Cease-fire appeals amplify as Gaza conflict escalates

By JIN YUNFEI

Appeals for a cease-fire and mini-missing civilian deaths are growing under the world as the Israeli-Hamas conflict enters its third week.

Nearly 3,000 Israeli and Palestinian civilians, including seven foreign nationals, have been killed in the conflict as of Tuesday, according to the Israeli news media and Palestinian authorities.

Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said that China is extremely concerned about and firmly opposes any reports on Israeli casualties, but he made no specific comment to a reporter that two Chinese workers were killed in the conflict on the Gaza border.

China has called on the country’s diplomatic missions to work for releasing Chinese nationals and ensure the safety of those injured in the conflict, Wang said at a regular news conference.

In a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Palestinian Prime Minister Abas Saad said that China would like to maintain communication and cooperation with Egypt to push for an end to the violence between Palestine and Israel.

Beijing’s appeal over the conflict with Gaza to the international community to jointly provide humanitarian support to Palestinian people, and prevent the exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis in Palestine, especially in Gaza, he said.

Khaled, a representative for the Palestinian side, accused Egypt of helping the Israeli army to have a “complete victory over Gaza,” adding that “the Israeli army is not in a position to lead the solution of the Palestinian issue.”

Senior Hamas official Ahmed Abu Marar said that his group had requested that the UN Security Council give the group’s plan to “open a corridor” when asked about a possible truce with Israel.

The Israeli government announced on Tuesday that it had agreed to extend a temporary truce for four more days during the ongoing conflict.

Hamas political bureau chief Moussa Abu Marzouk said that his group called a news conference to announce the extension of the truce.

But the Israeli military said that it was not planning to extend the truce but would work to secure a peaceful end to the conflict.

Hamas also urged the United Nations to hold an emergency meeting of the Security Council to discuss developments in the region.

President Xi Jinping, who is currently visiting the United Arab Emirates, said that the Palestinian people and the Palestinian government would be supported and backed to achieve their legitimate rights.

Wang said that China is ready to cooperate with Palestine to promote peace and development in the region.

China is also willing to support the Palestinian people and that they will be respected and treated with respect and dignity.

Wang said that China is ready to work with the Palestinian people and Palestine to achieve peace and development.

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Daqing: Significant milestone marked

Left: Wang Jihao (left) and other model workers pose at the Daqing oilfield, commemorating progress in oil production. In 1965, WANG JIAO/ FOR CHINA DAILY Right: A photo from the early days of the oilfield is displayed at the Tianren Wang Jihao Memorial Hall in Daqing. KAI LXING/A FOR CHINA DAILY

"Without crude oil, we could not develop the industry, so as oil workers, we needed to take responsibility to contribute to the nation's oil industry." WANG Jihao, model worker, worked in Daqing oilfield, which was the major source of fuel for the country's heavy industry and railway equipment, making it the first modern national technology center. 10/27/2023

Left: A photocopy of the Daqing oilfield provided power for the site. Right: Volunteers learn about the past at the memorial hall in Daqing. Photos by WANG JIAO, LI YANNA, FENG BINGHONG, O. Photo: O. CHEONG/ FOR CHINA DAILY

In 1959, Wang received the National Model Worker award for his work performance in Daqing and was also invited to meet the premier in Beijing to mark the 15th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. During his trip to the capital, he was surprised to find that every house was operating with huge bags on the roof.

When told that the houses were burning gas due to a shortage of petrol, he said he felt as though he had been stabbed through the heart. Wang then told fellow workers after he returned to Wenhua: "The gas has alerted me to the pressure on our country. Without crude oil, we could not develop the industry, so as oil workers, we needed to take responsibility to contribute to the national oil industry."

In the 1950s, China faced great economic difficulties due to a shortage of crude-oil, which hindered national defense. In February 1959, the government approved a direct move to petroleum exploration work, and on Sept. 12, the following year, the first five goals of crude-oil base from the ground in a little-known area of Heilongjiang.

The newly discovered oilfield was named Daqing, or "great salvation", in honor of the upcoming 15th anniversary of the nation's founding. More than 40,000 veterans, technical experts and oil workers were called to Daqing to develop the oilfield, including Wang, who led a group of workers from Guang in March 1960.

Without taking any rest after getting off their train, Wang and others immediately worked to unload equipment at Daqing station.

However, they faced numerous difficulties in transporting large items of equipment, including a drilling rig weighing more than 60 tons.

No large trucks were available in the newly founded country to help the workers complete the task.

They dismantled the drilling rig and spent three days loading the parts onto trains for transportation to the oilfield, but after the rig was installed, Wang found a new problem, as the supporting water pipeline was not connected.

To enable work to start as quickly as possible, Wang led his team to fetch water from a small pool halfway across an oil mining area, including buckets and washi boxes, the team spent about 10 hours carrying more than 300 tons of water to the oilfield.

In the following years, Wang led Daqing's No. 1 oilfield to setting a series of records at the oilfield, including reaching the bottom of an oil well with 5,430 meters deep in 28 hours.

In April 1960, Wang injured his right leg on drilling pipes, but he left the hospital without formal permission to resume work.

Elder colleagues and local residents, encouraged by Wang's passion to continue the work, dragged and pushed himself to the limit, determined to finish the task.

Just three years after it was founded, Daqing had been proved to have annual capacity of 6 million tons of oil. However, the Daqing oilfield was basically self-sufficient in fuel.

However, the long-term demand of working damaged Wang's health, and he died in 1979 from stomach cancer.

Over the past decades, the oilfield and its workers have battled a range of difficulties, with their work enshrined as the "Daqing spirit" and inspiring the great changes in China's industrial development.

In March, the oilfield marked a major milestone in producing 2.5 billion tons of crude oil since it was founded, accounting for 51 percent of the nation's total recoverable oil production.

Zhang Huiwen, executive director of Daqing Oilfield Co. said, "This was a significant milestone in China's industrial history and the nation's efforts to ensure energy security, adding that to date, the nation's largest onshore oilfield has produced more than 3.91 billion tons of oil in two decades from 1963 to 2013.

The company said the production of 3.91 billion tons of crude oil and 6.14 billion metric tons of natural gas has been a new peak in the history of China's energy industry. The Daqing Oilfield Co. said it has increased the efficiency of energy use and improved production control using new technology.

Laborious work

Daqing's annual crude oil production averaged 10 million tons over the past 21 years, with the company boasting a total output of 680 million tons to date, making it the largest single globe for heavy oil in the world using such technology.

The company said it has achieved more than 1,000 technical innovations and inventions, including over 120 national and provincial scientific awards, one first prize and three grand prizes of the National Scientific and Technological Progress Award.

To boost productivity in an area around 300 kilometers away and better take part in the rich oil and food resources, the company has been involved in numerous energy projects overseas, including oil pipelines, pipelines and power stations. So far, exploration teams have visited more than 50 countries and regions, including Venezuela, Egypt and Sudan.

On Sept. 27, eight workers from Daqing Oilfield Co., a subsidiary of China National Petroleum Corporation, were awarded the title of Model Team of the Communist Party of China to mark the centenary. Zhu said, "Wang was an outstanding representative of Daqing people and a model for all oilfield workers in China. Although he left us more than half a century ago, his "Daqing spirit" continues to shine out.

Since joining the photo in 1959, the oilfield's 40-year-old spirit has been much of her spare time deepening her knowledge of oil extraction and undergoing professional training. In 1959, she finished a gold mine in technology competition held by the Daqing Oilfield, and her invention encouraged her to continue her work.

Whether used to carry a set of individual tools that could weigh more than 30 kilograms, the tool which makes their lives much easier."

With more than 2,000 technical innovations and inventions under their belts, Liu and the other members of their team have handled a series of production-related problems.

She has also received a number of awards for her work ethics, professional skills and technical innovations. "As a new generation of oil workers, we strive to overcome difficulties, exploration and development, use concrete actions to ensure national energy security, and build China into a modern industrial country," Liu said.

Over the years, music and many documentaries have also depicted their life story.

On July 11, 1971, Liaoning Ballet of China created the dance drama "Da Qing" to commemorate the oil and Chinese classic and modern opera as well. Wang's story has been performed by workers in Daqing, although he left more than half a century ago.

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Liu, head of Liaoning Ballet of China, said, "We want the public to know all oil extraction people's "spirit" through the form of dance drama."

After a performance of "Da Qing" in the 1980s, the audience was greatly moved by the story. "In the first time I had watched the movie, the "Da Qing" is the best to my mind. Like most people, I was also deeply moved to believe in this spirit," Liu said.

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Recovery of A share market set to continue

Chinese UN envoy calls for end to harm, legacy of colonialism

Survey shows need for stronger China-Japan ties

Off the 12 broad service sectors identified by the General Agreement on Trade in Services, none is perhaps more important to inclusive growth, well-being and social mobility than health and education.

Survey: Pursuit of service sectors should generate positive impacts

China's UN envoy calls for end to harm, legacy of colonialism

By MINLU CHANG

China's UN envoy said the country is determined to use its influence to promote international relations, maintaining power parity and healing the injuries of other countries.

"Even today, the legacy of colonialism endures, colonial ideologies persist, the suppression of the weak continues," said Geng Shuang, director of the China National Physicians Union, on the sidelines of the UN. "It is highly urgent and pressing to address the harm caused by colonialism, all for the good of humankind.

Geng said at a general debate of the UN Special Political and Decolonization Committee, or Fourth Committee, on Tuesday: "Colonialism stands as the darkest chapter in human civilization's history, leaving an enduring scar on the course of human development.

"During that era, a few Western countries prolonged slavery systems and engaged in the trade in human beings, inflicting lasting and dangerous implications at the expense of countries' boundless and unyielding human dignity.

"Today, societies, in the face of colonialism's enduring colonial ideology, have poured their blood and tears to heal the wounds left by the dark era, seeking a better life for the future of the world."

"However, there are still challenges to be addressed. Love Pacific, executive secretary of Pacific Association, wrote in a note released on Tuesday that "there is a pressing need for the global community to act together.

"China and those countries that have implemented the colonial system are committed to ending it, but the political will, shared historical responsibilities, and commitment for the future of the world are not enough.""

Survey shows need for stronger China-Japan ties

By JIAO KUNAN

People in China and Japan have expressed the need for stronger trade cooperation and growth in demand. Japan's strong presence in China and its large share of China's respondents indicate that China-Japan economic cooperation will continue to be a vital source of growth for both countries.

"We need to work together to narrow the differences and deepen the mutual trust," said a survey writer.

China-Japan ties have grown stronger in recent years, with mutual understanding and respect for each other's culture and history. The two countries have signed a series of agreements and cooperation mechanisms, and have strengthened their economic and cultural exchanges.

Both China and Japan are committed to promoting mutual development and cooperation, and are actively seeking new avenues for collaboration. The two countries have a strong desire to strengthen their economic ties and to establish a more balanced and fair economic order.

"We should work together to promote a more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable world, for the benefit of all countries and peoples," said a survey writer.
FIELD STORY

BRI helps Bangladesh reap dividends

By CHEN YINGYING

Beijing Daily

Most Bangladeshi officials get an opportunity to study abroad after high school in Bangladesh in 2012. He chose to study at the Wuhan University of Technology in Central China’s Wuhan city, a PTI sister, and became a teacher there.

Ghislain, director of cross-cultural

communication and the BRI research center at Wuhan University of Technology, exchanged with him. The scholar knew engaged in training on Bangladesh and other developing countries Chinese development experiences.

Living in China for two decades, Ghislain has witnessed great changes in China, especially in the development of rural areas. Whether a student or a teacher, he would use the time during his vacations to volunteer or teach in impoverished areas.

However, the current status in Bihar, Sindh and Punjab, which were proposed by understanding China’s poverty alleviation policies.

Ghislain said that impressed him the most was that China not only protected its own poverty problem, but through its Leftovers Initiative, it has also enabled benefits to ordinary people in many countries, including Bangladesh.

A typical example is the Chinese-built Padma Bridge in Bangladesh, the longest bridge over the Padma River since June 2022. The bridge can save time from parts of southeast Bangladesh to the capital Doha from seven to two hours to take a three hours.

Despite having more sustained and two-way projects with multilateral agencies like the World Bank and other aid agencies, Bangladesh said the geographical challenges are even greater. The moment the water-washed bridge would let stand on the foundation of the two lines the tides were incomplete of carrying heavy trucks.

Winds had to wait for six to seven years to let the roads in the water-washed areas have been brought quickly to service. As a result, much improve is being made of the workers.

The project is expected to be completed 46 months in February of this year. This project is part of the BRI project, which cost more than $5 billion.

The project’s success will allow China to become a commercial partner of the country, which is a new challenge for Bangladesh to find how to make international contractors believe in its financial capability.

China’s record of helping Bangladesh and China, but also a brilliant project under the BRI.

We've made some measures that

have been taken in recent months, in recent weeks. These measures are welcome, but they need to be at scale.

Hanshi Fiezicke Potrich, chair of the Body of the Some Communities of the Chinese Law Firm, told the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that after the current measures taken, the necessary measures need to be taken to avoid the risk of the 600,000 (5.7 million) refugee crisis.

The United Nations’ role in the Middle East refugee crisis—especially the plight of displaced Syrians—remains a logistical challenge after agreed countries dismantled the policy in 2013.

While sanctions were put to help to go government officials, they have been described by Richards as “heavy handed” that has left people in poor condition to innocent civilians.

For Cheng Jinli, an econo-

ICM: China has taken action on property market problems

By ANVIN MUKU

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By ANVIN MUKU
China expels Philippine gunboat

Coast guard continues to carry out law enforcement to safeguard sovereignty

By JIANG CHENGQIANG
jiangchengqiang@xinhua.org.cn

China expelled a Philippine gunboat that had intruded into Chinese territorial waters in the South China Sea, a spokesperson said on Tuesday.

China’s coast guard on Tuesday carried out a series of law enforcement actions against a Philippine gunboat that had intruded into China’s territorial waters in the South China Sea, a spokesperson said.

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A film depicts Chinese enforcement activities in the South China Sea on Tuesday. (Xinhua/Chen Zhi)

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The Philippine gunboat had been in position to carry out law enforcement activities to safeguard sovereignty in the South China Sea.

This is the fourth such action in recent months, the spokesperson said.

The Philippine gunboat on Tuesday carried out series of inspections and exercises to ensure national sovereignty in the South China Sea.

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Breathe in and brave your deepest fears

Take a plunge into the daredevil sport of freediving

H owever deep you put your head underwater without breathing equipment! As one of the world's top female freedivers, China's Xu Xingrui's answer is Beyond the Limit.

Freediving, which originated in the Mediterranean region, is gaining popularity across the world. Divers rely only on their lung capacity to plunge as far as they can — either in open water by so-called "deeps" exercise in the swimming pool, simply called "pool" exercises.

This year, the 35-year-old Xu has successfully dived 102 meters underwater in both constant weight (CWT) and constant weight minus buoys (CWTB) contests, becoming only the third female freediver on the planet to touch this depth.

"When I dived 102 meters and grabbed the depth tag, I knew I had done it. I came back to the surface with a smile," Xu joyfully recalled of her historic feat.

Hailing from East China's Zhejiang province, Xu transitioned from swimming to freediving in 2014. "I was able to enter the three-dimensional world from a two-dimensional space. That is why I fell in love with freediving," she told Xinhua in a recent exclusive interview. "The biggest attraction of freediving lies in facing up to and overcoming our fears. The challenge is a process of constantly knowing ourselves," said Xu, adding that darkness and the unknown are the main sources of fear for most people, while freediving can help overcome them through science-based training. "Now my fears are gone; there is nothing to be afraid of anymore," she said.

After three months of training and competing this year in Panglao, an island town in the central Philippines province of Bohol, Xu decided to stay on the island to continue her training and reaching a water source of interest for this world-class freediver. Panglao, just an hour's drive from the well-known tourist attraction Chocolate Hills, has developed into a major freediving hub thanks to its favorable sea conditions and pleasant tropical weather.

Over 100 freedivers from all over the world live in Panglao for daily training, including Hawaiian Alama Alaka, who is considered one of the greatest freedivers of all time. Panglao locals, who mostly fish for a living, generally welcome the tourists, realizing there are some similarities between freediving and their daily work with water.

As Xu, a former ICT engineer from China, now runs the largest freediving training base on the island, it is also the organizer of multiple international competitions, including the prestigious Asian Freediving Cup.

"I dreamed of pursuing a career in freediving, learning the art and beauty of breathing without and moving to Panglao in 2014 to devote myself to this "freedom or hand" sport.

"I never made it as a competitive freediver, but I found success as an event organizer, as well as occasionally working as a safety warden at competitions. My fascination with the water sport has changed the course of my life. Freediving is sometimes a way of life. A sport that can make many enthusiasts give up their original lives, come to the island and live a simple, self-grounded life," Xu said, adding that freediving is the most important principle of practicing freediving. "It is necessary to completely relax while maintaining absolute control of the body. Therefore, age and experience are, to some extent, advantages in freediving."

In May, 19-year-old Indian freediver Almira Zendrini set a new world record for women's CWTB in a competition in Panglao, reaching a depth of 123 meters.

"I have the record in a sheet that children acquire to reach, but freediving is more of a contact with ourselves that surpassing others. "I enjoy the process of adjusting my breathing on the surface before diving into the water. At that moment, I feel I am the only person for it," Xu said.

Based on her performances in daily training, Xu has set a target of 125 meters, which she hopes to hit by next year. However, she is not ruling out the possibility of challenging Zendrini's record.

"I'm not about competing with anyone. It's just that my target can be climbed in the world," Xu said.
Abdullah Al-Rashidi (shooting, Kuwait)

The 60-year-old Abdullah Al-Rashidi increased his tally of Asian Games medals to an impressive 10 in Incheon, while also matching the world record in the 10-meter final.

"In Kuwait, we face significant limitations in training conditions, but I possess inner talent, coupled with experience and relentless training, which have brought me to this level," said Al-Rashidi.

Reza Alipour Shemshardi (boxing, Iran)

Iran’s Reza Alipour Shemshardi, 25, stirred several emotions to make his men’s speed discipline title.

Since struggling to qualify in London in 2012, he has largely been out of the medals on the international stage.

"I trained hard every day, I look, feel, eat, but still I trained from coming to night. Sometimes I cried alone at night, but I never gave up," he said.

AN ASIAD FOR THE AGES

The Hangzhou Asian Games witnessed many veteran athletes continue to defy their advancing years. The perseverance and courage of these evergreen aces delivered some of the Asia’s most memorable moments. Here’s a look at eight of the best...

Li Ling (athletics, China)

Li Ling broke her own Asian Games record on her kitchen cloth at Incheon.

The 34-year-old medaled only once in previous 13 Games, but a recent blip in her form saw the Atletico Madrid star take silver.

"In terms of motivation, when I first joined the team in 2005, I would only run personal bests if my heart was feeling well. Now my motivation is much stronger," she said.

"I hope to change this year and feel that I have my own personal best. When I set my past higher, I think it’s easier to improve. I want to break the 23-meter mark at the Tokyo Olympics," she said.

Gong Li (shot put, China)

Olympic champion Gong Li broke her third Asian shot put title with a throw of 18.80 meters.

The 34-year-old became a Grand Slam winner after topping the podium at the Tokyo Olympics with a personal best of 20.33 meters, and had been hoping to better that distance in Incheon.

"I will keep pushing improvements. I hope to break the 21-meter mark at the Tokyo Olympics," she said.

Aliaksy Lutsenko (road cycling, Kazakhstan)

Kazakhstan’s Alexey Lutsenko made it a hat-trick of golds in the men’s individual time trial when he successfully defended his title in Hangzhou.

The 34-year-old, who won the event at Incheon 2014 and Jakarta 2018, finished in 1:19:50 minutes, 37.73 seconds.

"This achievement was the main goal for this year, and I put in a lot off effort for 2018," he said.

Oksana Chusovitina (artistic gymnastics, Uzbekistan)

The 49-year-old Oksana Chusovitina is a true legend of gymnastics, exemplifying the enduring spirit of the Hangzhou Asian Games.

The eight-time Olympic narrowly missed out on a bronze medal in the vault final with a score of 13.383 points, only 0.05 points behind third-placed Lilia Akhaim, China.

Amalraj Chauhan (women’s singles, India)

"Before the Olympic qualification competition begins, I need to work on certain aspects," she said.

Ma Long (table tennis, China)

After Beijing, China, collect its eighth straight team title in Hangzhou, Ma Long led his team to a 3-1 win over Cambodia, with six Asian Games gold medals in the men’s team event.

"My Asian Games might be done, but I still have other competitions coming up," he said.

Li Qian (boxing, China)

Having lost to India’s Lovlina Borgohain in the semifinals of the world championships in March, Li Qian put up her best at the women’s light fly to clinch her maiden Asian gold.

"I have trained hard over the past four years," said Li, a silver medalist at the 2018 Incheon Games. "It has been a long, tough journey for me to finally win gold."

The 18-year-old now has her sights set on next year’s Tokyo Olympics, where she hopes to improve on the silver medal she won at the Tokyo Games.

"I am more stable and mature now. I also have higher standards for myself," she said.
Business

Local debt swaps may forestall financial risks

By ZHOU LANZU

China, experts said on Tuesday, might have pushed ahead a "debt swap" strategy to forestall financial risks to local governments.

Among the likely candidates to benefit from the local debt swaps is Shanghai, which has the biggest issuance scale of 55.45 billion yuan ($8.52 billion) among all the 10 major local governments in China, said the experts.

"China is now in the stage of debt-financed infrastructure construction," said Zhao Sheng, an economic professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

"Shanghai has the largest scale of local debt issuance, which also indicates the most obvious interest in local debt swaps," Zhao said.

"Shanghai has been committed to the debt-financed infrastructure construction," Zhao added.

By swapping its debt, Shanghai may have reduced its debt and raised funds to construct high-quality new infrastructure projects.

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Taicang a 'role model' for China-Germany cooperation

By LI YUKE

Johnson Controls

Addressing the headwinds of development of China’s new energy vehicle (NEV) industry, chairman of German automaker Munich-based E+H China, Dr Peter Schallenberg, said an agreement with Jiangsu provincial Taicang government to help the city to promote high-quality motor engine parts for NEV makers.

The investment in the new project, where the German company will invest its high-end engine output equipment to boost the industry, is the first concrete evidence that E+H has decided to transform and upgrade its business. The project, he said, will also make the right choice to continue its long-term cooperation.

E+H’s Taicang plant, the company’s first in China, has recently been fully upgraded and will start operating in the current quarter. With a production capacity of 100 million engine components per year, the Taicang facility is expected to contribute significantly to the company’s overall business.

The project, Schallenberg said, is a significant step for the company’s strategic plan to strengthen its position in the Chinese market. It will also help the company expand its business footprint in the region and increase its market share.

Schallenberg added that the project is part of the company’s broader strategy to invest in high-quality, sustainable technologies and products that meet the needs of customers globally.

E+H has been a leading provider of automotive components, systems, and services to the automotive industry worldwide. The company has been operating in China for over 30 years and has a strong presence in the region.

By LI YUNMEI

First project

Taicang government and E+H have agreed to invest jointly in the project, which will include the construction of a new engine component production line, the establishment of a research and development center, and the setting up of an innovation center.

The project will create more than 3,000 new jobs and bring significant economic benefits to Taicang. It is expected to boost the city’s industrial output by more than 10 billion yuan ($1.5 billion) annually.

“Taicang is a role model for China-Germany cooperation, and we are proud to be part of this partnership,” said Schallenberg. “This project is a testament to our commitment to supporting the local economy and promoting sustainable development.”

Schallenberg added that E+H is committed to promoting the development of the local automotive industry and to contributing to the region’s economic growth.

The project was officially launched in Taicang on Friday, with the presence of local government officials and representatives from E+H. The ceremony marked the beginning of a new chapter in the company’s relationship with Taicang and its commitment to contribute to the local economy.

By JIANG JINGFENG

Belt, Road green partnership to raise opportunities

By LI YUKE

Global accounting firm Ernst & Young said on Tuesday it anticipates increased opportunities in the area of Belt and Road collaboration and green standards establishment, along with the Belt and Road Initiative.

EY said the Belt and Road green cooperation will empower the high-quality development of involved countries and provide new momentum for global cooperation.

“The past decade, Belt and Road cooperation has steadily deepened, leading to the establishment of a stable framework of Belt and Road cooperation and cooperation mechanism,” said Li Zhanlin, chairman of EY China.

Li said EY green expert cooperation will help guide the high-quality development of involved countries and provide new momentum for global cooperation.

Belt and Road green partnership to raise opportunities

Li further added that Belt and Road cooperation is now a potential driver for Chinese enterprises, technology enterprises, and governmental departments.

China is the target of high-quality development cooperation, along with cooperation with the Belt and Road green partnership to raise opportunities.

Li said the Belt and Road green partnership to raise opportunities will provide China’s development with new momentum and the world with new opportunities.

Li added that Belt and Road green collaboration will improve international trade and investment cooperation, and the Belt and Road green partnership to raise opportunities will help China’s development with new momentum and the world with new opportunities.

Roberto Bocca, head of energy sector for China at Enel, the world’s largest renewable energy company, said at a conference on energy transition in China last week that China has a unique opportunity to lead the global energy transition.

"China is the world’s second-largest economy and has a vast resource base that can drive the global energy transition," Bocca said. "China has the potential to lead the world in renewable energy, and it has already made significant progress in this area."
Small cities fuel rising consumption binge

Over saturation, excessive product choices dampen sales with big urban centers

By WANG KEZU

Recent economic data coming out of China in late August can't help but signal the formation of a new consumption engine. In the second half of the year, many signs suggest that the Chinese economy is quickly emerging as another key driver of global consumption growth.

Retail sales, a major gauge of China's consumption, exceeded 13.33 trillion yuan ($2.1 trillion) in the first half, with a contribution to economic growth of over 3 percentage points, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

In particular, sales of consumer goods in urban areas rose by 15.25 trillion yuan ($2.4 trillion), with a year-on-year growth rate of 4.6%.

China's small and medium cities, with a population of over 100 million, have been the key drivers of the overall consumption rise.

A breakdown of urban consumption shows the growing importance of small cities, as consumers in these regions are increasingly turning to better products and brands, which has sparked a growing number of consumer goods firms to position themselves in these markets, according to industry analysts and company executives.

China's small, medium city of Qianyuan and Han solar energy follow Peekon, Barbour, opened its first store in late August for China's third, a major player in the energy sector.

In the past, leading brands to reach Chinese consumers have typically been focused on high-end consumer markets, but now they are turning their attention to a growing middle class.

China, the world's most populous country, is home to one of the largest and fastest-growing consumer markets in the world. With a population of over 1.4 billion people, China has a vast and diverse consumer base, which has been key in driving consumption growth for businesses.

Local governments and local governments in China have been urging companies to enter these markets in recent years, with different strategies and initiatives.

For example, many local governments in China have been offering tax breaks, subsidies, and other incentives to companies that invest in these markets.

Many local governments have also been working to improve infrastructure and transportation systems, which have been key in attracting companies to these markets.

In addition, local governments have been promoting local culture and tourism, which have been key in attracting companies to these markets.

China's small and medium cities are becoming increasingly attractive to local and foreign companies, as these markets are expected to continue to grow in the coming years.

As China's small and medium cities continue to grow, local and foreign companies will continue to look for opportunities to enter these markets, which are expected to continue to grow in the coming years.

The following is a list of the key drivers of consumption growth for small cities in China:

- Rising incomes: The Chinese government has been implementing policies to increase incomes for the middle class, which has been key in driving consumption growth for small cities.
- Improving infrastructure: Local governments have been improving infrastructure in small cities, which has been key in attracting companies to these markets.
- Promoting local culture and tourism: Local governments have been promoting local culture and tourism, which has been key in attracting companies to these markets.
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Thousands set to attend intangible cultural heritage festival

By WANG JINHUI

Thousands set to attend intangible cultural heritage festival

Protection and continuation of China’s many ancient crafts a key aim of event

The 6th International Forum of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Chengdu, China, an international platform for boosting high-level dialogue and exchanges, will be held in the capital of Sichuan province from Oct 13 to 16.

Established in 2007, the biennial forum is one of the largest cultural events in the world with ICH as its theme and the promotion of ICH protection as its purpose. In 2016, it was granted the status of a Ministry of Culture project and is attended by both national and international institutions.

The theme of this year’s event is “Practice, Deepen Mutual Learning among Civilizations.” This year’s event, mainly organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Sichuan provincial government, will highlight the 20th anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage adopted by UNESCO in 2001. It is to feature four major sections: World ICH, China ICH, Sichuan ICH and Cloud-UCH.

Representatives from countries and regions such as the United States, Pakistan and Thailand will share their ideas on ICH protection and the implementation of the international ICH convention over the past 20 years. More than 500 ICH projects and about 5,000 projects and inheritances from 65 countries and regions around the world have also been invited to enjoy the cultural feast.

Shi Ziyu, deputy director of the international cultural and cooperation office at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, said that since its establishment, the International Forum of the Intangible Cultural Heritage has held more than 2,000 events, introduced more than 5,000 ICH projects and attracted more than 500,000 representations from over 130 nations and regions and non-governmental organizations as well as about 20,000 local residents and tourists.

It has become an internationally renowned event, among both the local community and international communities.

She said that the event reflects the determination and attention paid by the Chinese government, as a construct party to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and a promoter of ICH protection, to accelerate the action. It is a global event for the protection and promotion of intangible cultural heritage.

In recent years, Sichuan has made remarkable efforts in advancing the systematic protection of ICH by implementing key projects on inheriting and developing ICH, advancing the transformation and innovative development of ICH and innovating ICH (neo-modern) HCI.

Currently, Sichuan has eight items on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, 35 provincial-level cultural relics and 220 inheritances recognized by provincial-level governments, and 34 inheritances recognized by the Ministry of Culture.

In 2016, Sichuan and the other 32 provinces and municipalities on the mainland of China presented a large-scale demonstration project of the ICH Convention. In 2018, this project was awarded the title of ICH National Demonstration Project.

In 2018, Sichuan and other 12 provinces and municipalities on the mainland of China and Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan together became the first batch of national convention zones.

To celebrate the national demonstration project of the ICH Convention and further promote various intangible cultural activities, Sichuan has set up 15 provincial-level demonstration projects.

The province also has 131 national-level representative inheritances, 2,532 provincial-level inheritances, 433 provincial-level intangible cultural villages, 878 intangible cultural villages, and 1,002 provincial-level intangible cultural villages.

Wang Haizhen, both in Xindu county of Anhui Province and a provincial-level intangible cultural protection inheritor, Wang Hua, is a member of the ‘Ninth Art’ group who grew up in the mountains. Wang was born into a Tang Dynasty (618-907) family of Tibetans, and embroidery from her mother.

After working as a painter, Yang witnessed the magnitude of a Wenchuan earthquake on May 12, 2008. She was then permanent in the disaster zone of the aftermath. The collapsed homes and the despair of the people left a deep impression on her. To help her fellow countrymen rebuild their homes and lives.

After much consideration, she resigned from her job and organized a group of 500 embroidery artisans from the local area to start a project which aimed to boost incomes and rebuild homes. This led to the establishment of the Aba Tibetan Traditional Weaving and Embroidery Association.

The embroidery, who are from both the Tibetans and Qiang ethnic groups, brought together different embroidery techniques and styles. They then named the “Tibetan- Qiang Weaving and Embroidery,” a new form combining the Qiang embroidery and Tibetan weaving and embroidery, both of which are national ICH in their own right.

Wang believes that traditional craftsmanship can create a livelihood for people’s lives through production and be combined with fashion. It will add artistic value to clothing and enhance aesthetic taste and cultural connotations.

On the other hand, fashion can make awareness of traditional crafts, opening up broader living spaces, she added.

In recent years, Yang has collaborated with international brands such as SSA Denim, Starbucks, Universal Pictures and licensed for intellectual property licensing, bringing attention to traditional crafts that were once obscure.

Located in Duoyi town, Chongzhou city, Chongqing, Zhuyi Village is named after the national ICH, bamboo weaving, or bamboo weaving with bamboo strands.

Over the years, the village has adhered to the concept of "unitary culture to assimilate the forest and art to编织 the countryside". Inclusive leisure businesses, consumer services and virtual spaces are introduced. Through network and traditional craftsmanship, the village has developed a unique village style.

The village now boasts ranch landscapes and art, especially handmade bamboo items such as the Rainbow Bamboo Mountain, Bamboo Art Square and Mount Wumian Bamboo Art Park, which share characteristics of "international style, Chinese flavor and bamboo weaving flavor!"

Since childhood, Ding Changhuan, born in a family of Dingtang bamboo artisans, has been in love with his traditional craft and believes that his daughter, Ding Ziyi, is an ICH inheritor of the Dingtang bamboo weaving, its Bamboo Embroidery and Bamboo Weaving.

In 2016, Ding Changhuan and her daughter co-founded the Dingtang Bamboo Embroidery Cultural Experience Hall on such a better creative path for the ancient craft to thrive in today’s lifestyle.

"Transforming bamboo weaving into creative products, combining tradition and innovation,“ she said.

"In the past, we mostly produced traditional bamboo-weaving products such as bamboo baskets and bamboo mats. Now, we create cultural and creative works including murals, handbags, dolls, furniture and large-scale decorative items. We create fashion!"

Ding Changhuan believes in seeing from the perspective of the new generation and integrating such designs into modern bamboo weaving.

"Different materials such as metal and fabric can be used. Market demand determines the direction of our product innovation. We cater our bamboo weaving according to what our customers need. Through continuous efforts, we have created an innovative path for Dingtang bamboo weaving. Ding added.

Yin Lingying, a national representative inheritor of the ancient Changshu lacquer craft, has reconstructed the items of lacquer objects. She started the Changshu lacquer craft, as her father, nearly 20 years ago.

"Market demand determines the direction of our product innovation. We cater our lacquer craft according to what our customers need. Through continuous efforts, we have created an innovative path for Changshu lacquercrafting. Ding added.

"In the past, many things in Chinese daily life were handcrafted. We continue to explore and develop new products, such as collaborations with sculptor, installation art and other fields, opening up a new world!" Yin said.
COMMENT

Ancient wisdom, shared future drive BRI to make world a better place for all

The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by China in 2013, has its roots in the ancient belief that trade and exchange could improve mutual understanding and make the world a better place for all. As the world is more interconnected today than ever before, trade and exchange have become even more critical, and the BRI continues to foster mutual understanding and cooperation across the globe.

The ultimate goal of the Belt and Road Initiative is to create a network of communities linked by shared future, by improving infrastructure connectivity and mutual trade and investment.

The initiative is an important policy for improving global governance and improving the world order. It has been defined as an extension of China’s ancient trade routes, which have played a critical role in bringing about mutual understanding and cooperation between civilizations.

BRI is not just about infrastructure development, but also about improving cultural exchanges and mutual understanding. It serves to improve the well-being of the world community.

In an innovation, a joint meeting on the world of public communication and culture was held in Beijing. This joint meeting emphasizes the importance of new media and innovative cultural communication. It proposes a new way forward for the Belt and Road Initiative.

Shaping the future of the world, the joint meeting emphasizes the importance of new media and innovative cultural communication. It proposes a new way forward for the Belt and Road Initiative.

What They Say

ROK gets 'gift' for ceding tech firms' control to US

The Joe Biden administration will soon order Samsung and SK Hynix to acquire the equipment they supplied from US companies to expand their production plants in China, thus putting a brake on its chip-making push, according to Seoul.

The US government has instructed Samsung and SK Hynix to stop supplying them with equipment for expanding their semiconductor production in China, according to a government official. At issue is the equipment supplied by Samsung and SK Hynix to their joint venture, Samsung Electronics China, to expand its semiconductor production.

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Shutting the door on idea of openness

Under the guidance of ideologically thought, the country should further advocate open-mindedness, build itself into a leading country in culture, and follow modern Chinese civilization at a new starting point, and should work harder to improve the level of public communication and culture and improve public cultural confidence. The modernization of Chinese civilization is an unprecedented historical opportunity and a new task in the new era. China should shoulder the responsibilities of the Sino-US leadership in the world of public communication and culture, and its cultural influence will continue to bring dividends to China.

Opinion Line

Communication and culture work to national paramount to rejuvenation

Economic convergence and cultural convergence are two sides of the same coin. To realize China's economic rejuvenation and civilization rejuvenation, China should make efforts to strengthen cultural exchanges and mutual understanding.

Shaping the future of the world, China is committed to maintaining cultural diversity and promoting cultural exchanges and mutual understanding.

What is China committed to maintaining cultural diversity and promoting cultural exchanges and mutual understanding?

The Belt and Road Initiative is a joint meeting on the world of public communication and culture. It proposes a new way forward for the Belt and Road Initiative.

Under the guidance of ideologically thought, the country should further advocate open-mindedness, build itself into a leading country in culture, and follow modern Chinese civilization at a new starting point, and should work harder to improve the level of public communication and culture and improve public cultural confidence. The modernization of Chinese civilization is an unprecedented historical opportunity and a new task in the new era. China should shoulder the responsibilities of the Sino-US leadership in the world of public communication and culture, and its cultural influence will continue to bring dividends to China.
GLOBAL VIEWS

**CAROLA RAMON**

'A natural extension'

BRI marks a landmark in China-Argentina ties, however long-term local, national, and regional economic development is needed to realize its full potential

Ten years later and with over ISO countries participated in the BRI, it is a truly global initiative.

The ramifications of these unilateral actions are significant and call for immediate attention. It is crucial that major shipping flag states worldwide take notice and engage in proactive measures to protect the global regulatory framework for shipping. By doing so, we can ensure the continued safety, efficiency and prosperity of the maritime industry.

**EDWARD LIU**

Smooth sailing

Protecting the global regulatory framework for shipping an urgent need
Building on the bridges between nations

Young people from China and neighboring countries have their perspectives on the Belt and Road Initiative and the Silk Road Economic Belt, Li Xumin reports.

"We understand that it is the voices of young people that true change will be achieved. Previous generations and the BRI have 'planted trees' for us. The time has come for us to plant trees for the next generation to enjoy," Wang Zeminan, a Chinese student at Tsinghua University, said.

Reflection on history, the role of Zhang Qian, the Chinese envoy to the Western Han Dynasty (205 BC–AD 2) who traveled along the Silk Road, demonstrated that differences and disputes among different countries are inevitable. However, effective communicatation based on mutual respect and the overarching goal of mutual development remain crucial.

Wang Zeminan, a Chinese student studying at Tsinghua University, drew parallels between the ancient Silk Road and the BRI.

"They are not about colonization. We do not force other countries to see that idea for us or take away their goods. That's the basic difference between civilisation and what we call globalization in the cooperation between countries," he said.

Wang pointed out the differences in cooperation between ancient times and the present, where technological achievements have made communication more convenient and frequent. He also acknowledged the potential problems.

"At ancient times, the influence of media wasn't so great. But now there are many eyes watching how our countries collaborate," he said.

We therefore, as a student at Tsinghua University, want to share our classroom experiences which should benefit students. We also encourage a critical article in that pointed China's collaboration in the Silk Road countries is significant, indispensable, and necessary, but our approach to it is also crucial, he said.

"And there's also the issue of stereotyping. I think it's human nature that people tend to judge others subjectively, instead of thinking in others' shoes."

And while it is true that some voices in the world criticize the BRI as a source of debt traps and an instrument for imposing influence, Wang believes that the initiative's sustainable progress will ultimately speak for itself. And it is not seen in the highly visible Silk Road projects.

Referring to one of the most economic opportunities emerging from the BRI, Wang noted that "We can see visible progress such as the construction of ports, harbors and railways. I also know that once in a five-straining suit, 1,000,000 coins of play never from Afghanistan were sold out in only three seconds!"

Some of the Western countries may view the BRI as a potential threat to their interests. But Wang suggested that it is essential for Western markers to assess the benefits and focus on the positive aspects of the initiative.

"We should think about the future of humanity as global citizens," he added.

As a ZHAO ZHAN ZH, the BRI helps to increase influence in the global market. Wang emphasized the pivotal role of youth in influencing the world of today and tomorrow. "We were teenagers 10 years ago, and now we're the youth. In another 10 years, it will be our turn to lead, the era of youth power," he said.

"We understand that it is the voices of young people that true change will be achieved. Previous generations and the BRI have 'planted trees' for us. The time has come for us to plant trees for the next generation to enjoy," Wang concluded.

Contact the author at lixinmin@sina.com

Social Media Digest

Magical studies

The University of Oxford UK, has announced its groundbreaking Master of Arts in Magic and wizardry, which will start in September 2023. The program has received much attention and interest worldwide.

According to university authorities, the course brings together academics from diverse fields such as history, literature, philosophy, psychology, genetics, and social sciences. Together, they will examine the role of magic and the wizard in both History and Renaissance culture, challenging conventional perceptions, and examining a future understanding of the global influence of magic and the wizard on society and culture.

Professor Smith, the course leader, emphasized the program’s relevance to contemporary society.

The course will cover topics such as modern magic and wizardry, the history and sociology of magic, and the role of magic in literature and film.

However, prominent figures in the field, Oxford, as well as social media, have noted that the degree is "fun" and "a sense of humor." But the university welcomes participants in its commitment to offering a unique educational experience, seeing it as an opportunity to encourage critical thinking among students.

"The University of Oxford in the UK will launch an MA in Magic and Wizardry in 2023, (MAW)"

A sense of the most urgent concern is the role of wizardry. The degree is designed to reflect the 21st-century understanding of the global influence of magic and the wizard on society and culture.

Professor Smith believes, the course leader, is to redefine the program’s relevance to contemporary society."

Participants of "professorial level seminars" will be given unprecedented wizardry training in ancient and modern times. Under the skill of a master, participants will often work in teams and under the guidance of a master, who will offer a masterclass in wizardry at the end of the program.

We believe the topic is an important one for us, those who have been involved in the University of Oxford," the professor said, minted with the understanding that the role of magic in modern society is not just entertainment but a medium for critical thinking.

Cat and mouse

Thanks to integration of smartphone technology and digitalization, a beloved childhood game, hide-and-seek, has reached a new landscape.

Dubbed "21st-century hide-and-seek," this contemporary twist on the classic has enjoyed Chinese young people with its unique blend of physical activity, strategy, and social interaction.

However, not everyone is embracing the idea. Critics on social media have raised doubts, describing it as "tense" and "a lack of fun."

But the university wants to see its commitment to offering a unique educational experience, seeing it as an opportunity to encourage critical thinking among students.

"Under the skill of a master, participants will often work in teams and under the guidance of a master, who will offer a masterclass in wizardry at the end of the program."
Fandom beyond borders

A

round 50 years has passed since the British writer J.R.R. Tolkien’s novel *The Lord of the Rings* and the associated film trilogy. The oversized world that he created has been cherished by fans for decades. However, this fictional world has been explored far beyond its original context.

More than 200 fans of Tolkien’s imaginary world have joined the FB group *Feasting with Tolkien*. In the group, fans discuss various topics related to Tolkien’s works. Some share their experiences of dressing up as characters from Tolkien’s books or collecting Tolkien-themed items. They share their thoughts and ideas about the stories, characters, and themes. Fans also share their experiences of attending Tolkien-related events or visiting places associated with Tolkien’s life.

When discussing the novel, fans often express their admiration for the detailed world-building and the depth of the characters. They appreciate the way Tolkien’s works have inspired other works of art, from films and television shows to music and literature.

**Community contributions**

Fans of Tolkien contribute to the appreciation of his works in various ways. They create fan art, write fan fiction, and organize events to celebrate the author’s legacy. They also support each other through their mutual interest in Tolkien’s works.

**Fandom to career**

As the fandom becomes a significant point of interest for businesses, fans of Tolkien’s works are beginning to pursue careers related to the author. Some fans have become authors, artists, or filmmakers, creating their own works inspired by Tolkien’s stories. They also organize events and workshops to share their knowledge and passion with others.

**Fandom and identity**

For many fans of Tolkien, dressing up as their favorite characters is a way to express their identity and connect with others who share their interests. This shared identity is often a source of pride and a way to form bonds with others who are passionate about Tolkien’s works.

**Conclusion**

Tolkien’s fictional world continues to captivate fans and inspire new generations of storytellers. The fandom’s growth and diversity highlight the enduring appeal of Tolkien’s creations and the rich imagination that brought them to life.
A young woman in South China is holding on an ancient form of firework art, sending streams of white-hot iron high into the sky, Meng Wenjie reports.

Global Insights

"I want them to feel the traditional culture and experience firework art," said Meng, who leads a team of around 10 people. "I also want them to feel the beauty and energy of firework art."

Meng, 35, is a cultural inheritor of firework art in China. She was born in Hunan province, a place where firework art is a common traditional culture, and grew up watching her family members and relatives operate a company producing the art. At the age of 18, she began to operate the company, and has been doing so ever since.

For Meng, the beauty of firework art is not only in its aesthetic appeal, but also in its cultural significance. "Firework art is a form of cultural expression that reflects the deep-rooted values and beliefs of Chinese people," she said. "It is a way to convey thoughts and emotions through the use of light, sound, and movement, and it has been an integral part of Chinese culture for centuries."}

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