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CHINA WATCH

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A wind turbine is assembled on an offshore platform in Fujian province in June. LIN SHANCHUAN / XINHUA

Renewables take pride of place

In February last year a 13-megawatt offshore wind turbine, which had the largest single-unit capacity in Asia at the time, rolled off a production line in Fujian province.

Only nine months later the plant was dwarfed by a 16-MW offshore wind turbine assembled in Fujian and that was a world leader in terms of single-unit capacity. In June a 20-MW wind turbine made in Shandong province set another record.

All this underlines the progress China has made in developing renewable energy, and which has helped it greatly cut the cost of renewables, experts said.

Consistent and comprehensive policy support and the great importance attached to capacity building and production standards are among the things that have given China experience in promoting energy on a large scale, they said.

According to the National Energy Administration, the total capacity of grid-connected wind turbines in China stood at just 1.06 million kilowatts in 2005, and by the end of last year capacity was 365 million KW. In that time the country's combined installed capacity for photovoltaic power rose from 70,000 KW to 392 million KW. Its proportion of the global total rose from less than 1.4% to more than 33%.

By the end of June installed capacity of renewable energy in China had exceeded 1.3 billion KW, surpassing the installed capacity of coal-fired power for the first time.

The development of large-scale renewable energy in China has significantly

brought down the global cost of renewables, said Wang Weiquan, deputy secretary-general of the Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association.

Thanks to China's contribution, the cost of photovoltaic power generation is now as low as 1 cent for 1 kilowatt-hour of electricity in the Middle East, where the costs of land use and financing are relatively low, he said.

Wang attributed the remarkable achievement to consistent, systematic and tailor-made policies adopted at different stages of development. Driven by these policies, a broad market for renewable energy development was formed. This then boosted the development of upstream manufacturing industries and the entire industry chain, he said, citing the subsidized price for renewable energy, or the feed-in tariff, as an example.

The feed-in tariff, a surcharge on electricity bills, guaranteed solar and wind companies above-market prices for their energy, which helped attract many investors to the sector, he said. China also introduced a dedicated renewable energy law in 2005, has incorporated renewable energy development into its five-year plans since 1996, and has established a sound mechanism to guarantee the absorption of newly added renewable energy output, Wang said.

The country also set up the Renewable Energy Development Fund to support development of the sector.

Hou Yuhan, group marketing director of Goldwind Science and Technology, a Chinese wind turbine manu-

facturer, underscored the importance of "continuity, stability and sustainability" in the country's policies for developing the wind energy sector.

"Since the 1990s China's central and regional governments have introduced a slew of policies concerning the renewable energy sector, creating a stable policy environment and favorable conditions for wind energy development."

The introduction of China's dual-carbon targets in 2020 and the national policy framework to implement the goals "have propelled the renewable energy sector to a key development stage", she said.

In 2020 China announced that it aimed to reach peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and realize carbon neutrality before 2060.

The country has adopted a raft of new policies to guide the energy transition, and these have given priority to green, low-carbon energy development, scientific and technological innovation, institutional innovation, regulatory efficiency and international cooperation, Hou said.

International companies also invested in China, and these investments were mutually beneficial, Wang said. While those companies made profits in China, it managed to master the technologies it needed to develop the industry.

"The development of China's wind power industry has been closely linked to the wind power technology acquired through international collaboration," Hou said.

—HOU LIQIANG

PIVOTAL ROLE OF KISSINGER REMEMBERED

The former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger has been fondly remembered in China after he died at the age of 100 in Connecticut on Nov 29. Kissinger had a profound influence on relations between the two superpowers, and for many years was regarded as a firm friend of China.

"The world has lost a tireless advocate for peace," said Winston Lord, Kissinger's top aide in the 1970s. "America has lost a towering champion for the national interest. I have lost a cherished friend and mentor."

At dawn on July 9, 1971, Kissinger and Lord entered Chinese airspace aboard a Pakistani aircraft. The clandestine trip, which resulted in a Chinese invitation to then president Richard Nixon, resulted in top leaders from the United States and China meeting in February 1972 for the first time in two-and-a-half decades, a period during which the two countries were, in Kissinger's words, "at war, near war."

The trip also helped lay the foundation for today's international geopolitical order.

The Nixon visit was followed by a prolonged period of what Kissinger called "cooperative coexistence" in which China rose to be a dynamic element in the world economy and the U.S. "easing out of its pain at the outcome of the Vietnam War", as Lord put it.

The death of Kissinger, who had been the last surviving member of Nixon's cabinet, comes as China and the U.S. work to improve what Kissinger called "the world's most consequential bilateral relationship".

In July, two months after Kissinger celebrated his 100th birthday, he traveled to Beijing, where his host reminded him of what had happened there 52 years before.

"It was in July 1971 in the same place, Villa No. 5 of Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, that you and Premier Zhou Enlai had a meeting to start the normalization process," President Xi Jinping told Kissinger.

Some of the most intense hours of that visit and one in October were spent between Kissinger and Zhou as the two negotiated a draft of what would become known as the Shanghai Communiqué.

"Today, more than 50 years later, the communiqué is still being invoked as one of the foundations of our relationship, while most communiqués disappear within weeks," said Lord, who was U.S. ambassador to China from 1985 to 1989.

In a message of condolence sent to U.S. President Joe Biden over Kissinger's passing, President Xi Jinping said that Kissinger had made it his lifelong pursuit to promote the development of China-U.S. relations and enhance the friendship between the two peoples, and "his name will always be associated with China-U.S. relations".

Kissinger, recalling his 1972 meeting with Mao Zedong, said the Chinese leader spoke allegorically, in "a Socratic manner", and "had the quality of being at the center of wherever he stood", adding that "it moved with him wherever he moved".

In December 1975 Mao told the visiting U.S. president Gerald Ford that his secretary of state, Kissinger, "has been interfering in my internal affairs".

Asked to elaborate, the 82-year-old chairman answered, "He does not allow me to go and meet God."

SEE LEGACY, PAGE 4



Former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger during a visit to a villager's home in Xuchang, Henan province, on May 12, 2005. NIU SHUPEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Tigers with shark's teeth that forged an alliance

If a representative of contemporary U.S. internet digital artists could be found, Danny Casale would no doubt be one of them.

Casale, nicknamed Coolman Coffeedan on the internet, is a contemporary artist who has traveled back in time to discover emotional resonance in the aviation artists of the 1940s.

In the 1940s Claire Chenault, a U.S. military aviator who led the Flying Tigers during World War II to help China resist Japanese aggression, had ground crews paint a row of shark's teeth on the noses of their aircraft.

They spent weeks doing



Danny Casale

The group gained recognition with a winged Bengal Tiger logo designed by Disney, and the term Flying Tigers debuted in Time magazine a week after the first combat in China on Dec 20, 1941.

"Nobody even thought they looked remotely like sharks, but it didn't matter," says the TikTok video, which Casale made. The flying tigers did

so. However, "they actually look a lot like tigers", a TikTok video about the Flying Tigers says.

"They helped end World War II. Peace has lasted. If it was able to happen then, it's able to happen now, just like the Flying Tigers."

Casale, a U.S. YouTuber and animator who has millions of followers on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and the Chinese video-sharing website Bilibili, said: "When I was doing my research specifically on that topic it sort of made me realize that there's so much more opportunity for things exactly like that to continue

happening between the U.S. and China.

"It was a heartwarming read to hear that one specifically revolved around something art related, with this painter just painting on airplanes."

Flying Tigers is a funny visual, Casale said.

"And I thought, 'How cool is this that an artist, all the way back during that period, could have such a profound effect on the world and on different countries and the outcome of an entire war?'"

During World War II the Flying Tigers transported crucial supplies for China's fight against Japan. More than 2,000 Flying Tigers' airmen sacrificed their lives, and more than 200 U.S. pilots

were rescued with the help of the Chinese, who also lost lives in rescue operations.

"I think learning more about what happened, say a generation or two ago, and then applying it to today's climate—there's so much that could be unpacked there," Casale said.

"The partnership that occurred back then could be an inspiration for what can happen nowadays."

In 2020 Casale was on a list that Forbes magazine drew up to recognize individuals under the age of 30 who had made significant accomplishments in their fields.

"Learning about current events and historical happenings, but in a fun way, is how I feel people can learn and be educated best," Casale said.

—MIN LI ZHANG

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BUSINESS

Expo shines light on supply chain heft

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China's support for global supply chain collaboration will help both domestic and foreign companies accelerate digital and green transformation, spurring innovation and encouraging a wide range of stakeholders to work together, a report says.

The supply chain-themed report said continuous improvements in trade and investment facilitation, along with liberalization, can ensure the stable and smooth operation of global supply chains.

The study was published by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade during the first China International Supply Chain Expo held in Beijing from Nov 28 to Dec 2.

Speaking at an expo forum, Ren Hongbin, the council chairman, said China will continue to ensure the seamless operation of industrial and supply chains. The country has excelled in its role as a manufacturing powerhouse by safeguarding the stability of industrial and supply chains, drawing on its manufacturing advantages, developing a vast market scale and introducing a high level of openness, Ren said.

Long Guoqiang, vice-president of the Development Research Center of the State Council, agreed, saying the need to improve the operations of global supply chains has become a central focus of strategic initiatives pursued by businesses and governments worldwide.

Despite widespread emphasis on supply chain resilience resonating across industries and many economies, a noticeable gap has emerged, namely an absence of coordinated efforts to ensure that restructuring endeavors lead to a genuinely robust, resilient and efficient global supply chain network, Long said.

Echoing that sentiment, Sun Xiao, secretary-general of the China Chamber of International Commerce in Beijing, said the hosting of the expo underscored China's dedication to



A Tesla car on display at the China International Supply Chain Expo held in Beijing from Nov 28 to Dec 2. REN CHAO / XINHUA

stabilizing and strengthening the global supply chain.

The extensive participation of global companies such as GE HealthCare, AP Moller-Maersk, and Exxon-Mobil in the expo signaled their enthusiasm to deepen connections with China and explore business opportunities in the country's opening-up, Sun said.

Many foreign companies appear to share that view, with the Ministry of Commerce saying that the number of foreign-invested companies newly established in China between January and October reached 41,947, 32% more year-on-year.

Liu Hongsheng, president of Syngenta Group China, a seeds and pesticides maker, said China's large consumer base offers many market opportunities for agricultural products, positioning the country as a key market in the global agricultural supply chain.

"Leveraging our global agribusiness strengths, we are actively exploring and implementing the agriculture value chain model worldwide. Through strong global supply

"As a participant and beneficiary of the integrated development of the global supply chain, we will leverage our strengths to contribute to the establishment of a globally secure, stable, efficient, and mutually beneficial production and supply chain system."

TAO LIN

said the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, the expo's organizer.

Multinational companies showcased the latest technologies and products at the expo to achieve greater market share, executives said, even as they forge deeper bonds with Chinese business partners in the key sector.

China's well-developed supply chain, technology and huge market potential will not only help global companies in implementing innovation in the country but also motivate them to exhibit additional products, technologies and services for high-end manufacturing, green economy and digital services through the first-ever such platform, they said.

China's resilient supply chains have given multinational companies the confidence to deepen their market development amid the improved business environment in the country in recent years, said Alf Barrios, Rio Tinto's chief commercial officer.

China is not only the largest market for Rio Tinto but also an increasingly important source of business partner-

ships, talent and technology, Barrios said on the sidelines of the expo.

The U.S. electric carmaker Tesla said that at the expo it wanted to explore successful experiences in other industries and find more suppliers to accelerate the world's transition to sustainable energy.

"As a participant and beneficiary of the integrated development of the global supply chain, we will leverage our strengths to contribute to the establishment of a globally secure, stable, efficient and mutually beneficial production and supply chain system," said Tao Lin, Tesla's vice-president.

"At present the localization rate of components in Tesla's gigafactory has exceeded 95% in Shanghai, with an automation rate of more than 95%. It takes less than 40 seconds to produce one car."

Tesla has signed contracts with more than 400 local tier-one suppliers. More than 60 of these are part of the company's global supply chain system, Tao said.

With products being shipped to Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, the Shanghai plant serves as Tesla's global export hub.

The company's total global deliveries exceeded 1.31 million vehicles last year, with more than 710,000 vehicles rolling out of its gigafactory in Shanghai.

Eddy Chan, senior vice-president of FedEx Express and president of FedEx China, said the expo injects stability in global trade, and that the world is now interconnected, especially economically.

"An integrated supply chain, through cross-border collaboration, is the key for businesses to tackle risks and achieve growth in the vast international market."

FedEx, by constantly improving its network and flights, expanding infrastructure and enhancing efficiency, will continue to connect China with the rest of the world through its global network, he said.

—ZHONG NAN AND ZHENG XIN

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Multimode transport powers growth

China's pilot free trade zones are stepping up efforts to tap the potential of multimodal transport as part of a broader push to facilitate foreign trade and pursue high-standard opening-up.

Experts and industry insiders said these endeavors will produce more institutional innovation and help replicate the experience to regions outside pilot free trade zones.

It will also help China in aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules and facilitate the construction of a new dual-circulation development pattern that keeps the domestic market as its mainstay while letting domestic and foreign markets reinforce each other, they said.

Multimodal transport integrates sea, railway, road and air-based transportation channels.

China started exploring the idea of multimodal transport about 15 years ago, but its application hastened only after the development of pilot free trade zones 10 years ago, said Zhang Dan, director of the Institute of Industrial Internationalization Strategy that is part of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation in Beijing.

The value of foreign trade in Sichuan province, for example, exceeded 1 trillion yuan (\$139 billion) last year, giving it a ranking of eighth in the country and first among the central and western regions.

Liu Wenwei, an official of



A saleswoman promotes accessories from a livestreaming studio in an international trade park in Xi'an, Shaanxi province. XINHUA

the China (Sichuan) Pilot Free Trade Zone, said the huge combined value of imports and exports was achieved by just 7,000 foreign trade companies in the province, and that is largely attributable to the rapid growth of multimodal transport.

"Sichuan is not close to the sea or the national border, and its exports and imports of high-end products, including chips, largely rely on air freight," Liu said, adding that the volume of products shipped by the China-Europe Railway Express is also quickly increasing.

Shipments by air accounted for about 62% of the province's imports and exports by value last year, and the corresponding figure for water transport was 30%, Liu said.

Products shipped by rail freight accounted for about 3% of Sichuan's imports and exports by value last year, but in terms of volume the figure is high, Liu said.

Over the past five years more than 22,000 China-Europe Railway Express trains have run on the Chengdu-Chongqing route. In the first half of this year the figure was 2,700, 30% more than last year.

Multimodal transport helps promote the growth of new

foreign trade business formats, including cross-border e-commerce and marketplace procurement, because it enables companies in Sichuan to sell directly to foreign customers.

Zhou Feng, an executive with Qingdao Port, which is part of the China (Shandong) Pilot Free Trade Zone, said about 65% of goods headed for sea transport from the Yellow River region depart from Qingdao Port, and during the first half of this year the port transported 115 million twenty-foot equivalent units of cargo.

"Through years of endeavor in developing multimodal transport, in particular sea-rail combined transport, Qingdao Port is becoming the most important and convenient outlet to the sea in the Yellow River basin," Zhou said.

The examination of goods for import and export can be completed efficiently in advance even before they arrive at the port, enabling their departure within three hours of arrival, Zhou said.

Exports departing from some inland ports are declared at their jurisdictional Customs outlets without undergoing Customs clearance at Qingdao Port once again.

—LIU ZHIHUA

Honeywell eyes expansion from energy transition

The industrial conglomerate Honeywell says the Chinese renewable energy industry's rapidly growing momentum and growth potential have persuaded it to deepen its collaboration in the country.

In doing so it can continue promoting the application of its technologies in carbon capture, utilization and storage and hydrogen, it said.

As China goes full throttle on its energy transition with the aim of becoming carbon-neutral before 2060, Honeywell expects more growth as well as local partnership opportunities in China, said Liu Maoshu, vice-president and general manager of Honeywell Performance Materials and Technologies Asia-Pacific, a strategic business group of the global parent company.

China's energy transition is expected to provide great opportunities for global energy companies such as Honeywell, he said.

Honeywell said it is optimistic about the opportunities brought by the development prospects of China's energy, aviation, building and petrochemical sectors. There is inherent potential for technological innovation

and applications, which these sectors have sought to harness in recent years, he said.

According to the latest China-U.S. statement on enhancing climate cooperation, the two countries aim to advance at least five large-scale cooperative projects each in carbon capture, utilization and storage by 2030, including from industrial and energy sources. This is where Honeywell sees huge potential and plans to continue promoting the application of its technologies in China, Liu said.

The company has signed an agreement with Sen-nics Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of Sinochem International Corp., to provide processing technologies and services to Sen-nics' coal hydrogenation and carbon capture, utilization and storage projects.

"The surging demand for carbon capture, utilization and storage in China provides Honeywell with a substantial opportunity to grow its energy transition and sustainability business," he said.

"We firmly believe that this will further help integrate and scale up our growing low-carbon energy offerings in the country."

—ZHENG XIN

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XIZANG SPECIAL



Lush vegetation at Lhalu Wetland Park in the suburbs of Lhasa. ZHANG RUFENG / XINHUA

Green development delivering benefits

At the foot of a hill by the Lhasa River, Tibetan-style tents stand out against the backdrop of the remote Potala Palace, creating an idyllic setting where Konchok Tenzin is picnicking with his family.

Pointing to the verdant hills, Konchok Tenzin, who is from Lhasa, capital city of the Xizang autonomous region, said: "The once bare mountains are now cloaked in lush greenery, and the overall appearance of Lhasa has improved a lot."

Green development in Xizang has brought tangible benefits to the locals, not just in terms of an improved environment but also through increased job opportunities.

Furthermore, with the law on ecological conservation on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau coming into effect on Sept 1, efforts to protect the pristine environment of Xizang — a core part of the plateau — will be guarded by the legal measures.

At an afforestation site in the Palding Mountain of Lhasa, Dorje, who is from Namling county in Shigatse city, is pausing to rest beside the sea buckthorn plants he has recently planted.

The 39-year-old finds himself employed in Lhasa, thanks to the collaborations forged by Namling county in 2022 with about a dozen research institutes and businesses in Xizang. Through these partnerships, more than 600 farmers from the county have gained access to employment opportunities, broadening their income streams beyond traditional activities such as cultivating highland barley and raising livestock.

"At first, it didn't occur to me that planting trees could also generate income, but now I find many people like me are living off ecological conservation," said Dorje, adding that the afforestation efforts in the mountains



Horses graze on a picturesque grassland near Pangong Tso Lake in Ngari prefecture. JIANG FAN / XINHUA

of Lhasa have offered jobs for them, yielding a monthly income of more than 6,000 yuan (\$841) for each.

The benefits stemming from green development have motivated local residents to become more self-driven in their commitment to environmental protection, with the new ecological conservation law providing a framework of legal support.

The law, with 63 articles in seven chapters, was passed in April. It outlines the overall layout of plateau ecology security, specifying measures for protection and restoration, risk prevention and management, as well as provisions for supervision.

It is the first state-level legislation specializing in the regulation of ecological conservation on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, known as "the roof of the world", with an area of about 1 million square miles, spans six provincial-level regions in western China. It is the source of several major rivers of Asia, such as the Yangtze, Yellow and Mekong rivers. It is also one of the regions most sensitive to global climate change.

With the law coming into force, the concept of ecological civilization will be carried forward in Xizang, and local wildlife will enjoy better protection, said Zhang Xiuyu,

director of the Institute of Ecological Civilization and Green Development of the Guangdong Academy of Environmental Sciences, who has frequented Xizang as a researcher.

"Apart from afforestation projects, river cleansing initiatives across Xizang have led to the continuous improvement of the water environment," Zhang added.

Since 2018, Xizang has implemented the system of river chiefs and lake chiefs, where each river or lake is assigned an official in charge.

The new law also includes provisions for dealing with unruly travelers. It prescribes penalties for those who litter on the plateau, stipulating that individuals with serious violations shall be fined between 500 and 10,000 yuan.

It provides support to personnel working at tourist attractions in Xizang, alleviating the challenges they previously faced, such as the accumulation of garbage in scenic areas, especially during the bustling summer season.

"The implementation of the law will raise public awareness of environmental protection and discourage misbehavior by tourists," said Lhapa Tsering, a staff member of the Qomolangma National Nature Reserve Administration.

—XINHUA

Environmental efforts boost region's wildlife

Tenzin, a resident in the township of Tsongdu in Lhundrub county, Xizang autonomous region, was happy to see the return of black-necked cranes.

"It's like welcoming back our family members," said the 60-year-old. "They leave us for the north every March and return every October."

The black-necked crane is a species on China's list of first-class protection. Among the 15 varieties of cranes worldwide, this is the one unique to China's plateau regions.

Xizang is the major habitat of this bird. Thanks to the local residents' and officials' efforts in protecting the ecological environment, Xizang has witnessed the steady growth in the number of black-necked cranes over the decades — from less than 2,000 in the late 20th century to more than 10,000 at present, according to official statistics.

The middle reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River in Xizang are a major winter habitat for black-necked cranes, so the local authorities have reserved a large area of land — mostly wetlands along the watercourses — for the birds.

The Hutoushan Reservoir in Lhundrub county is a part of the Yarlung Zangbo Middle Reaches National Nature Reserve for Black-Necked Cranes. It is where Tenzin works as a patroller for monitoring and protecting wildlife.

"Every autumn when the harvesting of crops is completed and the grass turns yellow, it's time for me and my fellow patrollers to prepare for the return of the birds," Tenzin said.

He said his main job is to patrol along the reservoir, recording the number of the birds, making sure they are safe and have enough food, and rescuing the injured.

"Over the past 12 years, I have rescued four black-necked cranes with serious injury," Tenzin said. "I took the wounded home and they were discharged when they recovered."

Food supply for the birds is a serious concern of Tenzin and his colleague.

The county of Lhundrub is

an important farming base in Xizang for crops such as wheat, highland barley and rapeseed.

According to Tenzin, the harvest of wheat and highland barley is completed in October and plowing the farmlands begins in late November or early December. "During the interval between harvest and plowing, black-necked cranes live on grain scattered on the fields," Tenzin said.

Tenzin's family operates a farm of about 3.3 acres, growing wheat and highland barley. "My family will postpone the plowing as late as possible, allowing the birds to have enough to eat," he said, adding that this is also the practice of many of his neighbors.

"But plowing is a necessity for farming," Tenzin said. "Once that is done, it means there might be a short supply of natural food for an increasing crane population."

When a short supply of natural food is observed, people will come to feed. "Officials at the forestry and grassland bureau of Lhundrub county will deliver grains to various sites for feeding, which are taken care of by patrollers like me."

Konchok Drolma, head of the bureau, said that Lhundrub county has received more than 2,000 black-necked cranes this winter, with most of them settling in wetland areas like the Hutoushan Reservoir.

"Based on our observation, there has been a shortage of natural food for such a number of cranes and other birds," Konchok Drolma said. "So we have delivered about 30,000 pounds of wheat to the 10 feeding sites in Lhundrub since last winter."

In addition to black-necked crane, she said that Lhundrub has seen increasing populations of such wildlife species as white-lipped deer and mallard duck.

"It shows that Lhundrub has become a preferred home of wildlife due to the result of the environmental conservation efforts by several generations," she said.

—YUAN SHENGGAO



Hutoushan Reservoir in Lhundrub county is one of the major winter habitats for black-necked cranes. JIANG FAN / XINHUA

Locals' cleanup dedication promotes picturesque lake ecosystem

By Lake Ra'og Tso in Southwest China's Xizang autonomous region sits Aru village, where decades ago almost all local youngsters had to raft across the lake to reach the nearest township while using a wooden stick to pick up floating garbage along the way.

The villagers' eco-friendly practice has turned into a cause supported by government funds, which has also proven to be lucrative due to booming tourism development.

A total of 227 people across 43 households now live in the village, which is in the city of Chamdo in eastern Xizang. The local government hires more than 40 locals to take turns to clean up garbage by the lake and the surrounding forests.

These ecosystem "guardians" are also in charge of patrolling and maintaining the roads and the sanitation work of the surrounding envi-

ronment. After collection, the garbage will be sent to waste disposal factories for recycling.

A staff member can earn a monthly income of 3,500 yuan (\$491) for their work, said Dampa, a 46-year-old villager.

About two decades ago, when Dampa was still in his

20s, he was conditioned to scoop up the floating rubbish on the lake just like his peers. "There was mainly plastic waste dumped by the residents and tourists. The garbage was particularly noticeable against the beautiful lake," Dampa recalled.

To maintain the clean and picturesque scenery of the

lake, the villagers started garbage picking of their own accord.

In 2008, a bridge was built across the lake, putting an end to the rafting travel needs of the locals. However, the garbage collecting routine has survived.

Tsering Dondrup, 25, a village official, said he went to school on Dampa's raft when he was a primary school student. The official remembered clearly the scenes of adults picking up garbage on the lake.

In 2021, when Tsering Dondrup became an official of the village committee, he and other officials decided to protect the lake's ecosystem while applying for a scenic area recognition of the village.

A well-preserved ecological environment of the lake and its surroundings is a must for the possibility of a burgeoning tourism sector, Tsering Dondrup said. Therefore, he

and other colleagues started to promote environmental protection knowledge to the villagers to raise awareness of the ecosystem.

In 2021, Aru village was listed among the region's demonstration villages of ecological civilization construction, winning the fame as "the most beautiful village by Lake Ra'og Tso".

The lake, the largest in the east of Xizang, now receives 300,000 visitors annually, becoming a popular tourist destination in the region, which helps the locals rake in a total of 30 million yuan every year.

"Without the villagers' efforts and the government support for recycling garbage, there is no possibility that Ra'og Tso could sustain its beauty as it is now, and our village will never live up to its reputation of 'the most beautiful village' by the lake," said Xu Cong, a village official.

—XINHUA



An elevated view of Aru village by Lake Ra'og Tso in Chamdo city.

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Legacy: Mark left in China-U.S. friendship

From page 1

"That would be too powerful a combination if he went there," Kissinger, who was also present, told Ford.

Heinz Alfred Kissinger was born in the German city of Fuerth, northern Bavaria, on May 27, 1923, the son of a schoolteacher and a homemaker. In 1938, five years after Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany, Kissinger fled from his homeland with his Jewish parents and younger brother.

Many, including Walter Isaacson, former editor of Time magazine and author of the book *Kissinger: A Biography*, argue that Kissinger's traumatic childhood explained his preoccupation with peace and order and influenced the formation of his realpolitik approach to foreign policy, a view that Kissinger himself did not share.

"The political persecutions of my childhood are not what control my life," he once said.

The Scottish American writer-historian Niall Ferguson, who immersed himself in Kissinger's private papers, correspondence and academic writings from Harvard, where Kissinger was a student and later a professor, sought to fathom the man in his 2015 book *Kissinger 1923-1968: The Idealist*.

"The idea of Kissinger as the ruthless arch-realist is based on a profound misunderstanding," Ferguson wrote, pointing to Kissinger's undergraduate thesis "The Meaning of History", in which the aspiring intellectual, after having studied the 18th-century German philosopher Immanuel Kant, said, "Peace is therefore the noblest goal of human endeavor, the affirmation of the ultimacy of man's moral personality."

Speaking to the United Nations General Assembly on Sept 24, 1974, Kissinger, then newly appointed U.S. secretary of state, and who first gained public attention as a nuclear strategist a decade earlier, echoed his younger self. "Two centuries ago the philosopher Kant predicted that perpetual peace would come eventually. ... What seemed utopian then looms as tomorrow's reality," he said, alluding to the avoidance of nuclear annihilation.

Nixon made Kissinger his national security adviser after taking office in 1969. With a shared strategic approach to foreign policy the two pursued the dual approaches of detente with the Soviet Union and opening to the Chinese throughout the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"Our basic strategy was to be closer to both of them than they were to each other," said Kissinger, whose ultimate goal was, in his own words, "to shape a global equilibrium" that he and Nixon believed could best serve U.S. national interests.

Regarding the U.S. and China, Kissinger said: "In a way, they were fortunate that their long isolation from each other meant that there were no short-term day-to-day issues between them."

This, he said, "enabled them to lay the basis for a world unimaginable then but unachievable without Sino-American cooperation".

-FANG AIQING

-ZHAO XU



The Digital Library Cave project re-creates the 5,250-foot-long external cliff face of the Mogao Caves in Dunhuang, Gansu province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

In digital form, caves reveal their splendor

For more than a century the Library Cave, or Cave 17 of the Mogao Caves of Dunhuang, in Gansu province, Northwest China, has been renowned for its extraordinary collection of relics and a tale with twists and turns.

To many who have had their curiosity piqued and want to know more about its legendary past, the Gobi Desert and the arduous journey to get there has deterred them from visiting to see for themselves the grandeur of the Dunhuang frescoes, and preservation requirements have resulted in limits on the number of visitors allowed access.

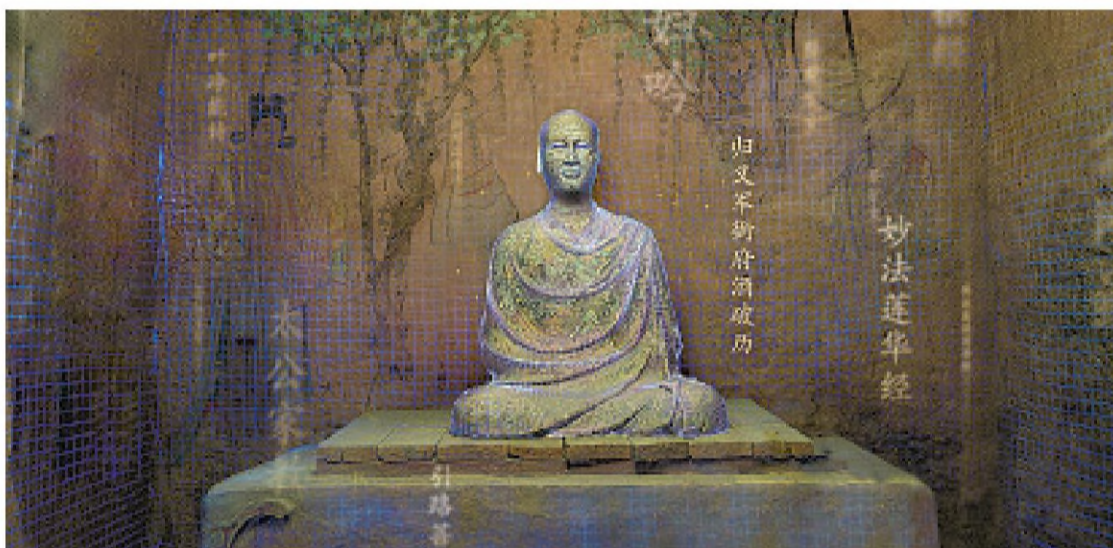
However, the Digital Library Cave, established this year by the Dunhuang Academy in conjunction with the technology company Tencent, has become yet one more way in which the public can get a virtual glimpse of the ancient wonder.

With technological solutions usually seen in digital games including photogrammetry, game engine rendering and cloud gaming technology, it provides a highly immersive, easily accessible and interactive experience with not only a representation of the physical grottoes in 1:1 scale and high definition but also historical scenes re-created, based on the input of scholars and engineers.

Through its English and French versions to be made available on the website Digital Dunhuang this month, people around the world can go on a digital tour of the Mogao Caves, the charm of which is deeply rooted in the city of Dunhuang, historically serving as a choke point for trade, religious and cultural exchanges along the ancient Silk Road.

Su Bomin, director of the academy, said: "The project has enabled the relics to come alive with new means of expression. It makes the value of these relics more accessible to the audience, especially young people."

In 1900, when Wang Yuanlu, a Taoist priest, discovered the Library Cave by chance and opened the entrance of the sand-buried treasure trove,



A statue of the cave's supposed owner Monk Hongbian and rows of manuscripts are reproduced in the project. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

more than 60,000 Buddhist manuscripts, documents related to government and social economy, silk paintings, embroidery and sacred articles, among others, were brought to light after being hidden for nearly 1,000 years.

Rows of scrolls, dating from the fourth century to the 11th century, were piled up from floor to ceiling in the square chamber, which is 8.5 feet in length and width and 9.8 feet in height, making it one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century.

While the Dunhuang frescoes have recorded the glories of the past visually, the items of literature housed in the Library Cave have kept the historical essence through the written word, said Zhao Xiaoxing, director of the Dunhuang Textual Research Institute, Dunhuang Academy.

"The impressive collection of literature in the Library Cave represents one of the most inclusive, advanced and

open facets of the ancient Chinese."

Zhao wrote the scripts and storyline for the game-like program, based on the academy's decades of research.

However, most of these relics were taken overseas and held in museums in London, Paris, St. Petersburg and Tokyo.

Today in Cave 17 a painted statue of Hongbian, chief of monks and a politically influential figure when the cave was built in the mid-ninth century and is said to be the owner of the cave, sits on a bed of earth, meditating.

A mural behind him depicts two bodhi trees with a fabric bag and a water flask hanging on the branches. Also shown are a Buddhist nun with a silk fan in hand and a female follower wearing the clothes of a man, holding a scepter and a towel. The western wall of the cave is embedded with a stele inscribed with stories of Hongbian's life.

The statue, believed to be a portrayal of Hongbian, was

originally found in Cave 362, nearly three stories above Cave 17.

In the 1960s Chang Shuhong (1904-94), the first director of the Dunhuang Academy, suggested moving the statue to Cave 17, which, as it turned out, seemed to fit the setting perfectly. This indicated that the statue was probably there originally but was later moved to the upper cave to make room for the manuscripts.

In the digital tour a view of Cave 17 filled with ancient treasures as it looked when it was unearthed and what it looks like today can both be seen.

As in a game, the audience plays the role of a time-traveling explorer and, under the guidance of Mogao Caves' digital ambassador Jiayao, witnesses and takes part in the passing of the millennium, from when the cave was built, sealed and rediscovered, to how the relics were lost or scattered, and reunited virtually.

During the process, the audience meets eight non-player characters, all real historical figures, including Hongbian and Wang, the Taoist priest.

"The Digital Library Cave is a combination of art, academic research and technology," said Li Hang, vice-president of Tencent's corporate marketing and public relations, adding that it lowers the threshold required to learn about the cave and the relics.

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People sing to Harry Moyer (third from right) on his 103rd birthday in Beijing on Oct. 30. ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

A salute for 'profound friendship' of Tigers

Harry Moyer, a veteran of the Flying Tigers, United States volunteer pilots who fought alongside Chinese people against Japanese aggression in World War II, turned 103 on Oct. 30 in Beijing.

He was visiting China among a delegation composed primarily of Flying Tigers veterans and their family members.

Chinese President Xi Jinping wrote a reply letter in September to Moyer, fellow Flying Tigers veteran Mel McMullen and Sino-American Aviation Heritage Foundation Chairman Jeffrey Greene.

In his letter, Xi said he hoped that the spirit of the Flying Tigers will be passed down to the next generation.

On the morning of Oct. 30 the U.S. delegation members, including the three with whom Xi corresponded, traveled to the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in Fengtai district of Beijing.

They attended an event marking the 80th anniversary of the U.S. 14th Air Force's participation in the war. That group carried on the work started in 1941 by the American Volunteer Group, widely known as the Flying Tigers.

Moyer was a fighter pilot throughout World War II. After fighting in the Mediterranean he deployed to airfields in Chengdu, Sichuan province.

Also present at the event were children, grandchildren and a great-grandchild of Flying Tigers veterans.

Yang Wanming, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, organizer of the commemorative event, pledged that his organization will invite U.S. students with the Flying Tigers Youth Leadership Program to visit China and send Chinese student delegations to the U.S. for exchanges.



Nell Calloway, the grand-daughter of General Claire Lee Chennault, and Moyer at the Chongqing Stilwell Museum on Nov. 1. WANG QUANCHAO / XINHUA

"Let the torch of friendship between Chinese and American people lit by the Flying Tigers be passed from generation to generation," Yang said.

McMullen, the other Flying Tigers veteran who wrote to Xi, was also a gunner on a B-24 bomber that attacked Japanese ships during the war.

He and the delegation members toured the museum after the event, and he inspected the museum's displays related to the war, such as helmets, newspapers and ammunition.

The 36-member delegation then headed to Chongqing in Southwest China. Robin Olney got very emotional when she spotted her father, Richard, in a large group photo of the Flying Tigers on a wall of the Chongqing Stilwell Museum.

"It's a moment I will never forget," Robin, 70, said, referring to seeing her father's photo in Chongqing. "It warms my heart, and I hardly have words for it."

She had not expected to see her father's photo in Chongqing, she said. "It is very special to come all the way around the world and see my dad here."

In 1942 the Flying Tigers' headquarters was moved from Kunming, Yunnan province, to Chongqing to defend the airspace and security of the wartime capital of China, which was being heavily

bombed by the Japanese.

At the Chongqing Stilwell Museum, dedicated to the late United States Army General Joseph Stilwell, who also fought side by side with the Chinese people during the war, the veterans sent flowers for the general's statue, toured his former residence and visited the photo exhibition about U.S. air support to China during World War II.

The delegation's whirlwind China tour also included trips to Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, and to Kunming.

Historical relics from U.S. General Claire Lee Chennault, commander of the Flying Tigers, were donated on Oct. 31 to the Flying Tigers Heritage Park at Yangtang Airport in Guilin, a site that had served as a Flying Tigers command post.

"We must remember the past in forging ahead to a better future," said Larry Jobe, president of the Flying Tigers Historical Organization. The organization donated 80 items associated with the Flying Tigers.

Chennault's daughter Cynthia Louise Chennault brought a telescope used by her father in Guilin, along with an embroidered banner dedicated to the air unit.

—ZHANG YUNBI, TAN YINGZI AND ZHANG LI

Call for pivot in China-U.S. relationship

Experts set out their expectations as APEC meeting increases focus on improving ties

China and the United States need to move to take their relationship — which recently has shown signs of emerging from its lowest level in decades — in a more positive direction, experts say.

The APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting is being held in San Francisco until Nov. 17, and it has drawn global attention to the state of relations between the world's two largest economies.

Kenneth Quinn, president emeritus of the World Food Prize Foundation and a former career U.S. Foreign Service officer, said there is "extreme urgency" for China and the U.S. to "take dramatic and impactful action to turn the U.S.-China relationship in a more positive direction."

Once the American presidential election cycle starts in January, there are likely to be no further opportunities for any significant or even small steps by the U.S., he said.

In recent months tensions between Washington and Beijing have shown signs of thawing, with an increase in bilateral high-level engagement between the two countries.

A three-day visit by China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Washington late last month reciprocated a visit of the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to China in June.

The U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer led a bipartisan Senate delegation to China last month, the first visit by U.S. lawmakers since 2019.

Chinese President Xi Jinping told Schumer that competition and confrontation are inconsistent with the trend of the times, and still less can fix one's own problems and address the challenges the world faces.

Before Schumer's visit, four top Biden administration officials had traveled to China since June, including Blinken, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and climate envoy John Kerry.

Stephen Roach, senior fellow at the Paul Tsai China Center at Yale University, said China and the U.S. should concentrate more on clear and achievable objectives, such as reopening closed consulates and enhancing people-to-people exchanges.

Then it is necessary for China and the U.S. to underscore a shared recognition of two existential threats facing both coun-

tries: climate change and global health, and work out an institutionalized model of engagement that provides a permanent, robust framework for continuous troubleshooting and problem-solving, Roach said.

Other experts listed at least the "minimum" deliverables of bilateral relations expected during the APEC meeting.

Scott Kennedy, senior adviser and trustee chair in Chinese business and economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, described the state of China-U.S. relations as "fragile stability."

While it is unlikely for the two to return to a highly collaborative relationship, Kennedy said, it is possible they could achieve steady "competition without conflict."

"This would require each side to recognize that outright conflict must remain off the table and take steps to make initiation of conflict more difficult, and that there are a variety of areas in which cooperation is still highly valuable."

Kennedy said he hoped that at a minimum the two sides would take steps to renormalize people-to-people connections, including more direct flights, simplified visa procedures for ordinary people, more visas for journalists, and the reopening of the consulates in Houston and Chengdu, which were closed in 2020.

Robert Zoellick, former U.S. trade representative and president of the World Bank, said: "Both countries should want to avoid risks of miscalculations or accidents that could escalate. So I hope the two militaries will resume a dialogue and especially crisis communications."

Zoellick, whose 2020 book *America in the World: A History of US Diplomacy and Foreign Policy* identifies traditions that have emerged from U.S. encounters with the world, observed that Chinese prefer the formulation of principles to guide actions on individual issues, while Americans tend to begin with practical problem-solving.

During the meeting, both sides "might seek to find a blend of principles and actions," and "listen closely to the perspectives, interests and constraints on one another."

— ZHAO HUANXIN AND CHEN YINGQUN

State's collaboration helps spur green action

Many years of collaboration between Oregon and sister jurisdictions in China have inspired the two sides to share information and projects to advance their action on climate challenges.

"We are one planet, and the actions taken or not taken by one jurisdiction inevitably affect the other," Oregon State Senator Michael Dembrow said at a conference in Fuzhou, Fujian province, on Nov. 1. "Global climate action must entail both friendly competition and also productive partnerships."

Dembrow attended the Third China-Oregon Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability during a visit to Fujian. The forum, livestreamed for an

audience in the United States, brought together officials and researchers from Oregon and its sister jurisdictions Fujian and Tianjin to explore best knowledge and practices to fight biodiversity loss and climate crisis.

One of the forum's highlights was the signing of a cooperation agreement between Crater Lake National Park in Oregon and Wuyishan National Park in Fujian.

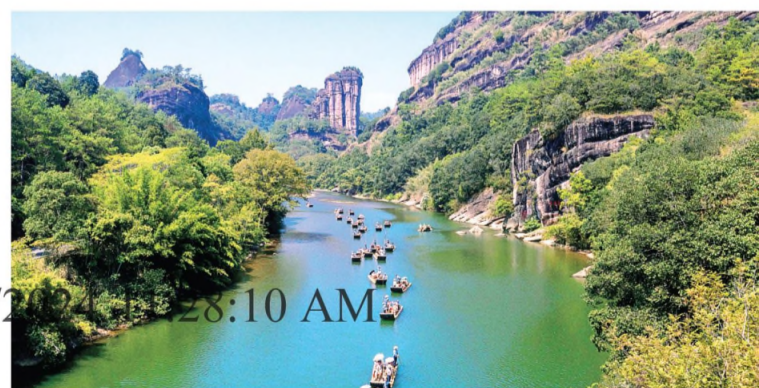
"This is a trend that will continue particularly as we move forward from the pandemic period," Dembrow said.

The two national parks established a sister park relationship seven years ago. Craig Ackerman, superintendent of Crater Lake National Park, said: "This

is a proud accomplishment that I hope will be carried along into the future based on mutual friendship and respect. There is much that we can learn from each other about honoring our heritage."

National parks and protected areas are unique and sensitive lands in both countries and can serve as an early warning system to threats from rising temperatures, drought and other human-influenced environmental conditions.

For example, climate change-driven impacts from white pine blister rust and infestations of mountain pine beetles are devastating forests throughout the Cascades and Rocky Mountains, and research is being



Visitors in boats along a section of the Jiuqu Creek in Wuyishan National Park in Fujian province in September 2022. XINHUA

conducted at Crater Lake on identifying and cloning DNA-resistant species of whitebark pine, Ackerman said.

Research and mitigation efforts will be shared, and the effects of increasing pressure of public visitation in vulnerable areas are being investigated in

conjunction with other countries, including China, he said.

Under the agreement with Wuyishan park, "we will seek to encourage exchanges between concerned land managers in China and Oregon," Ackerman said.

—LIAZHUI

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A worker at a workshop of a refrigeration equipment company in Jinzhou, Hebei province on September 19. YANG SHIYAO / XINHUA

China shares development dividends with economies of Asia-Pacific region

By ZHONG NAN

At several wharves owned by New Times Shipbuilding Co in Jingjiang, Jiangsu province, engineers and workers are busy welding steel hulls and testing equipment.

Their mission is to ensure that their work meets standards set by various ship classification societies and specific customer demands.

But most of the container ships and oil and chemical tankers built at the shipyard will not be delivered to domestic buyers.

Instead they will go to ship owners in many Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation economies, including Indonesia, Singapore and the United States, because these countries are experiencing a significant surge in demand for new vessels equipped with dual-fuel engines, and are offered at competitive prices. Deliveries of these vessels meet the rising need for ocean shipping services.

Government officials and experts hail China's role in fostering mutually beneficial collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region and encouraging APEC economies to bolster their economic and technological exchanges.

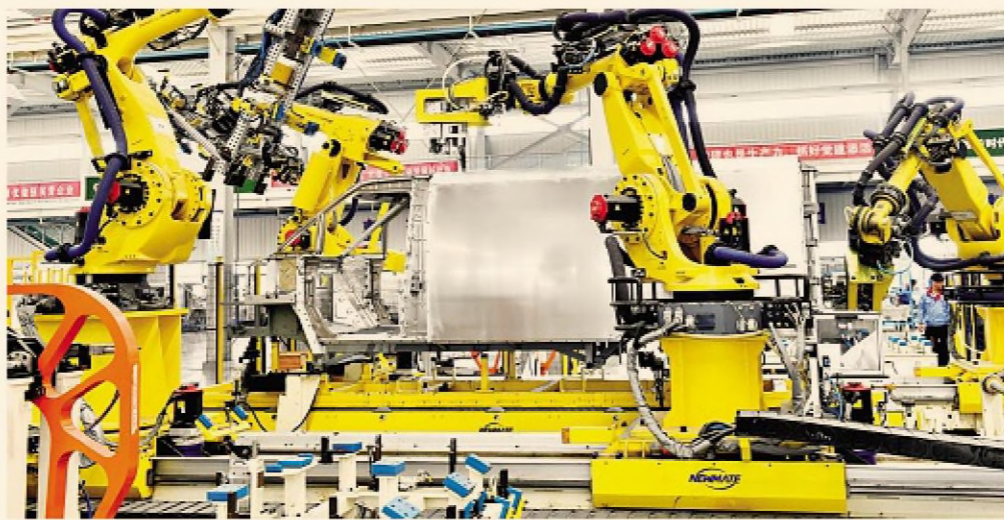
China has not only supplied a significant quantity of manufacturing products to other APEC markets but has also distinguished itself for unwavering support of trade liberalisation, the World Trade Organisation and its rules, they say.

China's trade with APEC economies was worth \$3.74 trillion last year, accounting for 59.7 per cent of the value of the country's imports and exports. Among China's top 10 trading partners, eight are APEC economies, the Ministry of Commerce said.

Wu Haiping, director of the general operations department at the General Administration of Customs, said that after over 30 years, collaboration among APEC economies has evolved beyond the two traditional pillars of trade liberalisation and investment facilitation, as well as economic and technological collaboration. It has extended into new domains, including technology innovation, modern agriculture, trade in services, inclusive growth and digital and green economies.

An economic analysis published by the APEC Policy Support Unit forecast that economic growth in the APEC region will reach 3.1 per cent this year, compared with 2.6 per cent last year.

He Yadong, spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce, said early this month that China will endeavour to advance its accession into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the



Robots at an assembly line of a factory in Zouping, Shandong on September 13. GUO XULEI / XINHUA

Digital Economy Partnership Agreement.

China looks forward to joining these two trade pacts soon and is willing to work with all parties to promote regional economic integration and the liberalisation and facilitation of trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.

Zhao Ping, dean of the academy at the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said multilateral mechanisms for economic collaboration and free trade deals, such as APEC, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement and the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, are practical in promoting free trade and consolidating the achievements of globalisation.

Kok Ping Soon, chief executive of the Singapore Business Federation, which represents more than 29,000 Singaporean companies globally, said China has the dual advantages of rapid economic growth and technological progress, coupled with the mature development of its businesses.

"We welcome Chinese companies to set up regional hubs in Singapore to extend their reach into other APEC economies, especially countries in Southeast Asia."

During the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Economic Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco, many APEC economies were looking for ways to advance free trade in the global economy.

Market watchers and business leaders in China and the US say improved bilateral economic and trade relations will be conducive to the economic

growth of both countries and contribute to the stability and growth of the global economy.

Craig Allen, president of the US-China Business Council, said: "The US and China have benefited considerably from their long-standing economic integration. We remain committed to expanding the US-China commercial relationship by advocating for the US companies doing business in China, and look forward to continuing to support that growth in the long run."

"US businesses continue to be optimistic about the size and dynamism of China's markets."

Lance Rezac, vice-chairman of the US Soybean Export Council, said it has always firmly believed that the Chinese and US economies are deeply intertwined, and that there is a great deal of potential for collaboration. Steady growth in agricultural trade can be observed between the two countries.

Rezac predicted that China's demand for soybeans will drive continued growth in the US soybean trade. From the 2024 marketing year to the 2023 marketing year China's soybean imports are forecast to rise from 112 million short tons to 148 million short tons, representing average annual growth of 3.1 per cent.

Eager to secure more market share in China, more than 200 US exhibitors took part in the sixth China International Import Expo in Shanghai this month. It was the largest US delegation in the expo's history, the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai said.

Summit charts clear course for bilateral ties

Experts optimistic as Xi, Biden exchange views on key issues such as military exchanges and tackling climate change

By ZHANG YUNBI and XU WEIWEI

Following the landmark summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and United States President Joe Biden in San Francisco, both China and the US should work in the spirit of losing no time in maintaining the current momentum of relieving tension and improving two-way collaboration, exchanges and dialogues, observers said.

The two presidents agreed to enhance dialogue and co-operation in various fields during a summit on November 15, with both sides pledging to initiate intergovernmental talks on artificial intelligence, step up counternarcotics co-operation and jointly tackle the climate crisis.

They agreed, on the basis of equality and respect, to resume high-level military-to-military communication. This includes the China-US Defense Policy Co-ordination Talks and the China-US Military Maritime Consultative Agreement meetings, as well as telephone conversations between theatre commanders.

They also agreed to commit to working towards a significant increase in scheduled passenger flights early next year, and expand educational, student, youth, cultural, sports and business exchanges.

They welcomed recent positive discussions between special climate envoys from Beijing and Washington. These included plans for national-level actions to reduce emissions in the 2020s, common approaches for a successful 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP28, and putting into operation the Working Group on Enhancing Climate Action in the 2020s.

The two presidents also emphasised the importance of both countries treating each other with respect and finding ways to live alongside each other peacefully.

Furthermore, they stressed maintaining open lines of communication, preventing conflict, upholding the United Nations Charter, co-operating on areas of shared interest, and responsibly managing competitive aspects of the relationship.

Diao Daming, a professor at Renmin University of China's School of International Relations, said that "head-of-state diplomacy has always played the most crucial role of steering and navigating China-US ties", and the summit meeting touched upon topics "that have a bearing on the big picture, strategies and future trends".

"This meeting has put forward a clear road map and mapped out a clear direction for further stabilising, managing and developing China-US relations by addressing strategic perceptions of each other, operations in practice and key issues and topics," he said.

"The US side should further maintain the current momentum and further adjust its perception of China and its policy towards China in order to further stabilise the relations, achieve major improvement of the ties and get them back on track," he added.

Lawrence Loh, a professor and director of National University of Singapore's Centre for Governance and Sustainability, said the meeting "has accomplished monumental success in setting the tone for continued interactions between China and the US".

"Coming back to the table for dialogue in itself is noteworthy — yet there was substantive progress made, especially in resuming military contacts and leader-to-leader communication," he noted.

The Xi-Biden meeting was "not an end in itself, but revitalises a critical channel that can potentially resolve geopolitical issues", he said.

"China, in particular, came out well from the meeting, as President Xi has been magnanimous to make the long journey for this meeting while conveying the country's long-standing interests in no uncertain terms," he said.

The success of the dialogue "will depend on the sustained commitments of the two countries, and each of them should not engage in any stunt to wind back the trust forged during this event," he added.

Su Xiaohui, deputy director of the Department of American Studies at the China Institute of International Studies, said that both China and the US emphasised that their relations constitute the

most important bilateral relationship in the world, and "they share common ground in this regard".

"The China-US ties involve the interests of not just the two countries, but the international community as well. The world hopes for co-operation between the two major countries and expects that the relations will be stable and positive," she added.

Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, executive director of the Centre for South and International Studies in Islamabad, Pakistan, said the summit was "conducive, constructive, comprehensive and co-operative", and "was the first step towards the right direction".

"Implementation of the proposed pledges and promises would stimulate bilateral co-operation in terms of trade, commerce, investments, climate change, artificial intelligence and socioeconomic development," he said.

It will also help to "have an open, transparent, stable and sustainable mechanism of open communication between the two militaries and governments. It will be helpful for global investors, businessmen and security."

Jose Felix Valdivieso, chairman of IE China Centre at IE University in Madrid, Spain, said the face-to-face summit of the world's two leading nations is good news for the whole world, as he believes that relations between countries are like those between people.

"A smooth relationship between China and the US means a smoother relationship for the world," he said. For him, today, any meeting between these leaders is of global importance and has global repercussions.

Xu Wei, Xing Yi and Zheng Wanyin contributed to this story.

The China-US ties involve the interests of not just the two countries, but the international community as well. The world hopes for co-operation between the two major countries and expects that the relations will be stable and positive."

Su Xiaohui, deputy director of the Department of American Studies at the China Institute of International Studies

Partnership shines through in exchanges

By MAY ZHOU

As the holiday season approaches, sub-national exchanges between the United States and China are picking up pace.

The most noticeable example has been the weeklong visit to China of California Governor Gavin Newsom that strengthened the state's collaboration with China on climate control, trade and cultural ties.

Newsom was the first US governor to visit China after a gap of more than four years due to the pandemic, and he accomplished a lot in his trip late last month, the highlight of which was a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

During the visit Newsom signed five memorandums of understanding, with the National Development and Reform Commission, Beijing, Shanghai and the provinces of Guangdong and Jiangsu. The agreements advance California and China's work on climate policy.

California's agencies and departments will immediately initiate steps to implement the terms of the agreements with their Chinese counterparts. This includes forming working groups, conducting bilateral meetings, establishing formal work plans and planning site and delegation visits, Newsom's office said.

The California Energy Commission plans to

attend the World New Energy Vehicle Conference in China, and California officials planned to engage with their Chinese counterparts at APEC in San Francisco and COP28 in Dubai.

"When it comes to climate, the United States and China make up 42 per cent of global emissions. We can't be serious about climate change without working together," Newsom said.

Trade between California and China last year was worth \$166 billion. Newsom sought to strengthen the relationship and focused on rebuilding tourism between the two. Tourism from China once poured \$4 billion into California but has not recovered following the pandemic.

"We are better when we are co-operating and competing, not cold-shouldering one another," Newsom said. Days after he returned to California direct flights between San Francisco and Shanghai began.

In Iowa local farmers and members of Iowa's Sister States welcomed a Hebei provincial government delegation to celebrate their friendship of 40 years on October 26.

The delegation visited the same Kimberly Farm near Des Moines that Xi visited in 2012 to discuss further exchanges in agricultural best practices. The delegation also met with the former governor and ambassador to China

Terry Branstad to renew the friendship, and witnessed the signing of a \$3 billion soybean deal between the US and China.

The sister state-province relationship has flourished over 40 years, as summarised by Roger Nowadzky, president of Iowa Sister States, during a celebration lunch in Des Moines.

"Forty years is a significant amount of time for friendship. Before Iowa and Hebei came together there was very little trade between the United States and China. There were very few professional delegations coming to Iowa from Hebei and very few people going out to Hebei."

The friendship between Hebei and Iowa was strengthened in 1985 when Xi, then a county leader from Hebei, visited Iowa as part of an agricultural study programme under the sister-state programme. Twenty-seven years later in 2012, then vice-president Xi made a return visit to see old friends.

"We have a wonderful friendship, something beyond just trade partners and cultural understanding," Nowadzky said. "It's also a connection to people to people and a connection to our hearts."

On October 29 Oregon State Senator Michael Dembrow and an Oregon China Council good-



Attendees of a cultural activity organised by the Chinese embassy in Washington on October 15 experience the charm of Peking Opera. XINHUA

will delegation including leaders in the business and cultural sectors were welcomed by the Tianjin Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export.

Oregon's China Council and the Tianjin chamber have been promoting bilateral relations for years, and the collaboration has been fruitful. Oregon's exports to China have continued to grow since 2020.

The value of the state's exports to China last year was \$5.1 billion, more than 16 per cent higher than in 2019, the state says. China has been Oregon's No 1 export destination for several years.

The Oregon delegation also held a forum in Fujian province on November 1 to discuss climate challenges and sustainable development. Crater Lake National Park and Wuyishan National Park signed a collaboration agreement on furthering such exchanges.

At the same time, while Washington state welcomed a trade delegation from Sichuan province, a trade delegation from Houston, Texas, and six mayors from the heartland region made their first post-pandemic trip to China for a multicity visit to seek economic and trade and educational collaboration and people-to-people exchanges.

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Journalists enticed by Tibetan wonders

Autonomous region's development, culture and life showcased to international news agencies

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Nearly 30 journalists from 22 countries concluded a five-day trip to Southwest China's Xizang autonomous region on October 7, during which they interviewed local residents and officials, and witnessed the region's robust development and diverse cultures.

The journalists were from news agencies, television companies, newspapers and news portals from countries including Pakistan, Nepal, Belarus, Ethiopia, Chile, Vanuatu and Turkmenistan.

The trip, which started on October 3, took the journalists to various places across the regional capital of Lhasa and the city of Nyingchi. They also attended the third China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Co-operation in Nyingchi from October 4 to 6.

In Xiga Monba village in the city of Manling, which is a part of Nyingchi, Catherine Gurua from the Mutawali news portal in Georgia recorded the production of Tibetan paper by local craftsmen with traditional techniques.

She was informed that Xiga is a new settlement for residents relocated from Gade township in Metog county, which featured an adverse living environment. Today, the new community is home to more than 300 residents in 83 households. Their current per capita disposable income is more than 70 times that of 20 years ago.

The production of Tibetan paper is just one of the many revenue streams, local residents told Gurua. Xiga now has specialised rural co-operatives for producing Tibetan paper, Tibetan incense and *thangka* paintings, as well as sightseeing tourism, allowing locals to have jobs in their own community.

After completing a tour of the Cultural Heritage Museum for Southeast Xizang in Nyingchi, Marie-Noelle Waiane Kaltack from the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation said: "One thing that I'm impressed with at the museum is how you preserve history by keeping every single detail of your history for the future generation."

The museum has preserved thousands of items showcasing cultural relics, ethnic costumes, hunting and farming culture, traditional Tibetan medicine, living customs, folk songs and dances, language and literature, handicrafts, sports competitions, festivals, religious beliefs and architectural arts.

The journalists also toured Lulang. The small town in Nyingchi's Dragyib district is the venue for the third China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Co-operation.

Lulang, which literally means "the habitat of immortals", is located in a valley at an altitude of nearly 10,000 feet.

Despite the high altitude, Lulang is a place featuring idyllic pastures, dense forests and a high content of oxygen, making it an ideal habitat for both humans and wildlife.

Hu Xiongying, a local official, told the journalists that what made this hidden pearl shine was a tourism project jointly developed by the governments of Guangdong province and the Xizang autonomous region.

The project, with a total investment of 3.6 billion yuan (\$492 million), started in 2011 and was completed five years later.

It has turned the small village into a booming sightseeing township known as the "Oriental Switzerland", featuring enticing scenery and harmonious coexistence between human and nature.

"Not only is Xizang's ecology good, but the whole of China has done very well in environmental protection, and has made great efforts. Through this trip to Xizang, I deeply felt the harmony between man and nature," said Tofik Mamedov from the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography, when attending the trans-Himalaya forum.

Focusing on the theme of "promoting the harmony of humans and nature, sharing the fruits of co-operation and development", representatives of more than 40 countries, regions and international organisations had an in-depth exchange of views on environmental co-operation and people-to-people exchanges, and reached a broad consensus.

Upon learning that Xizang has achieved overall carbon neutrality, Ueretan Bauro, editor of Uekera newspaper in Kiribati, said: "We are very happy as people from the lowest country in the world. We thank people here and of course the whole of China. We want to tell the world, especially those who produce too much greenhouse gas, to please lower their carbon release."

After the forum, the journalists took the high-speed train from Nyingchi to Lhasa, and visited the Xizang Museum, Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple.

"In Xizang, residents wear their own ethnic costumes, and almost all shops and signboards have the Tibetan language. Traditional culture is being inherited well," said Birat Gautam from NepalPress.

"The Chinese government is spending a lot of money on development and social infrastruc-



ture here. People lead a very modern life," said Ali Abbas, a senior reporter with Pakistan's City News Network.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, and many journalists kept mentioning the BRI during their conversations with local residents.

"For me, the BRI is not just about construction. It is also connecting people, connecting culture," Abbas said.

"Most of the Latin American countries are part of the BRI. Chile was actually among the first batch of countries to have entered," said Maria Sanhueza from Chilean newspaper El Ciudadano.

"I think that the whole world is shifting towards another type of order. Call it multilateral," Sanhueza added.



Clockwise from top: Tibetan antelopes are spotted on Xizang's Changtang Nature Reserve, the largest nature reserve in China. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY Representatives from more than 40 countries, regions and international organisations attend the third China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Co-operation. PALDEN NYIMA / CHINA DAILY Overseas tourists visit Jokhang Temple, a famed Buddhist temple in Lhasa, the capital city of the Xizang autonomous region. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Known as "the habitat of immortals", Lulang is an emerging tourist destination in the east of Xizang. SHEN HONGBING / XINHUA

Tourism boosting quality of living for Lulang residents

By YUAN SHENGGAO

When tourists take a tour of Xizang from Sichuan province, via the famed National Highway 318, they will inevitably encounter the township of Lulang when they approach Nyingchi, the largest city in the east of Xizang.

The town is located in a valley to the east of Nyingchi's Dragyib district.

Hundreds of Tibetan-style houses are dotted throughout the valley, which features a bubbling stream, surrounded by blossoming grasses and shrubs, farmlands and thriving spruces. And far away, snow-capped mountains are sometimes visible, emerging through the dense mists.

Despite an altitude of nearly 10,000 feet, this is a place ideal for living, farming and herding. Local Tibetans, who have been there for many centuries, usually refer to this place as "the habitat of immortals".

But today, tourism has been added to the traditional industries of farming and herding, resulting in drastically increasing revenues.

Phuntsog, a resident in Lulang's Trashigang village, was among the pioneers to operate a bed-and-breakfast business by the highway more than a decade ago, offering services to tourists and passengers with his rustic food and simple lodgings.

Because of a large tourism development project in Lulang 10 years ago, Phuntsog has seen unexpected growth in tourist numbers and revenue.

Hu Xiongying, an official of Lulang township, praised this project as a significant move to "make this hidden pearl (of Lulang) shine".

Planned by the Guangdong provincial government and the government of the Xizang autonomous region, the project started construction in 2011.

The project was operational in 2016. It immediately became an attractive tourist destination.

Hu is from Guangdong, and was assigned to Lulang as an official for an aiding-Xizang programme. Since he began working there 10

years ago, he has witnessed a tourism boom in Lulang.

"Since the Lulang International Tourism Town was built, almost every household has run a family homestay or other operations. Local residents' incomes have increased year-by-year," Hu said.

According to Hu, the tourism development has offered more than 2,000 jobs to locals. And more people are expected to join in this trade as the government has a plan to train more than 300 residents a year to help them master skills in operating tourism-related businesses.

Tenzin, 27, for instance, is a local resident working with a five-star hotel in Lulang.

"I am paid more than 6,000 yuan (\$820.4) a month," Tenzin said. "The hotel is close to my home, making it possible for me to manage my own homestay in my spare time."

Tenzin said he cherishes the opportunity to work with a premium hotel. "The pay is good. And I can learn advanced hotel management skills in my daily work, which are also applicable in operating my own homestay," Tenzin said.

Lulang has offered work and business opportunities not only for locals, but also for people from elsewhere.

Tang Haiyu, a tourist from Sichuan province, visited Lulang in 2017 with her husband. She said she fell in love with Lulang the first time she saw it and decided to settle there by renting a cowshed and upgrading it into a clean and cosy Tibetan-style house.

"We moved to the house in 2018, making it our residence and also a homestay to serve tourists," Tang said.

Hu said business opportunities in Lulang are not limited to tourism. There is also great development potential in sectors like animal husbandry, greenhouse farming and tea plantations.

Lulang is now home to an industrial park for entrepreneurship, which is currently home to more than 80 enterprises invested in by businesses from Nyingchi and the rest of the country.

A new home for traditional crafts

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Xiga, a village in the city of Manling under the administration of Nyingchi in the Xizang autonomous region, is a new settlement for residents moving from the neighbouring county of Metog.

Far from the old settlement in Metog's Gade township, which featured an adverse living environment and difficulty in road connectivity, there are still things the relocated residents have never left behind — the traditional professions in making Tibetan paper, Tibetan incense and *thangka* paintings and other crafts.

The professions involve skills that the residents and their ancestors have practised for centuries in Gade, and are becoming important resources of revenue in Xiga.

The old trades are rapidly developing thanks to the establishment of several handicraft co-operatives.

One such co-operative is called Namjagbarwa Tongluogabu. It's named after the famed snow-capped mountain of Namjagbarwa near their hometown in Metog, and a plant called Tongluogabu.

Tobden, head of the co-operative, is a master craftsman in making Tibetan paper.

He said the paper, with its origin in the seventh century, is unique to Tibetan language-speaking regions. Made from wolfsbane and Tongluogabu bark, the paper is mainly used for printing Buddhist sutras and other documents.

The paper's production requires a complicated process of dozens of procedures. Tobden, with more than 40 years of experience in this trade, is one of the few people there who can master the entire process and all the techniques.

In the past, Tobden said the work was completed in intervals between farming. But now it has become an occupation for the whole year.

"This is because of the increasing demand from tourists to the village and buyers

throughout the country," Tobden said.

He explained that some innovative-minded young people in the village have designed souvenirs based on Tibetan paper, like postcards, notebooks, *thangka* paintings and lanterns and sell them to tourists.

Tsering Migyur is one such young man. He operates a printing studio as a part of the co-operative, printing visitors' photos on the Tibetan paper with modern scanning technology.

"Souvenirs like this are both novel and traditional," Tobden said. "They are sought-after as a token of Tibetan culture."

To be a qualified *thangka* painter, you need a lot of practice and experience, as well as a keen insight into the art and extensive knowledge."

Gyaltsen, a master *thangka* painter in Xiga village in Manling city

Xiga is now an emerging tourist destination in the city of Nyingchi. After tourists took them home, the products have become popular in the rest of country. "And we are receiving orders from places other than Xizang," Tobden said.

He said he is happy the co-operative is offering job opportunities and a revenue stream to local residents.

"More than 200 people have learned the Tibetan paper-making skills from me and most of them have got rich," Tobden said.

Tibetan incense is another major product of the co-operative.

The product is getting popular through-

out the country as it is evolving into a health product from its original application in religious occasions, according to Rinchen Lhamo, a member of the co-operative.

"Our incense is made from more than 30 varieties of locally growing medical herbs," Rinchen Lhamo said. "Lighting incense can aid one's sleep and repel mosquitoes."

She added that, while preserving the traditional techniques and formulas, the production of Tibetan incense is becoming more efficient with the use of modern equipment and technologies.

While incense production is modernised, the making of *thangka* in Xiga is still a trade fervently adhering to traditional craftsmanship.

Gyaltsen, 28, is a veteran *thangka* painter despite his age. He began to learn the art when he was 14.

He had learned to paint in many regions of the country, like Lhasa in Xizang and Garze in Sichuan province.

"To be a qualified *thangka* painter, you need a lot of practice and experience, as well as a keen insight into the art and extensive knowledge," Gyaltsen said.

He said the art is often referred to as the "visual encyclopedia" in Tibetan language-speaking regions because of its rich expressions with multiple themes in religion, history, culture, politics, farming, herding and life.

Gyaltsen operates a *thangka* studio in the village. The *thangka* paintings there are also popular among tourists with a certain level of aesthetic taste. "Some have come here to buy and some have come to learn," Gyaltsen said.

Tseyang Lhamo is one of the youngsters who came to learn and her talent was soon recognised by Gyaltsen.

"I believe the gifted girl can become an excellent painter after years of persistent practice," Gyaltsen said.

He added that operating a *thangka* studio is the best choice for him. "You can pass down the centuries-old heritage and you can make a fortune," Gyaltsen said.



From left: A Xiga resident makes Tibetan paper at the Namjagbarwa Tongluogabu co-operative. A worker of the co-operative prints visitors' photos on the Tibetan paper. PHOTOS BY SUN FEI / XINHUA

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