President eyes closer ties with South Africa

Xi has 'brotherly sentiments' shared by the two nations amid changing international landscape

By CAO JIAZHEN in Johannesburg

President Xi Jinping has called for China and South Africa to be partners for solidarity and cooperation, friendship and champions of common interests, saying that the countries have gone beyond the bilateral scope and are now increasingly important globally.

Xi made the remarks in an article that he wrote for Xinwen Lianbao, which was published on Monday, as he started a state visit to the nation and is in Johannesburg for the BRICS Summit to be held in Johannesburg from Thursday to Sunday.

While commenting China-South Africa ties, Xi praised the redoubtable initiatives to work with BRICS partners — South, Russia, India and South Africa — to set up the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and collective cooperation, build commonweal on important issues, and jointly carry out the mission of independent development and national rejuvenation.

This is Xi’s third visit to South Afri­ca, and China has maintained a strong diplomatic and economic relationship with the country. The visit marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and South Africa. It is also the first state visit by a Chinese leader to South Africa in 10 years, as well as the first official visit to the country by a leader of the world’s largest emerging market economies.

"We need to increase our exper­tise cooperation, and further support each other in inde­pendent development and mod­ernization that suit our respective national conditions," he said.

"We should work for harmonious and peaceful ties with all other BRICS partners to push forward our relation and the changing international landscape.

In terms of bilateral cooperation, Xi said all the countries on the five continents and BRICS partners have continued to strengthen and expand cooperation in various fields, which has been constantly enriched. The two nations have adopted new forms of cooperation on issues involving their respective core interests and major concerns, and maintained coordination on major international and regional issues.

"We work together in practice true multilateralism and push for the building of a new just and equitable international order," he told.

South Africa was the first African country to tip aBel and Road coop­eration document with China. It has been China’s largest development partner in Africa for 10 years in a row, as well as one of the African countries with the largest amount of Chinese investment.

This year marks the 50th anniver­sary of diplomatic ties between Chi­na and South Africa. Xi said he will visit the two countries to work with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa to "chart the path for a new chapter in our comprehensive strategic partnership in the new era.

"They are important to our national prosperity and happiness. We cannot do without them."

The BRICS Summit is expected to promote South Africa’s strategic partnerships with other BRICS countries, and BRICS will continue to play a key role in the developing world in the new era.

"We should increase cooperation with all BRICS countries in order to better serve the development of China and the world," he said.

The article was published on the website of the Xinwen Lianbao newspaper.

Foreign Trade and Investment

By ZHANG SHAO

A woman wears facade for a commercial advertisement in Guangzhou.

Solid foundation set for Global South development

Before hosting its first BRICS Summit in 2009, South Africa held the chair of the BRICS group of emerging economies, which was formed in 2006.

The BRICS nations are cooperation on economic growth and development, social development, democracy and citizenship, sustainable development and quality of life, political and economic governance, and growth through knowledge and innovation.

This year 2020 was the year in which China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative. Over the past two years, we have witnessed a certain success.

During his speech to the African Development Bank in Korea last week, President Xi Jinping said the Belt and Road Initiative is a "realistic public good" for China.

"We have made remarkable progress since the Belt and Road Initiative was proposed in 2013," he said, adding that the initiative has been well received by the global community.

"The Belt and Road Initiative is a strategic, long-term plan that can push the development of the global south and create new opportunities and shared benefits for all development partners."
BRI brings African nations benefits, not ‘debt traps’

By ZHANG YUNHE

Investors pour tens of billions of dollars into Africa, as the continent is considered a key area for the BRI. African countries are increasingly welcoming the initiative.

In recent years, China has welcomed the promotion of the BRI. African countries and states are taking advantage of the Beijing-led initiative to improve their infrastructure, boost trade and economic growth.

African countries can benefit from the BRI in various ways, such as infrastructure development, economic growth, job creation, and increased trade and investment.

For example, the African countries have seen significant improvements in their infrastructure, including roads, ports, and airports, which have facilitated trade and investment.

The BRI has also helped to increase African countries’ access to financing for infrastructure projects, which has been a major challenge in the past.

It is worth noting that the BRI has been widely seen as mutually beneficial, with both African countries and China gaining from the initiative.

Experts believe that the BRI can help African countries to achieve sustainable development and improve their quality of life.

The BRI is not a ‘debt trap’, as some Western media have alleged. Instead, it is a win-win cooperation platform that promotes mutual benefit and shared prosperity.

Moreover, the BRI respects each country’s sovereignty and follows the principle of non-interference in internal affairs.

It is important to note that the BRI is not just about infrastructure projects, but also about economic cooperation, capacity-building, and people-to-people exchanges.

In conclusion, the BRI is a key initiative in China’s foreign policy and it has the potential to bring significant benefits to African countries.

The BRI is an opportunity for African countries to boost their economies, improve their infrastructure, and enhance their connectivity with the rest of the world.

The BRI offers African countries a unique opportunity to achieve sustainable development, improve their quality of life, and enhance their international standing.

The BRI is a cooperative, win-win initiative that respects the dignity of African countries and their sovereignty.

The BRI is a key component of China’s foreign policy and it is an opportunity for African countries to achieve sustainable development and improve their quality of life.

The BRI will continue to play a significant role in promoting mutual benefit and shared prosperity between Africa and China.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

- BRI website: http://www.bri.gov.cn/
- China’s Ministry of Commerce: http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/
- African Union: http://www.au.org/
- African Development Bank: http://www.afdb.org/

AI to play key role in scientific collaboration

By YAN JIE

AI technology has become an important tool in scientific research and collaboration. It can help researchers to analyze large datasets, identify patterns, and make predictions.

One example is the use of AI in drug discovery. AI-powered tools can analyze vast amounts of data on potential drug candidates, allowing researchers to identify promising leads more efficiently.

Another example is the use of AI in space exploration. AI technology can help to analyze data from sensors and cameras, allowing researchers to better understand the behavior of celestial objects.

In conclusion, AI technology is transforming the way that scientists collaborate and conduct research. It will continue to play a key role in scientific collaboration and discovery.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

- AI for Science: https://ai4science.org/
- National Science Foundation: https://www.nsf.gov/
- European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/

AI technology is also being used to enhance the accessibility and impact of scientific research. Tools like DataRobot and Xanadu provide researchers with a platform to share their findings and collaborate in real-time.

In summary, AI technology is transforming the way that scientists work and collaborate. It will continue to be a key tool in scientific research and discovery.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

- DataRobot: https://www.datarobot.com/
- Xanadu: https://www.xanadu.app/

BRICS 2023

The five nations represent

Around 150 meetings are held annually across the three pillars of BRICS cooperation: political and security cooperation, financial and economic cooperation, and cultural and people-to-people cooperation. Over 30 agreements and memorandums of understanding provide a legal foundation for cooperation in areas as diverse as the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, customs, taxes, intellectual cooperation, culture, science, technology and innovation, agricultural research, energy efficiency, competition policy and diplomatic academies.

PRIORITIES FOR 2023

1. Transforming education and skills development for the future
2. Developing a partnership towards an equitable just transition
3. Strengthening post-pandemic socioeconomic recovery and the achievement of the SDGs
4. Strengthening multilateralism, including rebalancing current rules and reforming global governance institutions and strengthening the meaningful participation of emerging powers in peace processes

BRICS 2023

Exports of China’s “new three products” – NTD, lithium batteries and other cells – which accounted for a combined 6.6% year-on-year growth in the last half of this year, are increasing overall export volumes by 11.9 percentage points, data from the General Administration of Customs of China showed.

Highlighting a trajectory aimed at serving China’s economy on the path to modernization, government officials and market observers said the Communist Party of China’s ongoing thematic education campaign will further strengthen the nation’s robust supply capacity and firmly establish industrial chains.

Launched in April, the education campaign enables members to study and understand that the Party’s new theory, the entire Party advances on the circle, will and action, and ultimately ensures that it strengthens its vitality and better leads the Chinese people in keeping with a new journey.

As part of the campaign, the Party launched a new way to find and face driving, with the aim of solving new problems and seeking scientific solutions.

Zheng Ke, deputy director of the GAC’s Governmental sub-administration, said the campaign is responsible for coordinating numerous projects with a view to protecting and improving the business environment for small and medium enterprises. It has guided companies in China in making strategic decisions, and appointed operational personnel to provide service to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the business environment.

Zheng noted that the advantages of China’s Europe-Pacific route in terms of customs clearance costs and provides a sales environment for Chinese exports, Yang said.

Klaus-Michael Krieger, chairman of Daimler, a branch of Huan Cai, has import and export businesses, the stock appointment based clearance and customs clearance fees, which would carry vehicles, reducing the clearance appointment within a year token to within one hour. This has greatly reduced turnover efficiency at terminals and reduced operating costs for container transporters.

Earlier this year, the GAC launched a project to use opportunities to support the thematic education campaign by addressing unregulated fees and charges levied on imported goods. This was raised by numerous domestic companies.

Relevant policies were drawn up based on comprehensive research, analysis and assessment. These policies specify that when companies are unable to provide documentation after transporting their goods from overseas ports to destinations on inland rivers, data meeting specific criteria can serve as the basis for deduction claims.

When Yangping, a director of the GAC’s duty collection department, said this policy has been implemented effectively as part of the Yangtze River Economic Belt.

“The policy of delinking inland river freight charges within the Yangtze River Economic Belt has helped small and medium enterprises to better understand the new development idea and make high-quality development and advanced China’s modernization through the thematic education campaign.”

Cheng Dao, a scholar at the Party’s Central School of the Communist Party of China (Central Academy of Governance), said the Party’s 15th National Congress in October drew up a blueprint for comprehensively building a moderately well-off society.

While achieving this objective remains a challenging task for the Party and the government, it has made progress toward the goals.

As a result, it is vital for CPC officials to adapt comprehensively to the reality of the Party’s new theories, DENG said, adding that such comprehensiveness is essential to strengthening the official’s ability to effectively respond to the population’s pressing needs and overcome complex challenges that need resolving.

Revised measures

Effective tax-free activities are a key part of the thematic education campaign. Officials from the Ministry of Commerce have held roundtable meetings with business groups, set up task forces for key foreign enterprises, provided regulations, and developed new policies to share up economic growth and seek for continuous progress in deepening reform and expanding opening.

In July, the ministry said the government would revise administrative measures for strategic foreign investment in bonded areas.

Although the new measures are aimed at encouraging overseas companies to transfer to the Chinese market.

Cai Guo-Qiang, vice-minister of commerce, said that given the slowdown in global economic recovery and decline in cross-border investment, China will continue to strengthen its negative list for foreign investment, and all-sea companies promise assistance in solving their problems.

To encourage foreign companies to play a bigger role in the Chinese market, senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce have hosted a number of roundtable conferences and meetings this year with top domestic enterprises and heads of companies in Singapore, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States.

The officials stressed companies should expect more growth opportunities in China, as it is progressing with domestic modernization and an advanced manner and unreservedly advancing high-standard opening.

In the past, director general of the ministry’s foreign investment administration department, said the arrangement for roundtable meetings will further expand channels for gathering feedback on foreign companies’ operational difficulties. This will help China’s economic growth, in addition to assisting their stable operations.

Apart from effectively implementing measures of pressurization, the government will give priority to addressing common concerns related to foreign companies, including fair competition, and investment facilitation,” he said, adding that new measures will be introduced in the second half of this year to boost foreign investment confidence in China.

The nation’s massive market, well-developed industrial system and strong supply chain competitiveness were highlighted by Pierre Lirotte, vice-president for China at Atlas Copco Group, the world’s largest independent compressor manufacturer.

He said China remains one of the world’s most dynamic markets. The country has witnessed persistent growth despite global challenges and Covid-19, and is now a key player in the global industry.

Lirotte said China’s green energy sector is about to enter the 2020s, with several provinces having set ambitious goals. This is also true for the world’s most dynamic markets. The country has witnessed persistent growth despite global challenges and Covid-19, and is now a key player in the global industry.

Lirotte said this is the fourth time the company has invested in the country since the plant was established in 2005.

The new investment will boost the company’s production capacity by 73,800 tonnes.

Winfried Schulze, CEO of Thyssenkrupp, said that this is the fourth time the company has invested in the country since the plant was established in 2005.

The new investment will boost the company’s production capacity by 73,800 tonnes.

In Beijing, Zhao Ping, vice-chairman and executive director of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said that as well as benefiting from the nation’s technological advances, many foreign companies see China as a gateway to the broader Asia-Pacific region. They also view investing in China as a means of gaining access to the country’s vast network of supply chains and distribution channels.

This view is supported by the latest China Business Monitor of Ministry of Commerce, which shows that the first half of this year saw the number of newly established foreign-invested enterprises in China reach 24,097, a year-on-year rise of 39.2 percent.

Above: Containers are ready to go at the Yangtze Port, Guangzhou, Guangdong province.

Left: A container leaves the cargo terminal toward the Guangdong province.

Right: New engines vehicles are stored at the Beijing China International Automotive Group facility in Guangzhou, Guangdong province.

Caro arriving at Qinhua Port, Guangzhou, is loaded onto trucks before being transported nationwide.

From page 1

Trade: Series of tailored measures drawn up

INDEPTH
Krygyz hopes to cement role as bridge through BRI

BY WANG QINGYUAN

www.chinadaily.com.cn

Central Asia hopes to further solidify its role as a bridge connecting China and Europe and strengthen its status as an logistics hub by participating in the BRI and Road Initiative (BRRI), said (Boorom Otorbaev, former prime minister of Kyrgyzstan).

Otorbaev said he expects to see Central Asia, especially the passage of the ancient Silk Road, build a “new silk road that will bring the region back into the world of the top”.

The former prime minister said during a recent interview in Bejing that he hopes that through BRRI investment, especially the construction of a railway linking Kyrgyzstan with China on the one hand and Uzbekistan on the other, Kyrgyzstan can find itself from a landlocked country and gain access to sea.

The railway project is one factor of cooperation between China and Kyrgyzstan and a manifestation of BRRI, Otorbaev said.

During his visit with Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov on the sidelines of the China-Central Asia Summit, that was held in Beijing, Otorbaev singled out an important step of the construction of the railway.

In a joint communiqué that the two leaders signed after the talks, the two countries agreed to expedite work on the railway to further tap into Central Asia’s potential for cross-border transportation and said they will perform BRI cooperation in trade, infrastructure and other fields.

A high-speed railway link will further strengthen the diplomatic and economic relations between China and Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan is among the first countries to have supported and actively promoted the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, according to the First Cargo Carriage of the Belt and Road Initiative to transport goods to China, which has more than 2.0 countries and international organizations in Kyrgyzstan, is a demonstration of the “massive nature” of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The world, which is becoming more interconnected, needs dialogue to remain open and inclusive, and the Belt and Road Initiative is about dialogue and win-win cooperation,” he said.

Seine sum is called off over poor water quality

BY CHEN WENNI

In Brussels

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The_rectumእې secretion_in Seine will be postponed until 2024...due to heavy rains, high pollution levels, and the need to ensure that athletes can compete in a clean and safe environment.

The_rectum� secretion_in Seine will be postponed until 2024...due to heavy rains, high pollution levels, and the need to ensure that athletes can compete in a clean and safe environment.

Trump to skip Republican debate

BY AL HEPPING

in New York

Donald Trump's GOP challenge for the Republican presidential nomination may be slipping away as he does not appear to be running, or at least appearing, in the front-runner’s debate.

Trump announced that, as expected, he would skip the debate in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and other similar debates.

The Republican who first tried to stop the event, Representative Michael McCaul, R-Texas, said he had been told by Trump that he was no longer considering running.

The Trump campaign confirmed the news.

On Sunday, a CBS News national poll showed Trump with a significant lead over his nearest rival, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, in the Republican nomination race.

Trump said Monday that he would “probably have some fun with it”.

Florida Senator Marco Rubio, a former candidate, released a statement saying that he would not be running.

The candidate was one of several who had previously dropped out of the race, including Wisconsin Senator Ted Cruz, who suspended his campaign last week.

Trump’s absence was expected to give other candidates, including Ohio Governor John Kasich, a boost in their chances in the race.

The Republican National Convention is set to take place in Cleveland in July.

The debates are expected to feature the candidates’ positions on issues such as immigration, healthcare, and the economy.

On Tuesday, the Republican National Convention in Cleveland is scheduled to officially kick off.

The convention will feature speeches from prominent Republicans, including former President George H.W. Bush, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Trump is expected to be present, although it remains unclear whether he will participate in any formal capacity.

Following the convention, Trump is expected to embark on a campaign tour, with stops in key battleground states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida.

Trump is expected to continue to speak out on social issues, including immigration and healthcare, and to respond to criticism from within his own party and the media.

The Republican National Convention is a crucial moment in the presidential campaign, with delegates set to formally nominate the party’s candidate for the November election.
**Thais see ‘elixir’ as solution to human-elephant conflict**

Authorities start project to restore natural habitats of the gentle giants, hoping it will stop them from going to farmland and houses to forage for food.

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**Initiative to help foster symphony of coexistence**

By YANG WANG in Bangkok

Thais enjoy great animal diversity, with more than 200 protected areas of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and wildlife-free zones, which cover over 17 percent of Thailand’s total area, said the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The country is well known for its Asian elephants, the largest land mammal in the world, which can be found in the wild in four provinces including Bangkok, Si Lanna, Chanthaburi, and Phayao.

The shoulder height of an adult Asian elephant is about 3.5 meters, and they weigh on average about 5 tons. Elephants live for 60 to 70 years. Asian elephants live in various habitats, from open grasslands to deep forests. They spend most of their time eating, and as adult elephants can consume 150 to 300 kilograms of food each day.

Asian elephants play an imperative role as “engineers” of the natural forest, said Chen Rui, director of the Asian Elephant Research Center under China’s National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

“Thailand is an important part of the Asian elephant’s habitat. Their movement and protection have a direct impact on the regional ecosystem,” Chen said.

A 3-year-old Asian elephant is left to a vehicle used to detect and distorting tourists in Kho Yai National Park, 120 kilometers northeast of Bangkok, on 21 January 2023. (Photo: NSD/FARA)

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**Editor’s note:** A project in eastern Thailand has been striving to strike a balance between wildlife and human communities. This page reviews how the initiative uses technology and traditional knowledge to protect the ecosystem inhabited by nearly 60 wild elephants, while crafting innovative solutions to mitigate conflicts between these entities and villagers.
Wading through the storm

Chinese president’s reply to students’ association’s letter warmly welcomed

By LIN JING in Beijing

xiang embraces CIE for more opportunities

By YUANSHENGQIAO

China’s ESL program, or language learning programs that involve students learning English with native English speakers, is widely regarded as an effective way to improve students’ English language proficiency. However, the program has also faced criticism and controversy in recent years.

On the one hand, the program has been praised for its ability to provide students with real-life language learning opportunities and cultural exchange experiences. Students who participate in the program can improve their communication skills and gain a deeper understanding of the culture and society of the country they are studying in.

On the other hand, some critics argue that the program can be expensive and time-consuming, and that it may not be the most effective way to learn English. In addition, there have been reports of exploitation and abuse of students by some English language teaching companies.

China’s ESL program is now undergoing a major transformation as the government is considering changes to the program to make it more effective and sustainable. The government has announced plans to introduce new regulations and measures to ensure that students are treated fairly and that their rights are protected.

China’s ESL program is an important part of the country’s efforts to promote cultural exchange and international cooperation, and it is expected to play a significant role in shaping China’s future role in the global community.
China's economy is set to pick up pace in the short term as the impact of Covid-19 wanes and stimulus measures continue to support growth. The world's second-largest economy is hopeful that a rebound in exports and domestic demand will help it maintain its status as the world's largest exporter.

Electrical appliances, machinery and telecommunications equipment are seen as key drivers of growth, with the government aiming to boost investment in high-tech sectors. The National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top economic planning body, said in a statement last month that it will continue to support the development of high-tech industries and encourage investments in areas such as 5G and artificial intelligence.

The government has also stepped up efforts to support small and medium-sized enterprises, which are a crucial source of employment and innovation. It has announced a series of measures to reduce their financing costs and improve access to credit.

The central government has also been stepping up its efforts to support the real estate sector, which is a key driver of the economy.

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development announced it would加大 efforts to support the housing market, including reducing down payment requirements and lowering mortgage rates.

The government has also been encouraging the development of new forms of housing, including the construction of more affordable units.

In addition, China has been stepping up efforts to promote the development of the services sector, which is a major source of growth.

China's economic growth is expected to slow in the coming months as the world economy faces headwinds from the ongoing trade war with the US and the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic. However, the government is expected to continue to focus on improving the quality of growth and promoting the development of high-tech industries.
Aramco expands
China presence
to satisfy demand

Oil, gas giant to up downstream efforts, gain bigger role in energy security, green transition

By ZHENG XIN
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Saudi Aramco plans to continue its downstream presence in China to support the country’s energy security while facilitating investment promotion, and tap upstream offshore.

The scale of the industrial footprint and China’s demand growth present significant opportunities for Aramco. China is economically important to our business growth in Asia and worldwide, and we will remain a reliable source of low-cost oil supply,” said Mohammed bin Saleh Al-Ahmedi, Aramco’s president of downstream business.

Aramco believes that demand for petroleum products in China is recovering strongly, especially in the transport and petrochemical sector.

While the majority of the growth of global demand for crude oil is coming from China, the country’s oil demand is likely to continue rising with strong standards increasing as imports, especially over the coming decades, driven by robust demand for domestic, the company said.

This year, China is expected to contribute most of the increase in global demand growth. Its economic recovery is expectedly supported in the backdrop as a concerted push primarily involving consumption. For example, more than half of the world’s oil demand growth this year could come from China and said Al-Ahmedi.

Further this year, Aramco announced its partnership with Sinopec Group and Papua Xiangcuo Industrial Group to develop a synthetic jet fuel and petrochemical projects in Northeast China’s Liaoning province. It has also completed the acquisition via a joint venture in Rongsheng Petrochemical Co Ltd in Zhejiang province.

Al-Ahmedi said that there is growing use of renewable energy demand for reliable and affordable conventional energy remains strong.

China has made substantial progress in low-carbon energy and more efficient refining and petrochemical processes over recent years, with a focus on emissions reductions and improving energy efficiency.

According to Aramco, China is determined to further lower the carbon intensity of energy production, while working on solutions such as advanced carbon capture and storage, to support China’s energy and development policies, he said.

An analyst said China’s efforts in the past few years to attract more foreign capital and reduce a local policy that favours domestic and foreign companies has played a key role in encouraging foreign companies to the kingdom.

China has attracted several international companies, including in refineries, Sinochem and Aramco to invest in the oil and gas sector through joint ventures or at least some share of production. In May, China’s c6 $5 billion refinery at the Economic and Technology Research Institute of China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation, in Lanzhou, was launched.

With the diversification of the domestic petrochemical market, will further increase market competition in China’s high-end petrochemical products industry while international cooperation with other countries will further solidify economic stability and development, Wang said.

Al-Hashimi said that opportunities in the growing Chinese market enable Aramco to not only establish a strong foothold in the downstream sector but also capture a share of the growing demand with a special emphasis on high-quality refining and petrochemical complexes.

Bustan in the sky

An overhead image taken on Aug. 16 shows a Russian-built station built by Chongqing Engineering Corp at Chongqing, China.

Known as the “king of snow mountain,” these elusive cats live 3,000 meters above sea level, which is fragile to climate change.

If we can’t control climate change, one-third of the habitat will be no longer suitable for snow leopards to survive. It is necessary to protect the snow leopard, and also to improve the living conditions of the species, but also the high mountains where the water resources originate.

Cathay Pacific aims to further strengthen travel ties between Chinese mainland, HK

By JIN WEIYANG
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Cathay Pacific Airways, the largest carrier in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, said it plans to resume more planes and flight attendants from the Chinese mainland this year. So far, more than 2,000 candidates have first applications. Starting next year, the carrier plans to hire about 200 to 300 flight attendants annually and at least 100 cabin pilots from the mainland before 2025 to further improve service.

“The capacity of Cathay Pacific and our budget arm HK Express together has resumed to nearly 60 percent of the pre-COVID levels. Capacity is on track to rebound to 70 percent by the end of the year, with full recovery by the end of 2024,” Ronald Lam, CEO of Cathay Pacific Group, said during his recent visit to Beijing.

HK Express, a low-cost carrier that Cathay Pacific acquired in 2015, has an extensive network in Asia. Benefiting from strong travel demand, the number of flights operated by the carrier has exceeded pre-pandemic levels.

Currently, Cathay Pacific operates more than 140 round-trip flights connecting Hong Kong and 52 Chinese mainland cities. It aims to bring the total number to more than 150 round-trip flights by the end of October.

By the end of October, 26 weekly round-trip flights will be added connecting Beijing and Hong Kong, and Cathay Pacific will operate 45 weekly round-trip flights connecting Shanghai and Hong Kong.

In the first six months, Cathay Pacific’s net profit surged to HK$3.4 billion ($464 million), and the carrier’s business performance remained a year-on-year turnaround from loss to profitability, as it moved past the impact of the pandemic and saw stronger passenger demand.

The airline carried 18 million passengers in the first half of the year, up from 335,000 passengers in the same period last year, it said.

Lam added that Cathay Pacific will continue to speed up investment in the Guangzhou-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area by expanding multimodal transportation services via integrating sea, land and air services, and providing more convenience for the cross-boundary passengers traveling to global destinations in Hong Kong International Airport.

In September, Cathay Pacific will launch a lounge at Shenzhen in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, which will become the airline’s first lounge located outside of airports.

Meanwhile, a third route at Hong Kong International Airport is expected to open operation by the end of 2024. Cathay Pacific has full confidence in its future operations. It recently announced an order for an additional 12 Airbus single-aisle aircraft, including A320neos and A321neos, which are expected to join the fleet by 2022.

According to the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the city received 26.5 million visitors in the first seven months of this year, including 13.1 million visitors from the Chinese mainland.

The Hong Kong Tourism Board said the travel market in the city is recovering steadily. Referring to visitor origin, the Southeast Asian market recovered the fastest, followed by the Chinese mainland market, which remained at 17 percent of the pre-pandemic levels. The International Air Transport Association recently reported that global demand has continued to recover and recovered 97 percent of the pre-COVID levels.

The International Air Transport Association recently reported that global demand has continued to recover and recovered 97 percent of the pre-COVID levels.
Yuan marches forward in global settlements

East Asia’s industrial heft leads way in cross-border biz transactions

By MA ZHENHUI, SHANGHAI

On Dec 8, E Kong Network based in Yiwu, Zhejiang province, received a payment from a Swedish Arabian client for daily necessities such as sugar, soap, water bottles and breadcrumbs. It took less than five hours for the money to reach the company’s bank account, and Wu Yifei, a member of the company’s top management, made the payment in the way he originally expected.

"This transaction was initiated at about 5 pm Beijing time, and sometime after 10 pm, we got a phone message notifying us of the arrival of the payment，“ Wu told. "I was overjoyed." (Kong ER /chinadaily.com.cn)

The amount may seem small. However, the transaction demonstrates how Chinese banks handled exports of goods worth several thousand dollars to Saudi Arabia.

But it was the first cross-border business transaction between Yiwu and Riyadh in KSA, and indeed between China and the Arabian Gulf region — in a nominal dollar, the Chinese currency.

In recent years, China has made every effort to boost its cross-border business transactions with the world, especially with Arab countries, making it easier for Chinese banks and companies to establish cross-border business transactions.

ون間に多くの中国の農産品に目をかけ、新しい市場を見つけることが目的とした。当日の取引は、中国から約240億円の穀物を輸出したと報じられている。その中に含まれていたのは、米国や日本などからの輸出が含まれているため、中国側からの出荷が増加していることが報じられている。

The yuan has marched forward in global settlements.

For instance, the Chinese currency has become increasingly popular in international transactions as it offers a competitive advantage over other major currencies. This is partly due to China’s rapid economic growth and its growing trade relationships with other countries.

The renminbi (RMB) has been gaining ground in the international financial system. According to the latest data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the RMB has become the fifth most-used currency in international payments, after the dollar, euro, yen, and pound.

China’s efforts to internationalize the yuan have been largely driven by its desire to reduce its reliance on the US dollar and to promote the RMB as a store of value and a medium of exchange. The yuan’s internationalization has been supported by a series of measures, including the establishment of the SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications) standards for the RMB.

The yuan’s internationalization has also been facilitated by China’s efforts to promote its use in international trade transactions. For instance, China has established the Cross-Border Renminbi Settlement Center (CBRSC) in 2012, which has resulted in a significant increase in the use of RMB in cross-border transactions.

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China, Africa should bolster relations to safeguard interests of Global South

By CAI MENG

The visit President Xi Jinping is paying to South Africa from Monday to Thursday, the 20th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg and a state visit to South Africa, marks the latest chapter in a long historic journey forge the path of friendship, cooperation and development linking the Africa continent and China, and the Africa-China friendship cooperation forged between the two sides.

Since China established diplomatic relations with the African continent in 1960 — 50 years ago, China and Africa have forged an unbreakable friendship against challenges and oppression, colonialism, and their respective journeys towards development and modernization. The key lies in the underlying spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation forged between the two sides.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Presi- dent Xi’s visit to Africa, a milestone event. China and Africa have made historic achievements in the past 50 years, bringing mutual benefit and gains to both peoples through such major projects as the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Headquarters, the Fountainsbridge in Senegal, the Naifu Railway Expressway and the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway.

China is a member of the United Nations and the Group of 20, and its wishes to further develop its relations with South Africa and other African countries.

China’s get-rich-together strategy, focusing on industrialization of countries, trade and cooperation in areas like infrastructure, industrialization, agricultural development, and poverty alleviation, is applicable to both China and Africa. Under these principles, China will keep its promises, improve cooperation with South Africa and other African countries.

China and Africa have forged an unbreakable friendship and cooperation forged between the two sides.

The editorial view is that China and Africa should further expand their cooperation in agriculture, manufacturing, new energy and the digital economy, and facilitate the African contin- ent’s economic integration, industrialization and agricultural modernization.

As Xi noted, China looks forward to Africa countries and the African Union playing a greater role in international and regional affairs and that the continent’s development needs is what the world needs today is peace, not conflict; and what the world needs today is China and Africa should “lead by example” and work with each other as real partners to promote a new type of international relations and the “small-r, high-level, high-frequency” approach, as that they jointly safeguard their common interests.

Opinion Line

Maybe German media is mocking China now that the ministers aircraft

By ZHANG WEILI

China Daily (Europe)

While China is showing its good will in strengthening its relations with Germany, it appears that German media is mocking China now that the ministers’ aircraft is being renovated.

In the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, China won 51 gold medals, second after the United States. Furthermore, China is also the second-largest economy in the world, after the United States. Germany, as the third-largest economy in the world, has also endorsed China, especially in the post-COVID era. At the G20 summit in Argentina, it was reported that Germany would observe its own “made-in-Germany” rules for tackling COVID-19.

According to the German media, China’s relatively old jets are in need of renovation. China should follow the German rules in terms of the minis- ters’ aircraft. The German media is mocking China, who is buying a new aircraft in the same way Germany is.

What They Say

EU’s de-risking bears hallmark of ‘de-coupling’

By CAI MENG

Although the United States recently moved to “de-risk” China in its de-risking campaign against China, it is still pushing for the cooperation between the two sides.

The US has recognized that China is a strategic competitor and will continue to work towards the goal of reducing its dependence on China. The US is also committed to cooperating on issues of mutual interest.

What is attracting more attention is how the US is working to reduce its dependence on China. It has already taken steps to diversify its supply chains and reduce its reliance on Chinese goods.

The US has been working to diversify its supply chains and reduce its dependence on Chinese goods. Its initiative is part of its broader strategy to reduce its reliance on China.

While the US has been working to diversify its supply chains and reduce its dependence on Chinese goods, it is also working to reduce its reliance on China in other areas, such as technology and energy.

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T}he emergence of BRICS has raised the question of whether partnerships can foster the development of African countries. Since 2009, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) have been cooperating on political and economic issues, particularly in the economic, financial, and international areas. This cooperation is seen as a model for promoting a multipolar world order and fostering South-South cooperation. BRICS aims to ensure the interests of developing countries and to promote the establishment of a new international economic and political order. It is a platform for BRICS to discuss and implement their economic and political agenda.

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GLOBAL VIEWS

AVARD VELEY

BRICS’ steady advance unfolding scenarios

Despite reservations, the group has achieved significant milestones, such as a bank of its own, moves to trade in local currencies, and sharing a development agenda despite challenges.

The challenges of the 21st century will have to be solved through cooperation between many nations. BRICS has a key role to play in that landscape.

BRICS is one of the most important institutional arrangements which will be critical to global governance moving forward. The BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – account for 42 percent of the world population and 20 percent of the global economy. BRICS plays a new dynamic to the international landscape and gives strength to develop emerging countries in a world order that until recently was dominated by the United States and the other Western countries.

BRICS obtained its present prominence in 2010, with the addition of the United States as a full member. It was crafted at the summit meeting after the Cold War when global sovereignty was significantly reduced to the dominance of the Western world. BRICS can now be significantly important in terms of its role as a response to Western hegemony and World Monetary and economic institutions of under their control. BRICS represents a strong alternative to the new form, aiming to rebalance a world where the words of a global Financial Ministerial Conference are “To reclaiming many of the assets of the world.”

Together with the G20, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the African Infrastructure Investment Bank, and other elements, BRICS is part of a wider framework reflecting the world of the 21st century, a multipolar world where all critical issues such as the environment, climate, terrorism, regional wars, economic development, and pandemics call for international cooperation.

These institutions jointly form the need of a rapidly changing world and provide an answer to the very slow progress of the UN and the global financial institutions. While world leaders of the UN world order, the US is largely on the shelves of most critical global issues. It remains stuck in 20-year-old paradigms. No headquarters of any significant UN institution is located in East and South Asia, where half of humanity lives. Even their main members are overwhelmingly located in the West.

Moreover, BRICS started with the vision of creating a fairer world order, with a proper representation for the Global South. In the early days, the formula was born promoting economic growth, while very rapidly they embarked on a path to secure health, education, the environment and many others.

Since key, the world has seen a strong movement from the Global South for creating an alternative to the US dollar as the global reserve currency. BRICS has been at the forefront of promoting the idea of globalششرح النص باللغة العربية

البركينج واحد من أكبر المنظمات الدولية، والتي ستساعد في حل أزمات القرن والعشرين. وهو منظمة تتألف من خمس دول، وهي: البرازيل، روسيا، الهند، الصين، وجنوب أفريقيا. تساهم تلك الدول في نمو الاقتصاد العالمي بنسبة 42٪ من السكان و 20٪ من الناتج المحلي الإجمالي. يلعب البركينج دورًا جديدًا في النظام الدولي، ويشكل دعمًا للدول النامية الناشئة في نظام عالمي يهيمن عليه الولايات المتحدة حتى أوائل القرن العشرين.

بدأت البركينج كمشروع معين في عام 2010، مع دخول الولايات المتحدة كمembre كامل. تم تصميمه في القمة العقدية بعد نهاية الحرب العالمية الثانية عندما كانت سيادة العالم قد انخفضت بشكل كبير عن سيادة الولايات المتحدة. يمكن لبركينج أن يكون مهمًا بشكل كبير في المستقبل، إذا كان يمكن استبداله أو التحكم فيه بطرق مشابهة.

تقوم هذه المنظمات كجزء من جزء أكبر، مع G20 ومشروع طريق الحرير، ومنظمة التعاون的带领ية، والبنك للتنمية في أفريقيا، وغيرها من المنتظمات، في إطار تشكيل ضخم قبل التدخل الدولي في المعادلات الاقتصادية. يجب أن تكون هذه المنظمات في صدارة التغييرات في النظام الدولي، مع التركيز على الشروط الإيجابية والاقتصادية. يشير النص إلى أن البركينج مهم بشكل أساسي في القرن والعشرين، مع التركيز على قضايا مثل البيئة والتعليم والصحة والاقتصاد. 

تستند هذه المنظمات إلى الاستقلال السياسي، الذي ينعكس على المشاركة في القضايا العالمية، والتعليم، والصحة، والبيئة، والاقتصاد المستدام. كما أن النص يشير إلى أن البركينج يمكن أن يكون منصة للتطور في النظام الدولي، مع التركيز على الشروط الإيجابية والاقتصادية. 

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**ACHIEVING CORE GOALS**

Despite a raft of difficulties, an expedition to the Purog Kangri Glacier has returned with essential samples of ancient ice that contain important information about the planet’s past, which is vital to its future, Li Yingxue reports.

Glaciers may not speak, but their message is found in the melting waters. Through ice core drilling, we are endeavoring to not only rescue “the story of glaciers”, but also listen to nature.

Tian Lihe, glaciologist:

Glaciers are like wise elders, their faces adorned with beards, as they bear witness to the historical changes of the Earth and the elemental movements of the sea, moon and stars,” says Tian, a professor at the Institute of International Rivers and Eco-security, Tsinghua University.

In 2000, Chinese and American scientists extracted ice cores from the Purog Kangri Glacier in Nagqu, the Tibet autonomous region. However, for drilling, they encountered a number of obstacles. “Drilling was not only in the process of extracting the second ice core from what was the third hole,” says Tian.

Using a drilling device that had already defied a depth of over 100 m, Tian and the team toiled for a full month. They overcame harsh conditions, including temperatures that were 10 to 20 degrees lower than outside, and the high altitude, which increased the difficulty of the drilling equipment and posed challenges.

On May 20, a month after their departure from Xining, Tibetan province, they finally started drilling and retrieving ice cores.

The difficult and slow journey to the glacier was just the start of the problems for Tian and the team. Among the numerous other issues the expedition encountered were a technical failure of the drilling equipment and the sudden exhaustion of two of the eight ice holes brought to the site.

Then, while transporting the ice cores back down from the peak, the team faced drastic changes in the ice and snow at the glacier’s terminus. The melting snow forced an alteration to their previously planned route. As a result, the drilling and ice coring operations were eventually abandoned, and the team had to retrieve the ice cores that remained on the peak.

The expedition originally planned to drill three cores to obtain ice from the glacier to conduct research, but as a result of the team’s changed route, they were not able to retrieve all of the ice cores.

Despite all of this, 18-year-old Tian never gave up. On the 14th day of the expedition, at an elevation of 5,890 m in the core area of the Purog Kangri Glacier, the team successfully transmitted the first 20 m sections of ice back to the base camp. As for the second ice core, the team decided to only drill for a depth of 20 m in the glacier because, as the third hole, it was the second core.

Some members of the 14-person team left the expedition early due to the harsh environment, but Tian remained. Upon his return last month, he was 10 kilograms lighter and his skin discolored.

Collectively, the team had successfully managed to extract over 30 ice cores of ice core samples, which will be subdivided into multiple segments to determine the ongoing research conducted by Tian’s team, as well as international institutions and institutions both domestically and internationally. Additionally, a portion of the cores will be reserved for future research.

He says that, as the methodology and means of analysis continue to improve, the ice cores that are now stored will have a better use in the future.

“We need to drill ice cores together with foreign teams, but now we can do it on our own, and it gives us a great sense of accomplishment,” says Tian. “This journey has accumulated a lot of experience.”

In Tibet’s high-altitude glaciers, ice is a thick diary, recording the history within the glacier’s timeline.

“Our country is abundant in glaciers; however, with the global climate warming up, a significant portion of them is facing a reduction in surface area, thickness and volume,” Tian says, adding that “this loss is inevitable to irreversibly and irretrievable destruction of essential information pertaining to the Earth’s history.”

“Glaciers may not speak, but their message is found in the melting waters. Through ice core drilling, we are endeavoring to not only rescue ‘the story of glaciers’, but also listen to nature.”

Tian Lihe, glaciologist:

Tian Lihe is a columnist of ice of ice cores, an oil that extracts a tool to keep the top of the bowels of a glacier. Each ice core has a diameter of 10 centimeters and a length of 40 cm. According to Tian, ice core hobbies — or he refers to them, “Earth’s history book” — provide information about the Earth’s temperature fluctuations during past ice ages and interglacial periods, and to a certain extent, to Ne-Lo-Ne-La climate events. “For example, the data indicates a significant increase in heavy metal content in the ice cores from Uphoog glaciers since the Industrial Revolution,” Tian explains.

“Ice cores, serving as invaluable records of climatic history, are of great importance. Scientists are working tirelessly to preserve these precious glacial archives before they succumb to melting,” Tian says.

This expedition to the Purog Kangri Glacier is part of the project, Memory of Glaciers, a public welfare initiative in China that focuses on the measurement and preservation of ice cores, which aims to minimize public awareness about the climate crisis and promotes climate action.

“The purpose of this project is to combat global climate change, safeguard ice cores, and leave a permanent record of ice cores for future generations,” Tian says.

Memory of Glaciers is led by Polar Hub, a non-profit organization in China that focuses on scientific exploration, citizen science, and public education on the subject of climate change.

Wen Xu, co-founder of Polar Hub, says that, during an expedition on a glacier in Tanggula Mountains, he encountered numerous ice holes formed by drilling, which alarms scientists to climate change.

This expedition led Wen to realize that there are three ways of addressing climate change and its impact on glaciers. As a result, he decided to take action, spreading awareness about climate change and encouraging collective efforts to confront the challenges it poses.

In May 2017, Polar Hub launched an international and domestic expedition led by Wen together with renowned domestic scientists and explorers.

According to Wen, the Memory of Glaciers project is a well-defined and long-term objective that is primary goal and is expected to make significant progress in the mid- to late 21st century, with a particular focus on the Qinghai/Tibet Plateau, Tibet, at elevations above 5,000 m.

“Grasping preservation glacier archives before they vanish, thus promoting climate change research and safeguarding valuable climatic heritage for the study of Earth’s history,” he says.

Over the past decade, the project aims to safeguard and preserve 15 representative deep ice cores from polar regions and the Qinghai/Tibet Plateau, contributing to the establishment within the Chinese scientific community of the most comprehensive ice core repository and an ice core museum for the mid-high latitude glaciers worldwide.

According to Wen, in addition to the Purog Kangri Glacier, this year’s Memory of Glaciers project also includes the process of conducting unconventional ice core research activities in Mount Shishapangma, as well as the Xining/Tibet autonomous region. Moreover, they also plan to create a mini-program called “watch the glacier”, aiming to attract more people to glacier protection, both online and offline.

Contact the writer at flylight@chinadaily.com.cn.
In The Zhiyuan Garden: Album: Zhang Hong from the Ming Dynasty (1608-1641) depicts in 23 scenes in sequence a seasonal experience of tracing the Zhiyuan Garden along a certain route and enjoying the poetically named scenes, including pavilions, ponds and rockeries, among others. PHOTO PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

In pursuit of Utopia

How decades of research led to the rediscovery of one of the greatest gardens in Chinese history, Yang Yang reports.

In a storage room in a museum in the United States, some 50 years ago, a collection of Chinese landscape painters known as Zhiyuan Collection. Zhang Hong in 1717. The album was completed in 1717, and it has been identified with the residence of a scholar named Zhu Zhiyuan. The album has been identified as a collection of poems and images, including the 11,000-word text in Colloquial Chinese. Although Colloquial Chinese was written in two volumes, the second volume, written by the poet in the Zhiyuan Garden remained incomplete. The second volume, written by the poet in the Zhiyuan Garden remained incomplete. The second volume, written by the poet in the Zhiyuan Garden remained incomplete. The second volume, written by the poet in the Zhiyuan Garden remained incomplete. The second volume, written by the poet in the Zhiyuan Garden remained incomplete. The second volume, written by the poet in the Zhiyuan Garden remained incomplete. The second volume, written by the poet in the Zhiyuan Garden remained incomplete. The second volume, written by the poet in the Zhiyuan Garden remained incomplete. The second volume, written by the poet in the Zhiyuan Garden remained incomplete. The second volume, written by the poet in the Zhiyuan Garden remained incomplete. The second volume, written by the poet in the Zhiyuan Garden remained incomplete.
Chinese composer celebrates legendary Japanese monk

By CHEN NANN

Composer Zuo Yu backlighted when he was commissioned by the China Philharmonic Orchestra to write a piece about a legendary Japanese monk. Zuo, who is known for writing symphonic works, operas and television music for several TV dramas, had never composed any religious-themed music.

"The more I learned about Kukai, the more interest I felt. The subject is so deep and profound. It is closely associated with ancient Chinese culture. It was a great challenge for me, a Chinese composer to write music about a Japanese monk, who had a close relationship with ancient China," says Zuo.

Kukai, whose original name was Saeki Mas, is one of the best known and most beloved Buddhist monks from Japan. He came to China in 804, staying in the Tang Dynasty capital, Chang’an (today’s Xi’an in Shaanxi province), where he got his master’s degree in Buddhist studies, then met the great master of Buddhism, Bodhidharma, and became his favorite student.

Kukai studied his studies in China and returned to Japan in 805. A year later, he began building a temple on Mount Koya — a second mountain in west-central Japan, which was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993 — where he met the great master of Buddhism, Bodhidharma, and became his favorite student.

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