China, Algeria vow to strengthen bilateral relations

By CAI DENGSHENG

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China and Algeria vowed to strengthen bilateral cooperation, as well as their strategic cooperation in international and regional affairs, while supporting each other on issues related to their own interests.

The two sides signed multiple cooperation agreements on Tuesday after President Xi Jinping met with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who is on an official visit to China from Monday through Friday.

The agreements included a wide range of fields including education, transportation, science and technology, telecommunication, urban sustainable development, trade, aerospace, inspection and quarantine, energy cooperation, education and tourism.

During their talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Xi told the development of bilateral relations has entered a new stage of high-quality development and the two countries advanced strategic cooperation in various fields.

China and Algeria should continue to cooperate and jointly step toward the vision for a green, low-carbon, circular and efficient economy, Xi said.

China continues to support Algeria in upholding the North African nation's national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and opposes external interference in Algeria's internal affairs, Xi said.

Chinese investors in Algeria are ready to develop projects that suit in natural conditions, he said.

Xi stressed that the two countries should work together to carry out cooperation projects, including the joint building of the Belt and Road.

China is willing to work with Algeria to further implement the outcomes of the Belt and Road Summit and strengthen cooperation within the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, in order to promote the building of China-Africa and China-Arabic countries with a shared future in the sense, Xi said.

Tebboune said that China is Algeria's most important friend and partner.

Algeria supports the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, and is willing to actively participate in the Belt and Road Initiative, he said.

Algeria appreciates the key role played by China in promoting the construction of a more open and inclusive world and in shaping a fairer and more reasonable international order, Tebboune said.

China congratulates Algeria on its election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for 2021-2022, and is willing to enhance coordination and cooperation with Algeria in the UN and other international occasions.

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China and Algeria should continue to cooperate and jointly step toward the vision for a green, low-carbon, circular and efficient economy, Xi said.

China supports a new path of development coexisting with humanity, nature, and the environment. While China's achievements in building an ecological civilization are impressive, Xi said, China's resolve to move in this direction is firm.

China's achievements in this regard have been substantial. Beijing has been the top city in the world in terms of air quality, Xi said. China is also the top country in terms of forest stock and urban green space.

Xi added.

Carrying forward the task of building a green, low-carbon society, Xi said, is an important way to fight against pollution, saying that green, low-carbon policies and measures should be adopted.

He expounded on the need to promote green and low-carbon transition in ways of production and consumption, which he said is the fundamental solution to environmental and social issues.

More work must be done to balance the three terms, Xi said, adding that social and environmental prosperity should be promoted.

Xi said that China should continue to promote the new development concept, which is characterized by quality, efficiency, and inclusiveness.

He added.

Xi said that China is committed to upholding the global order and promoting international cooperation.

The two sides should continue to strengthen cooperation in the Belt and Road Initiative, Xi said, adding that China supports Algeria's development strategies.

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The Belt and Road Initiative was proposed by Xi in 2013 and has been embraced by many countries around the world.

The initiative aims to promote cooperation and development among countries along the ancient Silk Road and beyond, creating a new path of development.

China and other countries along the Belt and Road have signed a total of 205 agreements, with a total value of more than $640 billion.

The Silk Road, which dates back to ancient times, is regarded as a symbol of human civilization, culture, and peace.

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Village Super League looks to net profits

By YANG JUN in Guiyang and YAN Mei in Rongjiang

Rongjiang was an obscure county in Guizhou province until May when it became a sensation for soccer fans with its "Village Super League," a grassroots soccer tournament.

The county in Qianjiang Min and Dong autonomous prefecture, which has a population of 280,000, has swelled more than 1 million tourists since the惊奇 rural soccer tournament began on May 15.

"It has become a phenomenon," said Li Tao, deputy director of the tourism bureau in Rongjiang.

"Every week, more than 40,000 spectators flock to the stadiums for the "Super Saturday" games. As of now, the entire tournament has had more than 20 million viewers online throughout the country."

Over the three-day Dragon Boat Festival holiday, the county received 500,000 tourists and tourism revenues exceeded 200 million yuan ($62 million), about five times the amount from the same period last year.

Thanks to the festive atmosphere, unprecedented and exciting events, and some spectacular goals, the event has gained a widespread following.

A local soccer star, Yi Shuang, once wrote a mobile message expressing gratitude to his fans, saying: "I am not a god, but I understand the difference."

"What is the difference? Your encouragement gives me strength, and your encouragement makes me more powerful."

Equipped with his mobile phone to record exciting moments and join the celebrations, the team was quickly immersed in the atmosphere.

"During the halftime performances, I observed more fans dressed in white shirts and interacted with Miao and Dong women from the village."

"People from different ethnic groups shared their delights and sentiments. It felt very happy to be with them and I deeply understood the unity of different ethnic groups at that time," said Li, who brought food from his hometown to share with local people. "It was very worth it," he added.

Rongjiang is home to 14 ethnic groups, which make up about 50 percent of the county's population.

The local government has tried to take advantage of the diversity of ethnic groups to attract tourists.

Since 2013, the county has planned five fünf football fields, three of which have been developed and achieved the desired result. Finally, the county has recognized its football talents and promoted them.

"Practice has shown that sports events can attract tourists and have a positive impact on the local cultural heritage must be culturally diverse," said Cunoxo, who combines traditional and contemporary elements.

"Village Super League" has become a grassroots event that involves different ethnic groups.

Sporting tradition

In recent years, the county has focused on grassroots soccer, rock climbing and other sports and has developed outstanding national and provincial-level sporting talent.

The county has a rich soccer history and a solid foundation, with 10 soccer fields, 25 registered teams, and thousands of soccer players. In Rongjiang, there are nearly 10,000 soccer enthusiasts. Every village has at least one soccer team.

The local government has also taken proper regulations since 2013 to regularly train 100 young soccer players together through trial and error, thus forming the backbone players in a smaller world.

Staff from the village teams have said that they need a core group of coaches, as the number of players varies from team to team.

However, the players may not be as skilled as professionals, fans appreciate their dedication and enthusiasm. However, there are some test mountaineering challenges that the local government often ignores.

"The event has a rich soccer history and a solid foundation, with 10 soccer fields, 25 registered teams, and thousands of soccer players. In Rongjiang, there are nearly 10,000 soccer enthusiasts. Every village has at least one soccer team."

"It is a pure soccer competition with a club-like organization," said Yang, who has been playing soccer for the last two years.

"We are playing for the glory of our village."

Rich ethnic culture

While the "Village Super League" apart from other sports events has boosted the development of ethnic cultures and traditions in the county.

As players of both teams walk on the field, the players are accompanied by their cheer squad dressed in different ethnic costumes and carrying local specialties such as bamboo baskets, peaches and other fruit products.

The halftime breaks feature folk songs and dance performances and ethnic customs are showcased. Spectators even join the dance on the field, creating a festive atmosphere of celebration and unity.

Yi Shuang, a 32-year-old team captain from the Miao tribe, said: "The Miao are a people who are very fond of football, and we have been playing football for many years."

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Li urges close climate cooperation

Premier tells US envoy that enhanced collaboration would benefit both countries

By BY ZHENG ZHANG
zhangzheng@chinadaily.com.cn

Beijing, July 9

Premier Li Keqiang told US envoy Cui Tiankai on Tuesday that China and the US should cooperate more closely to address climate change, saying that enhanced cooperation through the two nations would not only benefit each other, but also the global environment.

Kerry arrived for a four-day visit to Beijing, kicking off the US president's four-nation East Asian tour. Under the instruction of US President Barack Obama, Kerry would travel to South Korea, Japan and China in the next week, after US Secretary of State John Kerry and US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew.

Meeting with Kerry in Beijing, Li underlined the importance of the two countries implementing the outcome reached by President Xi Jinping and Barack Obama in Fiji, in the face of new challenges.

While developing countries may lack the resource capabilities, they still have the will and determination to combat climate change, and if China and the US act together, other countries may also provide their technological support to developing nations in order to promote global development.

According to an interview with Kerry on Friday, the Chinese premier said he hoped that China and the US will continue to uphold the spirit of cooperation, respect each other's core concerns and engage in full collaboration to seek common ground while maintaining reservations.

Li also stressed the need to explore more pragmatic mechanisms for cooperation, promote the multilateral climate governance process, and ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement.

Kerry expressed Washington's wish for a more China-US relationship, saying that the US and China should not isolate or damage each other, but rather work together always.

China and the US should provide their technological supports to developing nations in order to promote global development and green and low-carbon development.

Kerry, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said China-US cooperation on climate change has great potential, but it requires solutions that suit the two peoples and also a good mind-boggling possibility.

It is hoped that we will put into practice President Obama's description of China and the US as 'partners not competitors,' and that the two sides should further strengthen climate and environmental cooperation.

On Tuesday, Wang Yi, director of the Office of Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee, met with Kerry in Beijing.

Wang said that China's good-neighborliness is proven, and the US is an important partner to China.

Li said that President Xi Jinping has put forward the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, pointing out the correct path for China-US relations in the new era.

China's cooperation partner is not only a matter of business, but also a matter of principle, and the two sides will work together to deepen China-US relations.

On Tuesday, the two sides exchanged views on the development of China-US relations, and agreed to explore a new level of cooperation.

Speaking of his visit to China, Kugler said that he came as a friend of China, noting that both China and the US should eliminate misunderstandings, boost peace and stability, and avoid confrontations, as the world now faces challenges as well as opportunities.

The former US diplomat said that neither the US nor China can afford the cost of separating the others, which would have been a huge economic and political mistake.

Both sides should understand and manage China-US relations well, especially when it comes to the current situation, requiring both sides to cooperate in a win-win way.

Throughout the visit, Kugler said that he emphasized the importance of the two nations to China-US cooperation.

China's can-do track record in completing major, very difficult infrastructure projects is simply unmatched. Over the last several decades, China has transformed itself into the most globally important builder of roads, bridges and airports, for example.

China has successfully built major infrastructure projects, such as Beijing’s new airport terminal, the world’s largest airport.

Many of these projects have been completed within a short period of time, and they have contributed significantly to the country’s economic growth.

China is a leading global player in infrastructure development, and its projects have helped to improve the lives of billions of people around the world.

China has the know-how and experience to build major infrastructure projects quickly and efficiently.

China has a unique advantage in terms of its vast labor pool, which allows it to complete large projects in a short period of time.

China has a strong track record in developing infrastructure projects, which has helped it to become a global leader in the sector.

China has a long history of building major infrastructure projects, including the Trans-Siberian Railway, which was completed in the early 20th century.

China has a strategic advantage in terms of its location, which allows it to connect major markets and economies across Asia.

China has a strong culture of innovation, which has helped it to develop new technologies and methods for building infrastructure projects.

China has a strong reputation for building quality infrastructure projects, which has helped it to attract investment from around the world.

China has a strong regulatory framework that ensures the quality and safety of infrastructure projects.

China has a strong record of successfully completing infrastructure projects, which has helped it to gain the trust of international partners.

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After 100 years, hidden stories of struggles come to light

Opening of Chinese Canadian Museum marks centennial of exclusion act

By BEA LEA / Vancouver Sun reporter

With the opening of the unique Chinese Canadian Museum on the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act, the hidden story of Canada’s discrimination against Chinese immigrants can be told in detail.

Located in Yaletown at 1399 Cambie St, this museum has a permanent exhibit called "Journey of a Nation" which unveils a century of hardship for Chinese immigrants, a story never widely known, according to Wei Ming, board chair.

"One hundred years later, we are able to tell the full history of the Chinese Canadian museum," said Wei Ming, board chair. "This project has been a source of empowerment and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed." The museum’s opening featured the exhibition "Journey of a Nation". The Chinese Canadian museum, located on the coast, near Vancouver, is an example of how museums can act as a voice to justice and human rights.

The opening of the Chinese Canadian Museum has been announced and is being celebrated by the Chinese community.

Chinese Canadian from across the country gathered on Parliament Hill in the capital Ottawa on June 24 to voice their opposition to racial discrimination and to speak from a cultural perspective. "We believe in an open society that respects the contributions of all cultures and their traditions, where all voices are heard and all perspectives are valued," said Wei Ming, board chair.

"It’s a great opportunity to remember our forebears and remember our ongoing struggle for rights and freedoms," he said, showing a group of white and black and red and yellow pictures on his phone.

"Opening this museum is a way to honor our history and talk about what happened," said Wei Ming, board chair.

"We have come so far, and we have so much more to do." Wei Ming, board chair.

Dignitaries and members of the Chinese community cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the museum on July 11 in Vancouver Chinatown, Canada. [Photo by DANG / DAILY NEWS]
Russia strikes by Ukraine ports after ‘terrorist attack’ on Crimea bridge

Russia on Wednesday launched strike from two Ukrainian ports after a ‘terrorist attack’ on a key bridge connecting Crimea to the mainland, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

The ministry said it had seized Odessa, where the Crimean port has its headquarters, and Mykolaiv, near the Black Sea village of Berdyansk.

"In night, the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation delivered a counter-strike in response to the terrorist attack against Crimean bridge," the ministry said.

It said the operation "was supported by... navy units" and said it targeted the Kerch Strait bridge, which had been seized by Russia in 2014.

The ministry also said it had seized an oil tanker and a gas carrier near Odessa.

The incident happened as Moscow's forces were pressing up Black Sea with a view to attacking the Crimean peninsula.

The Kremlin said the decision was taken following "terrorist attack" on a key Crimean bridge.

EU gives Russia 54 days to end missile attack on Ukraine. U.S. and the European Union have given Russia 54 days to end its military attack on Ukraine. The EU has imposed sanctions against Russia and Ukraine, including travel bans and asset freezes.

BRICS wall mounts resistance to dollar dominance

Bricklab, a New York-based digital marketing agency, has called for "war" against the US dollar in a recent report.

The report said that the US dollar has dominated the global economy for decades, but that the situation is changing.

"The US dollar has been the dominant currency for the past 150 years, but we are seeing a shift towards a multi-currency world," the report said.

The report also called for countries to consider alternatives to the US dollar, such as the euro, the yen, or even the Chinese yuan.

"We believe that a multi-currency world is the future," the report said.

EU envoys call for AL balance of power

The EU’s foreign policy chief has called for a "balance of power" in the Balkans.

"We need a balance of power in the Balkans," Mogherini said in a statement.

"This is not just a question of Balkans, but of the entire region," she said.

"The Balkans are a region of strategic importance for the EU, and we need to ensure that they are not dominated by one power," she added.

The EU has been trying to mediate in the conflicts in the region for years, but so far without success.

Report: 795,000 Americans are medically diagnosed each year with rare diseases

The report also said that 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. have a rare disease, with many of them misdiagnosed and provided the wrong treatment.

"Rare diseases are a huge problem in the U.S., and we need to do more to help these individuals," said the report.

"We need to invest more in research and treatment for rare diseases," the report said.

The report also called for more funding for rare disease research, including from the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration.

Bruccoli, an American writer, has died at the age of 88.

He was a bestselling author of mysteries and thrillers, and was a founder of the Mystery Writers of America.

"It's a great loss for the mystery community," said one writer.

"He was a great writer and a great friend," said another.

The cause of death was not disclosed.

Bruccoli was born in New York City in 1933 and grew up in Pennsylvania.

He attended the University of Pennsylvania and later studied at the University of California, Los Angeles.

He wrote more than 30 novels, including the popular "Laura" series, which was adapted into a film in 1974.

He also wrote two volumes of poetry and a memoir about his life, "A Writer's Life."
GREEN ECONOMY
China has a well-developed environmental policy and a strong commitment to sustainable development. The country has made significant progress in reducing emissions and increasing the use of renewable energy sources. In recent years, China has set ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the share of renewable energy in its energy mix. These efforts have been supported by the central government, which has provided funding and incentives to promote clean technologies and sustainable practices. The country has also worked closely with international partners to address climate change and promote a global transition to a low-carbon economy. The Chinese government has pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 and to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030, further demonstrating its commitment to the global effort to combat climate change. These efforts are expected to contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous future for China and the world.
Coffee drinking culture perks up in China

Surging popularity of beverage among urbanites, sizable income group spur sector growth

By ZHENGNAN WANG

China is probably the last place where one would expect a large group of consumers to overconsume coffee. Traditionally home to products like longan tea, Longjing (Green) tea and Xinyang Maojian tea, the country, however, is slowly seeing consumer preferences and consumption patterns change in favor of the chic beverage. The fierce competition between global coffee chains such as Starbucks and Costa, and domestic players like Luckin Coffee and Manner Coffee, crowded with soaring demand for coffee makers and beans sourced from various countries, have resulted in a greater number of coffee shops springing up across the country, leading to a significant increase in coffee consumption.

In fact, Jiangsu province in East China—a major coffee bean importing region—has seen a significant surge in green coffee bean imports. The province imported 3,993 metric tons of raw green coffee beans valued at 120 million yuan ($18.59 million) in the first two months of 2023, up 46 percent, according to data from Nantong Branch of the General Administration of Customs.

“Our main imports were green coffee beans from Brazil, Colombia, and Ethiopia over the past two years,” said Xiang Rui, a warehouse manager of Kunshan Yong’an International Trade Co. Ltd in Kunshan, Jiangsu province.

The company has expanded its sourcing to include Costa Rica for the first time this year, importing 70.5 tons of green coffee beans from the Central American country in the first six months. After the “G7” announced the import of coffee beans from Honduras to Kunshan, the company is looking to source the beans from the Central American nation in the future.

“Coffee beans suppliers from Honduras are also making efforts to appeal to more export markets and distributors in China. Once they obtain export qualifications, we will be able to import coffee beans directly from Honduras,” said Xiang.

Driven by consumers’ diversified drinking preferences, coffee services will evolve into more coffee-producing regional flavors. Meanwhile, China’s coffee industry has expanded to River Delta and the Pearl River Delta regions.

The origin of coffee beans is an important reference for coffee evaluation, and quality is the key. Coffee, said Gong Kaizhe, president of Kunshan King Cafe Baking Co Ltd, and adding that soaring orders mean the quantity of purchased raw coffee beans has increased notably compared to the same period last year.

Regarding our coffee bean imports this year, we expect an increase of approximately 60 percent from last year,” he said.

The company has already made reservations for the second half of this year and the beginning of 2024. Wang said.

Kunshan, a major coffee importer and processor, imported ten billion yuan worth of coffee beans in the first five months of this year, a year-on-year growth of 146 percent. Customs data showed.

To ensure its competitive edge in this rapidly expanding market, Kunshan launched a distribution warehouse and embroidery center in Kunshan to serve the home market as well as the Asia-Pacific region.

With an investment of 390 million yuan, the facility can store 20,000 tons of coffee beans and achieve real-time monitoring of internal temperatures, humidity, and other parameters within its warehouse.

Supported by rising coffee consumer confidence, it is well on its way to achieve its annual goals.

Wang Qij, vice-president of the Building-China National Food Industry Association, said global and domestic coffee chains are profiting from human connections, promoting healthier performance and strengthening investments in digital capabilities and innovation. They are also adding more resources and manpower to better present their products and services to China.

This rapid expansion into smaller cities is advantageous for large on-premise coffee brands due to lower expenses on management, labor and rent compared to major cities,” Wang said.

Rapid development

The domestic coffee market has entered a stage of rapid development. Orders from coffee shops jumped 250 percent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2023, making it the fastest-growing category among all beverages, according to food delivery platform Meituan.

Xinjiang (Kunshan) Coffee Co Ltd, a Kunshan-based coffee chain that operates a chain of coffee shops in several provinces, has recently reported that its coffee sales growth by 8 percent per year on average for the past half of this year.

“Strong consumption of freshly ground coffee growing rapidly, coffee shops are also expanding ready-to-drink coffee due to its convenience,” said Tang Zuzhi, president of Xinjiang (Kunshan) Coffee.

The company’s production line for this type of product has been opening at full capacity in South China Guangdong province, Tang adds.

In addition to major cities, most of the sales volume comes from outside.

Due to the fast-paced market growth, there is an increasing demand for coffee beans, with an average monthly growth rate of around 11 percent, said Li Xun, owner of Future Yunnan Coffee Co Ltd, which runs a number of coffee shops in Kunshan.

According to Duanzhihua, a Chinese corporate analyst with Akosha, a research house, coffee-related businesses in the coffee market in China have also been launched in a phase of high-speed development. The country’s coffee market is expected to maintain a growth rate of over 20 percent in the coming years.

China’s coffee culture is expected to lead to increased coffee consumption in the country, said a report.

Although many regions in China, especially those in the eastern area, are embracing coffee culture, per capita coffee consumption in the country still lags behind that of developed nations such as South Korea and the United States.

This has caught the attention of global coffee brands, who recognize the immense potential of the Chinese coffee market, said Chinese.

“China has about 250,000 tons of coffee and related products worth $20 billion in value, which makes China a huge potential market,” said Yang Liang, vice-minister of State Administration of Commerce and one of the key players of the coffee market.

It will further deepen cooperation with coffee-producing countries in the region and boost cooperation with coffee-producing countries in the region and boost cooperation with coffee producers.

The coffee market in this country is highly fragmented, so, as the Chinese government rises, the coffee market in the country is rising rapidly, according to experts.

Although coffee culture in China is growing and the domestic coffee market is growing rapidly, many coffee shops are also facing challenges, such as cost pressures, the rising costs of coffee beans, and the rapidly increasing labor costs.

Ethiopian coffee traders, however, are optimistic that the coffee market in China is growing rapidly, and they are seeing a rising demand for coffee beans, which is expected to increase by 25 percent in the coming years.

The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority recently announced that coffee exports to China had increased by around 25 percent, with the country importing coffee from Ethiopia to the tune of $34.9 billion in the last fiscal year, which ended on July 2, 2023.

China is one of the largest importers of coffee beans from Ethiopia, and the coffee beans are used mostly for instant coffee and roasted coffee.

According to information from the Ethiopian government, coffee production in Ethiopia has been an important source of the country’s export earnings.
Greening: Farmland turned into forests, tourist hot spots

Industrial makeover provides jobs for local people

- The strategy aims to improve living standards for people in areas experiencing rapid decay
- The strategy is part of the country’s rejuvenation efforts
- Some successful examples include:
  - Dali, Yunnan: Transformation of fishing villages
  - Taishan, Guangdong: Industrial upgrading
  - Shandong: Cultural and creative industries

The strategy involves:
- Rejiging regional economic structures
- Promoting new economic growth models
- Enhancing the role of the tertiary industry
- Strengthening the industrial backbone
- Encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation
- Creating a vibrant and efficient economic landscape

Supportive measures:
- Tax incentives for enterprises
- Funding for infrastructural development
- Training programs for skilled workers
- Environmental protection efforts

Examples of successful transformations:
- Transformation of a fishing village into a tourism destination
- Development of cultural and creative industries
- Reconversion of industrial areas into modern districts

The strategy’s outcomes:
- Increased employment
- Improved living standards
- Enhanced economic competitiveness
- Strengthened regional resilience

Challenges and future prospects:
- Overcoming resistance to change
- Addressing environmental concerns
- Ensuring sustainable development

The strategy is part of a broader national rejuvenation drive, emphasizing the importance of balanced regional development.
Unloading oranges

Farmers unloaded oranges that they have just harvested in Dapu, Huiyi province, on Monday. Unlike rainfall seasons that usually happen in autumn, the summer season has added to the prices as the harvest avoids peak production season. XINHUA/CHANG YUN

New hypersonic wind tunnel ‘most advanced in world’

By CHINA DAILY

Recent video coverage by China Media Group has revealed details about the J-20 hypersonic wind tunnel, which recently passed quality testing and is expected to enhance the country’s aeronautics and astronautics technology. A wind tunnel is designed to simulate a high-speed airflow environment so that the performance of any type of vehicle can be tested for performance and efficiency. It is widely applied in the testing stage among aircraft manufacturers. In terms of hypersonic wind tunnels, China is currently facing the world’s advanced countries. The Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai, a famous institution, was recently featured as saying that the performance of the newly-opened hypersonic wind tunnel is “incomparable to any other wind tunnel in the world.”

Jiang, who is also the project leader of the hypersonic shock wave tunnel in Beijing, said the J-20 hypersonic wind tunnel has a large flow field, fast function for several periods longer than similar wind tunnels and is more precise in testing experiments. The temperatures and flows present in the tunnel are also more advanced than in other tunnels.

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Nanjing sanitation workers enjoy new cool-off sites

By WANG WEI in Nanjing

More than 1,000 sanitation workers in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, welcomed the first 24-hour cool-off sites as the summer season is heating up. The sanitation workers are not allowed to work outdoors if temperatures hit 40°C. While they can work no longer than six hours before returning to a temperature of 35°C.

The sanitation workers will also alternate shifts, work shorter hours and avoid working in high temperatures between 14°C and 35°C, it added.

"Seasons have started, which occupy at least 10 square meters each, held water, commonly used medicines and microwave ovens are on hand for workers who need them. The urban management bureau has suggested that the workers should avoid working from noon to 3 pm. They can either rest or take breaks at the stations.

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Critical stage for building a beautiful China calls for country’s firm resolve

While some foreigners might regard China’s insistence on the construction of a ‘Beautiful China’ as empty verbalism, others will believe that the country has made that regard the past decade grow into a popular among people. There is no doubt that China is a country that is committed to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the UN’s resolutions. The country has never engaged in any kind of aggressive or expansionist policies. It has always been committed to the principles of the leaders of the UN, which are enshrined in the UN Charter. As a result, China is a country that is respected by all.

The Chinese government has made a concerted effort to build a beautiful China. It has invested heavily in environmental protection and has taken various measures to combat pollution and improve the quality of life. The country has achieved significant progress in this regard, and its efforts have been recognized by the international community.

China has demonstrated its commitment to the principles of the UN by its active participation in various international organizations and its efforts to promote peace and development. It has also provided assistance to other countries and has been a vocal advocate for global cooperation and dialogue.

China’s efforts to build a beautiful China are not just aimed at improving the quality of life for its citizens. They are also aimed at addressing the global challenges that we face today, such as climate change and the need for sustainable development. China is a country that is committed to the principles of the UN and is working tirelessly to fulfill those commitments.
China’s unique and flexible approach to boost Africa’s industrialization is more effective than those employed by Western nations

I
n the 21st century, China has developed a few ambitious plans, such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (CAFTA), to improve the quality of life, inclusive growth, and democracy in developing countries. The BRI also focuses on expanding the economic ties between China and Africa, which has driven both Africa and China to achieve prosperity and sustainable development.

However, the traditional model of development, which was based on manufacturing and export, has led to a decline in the global value chain. As a result, Africa has to consider new strategies to achieve industrialization.

The Belt and Road Initiative

China, as Asia’s largest economy, is striving to realize the development of the Belt and Road Initiative. In the first half of 2023, China’s exports to Africa grew by 8.3% year-on-year, and China’s export volume has maintained strong momentum. Attracting Africa’s development, China has cooperated with African countries to promote the economic cooperation and development of both parties.

China’s approach to industrialization

Most advanced countries, such as the US, Japan, and Europe, focus on domestic enterprises and have made significant achievements. However, Africa’s economy has experienced significant challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, and infrastructure problems. Therefore, China has invested heavily in Africa’s infrastructure and industrialization.

Moreover, China’s approach to industrialization is based on its strong economic capability and the ability to attract foreign investment. China’s traditional strategy focuses on labor-intensive industries, focusing on both traditional and high-tech industries. China has invested heavily in Africa’s manufacturing and industrialization.

Africa has to develop an industrialization strategy that is in line with its national development strategy and the economic growth of China. Furthermore, China has a unique advantage in terms of economic capability and the ability to attract foreign investments. Therefore, China has become the leading country in the manufacturing and industrialization of Africa.

In the next 10 years, China will promote cross-border enterprises, especially those with strong international competitiveness and the ability to attract foreign investments. China will continue to promote cross-border enterprises and related industries. As a result, China will provide a strong support for Africa’s industrialization and improve China’s international competitiveness.

Thus, China has a unique and flexible approach to boost Africa’s industrialization, which is more effective than those employed by Western nations.
Cities full of heroes

Everyday heroes receive the attention they deserve in new TV series that focus on the real lives of China’s firefighters and rescue workers, Wang Xuewei reports.

"They are also ordinary people with flesh and blood and they share similar joys and sorrows in their daily lives with us," he said.

For example, in the show, despite excellent work performance, protagonist Song Yan is not perfect in every respect. "Coming from a broken home, Song Taoran is an impressive record in school and was even fancied to lead the girl he loved. His life never runs smoothly," said Yang.

According to Li, the unique character of the show makes him more respectful of the firefighters who step forward in every remote operation. "These ordinary people shoulder the responsibility and the honor brought by the firefighting profession, but I think they should also be praised while guarding public safety," Li said. "There are always mutual respect and deep affection between these guardians and the people they protect in the city, and this is what I try to convey in the story."
AI with a human touch

Digital humans are at the forefront of developing AI technologies, bringing both newfound possibilities and concerns, reports Wang Xingwei.

One of our goals of developing virtual idols is to make them more inclusive so that people of all ages and walks of life can take advantage of AI technology in the future.

Liu Qian, general manager of AI Applications at Baidu AI studio, editing AI painting composition and other formats.

During China Fashion Week last September, XJ Jia Jia now figures in an online virtual fashion show. A group of digital models led by XJ Jia Jia dressed in sports suits in the show and moved down the runway, presenting the latest garments of Aima Sport in different virtual scenarios – stadium, shopping mall, the Golf Desert and even outer space. The videos garnered more than 95,000 likes on XJ Jia Jia’s Douyin account.

“Virtual idols could be something that ordinary people cannot do in the real world, such as flying travel” said Liu Qian, general manager of AI Applications at Baidu AI studio. “This modern technology presented by virtual idols, including XJ Jia Jia, has won the hearts of millions of young people.”

Liu also noted that virtual idols could avoid awkward, interact more closely with their fans and even provide round-the-clock services.

According to Liu, young people under 30 account for 80.2% of XJ Jia Jia’s fan-base, the majority of which live in first- and second-tier cities. ‘One of our goals of developing virtual idols is to make them more inclusive towards people of all ages and walks of life so can take advantage of AI technology in the future.’

Currently, Baidu has introduced a digital human platform named Xingyi. It covers digital human generation, current production and operation services with lower costs and higher efficiency.

Crossing a boundary

Apart from creating virtual avatars, AI technology has continued to gain new and applications in different areas, including providing emotional support.

For example, Qian Muye, a linguist influenced with 3.8 million followers, launched an AI model named ‘boon’, which Muye hopes will ‘care less loosely’. The Washington Post also reported in April that many Americans have turned to chatbots for emotional support and companionship.

Back in 2015, Baidu created a digital twin of Chinese actor Gong Li, whose digital twins are limited to staging and dancing. Instead, powered by advanced AI technology, the virtual Gong Li can appear in advertisements and participate in livestreaming events, just like the real actress does.

“Currently, we create digital human within minutes after you upload a photo to our platform. With our advanced algorithms and AI models, a digital human can mimic human behaviors and have natural conversations with users,” Liu explained.

However, as this trend grows with the technology’s accessibility, an ethical issue emerges – digital slavery.

When Wu Wei, a Gen Z digital design based in Shanghai, recently used AI technology to ‘resurrect’ his late grandmother and have conversations with ‘her’, he stirred significant controversy online. They came up with the idea to ‘bring back’ by

mimicking her late grandmother’s appearance, voice, personality and demeanor through AI applications. We posted a video on Bilibili, a Chinese video-sharing platform, and quickly gained over 2.8 million views, receiving thousands of likes from around. However, the comments section was filled with heated debates. Some said that they were deeply touched by the videos, as it reminded them of their deceased loved ones, while others argued that technology like this should be banned, as it may lead to an “ethical crisis”.

“How to improve digital-human-regulated regulations has now become one of the key concerns for policymakers, as the so-called AI-driven human-like masters of privacy, copy- right and even ethical rights,” said Liu.

But what we can be sure of is that AI technologies will keep on developing.

The total size of China’s virtual human market is expected to reach 27.9 trillion yuan ($4.3 trillion) by 2026, according to an industry report released by Qian AI, an industry service platform focusing on AI and content-based technology.

During a seminar for industry professionals on AI at Baidu, Baidu insiders said that they believe the fast growing AI will upgrade modern modes of lowing the thresholds of professional agents and personal content (PGC) and ungenerated content (UGC). In essence, the changes AI brings has brought not only lower costs and higher efficiency, but also more innovations.

Virtual idols as an example “AI powered virtual idols can make good use of AI to increase efficiency and create more novel contents, which could fulfill many people’s emotional needs, including companionship and loneliness,” said Liu.

In short, humankind ought to guide digital humans through healthy and diversified development, concluded Liu.

Your helpful virtual colleagues

Before we turn to what’s generated by China Daily’s virtual colleague Yuanyuan, introducing who she is and what she can do.

“China Daily offers virtual colleagues to its readers. In December 2022, Yuanyuan is a cutting-edge AI technology-powered digital human showing the latest advancements in the field,” according to Yuanyuan’s introduction.

At present, Yuanyuan is capable of a wide variety of functions. She can scan and summarize a wide variety of news sources in real time, providing readers with the latest news and information. She is also able to provide professional advice, and can be used to supplement the work of real journalists, assisting them in their research and report writing. She can also be used to produce videos, allowing the studio to plan a visual story. As the virtual colleague, Yuanyuan is able to provide quick and accurate news, keep up with the latest trends in digital content. Therefore, they bring to the table not only fresh news but also their ability to learn and constantly improving their services.

Besides the news industry, another area where virtual colleagues shine is in the virtual field of tourism. Virtual colleagues such as Yuanyuan once made a journey more than 4,000 years back in time to trace the origin of Chinese characters. By examining oracle bone inscriptions, Yuanyuan often also provide a glimpse into the long and rich history of Chinese civilization. Virtual colleagues can provide clients with detailed introductions about a particular place, sharing their expertise and insights in a sensitive and engaging way. Whether it is a virtual tour of a museum, a guided walk through a city, or a personalized themed trip, virtual guides are capable of providing customers with a rich and immersive experience.

While virtual employees have the potential to improve efficiency and reduce costs, there are still some areas where they cannot fully replace human beings, Yuanyuan, for example, while extremely capable in data analysis and writing, still lacks the human touch and emotional intelligence that only a human employee can provide. Besides, virtual employees cannot replace human connection, as they lack the ability to collaborate and communicate with other employees in real time. Even though Yuanyuan has to keep up with modern advancements, she cannot replace human journalists entirely. It is essential that she is used in conjunction with human counterparts to ensure the best results are achieved.
Solving problems together

China continues to develop its relations with South East Asia through international youth event held in Wuhan, Hubei province, while giving young people a voice, Gui Qian and Liu Kun report.

Understanding youth pregnancy opinions

This is an extract of the Survey Report on the Social Awareness of Young Chinese Females (2022) conducted by Padan Development’s Youth Center for Communication and State Governance Research, the Global Communication and Media Research Institute of Tsinghua University, and the School of Social Work and Social Development at the University of Hong Kong.

In the survey, a total of 7,000 young women aged 18-26 years old were interviewed.

Compared with romantic relationships and marriage, young women’s willingness to have their first pregnancy is much lower. Young people hold a positive attitude toward pre-marriage sex, but a relatively strong attitude against the idea of having a second child.

Sina Weibo data show that 12.1 percent of users are in favor of second-child fertility, while 13.7 percent believe it is unnecessary. The younger generation tends to have a more tolerant attitude toward young people with one child. However, those who support the idea of having a second child are in the 30-39 age group, while those who oppose it are in the 20-29 age group.

From a chronological perspective, 2022 showed a slight increase in young women’s willingness to have children. The data also showed that, compared to the past, a relatively large percentage of young women are willing to have children from 18 to 22 years old, while the willingness to have children decreases from nearly one-third at 30 years old. As for the intention to have a second child, 48.1 percent of the samples who stated clear attitudes changed from “no comment” to “willing to have a second child.”

When it comes to the influence of gender, region, generation, and other factors on young people’s pregnancy attitudes, the research found that compared with young people in eastern China, those in central China are more negative towards having children. Compared with those who have high school degrees or below, young people with bachelor’s or master’s degrees are more willing to be single mothers but those with doctoral degrees are more willing to have a second child. When it comes to gender differences, no significant difference was found in the inclination to be independent between men and women.

In terms of their attitudes toward romantic relationships and marriages, modern young people have gradually changed their thinking. However, under the influence of financial constraints and social pressure, the willingness of young people to form families is significantly lower than before. Fluctuating climate costs a lot, not only financially but also in terms of time and energy, which is said by a great number of modern young people as a reason for their limited participation in social activities.

A semantic network analysis of influential factors on the video comments on Bilibili also shows that there is a high degree of the young generation’s awareness of the importance of having children. Young people who want to form families are more likely to mention the importance of family, the social value of having children, and the happiness of being a parent.

However, they are also concerned about the economic and social impact of having children. These young people are more likely to mention the financial pressure of having a child, the need to consider the affordability of education, and the potential impact on their career development.

Research shows that an accelerated attitude toward parenthood postponement is still dominant among young people. But this trend is changing, and young people are gradually becoming more positive about having children. The government and society should provide more support and guidance for young people to make informed and responsible decisions about their future family planning.