**Calling for climate action**

**We demand bold action for a future we can be proud of.**

**Increased R&D Input set to further accelerate nations innovation drive**

By SUN PENFEI

China spent about 1.67 trillion yuan ($241 billion) in 2022 on research and development, an increase of 11 percent year-on-year, according to a recent statistical bulletin released by the National Bureau of Statistics. The increased R&D input will further cultivate Chinese enterprises’ technological innovativeness capabilities and their own core competitiveness on the global stage and inject strong impetus into the country’s economic recovery, experts said.

The NSB said on Monday that in 2022, China’s total spending on R&D accounted for 2.4 percent of its gross domestic product, up 0.1 percentage points from the previous year. The ratio, which is between the European Union’s average level of 3.2 percent and 17 percent of the economic organizations of the European Cooperation and Development, ranks 15th in the world, said Chao Guang, an NSB statistician.

In 2022, China’s investment in basic research reached 20.25 bil- lion yuan, up 11.5 percent year-on-year. Frankly speaking in the world, accounting for 67 percent of the country’s total R&D spending, according to the NSB. The increased spending on R&D shows the country’s commitment to implementing an innovation-driven development strategy, which will benefit in science and technology, and gives an upper hand in the international competitive cooperation and future development of the country, said Wang Qian, the vice minister of the National Development and Reform Commission, the co-chair of the Digital Economy Research Institute, China (E-DRIVE) and the Conference and Exhibit Center at Zhuzhengwang International Business University.

“Continuous innovation in basic science research is key to driving high-quality economic growth and promoting the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries,” said Wang, adding that for giving full play to the leading role of enterprises in technological innovation, enterprises are playing an increasing prominent role in promoting R&D activities and expanding their investments in important areas, including high-tech manufacturing, which has already shown immense potential in core technology in key fields and improving fundamental industrial capabilities, according to the NSB. The R&D expenditure of enterprises reached 2.09 trillion yuan in 2022, up 11 percent year-on-year. It contributed to 84 percent of the country’s total R&D growth, an increase of 4.8 percent points from the previous year.

The NSB added that China will continue to increase financial support to enterprises, encourage local authorities to boost R&D spending and improve the efficiency of capital utilization.

China’s major-country diplomacy engages US and Russia in a constructive manner

By ZHANG YUNH

Since the weekend, Beijing has impressed observers with a sequence of intense, high-level meetings with Washington and Moscow, one after another.

Senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi completed two days of talks with United States National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in Los Angeles on Sunday, and arrived in Russia on Monday for a two-day China-Russia consultations on strategic security.

Analysts said the two talks—once closely following the other—were part of China’s efforts to fortify its regular two-way dialogues with influential major powers and help shape up mature and ensured efforts to stabilize the Indo-Pacific region.

Both China and the US described the weekend talks as transparent, constructive and productive.

Washington was said to have been impressed with the Chinese side’s willingness to talk, and was intended to call for more high-level visits to the US.

On Monday, Beijing announced that Wang, a member of the Political Bureau Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, would visit the US as co-chair of the Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) China-US meeting, which is the corresponding US-China dialogue and a new feature of continuous high-level talks.

More efforts should be made to build up investment in technological innovation and the related infrastructure, such as quantum information, medical equipment, biological sciences, new energy, new materials, and artificial intelligence, said Liu Zhongwei, a Chinese economic electronics specialist, at a news conference on the R&D expenditure of enterprises.

The goal of the R&D expenditure of enterprises is to promote sustainable development through innovation, aiming at a high level of innovation and technological achievements.

“With this in mind, our country will increase investment in strategic emerging segments and further improve its innovative capabilities,” he added.

**On fast track**

A passenger sitting a train operator at the Taiyuan-Hangzhou high-speed railway, and the world’s high-speed railways, which is the most important infrastructure project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is seen in Taiyuan, Shanxi province, on March 12, 2023.

A passenger sitting a train operator at the Taiyuan-Hangzhou high-speed railway (Zhejiang province) is seen in an undated handout photo from China News Service. The total mileage of China’s high-speed railways reached 52,000 kilometers in 2022, up 21.3 percent year-on-year. The network covers more than 90 percent of cities and towns with more than 500,000 residents. The network has created a new pattern of public transportation options and diversified travel modes, China News Service said in an undated handout photo.

**Africa sees Belt and Road as precious opportunity**

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative continues to drive global development, and through it, the country has helped meet the needs of developing nations by cooperating with them to build infrastructure and providing them with financial assistance.

The strategic cooperation between countries of the developing Global South in general, and African countries in particular, will be further strengthened through the initiative.

The perspective that China offers is one that always defends fundamental common values and the common good of humanity. China Western powers, it does not work benzene.

The BRI aims to build infra-structure, from highways and rail-ways to ports and power plants, to increase connectivity between Asia, Europe and Africa and to promote trade. It is China’s vision that, through this initiative, the world might achieve a common destiny for humanity develop-ment and security. The people of the world are gen-eral and African people in par-ticular are clearly that this initiative promotes a precious opportunity for peace and sustainable global development.

Through BRI projects, China has helped build more than 6,000 kilometers of roadways, over 6,000 kilometers of highways and more than 600 power facilities on the African continent.

Infrastructure is industriali-zation, standing on the mechanization of agriculture, the globalization of technology, the EU member. The EU member proposes to accelerate the momentum to make more joint achievements for the mutual benefit of China and the African countries, in order to strengthen the cooperation on the continent.
**Genre: Tech advances boost industry**

By PENELOPE HO

The industry for music in the Republic of Korea remains small and stagnant, valued at the equivalent of $700 million a year, to com-

However, experts in Seoul said that the industry is making strides. It has developed music videos with distinct characters, home to unique aesthetics, and has great potential.

But only after numerous challenges are overcome.

K-pop artists have worn a variety of mixed and recorded JET entertainment, which is based in Seoul, to try to make a breakthrough in the main-

K-pop is not just a music genre, but an entire production system in which music, video, and fashion are smoothly planned and released into the market, said Kim.

"It is something that can be adapted to any part of the world," he said. "It's not just popular here in Korea, and it is also popular in other countries and in Europe and even parts of Latin America.

K-pop's true value is that it can provide a shared experience for many people around the world, not just here in Korea," he said.

Moreover, there is a direction in which K-pop is now heading to order a system to be established in which companies can preorder, not as mere components of the industry. In June, JYJ announced a company to make products for its members to focus on their own lines and sub-labels. They also opened their minds and physical追随者 line to the K-pop system, S.M., the band's leader, said. "The system gives new directions, and so our band will go on to make music.

While commercialization is one avenue of all popular music genres, Jung, the critic, said that K-pop is unlikely becoming financially competitive.

"These days, pop idols make two to three singles or extended plays a year, but many Western pop musicians or established K-pop groups, such as Blackpink, release albums about every one to two years," said. "It is hard to find a new audience in a market so oversaturated and with the thousands of new groups every year.

But, having experienced K-pop's success in foreign countries, says, "K-pop's success is almost inevitable, given the industry's ability to appeal to strong and enormous markets around the world. For K-pop to succeed, it must be better able to adapt to different audiences and make the necessary changes to its marketing strategies."

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China-S. Africa space ties promise wide scope

Observers see cooperation potential in ground tracking, control work

**China’s S. Africa space ties promise wide scope**

By ZHAO LEI

China and South Africa have signed an agreement to expand space cooperation between the two countries. At the same time, China will establish a lunar observatory in South Africa.

China and South Africa have now signed an agreement on cooperation in space. The agreement covers a wide range of areas, including the establishment of a lunar observatory in South Africa.

China’sinea said that the agreement would help to promote cooperation in space science and technology between the two countries. China has a long history of cooperation with South Africa in various fields, and this agreement is a natural continuation of that cooperation.

On September 22, China and South Africa signed an agreement on cooperation in space science and technology. The agreement covers a wide range of areas, including the establishment of a lunar observatory in South Africa.

The agreement has been signed by representatives of the two countries, and it is expected to bring new opportunities for cooperation in space science and technology between China and South Africa.

At the signing ceremony, Chinese and South African officials expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation and their commitment to promoting it. They also stressed the importance of such agreements in advancing the bilateral relationship.

The agreement will enable China and South Africa to expand their cooperation in space science and technology, including the establishment of a lunar observatory in South Africa. This observatory will not only help to advance the study of the moon but also contribute to the development of space science and technology in the region.

The signing of this agreement is a significant milestone in the bilateral relationship between China and South Africa. It demonstrates the commitment of both countries to promoting cooperation in various fields and advancing the prosperity of the region.

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**On 9th, Chinese envoy to South Africa Chen Xiangdong signed a memorandum of understanding on behalf of the China National Space Administration (CNSA) and the South African National Space Agency (SANSA). The CNSA and SANSA agreed to cooperate in the fields of earth observation, lunar exploration, and space science.**

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Cross-border freight trains link inland China with world

Steped in tradition
Farmers pick up process tea leaves at a tea garden in Sanxia, Guangxi, China’s southern region, on Oct. 10. The province’s Longjing Tea, as one of the most famous types of green tea in China, is a major contributor to the province’s annual revenue. (Xinhua/Zhou Qixiu)

BY LI NING
China Daily

A fully loaded freight train grew through inspection in Zhangzhou, Fujian province, on Oct. 11, en route to Poland. (Photo provided to China Daily)

As China’s freight train export trains keep growing, more and more products will fill the large cargo container carriages and reach the overseas market, providing more options for international customers.

A copy of a document substantiating the details of the Imperial Japanese Army’s Seventh Division during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression is kept at the Second War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression Memorial Hall in Beijing. (Photo provided to China Daily)

Three copies of the document, which are the originals of the Imperial Japanese Army’s Seventh Division during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, were submitted to the relevant authorities in the Canadian government on Oct. 10. The three copies are equal in value, and each of them is certified to be the original of the Imperial Japanese Army’s Seventh Division during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

BY ZHENG JINGYUE
China Daily

A historical documentary of Chinese war, titled ‘Chinese Resistance Records,’ was released on Oct. 11, providing an in-depth look into the real-life war stories of the Chinese people who fought against the Japanese Imperial Army during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

As the Chinese government’s efforts to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Sino-Japanese War of Resistance (1937-1945) continue, a new documentary film, ‘Chinese Resistance Records,’ was released on Oct. 11.

The documentary is based on a variety of official historical archives, interviews, and personal accounts of Chinese war veterans, which vividly depict the Chinese people’s resistance against the Japanese aggressors during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression.

BY JIAO YI
China Daily

The China Railway Phoenix Group held the first China-Europe freight train service to the UK in April 2018, with the aim of strengthening China’s economic and cultural exchanges with Western Europe.

The train, which ran from Zhengzhou to London’s Felixstowe Port, started on April 12, a history-making moment for China’s freight train services.

The train has since run regularly, connecting China and the UK, as well as other countries in Europe, including France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and Poland.

The freight train services have contributed to the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as promoting China’s economic and cultural exchanges with Europe.

The train has also been a boon for businesses in the UK, as it has reduced transportation costs and improved delivery times.

The China Railway Phoenix Group has continued to expand its freight train services, running more trains to various countries in Europe, including Germany, France, Italy, and Spain.

The freight train services have not only benefited businesses in China and Europe, but also improved China’s image in the international community.

The China Railway Phoenix Group has been praised for its role in promoting China’s economic and cultural exchanges with Europe, and has received numerous awards for its contributions to the Belt and Road Initiative.
Above: Models present various creations at several shows during China Fashion Week in Beijing, which feature new trends for next year’s spring and summer collection.

**CHINA FASHION WEEK STRUTS ITS STUFF**

Trends for 2024 Spring Summer Collection on display during dazzling 10-day festival

By ZHU XINGXIN

China Fashion Week 2024 Spring Summer Collection opened in Beijing on Sept. 7. Over the course of 10 days, it showcased the latest fashion trends for next year’s spring and summer seasons. With the theme of “Joyful and Brilliant,” more than 100 fashion events were held. Over 130 domestic and international brands and 200 designers participated in the festival, creating a diverse range of creations that feature a mix of casual, evening, sportswear, and streetwear.

China Fashion Week has been promoting the development of Chinese fashion industry and opening up the global market. With a history of 26 years, China Fashion Week is the country’s only national-level fashion festival. It has helped drive the development of China’s garment industry and served as a bridge between designers and the market, playing a key role in promoting the high-quality development of China’s textiles and apparel industries.

Module and designers attend the opening ceremony of China Fashion Week 2024 Spring Summer Collection in Beijing on Sept. 7. Photos by ZHU XINGXIN / CHINA DAILY

A model walks through a tunnel of light during a fashion week show.

A foreign model has her lipstick applied by a makeup artist.

A model presents a dress creation at a fashion show.
Japan draws up whitsaw plan to salvage image

Mislaced prioritization suggests lack of confidence over toxic water release

By JIA HUI FENG in Tokyo

Japan plans to strengthen monitoring and sharing information about the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the ocean and is working closely with the US military regarding "whitewashing" the issue, according to sources. The Japanese foreign ministry is said to include approximately 10 billion yen (84% million) in its fiscal 2023 budget to combat the spread of information that is believed to be inaccurate regarding the ocean discharge, Japanese media outlets reported. It aims to enhance international communication.

Specifically, this includes expanding efforts to support "accurate" news and strengthening the capacity to disseminate information that the Japanese government believes to be reliable.

The ministry also plans to utilize satellite airborne tracking systems and space technology to analyze the reports.

While taking the above measures, the Japanese government decided to show off its involvement in making the discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean that "is both an important issue and one linked to the public's views on nuclear issues."

Defying all the limitations currently faced with the coal power situation, the coal power is still running with the aim of minimizing the limitations and extend the usage period with the coal discharge. The trend has been used nationwide to support the expansion of nuclear fuel storage, temporary treatment and storage of seawater, and public relations activities related to the Fukushima plant's contaminated water discharge.

Publicly available information indicates that the US is taking measures to support the latter for the project. The US has territories in the Pacific and is said to be reviving its nuclear submarine program. The US government said that it would support the Japanese government's efforts to ensure safe and transparent discharge of nuclear-contaminated water.

Since Japan announced plans to release the contaminated water into the ocean in 2012, the US government has repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the potential impact on the US and its overseas territories.

**Managing public perception**

Japan needs to manage public perception in address major concerns about the long-term reliability of the defense system that is aimed to export multiple nuclear-powered submarines to the ocean for the accuracy of data related to the contaminated water and the effectiveness of counter-discharge monitoring arrangements, said Chieko Tanaka, an associated professor at the Institute of Nuclear Sciences at the Free University of Berlin. She is also a professor at Shiga University of Medical Science.

"Japan is aware that with the release of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean, there is a high likelihood of unpredictable ecological reactions and factors to human health, necessitating proactive public relations efforts to address these issues in advance. Therefore, the public relations expectations are met by altering Japan's national identity to present a different image," Chieko said.

Zhao Xingda, vice-president of the Japan Institute of Nuclear Sciences, said, "The Japanese government is aiming for a significant amount of funding toward public relations instead of addressing solutions.

**Debris field of pilotless US fighter jet found**

By HUGO WELLE in Tokyo

The US military has confirmed it has found debris from a pilotless US fighter jet that went missing off north-eastern Japan in a search for it. The jet was an F-35B Lightning II, a stealth fighter that went missing on Tuesday, according to The Japan Times and other reports. It was announced that the US military confirmed the debris was found.

"Members of the community should avoid the area as the rescue team searched for the debris," the statement said. "The debris is currently under investigation, and we are unable to provide additional details at this time." It is unclear what type of investigation process they are conducting.

The debris was found in Oshika, a town in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan.

**Autoworkers' strike puts spotlight on executive pay**

The strike by the United Auto Workers (UAW) is the largest this week and a tense day," said General Motors CEO Mary Barra. "We pay at least $100 million to UAW workers, and that's why we're striking."

"Our pay is competitive, but we're not the highest pay in the industry," Barra said. "We pay at least $100 million to UAW workers, and that's why we're striking."

The reason we ask for this is that our compensation is increasing at a slower rate than it has in the last four years, and we're willing to pay.

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EU unveils ‘remedy’ for migrants

**Experts question von der Leyen’s plan to tackle crisis in Italy’s island**

By CHIN WEIHUI and BRUCE CHENG

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Sunday urged Germany, Italy and France to work together to bring the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean to an end, despite a plan that some observers regard as insufficient.

**About 18,000 irregular migrants arrived in Lampedusa from Africa over the past week.**

Migrants embark on a ferry in Lampedusa Island, Italy on Monday. About 18,000 irregular migrants arrived in Lampedusa from Africa over the past week.

At a news conference later at the Lampedusa airport, the stressed interior minister said that the “size of the flow of immigrants” must be addressed at a pan-European level.

**Migrant ‘overwhelmed’**

“Everything seems to be in Europe, in Italy. But this time the rate we are talking about is not just pushing within Italian waters, this would be a very big and huge crisis,” she said.

“We cannot solve this problem by hosting migrants within EU borders. We must also address the other dimensions of this. The only way to stop illegal migration is to take steps beyond this — concrete action to prevent migrants from remote origins,” she added.

The German government has faced criticism for not doing enough to address the migrant crisis in Italy.

In a letter addressed to von der Leyen earlier this week, the Italian Interior Minister, Marco Minniti, told the German government that it is up to the EU to act.

He also added that Italy is overwhelmed and that it is impossible to do more in Italy in order to help the situation.

“Understanding the situation, and the fact that we cannot do anything more,” Minniti wrote.

**UN chief seeks ‘global rescue plan for SDGs’**

By BAI LIHUIAN

at the United Nations

baohui@chinadaily.com.cn

Halfway to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), progress is lagging badly — and in some cases going in reverse, as the United Nations chief has called for a “global rescue plan” at an urgent international meeting next month.

The call is part of a global appeal by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres. “Today only 1 in 8 of the people live in such a world,” he said.

The UN chief made the remarks at the opening of the 74th session of the General Assembly at the United Nations headquarters in New York, where world leaders met to review progress on the 2030 Agenda at the General Assembly high-level meeting on the progress of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“The SDGs are the global rescue plan on which the future of our planet rests,” he said. “We are in the process of setting a dangerous precedent for future generations — and we will be judged on how we perform on this mission.”

**Another challenge**

In the declaration, the UN members endorsed a framework for progress to 2030, and agreed that the SDGs are not in accordance with the targets and commitments that have been set.

Guterres said that the SDGs are not in line with the commitments that have been set.

“Without a full and fair implementation of the SDGs, we will fail to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and will be unable to generate the necessary means to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda,” he said.

**SDGs ‘can be used to address’**

The UN chief also appealed to the international community to support the SDGs.

He called on countries to support the SDGs and to address the challenges they face.

In particular, he noted that the SDGs are not in line with the commitments that have been set.

“Without a full and fair implementation of the SDGs, we will fail to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and will be unable to generate the necessary means to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda,” he said.

By YUAN SHENGHAO

The sixth China International Import Expo is shifting from exhibit-to-exhibit enrollment operations in preparation for the November 4-10, 2019 National Exhibitions and Convention Center (SNIEC) edition.

The expo will feature a wide variety of exhibits, including exhibits in more than 100 countries around the world, and have been meeting the needs of participants and spectators.

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CAEXPO

Greater RCEP market opens, cargo values win-win results desired

By YAN HANG in Hong Kong and ZHANG Li in Nanjing

Members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement should work for more robust implementation of the trade pact, according to experts at afavoured CAEXPO workshop on Monday.

Given the uncertain international environment, "China should further boost the business confidence of its partners and further strengthen trade cooperation among its members," CAEXPO Secretary-General Kun Gao said. China should "take action and make more efforts in expanding its cooperation with its RCEP partners." The association hoped to further boost the business confidence of its partners and further strengthen trade cooperation among its members.

CAEXPO Secretary-General Kun Gao said the workshop aimed to further boost the business confidence of its partners and further strengthen trade cooperation among its members. Gao noted that adding to the resilience of its production line to provide services for the trade agreement on services and the agreement on the biggest impact of the RCEP on the private sector.

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CCUS highlighted for oil, gas firms amid green transition

Technology to help China reduce 1 bln tons of emissions annually by 2050

By ZHENG XUN
zhengxun@chinadaily.com.cn

Domestic oil and gas companies should accelerate moves to develop carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS), an essential supplemental technology for helping achieve carbon peak and carbon neutrality in China, as the country sees vast potential in carbon dioxide-fossil fuel-removed oil recovery, according to a think tank.

“Domestic oil and gas firms are researching and promoting CCUS technologies, as well as carbon capture and carbon trading technologies, to offer carbon mitigation and reduce zero-carbon production, he said.

China Energy Investment Corporation started operations in June at Asia’s largest CCUS facility, which is attached to a generating unit at the company’s Taihong coal-fired power plant in Jiangsu province, which will capture 500,000 tons of carbon dioxide from its power plant each year.

According to the company, its revenue is mainly from subscription fees, advertising and its English Daily register. It is serving as a huge following among Chinese students.

In the United States, 50 percent of monthly active users are learning Chinese on its platform and the language is ranked eighth among its most popular courses.

Reformers agreed that Duolingo has increased its potential to 400 million users, and provides quality and worldwide examples to 110 million people. It is expected to be an example for those who are complete beginners who like to try different languages.

Currently, Duolingo offers over 40 languages and the app has been downloaded over 400 million times worldwide, according to its recently published annual report. It has reached record highs in the past two years. As of June, it has 50 million users and subscribers, with 100 million active users, of which 20 million are Duolingo’s users.

The report also notes that the Duolingo English Test (DET) is used as proof of student English language proficiency for applying to universities overseas. It has changed traditional English testing methods for offering tests as a free online tool to international students. Currently, it is only supported in 107 countries and regions, which are served by Duolingo. In the United States, it is used by 1000 New York universities as its compulsory English test.

Xiang Jian, marketing director of Duolingo in China, said: “Duolingo’s steady user growth is impacted by our business model. We are offering all courses in a free way. This approach has led to Duolingo’s rapid development throughout the world. Additionally, the following is an educational and international language, including mathematics.”

Duolingo has been making up efforts to seek new growth opportunities. Seeing the strong interest among the youth toward Confucius, Duolingo launched its first dialect course – Cantonese for Mandarin speakers – in 2019. As of July 2020, the Confucius course had nearly 2 million users in China, making it popular in the country, supported only by English and German.

As Duolingo brings languages to Chinese users, it is committed to promoting Chinese to the world. Duolingo’s data showed that for every 10 million active users are learning Chinese on its platform and the language is ranked eighth among its most popular courses.

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In the United States, 50 percent of monthly active users are learning Chinese on its platform and the language is ranked eighth among its most popular courses.
Online platforms up ante with unmanned vehicles

By DAN FEIYI

Le Shuang, 31, an engineer at an internet company in Yichun, a province in东北地区, has improved her take-out order from an unmanned self-driving delivery vehicle that appeared at the gate of her house. Le can now order meals from her home, reducing human interaction.

She used to order fresh vegetables, fruits, seafood, meat and more from the time she placed an online order to receive it at her door. Now, she received a text message informing her of the delivery vehicle’s arrival.

Le is not alone. According to Chinese consumer surveys for the efficiency of self-driving technology, DriveBy, a major online food delivery firm, found that 60% of respondents preferred unmanned vehicles, and 80% would pay extra for delivery using such vehicles.

Compared with traditional delivery, unmanned delivery saves time, lowers delivery costs, reduces delivery manpower, and shortens delivery time. It also provides a viable alternative to address some challenges, such as rising labor costs and a shortage of resources, experts say.

Baidu Group, one of China’s largest online search and artificial intelligence firms, announced a self-driving delivery vehicle on Wednesday. The company said it was the first autonomous delivery system in China that could automatically deliver large quantities of goods to customers.

The system can distribute self-driving delivery vehicles to supermarkets, marketplaces and other locations to optimize routes. It can also automatically sort and deliver orders to the right location, reducing delivery time and improving efficiency.

The Chinese logistics industry is embracing emerging technologies to meet the needs of consumers. From drones to autonomous delivery vehicles, the industry is increasingly relying on technology to drive growth.

For example, JD.com, a major e-commerce platform, has been testing autonomous delivery vehicles for several years. The company said it had already deployed more than 1,000 such vehicles across China.

The vehicles are equipped with advanced sensors and cameras to navigate through complex environments, providing a safe and efficient delivery experience for customers.

The 2022 edition of the China World Expo in Beijing showcased China’s latest achievements in smart logistics, highlighting the country’s commitment to innovation and technology-driven development.

The expo featured a wide range of cutting-edge technologies, including autonomous vehicles, robots, and gliders, as well as advanced logistics solutions.

China is a global leader in the development of smart logistics, with significant investments in research and development. The country is looking to leverage these advancements to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and provide better services to consumers.

Online platforms are taking advantage of this trend by offering customers more options and enhancing their delivery experience. With the support of technology, China’s e-commerce sector continues to thrive, driving the logistics industry forward.

The combination of emerging technologies and innovative business models is reshaping the logistics landscape. As China’s logistics industry continues to evolve, we can expect to see more advancements in the near future.
Upbeat high-level talks give further boost to relations that should not be squandered

It is a widely acknowledged truth that the US-China relationship is characterized by both cooperation and competition. The US-China trade war, which has entered its third year, underscores the importance of this relationship. While the US and China have sought to ease tensions through high-level talks, the key challenge is to find a way to achieve mutual benefit and achieve common development.

The recent high-level talks between the US and China were widely regarded as a step forward in the bilateral relationship. The two sides discussed a wide range of issues, including trade, technology, and security. The talks were held in a constructive and pragmatic manner, and both sides agreed to continue working together to find solutions to these complex issues.

The US-China relationship is not only important for the two countries, but also for the global economy and world affairs. As the world's two largest economies, the US and China have a significant impact on global economic stability and growth. In addition, the US-China relationship has a major influence on regional and international affairs.

The US-China relationship is not without challenges, however. The two countries have different political systems and economic models, which can lead to conflicts and disputes. Additionally, the US-China trade war has caused significant economic losses and uncertainty for businesses and consumers.

Despite these challenges, the US-China relationship remains important for both countries and the global community. It is crucial to find ways to resolve differences and build trust, in order to achieve mutual benefit and common development.

China Daily, Beijing, May 26, 2023

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Asia-Pacific has no more space for militarization

Asia-Pacific countries have been pouring billions of dollars into military扩张，which threatens regional peace and stability.

In recent years, the Asia-Pacific region has seen an increase in military spending and a rise in militarized conflicts. This has raised concerns about the potential for regional tension and conflict. Military expansion in the region is driven by a combination of factors, including territorial disputes, resource competition, and the desire to maintain regional dominance.

Asian countries have been increasing their defense budgets, with some countries doubling or even tripling their spending in recent years. This has led to concerns about the potential for regional tension and conflict. There are fears that the increase in military spending could lead to an arms race, with each country trying to outspend the others in order to maintain regional dominance.

The Asia-Pacific region is a delicate balance of power, with China, Japan, South Korea, and other countries all vying for influence. The increase in military spending is seen as a sign of growing tension and competition in the region.

In light of these concerns, it is crucial for the region to work towards a more peaceful and stable future. This could involve efforts to reduce military spending, increase dialogue and cooperation, and work towards a regional security architecture that is based on mutual respect and shared interests.

China Daily, Beijing, May 26, 2023

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No rash conclusion about ‘humiliating image’

The term ‘humiliating image’ has been used frequently to criticize Chinese policies and actions. This term suggests that China is being treated unfairly and that its sovereignty is being threatened. However, the use of this term is often based on a narrow and片面的理解 of the situation.

In fact, China is a peace-loving country that has always upheld the principles of international law and the UN Charter. China has played a constructive role in global governance and has contributed significantly to the development of international norms and institutions.

China’s peaceful development and economic growth have brought significant benefits to the global economy. China’s continued commitment to global cooperation and its active participation in various international organizations have been widely recognized.

The term ‘humiliating image’ should be avoided in future discussions. It is important to have a balanced and理性看待中国的发展和贡献。
Move forward with ASEAN amid challenges

Shih Zhenmin

China Daily

It is hoped that the ASEAN member countries will make the most of the opportunities created by the important events to open up new vistas for ASEAN-China friendship relations and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Ties with China contribute to ASEAN's success

The success of the ASEAN countries lies in the right choices of progress over regulation, cooperation over isolation, and in its adherence to solidarity and independence, in its chipping of peace and development, in its respect for culture and tradition of various nations, and in the sharing of vision of Asian civilization. The "ASEAN Way" has been shown to be quite a long-term, understandable by all, flexible, highly efficient, pragmatic, and proven to be successful in the region. The dialogue mechanism has proven that it is a beneficial and effective choice for joint regional development. It can further strengthen the understanding of the ASEAN mindset and build a sustainable basis for joint development.

The ASEAN-China countries have been steadily closing the distance between their high-speed railway stations, the light rail lines, and the high-speed rail facilities. In 2015, when high-speed rail services were launched in the ASEAN member states, the total number of high-speed trains was 12,000. In 2023, the number of high-speed trains in ASEAN member states has increased to 30,000, and the length of high-speed rail lines has reached 30,000 kilometers in ASEAN member states. As of the second half of 2023, the high-speed rail lines in ASEAN countries have been lengthened to 40,000 kilometers. The ASEAN-China countries' high-speed rail lines have become an important part of the regional cooperation architecture, serving as an important basis for high-speed rail development.

A railway network, if well-coordinated between high-speed and non-high-speed trains, should increase the efficiency, affordability and profitability of trains.

Kong Heng

The editor is former deputy editor-in-chief of China Daily.

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China Daily
GLOBAL VIEWS

Widened trade surplus

China needs to step up efforts to boost domestic demand and promote steady, robust recovery of its economy while adjusting its external imbalances.

China and the European Union are making preparations for talks on the EU’s High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue scheduled to take place this month. However, in early August,商业银行, the Europeans’ concern over China’s growing surplus with the EU is intensifying. China and the US underscored the need for Beijing to open up in economic terms. One of the biggest features of China’s economic growth during the COVID-19 pandemic was the rapid growth in exports accompanied by smaller growth in imports. The country’s goods trade surplus more than doubled from nearly $500 billion in 2019 to $853 billion in 2021. During the first half of 2022, the surplus has climbed further, hitting $600.6 billion, or 8.5% of GDP. In recent years, China’s trade surplus has increased substantially, but its current account surplus is not too high relative to the total economic volume of the country and the relationship between its total external economic and trade surplus is basically in balance. According to the International Monetary Fund’s latest External Sector Report 2022 released in July, China’s external position in 2022 was at an intermediate level by medium-term standards. China’s current account surplus is neither too high nor too low. This phenomenon is a matter of reasonable and positive concern.

However, China’s trade surplus increased from $220 billion in 2012, or the mid-point of the overall period, to $850 billion in 2021, or the end of the period. This is partly because the country has strong growing potential. The country’s new industrial and services sector is not strong enough to offset the gap and demand. China’s goods surplus was largely due to the supply shock, especially due to the country’s own economic development. The supply shock is mainly because of constant domestic demand, limited by the overall growth. Matters of concern are that China’s trade surplus is too large and that the trade gap is growing. If China’s external surplus increases further, China’s current account surplus and the trade surplus trend downwards. If China’s economic growth is not too strong, it may be more appropriate to adjust its current account surplus. Therefore, China needs to extend export efforts to fill the gap in the country’s demands.

In this regard, the Chinese government has already taken a series of measures, such as promoting the inward-oriented reform and adjusting the external imbalance. China’s strategy is largely reflected in its proactive and prudent policies. China’s strategy is largely reflected in its proactive and prudent policies. China’s strategy is largely reflected in its proactive and prudent policies. China’s strategy is largely reflected in its proactive and prudent policies. China’s strategy is largely reflected in its proactive and prudent policies.

FENG LUNXIN

Battling US’ fears

In response to increased sanctions from the US, China must enhance its “countermeasure toolkit”, expect WTO reform and refine its compliance systems.

For quite some time, China has been using the new technologies to promote its exports, constructing an import-oriented strategy and competing in the high-end market. After World War II, Japan’s technology policies centered on industrial catch-up, counting on the US and Germany to give Japan a chance to show its technological capabilities. Japan thereby eliminated risk of disputes arising from trade-related issues.

China needs to promote steady, robust economic growth. While adjusting its external imbalance, it is a key point to strengthen the sectoral market for domestic demand, to avoid excessive pressure on exports and the exchange rate. China’s economy is exerting a certain impact on global economies and the surplus in recent years. While China has been broadly in line with the global trend by maintaining surplus in domestic demand and delivering economic policies, the minus IMF report also said that the excess current account surplus has reflected China’s exports on the back of weak domestic demand. Against such a backdrop, the US needs to make greater efforts to strengthen economic growth and trade relations. It is necessary to refer China to the US technological hegemonic position.

China is stepping up its efforts to enhance the trade surplus, which is an important part of China’s growth strategy. While China has been facing challenges in the first half of the year, it is essential to maintain its economy. China has continued its “dual circulation” strategy, actively adjusting its export structure, transforming its economic structure, and focusing on the high-end market. China is aiming to maintain a new international economic order, based on the Chinese perspective on global governance and new international rules.

In a speech at the National School of Development at Peking University, China Daily commented on the status of the Belt and Road Initiative. The Chinese president’s policy is aimed to build a ‘new type of international relations’ with China. It is important to understand the Belt and Road Initiative as a platform for China to promote its economic cooperation and development. China is committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind, aiming to promote global economic governance and development, and to build a community of shared future for mankind. China’s Belt and Road Initiative is a strategy to foster cooperation, strengthen mutual understanding, and promote the common development of all countries involved. China is committed to building a more open, inclusive, and sustainable world, and to promoting global economic governance. China is committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind. China’s Belt and Road Initiative is a strategy to foster cooperation, strengthen mutual understanding, and promote the common development of all countries involved. China is committed to building a more open, inclusive, and sustainable world, and to promoting global economic governance. China is committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind. China’s Belt and Road Initiative is a strategy to foster cooperation, strengthen mutual understanding, and promote the common development of all countries involved. China is committed to building a more open, inclusive, and sustainable world, and to promoting global economic governance. China is committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind. China’s Belt and Road Initiative is a strategy to foster cooperation, strengthen mutual understanding, and promote the common development of all countries involved. China is committed to building a more open, inclusive, and sustainable world, and to promoting global economic governance. China is committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind. China’s Belt and Road Initiative is a strategy to foster cooperation, strengthen mutual understanding, and promote the common development of all countries involved. China is committed to building a more open, inclusive, and sustainable world, and to promoting global economic governance. China is committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind. China’s Belt and Road Initiative is a strategy to foster cooperation, strengthen mutual understanding, and promote the common development of all countries involved. China is committed to building a more open, inclusive, and sustainable world, and to promoting global economic governance.
A drink heritage to cherish

Traditional tea-growing areas honor its history as it embraces the future, Wang Kaishu reports in Pu’er, Yunnan.

Near the China-Myanmar border, the mountain is remembered by a sea of clouds on average about half the year. Walking along the zigzag road into the cloud sky is like entering a wonderland normally associated with fairy tales. Traditional tea-growing areas in the region once belonged to the Hani, which is now listed as an intangible cultural heritage by the UNESCO.

Pu’er, the city named after the mountain, is famous for its ancient tea gardens. Pu’er tea is a cultural asset shared by the Hani, Lahu, Yi, Bai, Miao, Yi, and Tibetan ethnic groups, and is one of the few areas in the world where ancient tea trees are still growing. Today, Pu’er is home to more than 30,000 tea trees that are over 300 years old. Half of them are older than 500 years, and the oldest dates back to the 7th century. Pu’er is known as the “Hometown of Pu’er Tea.”

“Pu’er tea is a hereditary heritage; it is a living witness of China’s intangible cultural heritage,” says Chen Nan, deputy director of the Pu’er Tea Research Institute in China.

The history of Pu’er tea dates back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907), when it was named “Pu’erh” in the Tang Annals. It was used for both ceremonial and medicinal purposes. Pu’er tea is often used as an ingredient in Chinese medicine, and its root can be used to treat digestive problems and blood pressure. Pu’er tea is also known for its ability to improve skin conditions and promote healthy aging.

As the oldest and largest tea garden in the world, the Pu’er tea area has been protected by the Chinese government since 1988. The area is known for its unique climate and soil conditions, which are ideal for tea cultivation. Pu’er tea is also known for its unique flavor and aroma, which is derived from its long-term aging process. Pu’er tea is often used for medicinal purposes and is known for its ability to lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Pu’er tea is a cultural asset shared by the Hani, Lahu, Yi, Bai, Miao, Yi, and Tibetan ethnic groups, and is one of the few areas in the world where ancient tea trees are still growing. Today, Pu’er is home to more than 30,000 tea trees that are over 300 years old. Half of them are older than 500 years, and the oldest dates back to the 7th century. Pu’er is known as the “Hometown of Pu’er Tea.”

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A real feather in their caps

Team of Chinese scientists discover fossilized remains of a new species of Jurassic-era bird, helping to fill a 30-million-year gap in existing avian records. Yang Feliyue reports.

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approximately 120 million years ago, a bird-like dinosaur found fossilized trapped in amber-wax encrusted in today's Zhejiang province. In the Jurassic period, this fossilized remains were unearthed last year by a group of Chinese scientists, who later proved it to be one of the earliest birds known so far from the Jurassic period, which ended about 145 million years ago.

The team named the new species Fucanvenator nanpingensis, and paleoecologists and paleontologists analyze show that it is one of the first avian fossils to be described in a single species.

The description and analysis of the avian fossil was published in leading international science Journal Nature on April 6.

Birds are descended from non-avian theropods (the most diverse group of "feathered" dinosaurs) from the Middle-Late Jurassic period. "Feathered" refers to the clade feathered that includes all birds and their closest dinosaurs relatives, but the earliest phase of this evolutionary process from dinosaur to bird remains avian fossils to a space fossil record. "Avian avialans are key to deciphering the evolutionary origin of the avian body plan, but also importantly, they are key to redirecting the phylogenetic controversy about the origin of birds," explains Wang Min, who is from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Palaeoanthropology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

"Our understanding of the earliest evolution of birds has been hampered by the limited diversity of fossils from the Jurassic period," says Wang, who is also the lead and corresponding author of the new species study, which was conducted by the IVPP and the Fujian Institute of Oceanic Research.

To date, no definitive avian fossils have been unearthed except at the Dinosaur Island in Canada (about 150 million years ago), which preserves the remains of the ornithopods, the local public loves to see the "bird" fossil that leaves a gap of about 30 million years before the known evidence of Cretaceous fossils.

The appearance of the Jurassic fossil fills in this gap in early avian evolution, according to Bihan Jinzhao, a paleontologist at Yale University in the United States.

"Even at their earliest stages, the close relationship of avian and theropods is strong, and they shared the unique anatomy of the modern avians," says Yang Feliyue, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"There are many, many things left you can discover wonderful surprises under the surface of the ornithological fossil record," adds Yang Feliyue, who has some new avian avian-like theropods. Wang says, adding that this shows the importance of evolutionary reconstructions (the mixture of ancestral and derived features in a single species) in early bird evolution.

"Our comparative analyses show that major changes to body plan occurred along the early avian line, largely driven by the forelimbs, which eventually gave rise to typical bird-like proportions," says Wang.

"However, Fucanvenator is an odd species that diverged from the main trajectory and evolved avian bird-like phe- notypes.

"The fossil is surprisingly elongated vertebrae and other morphologies, in combination with other geologic observations, suggests that Fucanvenator lived in a country's environment and was a high-speed runner or a long-legged walker, indicative of a previously unknown early avian fossil.

Wang has been extensively produced in the field of the origin and early evolution of birds, especially in the way that phylogenies evolve around the bird-dinosaur transition during the Jurassic era. In 2013, he has helped name one of the first known bird fossils from the Jurassic period, including the Abbeville- drome specimen that in 2007 was considered the most important discovery to date, by the team for the New York paleontologist, and compared research Semiotes, Science, and the Albemarle-Jefferson Formation that Prof. Yangmin Hu in 2003.

Yet in his heart, the discovery in Fucan is his favorite because it was the first time that he led the team that it is truly more. Since October 2018, Wang’s team and the Fujian Institute of Oceanic Survey have conducted several expeditions to multiple fossil sites in Fujian province, but given that they have spent two years searching for fossils, and Wang even did some field work himself under the sun of hot feeling.

On October 20 last year, he found himself standing in a 4-meter pit, holding the skeleton black fossil of an avian species, holding his child. In the past, many of the important species found had already been preserved, but this one was different, it was where it surfaced from the shales, Wang said.

"We must be prudent, it is always a bit of a regret if you haven’t personally experienced an important specimen," he adds.

Several geological surveys by the IVPP contributed greatly to this discovery.

In 2016, one of the most diverse Late-Cretaceous deposits in China was discovered in Fujian, which prompted a series of joint expeditions by the Beijing and Fujian institutes. After several finds in the Nanping county in Ningde, Wang and his colleagues decided to take a shot at Zhejiang province in Nanping.

By show trick, he unearthed the Fucanvenator fossils found after the first day of excavation at the site. Although the skull is missing, it did not prevent the team from assessing the significance of the species. Indeed, here is a fossil bone of a bird that is very much like a bird.

The new discovery not only fills in the gap between the first avian fossils and the oldest known bird-like fossils, it also provides important evidence for understanding the evolutionary relationships between avian and non-avian dinosaurs.

Wang says, "It’s likely that we have taken parts of the bone from different dinosaurs closely related to birds or avians and that mixed together to become an avian form.

What makes birds even more remarkable is that in avian avialans, the right thumb is longer than the left, which is more typical of ornithischians, the group of dinosaurs that includes Tyrannosaurus rex. However, in the case of the Fucan fossil, the thumb is not as long as the thumb, a feature otherwise unique among Mesozoic dinosaurs and birds.

In previous research, paleontologists believed that the key honor in the evolution from dinosaurs to birds was the transition to a three-dimensional structure. The shift means that you can’t be two-legged, otherwise the bird would be unable to maintain its balance in the air. Fucanvenator’s morphology indicates that it was a kind of small theropod dinosaur that was an adept runner, or which lived in water.

"This lifestyle is completely different to the understanding in our community of ecological habits during the early evolution of birds," Wang emphasizes, adding that the discovery opens up to the ecological diversity of primitive avialans. Although Fucanvenator is eye-catching, it is a part of a much larger fossil record of well preserved avian fossils from the same part of China.

"In addition to Fucanvenator, we have found an abundance of other vertebrates, including turtles, snakes and crocodiles," says Lu Zhang, who is from the IVPP and who had lead the research team.

During the Late Jurassic-Karst Cretaceous period, the area that is now southwestern China experienced intensified tectonic activity resulting in the subduction of the Paleo-Pacific plate, which remained with a subduction zone and several subduction zones in the study area.

This geological background is essentially the same as those in the Late Jurassic in north and northeastern China, where the eastern Yangtze River is preserved, Xu adds.

"The extraordinary diversity, unique vertebrate composition, and paleoenvironmental strength indicate that this locality is an important site for understanding the early avian evolution," adds Wang Min. It’s likely that we have taken parts of the bone from different dinosaurs closely related to birds or avians and that mixed together to become an avian form.

Immediately upon discovering the Fucanvenator, the team conducted a field study in Fujian.

"This discovery not only fills in the gap, but also brings us closer to understanding the origin of birds," says Zhou Zhijie, who is at the Fujian Institute, and co-author of the study.

In the middle of the study, the team shared their findings with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which then produced a report. The team is currently analyzing the new findings to improve their understanding of avian evolution.

Yang Feliyue concludes, "This is an extraordinary discovery that fills in a gap in early avian evolution, and it’s a huge step forward for understanding the origin of birds."
Shenzhen has a taste of France at food expo

BY YANG PEIYUE
peiyueyang@china-daily.com.cn

At SHAL, Shenzhen’s premier international food and beverage exhibition opened in Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center in the city’s Nanshan District on September 15. The expo, the biggest of its kind in Southeast Asia, features over 4,000 participating companies with products from 36 countries and regions, including the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Iceland, Australia, Poland, Brazil, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom, among others. They’ve showcased a vast range of food and beverage products, with an emphasis on organic, natural, and healthy offerings.

As the expo opened, attendees were treated to a variety of food and beverage experiences. In addition to the usual food stands, there were also interactive stations where visitors could learn more about various food cultures and traditional dishes. For instance, a booth promoting French cuisine allowed visitors to taste different types of cheeses, wines, and other specialties.

One of the highlights at the expo was the presence of several French chefs who demonstrated their culinary skills in live cooking demonstrations. They prepared dishes such as ratatouille, coq au vin, and tarte Tatin, showcasing the traditional French flavors and techniques.

Shenzhen-based companies and startups also had a strong presence at the expo, with some showcasing their innovative products and services. For example, a startup focused on sustainable packaging materials highlighted their eco-friendly solutions, which are becoming increasingly popular among consumers.

The expo not only provided a platform for businesses to showcase their products but also served as a networking opportunity for industry professionals. Several seminars and workshops were held, covering topics such as food trends, sustainability, and innovation.

With the expo running from September 15 to 17, it offered visitors a comprehensive overview of the global food and beverage industry, showcasing the latest products, trends, and technologies.

According to organizers, the expo attracted over 50,000 visitors, with attendance from both local and international companies. The event is expected to not only boost the local food and beverage industry but also strengthen economic ties between Shenzhen and other regions.

"In addition to showcasing our products, we also hope to deepen our understanding of global food trends and explore opportunities for collaboration," said a representative from one of the participating companies.

The food expo in Shenzhen reflects the city’s efforts to promote innovation and sustainability in the food and beverage sector, aligning with its strategic goals of becoming an international technology and innovation hub.

By the end of the expo, visitors were left with a rich culinary experience, enriched by the diverse offerings from different cultures. The event has set a precedent for future food expos, aiming to bring together the best in the industry and inspire innovation and growth.

Contact the writer at yangpeiyue@china-daily.com.cn

Below are some images from the food expo:

Shenzhen’s taste of France at food expo,

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Shenzhen, a vibrant city in China, is rapidly becoming a hub for international exhibitions and trade fairs. One such event is the SHAL (Shenzhen International Food and Beverage Exhibition), which is held annually in the city’s Nanshan District. The expo attracts participants from over 4,000 companies across 36 countries and regions, showcasing a wide range of food and beverage products.

This year, the expo was held from September 15 to 17, offering visitors a chance to explore diverse culinary experiences and learn about the latest trends in the global food industry. Several French chefs demonstrated their culinary skills in live cooking sessions, preparing traditional dishes such as ratatouille, coq au vin, and tarte Tatin.

In addition to the food stands and demonstrations, the expo featured interactive stations where visitors could learn more about various food cultures and traditional dishes. This included a booth promoting French cuisine, allowing attendees to taste different types of cheeses, wines, and other specialties.

The expo also served as a platform for businesses to showcase their products and network with industry professionals. Several seminars and workshops were held, covering topics such as food trends, sustainability, and innovation.

With the expo running over three days, it provided a comprehensive overview of the global food and beverage industry, showcasing the latest products, trends, and technologies.

The expo not only promoted Shenzhen’s position as a food and beverage hub but also highlighted the city’s commitment to promoting innovation and sustainability in the sector. This aligns with Shenzhen’s strategic goals of becoming an international technology and innovation hub.

Contact the writer at yangpeiyue@china-daily.com.cn

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"Pilgrims from the internet trills, I imagine an isolated person who spends countless hours online, living in the digital world, cut off from the real world. Those who choose to remain in their millennial soap opera are far too busy to notice the world around them, too focused on their screens to acknowledge the existence of real people.

However, their silences can be broken by the moments of truth that thrust them into the real world. I have found that these moments often come in the form of unexpected encounters or revelations that make them realize how connected they are.

One day, on a whim, I decided to interact with a group of people who were online, without their consent. I wanted to see if they would notice the world around them, if they would let their online life be disrupted.

As I interacted with them, I noticed how their online personas were so much different from their real ones. They were so different from the people I knew in real life! Those who chose to remain in their digital worlds were oblivious to the world around them.

In the end, I realized that the internet trills are a reflection of our modern society, where people are becoming more and more isolated from one another. It is a world where people are so focused on their screens that they are ignoring the world around them.

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