

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

CHINA WATCH

CHINA DAILY 中国日报

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U.S. firms voice confidence in China

American companies are demonstrating growing keenness to work more closely with China amid stabilizing bilateral relations, corporate executives and experts say.

With closer ties most widely expected in healthcare, agriculture and technology, the executives said, China's allure for U.S. companies continues because of its robust domestic market and unwavering dedication to opening up its economy, despite globally subdued investment sentiment.

U.S. enthusiasm for doing business with China was on full display at the China International Import Expo, the sixth and the largest, which ran from Nov 5 to 10.

The strong presence of U.S. businesses at the expo came after high-level exchanges between China and the U.S., and more is likely to be done to promote interaction and collaboration between the world's two largest economies, experts said.

Stephane Bancel, chief executive of Moderna, developer of the vaccine mRNA, said it was a "very important and historic day" for the U.S. company after his company announced that its research and production headquarters project broke ground in Minhang district of Shanghai on Nov 6.

The 3.6 billion yuan (\$495 million) project, the company's first investment on the Chinese mainland, is the largest foreign-invested biomedical project in China.

The company will tap into the Chinese market by offering every patient personalized medicine, Bancel said, and it will conduct further clinical trials of its new medicines in the country. It took only a couple of months for the strategic cooperation contract that Moderna signed with Shanghai authorities in July to come to fruition.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture led a delegation of 17 exhibitors at the expo.

Liu Chang, vice-president of Cargill Investments (China), the Chinese branch of the U.S. agriculture and food company Cargill, said that "nearly one-fifth of Cargill's consumers are in China, and the country is an



A forage harvester of John Deere at the sixth China International Import Expo in Shanghai on Nov 5. FANG ZHE / XINHUA



An exhibitor's representative tries a bicycle featuring virtual reality technology at the sixth China International Import Expo on Nov 5. ZHANG WEI / CHINA DAILY

and more can be done to make this happen.

Mutual respect and mutually beneficial collaboration are what companies in both China and the U.S. want, Bai said.

Frank Meng, chairman of Qualcomm China, which took part in the expo for the sixth time, said it sees huge opportunities in partnering with Chinese companies in 5G, artificial intelligence, the internet of things and intelligent connected vehicles, as the company highlights its commitment to China.

"Qualcomm has consistently considered China as a pivotal business partner and valued customer, viewing it as more than just a market or a link in the supply chain."

In recent years smartphones that use Qualcomm's flagship mobile chips and that were launched by Chinese companies accounted for nearly half of the initial launches worldwide, he said. "This underscores the significance of the Chinese market and our partnership with Chinese companies."

Puay Koon Chia, Asia-Pacific president of the U.S. global materials science company Dow, said the expo "is an important platform to showcase our latest innovative technologies for China and the region," and "it highlights the valuable partnerships we have in China."

The company signed a \$300 million memorandum of understanding with ZKH Group, a Chinese industrial digital service company, at the expo on Nov 5. The two plan to tap into burgeoning silicone markets downstream, such as electrification, transportation, packaging and construction.

— MA SI, ZHONG NAN AND WANG YING

Foreign trade performance will continue to improve, experts forecast

China's foreign trade grew last month after a continuously narrowing slump since July, adding to recent signs of a gradual stabilization in the world's second-largest economy thanks to a slew of supportive policy measures, officials and analysts say.

The country's foreign trade will continue to improve in the coming months as the global market enjoys a consumption boom buoyed by the festival season, and the base effect gradually weakens, which will inject much-needed momentum into global economic recovery, they said.

China's foreign trade in goods was worth 3.54 trillion yuan (\$486 billion) last month, 0.9% more than in October last year. Compared with last year, the value of exports fell 3.1% to 1.97 trillion yuan, and the value of imports rose 6.4% to 1.57 trillion yuan, the General Administration of Customs said.

More favorable dynamics have been gathering in China's foreign trade sector recently, resulting in year-on-year growth of merchandise trade last month, said a

spokesman for the administration, Lyu Daliang.

Citing the latest trade prosperity survey conducted by the administration, Lyu said the proportion of companies that are optimistic about import and export growth has risen, and China's foreign trade will continue to rise.

The value of imports last month, which grew for the first time in dollar terms since March, indicates a gradual recovery of domestic demand, a significant driving force to underpin the country's sustained economic recovery, said Zhou Maohua, an analyst with China Everbright Bank.

The International Monetary Fund forecast that the Chinese economy will grow 5.4% this year, meeting the growth target of about 5%.

Gita Gopinath, the IMF's first deputy managing director, said the projection was revised upward from 5% last month, reflecting a stronger-than-expected third-quarter output and recent policy announcements.

China will further expand market access and increase imports, Premier Li Qiang said at the opening

ceremony of the sixth China International Import Expo in Shanghai, amid a gloomy world merchandise outlook and intensifying trade protectionism.

Li, reiterating Beijing's commitment to advancing opening-up, said the value of imported goods and services were set to reach a cumulative \$17 trillion over the next five years.

Though the increased downward pressure on the global economy and rising geopolitical tensions are still a drag on China's export activities, the export structure has been improving because of the country's efforts to upgrade its manufacturing sector, experts said.

Chang Ran, a senior researcher at the Zhixin Investment Research Institute, said the year-on-year fall in China's exports last month widened 2.5 percentage points compared with September as stiff challenges remain in an economy facing a grim external environment and lackluster global demand. This suggests that the foundation of export recovery is yet to be fully established, he said.

— WANG KEJU AND ZHOU LANXU

extremely important market for us."

"Whether it is raw materials or processed goods, China's vast consumer base provides a huge market for agricultural products."

During the unveiling cer-

emony for a U.S. agricultural product pavilion at the expo on Nov 6, the U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns said economic and trade collaboration between China and the U.S. is very important.

Bai Ming, a researcher at

the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation in Beijing, said U.S. companies' enthusiasm for the expo demonstrated that there is more room for economic collaboration between the two countries,

JUILLIARD USES ITS IMAGINATION

About 20 years ago Joseph W. Polisi, then president of the Juilliard School in New York, had a conversation with the French conductor and composer Pierre Boulez.

They talked about Boulez's involvement in the Centre Pompidou in Paris, where people can come and go and which is open to the public from early in the morning to late at night.

Boulez also created and directed the experimental Institute for Research and Coordination in Acoustics/Music in the 1970s, which was housed in the Pompidou. It is dedicated to musical, acoustic and computer research, which is also accessible to the public via high-tech.

"It would be a great idea to have such a space in New York, and we explored some possibilities at the Lincoln Center, where the Juilliard School is located," Polisi said. However, that idea was never fulfilled.

On Oct 12, standing in the Tianjin Juilliard, the Juilliard School's first overseas branch, Polisi announced the opening of Juilliard Imagination. The space, which he envisioned about 20 years ago, opened to the public throughout the Tianjin-Beijing region and beyond. "When we started building

the Tianjin Juilliard we knew that there would be a large basement area, about 19,375 square feet, that we could use for something," Polisi said. "I once again thought about the idea of a space for the public."

The founding of the Tianjin school was announced in 2015, construction broke ground in 2017, and it became the first performing arts institution in China to offer a U.S.-accredited Master of Music degree.

Polisi served the longest presidential term in the history of the Juilliard School in New York, with a tenure from 1984 to 2018, and he is now the Juilliard's president emeritus and chief China officer.

In September he was given the Lifetime Honorary Award during the inaugural Orchid Awards ceremony, which took place in Beijing and recognized 10 foreign nationals.

The Orchid Awards, organized by the China International Communications Group, seeks to recognize and honor those who have made significant contributions to cultural exchanges and mutual learning between China and the rest of the world.

Polisi was credited for his contribution to the establishment of the Tianjin Juilliard, providing a new platform and injecting fresh



Visitors to the Panorama section of Juilliard Imagination, which features a 66-foot HD multimedia wall. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

impetus into promoting music education exchange between China and the United States.

The newly opened space is named Juilliard Imagination, "because it's an environment where you can create your own stories", Polisi said.

There are five curated sections in the space.

Treasures is a trove of rare musical manuscripts and first editions comprising 141 selections from the Juilliard manuscript collection. Visitors can explore works by composers such as Bach, Brahms and Verdi, as well as enjoying excerpts from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* with accompanying music from Juilliard performance recordings, while following the related music in the manuscripts.

They can view the final working manuscript of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with extensive revisions, corrections and alterations by the composer.

They can also see the manuscript of the final scene of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and an extensively revised manuscript covering the last 50 or so measures of the first movement of Mahler's *Ninth Symphony*.

Panorama, a 66-foot high-definition multimedia wall, presents performances of opera, chamber music, dance and orchestra from both the New York and Tianjin campuses.

Playlist is a high-resolution music station enabled by Sony technology, representing the latest in sound reproduction. Musical selections, covering a wide variety of composers and genres, from traditional music to contemporary, are curated by renowned educators, alumni and artists from the world of Juilliard, including conductors David Robertson and Yu Long, and the composer John Williams.

"There is a fun section for

both children and adults, where they can create their own music and take it home," Polisi said.

In Signature visitors can compose music by playing a three-octave keyboard, or use a mobile device to make visual art. These creations are then played and displayed on an interactive multimedia screen and can be taken home to share with friends and family by scanning a QR code.

The last section Polisi introduced is *Soundscape*, an engaging virtual-reality sound field experience. Visitors use special Sony headphones and handheld devices to explore the Juilliard School in New York's performances across the divisions of dance, drama and music at different stations, with the opportunity to experience Schubert's *Death and the Maiden*, performed by the Juilliard String Quartet.

"I have been involved in the plan for the Tianjin school from the very beginning," Polisi said. "Our vision is to turn the Tianjin school into a center for performance, research, and interactive exhibitions, with communal spaces that are designed to welcome the public into the creative process and performance of music. Now we have this space providing a unique opportunity for the public to learn about Juilliard and engage with classical music in new ways."

— CHEN NAN

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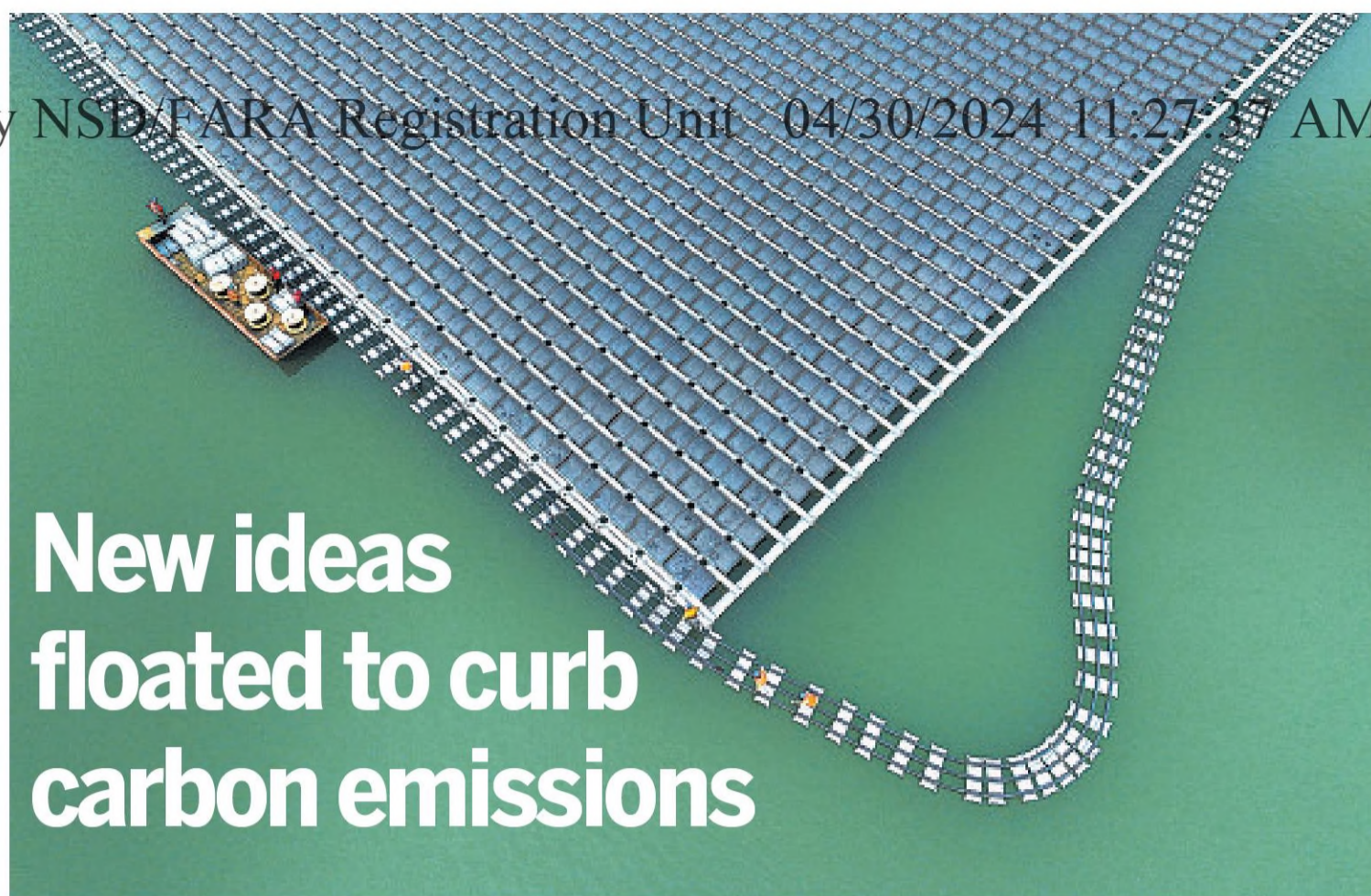
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SOCIETY

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Thousands of solar panels of a photovoltaic plant float on a reservoir in Liaocheng, Shandong province. ZHANG ZHENGXIANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

New ideas floated to curb carbon emissions

A woman in Jinan, Shandong province, opens a mini-program on her mobile phone that tracks, encourages and rewards carbon reduction to see how much she has earned from selling recyclable items over the previous two months.

The amount is a respectable 255 yuan (\$35), according to the mini-program Tanhui Qilu, one of the innovative measures introduced in Shandong as part of its efforts to promote environmentally friendly practices among the public, communities and businesses.

The woman, who wanted to remain anonymous, said the app makes it easier to embrace a green lifestyle. "The 'carbon-inclusive' house where I can sell recyclable waste is the part I like most. It's a convenient way to deal with waste."

She tries to reduce her carbon emissions by walking or using buses to get around and selling recyclable items such as cardboard cartons, plastic and clothing via the platform, she said. Over the past five months she has managed to reduce her carbon dioxide emissions by 0.63 short ton, the mini-program tells her.

She has also collected 252 carbon credits by practicing low-carbon activities and answering questions about carbon emissions, she said. These credits can be exchanged for tickets to scenic spots and to pay for hotel rooms.

Wu Hongyang, director of the climate change response office of Shandong's Department of Ecology and Environment, said: "The



A fisherman checks buoys made from eco-friendly materials that pose no harm to the ocean environment at an aquaculture farm in Rongcheng, Shandong province. LI XINJUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

carbon-inclusive platform encourages public participation in energy-saving and carbon emission-reduction actions, promoting sustainable and eco-friendly lifestyles."

It also plays a crucial role in leading Shandong toward green, low-carbon and high-quality development, he said.

Since China set the goals of reaching peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060, green and low-carbon concepts and innovations have been applied in people's daily activities and in industry.

The country has established 572 national-level demonstration areas of ecological civilization construction, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment said.

In addition, 240 bases for innovative practices in line with the concept of "lucid waters and lush mountains" being "invaluable assets"

ing since the 1990s.

Steps have been taken to restore the delta's ecological system in recent years, in line with the national strategy of promoting ecological conservation and the high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin.

These measures include restoration projects such as supplementary water supplies to ensure the health of wetlands, cordgrass eradication and offshore biodiversity conservation. Monitoring has also been set up in the delta to manage data on meteorology, water and soil quality, and marine life.

Protecting the habitats of key species such as cranes, black-billed gulls and Oriental white storks has also been given priority, along with preserving native flora such as wild soybeans. Aquatic life is also being increased to boost biodiversity levels.

The restored ecological system has benefited residents living near the Yellow River who are eyeing tourism opportunities. In Yangmiao, Kenli district, Dongying, next to the river new residential buildings sit in neat rows.

The community's amenities include a seniors' canteen, kindergarten, clinic and fitness room.

In addition, 140 old houses are due to be renovated and upgraded in two phases, in an effort to create a rural tourism destination. The project began trial operations in September and is expected to create more than 200 jobs, said Zhang Mairong, an official at the community.

— ZHAO RUIXUE

Clean, green and serene

For decades, the oxygen plant in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, was a symbol of the city's industrialization and economic development. Sprawling over more than 148 acres, the vast complex is now taking on a brand-new existence.

In accordance with changing requirements of urban development and industrial upgrading, the factory has been moving operations to more suburban areas of the city since 2008. Now, the municipal government has decided to repurpose the site and make it an international platform for promoting culture and tourism.

Part of this involves the creation of the O2 Museum, comprising an urban museum as well as an art and science museum. Although it is scheduled to open officially in 2024, it recently offered visitors a sneak peek of what to expect with an exhibition and accompanying series of forums.

As visitors enter the exhibition, MVRDV Green Factory, they find the exhibition hall is also covered in greenery, and a banner at the entrance greets them with the words: "Wel-

come to the green city".

Running until Dec 31, the exhibition is about the work of Dutch architectural firm MVRDV, with a particular focus on the Green Dip research project undertaken by The Why Factory, a think tank set up by the Dutch firm's founding partner, Winy Maas.

Explaining the Green Dip concept, Maas uses the analogy of dipping ice cream in chocolate to enhance its flavor.

"I imagine cities being dipped in greenery to make them better. I have always dreamed that cities could be like that in the future, maybe Hong Kong, maybe Beijing, maybe Hangzhou," Maas said during his speech at the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

With scale models, descriptions, images and an immersive film, the exhibition presents a novel view of the work The Why Factory has undertaken to turn its vision of transforming cities with greenery into reality.

To turn these images into reality in a practical manner, The Why Factory has been developing the Greenmaker tool, which, through me-



Visitors at the exhibition MVRDV Green Factory in Hangzhou. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

thodical calculation, designs reinforced structures that permit vegetation to grow throughout buildings, thus contributing to carbon neutrality. Projects ranging from individual buildings to the planning of urban areas have been carried out achieving the "green reality" Maas envisions.

Since 2000, the Dutch architectural firm has been involved in projects in several major Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou.

The current Hangzhou project dates back to 2019, when Maas and Weng Ling, art curator and founder of

the Beijing-based cultural company IDEAS, worked on the master plan for a demonstration area in the northern part of the city near the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, where the former oxygen plant is located.

"Our urban planning projects integrate the IDEAS concept of the integration and innovation of art and science to create an ideal future for people, cities and nature," Weng said. "We are blending different forms of art and creative expression, as well as interdisciplinary creation and presentation, into an envisioned future space."

— CHENG YUEZHU

Dedicated senior keeps close eye on rare alligators

Almost every morning, She Shizhen takes a stroll around the Hongxing Reservoir in Zhangcun village, Xuancheng, Anhui province. The 84-year-old is not strolling for fun, though; she is a volunteer who patrols the area that is home to Chinese alligators, aka the Yangtze alligator, an animal she cherishes dearly.

In 1982, some members of She's family discovered a nest of strange-looking eggs. Her husband, Zhang Xuhong, guessed that they were "Earth Dragon eggs". Like the giant panda, Chinese alligators enjoy first-class State protection, and the local people refer to them as "Earth Dragons".

Zhang took the eggs to experts for identification, and they confirmed that they were those of the Chinese alligator.

That led to the Hongxing Reservoir becoming a protected area for the animals. The experts entrusted Zhang and She, who lived about 100 yards from the water, to "protect these endangered animals", in She's words.

Chinese alligators, a rare species unique to China, mainly live in southeastern Anhui, including the counties of Jingxian, Guangde, Langxi and Nanling, and Xuancheng district in Xuancheng city.

They are referred to as "living fossils" because they belong to the same era as the dinosaurs and have existed for more than 200 million years.

In 2001, the wild alligator population reached its lowest point, becoming critically endangered with less than 120.

In May, though, the population in the wild had reached about 1,200 — three times the number recorded in a 2021 field survey.



A Chinese alligator is hatched from an egg in an incubator in Anhui province in August. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

For decades, Zhang and She patrolled the reservoir, urging villagers to stop fishing with nets and promoting the importance of alligator protection.

Zhang wrote 23 journals about the protection of Chinese alligators. He recorded details such as patrol times, the number of alligators spotted, weather conditions and vocalization patterns. After Zhang's death in 2005, She donated 22 of the notebooks to the reserve, keeping just one for herself as a memento.

He Shaowei, director of the management bureau at the Anhui Chinese Alligator National Nature Reserve, said the notebooks provide important reference materials for experts involved in domestic and international scientific research.

— YAN DONGJIE

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The main hall of the Beijing China-Germany Industrial Park, a demonstration project for economic and technological cooperation between the two countries. YUAN YI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Capital blazes trail in policy innovation

With a commitment to pilot systems for the country and seek development for the region, Beijing is capitalizing on the opportunities brought about by the Two Zones policies.

The policies, which comprise the development of the Integrated National Demonstration Zone for Opening up the Services Sector and the China (Beijing) Pilot Free Trade Zone, were introduced during the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services.

Since then, the Two Zones policies have played a vital role in the city's alignment with the new development pattern, Beijing officials said. In the first year of its implementation, 80% of the tasks outlined in the State Council's approved plan were finished, establishing significant momentum. In 2021, Beijing stood out in the evaluation of the Integrated National Pilot Demonstration of Opening up the Services Sector, reaffirming its role as a guiding example.

To date, the State Council has approved 251 tasks for the Two Zones with an implementation rate of 98%. This has led to the development of the Integrated National Pilot Demonstration of Opening up the Services Sector and the implementation of regulations for the China (Beijing) Pilot Free Trade Zone.

Beijing has introduced nearly 500 measures for more than 10 special reform programs and has shared



its innovative experiences nationwide through 40 cases. Furthermore, almost 50 groundbreaking policies of national significance have been implemented.

By promoting differentiated and distinctive development, Beijing has revitalized the growth of key industrial parks and precincts, which have served as essential platforms for the development of the Two Zones and have achieved remarkable success.

Across various districts in Beijing, 20 key industrial parks and precincts have been established as part of the Two Zones initiative, creating an integrated landscape of development, encompassing free trade parks, zones, precincts, comprehensive bonded zones and specialized zones.

Moreover, the city has made efforts to ensure the high-quality implementation of projects and attract investment. Over the past three years, nearly 19,000 projects have been included in the Two Zones, of which more than 12,000 have been implemented, amounting to an investment volume of nearly 2.3 trillion yuan (\$314.9 billion).

Since 2020, Beijing has utilized a total of \$55.9 billion in foreign investment, accounting for nearly 9% of

the national total. Shunyi precinct of the Beijing Pilot Free Trade Zone, located near Beijing Capital International Airport, includes various zones and facilities such as the Capital International Airport Economic Zone, Tianzhu Comprehensive Bonded Zone, Beijing China-Germany Industrial Park and New China International Exhibition Center.

The Beijing China-Germany Industrial Park in the district was established in December 2021. As a hub for advanced German manufacturing, it is home to more than 100 German companies that have set up branches or headquarters there.

On Oct 16, around 30 representatives from 15 domestic and foreign media organizations visited the park as part of a city tour organized by the media office of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and the Beijing government's Information Office.

"Such precision is unimaginable. These robots seemingly can handle any fine craftsmanship!" a journalist said when visiting Beijing Agile Robots Technology, where dozens of robots with swinging arms caught their attention.

The media tour also included a visit to the China-Germany Plaza, which is known as the "first gateway" in the Beijing China-Germany Industrial Park.

—YUAN SHENGGAO

Local initiatives gaining worldwide recognition

The Beijing International Media Forum held on Oct 14 called for greater cooperation in protecting and utilizing civilization diversity and cultural heritage through dialogue and mutual learning.

Media professionals from more than 80 countries participated in the forum, during which Beijing municipal government officials shared their expertise with practical examples, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites and the capital's well-preserved central axis.

Xu Hejian, deputy director of the Publicity Department of Beijing said that Chinese civilization is the only one in the world that has developed continuously in the form of a nation without breaks, noting that as both the capital city and a prominent cultural center, Beijing has a long history and a continuous cultural heritage, serving as a powerful example of the continuity and evolution of Chinese civilization.

Beijing has seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites — the most of any city in China. It is also home to the renowned central axis, which has a history of more than 750 years. Spanning approximately 4.8 miles, the axis showcases the magnificence of ancient Beijing.

With its continuous progress in building an internationally renowned harmonious and livable city, Beijing has attracted a large number of top cultural talents, leading cultural institutions and first-class cultural resources. Residents and visitors can enjoy diverse stage plays and performances while also experiencing the rich artistic and cultural features of Chinese civilization, such as Peking Opera, Kunqu Opera and music and art with profound Chinese characteristics. Xu said the city will further leverage its advantages as a historical capital and national cultural center and strengthen cultural exchanges with people from all over the world by providing more channels for international exchanges and

cooperation and injecting long-lasting impetus into the construction of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Chen Mingjie, head of the Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau, told the forum the city is a significant window for the world to understand both ancient and modern China comprehensively and authentically, and heritage preservation achievements contribute valuable spiritual and cultural wealth to the public.

Currently, Beijing is implementing cultural heritage protection projects with high standards and principles. While adhering to a policy of minimal intervention in heritage preservation, efforts are being made to transform "rescue-based preservation" into "preventive preservation" and "research-based restoration", Chen said, adding that a number of high-level projects for the protection and management of world heritage have also been implemented.

The forum also included adoption of a joint initiative of Beijing International Media Forum, in which the participants agreed to uphold the principles of understanding and inclusiveness to draw experience and lessons from each other.

Reporter Guy Mettan from Switzerland said that he had first been to China 20 years ago and has since visited China 10 times. Beijing has changed significantly compared to his first trip. Now, Beijing is a city with greenery almost everywhere and many new buildings. This is a progress, he said. The forum focused on cultural heritage, which is important for humanity, he added.

The forum was organized by the All-China Journalists Association, China Public Diplomacy Association and Beijing government's information office. A group of supplementary activities was also held, including a media tour.

—YUAN SHENGGAO



The 2023 Beijing International Media Forum draws global attention for cultural heritage protection. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Media tour focuses on Beijing's efforts in heritage protection

As an important window for the world to understand both modern and ancient China, Beijing is implementing cultural heritage conservation projects with high standards and regulations, and its achievements in heritage protection have gained worldwide recognition, according to Chen Mingjie, head of the Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau.

Chen made the remarks at the 2023 Beijing International Media Forum, which was held on Oct 14 with the theme of addressing global cultural heritage protection and utilization with mutual learning for shared prosperity.

China currently has 57 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including 39 cultural heritage sites, 14 natural heritage sites and four for both, ranking second worldwide in terms of their number. Beijing has seven of the sites, the most among Chinese cities. They showcase over 500,000 years of human history, a cultural history of over 10,000

years, a history of urban construction spanning more than 3,000 years, and a history of being a national capital for 870 years.

The General Plan for Beijing City (2016-2035) approved by the central government in 2016 included protection work of the seven sites, explicitly specifying requirements to strengthen protection of the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Peking Man heritage site at Zhoukoudian, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, the Ming Tombs and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal.

In 2021, Beijing released its first report on the management of World Heritage Sites, and in the following year published the World Heritage in Beijing handbook for the first time. In June, the city established the Beijing World Cultural Heritage Protection and Management Alliance to enhance conservation initiatives, achieve innovative development and



create a holistic community of cultural heritage protection. It aims to contribute to the "Beijing model" in creating harmonious coexistence between World Heritage protection and urban development.

During the supplementary event of the forum — the Beijing Tour for Foreign Media — foreign media visited cultural heritage sites such as the Summer Palace, the Grand Canal and the Temple of Heaven, attended a Kunqu Opera show and gained a deeper understanding of the capital's development con-

cepts and paths in the preservation of cultural heritage.

A Namibian Media Union journalist said she hopes to tell better stories about how to better implement urban infrastructure construction and cultural heritage protection. "In Beijing, many ancient buildings are juxtaposed with skyscrapers, but they don't look out of place."

Slobodan Ciric, deputy head of the Serbian Journalists Association, said: "During the visit to the Summer Palace, I experienced Beijing's efforts to protect World Heritage, which is important to



Left: Media workers pay a visit to the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. Above: A foreign media worker takes photos with opera performers. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

the whole world. I hope that the 2023 Beijing International Media Forum can promote cooperation among journalists by the various workshops and seminars, and unite media workers from around the world."

Jose Luis Uribe Ortega, president of Primera Plana Club said: "The significance of the forum is prominent. We have visited Beijing's historical sites, which have provided our media professionals with an impetus to promote human cultural heritage to the world."

—YUAN SHENGGAO

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TIBET SPECIAL

Journalists enticed by Tibetan wonders

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Nearly 30 journalists from 22 countries concluded a five-day trip to the Tibet autonomous region on Oct 7, during which they witnessed the region's robust development and diverse cultures.

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

The trip, which started on Oct 3, took the journalists to the regional capital of Lhasa and the city of Nyingchi. They also attended the third China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation from Oct 4-6.

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 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 conditions. Today, the new community is home to more than 300 residents. 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, locals told Gurua. Xiga now has specialized rural cooperatives 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 Tibet in Nyingchi, Marie-Noelle Waiane Kaltack from the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corpora-



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

tion 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, 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 Cooperation.

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 Tibet 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 Tibet's ecology good, but the whole of China has done very well in environmental protection, and has made great efforts. Through this trip to Tibet, 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.

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

Upon learning that Tibet 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 Tibet Museum, Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple.

"In Tibet, 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.

— YUAN SHENGGAO



Known as "the habitat of immortals", Lulang is an emerging tourist destination in the east of Tibet.

Tourism boosting quality of living for Lulang residents

When tourists take a tour of Tibet 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 Tibet.

The town is located in a valley to the east of Nyingchi. 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 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 Tibet autonomous region, the project started construction in 2011.

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

Hu is from Guangdong and was assigned to Lulang as an official for an aiding-Tibet program. 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.

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) a month," Tenzin said. "The hotel is close to my home, making it possible for me to manage my own homestay business."

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.

— YUAN SHENGGAO

A new home for traditional crafts

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

Far from the old settlement in Metog's Gade township, there are still things the relocated residents have never left behind — the traditional professions in making Tibetan paper, Tibetan incense and thangka paintings.

The professions involve skills that the residents and their ancestors have practiced 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 cooperatives.

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

Tobden, head of the cooperative, 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, is one of the few who can master the entire process and all the techniques.

In the past, Tobden said the work was completed in inter-

vals 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 young people in the village have designed souvenirs based on Tibetan paper, like postcards, notebooks, thangka paintings and lanterns.

Tsering Migyur is one such young man. He operates a printing studio, 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."

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

He said he is happy the cooperative 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 cooperative. The product is getting popular throughout 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 cooperative.

"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 the production of Tibetan incense is becoming more efficient with the use of modern equipment and technologies.

While incense production is modernized, 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.

"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, cultures and life.

Gyaltsen operates a studio in the village. The thangka paintings there are also popular among tourists. "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 recognized 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.

— YUAN SHENGGAO



From left: A Xiga resident makes Tibetan paper at the Namjagbarwa Tongluogabu cooperative. A worker of the cooperative prints visitors' photos on the Tibetan paper.

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