President Xi hails key role of UK ‘icebreakers’

He congratulates visiting trade group as it marks 70 years since landmark mission

By CHI FENGHENG

President Xi Jinping once a prominent member of the Communist Youth League and current President of the People’s Republic of China.

In his message, Xi said that the China-US friendship and cooperation has continuously strengthened political mutual trust and strategic cooperation, and promoted the continuous development of their comprehensive strategic partnership, bringing greater benefits to the two peoples, the two countries and the world.

On June 24, the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) held a joint event with the China People’s Daily to honor the 70th anniversary of the China-US friendship, and concluded with a signing ceremony for a joint statement.

Special visitor

The event was attended by former US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, former New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and former US Senator George Mitchell, among others, to mark the 70th anniversary of the China-US friendship.

Moynihan, a former US Secretary of State, thanked China’s leaders for their “heroic” deeds in 1949.

In addition, Xi asked them to work hard to break new ground for win-win cooperation, promote the building of an open, inclusive, clean, and shared world, and make greater contributions to promoting China-US friendship and cooperation.

Myth of ‘peak China’ is wide of the mark

WORLD WATCH

By Zhang Yuning

The term “peak China” refers to the notion that China is on the decline and faced with a decline in economic growth. However, this notion is based on a misunderstanding of China’s economic development.

China’s economy remains the world’s second-largest and is projected to surpass the US by 2030. Despite the recent downturn, China’s economy remains strong, and its growth rate is expected to remain above 5% in the coming years.

In-depth

Asia-Pacific needs a new regional architecture

Bytao Li

The Asia-Pacific region is in need of a new regional architecture that can address the challenges facing the region.

The current architecture, which is based on the ASEAN Plus Three framework, is increasingly outdated and unable to address the needs of the region.

A new architecture that can address the challenges facing the region is needed.

The new architecture should be based on the principle of mutual respect, equality, and partnership, and should be inclusive of all countries in the region.

The new architecture should also be driven by dialogue and cooperation, rather than by competition and conflict.
Friendship: Young people urged to play part

Before she finished her speech, she gave the floor to her younger daughter Char-...
Development: China plays leading role in critical technologies

By JIAHONG SHANG

In recent years, China has made significant progress in critical technologies, playing a leading role in the global landscape. This is reflected in the country’s achievements in fields such as quantum computing, cryptography, and artificial intelligence, among others. The development of these technologies has significant implications for national security, economic development, and global competitiveness.

For instance, China has been at the forefront of quantum computing research, with significant advancements in quantum key distribution and quantum information processing. This has not only enhanced China’s national security but also contributed to global innovation and technological progress.

In the field of cryptography, China has developed advanced algorithms and systems to ensure secure communication and data protection. These advancements are crucial for protecting against cyber threats and maintaining national security.

China’s leadership in artificial intelligence and machine learning has also been recognized globally. The country has invested heavily in research and development, resulting in significant breakthroughs in areas such as natural language processing, image recognition, and autonomous vehicles.

Moreover, China has been actively engaged in international cooperation, sharing its technological achievements and promoting the development of critical technologies worldwide. This has helped to create a more secure and interconnected global environment, fostering economic growth and prosperity.

In conclusion, China’s advancements in critical technologies not only enhance its national security and economic competitiveness but also contribute to global technological progress. These achievements highlight China’s commitment to innovation and its role as a global leader in technology development.
Mishaps sound alarm over safety of Indian railways

Experts call for infrastructure upgrade, emphasis on maintenance

By ARUNAVA DAS
for China Daily

China Daily

The Central Bureau of Investigation, the federal police investigation body, said on Thursday that the Indian government to find out the exact cause of the accident. A senior railway official has said the design error of the train caused the derailment. The Central Bureau of Investigation said on Thursday that the railway minister has been questioned by the India Prisons Department. More than 10 million passengers daily. There are two possibilities for the incident: "either the system was functioning or someone manipulated the signal," said a senior official from the Central Railway Board.

Separate tracks

Those who are not experienced or mentally weak will suffer the most. Some of them may even stop operating trains. In addition, relatives of the deceased should be kept away from services because they are likely to break down when they meet a survivor. The survivor may start feeling guilty for not being able to help. An experienced conductor will be able to stop trains. A person who has been on a train before will be able to identify the issue.

Failing out

Doctors at St. John's Medical College in Kerala, where the injured were receiving treatment, are offering counseling to patients in normal to severe cases. "Many were found to be severely stressed, and some [are] in tears," said Rajesh R. A medical consultant at the Calcutta Medical Research Institute in Kolkata, said they have been covering a lot of stress and office work. Their world will have been changed, and they will need professional help, he said.
Japan launches nuke water plan

Govt slammed for not taking consent before making decision on release

By JIANG XINGJING in Tokyo
jiangxingjing@usatoday.com

Japan's government on Thursday launched a plan to release nuclear-contaminated water into the sea while a lawsuit challenging the decision was filed in the Tokyo District Court.

The suit was launched by 70-year-old fisherman Inoue Shiro in Tokyo, who said he was worried that the sea release would cause marine animals to die and contaminate the sea. He said he was worried that the sea release would cause marine animals to die and contaminate the sea.

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Tibetan charms center stage at tourismexpo

By YUAN SHENGAO

The fifth China Xining Tourism and Culture Expo in Xining, the capital of Qinghai Autonomous region, on June 13-18, showcased the unique tourism and cultural resources while seeking more commercial and economic cooperation. Around 93 domestic and overseas companies — including 75 companies from 12 countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal and Brazil — attended the event, according to Choedar, deputy secretary of the tourism government. Tibet is the Chinese name of the region.

Various activities were held during the three-day event, including a keynote forum, an exhibition, a gala, a performance, an international tourism promotion conference, and a tour of the region. The event was co-hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the regional government of Tibet.

"Tibet is located in the historic and cultural crossroads of China as it is a gateway to the northwestern border of China, an important ecological safety region, an important location for strategic development, an important and important policy path for the government of Tibet, and a famous tourist city," said Ngapay.

Tibet officially hosted the fifth China Xining Tourism and Culture Expo, aiming at promoting the important role of tourism in Tibet. Nearly 100 businesses from 12 countries and regions had already brought nearly 50,000 kinds of products and services to form 80 squares and 80 exhibition areas.

Meanwhile, the Xining Tourism and Culture Expo emerged as a platform for promoting Tibetan culture and tourism, showcasing the abundant tourism and cultural resources of Tibet. In addition, the event provided a platform for promoting the tourism products of Tibet, such as cashmere, hand-knitted woolen products, yak milk and yak clothing, and so on.

Loretta Tsewing displayed six types of Tibetan handicrafts in her booth. The Tibetexibition established a tobacco and cashmere booth, bringing back to the market some traditional Tibetan products from Argentina. Ms. Tsewing, an Argentinian national, displayed Tibetan handicrafts to the expo. "This is my second time to visit Xining, and I am proud to bring my family’s traditional artifacts to the expo," she said.

Other than his visit to Xining, Chen Liang, vice president of the Shanghai Tourism Association, visited the Qinghai exhibition, bringing back to the market some traditional Tibetan products from Argentina. Ms. Tsewing, an Argentinian national, displayed Tibetan handicrafts to the expo. "This is my second time to visit Xining, and I am proud to bring my family’s traditional artifacts to the expo," she said.

For the expo, Tibet had offered a Tibet Museum, which had planned to open in Tibet museum and visited the expo, to make an effort to attract more tourists. A few years ago, the Tibet Museum held a photo exhibition in Tibet museum and visited the expo. "We will focus on the topic of Tibet and tourism, cooperating with the local government to attract more tourists," said Ngapay.

"The exhibition will be held in the coming years. The government has been supporting the transformation of tourism infrastructure and public service facilities. Together, they have implemented a number of major cultural tourism projects over the years," he said.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has been bringing local culture and tourism managers, overseas tourism design institutions to the Tibet tourism in recent years. The museum is expected to attract more tourists.

Tibet offers its local culture and tourism resources. The Tibet tourism development plan is expected to attract more tourists.

Tibet tourism has become a pillar industry to promote logistics development. Tibet should continue to improve the level of tourism development and service quality, which would lead to the promotion of integration of tourism, culture and nature, and also "deepen" the cultural and tourism market and make every effort to benefit local people and tourism businesses.

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Protests threaten major scenic spots amid peak tourism season in summer

French authorities have faced riots and looting since a 15-year-old Nabil Merzouk, a French citizen of Algerian and Moroccan descent, was killed by police officers during a protest on June 27, which escalates long-standing accusations of racism among security forces.

While unrest across France appeared to ease on its sixth night, President Emmanuel Macron postponed a state visit to Germany to deal with the crisis. He was scheduled to meet leaders of both houses of Parliament on Monday and on Tuesday with more than 200 mayors of towns and cities affected by the violence.

Macron has blamed social media for the spread of the rumor and called on parents to take responsibility for their teenagers. Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti told media that parents who abdicated that responsibility "would be held through disinheritance or deliberate abandonment".

Nearly 3,000 police personnel were deployed against the抗日 of July 2 in three towns where clashes in Saint-Denis, Toulouse and Marseille last week. Two police cars were burned in Marseille, and in Toulouse, a police station in the western region of the city was torched.

Macron, who was één day earlier as a prominent figure of the anti-racism protest, delivered a speech to Parisians in front of the Eiffel Tower on June 30, addressing the violence in the wake of the shooting.

"The challenge of patronizing protest movements is enormous," Macron said in a speech to Parisians in front of the Eiffel Tower on June 30, addressing the violence in the wake of the shooting.

The unrest, which has sparked widespread social unrest across the country, has been fueled by anger over police brutality and racism.

From top: Protestors hurl stones and paint inside a store during a protest in Marseille, southern France, on July 1. A newugen/Reuters photo shows police on July 2 in front of a vandalized Paris by the protestors. JEROME MISON/REUTERS

A woman holds a placard reading "Our blood runs on their uniforms" during a protest on June 30 in Paris against the latest shooting of teenager Nabil Merzouk by police last week. LAURENCE CHU/REUTERS

A police officer secures a building entrance next to the graffiti "Nahel" sprayed amid protests in Nancy, eastern France, on June 30 against the latest shooting of the teenager last week. ISSEY NAKAGAWA/REUTERS

French President Emmanuel Macron in the presidential Elysee Palace in Paris on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, to address widespread riots by violent protesters that unloaded after teenager Nabil Merzouk was shot dead by police last week.

Macron was flanked by Prime Minister Édouard Philippe and Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin. The prime minister has been called on to resign amid the protests.

While the crisis continues, Macron has faced criticism for his response to the protests, which have been fueled by anger over police brutality and racism.

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The unrest, which has sparked widespread social unrest across the country, has been fueled by anger over police brutality and racism.
Chinese authorities are closely watching emerging exchange rate movement and would take further action to defend the currency if it deteriorates further, as the country continues to avoid US tariffs as a source of trade friction.

"From a policy perspective, it is very important that the speed of appreciation of the renminbi does not accelerate too rapidly because that can have inflationary expectations of remittances deflation and has a strong external push," said Bob Subhaman, head of global macro research at Nomura, a financial services group.

China’s PROs therefore need to "show some sand in the typing machine" if the renminbi does not become one over-reaction. But adding that such tools could be used if needed, the foreign exchange deposit reserve requirement on banks is at the "high level".

Among a US-China currency policy dialogue and slowing momentum of China’s economic recovery, the renminbi has depreciated by more than 5 percent against the dollar since mid-March.

In the current 86-month low of 7.2960 from China’s official exchange rate of Hong Kong, London and Singapore, the currency has been on a slide against the dollar since mid-March.

The renminbi is also seen by the year, may continue to feel pressures from Taiwan, US measures, US, and other factors, as "the renminbi’s central bank is on top of its game".

Further derivative actions that may be taken include cutting "the ceiling foreign exchange deposit reserve requirement for foreign exchange held in Hong Kong, London and Singapore, to boost China’s foreign exchange reserves, to mean that the renminbi could gain more strength against the dollar".

The short-depreciation phase of the renminbi is expected to be 3-4 yuan, according to currency analyst Zhuanglong of China’s Ministry of Commerce.

"We will see a short-term pressure to sell the renminbi in the market," Zhuanglong said, "but the renminbi’s strength will help improve China’s trade surplus balance and support China’s real economic sector as the key supporting factor to the renminbi’s short-term pressure.

The renminbi is expected to "face some difficulty, China’s current ability will not be able to face the pressure, to stimulate stable appreciation of the renminbi".

Further stimulus measures may be needed to stabilize the currency, and such measures should be sufficient to trigger markets to avoid a further appreciation back on a stronger currency.

Printing to the red of China’s credit card market, the country maintained a net foreign exchange position of the country’s external position.

"The city of Shanghai will promote the healthy development of AI industry support efforts, attract more talents to build the city into an AI high-speed development, and will continue to protect the development of the service industry and software industry to a higher level," Xu said.

Beijing’s investor’s view on China’s current account balance, recent business situation, and the key factors that may affect the renminbi’s short-term pressure, according to the latest earnings report, are expected to rise.

During the period, Beijing’s sales revenue and operating profit has increased significantly and achieved a five-year average rise. The company’s net profit margin in the second quarter of 2023 reached 29.3 percent, "the highest level reached so far during the reporting period," Xu said.

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The company’s business strategy is to continue to focus on the AI industry and strengthen its position in the AI industry, while further expanding its business to other industries, such as cloud computing, big data services, and artificial intelligence.

In terms of the company’s current situation, it has achieved significant growth in revenue and profitability, which is expected to continue in the future.

China’s AI industry is expected to continue its growth, driven by increasing investments and demand for AI technologies. The company’s strong position in the AI industry will further enhance its competitiveness and enable it to seize opportunities in the rapidly evolving technology landscape.

With the continuous development of AI technologies and their wide adoption across various industries, the company is well-positioned to capitalize on the growth of the AI industry, leading to further revenue and profit growth.

The company’s strategy to leverage its strong AI capabilities and expand into new markets will likely continue to drive its success, contributing to its continued growth and profitability.

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Homegrown openKylin 1.0 to key new infrastructure, digital economy

By HAN PEIPEI
japan@chinadaily.com.cn

The launch of China's first open-source desktop operating system — smartphone software independent of US and Apple, the country's largest smartphone manufacturer — is a milestone in China's digital economy.

The operating system was developed by a group of Chinese researchers and engineers, headed by Yang Shouang, a professor at the University of Science and Technology of China.

The effort, Yang said, is as ambitious as making a car, and it comes as the world is going through a digital revolution.

When it comes to digital systems, the US and Apple lead the world, Yang said, and China has the same ambition.

Yang said his team has been working on the project for a decade and has covered all aspects of the software.

It's not just a software system, he said, as it includes hardware, software, and services.

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**BUSINESS FOCUS**

German firms tap Tianjin for success

Enterprises from diverse industries make city their base for growth at home and abroad

**TIANJIN** – Activity is on full swing at a 12,000-square-meter machinery factory of German company Big Dutchman in North China’s Tianjin municipality. Poultry farming equipment rolls off automated production lines, with a few workers operating the intelligent system. Newly stocked products on the shelves will soon be delivered to customers across China.

Established in 1943, Big Dutchman is one of the world’s largest suppliers of feeding and housing equipment for modern pig and poultry production.

As the company’s only factory and base in China, the Tianjin base, founded in 1995, has businesses involving marketing, production, services, procurement and logistics.

“China is a pillar market for the company’s business growth,” said Walter Benz, president of Big Dutchman China.

After 30 years of development, Big Dutchman has become an indispensable part of China’s, with an annual output and value-added exceeding 1 billion yuan ($134 million), contributing one-eighth of the company’s total global output.

Currently, its customers and suppliers are all over China, and sales branches have been set up in many Chinese cities, such as Guangzhou in Guangdong province and Chengdu in Sichuan province.

This is also the result of China’s intelligent manufacturing development. As a leading company, Big Dutchman has made huge investments in digitalized breeding systems and equipment to enhance its products’ competitiveness.

In the near future, the company plans to build its first cement farm in China to provide organic feed for poultry breeding and enlarge the industry chain, and it has also decided to develop a new aquaculture breeding greenhouse to enrich its product portfolio.

Like Big Dutchman, many German companies, including Siemens, ZF Friedrichshafen AG and Daimler, have invested in Tianjin for many years. According to the Tianjin municipal bureau of commerce, there are 471 German-invested enterprises in Tianjin, having made contributions to the city’s mobile and electrical and mechanical industrial development.

The cumulative contracted foreign capital investment of the enterprises has reached nearly 8.7 billion, and the accumulated actual utilised foreign investment had exceeded 4.4 billion.

China has been Germany’s most important trading partner for more than 40 years. China’s annual volume of trade with Germany surpassed the €100 billion mark in 2021, according to a German Economic Institute report released in March.

Recently, Siemens announced a plan to increase investments in the country, including an additional 11.5 billion yuan in green-set investment for its industrial automation products smart manufacturing base in Southwest China’s Chengdu in Sichuan province.

German chemical giant BASF continues to view China as a future growth market and is willing to strengthen its business in the nation to continue its momentum of development.

According to data from the German Institute for Economic Research, direct investment in Germany from China is on the rise. A survey published by the German Chamber of Commerce in China in June said that about 65 percent of responding German companies plan to increase investments in the country in the next five years.

To achieve long-term development in China, the company plans to establish a second production base and logistics center in Southwest China’s Chongqing next year to meet the increasing demand of Chinese market, said Benz.

In the next five years, the company is looking forward to increasing its import value in China to 1.5 billion euros and will continue to share the growth potential of the Chinese market, Benz added.

German firms tap Tianjin for success

**ROK banker expects to unlock new opportunities in country**

TIANJIN — Kim Won-soo, president of the Industrial Bank of Korea (IBK) China Ltd, has recently been appointed with the bank’s 2022 business expansion plan in China.

“China’s economy is picking up faster than many expected. We have made a very positive judgment to plan to use the opportunity to expand our business,” he said, adding it was a banker from the Republic of Korea who is based in Tianjin.

In China, the Industrial Bank of Korea opened two wholly-owned branches under IBK China Ltd, in March 2022. Kim first moved to Tianjin in 2004 and has worked there ever since, witnessing the development of IBK China Ltd, which was established in the coastal city in 2009.

“As China continues to open up, we have also accelerated the pace of localization and transformation,” Kim said.

Along the growing vitality of China’s private economy, the bank’s target customers have shifted from Korean-funded enterprises to Chinese-funded medium and small enterprises.

According to Kim, China boasts a very large market and is full of business opportunities. “The further upgrading of China’s industrial structure has prompted the bank to selectively focus on the direction of medium and long-term development,” he added.

In order to expand the business, IBK China Ltd has been building its financial products, particularly providing financial services to small, medium and low-carbon enterprises with high-quality performance characteristics, like energy conservation and emission reduction.

Kim said the bank was closely watching the prospects of green finance in China. In the coming years, the bank is committed to supporting China in addressing its climate change challenge by increasing green credit investment, Kim added.

Over the years, the government has continued to improve its business environment, making it more attractive for Korean invested enterprises in China.

Since the China-ROK free trade agreement came into force on Dec. 20, 2020, Korea’s largest foreign-invested financial institutions in China have announced a total of 106,000 million of equity and loan investment, further enabling relevant enterprises benefit from tariff reductions over a worth about 3.3 billion yuan (726 million dollars).”

“With the implementation of diplomatic ties in 1992, China and the Republic of Korea had signed an agreement on mutual economic cooperation. Bilateral economic and trade relations have increased. In 2021, the bilateral trade grew by 26.2 percent to over 375 billion in 2022 from over 307 billion in 2021, capturing the interest of major partners,” Kim said.

Upon the韩中两国的贸易关系发展，两国之间的投资合作也在发展。据数据显示，2022年中韩两国之间的贸易额达到了3.75万亿元，同比增长了26.2%。这表明两国之间的经济合作关系不断深化。
US should do some soul-searching about why its navy feels threatened

During an interview with CBS News, Admiral Rick Moore, commander of the United States Pacific Command, expressed concern about the People’s Liberation Army Navy’s (PLAN) targeting of the South China Sea. This is the region threatened by the US Navy in the “Indo-Pacific” region.

Moore, who was interviewed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, said that the PLAN was an “almost zero-milestone operation” throughout the modernization of the US Navy. He expressed concern with the PLAN’s behavior, which could be interpreted as aggressive, according to Moore.

The Chinese government has been promoting the development of its navy with a view toward the region’s strategic importance, and this has raised concerns among some US officials. The PLAN’s activities in the South China Sea have been a source of tension in the region, with China asserting sovereignty over the area.

US military officials from both sides could be involved in an “accidental incident,” according to Moore. He emphasized that the PLAN’s actions should be taken seriously and that the US should respond appropriately.

Moore’s remarks came amid a broader context of US-China competition and tension in the region. Both sides have been increasing their naval presence in the area, with China regularly holding military exercises near Taiwan, while the US has deployed its strategic assets, including aircraft carriers, to the region.

The US should set aside its differences and cooperate with China to find ways to manage tensions and promote stability in the region. Cooperation between the US and China is essential to maintaining peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Opinion Line

Growing SCO is much needed for global peace and prosperity

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has evolved from a regional security organization to an intergovernmental organization that promotes cooperation and mutual trust among its member states. The SCO has been instrumental in promoting stability and economic growth in the region.

As the SCO marks its 20th anniversary, there is a growing consensus among member states about the importance of the organization. The SCO has played a significant role in promoting mutual trust and cooperation among its member states.

The SCO has been instrumental in promoting mutual trust and cooperation among its member states. The organization has contributed to the economic development and regional stability of the region.

The SCO’s success is due to the commitment of its member states to cooperation and mutual trust. The organization has been successful in promoting mutual trust and cooperation among its member states.

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It is high time to mitigate climate change by cutting fossil fuels

Li Wanxi

The world faces many problems including growing geopolitical conflicts, increasing major power competition, slowing down of South-South cooperation and expanding development gap. In order to address the shifting of the development agenda, the development of human rights, too, has become an increasing issue. It is urgent for the international community to deal with these issues in a reasonable manner. To achieve this goal, the UN has long been pressing the global community to respond to climate change, to reduce the use of fossil fuels and assist vulnerable countries that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and have contributed least to greenhouse gas emissions. The breakthrough at last year’s climate conference in Paris has however been too late, as the world is already facing the existential threat of climate change.

The view does not reflect those of China Daily.
GLOBAL VIEWS

For safekeeping

Asia-Pacific needs a new regional architecture inclusive of all members that ensures indivisible, relative and sustainable security

YANG ROJANG

First, the necessity of industry chains and supply chains. The most direct impact of the Ukraine crisis is on food and energy supply stability. Over the past few decades, the Asia-Pacific region has become one of the biggest beneficiaries of economic globalization. Therefore, it has been hit by the Ukraine crisis despite its efforts to counter the effects of the conflict, with conflicts, sanctions and regional tensions affecting the economy and society.

Second, the importance of commodity prices in the region. An increasing number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region must be prepared to stabilize the prices of some commodities on a regional scale, which means rethinking the way energy and metal prices are set and traded.

Third, the impact on the region’s industrial structure. The impact of the conflict is not limited to the commodities, but also extends to strategic material and non-durable goods.

In the face of the crisis, the IPEF countries need to find new strategies to cope with the impact of the conflict. Without such strategies, the economic momentum of the region will be weakened, which might bring more severe consequences to the global supply chains.

The U.S. and Japan are the strategic partners of the region. Despite the differences between the two countries, they are the major drivers of the region's economic and security cooperation. Furthermore, the United States and Japan are the major trading partners of the region, accounting for nearly 40% of regional trade.

However, the relationship between the two countries is complex and sensitive, which might affect the region's economic and security cooperation.

IPEF is nothing more than a geopolitical tool

The United States led “Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity” (IPEF) in 2022, a move that was seen as a strategic targeting of China. Subsequently, a series of IPEF-related events were held, such as the IPEF summit in Los Angeles.

IPEF was established to create a framework for cooperation between the United States and the region, aiming to promote economic growth and resilience in the face of global economic challenges. The framework includes initiatives such as digital trade, clean energy, and climate change.

IPEF is not just a trade agreement, but also a strategic tool to counter China's growing influence in the region. It is a tool to create a new framework for economic cooperation, which can be used to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.

IPEF is not just a trade agreement, but also a strategic tool to counter China's growing influence in the region. It is a tool to create a new framework for economic cooperation, which can be used to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.

However, the IPEF is not a panacea for the region's economic and security challenges. It is a tool to create a new framework for economic cooperation, which can be used to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.

In conclusion, IPEF is a tool for the United States and its allies to create a new framework for economic cooperation, which can be used to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Ong Kekeat

Trojan horse for the Asia-Pacific

The United States sent its “Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity” (IPEF) to the Asia-Pacific region in May, when the trade ministers of the region met in Detroit, Michigan, and signed the first supply chain agreement.

Whadya need?...
Leading lady takes on star role

Kunqu Opera diva embraces challenge of portraying patriotic heroine, Chen Nan reports.

When in her 14th year of marriage, Xu Zhaochuan got a role in the Kunqu Opera production, called "Shangxiang," which was performed at the State Theater in Beijing. In 2020, Xu won the Chinese Theater Heros Award, the most prestigious performing arts award. Known for her role in classic Kunqu Opera productions, such as "Yu Long, Xing Kong, Chi Ting" and "The Romance of the West Chamber," Xu performed at the international headquarters in Beijing in 2005, where the organization listed her as one of the masterpieces of the art and intangible heritage of humanity.

Now by her side, Xu has found a new role, which she calls "unhinging my heart." In the original Kunqu Opera production, called "Shangxiang," which was performed in September 2020, Xu plays the role of Lady Xu Yi, who's a patriotic heroine and the first female protagonist role of Kunqu Opera. The production, which includes three acts, is a classic of the Kunqu Opera genre and is based on the Chinese opera "Shangxiang." The production was performed in Beijing on June 20 and 21, part of the ongoing celebration of the 66th birthday of the Northern Kunqu Opera Theater.

"I played different roles in Kunqu Operas during the past 40 years, and most of them are beautiful, soft and sensitive. Many of my roles are portrayed by different Kunqu Opera actresses of different generations. For Lady Xu Yi, I have to put aside all my experiences about performing other female roles and start afresh to comprehend and perform the role," said Xu. "We, in attending the dressing room of Kunqu Theater a day before the show started on June 19. I was born into a royal family of the State of Wu during the Spring and Autumn Period (722-481 BC). After marrying the ruler of the State of Wu and moving to the remote state, Lady Xu Yi expressed her homesickness by writing poetry. When she heard that the State of Wu had been defeated in war, she decided to go back to her homeland. She also wrote poems to express her love and devotion for her homeland."

Vivian Ng/Yin/Yin

"I have to put aside all my experiences about performing other female roles and start afresh to comprehend and perform the role," said Xu. "I also developed some responsibility for her brave character."

"The character is more than that of a beautiful woman, commonly portrayed in Kunqu Opera productions, she is very independent and loyal to her homeland, especially when she is surrounded by the enemy." Adding to the challenge was a great deal of interpreting the role. Lu also gives due diligence to the life of the production, "Shangxiang," which is a combination of two Chinese classics, referring to "country" and "military." "Different from the story, the heroine, played by Lady Xu Yi, who worked with Xu when the Northern Kunqu Opera Theater staged a Dream of Red Mansions, adapted from the classic novel with the same name by Cao Xueqin in the 18th century, in London.

Born and raised in Beijing, Xu was introduced to Kunqu Opera by her grandnmother. She was taught by her local arts school to learn the art form. Since her parents both worked abroad, her grandmother took care of Xu and her younger sister. "I know nothing about the Kunqu Opera. I was told that I was a princess because of my "big and expressive" eyes," Xu said. She adds that she loved the school in that which offered a great environment for her Kunqu Opera. She received intensive and rigid training, and six years later, she became an actress of the Northern Kunqu Opera Theater.

As a teenager, Xu had her debut performance in the 1997 TV drama, "Dream of Red Mansions," by playing a minor role. The TV drama became a phenomena hit and catapulted her for a choice of China's TV industry. However, Xu didn't pursue a career in TV.

"After acting in the TV production, I was sure that I would pursue my career as a Kunqu Opera performer for the rest of my life," said Xu. "Many traditional Chinese Kunqu Opera, Kunqu Opera foundation challenges from contemporary entertainment during the 1990s. few people watched Kunqu Opera performances, and fewer shows were staged, which forced many Kunqu Opera performers to give up the old art form and work in other fields, such as acting in movies, TV commercials, and even running their own business."

"Thanks to the support of UNESCO and the support of authorities, Kunqu Opera has received new life and more young people like me, which allows us to keep on thriving the ancient art form." When in May, the Northern Kunqu Opera Theater is staging shows in Beijing's theaters, Xu will give more performances by playing roles in classic Kunqu Opera productions, such as "The Peony Pavilion" and "The Astonished Heart." Contact the writer at chenxuan@chinadaily.com.cn.

With culture, there is vitality, charm, and a unique heritage.

From Xiangyang, chief expert of Zhejiang's cultural research, visualization and research institute.

In June 2003, Zhejiang launched the "Three Rural Revitalization" project, which planned to renovate about 100,000 villages and transform about 1,000 central villages among them. The project was to realize the dreams of moderate prosperity in all respects. Over two decades, the program has created thousands of beautiful villages, and the government has continually changed the face of the provinces' countryside.

Xiangyang also acknowledges the opportunity and role of the program. In recent years, painting not only retained its former position in Zhejiang but also enriches its spiritual life, injecting new vitality into rural visualization.

In the past 20 years since the implementation of the program, a number of villages have managed to utilize art to empower their development, giving rise to unique customs and contributions to beautiful rural villages.

In the cultural hall of Lushan village in Tongming County of Zhejiang province, more than 300 souvenirs made a unique display, seeking to attract visitors from the countryside.

From an ordinary farmer to a rural artist, Xu, 46, once spent a year learning to arrange flowers, make fence, and other skills. Today, she not only successfully sells a stable income every month but also sees her business getting better. How's success offers a glimpse into Lushan's development model, which is utilizing art for rural revitalization.

Lushan was once a dirty and disorderly backwater area. The environment in the village has been greatly improved after the government's efforts to improve the local environment, but one can hardly relate it to the beautiful countryside.

However, great changes took place in the village after the arrival of some artists in residences, who contributed to revitalization through visual arts.

Inspired by the artists, local villagers decided to enclose their houses and gardens into stories, then label them as art masterpieces and draw visitors, attracting thousands of visitors with the fascinating country landscape decorations.

"With culture, there is vitality, charm, and a unique heritage," says Xu Xiangyu, chief expert of Zhejiang Cultural Research, Visualization and Research Institute, adding that the country side is illuminated by the rural artist works in a direction for China's future rural development.
LIFESHANGHAI

A camel, a cage and a Chinese classic

New production features an unusual cast member and a unique interpretation of Luotuo Xiangzi, Zhang Kun reports.

...
Liu Xiang, captain of the research vessel Xueyong, stood on the bridge of the ship and watched as the ship set sail on its voyage.

"We will explore various areas, starting from the pole and moving towards the center of the earth, heading for adult and central Queensland," Liu said.

During the trip, Liu Xiang introduced the research team to the dynamic, shifting seas and highlighted the remarkable "church" that enabled the capture of data about ocean currents and oceanic phenomena worth studying.

Liu then explained that the central report would display multi-dimensional information in a range of data, from 340 meters to the western Pacific Ocean, combined with previously collected information from oceanographical surveys.

"When we have made the necessary preparations, we can choose the variables to be measured, and identify any abnormal phenomena," Liu said.

This explains the crucial role in understanding changing patterns and predicting potential climate-related disasters," he said.

Liang's tour is a significant component of the China's Ocean Science, an interactive TV program focusing on marine and maritime culture. The program, co-produced by the National Marine Research Institute and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, explores China's marine resources and culture.

The show provides comprehensive knowledge on marine-related topics, both popular and specialized, and includes discussions with marine scientists, researchers, and marine enthusiasts.

As Liang took the audience on a journey through the ocean, they were shown the vast diversity of marine life, including marine plants, animals, and ecosystems. The program also emphasizes the importance of preserving and conserving the marine environment.

Liu Xiang, the captain of the research vessel Xueyong, emphasized the significance of studying the ocean, and how it can help us understand the Earth's processes and resources.

"The ocean is our planet's largest ecosystem, and it plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance of our planet's climate," Liu said. "By studying the ocean, we can gain insights into the Earth's past and present, and how it may impact our future."

Liu Xiang's words were met with applause from the audience, who were impressed by his passion for marine science and his ability to convey complex information in an engaging and accessible manner.