behind the Buddhist footprint, the Monkey King and Sun Wukong have a close and deep link to the Wuzhi Mountain and Hainan Island.

In the beginning of the story, the kind and bountiful people of Li and Miao ethnic groups receive the Buddha footprint as an evil seal which wraps him up and prevents him from harming anyone. Sun Wukong, a good-hearted hero, acquires the Monkey King and is later inspired to protect the human race.

“The beauty of this story is that it is a spiritual and cultural representation of the Wuzhi Mountain and Li and Miao people,” says Chen Lan, director of Adventures in Wuzhi Mountain.

Within the story, one will see how the good-hearted and hardworking Li and Miao ethnic groups create a civilization, and unite to resist natural disasters. Zhou Limin, art director of Adventures in Wuzhi Mountain, explains that the show the learns from the folklore story with live performance.

“This will present the reasons and reasons for the development of culture and tourism and will interest audiences of all ages,” Chen says.

The show has five acts, and each act of the show is a spiritual and cultural representation of the Wuzhi Mountain and Li and Miao people.”

In the first act, the story of how the good-hearted and hardworking Li and Miao ethnic groups create a civilization, and unite to resist natural disasters.

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The show is scheduled to be performed on April 30, May 1, and May 3 in the Hainan Satellite TV Theatre.

Adventures in Wuzhi Mountain is also part of Hainan’s“Hainan Tourism Promotion Season” which aims to promote the Li and Miao cultures, the cultural heritage of Wuzhi Mountain and the famous author of the Wuzhi Mountain story,

“The show aims to be a cultural and tourism show that puts people at the center of the show and promotes the Li and Miao cultures, the cultural heritage of Wuzhi Mountain and the famous author of the Wuzhi Mountain story,” Chen says.

The show will be performed in the Hainan Satellite TV Theatre, located in the Hainan Satellite TV Centre. The show is scheduled to be performed on April 30, May 1, and May 3 in the Hainan Satellite TV Theatre.

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The hundreds of taxidermy displays at the Dongting Lake Biodiversity gallery in Xiangyangtou Village, Hunan, provide a glimpse into how prosperous and diverse the natural environment of the area around China's second-largest freshwater lake once was.

Retired these specimens is the 70-year-old taxidermist Li Weishen, a retired doctor of the Tsinghua epidemic prevention stations in Yanzhou city, Hunan. Since 1983, Li has stuffed and preserved more than 1,650 animals, insects and plants from the lake's environment in order to enable people to understand the local flora and fauna better.

"Dongting Lake treasures a bounty of life, and through taxidermy, some deceased and endangered animals have been brought back to 'life.' Li says, adding that he hopes his creations will help raise people's awareness of the need to protect the biodiversity of what he calls the 'waterfowl lake.'"

In his eyes, these specimens show respect for the life of the creatures and, what's more, enable people to reflect on the relationship between people and nature.

Due to the intensification of agricultural activity and re-engineering of the watersheds since the 1950s, the lake has been reduced to half its size — from about 6,000 square kilometers measured in 1952 to between 2,700 sq km in 2020. As one of the wetlands that made up the floodplains of the Yangtze River, Dongting Lake is an important habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife.

"In the last few decades, many have successfully been saved, and now people need human activities, such as the building of roads and wind-turbine towers, have changed the lake's and its environment.

A graduate of the Vajun Medical College and former taxidermist for the local government, Li was invited to a job at the Yanzhou Biodiversity protection station by the local government. Several years later he attended the epidemiological investigation of pneumoconiosis, a widespread and prevalent occupational disease that can lead to organ failure in the lake area. During the investigation, Li made hundreds of taxidermy specimens of wild birds, which had been one of the causes of endemic-associated human injury. Once, on his way to other sites for examination, he saw a dead thrush that had been killed by pesticide use. Taking it home, he proposed, molded and mounted the deceased bird.

Through his handwork, he was able to make the bird "alive" again, which was the moment Li realized what he could do to help his mother lake — to honor the deceased lake-dwelling creatures and give them "a new life."

Over the past four decades, Li has created more than 1,400 specimens, from white-faced tailed deer to single pressed flowers, in his spare time. Some of the species in his subsections of fish and frogs have been used to 후인은 like show, while others have been used to educational or exhibition. For Li, it is a "sacred" task.

"It's a species or it is appreciated in this way, as well as feeling respect, we should rethink — when people destroy the habitats of animals and plants, how much space do we have to our own survival?" Li says.

Among the taxidermied works, some rodents and insects are captured and mounted to epidemiological research. Some of these are birds, animals and fish found from local farmers' markets or restaurants, and some are sent to him by local authorities for taxidermy display or study.

A pair of wild Chinese milu deer are among the most challenging specimens that Li has worked on. In July 2017, the pair were discovered in rising floodwaters at the lake. After salvaging the deer and cutting out a postmortem, the Yanzhou Forest Bureau connected Li to preserve them. Weighing more than 600 kilos in total, it took Li one and a half months to get the deer to "stand" on their feet again. He had to conquer the swirling flood of water and propen odor of the disinfectant, because if the corpse desecrated, the taxidermy would fail.

According to Li, this is a complex process. After harvesting the body, the deer is silted with its meat, skull, horns and severed organs removed. While the skin dries out, the taxidermist uses magnets to prepare. After anti-freeze treatment, the deer is immogulated, its skin prosection around the proportion. Its feet arranged and glass eyes are inserted for the final touch.

"Taxidermy is an art. One mistake can ruin the whole thing," Li says, adding that the larger the animal is in size, the longer the taxidermy process is.

In explaining the role of taxidermy, Li says, adding that the larger the animal is in size, the longer the taxidermy process is.

For some people, the practice of taxidermy may seem cruel, or even terrifying, but preserving nature through individualized practices is still invaluable in scientific research and showcases the great diversity of nature in the public's eyes.

Cooperating with Tsinghua University and the Natural History Museum, Li has held exhibitions of his specimens on the street, offering the public awareness about biodiversity and environmental protection.

Last year, the Dongting Lake biodiversity gallery, which takes up more than 500 square meters, was built to display Li's creations.

Yang Jiaojun, Party secretary of Xiangyangtou Village, Li says, adding that the gallery will extend the cultural life of local residents and develop into a scenic spot, bringing more tourists to the area.

Still not satisfied with the gallery's current condition, Li hopes that a company has been hired to renovate it with an investment of 10 million yuan (US$1.5 million).

At the entrance of the gallery there are eight marble sculptures of the rabbit, an animal associated by Li to represent the "Year of the Rabbit." Li also inserted new specimen changes that have occurred in and around Dongting Lake thanks to government supervision. In 2020, a 30-year fishing ban was established on the lake.

The population of industrial and endangered species has increased, or has been stabilized, and we see such species as migratory birds, Chinese milu deer and Yangtze finless porpoise, according to local environmental departments.

In February last year, a record high 600,000 white cranes, including 76 species, were spotted at Dongting Lake. Walking around the lake, Li has seen Chinese macaques, deer and white storks, which he says he feels comforting, as it means old friends.

Contact: weishen1954@126.com
The humble tea leaf is not merely the basis of a popular millennia-old beverage. It is an integral part of the country's economic and social foundations and has helped the nation forge traditions and friendships.

‘Snow’ in May is a small price to pay

It happens every spring. As the flowers blossom, bringing color and fragrance back into our lives, Britains air fills with white blossoms: airborne clouds of seed buds that settle in huge swaths, and drift like white-cottoned snow across meadows and streets.

They come from the hundreds of thousands of female pears and willow-plumed across the earth, each capable of contributing between one and three kilograms of the strips every year. Collectively referred to as “snow in April”, although the “snow” has walked into May and arrived in second place.

This annual invasion is the bane of walkers, cyclists, and scooter riders, largely because of its unpleasant aroma. The smell can be overpowering, making it hard to breathe and endure for extended periods.

To combat this, people often resort to covering their entire body with perfumes, lotions, and sprays. However, these methods are not always effective, and the aroma can linger for hours or days.

It is a problem that has plagued humans for centuries, and it is not limited to the UK. Similar phenomena occur in other parts of the world, such as Japan, where the “snow in February” phenomenon has been a significant issue for decades.

In Japan, the phenomenon is known as “shiro no hiru”, which translates to “snow in May”. It is caused by the blooming of the Japanese snowbell tree, which is a common sight in the country.

The aroma is so intense that it can affect both humans and animals, and it is believed to have both positive and negative effects on health. Some studies have shown that the aroma can improve mood and creativity, while others have linked it to respiratory problems.

In conclusion, the “snow in April” phenomenon is a unique and challenging aspect of spring in the UK. It is a reminder of the beauty of nature, but also a challenge that we must overcome to enjoy the season fully.