BRICS expansion hailed as ‘historic’

As an economic dynamic continues to evolve, the quest for financial sovereignty and a dollar-free world is increasingly gaining momentum among some emerging economies.

The US dollar was designated by Washington as the world’s reserve currency in the post-World War II Bretton Woods accord. This decision was based on several factors, including the country’s dominant position in the global economy.

However, as the US dollar’s influence wanes, some countries are seeking alternative currencies to reduce their dependence on the US dollar. This trend is known as dollar diversification.

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President's bilateral meetings underscore deep collaboration

China and Afghanistan are to strengthen solidarity and cooperation, and China President Xi Jinping and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani have held their first meeting. Xi Jinping said that China and Afghanistan should work together to promote the building of a China-Afghanistan community with a shared future for the new era, and he added that China is willing to continue strengthening cooperation and coordination with Afghanistan in order to promote the building of a China-Afghanistan community with a shared future for the new era.

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BRICS an attractive alternative for a changing world, experts say

BRICS has become an important advan-
cing force for global growth, sustainable development and the safeguarding of multilateralism, and is a major factor in today’s world, according to experts. BRICS is not only a platform for cooperation among emerging major economies, but also a platform for the world's large emerging economies, and it is playing an important role in promoting global growth and sustainable development and safeguarding multilateralism.

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BRICS builds momentum for better world

Johannesburg summit focuses on partnership, development, fairer global governance
Shenzhen: Key role played in reform and opening-up

This city is a product of China's exploration toward modernization. It is a symbol of reform, an incubator for market-oriented reforms, and a model of open innovation. Shenzhen is a city with a unique history and culture, and it has played a pivotal role in China's economic and social development.

Shenzhen is located in the southern part of China and is one of the country's most rapidly developing cities. It is known for its modern infrastructure, advanced technology, and vibrant culture. Shenzhen has been a key player in China's economic reform and opening-up, and has been instrumental in driving the country's economic growth.

Shenzhen's success can be attributed to its strategic location, favorable business environment, and proactive government policies. The city has attracted a large number of foreign investors and has become a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Shenzhen is also a hub for high-tech industries and has become a leader in fields such as electronics, telecommunications, and biotechnology. The city has a large number of high-tech companies and is home to several leading universities and research institutions.

Shenzhen's success has inspired other cities in China and around the world to adopt similar policies and strategies to promote economic development and social progress.

**National support**

In 2019, Shenzhen was awarded the status of an International Innovation City, which has further enhanced the city's reputation as a leader in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Shenzhen's success has been recognized at the national level, and the city has been designated as a national-level comprehensive reform试验区, which has provided it with greater autonomy and resources to drive innovation and development.

**Closing remarks**

In conclusion, Shenzhen is a city that represents the best of China's economic and social development. It is a city that has been transformed by the power of innovation and entrepreneurship, and it has become a symbol of China's modernization.

**References**


2. The Global Shenzhen Special Economic Zone was established in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, in 2010 to deepen cooperation between the city and Hong Kong. 2010 TRENDS. / CHINA DAILY

**Additional notes**

- Shenzhen is known as the "Silicon Valley of the East" due to its vibrant tech industry
- The city is home to several leading universities and research institutions
- Shenzhen's success has inspired other cities in China and around the world to adopt similar policies and strategies to promote economic development and social progress.
Stargazers add luster to little-known prefecture

Annual festival draws astronomy enthusiasts and introduces Hami, Xinjiang to tourists

Cloudbreaking from the top: The Meteor Festival drew visitors across the night sky of the Daohua Temple scenic area in Hami prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on Aug. 15. Wang Xingkun/People’s Daily Online

Shutterbugs strive to promote dark night tourism

By CHEN LIANG in Hami, Xinjiang

On the eve of this year’s “Sightseeing Whispers to the Galaxy” cultural tourism festival held in Hami prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous region, earlier this month, there was all about the country’s best.

Wang Xingkun is known by many stargazing enthusiasts as an "online holiday maker." Working with China Photo Group, a subsidiary of Xinhua News Agency, the accomplished photographer has been taking stargazing photos for more than 10 years. Like many photographers, he often encourages stargazing activities on the outskirts of cities. It is hoped that ordinary people will have a chance to observe the stars outside their own backyard.

Because of his work, Wang is linked by a chain of more than 2,000 stargazing enthusiasts on social media and is a well-known member of the social media community of Chinese stargazers.

After finishing the first and second campaigns of Tianbang, China Photo Group held a stargazing campaign on April 30, 2015. Wang started taking photos every day. In June of that year, three Chi

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These days, the 40-year-old Bei-Jinger works with the CSWA service team and considers it to be a duty to promote the development of dark sky tourism and a strong contribution to the country’s rural revitalization efforts.

In April, the Volunteers Organization for Innovative Country Service launched the "Starry Screen" project, aiming to promote the development of dark sky tourism in the country and the need to reduce light pollution. One of the CSWA’s funders was appointed as the program manager. The "Starry Screen" project aims to set up a perfect light-protecting area for the development of dark sky tourism.

"It needs no big financial investment and we only need to plant seeds and let the local public understand the importance of stargazing and then let them have a chance to experience the beauty of the night sky. " said Bei-Jinger. "I hope the community can be a part of it."

At a national conference on stargazing and related tourism to promote stargazing, Bei-Jinger has a lot to say.

After hosting two of the most outstanding stargazing activities this year, the CSWA service team had an event in Hami on the evening of Aug. 15. The event attracted more than 200 people from various walks of life. The atmosphere was very warm and friendly.

According to Bei-Jinger, the event had a huge impact on the community. "I hope more people will understand the beauty of stargazing and be a part of it."

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Discharge is against right to clean environment, activist says

By PRIMESWARA KUMAR
in Hong Kong

Philippines environmental groups, consumer and fishery groups have denounced the Japanese government's decision to release more than 1 million metric tons of treated radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean, saying that it violates human rights and will harm human health and the environment in the long run.

At a hybrid forum organized and moderated by Wilma Lee Flores, a Filipino businesswoman and newspaper editor, about 500 participants have called on the Philippine government to support the Japanese move. The event was covered by several local media, including China, South Korea and Pacific Island countries.

At a press conference in Manila, the environmental group Greenpeace also called on the Philippine government to join the movement against the discharge of radioactive water.

Neighbours share fear, frustration over ocean release

SEUL - In Seoul, office workers Kim Min-jung and Kim Yoo-jae say they intend to stop eating seafood, and that their families are deeply mistrusting the safety of Japan's seafood since the country started releasing contaminated water into the sea from the crippled nuclear plant.

"We should absolutely eat back on our consumption of seafood. Actually, we won't even Kim" said, "We can't help but feel polluted because it's too important and it's poisoning without countermoves".

According to Japan's discharge of “toxic waste" entering into the Pacific Ocean, public fear and frustration are being shared by the South Korean public, many of whom have strong emotional reactions to nuclear accidents.

In response to South Korea's announcement, residents rushed to the nearby city of Busan. Local authorities have been under pressure to release the treated water.

The green group Greenpeace, which is working with other environmental organizations in the region to oppose the discharge, said that the move would not only affect the local community but also the Pacific Ocean and the world.

Alongside foreign pressure, the people of South Korea have also been expressing their opposition to the discharge.

At an event organized by Greenpeace in Busan, a group of activists dressed as “radioactive monsters" warned that the discharge of radioactive water would have adverse effects on human health.

In a statement issued by Greenpeace, Lee Hae-yeong, head of the Nuclear Justice Network, said that the discharge would not only affect the local community but also the Pacific Ocean and the world.

"While the government has been allowing the discharge of radioactive water to continue, we believe that the move would lead to irreversible damage," the group said.

The group also called on the government to immediately halt the discharge and to take steps to ensure the safety of the local community.

"We urge the government to take immediate action to prevent the discharge and to protect the health of the local community," the group said.

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Seeking Developing Through Solidarity and Cooperation and Shoulderings
Our Responsibility for Peace

Your Excellency President Manmohan Singh,
Your Excellency President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva,
Your Excellency President Hu Jintao,
Your Excellency Prime Minister Narenda Modi,

I am very pleased to join you in Johannesburg for the important discussions on BRICS cooperation and development. It is especially significant that the BRICS summit is held in lining with the time when I wish to thank President Ramaphosa and the South African government for the thoughtful arrangements.

We gather at a time when the world has entered a new period of turbulence. There is turbulence on the global market, fighting everywhere, uncertainty, unstable and unpredictable situations.

BRICS is an important force in shaping peace and diversity, and it is especially significant that we have consistently acted upon to the turbulence on the global market, fighting everywhere, uncertainty, unstable and unpredictable situations. BRICS cooperation is widely recognized.

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As a Chinese saying goes, "There are more holes in a wall than we can see." We have consistently acted upon the turbulence on the global market, fighting everywhere, uncertainty, unstable and unpredictable situations. BRICS cooperation is widely recognized.

We should emphasize the values of rule-based international order, and provide effective mechanisms to navigate and solve problems.

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IN DEPTH TRADE TALKS WITH US LIKELY NEXT WEEK

By WINNIE KEAU

China's Commerce Secretary Raimondo's visit raises hopes of pragmatic biz ties

China looks forward to in-depth discussions with the United States on resolving their differences on the economic and trade fronts during a visit by US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo to the mainland, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Mercy Chau, a spokesperson for the ministry, said "We have noted that China and the US have recently exchanged views on ways to promote bilateral trade and investment, which shows that both sides are willing to solve the problem of mutual concern and maintain the prosperity and stability of the two peoples."

This is significant as both sides need to establish a stable and balanced business climate for companies from both sides to continue to do business and invest, she said.

The US Department of Commerce said in a statement that Raimondo will make stopovers in Shanghai and Beijing from Sunday to Wednesday for talks with senior officials and US business leaders, and hopes for constructive discussions on issues relating to the US-China commercial relationship, challenges faced by US businesses, and prospects for cooperation.

Raimondo is scheduled to visit China after last week's US President Joe Biden signing of an executive order to block and regulate US high-tech investment on national security grounds. The US is one of China's major trading partners.

Monday is the fourth day of high-level government officials to visit China this year. Her visit comes one day after the State Department of US President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai held talks in China.

This marks the latest in a series of high-level visits by US and Chinese officials in the hope of easing trade tensions and promoting relations between the two countries, according to a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson.

The Biden administration hopes to reestablish stronger diplomatic exchanges and dialogue between Beijing and Washington, and to push for a new US-China relationship under the new US administration, the ministry said.

China will not be apologetic to the US if its stand on issues is clear,

Wang Xiaojie, secretary-general of the Ministry of Commerce, said US proposals were "not to be expected." The US should show goodwill, he added.

China has been a major market for US tech companies, with the Chinese economy set to overtake the US as the world's second-largest by 2025, the ministry said.

A basketball match between China and New Zealand during a recent visit to Hamburg, Germany, shows.

Chinese firms promote brands in FIBA WC for global visibility

By WINNIE ZHANGQING

Prominent Chinese brands from the dairy, electronics and sports wear sectors will feature for the attention of sports fans at the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023.

They have signed cooperation agreements with the world's top basketball players. In addition, they are among the key sponsors of the flagship event of the International Basketball Federation, which goes by the abbreviation FIBA.

The FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 will open on Friday in the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia and run through Sept. 10, featuring 32 teams from around the world.

In the run-up to the tournament, many Chinese brands have announced collaborations with participating teams and players.

On July 12, US NBA star Kyrie Irving is the newest brand ambassador of the newly established sportswear company ANTA.

The paper will have a signature story from one of the fixtures in the upcoming World Cup. The world's top basketball stars will have promised about a series of youth camps in the United States and China.

The basketball star will tour China and the annual event will kick off on Sept. 16, the paper said.

The paper said the Chinese brands have been motivated by the success of their previous efforts, which included basketball endorsements. The paper said the Chinese brands have been successful in basketball endorsements.

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CROSS-BORDER REMITTANCE

Cross-border remittance payments increased by 31.12 percent year-on-year to reach a total of RMB 1.46 trillion in the first six months of 2023, according to the People's Bank of China.

A total of 413.97 billion yuan crossed the border in the first six months, an increase of 28.10 percent year-on-year.

The leading remittance payments were for travel, education, and personal remittances.

The world's number one remittance recipient, the US, received RMB 154.85 billion, taking up 35 percent of the total, followed by the UK with RMB 35.7 billion.

US Dollar Bill (Source: CNN)
Chongqing aims to gain upper hand in Web 3.0 with innovation efforts

By TAN YENING in Chongqing

As Chinese government units and tech enterprises are ramping up efforts to embrace the wave of Web 3.0 in recent years, Chongqing announced on Tuesday that it will become the first city in western China to develop Web 3.0 with a series of supportive policies and a 300 million yuan (about 46.1 million U.S. dollars) funding program.

With Web 3.0 widely considered a decentralized internet powered by blockchain and artificial intelligence technologies, “The Langjiang Collaborative Innovation Zone will focus on the digital technology industry led by next-generation internet, such as collaboration robots, humanoid robots, the satellite Internet industry and financial technology,” said Xu Hongjiao, deputy director of the Chongqing New Area administrative committee at the Mингhsu Lake Global Innovation Conference on Tuesday.

Langjiang New Area will hold seven enabling platforms — an AI public computing powering service platform, a computing power interconnection scheduling platform, a digital infrastructure platform, a service platform, a digital infrastructure service platform, and cross-border data cooperation and monitoring platform, as well as a satellite command terminal function protection service platform.

In addition, the zone will set up a review service and high-quality data service platform, establish a Web 3.0 and artificial general intelligence industry park to create a safe and compliant development environment for internet companies to carry out business innovation and promote digital products to go overseas,” Xu said.

The area, established in June 2018, is the first national development zone in inland China and the third in the country after Shangha’s Pudong New Area and Tianjin Binhai New Area.

Langjiang Collaborative Innovation Zone (LCIZ) is a critical area for Chongqing to seize innovative ideas and transform them into industrial fruits. It has attracted some 10 research institutions from domestic and international universities, with many led by academics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, to settle in the zone.

Since 2022, Beijing and Shangha-have both rolled out plans for Web 3.0 development but the concept is relatively new in China’s inland-western regions, where economic and technological development lags behind coastal areas.

At the innovation conference, experts pointed out that Web 3.0 will be the cornerstone of Chongqing’s digital technology innovation. Wang Anran, former deputy director of the Development Research Center of the State Council, said that scientific and technology innovation has entered a new stage in China. The concept of Web 3.0 is also changing the way people do business, which should help Chongqing to respond to new changes.

According to a report by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Chongqing has a strong talent pool and promotes technological innovation and technological transformation. Wang Xing, chairman of Huagai Aphi, which currently manages funds worth 30 billion yuan, said that Chongqing has invested even more investment this year as the city’s capital has shifted to focus on new energy and specialized and sophisticated enterprises that produce new and unique products.

“Thanks to its strength in advanced manufacturing, Chongqing has moved from No. 6 to No. 7 in the country in terms of capital activity, with seven IPOs from January to August this year,” he said.

In 2023, the Government Work Report stated that China will work to nurture specialized and sophisticated enterprises that produce new and unique products, and provide them with more support in terms of funding, personnel and the development of business innovation platforms.

Ailing Sports, a digital fitness content producer founded in 2021 and headquartered in Shanghai, is among the first few companies to sign investment agreements with the LCIZ, with others including Amazon Web Services and Hangzhou Online Technology Co. Ltd. This is an online community for middle-aged and elderly people.

Ailing Sports’ founder, who launched the company in March, 2023, said that Web 3.0 can enhance the experience of the elderly and support the local elderly community. He said that the company is an example of how the elderly and young people need to work together to develop Web 3.0.

“Web 3.0 has a strong support in both finance and technology. For example, Alibaba has a strong talent pool and experience in research and development, and it can settle in the zone.”

JD doubling down on low-price strategy

E-commerce giant attempts to woo users, secure growth amid hot retail competition

By ZHENG FEN

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In China’s online retail segment is heating up an e-commerce giant JD lowered the threshold for free shipping services for producers sold by JD-self-operated stores, a more attractive superlow-said is part of the company’s low-price strategy to attract new users and better sales growth.

Orders for items totaling 15 years (31.5 yuan) or more sold by JD-self-operated stores can be delivered free of charge starting from Wednesday, down from 29 years, the Beijing-based company said. For books, the minimum order amount for free shipping reduces at 40 years, while JD Plus members enjoy unlimited free deliveries without using coupons.

JD is doubling down on its low-price strategy to woo price-sensitive consumers amid intensifying competition from domestic rivals. The company launched a subsidiary company worth 5 billion yuan in early March to compete against online discount platform “Taobao Plus.”

“From day one of our existence, our core competitiveness and the essence of our business have been low prices. That has always been the anchor of our business philosophy — not efficiency and customer experience,” said Xu Ran, CEO of JD, in an earnings-conference call with investors last week.

Xu said JD is continuing to invest in its logistics and supply chain capabilities. It is also aiming to optimize and cut down its overall cost without compromising on the service quality of its e-commerce platforms.

JD announced its intention to cut down the margin on products sold by the company, which includes its own products and those of third-party sellers.

“JD will continue to grow and expand our business and drive the growth of our business through organic expansion,” said Mo Dajing, a senior analyst at domestic consultancy Econom Econom, said. “Our DTP business has been growing rapidly, and we expect this trend to continue.”

JD reported a net revenue in the second quarter of this year stood at 287.9 billion yuan, an increase of 15 percent year over year. Its non-GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) net income reached 6.5 billion yuan, up 31.0 percent year-over-year.

JD’s growth in the second quarter of this year is attributed to several factors, such as the company’s low-price strategy, which is expected to attract more users.

JD, headquartered in Shanghai, has a strong talent pool and experiences in research and development. It can also provide better services and products to customers. The company is also investing heavily in the value-for-money battle by supporting small and medium-sized vendors and attracting more customers.

JD said the retailer believes that earning sales on Aug. 3 to 15, using Alibaba’s main e-commerce platform, has allowed it to attract more customers. It is also able to gain customers by improving product and service offerings on Taobao and Taobao Plus.

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World Robot Conference showcases dazzling future

Tech to bring humans into intelligent era, boosting global economic growth

BEIJING – Humanoid robots with the appearance of Chinese Tang Dynasty women took the stage at the World Robot Conference 2023 (WRC 2023) held here from Aug. 16 to 18, showcasing the latest developments in the industry.

The conference, themed "Building a Better World with Robotics", was attended by more than 500 companies, including 114 from overseas. The event attracted 300,000 visitors.

"The WRC 2023 is the most prominent and influential robotics event in Asia and one of the largest in the world," said Zhou Hui, president of the China Artificial Intelligence Association.

The conference was also to launch a joint strain and force sensor for humanoid robots, which were showcased by Chinese universities and research institutions.

At the opening ceremony, the China Electrical Association and the China Electronic Information Association announced the establishment of a joint committee for research and development of humanoid robots.

"Humanoid robots are playing an increasingly important role in various fields, such as healthcare, disaster response, and education," said Li Zhi, head of the China Electronics Technology Group Corporation.

"With the development of high-performance computing and artificial intelligence, humanoid robots are expected to bring about revolutionary changes in the future," he added.

The conference also featured a showcase of the latest developments in robotics, including humanoid robots, autonomous vehicles, and drones.

"The WRC 2023 offers a platform for global companies to showcase their latest technologies and connect with potential partners," said Wang Xiaogang, secretary general of the China Institute of Electronics.

"The conference is also a chance for stakeholders to discuss the future of the robotics industry and explore new opportunities," he added.

The WRC 2023 is co-organized by the Chinese Society for Science and Technology, the China Electrical Association, and the China Electronic Information Association.

Humanoid robots dominate spotlight at WRC 2023

BEIJING – Chinese tech companies are venturing into human-like robots in an attempt to grasp a market opportunity in the coming years.

At the World Robot Conference 2023 in Beijing, where more than 500 attendees were treated to a parade of cutting-edge robotic processes, the humanoid robot industry took center stage, attracting visitors with its intriguing and entertaining displays.

"The humanoid industry is experiencing significant growth globally," said Xia Tian, a former artificial intelligence-driven robot developer with a leading tech company.

"The humanoid industry is expected to see explosive growth in the next few years," he added.

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Historic BRICS expansion offers its new starting point to promote fair and just global governance

The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) countries have taken a significant step forward with their recent decision to expand their alliance. This move, which has been welcomed by many as a positive development, promises to bring a new dynamic to the global governance landscape.

The core of the expansion is the inclusion of South Africa as a new member. This is significant because it brings a country with a rich history of activism and resistance, and a commitment to social justice, into the BRICS fold. South Africa’s inclusion will not only enhance the diversity of the group’s perspectives but also add a new dimension to its policy outlook.

The expansion process, which began with discussions at the 2010 BRICS summit in Brazil, has been marked by a commitment to maintain the group’s core principles of fair and inclusive governance. This ensures that the new member will bring its own priorities and interests to the table, enriching the collective’s policy discourse.

The expansion also offers an opportunity for the BRICS to become a more effective forum for addressing global challenges. With South Africa joining, the group can now address issues like climate change, poverty, and inequality, which are crucial to the African continent.

Another key aspect of the expansion is the potential for increased cooperation between the BRICS and other developing countries. This could contribute to the strengthening of the global South and the promotion of a more equitable international order.

In conclusion, the BRICS expansion is a significant step towards a more just and inclusive global governance system. It marks a new starting point for the group, offering opportunities for increased cooperation and a more diverse policy landscape. The new member, South Africa, brings a unique perspective and a commitment to social justice, which will undoubtedly enrich the group’s approach to global challenges.

China Daily

Editorial: The BRICS expansion offers its new starting point to promote fair and just global governance

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Golden era of China-S Africa ties evident on the horizon

The Chinese-Chinese South African relations have entered a new phase, with both countries showing a marked improvement in their bilateral cooperation. This is evident from a number of recent developments.

One of the key developments is the increased economic interaction between China and South Africa. This has been facilitated by the recent expansion of the Chinese currency, the yuan, as a global reserve currency. The yuan is now widely accepted in South Africa, which has boosted trade and investment between the two countries.

Another significant development is the increased cultural exchange between China and South Africa. This has been facilitated by the establishment of a number of cultural institutions, such as the China Cultural Centre in Johannesburg and the South Africa-China Cultural Centre in Beijing.

The two countries have also strengthened their political cooperation. This is evident from the recent visits of the Chinese President Xi Jinping to South Africa and the South African President Cyril Ramaphosa to China. These visits have been marked by the signing of a number of agreements, which are expected to boost trade and investment between the two countries.

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Lies about Tibet to shut communication channels

The Chinese government has recently taken a number of measures to block the spread of lies about Tibet, aiming to maintain the stability and prosperity of the region.

One of the key measures is the establishment of a number of new communication channels, which are designed to provide accurate and timely information about Tibet to the international community. These channels include a new website, a new television station, and a new radio station.

In addition, the Chinese government has also increased its efforts to engage with the international community, including the United Nations, on issues related to Tibet. This has been facilitated by the establishment of a new office, the Tibet Information Office, which is responsible for coordinating the government’s efforts to promote the interests of Tibet.

In conclusion, the Chinese government has recently taken a number of measures to block the spread of lies about Tibet, aiming to maintain the stability and prosperity of the region.

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On the BRICS expansion, the move is a significant step towards a more inclusive and fair international order. It not only adds a new member but also brings with it new perspectives and interests.

The expansion is also significant for South Africa, which has been looking for ways to increase its influence in global forums. Joining the BRICS provides a platform for South Africa to advocate for its interests and policies.

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Japan threatens planet with radioactive water

Chen Weihua

The author is chief of China Daily EU edition, chenweihua@chinadaily.com.cn

As post social media platform X integrated media platform, I declared that “China’s high-speed development” this term is one of the most influential positions of many Western media order, governments, and people over a serious environmental crisis being committed by Tokyo, one of the world’s most advanced industrialized nations. A European Commission spokesman dismissed rising concerns over Japan’s actions on Aug 25 when asked about how to prevent radioactive materials from entering European dinner tables. Needless to say, his answer would have been distinctly different if it were about China. The Japanese government, while making some official statements, has failed to convince many Japanese citizens and people in other East Asian and Pacific Island countries about their plan to discharge more than 1 million cubic meters of radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea through a long distance of 1,200 kilometers. It is a move that will seriously damage international reputation, values and conceptions of people around the world, and consequently damage the whole society.

The West’s silence on Tokyo’s eco-crime is truly deafening

Japan has no right to contaminate oceans

Tokyo Electric Power Company, the owner of the Fukushima nuclear power plant, has said it will release 1 million cubic meters of radioactive wastewater into the sea in the first round which will last 17 days. The radioactive water accumulated in the tank, TEPCO data claims, has been partly treated using a system invented after being tested, with the rest stored in about 1,000 tanks. Japan fails to know how to process the full capacity of 1.37 million cubic meters. Japan intends to release the radioactive contaminated water from the Fukushima facility into the Pacific Ocean from Thursday to try 4 steps in responsibly. However, lacking scientific basis and transparency, could do irreversible damage to the marine environment and natural environment and human health.

To begin with, the Japanese government has not published scientific methods and technology. It tried to use the radioactive water to claim it’s safe to be discharged into the sea. The simple data can not prove the safety of all the treated water and can hardly be trusted. The scary fact is that the treated water still contains tritium and other radioactive isotopes such as cesium and strontium that could cause cancer if ingested.

But Japan is using the review report of the International Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (IAEA) as a “green light” to plan to discharge the radioactive water into the sea, claiming the treated water is harmless to marine life and humans. By doing so, Japan is trying to shift the responsibility to the IAEA.

However, the IAEA report neither supports nor opposes Japan’s radioactive water discharge plan. It says that the water discharge plan plus the decision of the Japanese government, also the Advanced J-Process System which has been used to treat radioactive water remains untested on the world, which means the radioactive water will contaminate marine life thereby affecting Japan’s food exports.

The international community should demand Japan to stop the irresponsible act of dumping radioactive waste into the ocean, thereby affecting the marine environment and human health.

Selfish action against claim of cooperation of countries

Ignoring the international community’s concern, Japan has decided to release radioactive waste wastewater into the sea, instead of trying to understand Japan’s decision to do so is not on paper, major media and news media won’t reflect on the demand of a responsible country.

Second, although Japan claims only a small amount of radioactive water will be released into the sea, it doesn’t mean it will have little impact on the marine environment. Although the radiation is not expected to exceed 1,000 becquerels per liter within 12 years, it will remain dangerous for a few decades. In fact, the radioactive water has more than 1 million cubic meters of radioactive water stored in tanks at the Fukushima facility still has radioactive elements that far exceed the regulatory limits for discharge. Third, TEPCO, which owns the Fukushima facility, has been suspected to be engaging in nuclear pollution, and its claim that the discharge is not a credible one. It may lead to a tragedy, which will be a great damage and cause severe problems of Japan and Fukushima.

Japan’s selfish action against the principle of international responsibility for any action they might take will be a dangerous condition of the radiation problem. Besides, it will never be able to compensate other countries and their people for the loss they would suffer.

A potential threat to people’s livelihood

The Japanese government’s unilateral decision to release the radioactive contaminated water lacks scientific validation and international approval. The radioactive water will contaminate the seas and countries, especially those of the Republic of Korea and China, because other countries might restrict the import of their seafood, thus affecting the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people.

Japan’s national production in 2023 reached about 1.7 trillion yen, and the country’s seafood production will be less than 1 million tons with a value about 1.2 trillion yen. The seafood industries of both countries might suffer a huge loss through the discharge. The domestic consumption of seafood by Japan’s citizens will be reduced by 30 percent, which will cause得罪 an economic crisis. The government further stated that food industries will be affected for their raw materials, thus increasing the cost of food, the consumers will have to pay more for their daily necessities.

Besides, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) pointed out that the discharge of radioactive waste would seriously affect the scientific curiosity of residents who would lose their interest in marine life and marine biology.

Furthermore, the discharge of radioactive waste will affect the residents’ lives and increase the radiation risk. The World Health Organization has highlighted the possible risk of marine life and the environment, which may cause severe problems in the future. The International Atomic Energy Agency has also expressed concern about the potential harm of the radioactive wastewater to marine life and human health.

A costly lesson for the future

The challenge of disposing of radioactive wastewater remains a critical issue with nuclear power facilities could face in the future. Rectifying radioactive wastewater is not as easy as planting trees to purify the waterways, as so to speak. But Japan chose to discharge the radioactive wastewater into the sea, which would cause severe damage to the marine ecosystem and human health.

No one can afford the costs of cleaning up the radioactive wastewater that would have significant economic and environmental impacts. The government of Japan has failed to take into consideration the scientific and environmental risks involved in the discharge.

The IAEA report has indicated that the discharge of radioactive wastewater is a global problem that needs international cooperation to address. The Japanese government must not only consider the economic and environmental consequences but also the social and political implications of its decision.

The international community must pressure Japan to abandon its decision and adopt a responsible approach in managing radioactive waste. - JSTC Global Energy Institute
Global views

Power switch

China and Middle East countries are exploring new mechanisms for energy transition cooperation.

Middle East countries are going through a major transformation of their energy systems, accompanied by growing demand for socioeconomic development and sustainable development. This energy transition in the Middle East not only impacts regional political, economic and social development, but also influences global climate change response and sustainability as major powerhouses and influential nations.

Against this backdrop, cooperation and energy projects to directly access government subsidies. Due to the lack of commercial viability, China has been unable to implement renewable energy collaboration between China and Middle East countries. However, new energy adoption in China has been progressing slowly.

Second, new energy adoption in the Middle East remains relatively low and the demand for new energy technologies need to be stimulated. Only 1 percent of the region’s electricity is sourced from wind and solar energy. China is the largest renewable energy producer, while countries such as Jordan, Yemen, and UAE have potential. In some countries, solar and wind power to their total energy mix is significantly lower: less than 1 percent in Jordan and 0.2 percent in Yemen, respectively.

Third, Middle East countries rely heavily on Western imported equipment and components in their limited demand for energy transition technologies, especially for solar and wind energy power systems using hydropower. Chinese companies and nations are struggling to gain market access to the Middle East market.

For all three issues, China, the Middle East, and the global community have the potential to usher in a new era of global energy transition. Given the unique cultural and historical context in the Middle East, the digitalisation of the Middle East’s transition leads to a unique path towards energy transition. China and Middle East countries must cooperate with global companies to achieve energy transition in the Middle East and the world.

China and Middle East countries have evolved from traditional trade to more in-depth models such as technology collaboration and sustainable development. Powerhouses for both Middle East countries and China still face major challenges in the energy transition collaboration.

First of all, Middle East countries awareness of the importance of renewable energy transition and energy subsidy policies hinder the progression of energy system transition cooperation. Economics are one major issue in the region and lead to food and gas reserves. Moreover, the heavily industrialised society still faces oil, natural gas and electricity subsidies, which drive down energy prices.

It is hard for renewable energy projects to win national subsidies. Despite the lack of commercial viability, China has been unable to implement renewable energy collaboration between China and Middle East countries. However, new energy adoption in China has been progressing slowly.

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Cleaner, greener growth

The green Belt and Road Initiative is a test case for how we can meld economic development with environmental sustainability.

Celebrating its 10-year milestone, China and the Belt and Road Initiative created a significant foundation in 2019. As of this year, the initiative has shown significant advances in championing green development.

A recent study from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, supports the conclusion that China and the Belt and Road Initiative has made the most environmentally conscious decisions since its beginning in 2013. There has been a notable shift toward sustainable projects, including investments in hydropower projects, solar parks and wind farms. In one country benefiting from China’s green energy shift is Zimbabwe. After a coal-fired power plant there was cancelled in 2016, Zimbabwe saw strong engagement in green energy through an agreement on geothermal power stations.

Finance and investments under the Belt and Road Initiative have significant uptick in the first half of 2019. There has also been a marked increase in electric vehicles, signaling a shift from more carbon-intensive contracts.

One growth area of strategic importance is metals and mining, where Chinese investment has been dramatic. The minerals and metals, such as lithium, are of particular relevance to the green transition, powering the shift towards more efficient batteries for electric vehicles and renewable energy storage. Examples include China’s Rare Earth Research Institute, which is developing advanced rare earth materials.

Malekinejad’s mining’s acquisition of Kibob Mining, which is a part of a lithium mine in Mali, a copper processing plant agreement in Saudi Arabia, and the commissioning of a lithium processing plant in Zimbabwe.

Contrary to the shift toward greening the Belt and Road Initiative is not just altruistic. It is in part of China’s wider efforts to position itself as a global leader in combating climate change and promoting sustainable development.

The green Belt and Road Initiative in 2019 has shown significant advances in championing green development.

The Belt and Road Initiative has made the most environmentally conscious decisions since its beginning in 2013. There has been a notable shift toward sustainable projects, including investments in hydropower projects, solar parks and wind farms. In one country benefiting from China’s green energy shift is Zimbabwe. After a coal-fired power plant there was cancelled in 2016, Zimbabwe saw strong engagement in green energy through an agreement on geothermal power stations. This year could become the greenest year on record for the Belt and Road Initiative.

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However, the shift toward greening the Belt and Road Initiative is not just altruistic. It is in part of China’s wider efforts to position itself as a global leader in combating climate change and promoting sustainable development. This shift also aligns with the global trend toward "greenwashing" economies and the pursuit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Implementing green development across a diverse array of countries and projects is a complex task. It is particularly true for mining and minerals procurement that often come with negative environmental and social consequences. Planning international robust environmental standards, strong regulatory mechanisms governing overseas investments, and careful consideration of social impacts can mitigate positive impacts of this green transformation.

Weighing the benefits of the Belt and Road Initiative’s engagement with coal-fired power plants, the green energy development and project’s potential to significantly reduce pollution and increase efficiency.

In conclusion, the green shift in China’s Belt and Road Initiative can signify a new direction in global development, one that is focused on environmental sustainability. As we move forward into the 21st century, the Belt and Road Initiative could serve as a test case for how we can meld economic development with environmental sustainability on a truly global scale.

The author is a research professor in the School of Social Sciences at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The author coordinates the Belt and Road Initiative under China’s Ministry of Commerce.

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Greece reels from raging wildfires

A wildfire in the Vilia region of Greece, about 300 kilometers northwest of Athens, damaged a UNESCO World Heritage site on Wednesday, Greek national news agency ANA reported.

The 1,900-year-old Herodeion mausoleum is listed among the country's most important monuments of Stoa-type architecture. One of the oldest buildings in the temple has been damaged, according to ANA.

Meanwhile, the wildfires raging around Greece's capital spread to the Mount Parnassus National Park, northwest of Athens, on Monday, according to the local fire brigades.

The blaze that broke out on Tuesday at the foot of the mountain has damaged homes and scorched forest land. Nearby settlements and a migrant camp were evacuated as precautionary measures.

The situation on Mount Parnassus was critical, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis told journalists.

Firefighters were deployed to combat 355 forest blazes across the country between Aug. 11 and Tuesday, he said.

More than 40,000 hectares of forested zones and farmland were destroyed in wildfires between Aug. 11 and Monday, estimates from the National Observatory of Athens based on satellite data showed.

A Supreme Court prosecutor has ordered an investigation into the cause of the wildfire near the city of Alexandroupolis in the north that have been burning for the fifth consecutive day.
Brewing up an event steeped in culture

Tea ceremony in Jingshan village, Zhejiang province’s Hangzhou city, celebrates the drink and its fascinating history, Zheng Yuzhe reports.

In 2016, a 29-year-old tea drinker and handmaiden for the Imperial Palace in Beijing named Zhang Jingang (right) prepared tea with her team at a tea plantation in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province.

Clockwise from top left: Zheng performs traditional tea-presentation techniques at a competition in Yangtze River, Hangzhou. In Zhang’s tea, a competitor gives a lecture about tea whisking, a technique that prevailed during the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Two exquisite bamboo works, both enshrined on the walls of the tea house. Zheng’s tea is also a venue for the folk edition of the Jingshan Tea Ceremony. Photos: Zheng Yuzhe

Bamboo craftsmen revive traditional art with everyday items

KUNMING — From backcountry and local woodworks, Zhe’s bamboo artisans re-endeavor have brought back the traditional art of the bamboo. They have given the traditional art form a new lease on life and a new lease on life.

Born in a family of bamboo craftsmen, Zhe began learning bamboo at the age of 6 and, eventually blossomed into a locally renowned artisan, celebrated for his remarkable skills. In 1996, his bamboo products were widely sold by people all over China. His work is characterised by the small wooden boxes, having the country’s rapid industrialisation, such products were gradually replaced by plastic boxes, finding many craftsmen to abandon their bamboo work and seek jobs in big cities.

In 2004, he moved to Beijing to find work. The bamboo products were widely sold by people all over China and are only partly successful. However, with the country’s rapid industrialisation, such products were gradually replaced by plastic boxes, finding many craftsmen to abandon their bamboo work and seek jobs in big cities.

In 2006, he decided to return to his hometown, Zhejiang province, and start his own business. He learned the art form from his father and, eventually, became a master of the craft.

“Instead of making big boxes, I started making small boxes that are more portable and can be used for everyday use,” he says. “I also started making smaller boxes that are more portable and can be used for everyday use.”

Despite Liangzhu Temple’s venerable status in the history of tea, Zhang says tea and its many years, even most of the locals didn’t know about the ancient tea or the rich legacy of Lingnan tea, which they grow and enjoy in daily lives.

Jingshan village is the core production area of Lingnan tea, and it is generally famous as the birthplace of the story of Jingshan tea to a compelling slate of competitions that, to support the development of Jingshan village and the village deeply into both past and present,” says Ya Hong, secretary of the Party committee of Jingshan village.

From 2016, his team is a visitin partaking role in the village tourism or the village’s best-tea farms and tea shops to experience the history of tea and the village’s development of tea.

Zhang’s team is one of the few who perform clear, unadorned and unadorned, and beautiful, output for Schuyler Crable (Bamboo, art, and the traditional tea culture) or the village’s development of tea. It was through the village’s development of tea, and the tea’s development of tea.

It is not just for tea lovers or tea enthusiasts, the village is also a venue for the folk edition of the Jingshan Tea Ceremony. Photos: Zheng Yuzhe

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Emotions can sometimes live up the conversation, and people should be encouraged to use them, but do so with care.

Peng Rong, deputy

LanSu, deputy

Legal disputes

Speaking to Xinhua in Shanghai, Li, who was dismissed from his post and fired by the university because of the use of a "smile" emoji, according to the Shanghai No. 2 Intermediate People's Court.

One day last year, Li, a staff member of an educational institution, was discussing work issues with 38-year-old woman Ms. W on WeChat. Ms. W, a college friend, began to scold the plaintiff. Ms. W said she was "very angry" and added that she was "very sad." Ms. W sent Li a photo of a "smile" emoji, according to court documents.

"I imagined and believed that the woman friend of 18 years would understand the meaning of the "smile" emoji," Li said.

Li was immediately fired by the university. Li then sent a lawsuit to the Shanghai No. 2 Intermediate People's Court.

On July 15, the Shanghai No. 2 Intermediate People's Court ordered the defendant university to pay a compensation sum of 2,850 yuan ($490) to the plaintiff Li.

"This case is the first in China to have ordered a university to pay compensation for using an emoji in a conversation," said Liang Zhiran, a lawyer in Shanghai.

"This is a landmark case in the history of emoji use in China," she said.

A set of documents, Big Bang in Phantoms (20th Century of Physics) and The World and the University (19th Century of Physics), which are two university-level textbooks, were submitted as evidence in the case.

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LIANG ZHOURUN/CHINA DAILY

Writer makes tough subject comically easy to grasp

Benjamin Walter, 38, a single father, and his wife, Li Zhiping, 38, a single mother, have been living together for six years. Benjamin has a teaching position at a university in Dalian, and Li Zhiping works at a company.

"I have more than 1.4 million followers on Weibo and Sina," Li said.

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