

Age is just a number

Inspired by Olympics debut, Japanese seniors blaze a breakdancing trail

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Stock market may stabilize more on rules
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Museum of music

Ensemble brings history back to life using replica instruments

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XI'S VISION | REFORM AND OPENING-UP

Integration of culture, tourism pays dividends

Nationwide efforts made to enable sectors to play prominent role in driving economy

By YANG FEIYUE
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Once a shopping mall, today the vivid reproduction of Tang Dynasty (618-907) urban life in the Twelve Hours of Chang'an theme block in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, is a huge draw for visitors.

Visitors can shop, watch performances, wine and dine in the historical setting, which is within walking distance of the city's well-known historical landmark, the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda.

"Some tourists try out traditional Chinese costumes, get their hair styled into a bun and adorn it with floral accessories to fully immerse themselves in the charm of Tang culture," said Zou Linfeng, chair of the Shaanxi Cultural Tourism Co, a major investor in the block.

Since its opening in April 2022, the theme space has received more than 4 million visitors, with daily traffic exceeding more than 7,000 visits, Zou said.

He owed the success of the project to the country's support for integrated development of culture and tourism over the years, which has paid huge dividends, not just enhancing traveler experience but also enabling related sectors to play a prominent role in driving the economy.

According to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, during the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period, the share of tourism and related industries increased in the GDP, with the contribution of tourism to the national economy going beyond 10 percent.

Since the beginning of this year, the tourism industry has seen accelerated recovery and quality improvement. According to the China

Tourism Academy's forecast for this year, the number of domestic tourist visits will exceed 6 billion, and domestic tourism revenue will surpass 6 trillion yuan (\$837.9 billion).

President Xi Jinping has been advancing the integrated development of culture and tourism related industries. In September 2020, Xi pointed out that culture and tourism industries are inseparably linked and related parties should adhere to shaping tourism through culture and highlighting culture through tourism.

He made the remarks at a symposium attended by experts and representatives from the fields of education, culture, health and sports to solicit opinions on the socioeconomic development in the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25).

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism released a master plan in 2021 for developing culture and tourism during the 14th Five-Year Plan period and vowed to continue to upgrade the structure of the cultural industry and promote the employment of new technologies and digitization.

At the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in October 2022, Xi, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, stressed again that "we will encourage positive interplay between culture and tourism and advance deeper integration of the two sectors".

According to Zou, of Shaanxi Cultural Tourism Co, this has created a favorable environment for the development of culture and tourism industries in Xi'an.

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Ruan Yangyang (second from right), a native of Nanjing county in Fujian province, performs with other young musicians, including students from the United States, at a concert in Zhangzhou on Tuesday. A group of 110 students from the US are on a visit to Fujian and will cover Xiamen, Quanzhou and Zhangzhou over 10 days as part of an exchange program. ZHANG JINCHUAN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

US students on journey to discover China firsthand

By LI PEIXUAN in Beijing and YANG JIE in Xiamen, Fujian

College students from the United States are experiencing China firsthand through a cultural exchange program that aims to dispel stereotypes and foster environmental awareness.

The China-US Youth Exchange Camp, which began on Monday at the Xiamen campus of Huaqiao University, has been jointly organized by the Fujian Provincial Department of Education and

Huaqiao University. A group of 110 US students will visit cities including Xiamen, Quanzhou and Zhangzhou during the 10-day exchange program, which is focused on music, the environment and culture.

Han Mei, director of the Chinese Music and Culture Center at Tennessee State University, said the US students had been diligently preparing for months, studying and practicing on Chinese musical instruments. Han and two other teachers are leading a group of 16 TSU students at the camp.

The camp aims to promote educational exchanges and cooperation between China and the US, fostering mutual understanding and building bridges for future cooperation between young people from both countries.

Beyond cultural immersion, the participants of the camp have been learning about environmental sustainability.

They participated in "Xiamen Practice" environmental volunteer activities, gaining firsthand knowledge of river management and eco-

logical governance. They cleaned tidal flats of garbage and learned about "sponge campus" construction, a water management system.

According to William Sprayberry, a freshman at Middle Tennessee State University, people in the US get to hear interesting things about China and its culture, but it is difficult for them to relate to it because it is so different from the common perceptions about China.

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Evolving Sino-Bangladeshi ties lead to promising future

The bilateral relationship between China and Bangladesh has evolved significantly over the past decades, turning into a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership characterized by economic cooperation, political mutual trust and alignment.

This dynamic relationship, forged by political leaders and diplomatic initiatives, continues to influence South Asia's socioeconomic and political landscapes. As both countries look toward the future, their partnership holds immense significance for regional dynamics and international collaboration.

Even before the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1975, China extended food aid to Bangladesh during the 1974 famine and invited Bangladesh to participate in the Canton Fair.

On Oct 4, 1975, China and Bangladesh officially established diplomatic relations. Since then, the two sides have always supported each other on issues involving core interests and major concerns.

In 1993, Sheikh Hasina visited China as the president of the Awami League party, which marked an important moment in China-Bangladesh relations. Her subsequent



visit as prime minister in 1996 led to the flourishing of ties with China. In July 2019, the Bangladeshi prime minister officially visited China again and attended the 13th Summer Davos Forum.

Exchanges between the two countries have been close at all levels, and political mutual trust has grown over the years. In October 2016, President Xi Jinping visited Bangladesh and upgraded China-Bangladesh relations to a strategic cooperative partnership. The historic visit charted the course for the development of bilateral relations.

Hasina visited China from Monday to Wednesday. This was her fifth visit to China and her first in five years. The visit was of historic significance as it enabled the two sides to build on past achievements and elevate bilateral relations into a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

Today, China and Bangladesh have a comprehensive framework for cooperation across multiple

sectors, including trade and investment, infrastructure development and people-to-people exchanges. China and Bangladesh are committed to further strengthening their economic ties and fostering mutual development as two major developing countries.

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative has been instrumental in driving connectivity and infrastructure development in Bangladesh. Under the framework of the BRI, notable projects such as the Padma Bridge, the Payra Seaport and the Dhaka-Sylhet Expressway have fostered economic growth and sustainable development in Bangladesh.

Additionally, both countries have emphasized the importance of people-to-people exchanges, cultural cooperation and educational collaboration. These initiatives aim to enhance mutual understanding, artistic appreciation and further solidifying the foundation of bilateral relations.

Looking at the future, the prospective trajectory of China-Bangladesh relations holds immense promise. As global dynamics evolve, China and Bangladesh can

deepen their alignment and cooperation across various domains. The partnership between the two nations is on track for further expansion and diversification, focusing on sustainable development, green initiatives and technological innovation.

In the economic sphere, both countries are expected to explore new avenues for trade and investment, leveraging each other's strengths and complementarities. Bangladesh's burgeoning textile and garment industry, combined with China's infrastructure development and manufacturing expertise, presents ample opportunities for collaboration and synergistic growth.

From a geopolitical standpoint, China and Bangladesh are expected to continue consolidating their partnership, exploring avenues for mutual security cooperation and regional stability. Given their shared commitment to a peaceful and stable Asia, both nations could have deeper dialogue on regional security architecture, counterterrorism efforts and maritime cooperation.

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Saying no to NATO



A protester demonstrates on Wednesday outside the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, during a dinner for NATO foreign affairs ministers. The NATO summit, which took place from Tuesday through Thursday, marked the 75th anniversary of the organization. NOAH BERGER / AP See more, page 5

SPIRIT, UNITY OVERCOME THREAT OF FLOODWATERS

Hunan township learns from past to minimize impact of dike breach

By ZOU SHUO in Huarong, Hunan
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When he heard loudspeakers issue an emergency warning at 4 pm on July 5 about the breach of a dike separating his township in Hunan province from China's second largest fresh-

water lake, Wang Jinlong's first thoughts were for his elderly parents. Wang, 60, lives in Tuanzhou, Huarong county, which sits beside

Dongting Lake, and he has a prosthetic leg due to an accident he suffered in 1999.

While his home is located about 1 kilometer from the breach, he did not heed the warning to immediately head to higher ground. Instead, he hobbled in the opposite direction to the house of his par-

ents, who are both in their mid-80s. He moved as fast as he could because he knows how destructive floodwaters can be. A similar dike breach struck the township in 1996, leaving 14 people dead. Wang lost his home in that flood.

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INSIDE
Nation is not flooding world with loss-making electric vehicles
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Above left: Rescuers work to block the dike breach next to Dongting Lake in Huarong county, Hunan province, on Monday. As of Monday afternoon, 180.5 meters of the 226-m breach in the dike had been sealed, according to the Yueyang flood control and drought relief headquarters. CHEN ZEGUO / XINHUA **Top right:** Rescuers drain floodwater from an area near Dongting Lake in Huarong county on Tuesday. CHEN SIHAN / XINHUA **Above right:** Rescuers try to seal the breached dike on Sunday. CAO BOYUAN / FOR CHINA DAILY



Rescue: Swift actions avert devastation

From page 1

He eventually reached his parents and they had enough time to make their way to a safe section of the earth-and-rock dike. From his vantage point, Wang could see the floodwaters rising over his house. A pig, dozens of chickens, a fish pond and all his worldly possessions disappeared before his eyes.

He realized the waters had taken everything from him for a second time. "My heart is broken and I am devastated," he said.

Wang and his parents spent the night on the dike before local authorities transferred them to a temporary shelter at a county vocational school the next day.

Rapid response

The dike breach followed 17 days of heavy downpours in Hunan, the longest continuous period of heavy rain since 1961.

Dongting Lake connects major rivers in the province with the Yangtze River, and authorities issued the first flood warning for the year on June 30.

By 5:48 pm on July 5 water had begun rushing through channels in the dike. The breach in the dike eventually expanded to 226 meters after failed attempts to fill the gap.

An area of 47.6 square kilometers — 92.5 percent of the township — ended up being flooded, but there have so far been no reports of casualties.

When Liu Guanghui, 67, heard the notice from the loudspeaker, he thought that it might be his time to die.

He suffered a cerebral hemorrhage five years ago and has since had to use a wheelchair and rely on a part-time caregiver. His wheelchair is not in good working order and it is difficult for him to get around.

Liu lives by himself as his three adopted sons all live in Changsha, the capital of Hunan.

"Luckily, two of the village officials, one named Zu Shuang and another who I do not know, came to my house and carried me and my wheelchair to a safe location," he said. "I did not have time to thank them before they rushed off to save more people."

Despite the initial concerns of a potential disaster, by Monday night the breach was sealed, just three days after the accident happened.

By Tuesday, rescue crews had started to drain floodwater from Tuanzhou, which is expected to take 17 days to complete.

All 7,680 people living in Tuanzhou have been transferred to safe places, with around 4,000 of them settled temporarily at five schools in the county. The remainder are staying with friends and family.

Zhang Yingchun, executive deputy governor of Hunan, said more than 4,200 emergency rescuers and over 3,000 pieces of equipment were assisting in the relief and rescue efforts.

Lessons from the past

Jia Mengjun, 58 and her husband Yu Minghu, 60, both villagers from nearby Qiannan county came to see the dike and embankment on Monday afternoon because they were worried.

In 1996, the couple were among the front-line volunteers patrolling and defending the embankment. After failed attempts that year to stop a breach, their house collapsed and their belongings were washed away.

"Seeing how well organized the rescue efforts were this time and how much effort the Party and government have made to protect us, we feel safe," they said.

Peng Juxiang, 63, another villager from Qiannan, also went to the embankment.

After the dike was breached in 1996, she lived on the embankment for more than three months waiting for the water to recede so her family could start rebuilding their home.

"When I heard the dike had breached, I wanted to cry," she said, recalling the painful memories and hardship she went through 28 years ago.

"The rescuers were so young and worked so hard. The weather was too hot, I felt sorry for them," she said.

According to Yueyang city's records, on July 19, 1996, a dike breach occurred at Tuanzhou, leaving 14 people dead and causing direct economic losses of 550 million yuan (\$75.6 million).

On July 27, 1996, the embankment was breached again, killing 17 people in Qiannan



A helicopter drops supplies at a makeshift landing point in flood-hit Pingjiang county, Hunan province, on Tuesday. CAO BOYUAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

and resulting in economic losses of 2.36 billion yuan.

Shelter, kindness

By Tuesday morning, one of the temporary shelters set up in Huarong Vocational Secondary School had accepted around 1,400 villagers. They are living in the stu-

dents' dormitories while the students are on summer vacation.

The dormitories are equipped with air conditioners, and the displaced villagers are provided daily necessities, free meals and support from volunteers.

Li Junhui, principal of the school, has a hoarse voice after dealing with more than 200 phone calls every day. He has had very little sleep.

He said the school immediately started preparation and coordination work after they were notified by the local government on Saturday that it would be used as a shelter for people made homeless by the floods.

All of the school's 200 staff, including teachers, are working as volunteers, while some students and outsiders have also joined the support efforts, he said.

Li said he had experience of a similar situation. When he served as a primary school principal in another township, his school was used as a shelter for flood-affected people, he said.

"The first and most important thing for us is to comfort them, talk with them and answer their questions," he said. "They have lost their homes, and we need to do our best to make sure they live comfortably at our school."

Luo Jiayi, 19, is a college student at the Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology and a native of Huarong. After learning about the flooding, he immediately took a train from Hohhot to Huarong.

The house of his grandfather, who lives in Tuanzhou, was inundated with water. The elderly man suffered a foot fracture while fleeing the floodwaters.

Luo has volunteered to work at the shelter. He does everything from registration, to distribution of items and heavy lifting of items.

"I want to make the greatest effort and do my part," he said. "Many of them (the homeless) are the same age as my grandfather and I often chat with them. After several encounters, they treat me very nicely," he said.

Staying, or leaving?

He Chunlian, 68, and her second husband Zhang Youquan, 57, are among the people being temporarily relocated.

He has heart disease. She said after she learned from the loudspeaker that the dike had breached, her heart started racing and she fell down and injured her knee.

The couple have a small 50-square-meter apartment in Tuanzhou, which is now flooded. All the family's electric appliances have been destroyed, he said.

Zeng Yuanxiu, 85, is staying in a dormitory. Her home is about 100 meters away from where the dike was breached. She said she probably would have been washed away if it had not been the quick actions of her neighbors who knocked on her door and carried her to the dike.

She did not have time to grab any of her possessions. "I was so terrified. Even though I am 85, I am still afraid to die," she said.

Zeng's two daughters live in other provinces, and she has lived on her own since her husband passed away.

The couple were among the first group of people to move to Tuanzhou when the township was established in 1977. They moved from a mountainous township in Huarong to take advantage of the fertile land in the flood plain.

Recalling all the hard work she and her late husband did to rebuild their house after the 1996 flood, Zeng said she still wants to go back to see her home, but possibly for the last time. She wants to move back to her mountain home as she has experienced enough floods in her lifetime.

"In 1996, the breached dam was rebuilt by our villagers. Words cannot describe how much hardship we have endured," she said.

Liu Xiaorong, 69, is one of the lucky ones. Her house was not flooded because it is located in a higher area of the township. However, she was still transferred to the school because there was no electricity or drinkable water in the township.

"The volunteers treat me so nicely that I do not want to go back," she joked.

However, after a few moments of reflection, she said: "I still want to go back, as nowhere compares to home. Tuanzhou is a place that nurtures great people as hardships forge people."



Left: A villager receives a medical checkup at a makeshift shelter in a vocational school in Huarong on Sunday.



Right: Relocated residents are seen at the vocational school on Sunday. PHOTOS BY XUE YUGE AND CHEN ZHENHAI / XINHUA

I grew up with awareness of flood dangers, and people's resilience



Reporter's log
Zou Shuo

When the news of the dike breach broke, I was at my home in Changsha and immediately had an awful feeling of dread.

As someone born and raised in a township in Huarong, the Hunan province county affected by the breach, flood control and prevention is part of my childhood memories.

As a township government official, my

father would disappear during summer to patrol and handle risks along a dike by a river near our home. The river flows into Dongting Lake. Often he would not return home, and he would eat and sleep at the dike during the most critical times.

In 1996 and 1998, when there had been major flooding in Dongting Lake and the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, my mother told me she had packed all necessities and was ready to run toward the dike with me and my sister if a breach occurred.

My memory of the incident is vague, because we were only two and four years old at the time. But my mother often tells me that I gasped when she took me to look at the swollen river in 1998. The water was almost at the same level as the dike, and

people could even touch it from the dike, my mother often recalls.

Fast forward 26 years, and I'm reliving those moments again, but this time as a reporter. At the weekend, I went to the office in Changsha and started to write stories about the latest breach. On Monday morning, I decided to go to Tuanzhou township in Huarong to cover news from the site.

The moment the car ascended to the dike next to Dongting Lake, not far from the breached section, the driver let out a gasp and told me that he was terrified because he had never seen the water level so high.

We arrived at the emergency response temporary headquarters around 4:30 pm on Monday, just in time for me to make the 5 pm news conference.

The dike area had been placed under traf-

fic restrictions and only vehicles transporting rocks and emergency response personnel and equipment were allowed. I could see lines of trucks going in and out of the area. Ships were also transporting rocks as emergency workers raced against time to seal the dike.

After the news conference, I went to the dike to see if there were any people I could interview. The area was filled with trucks and rescuers, mostly members of People's Liberation Army, People's Armed Police Force personnel and firefighters.

On Tuesday night, volunteers put on a show to cheer up flood-affected villagers who had been sent to a shelter in a school.

While they waited for the show to begin, flood and rescue efforts were the most-talked about topics. Villagers also chatted with

each other, mostly about their children and grandchildren.

They took their phones out to record the show and take pictures, applauded and laughed, and seemed to forget their troubles for a moment.

Family and friends came to the school to visit them, and donations from different places poured in.

Yan Ruoyun, 68, asked me to take pictures for her with the people singing. She wanted to send the pictures to her children in other cities to reassure them she was safe.

Of course, I obliged. It surprised me that even after such a disaster, people still tried to enjoy their life and be optimistic. But it shouldn't have, after all, they have overcome floods before and they can again.

TOP NEWS

Astronomical satellite SVOM detects three gamma-ray bursts

By ZHAO LEI
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A cutting-edge astronomical satellite jointly developed by China and France has begun to produce scientific payoffs, as it recently detected three gamma-ray bursts, according to the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The Beijing-based academy, the nation's top science body, announced this week that the Space Variable Objects Monitor, or SVOM, detected a gamma-ray burst on the morning of June 27, soon after its Gamma-ray Burst Monitor, one of the four mission payloads, was activated for tests earlier that morning.

The apparatus also detected two other gamma-ray bursts, on June 29 and July 2. The data of the three gamma-ray bursts has been sent to the General Coordinates Network, an international collaboration platform for astronomy research, according to the academy.

Gamma-ray bursts, immensely energetic explosions in distant galaxies, are the brightest and most extreme explosive events in the universe and the most energetic and luminous electromagnetic events since the Big Bang.

Before the scientific detection, the satellite had undergone in-orbit tests and established real-time connections with over 40 ground communication stations. All of its four mission payloads had successfully completed their power-on tests, said the academy.

Wei Jianyan, a scientist at the CAS' National Astronomical Observatories and the SVOM mission's Chinese principal investigator, said that the detection results have testified to the monitor's capability.

"Other mission payloads on the satellite are still being fine-tuned and will undergo scientific capabil-

ity tests. If the results are satisfactory, then we can expect exciting findings by the satellite in its ensuing operations," he said.

Initiated in 2005, the SVOM project is the result of a long-term collaboration between the China National Space Administration and France's National Center for Space Studies. It has involved scientists and engineers from multiple institutes, including the Research Institute in Astrophysics and Planetology in Toulouse, France, and the Institute of High Energy Physics in Beijing.

The SVOM is a combination of small telescopes. It was placed in a low-Earth orbit by a Chinese Long March 2C carrier rocket launched on June 22 from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan province.

The 930-kilogram satellite was built by the CAS' Innovation Academy for Microsatellites in Shanghai. It carries four scientific payloads: the ECLAIRS coded mask camera and the Microchannel X-ray Telescope made by French scientists, and the Gamma-ray Burst Monitor and the Visible Telescope built by the Chinese team.

The satellite, the best ever built for multiband comprehensive observation of gamma-ray bursts, is expected to play an important role in space-based astronomical exploration, according to the China National Space Administration.

The main scientific objectives of the SVOM mission include searching for and rapidly locating various gamma-ray bursts; comprehensively measuring and studying their electromagnetic radiation properties; using the bursts to study dark energy and the evolution of the universe; and observing electromagnetic signals associated with gravitational waves.



Goodwill meeting

Peng Liyuan (second from right), wife of President Xi Jinping and the World Health Organization's goodwill ambassador for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, meets with Winnie Byanyima (second from left), executive director of UNAIDS and undersecretary-general of the United Nations, and Jerome Salomon (first from left), assistant director-general for Universal Health Coverage, Communicable and Noncommunicable Disease at WHO, on Thursday at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing.

WANG JING / CHINA DAILY

Five principles resonate today, say British experts

Importance of peaceful coexistence while moving forward stressed

By XING YI in London
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The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, a foreign relations concept proposed by the Chinese leadership 70 years ago, still resonate today, providing a fundamental framework for building peace and advancing economic cooperation, British experts said.

The five principles — mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual nonaggression, mutual noninterference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence — were put forward by the Chinese leadership in the 1950s as a guideline for handling bilateral relations with other nations.

Keith Bennett, an international relations analyst and co-editor of Friends of Socialist China platform, said: "A key test of the correctness or otherwise of a set of principles is

whether or not they stand the test of time. Over the past 70 years, the five principles have only become more relevant and necessary."

Bennett said the virtue and necessity of the principles can be seen in the tragedies in Iraq, Afghanistan and above all today's Gaza that result from a failure of relevant parties to uphold them while pursuing an alternative course.

The five principles are in turn embodied and further developed in the important global initiatives put forward by China with regard to security, development and civilization, said Bennett. He added that the initiatives address the key questions and imperatives of peace and development, advance the correct and realistic ways to tackle the existential threats facing humanity, such as nuclear war, climate catastrophe and collapsing biodiversity, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Hugh Goodacre, a lecturer in the History of Economic Thought at University College London and managing director of the Institute for Independence Studies, said that reading the five principles, one is irresistibly reminded of the Bandung Conference in 1955 when these principles were further developed and agreed upon by the leaders of other developing countries.

"It is among the most successful contributions of the older generation of socialist China's leaders to world peace and international respect and friendship," he said, adding that China's leaders today continue to emphasize those principles for the well-being of peoples of all countries, each of which is entitled to choose its own path and methods.

Jack Perry Junior, chairman of the 48 Group Club and CEO of London Export Corporation, said the principles could be applied not only in handling foreign relations

but also in international business.

Perry's grandfather was a pioneer businessman who led the first British business delegation to the newly founded People's Republic of China in the early 1950s. He listened to China's leaders laying the foundation for a relationship built on mutual respect and understanding.

"Following in my grandfather's footsteps, my father devoted his entire adult life to deepening our understanding of China. He witnessed firsthand the transformation of China from abject poverty to a modern, developing nation," said Perry.

"Today, as the chairman of the 48 Group, I am committed to continuing this legacy. I will strive to understand China without prejudice, learning from the examples set by my grandfather and father. Our mission remains to bridge the gap between the West and China, fostering mutual growth and understanding."

In business cooperation, people should embrace different cultures with open minds and reject bias stemming from different ideologies, he said.

"Peaceful coexistence is the path forward. It is essential for nations, regardless of their wealth, to work together toward a future where war is obsolete. We envision a world where international cooperation eradicates poverty and promotes peace and prosperity," said Perry.

Getting ready for playtime



Workers race on Wednesday to get the Eiffel Tower Stadium ready for the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris, France. The Paris 2024 Organizing Committee invited the media to visit the stadium in the Champ de Mars park and briefed them about the progress made in readying various competition venues. HE CHANGSHAN / XINHUA

Ties: Leveraging China's prowess key for Bangladesh

From page 1

As global advocates for sustainable development and climate change mitigation, China and Bangladesh are poised to enhance their collaboration in environmental conservation, renewable energy and climate resilience. Leveraging collective expertise and resources, the two countries can play a pivotal role in addressing common ecological challenges and advancing the global sustainability agenda.

Culturally and academically, the prospects for China-Bangladesh relations entail fostering more profound cultural exchanges,

promoting language learning programs and expanding educational partnerships. By nurturing a broader understanding of each other's cultural heritage and academic pursuits, the nations can cultivate a solid foundation for long-term friendship and cooperation.

As both nations look to the future, strategic steps focused on economic cooperation, balanced diplomatic relations, diversification of trade and technological and educational exchanges will be essential. Environmental sustainability, cultural diplomacy and participation in multilateral platforms will also be critical in ensuring that

the relationship remains mutually beneficial and resilient.

Moreover, investing in human resource development, crisis management, humanitarian cooperation and leveraging soft power and public diplomacy will further strengthen bilateral ties. Establishing joint research and development centers, enhancing legal and regulatory frameworks, and being vigilant about geopolitical shifts are crucial for sustaining and advancing the partnership.

As Bangladesh continues its journey toward economic growth and development, leveraging China's economic prowess while safeguarding its national interests

will be vital. With careful management and strategic planning, the partnership between the two countries can serve as a model for other developing nations navigating the complexities of global diplomacy. This evolving relationship, grounded in mutual respect and shared goals, promises significant economic growth and regional stability, benefiting both nations and the broader South Asian region.

The author is general secretary of the China Bangladesh Friendship Center and president of the Asian Club Limited. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

Culture: Smart, digital tourism now transitioning from concept to reality

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The founding team of the theme block in Xi'an tapped into local culture and tourism resources before reinventing an existing commercial complex as a Tang-style marketplace, complete with immersive performances and handicrafts, all of which have breathed new vitality into the culture and tourism market, Zou added.

The block is among major local scenic spots in Xi'an. The Datang Everbright City, which features Tang Dynasty architectural elements, is another tourism magnet.

Last year, Xi'an received 278 million traveler visits, up 33.1 percent year-on-year, and tourism revenue surged 65.0 percent to 335 billion yuan, local government sources said.

Dai Bin, president of China Tourism Academy, said people's demand for culture and tourism is growing as living standards improve.

To meet the new expectations

and requirements of the public for high-quality culture-tourism integration, smart tourism, digital tourism and technological tourism have transitioned from concepts to reality, he said.

At Yuanmingyuan, or the Old Summer Palace, in Beijing, digitalization has enhanced culture and tourism integration, making the park a big hit among visitors.

"We scanned the site, studied various relics and combined historical documents, samples and Qing Dynasty engineering practices to digitally restore a large number of buildings," said Qiu Wenzhong, director of the administration office of Yuanmingyuan, once the imperial seasonal resort of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

The extensive research has provided Yuanmingyuan with rich cultural content, and the authorities developed digital products and recreations to improve traveler experience.

In 2023, Yuanmingyuan launched

278 million

traveler visits were made to Xi'an, Shaanxi province, in 2023, generating a tourism revenue of 335 billion yuan.

an immersive time capsule, which allows visitors to view the historical glory of the park with the help of digital technology. Visitors can witness the past and present of the park, including its former architectural appearance, hear interesting anecdotes and watch re-enactments of past scenes.

Qiu emphasized that the aim is to fully engage visitors and make them feel like active participants in the immersive experience, rather than being mere tourists.

The time travel experience has produced great results, with more than 1,000 visitors — about 80 percent of

its capacity — witnessing it on most days during last year's summer vacation period, Qiu said.

The culture and tourism master plan for 2021-25 also urges relevant parties to improve protection, inheritance and utility of cultural heritage, while enhancing the modern tourism system.

Xi has underscored the importance of related work and called for more efforts to protect cultural relics and heritage.

Under his instructions, construction of national cultural parks has made great strides, highlighting historical sites, such as the Great Wall and the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, all of which epitomize Chinese culture and national ethos.

It has sent strong signals to tourism players and encouraged them to inject more cultural elements into what they have to offer.

At Beijing Wtown, a water resort at the foot of the Simatai section of the Great Wall in Miyun district,

northeastern Beijing, cultural activities such as cloth dyeing, printing and kite making have proved a great draw for travelers, said Xiao Jiakun, brand manager of the resort.

"We have also continuously strengthened the 'Great Wall plus' strategy and rolled out star gazing, sunrise watching and yoga activities on the Great Wall to better immerse visitors in the history and culture," Xiao said.

Last year, Wtown received more than 1.5 million traveler visits, up 34.9 percent over the previous year, according to the town's administration. Tourism revenue increased by 6.8 percent to 735 million yuan in 2023.

At the Badaling section of the Great Wall scenic spot in Yanqing district, northwest of Beijing, new art performances are being offered during night tours.

"The idea is to help travelers experience our traditional culture and better understand its charm," said

Zhai Yanwei, deputy general manager at Badaling Culture and Tourism Group.

The increasing emphasis on culture at the scenic area has helped it pack in 147,000 inbound travels as of mid June, up 81 percent over the same period in 2023, according to Zhai.

"By integrating the performance with the Great Wall culture, we have gradually built brand influence and attracted a growing number of visitors, and our economic benefits have been considerable," Zhai said.

Dai, the president of China Tourism Academy, said that with technological evolution and industrial transformation, there will be an ongoing need for culture-tourism integration to meet emerging demands.

Dai said technology should be used to continuously improve culture-tourism products and services, and management should be upgraded to offer effective support for their supply.

CHINA

NATIONAL VISION, LOCAL ACTION

Jilin city seeks national, global prominence

The economic hub is developing with focus on industry and environment

By LIU MINGTAI in Changchun and ZHOU HUIYING

Jilin city in Jilin province is accelerating its development into a provincial subcenter city with high standards, the city's Party secretary, Hu Bin, said.

Hu said that leveraging the city's industrial and resource advantages and developing new quality productive forces will be the keys to building a national first-class petrochemical industry base, a world-class carbon fiber industry base, a world-class ice and snow industry base and a national-level clean energy base.

"Adhering to the practice of deepening reform in Chinese-style modernization, Jilin city is paying attention to system integration and aligning the direction of various fields," Hu said. "We are deepening reforms in State-owned enterprises, development zones, Songhua Lake and other economic areas to stimulate more creative institutions and mechanisms."

He added that the city is accelerating reforms in urban construction and management, elderly care services, and ecological and environmental protection to better address the demands of people from all sectors and at all levels.



Hu Bin

tech carbon fiber, Jilin is promoting the construction of a world-class industry base. The city has the largest capacity for precursor fibers in the world and ranks first in China and second globally for carbon fiber capacity.

"Jilin Chemical Fiber Group Co has been selected as a national world-class demonstration enterprise," Hu said. "Now we are expediting the implementation of key projects such as the group's 400,000-metric-ton carbon fiber industry chain and 10,000-ton high-end carbon fiber material projects."

In addition, the city has entered into cooperation agreements with enterprises such as Commercial Aircraft Corp of China and CRRC Changchun Railway Vehicles to open up new paths for integrated development. These include lightweight automotive applications, aerospace, new energy, and ice and snow equipment.

"We aim to create a 100-billion-yuan carbon fiber industrial cluster," Hu said.

Located at the same latitude as the Swiss Alps and the Rocky Mountains in North America, the city is well-known for powdery snow that lasts throughout the winter, thanks to consistent frigid temperatures, and it is accelerating the construction of a world-class ice and snow industry base.

"Jilin was honored as a Top 10 Ice and Snow Tourism City of 2024," Hu said. "In the first quarter, we have seen a 132.5 percent increase in domestic tourist arrivals and an increase of 133.4 percent in tourism revenue."

The city, which boasts abundant hydroelectric resources, is also promoting the construction of a national-level clean energy base.

"Leveraging our advantageous geographical location, favorable market conditions and convenient resources, we have planned and implemented a series of clean energy projects that vigorously advance the construction of a national clean energy base, including 10 pumped-storage power station projects," Hu said.

The Jiaohe pumped-storage power station — the nation's first to produce tens of millions of kilowatts — will have an installed capacity of 1.2 million kilowatts and an annual power generation of 1.213 billion kilowatt-hours upon completion.

With the acceleration of industrial development, the leading role of advantageous industries is steadily growing in the city.

"In 2024, Jilin plans to implement 407 key projects with a total investment of 180.3 billion yuan, including 60 projects with investments exceeding 500 million yuan," Hu said. "Those account for more than 60 percent of the industrial project investments."

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The city's GDP grew 6.7 percent last year, ranking first in the province for the first time.

In the first quarter of this year, its GDP grew by 7.3 percent, with fixed-asset investment up 8.3 percent, to maintain its leading position in the province.

Aiming to build a national first-class petrochemical industry base, the city is closely following market changes as it moves to reduce oil production and increase the manufacture of chemicals. This will extend the downstream industrial chain and create a major petrochemical industry cluster, Hu said.

"With a total investment of 33.9 billion yuan (\$4.7 billion), the transformation and upgrade project of Jilin Petrochemical Co, a subsidiary of PetroChina, will be the largest industrial project in the province since 1949 and the first chemical project of PetroChina to use all green electricity," he said.

After project completion in 2026, the company will transform from a fuel-based model to a chemical products and organic materials model, he added.

As the only national-level industrial base in the country for high-



Employees work at a carbon fiber factory of Jilin Chemical Fiber Group Co in Jilin city, Jilin province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Sunny Shaiyi



Women from the Yao ethnic group hang clothes out under the sun during the Shaiyi Festival in Baiweng village in Congjiang county, Guizhou province, on Thursday. The festival, celebrated on the sixth day of the sixth month in the lunar calendar, is a time when people place their clothes in the sun to prevent mold growth and insect infestation. A series of activities, including Yao costume and embroidery displays, were also held during the festival, attracting many visitors eager to experience the unique folk culture. WU DEJUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Students graduate from Xizang Buddhism University

By PALDEN NYIMA and DAQIONG in Lhasa

Over 320 monk and nun students who recently completed their studies at Xizang Buddhism University have been encouraged to practice and promote positive thoughts in Tibetan Buddhist doctrine.

They participated in a graduation ceremony at the university in Lhasa on June 30 that saw the conferral of graduation certificates and academic titles, and the commendation of exceptional teachers and students.

During the ceremony, graduate student Tenzin Yontan, a monk from the Gonsar Monastery in Driru county,

Nagchu, delivered a speech expressing gratitude to the teachers whose knowledge and dedication illuminated the path for the students.

With the knowledge learned in the college, graduates would engage in social development and progress, he said, and promote patriotism and dedication to Tibetan Buddhism, contributing "every bit of our efforts to maintaining social stability, harmony and national unity."

Tenzin Tsomo, a graduating nun from a monastery in Amdo county, told Chinanews.com.cn she had studied at the university for six years.

"I have had the opportunity to learn courses such as religion, Tibet-

an and Mandarin languages," she said. "My speaking and writing abilities have improved dramatically, and I have done my graduate paper in Tibetan."

Drubkhang Thubtan Khaidrub, executive vice-president of the Xizang branch of the Buddhist Association of China and head of the university, emphasized the pivotal role the graduates will play in the healthy development of Tibetan Buddhism, encouraging them to continuously enhance their religious knowledge and moral values, and embrace diverse cultural experiences.

At the same time, they should

learn to use the national language and script, infuse Tibetan Buddhism with excellent traditional Chinese culture, actively engage in doctrinal interpretation, promote positive thoughts in Tibetan Buddhist doctrine such as promoting equality and tolerance, poverty alleviation, and helping the needy, and jointly promote the Sincinization of Tibetan Buddhism, he added.

Founded in 2011, the university says it has nurtured more than 1,700 graduates under the guidance of 73 faculty members.

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European dolphin gives birth at Hainan resort

By CHEN BOWEN in Haikou chenbowen@chinadaily.com.cn

A European bottlenose dolphin under foster care defied the odds by becoming pregnant after 11 years without conceiving in Europe, giving birth to a healthy calf in South China's Hainan province on Saturday.

The newborn calf is female and about 120 centimeters in length. Her mother, named Naya, is 18 years old.

Naya is a participant in the European Endangered Species Program animal exchange. Hainan Ocean Paradise Resort, the only Chinese member of both the EEP and the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums, established a partnership with Spain two years ago as part of a dolphin exchange program that has seen nine bottlenose dolphins transferred to China for specialized conservation efforts.

"This marks the inaugural successful EEP birth since the program's inception in China," said EEP dolphin coordinator Robert Richard Gojceeta. "No doubt the caliber of the dolphin facility at Hainan Ocean Paradise Resort, coupled with exceptional and professional care, has been pivotal in achieving this milestone."

To ensure the success of the international breeding effort, the resort

invited Stuart Paul Moore, former director of L'Aquarium de Barcelona and Parques Reunidos dolphin consultant, to serve as a consultant. Moore has been on site for over a month, utilizing his extensive experience and professional expertise to facilitate the smooth progress of the breeding efforts.

"It is evident that the dolphins are thriving and content in their new environment," Moore said. "The expansive facility, equipped with biological filtration systems and round-the-clock care, plays a crucial role in ensuring successful birthing processes."

You Yingjie, the director of the Dolphin Pavilion at the resort, highlighted its commitment to comprehensive conservation practices for dolphins. Marine animal veterinarians conduct regular health check-ups, and pregnant dolphins identified through ultrasounds are transferred to specialized birthing areas for personalized care. During the six months leading up to birth, the dolphin is guided to become familiar with the birthing pool environment. The pregnant dolphin is paired up for companionship during pregnancy, and during the final month before birth, she is individually housed for care.



A European bottlenose dolphin, named Naya, swims with her newborn calf at the Hainan Ocean Paradise Resort on Wednesday. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

"We monitor their appetite, adjust food intake, and ensure round-the-clock care from conservationists, enriching their environment with toys — all aimed at safeguarding the well-being of the dolphins," he said.

Liu Xiaou, the resort's chairman, said: "In addition to our outdoor pool area, with thousands of tons of water, we have our semi-indoor dolphin interactive medical platform and a daily conservation space with a 4,000-metric-ton water capacity. We also have a dolphin sanctuary specially designed for dolphins to seek shelter during typhoons and

for breeding purposes." Gojceeta said Hainan Ocean Paradise Resort goes beyond mere entertainment, showcasing a strong dedication to conservation efforts.

"Undoubtedly, it emerges as a standout model for the region," he said. "Boasting a proficient rehabilitation center that specializes in the restoration of sea turtles, cetaceans and various species, the resort sets a high standard for integrating fun with education, scientific exploration, and marine ecosystem preservation," he said.

Gojceeta said he believed that combining the expertise and efforts of both China and Europe can yield positive outcomes.

"The partnership between Hainan Ocean Paradise Resort and the diverse EEP programs is in its early stages, and we are keen on further developing it in the future," he said.

Liu said the resort also plans to breed seals and penguins.

"Since joining the EEP, we can engage in facilitating exceptional selection and exchanges with numerous marine facilities across Europe," he said. "This initiative dismantles barriers and lays the groundwork for animal populations to genuinely thrive through global collaborative efforts."

Freight route bolsters China-Caucasus links

By PENG CHAO pengchao@chinadaily.com.cn

Two shipments from Shandong province have reached Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, via a new rail and sea route across the Caspian Sea that provides a swifter alternative for cargo bound for Europe.

The goods, including truck parts, tires and air conditioners, traveled through the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, which cuts through Kazakhstan, offering an overland connection to Turkey or access to European countries via the Black Sea.

"The cargo reached its destination in 18 days, saving a third of the time compared to traditional sea

routes," said Zang Yuanqi, an official with the China-Shanghai Cooperation Organization Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area in Qingdao, Shandong.

The multimodal journey involved trains transporting the goods from Jinan and Qingdao to Kazakhstan's border with China. The cargo was transported across Kazakhstan by train and then shipped across the Caspian Sea from Aktau port to Alat port in Azerbaijan before reaching Baku by rail. Some goods will be shipped onward to countries including Turkey, Georgia, Romania and Italy.

"This successful trial opens a new chapter for Shandong's participation in the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route," Zang said,

adding that the demonstration area plans to increase freight train traffic along the corridor.

China's commitment to the route aligns with its efforts to bolster the China-Europe Railway Express and participate in high-quality Belt and Road Initiative projects.

The demonstration area, strategically located near Qingdao's international airport and seaport, boasts a well-developed transportation network. It currently operates 32 rail routes for China-Europe freight trains, connecting 54 cities across 23 BRI and Shanghai Cooperation Organization partner countries.

"We aim to make the demonstration area a gateway for SCO members to access Asia-Pacific markets,

linking them with regions to the east, west, north and south," said Chen Wansheng, a Qingdao city official.

That ambition is further supported by the area's comprehensive service platform, offering trade, customs clearance, logistics and financial solutions. Businesses like Qingdao Huazun Machine have benefited from the streamlined processes, experiencing faster customs clearance and a significant increase in orders from SCO countries.

With over 2,000 trade entities and 130 BRI and SCO industrial projects established in the demonstration area, the total value of its trade with SCO members has grown by an average of 77 percent a year over the past six years.

WORLD

AU lawmakers push for free movement of people

By NDUMISO MLILO
in Johannesburg
For China Daily

Parliamentarians of the African Union are actively promoting the ratification of a protocol on the free movement of people across the continent, aiming to spur tourism and trade.

Margaret Jepkoech Kamar, a Kenyan senator and member of the Pan-African Parliament committee on trade, customs and immigration, said the parliament will promote trust among African countries.

"We are involved in capacity building for Pan-African Parliament members and African countries' members of parliament to build trust, because free movement of people will create more jobs. If Africa can be open, more companies will invest and create more jobs," Kamar told China Daily in Johannesburg, South Africa.

About 250 MPs across the continent gathered in Johannesburg for a meeting that concluded on July 5 at the Pan-African Parliament to discuss African issues.

Kamar outlined efforts to collaborate with NGOs and engage civil societies across Africa via the AU's Economic, Social and Cultural Council to persuade countries to ratify the protocol.

"It is important for the people to know that we need to be integrated to prosper and share the skills. We want to remove that suspicion that free movement means taking away jobs. There is no data to back up that fear," she said.

The Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment was adopted during the 30th Ordinary Session of African Heads of State in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2019. Its aim is to facilitate travel for African citizens holding valid identity documents.

Once operational, the protocol will allow citizens from African countries to visit any other African country for up to 90 days. It also mandates African nations to develop and implement programs that promote student exchange and research collaboration.

Currently, only four African countries — Mali, Niger, Rwanda, and Sao Tome and Principe — have signed the protocol. To fully enact it, a total of 15 countries must ratify the protocol.

Bashiru Silikie, an MP in Sierra Leone, said some countries have an "independent mentality" that prevents them from ratifying the free movement of people protocol. Some believe that by ratifying the treaty they will allow illegal immigrants into their countries, which is not true, Silikie said.

Boosting businesses

"We are advocating, appealing and encouraging African countries to ratify the free movement of people so that we can have people moving freely from one country to the other doing business with no hindrance," he said.

"We encourage countries to sign and domesticate the protocol so that we can be one Africa. We want seamless travel and borderless Africa to boost trade and tourism."

McHenry Venaani, an MP in Namibia and deputy chairperson of the Pan-African Parliament committee on trade, customs and immigration, said many African countries do trade with China and European countries and get more visitors from there than from Africa.

Allowing citizens to move freely in the continent can spur trade within African countries, Venaani said. The free movement of people in Africa should be urgently implemented since African countries share their cultural and historical bond, he said.

The writer is a freelance journalist for China Daily.

Beijing to keep close watch on tariffs from Jakarta

By WANG QINGYUN
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Beijing said on Thursday it will closely follow potential safeguard duties that Jakarta might impose on specific products, adding that it will work with Jakarta to uphold a free and open international trade order.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian made the remarks at a regular news conference, following recent reports that Indonesia will impose up to 200 percent import tariffs on Chinese goods.

China will take necessary measures to safeguard relevant companies' legitimate interests, Lin said.

Last week, Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan said the tariff is "not targeting any particular country," Xinhua News Agency reported.

"Indonesia will not simply follow other countries if it contradicts our national interests," Luhut said.

In response, Lin said, "We are aware of relevant reports, especially the clarification made by Coordinating Minister Luhut and Indonesian Trade Minister Zulkifli Hasan, who said that even if safe-

guard duties are imposed, they will apply to all countries."

Noting that China-Indonesia cooperation is win-win by nature, Lin said China looks to elevate bilateral trade on the basis of mutual benefits.

Opposing protectionism

"Both countries firmly support free trade, oppose protectionism and actively commit themselves to maintaining sound and steady development of bilateral cooperation in trade and investment," Lin said.

He also said China hopes to work with Indonesia to make bilateral trade "robust, balanced, inclusive and mutually sustainable."

China is the top trading partner of Indonesia, as well as the second-largest source of foreign investment for the Southeast Asian country, according to China's Foreign Ministry.

Indonesia is the second-largest destination in ASEAN for Chinese investment.

Luhut emphasized last week that China remains a crucial strategic and comprehensive partner for Indonesia in trade and investment, Indonesia's Antara News reported.



US President Joe Biden speaks at a North Atlantic Council meeting during the NATO summit in Washington on Wednesday. ROBERTO SCHMIDT / AFP

China slams NATO's 'Cold War mentality'

Military alliance seeks expansionist agenda under US influence: Experts

By CHEN WEIHUA in Brussels
chenweihua@chinadaily.com.cn

China rebuked NATO accusations on Thursday, describing them as "filled with Cold War mentality and belligerent rhetoric" and "provocative with obvious lies and smears."

The NATO Washington Summit Declaration, issued on Wednesday during the military alliance's summit, claimed that China's "ambitions and coercive policies continue to challenge our interests, security and values". It accuses China of undercutting and reshaping the rules-based international order.

The declaration also accused China of becoming a "decisive enabler" of Russia's conflict with Ukraine and posing systemic challenges to Euro-Atlantic security. It also criticized China on various issues, including cyber, space, nuclear and the "Indo-Pacific".

"The NATO Washington Summit Declaration is filled with Cold War mentality and belligerent rhetoric," a spokesperson from the Chinese Mission to the European Union said. "The China-related paragraphs are provocative with obvious lies and smears. We firmly reject and deplore these accusations and have lodged serious representations with NATO."

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said on Thursday that China is not the creator of the Ukraine crisis, let alone a participant.

"But we have not stood at the side and watched, but have actively promoted peace talks and sought political settlement," Lin said.

Lin slammed NATO for blaming China for the Ukraine crisis as harboring "evil intention".

"China's objective and just stance and its constructive role on the Ukraine crisis have been widely recognized by the international community," he said.

Lin also lashed out at US Secretary of State Antony Blinken for suggesting on Wednesday that China supports Russia's defense industry.

Lin cited data that more than 60 percent of components of Russia's imported weapons and dual-use goods came from the United States and other Western countries, and 95 percent of the key components of Russian weapons destroyed by Ukraine came from the West.

Strict export control

The spokesperson of the Chinese Mission to the EU said China is a country that keeps its word. It has never provided lethal weapons to either party of the conflict, and exercises strict export control on dual-use goods, including civilian drones.

The normal trade flows between China and Russia do not target any third party, nor should they be subject to disruption or coercion, the spokesperson said.

"The Ukraine crisis has prolonged for so long. But who is adding fuel to the fire? Who is fanning the flames? And who is seeking selfish gains? The answer is clear to everyone," the spokesperson said.

Regarding NATO's accusation of China's role in the Asia-Pacific, the spokesperson said the region is a

place for peaceful development, not a wrestling ground for geopolitical competition.

"NATO should not become the disrupter of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific or a tool used by certain power to maintain hegemony," the spokesperson said.

Lin described NATO as a legacy of Cold War and bloc confrontation now disguised as an "organization of securing peace". He criticized NATO for causing chaos, citing its atrocities from former Yugoslavia to Afghanistan and Libya.

S.L. Kanthan, a geopolitical analyst in Bengaluru, India, criticized NATO's accusations of China as a scapegoat tactic to deflect from its failures in managing the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"The preposterous accusations against China now are merely excuses to start extending NATO's tentacles into Asia," he told China Daily on Thursday.

"In the loony town of Washington, war is peace, and up is down. NATO, which should have been disbanded in 1991 after the peaceful collapse of the USSR, can justify its existence only through perpetual conflicts."

Mladen Plese, a Croatian political analyst, told Xinhua News Agency on Wednesday that NATO must not become a tool of the US to implement its policies around the world, acting as the extended arm of Washington's influence.

"The United States has used NATO to implement its policies and has a decisive influence on NATO. This is not good for the European partners," Plese said. NATO is being used by the US in the Asia-Pacific region, and "does not correspond to the interests of Europe at all," he said.

Briefly

UNITED STATES

Impeachment of high court judges sought

Liberal Democratic Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has introduced articles of impeachment against conservative Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, her office said on Wednesday. Democrats have for years criticized the court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, over rulings that advanced causes popular on the right. Ocasio-Cortez said Thomas and Alito's "pattern of refusal to recuse from consequential matters before the court in which they hold widely documented financial and personal entanglements constitutes a grave threat to American rule of law". Activists have criticized Thomas for not disclosing travel and lodging from a benefactor, while Alito faced criticism for displaying flags associated with Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election at the justice's homes.

3 fatally shot in California home

Three people were fatally shot in California on Wednesday night and a person of interest is in custody, the Alameda Police Department said. The department said it received a call from an individual who reported that their neighbor had been shot in the 400 block of Kitty Hawk Road in the City of Alameda. Upon arrival, police located multiple family members suffering from apparent gunshot wounds, including juveniles. Police did not immediately give a motive for the shooting. "We are deeply saddened to report that three victims did not survive, and additional family members are being treated at local hospitals," police said.

RUSSIA

Moscow, New Delhi deny leaders' friction

Both Russia and India denied on Wednesday any disagreement between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at their talks in Moscow this week. On Tuesday, the day after a lethal strike on a children's hospital in Ukraine's capital Kyiv, Modi told Putin the death of innocent children was painful and horrible. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said a decision to cancel a session of talks between Russian and Indian delegations was taken for scheduling reasons and because the entire agenda had been covered. "This has absolutely nothing to do with any disagreements or problematic situations," he said. India's Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra dismissed reports of friction between the leaders as incorrect and misleading.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA

China increases opening-up to attract foreign firms

China has recently ramped up efforts to attract foreign investment, underscoring its commitment to opening up its vast market to global companies.

The government has prioritized attracting and utilizing foreign investment, recognizing the crucial role that foreign-invested firms play in China's economic transition.

According to a State Council executive meeting held in late June, China will expand its opening-up in key areas. Shortly after, a symposium on foreign investment was held that urged further relaxation of market access and "leveraging the country's ultra-large market as a real advantage in attracting investment."

"Midway through the year, it is imperative to emphasize stabilizing foreign investment and implementing additional measures to enhance market access in specific sectors," said Wei Jianguo, vice-chairman of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges. "These actions are necessary to ensure the continued growth of foreign investment and trade in the remaining months of the year."

Since the beginning of this year, an array of policies aimed at attracting foreign investment have been implemented. Those include regulations to encourage and regulate the cross-border flow of data, as well as

an action plan outlining measures to promote equal participation of foreign-invested companies in government procurement.

Local governments also have launched a charm offensive targeting foreign investors. In May, South China's Guangdong province introduced incentives to galvanize foreign-invested firms to expand local investment and presence. Last month, Beijing passed its first special regulation on foreign investment.

China's efforts to woo foreign investment come at a time when global foreign direct investment (FDI) has remained subdued for two consecutive years, with challenging prospects for 2024 due to weakening growth and ongoing trade and geopolitical tensions, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Despite a drop in FDI in China in the first five months of this year, the country continued to see double-digit year-on-year growth in the number of newly established foreign-invested firms during the period.

To bolster its capacity to meet the expanding Chinese market demand, Japanese firm Yokohama Rubber has announced a mega investment plan to build a new passenger-car tire plant in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou.

On July 3, China kicked off

exhibitor application for the eighth China International Import Expo (CIIE), scheduled in November 2025. Several foreign-invested companies, including US firm 3M and French firm L'Oréal, have been full-time CIIE participants since the inception of the world's first national-level expo focusing on expanding imports.

"The CIIE is becoming increasingly popular, which is a vote of confidence from the global business community in China's economic development," said Tang Wenhong, China's assistant minister of commerce.

According to the recently released 2024 Kearney FDI Confidence Index report, reflecting investors' expectations for FDI over the next three years, China's global ranking has risen from seventh to third place.

"Multinational companies initially looked at China as a supplier and then as a huge market. But now increasingly, we are looking at China as an innovation center," said Andrew Wu, general manager of the China branch of US-based commercial data and analytics firm Dun & Bradstreet.

Fan Yuelong, a senior management at Deloitte China, noted that China has entered a stage where high-quality foreign investment is needed, and there is great potential for investing in China.

"High-quality foreign investment

may include expanding investment in the country's central and western regions, focusing on green development, individualized and intelligent solutions, and other areas," Fan said.

China has started revising the industry catalog of sectors encouraging foreign investment, with intended support for advanced manufacturing, modern services, advanced technology, energy conservation and environmental protection.

During the Jan-May period, FDI inflows into China's smart consumer equipment manufacturing and professional technical services increased 332.9 percent and 103.1 percent year on year, respectively.

In June, US multinational food and beverage company PepsiCo broke ground on its first food production base in Northwest China, which is also the company's fifth major investment in the country over the past five years.

"As living standards of Chinese consumers continue to rise, there is a noticeable trend towards more specific and situational demands for household cleanliness," said Han Guangzhong, Greater China CEO of Portuguese household-cleaning brand Mootaa. "New market opportunities are emerging for us to seize."

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GLOBAL LENS



Above from left: Members of the Ara Style Senior breakdancing club stretch before a practice session in Tokyo on May 20. Group instructor Yusuke Arai (center), 38, dances during a practice session in Tokyo on May 24. Reiko Maruyama (left), 71, encourages Mieko Nanba, 68, as she practices a "chair freeze" breakdance move during a training session in Tokyo on May 20. **Below:** Ara Style Senior breakdancing members pose for a photo ahead of their show at a local festival in Tokyo on May 24. PHOTOS BY KIM KYUNG-HOON / REUTERS

Inspired by Olympics debut, Japan's seniors blaze breakdancing trail



BODY MOVES

A 74-year-old surfer and master of classical Japanese dance may seem like an unlikely member of a seniors' breakdancing group, but Kiyoshie Saruwaka said getting her feet wet in the sport was a no-brainer after it was confirmed for the 2024 Paris Games.

As a restless teenager, Saruwaka fell in love with surfing and had wondered why it was not an Olympic sport until it finally earned its place at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"And now, breaking is going to be added in Paris, and Japan even has a gold medal candidate," Saruwaka, who once placed second in a local surfing contest and still rides waves for fun, said at her home in Tokyo.

"I used to see kids breakdancing under the railroad tracks and would think to myself, 'I'd probably be one of them if I were young,'" she said, confessing that her parents had started her in Nihonbuyo — traditional Japanese dance — when she was 5 to keep their feisty daughter out of trouble.

"Of course, I never imagined I'd actually be doing it at this age but when the opportunity arose I thought, 'Why not? It sounds fun!'" Saruwaka said.

Saruwaka is now a member of Ara Style Senior, Japan's only breakdancing club of its kind made up of elderly citizens.

On a recent Friday, eight members gathered in a community center wear-



Members of the Ara Style Kids group watch a rehearsal by Ara Style Senior, the Japanese breakdancing club made up of elderly members, at a local festival in Tokyo on May 26.

ing matching orange and green T-shirts to rehearse for a performance at a local festival in two days.

The team is the brainchild of Reiko Maruyama, 71, an elected official in Tokyo's Edogawa ward who had been

looking to energize the community through sports and exercise.

Maruyama had been speaking with Yusuke Arai, the son of a friend and former national breaking champion, and floated the idea of getting older resi-

dents into breakdancing. "I told him, now that it's going to be an Olympic discipline, this is the breakthrough moment!" she said.

Arai, who has judged competitions — he once gave Japanese medal favorite



Kiyoshie Saruwaka

B-Boy Shigekix an award as a child — agreed, starting with Maruyama as his sole elderly student early last year.

For motivation, Arai suggested that Maruyama join the children he teaches in a performance that would be held at a community center last spring.

Not wanting to be the only adult in a sea of schoolchildren, Maruyama enticed Saruwaka to join, betting on her penchant to take on new challenges.

"I want to spread breaking among seniors in Edogawa ward, and from Edogawa to the rest of Japan and maybe even the world," the councilwoman said. Japan is the most rapidly aging advanced society, with about 30 percent of its population 65 or older.

Once she changes into her traditional yukata outfit to teach after rehearsing with others, Saruwaka's expression is relaxed but serious as she offers her students guidance on the subtle gestures that characterize the craft of Nihonbuyo. "I suspect I'll be breakdancing for as long as I live," she said, noting that it helped strengthen her lower body so she could continue with classical dance.

"I bet I can do it until I'm 100, if I'm still alive," she said.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA



From left: Kiyoshie Saruwaka (left), 74, teaches a student traditional Japanese dance at Saruwaka's studio in Tokyo on May 24. Breakdancing club member Hitomi Oda, 69, holds her 5-month-old granddaughter as she talks on the phone and looks at her grandson, 3, at her son's house in Tokyo on May 23. Reiko Maruyama, 71, a councilwoman of Tokyo's Edogawa ward and a breakdancing club member, greets a constituent during a policy speech on a street in Tokyo on May 22.

DOCUMENT

Marine Eco-Environmental Protection in China

The State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China
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Preface

The ocean covers about 71 percent of the earth's surface. It is the cradle of life and the source of human civilization. The marine eco-environment is essential to the ecological balance of the planet, to the rational use of resources, to sustained development of human civilization, and to the present and future development of the maritime community of shared future. Its protection is important for national eco-environmental security, sustainable maritime development, and the harmonious coexistence between humans and the ocean. It is the responsibility of all countries to protect and improve the marine environment and to conserve and use marine resources in a sustainable way.

China is a firm advocate for and an active participant in protecting the marine eco-environment, which is vital to its initiatives to build a beautiful China and a strong maritime country. Over the years, China has given priority to eco-environmental conservation and pursued systematic governance. It has coordinated development and protection efforts, and supported high-quality development with high-level protection, striving to build a marine eco-environment of harmonious coexistence between humans and the ocean.

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, President Xi Jinping has made a series of important statements and observations on marine eco-environmental protection, highlighting the need to "care for the ocean as dearly as we treasure our lives". Under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Eco-Civilization, in order to complete new tasks and meet new requirements for marine eco-environmental protection in this new era, China has launched a series of campaigns of fundamental, pioneering, and long-term significance and has made historic transformations and progress of overarching importance.

Thanks to hard work over the years, China's marine eco-environment has shown overall improvement, with marked increase in the capacity of ecosystem services and functions in certain sea areas. Marine resources have been exploited and utilized in an orderly manner, and the system for governing the marine eco-environment has been refined. People can safely enjoy the sea, with a greater sense of satisfaction and happiness. These achievements are a testament to the country's commitment to marine eco-environmental protection.

China has demonstrated its commitment as a responsible major country by actively promoting international cooperation in protecting the marine environment, faithfully fulfilling its responsibilities and obligations under international conventions, and contributing Chinese solutions and strength to the global governance of the marine environment.

The Chinese government is publishing this white paper to present a full picture of China's ideas, actions, and achievements in marine eco-environmental protection to the international community to facilitate understanding of China's conservation efforts and advance international cooperation in this regard.

I. Improving Marine Eco-Environment for Harmonious Coexistence Between Humans and the Ocean

The ocean is crucial to the survival and development of a people and the security and prosperity of a nation. The protection of the marine eco-environment has a vital bearing on achieving harmony between humanity and nature in the modernization drive.

The Chinese government applies the new development philosophy in all fields, and attaches great importance to marine eco-environmental protection. Factoring in the basic reality and development stage of the country, China has gained a deeper understanding of marine eco-environmental protection, making ongoing efforts to improve the system for this purpose and accelerating the building of a marine eco-civilization.

After the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, the country began to develop its marine areas. With this development, a number of environmental problems began to emerge. China placed emphasis on them and paid greater attention to protecting the marine eco-environment. In 1964, the State Oceanic Administration was set up, and before long a mechanism for managing China's marine eco-environment was steadily established. The Marine Environment Protection Law was promulgated in 1982, creating a legal framework for the country's marine protection, and a revision of this law in 1999 led to the addition of eco-environmental conservation in priorities alongside pollution control.

As part of its effort to implement the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Chinese government formulated the China Ocean Agenda 21 to make marine eco-environmental protection more systemic and targeted. In 2023, the Marine Environment Protection Law was revised again, representing a systemic transformation to coordinated land-sea management and overall governance of the marine environment.

To synergize land and sea pollution control and strengthen overall eco-environmental protection, China has incorporated marine protection into the national system of eco-environmental protection. It has gradually strengthened overall planning and coordination between land and sea environmental protection efforts and, on that basis, established an effective system for governing the marine eco-environment. By strengthening marine pollution prevention and control, conserving and restoring marine ecosystems, and launching intensive campaigns for the comprehensive management of key sea areas, China has seen marked improvement in the quality of its marine environment, upgraded services and functions in certain sea areas, and an accelerated pace in the orderly exploitation and utilization of resources and the green transformation of the marine economy.

While China continues to follow best practices in the past, it has been working hard on innovative new approaches to protecting the marine eco-environment and promoting harmonious coexistence between humans and the ocean.

- Respecting nature and prioritizing eco-environmental conservation

Respecting, adapting to, and protecting nature is an established notion in China. China has developed an objective understanding of the laws of marine ecosystems, and, based on the systems' succession and inherent characteristics, works to reinforce their capacity for self-regulation, self-purification, and self-restoration so as to improve their stability, services, and functions.

China has plans in place for worst-case scenarios and prioritizes eco-environmental conservation. It has included eco-environmental progress in the overall plan for marine development, built strong safeguards for marine eco-environmental protection, and utilized marine resources in a well-conceived and rational way. These measures have been put in place to promote harmony between humans and the ocean.

- Integrating conservation and management

Marine eco-environmental protection requires systemic efforts. China adopts a holistic approach to protecting the marine eco-environment, attaching equal importance to development, protection, pollution prevention and control, and restoration. It has improved the management of the marine eco-environment through land-sea coordination, coordinating protection work for rivers and seas, mountain and sea areas, onshore and offshore areas, and

upstream and downstream river basins. China has established a mechanism for collaborative protection, governance, supervision, and law enforcement across different regions and departments, in order to create a comprehensive system for governing coastal areas, river basins, and sea areas.

- Enforcing strict supervision in accordance with laws and regulations

China has placed marine eco-environmental protection under the strictest systems and laws. Upholding the principle of governing the ocean by law, it has coordinated and pressed forward with the enactment and revision of relevant laws and regulations, put in place a legal framework for marine eco-environmental protection, and implemented the strictest system for governing the marine eco-environment. It has strengthened routine and whole-process supervision and management of the marine eco-environment, including region-specific control, monitoring and investigation, supervision and law enforcement, and assessment and inspection. Two mechanisms, Central Eco-Environmental Protection Inspection and State Natural Resources Inspection, play a supervisory role in the protection of the marine eco-environment, enforcing strict measures to combat actions that harm the marine eco-environment.

- Pursuing innovation-driven and tech-led development

China is committed to innovation-driven development. The country has strengthened innovation in marine eco-environmental protection technologies, monitoring and evaluation, and institutions and mechanisms. It has made rational decisions and implemented targeted measures to transform and advance protection through digital and smart technology. China assigns a leading role to science and technology in marine eco-environmental protection and the high-quality development of the marine economy, and is committed to overcoming the bottlenecks that hinder further progress. The country now utilizes land, sea, air, and space in its monitoring, governance, and supervision of the marine eco-environment, as well as in its emergency response capabilities and technology.

- Pursuing green transformation and low-carbon development

Blue seas and clean beaches, like lucid waters and lush mountains, are also invaluable assets. Upholding the philosophy of green development and applying it in exploring the sea, China is transforming its model of marine development into one of circular utilization. It has developed eco-tourism, eco-fisheries, and other green industries, expanded its channels for realizing the market value of green products, and promoted high-quality economic development and quality of life in coastal areas through high-standard protection of the marine eco-environment.

With a focus on reducing pollution and its carbon footprint, China has increased its carbon sink potential by developing marine ranching while reducing emissions through offshore wind power and other new models of the green, low-carbon economy. These efforts have accelerated the green, low-carbon transformation of the marine industry and green, low-carbon and sustainable development of the ocean, in line with the country's goals of achieving peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060.

- Upholding government-led and multi-partner governance

The Chinese government plays a leading role in marine eco-environmental protection through institutional design, planning, supervision, services, and risk prevention. It has established a working mechanism under which the central leadership makes overall plans, provincial authorities assume overall responsibility, and city and county authorities take charge of implementation. Operation entities, factors of trade, and private capital are encouraged to participate in marine eco-environmental protection, to create a sustainable model for the protection and ecological restoration of the marine eco-environment. Through multi-partner governance and synergy from the whole of society, China is striving to build a modern governance system for the marine eco-environment led by Party committees and governments, and joined by enterprises, social organizations, and the general public.

- Putting people first and enabling the broadest participation

China is committed to pursuing environmental benefits for the people, to meet their growing aspirations for a beautiful eco-environment. It takes solid action to tackle prominent marine eco-environmental problems, making the sea more accessible to the public. It works to ensure that the people can have safe and green seafood, enjoy clean beaches, blue seas and azure sky, and safely enjoy the sea with a greater sense of satisfaction and happiness.

China promotes a marine culture that emphasizes harmonious coexistence between humans and the ocean for the people and by the people. In Chinese society, there is now a broad consensus on marine eco-environmental protection, and people are taking an active part in it on their own initiative. This has led to the development of a new protection model characterized by collaboration, participation, and shared benefits across the country.

- Maintaining a global vision and promoting mutually beneficial cooperation

China champions the concept of a maritime community of shared future. With an open mind and a broad vision, it is determined to work together with people around the world, through thick or thin, to tackle challenges to the marine eco-environment and safeguard the common interests of humanity, so that we can bequeath blue skies and clean waters to our future generations.

Following the principles of mutual trust, mutual assistance, and mutual benefit, China promotes international cooperation in marine eco-environmental protection and shares the fruitful results of its work in protecting the marine environment and developing the marine industry, thereby contributing Chinese insight and Chinese strength to the global initiative to make the ocean clean and beautiful.

II. Coordinating Marine Eco-Environmental Protection

China attaches great importance to building a marine eco-civilization and protecting the marine environment. The country has strengthened top-level design to plan, guide, and coordinate its work in this area, while continuing to establish and improve its legal and institutional frameworks to advance marine eco-environmental protection.

1. Well-designed plans

To fulfill the new tasks and meet the new requirements in marine eco-environmental protection and guide relevant endeavors, China has formulated special plans for the marine environment and other plans in relevant sectors, based on its economic and social development plans and in line with its territorial space plans.

Planning systematic marine eco-environmental protection. Planning is central to the government's efforts in protecting the marine eco-environment and building a marine eco-civilization, and the national economic and social development plan outlines the tasks from a strategic perspective. National territorial space plans have been implemented to help develop marine spaces by coordinating land and sea activities and promoting harmony between humanity and the ocean. These plans provide strategic guidance for protecting the marine eco-environment in waters within China's jurisdiction. In 2022, China issued the 14th Five-Year Plan for Marine Ecological and Environmental Protection. This plan shapes the direction of protection efforts in the new era by creating a comprehensive governance model for marine management at the national, provincial, city, and bay levels, with bays as the basic units of action.

The government has also published the 14th Five-Year Special Plan for Scientific and Technological Innovation in Eco-Environmental Protection, the 14th Five-Year Plan for the Supervision of Ecological Conservation, the 14th Five-Year Plan for Eco-Environmental Monitoring, and the National Plan for Marine Dumping Sites (2021-2025). These plans provide guidance for scientific and technological innovation in marine eco-environmental protection, supervision of marine ecological protection and restoration, monitoring and evaluation of the marine eco-environment, and the management of marine dumping, laying a solid foundation for strengthening

marine eco-environmental protection in all respects.

Prioritizing eco-environmental conservation in spatial planning for marine development and protection. The marine space is the primary platform for the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, marine development and utilization, and marine governance tasks. Spatial planning is an essential tool for planning marine development and protection activities as a whole.

China has published various spatial plans, including the National Marine Functional Zoning Plan, the National Plan for Main Marine Functional Zones, and the National Plan for the Protection of Offshore Islands - all of which have played a positive role in the category-specific protection and rational utilization of sea areas and offshore islands at different stages. In 2018, replacing multiple plans with a masterplan, China promulgated the Opinions on Establishing a System for Territorial Space Planning and Supervising Its Implementation, issued the Outline of the National Plan on Territorial Space (2021-2035), and compiled the Outline on Space Planning for Coastal Zones and Nearshore Waters (2021-2035), implementing territorial space plans for coastal areas at all levels.

Through this, the country has implemented a marine spatial planning system that coordinates land and sea space and development, strengthens ecosystem-based management of coastal zones, and arranges for the protection, restoration, development, and utilization of coastlines, sea areas, and islands.

Advancing protection and restoration in an orderly manner. Under the guidance of its territorial space plans, China has formulated and implemented for the first time the Plan for Major Projects on the Protection and Restoration of Coastal Zone Ecosystems (2021-2035). This plan puts in place a framework for comprehensively planning and designing the protection and restoration of coastal zone ecosystems, with a focus on improving their quality, stability, and services across "one belt, two corridors, six areas, and multiple points". [The "one belt" refers to a coastal ecological safety belt comprising shelter forests and coastlines. The "two corridors" refer to two ecological corridors serving crucial functions in maintaining biodiversity. One corridor is for migratory birds and coastal wetlands, while the other is for important coastal species. The "six areas" include the Yellow and Bohai seas, the Yangtze River Delta, the west coast of the Taiwan Strait, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Beibu Gulf, and Hainan Island, all of which play essential roles in the implementation of national strategies. The "multiple points" include mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds, salt marshes, oyster reefs, and other ecologically sensitive points with important ecological functions.] To improve the diversity, stability, and sustainability of its marine ecosystems, China has also issued the 14th Five-Year Plan of Action for Marine Ecological Protection and Restoration, the Special Action Plan for Mangrove Conservation and Restoration (2020-2025), and the Special Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of *Spartina Alterniflora* (2022-2025). These plans are tailored to local conditions and adopt region- and category-specific measures, aiming to coordinate effective efforts to protect and restore China's marine ecosystems in a holistic approach.

2. Law-based governance

The rule of law is the foundation for marine eco-environmental protection. China has improved relevant laws and regulations, strengthened the judicial system, and carried out educational campaigns to promote a culture of respecting, studying, observing, and applying the law, in order to carry forward marine eco-environmental protection within the legal framework.

Establishing a sound legal framework for marine eco-environmental protection. China attaches great importance to legislation on marine eco-environmental protection, and has promulgated a series of relevant laws and regulations. The Marine Environment Protection Law was first adopted in 1982 and has since been revised twice, in 1999 and 2023, and amended three times, in 2013, 2016, and 2017, to adapt to changing circumstances. Under this comprehensive law, China has formulated seven administrative regulations, including the Regulations on Control over Dumping of Wastes in the Ocean, along with more than 10 departmental rules and 100 normative documents. Furthermore, it has issued over 200 technical standards and specifications, creating a comprehensive legal framework for marine eco-environmental protection.

Other important laws include: the Sea Areas Administration Law and the Law on the Protection of Offshore Islands, which cover the sustainable use, protection, and improvement of the eco-environment of sea areas and islands; the Wetland Conservation Law and the Fisheries Law, which cover the protection of coastal wetlands and fishery resources; and the Yangtze River Protection Law and the Yellow River Protection Law, which cover the planning, monitoring, and restoration of estuaries. Additionally, local regulations and government rules on marine eco-environmental protection have been promulgated and implemented by coastal provinces and equivalent administrative units, including in Guangxi and Hainan, where laws have been enacted to protect coastal beaches and rare animal and plant resources.

Ensuring judicial protection of the marine eco-environment. Chinese courts have dutifully provided judicial protection for the marine environment. Since 1984, they have handled more than 5,000 civil disputes over the marine environment. Since 2015, the maritime courts have concluded more than 1,000 administrative litigation cases related to the marine environment. They have also dealt with criminal cases related to marine eco-environmental pollution, illegal sand mining at sea, and illegal harvesting of rare and endangered aquatic wildlife. Drawing on previous experience, China has established a comprehensive judicial system for marine eco-environmental protection, covering criminal, civil, and administrative litigation, and a marine eco-environmental public interest litigation system with Chinese characteristics, ensuring judicial protection of the marine eco-environment.

Popularizing laws on marine eco-environmental protection.

Through press conferences, seminars and training, media communication, quizzes, and distribution of promotional materials, the Chinese government has popularized laws and regulations with regards to sea areas, islands, maritime environmental protection, and the management of fishing vessels at sea. In some regions, virtual reality experiences, interactive games, micro-films and other new forms have been used to support educational campaigns on the law, to positive effect. Public communication has been strengthened to urge local governments in coastal areas to use sea areas appropriately and ocean-related enterprises to fulfill their responsibilities, and guide the public to build awareness of maritime laws and regulations, so that more people will understand, protect, and care for the ocean.

3. Institutional safeguards

China has established a series of systems for protecting the marine eco-environment, ensuring coordination and connectivity between land and sea management and steadily increasing maritime environmental governance efficiency.

Establishing the institutional framework. China attaches great importance to institutional protection of the marine eco-environment. It has established standards and exercised regulation for the exploitation and utilization of marine resources and implemented an institutional framework for marine eco-environmental protection based on standard practice and in accordance with the law.

In terms of pollution prevention and control, China has implemented a filing system for sea-entering sewage discharge outlets. It utilizes a permit system for marine dumping, and carries out environmental impact assessment before approving projects that could impact the marine eco-environment, while ensuring an emergency response system is in place as a backup for worst-case scenarios. With regard to protection and restoration, it has established the systems of marine eco-environmental red lines, protected areas, and natural shoreline control. In terms of supervision and management, it has established systems for territorial space use control

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and eco-environmental zoning control, for central environmental protection inspection and state natural resources inspection, for enforcing responsibility for meeting targets, and for assessment, evaluation, monitoring, and investigation. In relation to green development, it has established systems for compensating marine eco-environmental protection, managing fishing quotas and permits, and regulating the paid use of sea areas.

Forming a management system encouraging collaboration among different departments and between different levels of government. China developed its marine eco-environmental protection management system from the ground up, and has continued to strengthen it over the years. In the reform of State Council institutions in 2018, the responsibilities of marine environmental protection were incorporated into those of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, and those of marine protection, restoration, development, and utilization, into those of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Transportation, maritime affairs, fisheries, and forestry and grassland departments, coast guards, and the military all participate in marine eco-environmental protection in accordance with their respective functions, which strengthens collaboration between land and sea pollution prevention and control and ensures uniformity.

Supervisory agencies have been set up to monitor the marine eco-environment in the Haihe River Basin and Beihai Sea Area, the Pearl River Valley and South China Sea Area, and the Taihu Basin and East China Sea Area. Coastal provinces and equivalent administrative units are directly responsible for eco-environmental governance of their coastal waters, and for implementing key tasks, major projects and important initiatives to protect and manage the marine eco-environment. Over the years, a working mechanism for marine eco-environmental protection based on coordination among different departments and between central and local governments has been established, and a comprehensive system for collaborative governance of coastal areas, river basins, and sea areas is in place.

III. Systematic Governance of the Marine Eco-Environment

China adopts a holistic approach to marine eco-environmental governance, while making extra efforts to address key points and problems. Through land-sea coordination and by increasing river-sea connectivity, it has effectively improved the marine eco-environment.

1. Comprehensive governance of key sea areas

Key sea areas, such as the Bohai Sea, the Yangtze River Estuary-Hangzhou Bay, and the Pearl River Estuary, are located at the strategic intersections of China's coast where high-quality development is in full swing. These areas, which are economically developed and densely populated and whose marine ecosystem shows strong local features, face significant eco-environmental challenges arising from intensive marine development and utilization. They have thus been made the focal point for comprehensive marine eco-environmental governance.

The comprehensive governance of the Bohai Sea. The Bohai Sea is semi-enclosed and therefore has limited capacity for water exchange and self-purification.

China launched its first campaign against marine pollution in 2018, setting the comprehensive governance of the Bohai Sea a main target of pollution control during the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) period. The overall plan set out to complete top-level design in one year, gather momentum in two years, and achieve preliminary progress in three years, with a focus on the "1+12" coastal cities in the Circum-Bohai Sea Region. [The "1+12" coastal cities in the Circum-Bohai Sea Region are the one municipality of Tianjin and 12 cities at the prefectural level or above: Dalian, Yingkou, Panjin, Jinzhou, and Huludao of Liaoning Province, Qinhuangdao, Tangshan, and Cangzhou of Hebei Province, Binzhou, Dongying, Weifang, and Yantai of Shandong Province.] The five core goals of this plan were to raise the proportion of nearshore sea areas with good to excellent water quality, eliminate substandard waters in seagoing rivers, identify and rectify sea-entering sewage discharge outlets, and restore coastal wetlands and coastlines. The major tasks laid out in the plan included controlling pollution, protecting the eco-environment, and guarding against risks.

Over the course of three years, China successfully completed the core goals and tasks set out by the plan for the Bohai Sea. As a result, the deterioration of the eco-environment in this region was contained, and a positive momentum sustained. In 2020, the proportion of nearshore sea areas with good to excellent water quality (Grade I and II) reached 82.3 percent - an increase of 15.3 percentage points from 2017. Additionally, all 49 seagoing rivers saw their state-monitored sections [A water-quality monitoring and sampling section is vertical to the water flow in a river or water channel. China designates state-monitored sections/points for the assessment, examination, and ranking of surface water quality.] completely free from inferior Grade V water, and a total of 8,891 hectares of coastal wetlands and 132 kilometers of coastlines were restored.

The comprehensive governance of key sea areas. In 2021, based on its achievements in the Bohai Sea, China expanded its comprehensive governance endeavors to include the Yangtze River Estuary-Hangzhou Bay and the sea areas near the Pearl River Estuary. It identified the governance of these three key sea areas as one of the signature anti-pollution campaigns during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) period, and assigned tasks to the nearby eight coastal provinces and municipalities and 24 coastal prefecture-level cities. Based on targeted, scientific and law-based pollution control, these cities have carried out comprehensive, systematic governance at the source through land-sea coordination.

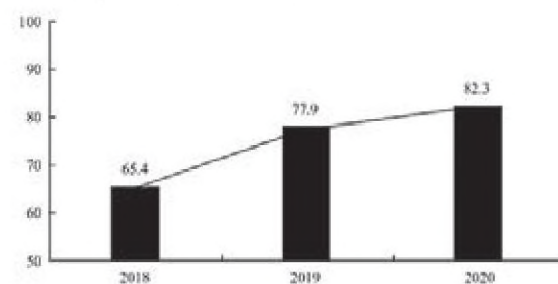


Figure 1: Proportion of the Bohai Sea Area with Good to Excellent Water Quality (%) During the Comprehensive Governance of the Bohai Sea (2018-2020)

The process has been smooth and notable progress has been achieved in all the major tasks. The water quality in the three key sea areas has shown marked improvement, with the proportion of sea areas with good to excellent water quality (Grade I and II) reaching 67.5 percent in 2023, an increase of 8.8 percentage points from 2020.

2. Synergic governance of land-sourced pollution

Marine eco-environmental problems manifest in the sea, but their root causes lie on land. In order to alleviate the impact of land-sourced pollution on the marine environment, China has adopted robust measures to coordinate land-sea pollution control and monitor the key pathways that channel land-sourced pollutants into the sea.

Tightening pollution control for seagoing rivers. Seagoing rivers are the primary routes for carrying land-sourced pollutants into seas.

China has significantly improved its urban sewage treatment quality and efficiency by constructing and upgrading separate pipe networks for rainwater and sewage, tightening supervision over the sewage treatment sector, and reducing the impact of urban industrial and sanitary sewage on the water quality of seagoing rivers. Since 2012, the construction of sewage treatment infrastructure in coastal areas has accelerated markedly, and sewage treatment plants in cities at or above the prefectural level have been upgraded to Grade I-A standards.

Since the beginning of the 14th Five-Year Plan period in 2021, China has also initiated efforts to improve its rural environment. Coastal provinces

have completed comprehensive environmental improvement for 17,000 administrative villages, enacted livestock and poultry breeding pollution control plans for 170 counties heavily involved in animal husbandry, and reached a sanitary sewage treatment rate of more than 45 percent, substantially reducing sewage discharges in agriculture and rural areas.

China has implemented a comprehensive remediation system to tackle nearshore water pollution and eutrophication caused by excessive nitrogen emissions in river basins. By forming a comprehensive management network covering coastal areas, river basins, and sea areas, China has shifted total nitrogen control to the upper reaches of seagoing rivers, and administered river-specific policy for total nitrogen management.

Between 2012 and 2017, the water quality in the state-monitored sections of China's seagoing rivers generally remained stable with slight improvement, and a substantial improvement was recorded beginning in 2018. Currently, four-fifths of all state-monitored sections have good to excellent water quality (Grade I, II, and III), while sections with very poor water quality (inferior Grade V) have been eliminated.

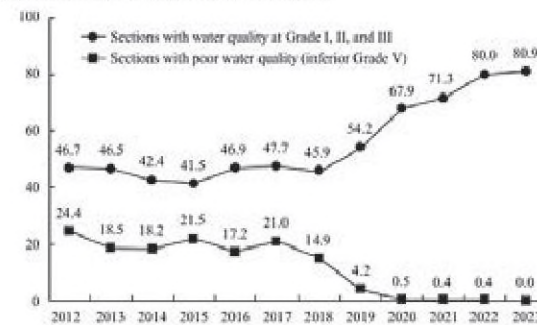


Figure 2: Proportions of State-Monitored Sections of Seagoing Rivers with Water Quality at Grade I, II, and III and with Water Quality at Inferior Grade V (%)

Strengthening the administration of key sea-entering sewage discharge outlets. Sea-entering sewage discharge outlets are major outlets through which land-sourced pollutants enter the sea. China has promulgated the Implementation Directives on Strengthening Supervision and Administration of Sewage Discharge Outlets into Rivers and Seas, which directs the identification, monitoring, source tracing, and rectification of such outlets and promotes a whole-process management system for nearshore waters, sea-entering sewage discharge outlets, sewage discharge pipes, and pollution sources.

With the goal of enforcing inspection of each and every sea-entering sewage discharge outlet, the country has identified the total number and distribution of all the sea-entering sewage discharge outlets, how sewage is discharged in each outlet and who are in charge of these outlets. Such information helps delineate responsibilities and promote rectification at the source. By the end of 2023, the government had surveyed more than 53,000 sea-entering sewage discharge outlets and rectified over 16,000 of them, amplifying its role in improving nearshore eco-environments.

A unified information disclosure platform has been built to further regulate the setup and administration of sea-entering sewage discharge outlets. The construction of new industrial sewage discharge outlets and urban sewage treatment outlets is strictly prohibited in nature reserves, key fishery waters, bathing beaches, and areas within conservation red lines.

Cleaning up and controlling marine litter. China has issued guiding documents, such as the Directives on Further Strengthening Plastic Pollution Control and the Action Plan for Plastic Pollution Control. During the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, to address the issue of marine plastic litter at its source.

Panel 1 Zhejiang Province's Blue Circle Project Won the UN's 2023 Champions of the Earth Award

On October 30, 2023, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced its 2023 Champions of the Earth award in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. The Blue Circle project, a new model of marine plastic waste management initiated by China's Zhejiang Province, stood out from 2,500 applicants globally to win the UN's highest environmental honor. This project has contributed a Chinese solution to global marine plastic litter control.

The Blue Circle is a new sustainable model for addressing marine plastic pollution. Piloted in Zhejiang in 2020, it has successfully tackled the problems in controlling marine plastic waste, including difficulties in retrieval, high processing costs, and low recycling rates. One innovative aspect of the Blue Circle model is its visual traceability. By leveraging digital technology, the model realizes whole-process visual traceability "from seas to shelves" and simplifies the identification of marine plastics. The model has been recognized and purchased by multinational corporations, which has facilitated the market-oriented recycling of marine plastic waste, turning waste into wealth.

To date, the Blue Circle project has established 80 marine waste collection sites, including the Marine Cloud Warehouse and the Little Blue Home, in Zhejiang's coastal cities such as Taizhou, Zhoushan, and Ningbo. These sites collect waste from over 10,000 seagoing fishing vessels and merchant vessels and in sections of the coastline, recycling over 10,000 tonnes of marine waste in total, including some 2,200 tonnes of plastics.

Additional measures have been put in place to monitor, intercept, collect, salvage, transport, and process marine litter. Coastal cities have enforced regular control and cleanup of marine litter from seagoing rivers and in nearshore waters through programs such as Sanitation at Sea. The Blue Circle project, a new model of marine plastic waste management initiated by Zhejiang Province, won the UN's 2023 Champions of the Earth award.

China has synergized litter control for rivers, lakes, and seas. In 2022, special actions were taken to clean up marine litter in 11 key bays, including the Jiaozhou Bay. More than 188,000 people participated in the cleanup action and removed a total of 55,300 tonnes of litter from banks, coastlines, and the sea. In 2024, to consolidate the achievements in its marine litter cleanup actions, the country expanded its targets from key bays to all coastal cities.

China has conducted systematic monitoring of marine litter and microplastics. Compared with the results of similar international surveys in recent years, the average density of China's nearshore marine litter and offshore microplastics are at medium and low levels.

3. Targeted control of marine pollution

Placing equal emphasis on development and protection, China has continued to tighten regular supervision over industries such as marine engineering, dumping of wastes at sea, mariculture, and maritime transport, and actively responded to marine environmental emergencies, making every effort to improve marine pollution prevention and control and reduce the impact of marine development and utilization on the marine eco-environment.

Exercising strict control over the eco-environmental impact of marine engineering and dumping of wastes at sea. China is continuing to optimize its administration of environmental impact assessment (EIA), exercising management at the source and tightening control on marine engineering operations such as land reclamation from the sea and marine sand and gravel mining. The country has also strengthened pollution prevention and control for marine oil and gas exploration and development, and exercises unified authority over EIA approval and pollutant discharge supervision.

China is formulating technical standards to bring marine engineering pollutants into discharge permit administration. It selects and delineates ocean dumping sites based on sound planning and with regards to cost and safety considerations. It meticulously assesses the operation of these sites to ensure eco-environmental safety and safe navigable water depths. The Chinese government enforces strict ocean dumping permits, and exercises off-site supervision through automatic vessel identification and online monitoring of ocean

dumping to minimize the eco-environmental impact of waste dumping.

Enforcing systematic pollution prevention and control of mariculture. China has issued the Directives on Accelerating the Green Development of Aquaculture and the Directives on Strengthening Eco-Environmental Regulation on Mariculture. These guiding documents set standards for pollution discharge, emphasize the EIA administration, and enable category-specific rectification and tailwater monitoring for sewage discharge outlets. This helps to systematically tighten eco-environmental regulation on mariculture. Coastal provinces and equivalent administrative units have also enacted standards for mariculture tailwater discharge and have intensified their regulation efforts.

Mariculture is regulated by EIA administration, which falls under the List of Construction Projects Under Category-Specific Administration on Environmental Impact Assessment. Local governments have closed down, merged and regulated unauthorized and misplaced mariculture tailwater outfalls, while promoting pond aquaculture, industrial aquaculture, and eco-upgrading of net cages to improve aquaculture environments. Coastal provinces, municipalities and counties have released plans regarding the use of mudflats for mariculture, delineating forbidden zones, restricted zones, and designated zones for mariculture.

Intensifying pollution prevention and control for ships in ports. To comply with the Water Pollutant Discharge Standards for Vessels, China has launched special actions to address water pollution from vessels, and makes sure that environment-friendly standards have been included in shipbuilding technology laws and regulations.

The country has strengthened joint regulation of the transfer and disposal of water pollutants from vessels, and coastal provinces and equivalent administrative units have completed the construction of basic vessel pollutant receiving, transfer, and disposal facilities.

Continuous inspection of vessel fuel quality is conducted, and stricter regulations have been put in place for the provision and use of power facilities for berthed vessels to identify and eliminate hidden risks.

Establishing the marine environmental emergency response system. China has implemented the National Contingency Response Plan for Major Marine Oil Spills and the Contingency Response Plan for Oil Spills Damaging the Environment During Marine Oil Exploration and Development. These plans outline the organizational structure, procedures, information management and disclosure, and safeguard measures for handling marine oil spill emergencies in a relatively complete response system.

China has intensified its effort to identify marine environmental risks. Accordingly, Liaoning, Hebei, and Shandong provinces and Tianjin Municipality in the Circum-Bohai Sea Region have conducted assessment of risks of environmental emergencies and worked out contingency response plans for more than 5,400 key enterprises involved in hazardous chemicals, heavy metals, industrial waste, and nuclear power.

In addition, China has developed a national marine environmental emergency response command system, built a smart platform that integrates communications, monitoring, decision-making, command, and coordination, and strengthened its information technology capability for emergency response.

An "oil fingerprint" identification system has been developed, which has collected over 3,200 crude oil samples. This system allows for full-coverage sampling from marine oil exploration and development platforms and provides key evidence for resolving disputes and conducting damage assessments over marine oil spills.

4. Beautiful Bay Initiative

Bays are essential to sustaining the improvement of the marine eco-environment. China has launched an initiative to build beautiful bays providing clear seawater, clean beaches, and desirable habitats for fish and seabirds, and promoting harmony between humans and seas. Bay-specific policies have been adopted to coordinate nearshore pollution control, eco-environmental conservation and restoration, and environmental rectification of shores and beaches.

Specifying goals and tasks of building beautiful bays. The Outline for the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 outlines the initiative of protecting and building beautiful bays. The Recommendations on Advancing the Beautiful China Initiative on All Fronts also includes building beautiful bays as part of the overall plan to build a beautiful China, designating a mid-term completion of 40 percent by 2027 and a full completion by 2035. The Plan for Marine Eco-Environmental Protection During the 14th Five-Year Plan Period focuses on building beautiful bays, delineating nearshore areas into 283 bay units, and designating goals, tasks, and measures for each.

The Optimized Action Plan for Building Beautiful Bays designates more than 110 bays as key programs to be completed by 2027. The work of building beautiful bays is advancing steadily. By the end of 2023, about half of the 1,682 key tasks and construction projects had been completed, with 475 kilometers of coastlines and 16,700 hectares of coastal wetlands improved and restored, at least 85 proportion of the sea areas in 167 bays had good to excellent water quality, and the proportion of sea areas with good to excellent water quality in 102 bays had been increased from 2022.

Synergizing multiple measures for building beautiful bays. China has established the criteria for beautiful bays, emphasizing the importance of maintaining good bay eco-environments, healthy marine ecosystems, and harmony between humans and seas. Under this framework, the country has identified five categories of indicators to guide local endeavors and to encourage supplementary local indicators adapted to local conditions.

To oversee progress, an administration platform for building beautiful bays has been established. Using on-site surveys and remote sensing monitoring, the authorities trace and assess progress in smart supervision and urge all levels of government to implement comprehensive bay management in light of local conditions and complete the tasks assigned to them.

Panel 2 Excellent Examples of Building Beautiful Bays

China's initiative of building beautiful bays aims to realize "clear seawater, clean beaches, and desirable habitats for fish and seabirds, and harmony between humans and seas".

Clear seawater, clean beaches: Fuzhou's Binhai Xincheng coastline and Xiamen's southeastern coastline in Fujian Province have developed a pollution control model for managing floating marine litter. The system utilizes drift trajectory forecasting and key-area smart visual surveillance to realize precise and efficient litter removal. **Dallan's Jinshitan Bay in Liaoning Province** has implemented a sea-land sanitation mechanism to seamlessly connect sea, coastline, and land sanitation efforts. This approach has realized closed-loop management of marine and coastline litter in three steps: collection, transfer, and centralized disposal.

Desirable habitats for fish and seabirds: Yancheng's Dongtai Taizhimi coastline and Dafeng's Chuandong Port in Jiangsu Province have prioritized eco-environmental protection and implemented control zones and isolation belts for *Spartina alterniflora*, designed to prevent the uncontrolled growth of invasive species, protect indigenous ecologies and biodiversity, and provide favorable habitats for migratory birds. As a result, these coasts have now become a haven for rare and endangered birds such as spoon-billed sandpipers and Nordmann's greenshanks.

Harmony between humans and seas: Shenzhen's Dapeng Bay in Guangdong Province has built public spaces characterized by harmony between mountains, seas, and cities. **Wenzhou's Dongtou Islands in Zhejiang Province** have connected villages, reefs, bays, beaches, and fishing ports to create a beautiful sea garden for the public to enjoy. **Sanya Bay in Hainan Province** has opened free coastal tourism sites to provide the public with access to natural scenery.

To fund these projects, a multifaceted financing mechanism has been created to amplify government guidance and incentivize the participation of operation entities and private capital. Comprehensive fiscal and financial means, such as fiscal investment, special bonds, and environment-oriented development projects have been employed to accelerate the implementation of beautiful bay projects.

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Emphasis has been placed on innovation in institutions, mechanisms, and key technologies, and outstanding cases have been selected to showcase successful examples and demonstration models and elevate the overall level of beautiful bay projects. Currently, 20 state-level outstanding cases have been selected.

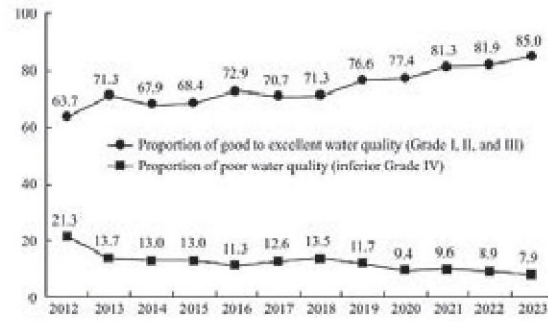


Figure 3: Proportions of China's Offshore Sea Areas with Good to Excellent Water Quality and with Poor Water Quality (%)

Through comprehensive governance of key sea areas, land-sea coordination in pollution control, and building beautiful bays, China's nearshore water quality has improved; in 2023, the proportion of sea areas with good to excellent water quality saw a 21.3 percentage points increase from 2012.

IV. Science-Based Conservation and Restoration of Marine Ecosystems

China coordinates and integrates the conservation and systematic restoration of marine ecosystems in a manner that respects and protects nature and follows its laws. It utilizes science-based decision-making and targeted measures that aim to safeguard eco-environmental security and improve the diversity, stability and sustainability of marine ecosystems.

1. Consolidating the shields for marine ecosystems

China was the first country in the world to propose and enforce red lines for ecological conservation. It has employed multiple means to build firm protective shields for marine ecosystems, giving sufficient time and space for the ocean to recuperate.

Creating a classification and zoning system for marine ecosystems.

Classification and zoning constitute a basic model of modern marine management. Since 2019, China has been engaged in establishing such a system. It has put in place a classification framework based on biogeographic and aquatic settings and involving four groups – water column, geomorphology, substrate, and biotic, and taken a nested approach to zoning marine ecosystems, dividing its offshore waters into 3 first-level eco-environmental zones. These first-level zones are then divided into 22 second-level zones, which are then further divided into 53 third-level zones. In 2023, the 20 third-level offshore zones most impacted by human activity were further divided into 132 fourth-level zones.

Applying unified standards, China classifies ecosystems by level and scale to reflect its natural geographic layout, providing a foundation for understanding the basic conditions of its marine ecosystems and refining marine ecological evaluation, conservation, and restoration.

Evaluating the carrying capacity of marine resources and environment and the suitability of territorial space for development. In 2015, the Overall Plan for Reform of the System for Developing an Eco-Civilization was issued. For the first time, it set the requirement of evaluating the carrying capacity of resources and the environment, marking the beginning of such evaluation in China. In 2019, the Guidelines on the Establishment and Implementation of a Territorial Space Planning System was promulgated, requiring the orderly, coordinated, and scientific planning of various types of functional space based on evaluations of the carrying capacity of resources and the environment and the suitability of territorial space for development.

China subsequently developed a system of technologies and methods for this purpose, and completed evaluations of the carrying capacity of its marine resources and environment and suitability evaluation of territorial space for development at city, provincial, regional and national levels. The results were used for drawing red lines for marine eco-conservation and designating marine ecological space and areas for development and utilization.

Drawing red lines for marine eco-environmental conservation and strictly enforcing them. Red lines for eco-environmental conservation are an important institutional innovation and a major decision made by China. China has made systematic arrangements for key areas of marine eco-environmental conservation. Areas with extremely important eco-environmental functions, such as biodiversity and coastline protection, together with areas with highly vulnerable ecosystems due to factors such as coastal erosion, have been delimited within the red lines and given strict protection. These areas are distributed along "one belt and multiple spots" [see Panel 3].

The country has also published a series of documents that regulate the limited human activities allowed within the red lines and clarify requirements for regulation and control. Remaining firm in its commitment to eco-environmental security, China carries out red line monitoring, efficacy evaluation, and boundary demarcation, and continues to improve the spatial configuration of red lines and their long-term regulation and control mechanisms for the protection of vital environmental spaces.

Panel 3 China's Red Lines for Marine Eco-Environmental Conservation

To date, China has drawn red lines covering a total area of 150,000 sq km across several types of ecosystems, including mangrove forests, seagrass beds, coral reefs, coastal salt marshes, important estuaries, and important sea islands. They are distributed along "one belt and multiple spots".

The "one belt" runs from north to south, covering the important coastal wetlands of the Liaohe River and the Yellow River estuaries, Yancheng City of Jiangsu Province, the Yangtze River estuary, the Chongming Dongtan wetlands, Hangzhou Bay, the Pearl River and Beilun River estuaries, among others. The belt contains the majority of China's typical marine ecosystems, including 99 percent of the country's mangrove forests, 91 percent of its coral reefs, and 89 percent of its seagrass beds, thus forming a blue eco-environmental shield.

The "multiple spots" cover most of the country's undeveloped and uninhabited sea islands, habitats of rare and endangered marine species and migratory birds, and spawning sites of important fishery resources, thus offering protection to the key sites for the inhabitation and migration of living organisms.

Improving the marine protected areas system. In its marine protected areas system China includes important marine ecosystems, and natural areas with concentrations of rare and endangered marine species and natural relics and landscapes, and provides them with special protection.

Over the years, the country has established 352 marine protected areas, which protect about 93,300 sq km of sea areas, and has made preparations for 5 marine national park candidate areas. These areas focus on the protection of rare and endangered marine species such as the spotted seal and the Chinese white dolphin, typical ecosystems such as mangrove forests and coral reefs, and topographies such as ancient shell dykes and sea floor ancient forest remnants, forming a multifunctional marine protected area system with a sound layout and encompassing various forms. The marine protected areas have enabled the populations of rare marine species to

recover gradually. For example, over 2,000 spotted seals – a species under first-grade state protection – spend the winter at Laodong Bay every year and this number has remained stable for many years.

Maintaining marine biodiversity. China gives effective protection to marine life by safeguarding ecological corridors, raising species' level of protection, carrying out scientific research and monitoring, imposing fishing moratoriums in key sea areas, and conducting fish stock enhancement.

Panel 4 No "Casualty or Relocation" of White Dolphins in the Construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

On October 24, 2018, the 55-km Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge opened to traffic. The bridge runs through the Chinese white dolphin reserve at the Pearl River estuary, home to the largest population of the animal, which is under first-grade state protection.

To ensure that no white dolphins were harmed or forced away during construction of the bridge, builders utilized advanced construction techniques and methods during the building process. By adjusting designs, raising work efficiency, and reducing operation time at sea, they reduced the impact on marine creatures to the minimum. The bridge helps reduce sea traffic between Hong Kong and Macao by providing an alternative form of travel, effectively protecting the habitats of white dolphins and promoting the harmonious coexistence between humans and the ocean.

Continuous monitoring and surveying from 2017 to 2021 showed that the population of white dolphins at the Pearl River mouth stood at about 2,600 by the end of the five-year monitoring period, representing stable population growth.

Today, the number of recorded marine species in China has reached 28,000, accounting for about 11 percent of the global total. The National Germplasm Bank of Marine Fishery Species has collected and preserved some 140,000 samples of various biological resources, and the pace of its genetic resource collection and preservation continues to accelerate.

China carries out fish stock enhancement in nearshore areas and now releases around 30 billion fry of aquatic organisms annually. For key protected species like the Chinese white dolphin, sea turtles, corals, and spotted seals, the country has published special national protection action plans or programs, established national protection alliances, and carried out fruitful work that has resulted in stable growth of populations. Twenty coastal wetlands have been included on the List of Wetlands of International Importance, including the National Nature Reserve for Spotted Seals in Dalian of Liaoning Province and the National Nature Reserve for Sea Turtles in Huidong County of Guangdong Province.

2. Restoring marine ecosystems

China carries out major marine eco-environmental restoration projects by letting nature restore itself, with artificial restoration as a supplement. It has formed an initial restoration framework ranging from mountain tops to the ocean, guided by precise planning, guaranteed by systems, and supported by funding and infrastructure, laying firm marine eco-environmental foundations for building a beautiful China.

Taking comprehensive measures in a problem-oriented approach. China views marine ecosystems as a whole and makes accurate diagnoses of marine eco-environmental problems. On this base, it sets appropriate conservation and restoration goals and tasks and adopts targeted models such as protection and conservation, natural restoration, assisted regeneration, and eco-environmental reconstruction. It selects optimal area- and category-based restoration measures and technologies according to specific conditions of the place and time. For example, in terms of restoration priorities, estuary wetlands in the warm temperate zone were chosen for the Bohai Sea; coastal wetlands in the warm temperate zone for the Yellow Sea; estuaries, bays, and sea islands in the subtropical zone for the East China Sea; and typical coastal wetlands in the subtropical zone and tropical zone for the South China Sea.

Strengthening the supporting role of science and technology and encouraging standard-setting. China is strengthening research on the evolution and internal mechanisms of marine ecosystems, carrying out projects designed to achieve technological breakthroughs, and developing standards and norms to make eco-environmental restoration more holistic, science-based, and workable.

To form a system of standards for restoration technologies it has selected a first batch of 10 innovative and applicable marine eco-environmental restoration technologies, published the Technical Guidelines for Marine Eco-environmental Restoration along with 11 technical guides for coastal eco-environmental disaster reduction and restoration, and formulated technical manuals for the restoration of typical marine ecosystems such as mangroves, coastal salt marshes, and oyster reefs.

Strengthening financial support for restoration. Since 2016, the central government has established special funds to support coastal provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities in carrying out marine eco-environmental protection and restoration projects in key areas, including sea areas, sea islands, and coastal zones that are important to eco-environmental security and offer a wide range of eco-environmental benefits.

To promote the establishment of a market-oriented investment and financing mechanism for marine eco-conservation, it has issued the Decisions on Encouraging and Supporting Private Capital to Participate in Eco-Environmental Conservation and Restoration, which encourages and supports private capital involvement in the whole process of marine eco-environmental conservation and restoration projects, including investment, design, restoration, and maintenance. It has also introduced incentive policies to grant newly-increased construction land-use quotas to entities that have met the standards for planting mangrove trees.

Panel 5 The Xiamen Approach to Marine Eco-Environmental Restoration

Xiamen, a scenic coastal city boasting green mountains as well as blue waters, inspired Xi Jinping thought on eco-civilization and is an important pilot zone for its implementation. Its work epitomizes China's marine eco-environmental restoration efforts over more than three decades.

Starting with the comprehensive environmental improvement of the Yundang Lake in 1988, Xiamen initiated a succession of comprehensive bay area improvement projects for the western sea area, the Wuyuan Bay, the Huangdong sea area, the Xinglin Bay, the Maluan Bay, and others, creating beautiful shorelines and marine eco-environmental scenery, and forming broad and pleasant urban public spaces.

The city has also carried out projects to restore the Guanyinshan and Gulangyu beaches, forming a natural barrier for local coastal protection that covers one million sq m and functions as an important area for disaster prevention and reduction, tourism and leisure, and eco-environmental services. Through city-wide inspection, full-coverage testing, and all-round tracing and whole-chain treatment, Xiamen has basically completed the rectification of 400 problematic sea-entering sewage discharge outlets across the city, fundamentally improving the water quality of its sea waters.

The city has since won a number of prestigious honors, including the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honor Award, the International Awards for Liveable Communities, and the PEMSEA Leadership Award for Integrated Coastal Management, and was included in the First Batch of National Demonstration Zones for Developing Marine Eco-Civilization.

The Xiamen Approach, which coordinates eco-environmental conservation and restoration across all elements, districts, and dimensions, is a model in building a beautiful China and maintaining harmony between humanity and the sea. It provides Chinese experience, solutions, and wisdom to addressing eco-environmental governance in bay cities, a conundrum for many countries across the globe.

Implementing major marine eco-environmental conservation and restoration projects. From 2016 to 2023, the central government lent financial support to coastal cities in implementing 175 major marine eco-environmental conservation and restoration projects, including the Blue Bay environmental improvement initiative, the ecological restoration campaign in the comprehensive management of the Bohai Sea region, the coastal zone protection and restoration project, and a special action for mangrove conservation and restoration. These projects involved 11 coastal provincial-level administrative units and received a total investment of RMB25.258 billion from the central budget, ultimately leading to the improvement and restoration of nearly 1,680 kilometers of coastline and over 50,000 ha of coastal wetlands nationwide.

China also published the Special Action Plan for the Conservation and Restoration of Mangrove Forests (2020-2025) and, by the end of 2023, had built approximately 7,000 ha of mangrove forests nationwide and restored approximately 5,600 ha. The results of the 2022 Survey of National Land-Use Changes show that the area of mangrove forests in the country stood at 29,200 ha, an increase of about 7,200 ha from the beginning of the century, making China one of the few countries in the world with a net increase in mangrove forest area.

Through these efforts, China is continuously strengthening the service functions of marine ecosystems, raising the ocean's carbon sink capacity, and building a strong eco-environmental security shield in coastal areas. It is promoting high-quality development through high-standard marine eco-environmental conservation and restoration.

3. Taking strict precautions against marine disasters

Marine disasters pose serious threats to marine ecosystems. By increasing the resilience of coastal ecosystems and strengthening the identification of, and emergency response to marine eco-environmental disaster risks, China steadily improves its capacity to prevent and mitigate marine disasters, and holds firm to the red line of marine eco-environmental security.

Strengthening coastal ecosystems against marine disasters such as typhoons and storm surges. China is among the countries most severely impacted by marine disasters. In response, it has built a three-dimensional global ocean observation network with a reasonable regional distribution, complete functions, and a complete system, achieving basic long-term operational observation of its jurisdictional waters and key waters of concern. It is progressively making marine disaster warning reporting more automatic, intelligent, precise, and cover more parts of the world, thereby providing technical support for marine disaster prevention and response.

Mangrove forests, coastal salt marshes, and other ecosystems act as natural defense lines against marine disasters, and when combined with newly-constructed eco-environmental sea dykes, they form a comprehensive protection system that synergizes ecology and disaster reduction. China now fully utilizes the disaster prevention and reduction functions of natural ecosystems and has comprehensively strengthened its coastal ecosystems against marine disasters such as typhoons and storm surges.

Increasing the capacity to prevent and control marine eco-environmental disasters. Marine eco-environmental disasters have seriously affected the social and economic development of China's coastal regions. In China, marine eco-environmental disasters are mainly local biological outbreaks such as red tides and green tides caused by *Ulva prolifera*.

China has developed an emergency plan for red tide disasters and strengthened its early warning and monitoring. It detects, tracks, and provides timely and accurate warnings of red tide disasters, and monitors the development and evolution trends of red tides to provide greater disaster prevention, control, and emergency response. It has carried out monitoring, early warning, prevention, and control of the Yellow Sea green tides caused by *Ulva prolifera*, thereby reducing their impact.

In response to population surges of bio-organisms such as jellyfish and *Aequorea victoria*, it monitors key areas during key periods and releases information in a timely manner.

4. Examples in building harmonious and beautiful islands

Sea islands are important platforms for protecting the marine environment and maintaining ecological balance. By focusing on individual islands or island groups, the demonstration zone creation project aims to build beautiful islands with lush vegetation, clean beaches, clear waters, bountiful resources, and harmony between humans and the environment. The ultimate goal of this project is to promote high-level conservation and high-quality development of sea island areas.

Solid progress in building demonstration zones. The initiative to build harmonious and beautiful islands started in 2022. Focusing on "a beautiful eco-environment, enjoyable life, and clean production", 36 indicators were created, covering seven areas: eco-environmental protection and restoration, resource conservation and intensive utilization, improvement of living environments, green and low-carbon development, development of specialty industries, cultural development, and institutional reform. The indicators were adopted as guidance for building demonstration zones. In 2023, 33 islands were selected as the first batch of harmonious and beautiful islands.

The leading role of ecological conservation in the project. By prioritizing eco-environmental protection, China has worked to restore its sea island eco-environments through ecological protection and restoration projects, including those concerning shorelines, islands, and aquatic plants. In coastal regions throughout the country, the use of mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and other blue carbon ecosystems as carbon sinks is actively promoted. In Shandong Province, efforts are underway to establish an international zero-carbon island in the Changdao Islands. These efforts involve issuing marine, seagrass beds, and seaweed beds carbon sink loans and exploring innovative approaches to turning marine carbon sink resources into assets.

China continues to enhance the living environment of its sea islands by improving infrastructure, including transportation, water supply and drainage, electricity, and communication facilities. Dongao Island in Guangdong Province has undergone large-scale planting of flowers, trees, and shrubs. A scenic green road encircling the island is now complete, and the construction of boardwalks along the coast is currently in progress.

China promotes integrated cultural and tourism development of sea islands. By utilizing the unique resources offered by its islands – including their sea access, rich histories, and eye-catching temples – the country hopes to strengthen its "tourism plus" model in these regions, including "tourism plus fishing", "tourism plus the countryside", "tourism plus culture". These tourism models showcase the compelling stories attached to traditional maritime culture that have been passed down through the ages and, in turn, help preserve this way of life for future generations. On Meizhou Island in Fujian Province, for example, 33 items have been designated as intangible cultural heritage items, leading to increased awareness of the Mazu culture of the area and ensuring its protection and transmission of its intangible cultural heritage.

5. Building eco-environmental coastal zones

Coastal zones are special areas where land and sea meet and interact, with rich natural resources, unique environmental conditions, and intense human activity. As the intersection of coastal areas and the sea, China's coastal zones are crucial for building a strong national eco-environmental security shield, supporting coastal economic and social development, facilitating China's connections with other countries over land and sea, promoting high-standard construction and opening up, and facilitating high-quality development.

In 2021, China proposed the construction of eco-environmental coastal zones coordinating work on land and at sea. To carry out the comprehensive evaluation of its marine eco-environmental conditions, China has developed a system of technology and methodology for eco-environmental coastal zone evaluation. To scientifically identify eco-environmental problems in coastal zones, nine evaluation indicators have been set up, covering four areas: ecosystem stability, environmental quality, sustainable resource utilization, and human safety and health. Through measures such as eco-

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environmental protection and restoration, building a coastal greenway network, and improving eco-environmental sea dykes, the country is working to create healthy, clean, safe, diverse, and prosperous coastal zones.

V. Strengthening Supervision and Administration of the Marine Eco-Environment

China has mobilized its resources and expertise from all sectors to safeguard the red lines for ecological conservation, ensure basic environmental quality, and keep resource utilization within sustainable limits. In governing the marine eco-environment, the country has adopted a multipronged approach that integrates region-specific regulation and control, monitoring and surveying, regulation and law enforcement, and evaluation and inspection. To guarantee the smooth progress of marine eco-environmental governance, protection and restoration, it has strengthened its application of information, digital, and smart technologies in environmental supervision and administration.

1. Space utilization control and region-specific environmental regulation and control

China employs a functional zoning strategy that exercises space utilization control based on territorial space planning, strengthening region-specific regulation and control of the nearshore eco-environment. In this way it delineates red lines and sets limits for development activities.

Regulating the utilization of marine spaces. Taking into consideration the location and resource endowment of its sea areas, China first implemented marine functional zoning in the 1990s and specified the zones' major functions and the requirements for protecting their eco-environments.

In 2015, China introduced the National Plan on Marine Functional Zones, which delineated its marine spaces into four categories: zones for optimized development, zones for key development, zones for restricted development, and zones prohibited for development. This plan also set constraints for the degree of development and protection in these zones.

In 2019, China began to integrate marine functional zoning and marine functional zone planning into its overall territorial space planning, incorporating multiple plans into one. In October 2022, China enacted the Outline of the National Territorial Space Plan (2021-2035). Coastal provincial-level governments implemented relevant measures within their administrations. Detailed and scientific plans were made to divide marine territorial space into eco-environmental conservation zones, eco-environmental control zones, and maritime development zones, each with specific functions, utilization approaches, and conservation and restoration requirements. A regulatory system has been gradually established for the utilization of marine spaces characterized by full coverage of sea areas, islands, and coastlines, and coordination of involved industries and utilization approaches.

Enforcing region-specific regulation and control for the nearshore eco-environment. China has used differentiated measures to achieve region-specific and precise regulation of the nearshore eco-environment by delineating control units and introducing a negative list of projects with potential eco-environmental impacts. These efforts align with national economic and social development plans and the national territorial plan to safeguard the eco-functions and improve the environment of nearshore waters. The focus of these regulations is to safeguard the red lines for ecological conservation, ensure basic environmental quality, and keep resource utilization within sustainable limits.

Since 2017, coastal areas have taken steps to implement region-specific regulation and control of the nearshore eco-environment. China has delineated 3,036 nearshore eco-regulation and control units and ensures that industries in these units develop within the environmental carrying capacity.

The first application system for region-specific eco-regulation was launched in Xiamen City in Fujian Province, effectively addressing difficult issues for new enterprises, including site selection, lengthy approval processes, and slow project implementation. The city divided its offshore waters into 42 control units and improved land-sea coordinated environmental governance, which has optimized the transformation and upgrading of coastal industries.

In 2024, China released the Directives on Strengthening Region-Specific Eco-Environmental Regulation and Control, which instructed coastal regions to strengthen region-specific regulation and control in nearshore areas. The document proposed the establishment of a region-specific regulation and control system for the marine eco-environment that covers all marine spaces and employs precise and scientific measures, and the formulation of systematic implementation plans, providing essential guidance for nearshore development, protection and construction activities of all kinds.

2. Monitoring and surveying

The protection of the marine eco-environment is built on monitoring and surveying. China has improved its monitoring network, which features sky-space-land-sea integration and has strengthened marine monitoring, assessment, and early warning, to provide a clear factual basis for decision-making by relevant supervision and administration authorities.

Enforcing marine eco-environmental monitoring on all fronts. China has continued to optimize the configuration of its marine eco-environmental monitoring network, which covers sea areas under its jurisdiction with a focus on nearshore waters. The goal is to establish a modern marine eco-environmental monitoring network characterized by land-sea coordination and river-sea connectivity.

The country has combined national and local resources to build marine eco-environmental monitoring bases and comprehensive eco-environmental quality monitoring stations, both at the national level. With a network of 1,359 state-monitored seawater quality sites, China's marine monitoring comprises 15 tasks in four categories: environment quality monitoring, ecosystem monitoring, special monitoring, and supervisory monitoring. China has boosted its monitoring capacity in emerging hotspot areas, including marine litter, marine microplastics, marine radioactivity, new marine pollutants, and ocean carbon source and sink. It has strengthened monitoring for the health of mangrove forests and other typical ecosystems. A unified data transmission and sharing platform for marine eco-environmental monitoring has been developed, which releases seawater quality data on a regular basis and publishes the annual Bulletin of Marine Ecology and Environment Status of China.

Taking a holistic approach to marine ecosystem early warning and monitoring. In order to better understand the distribution, patterns, current conditions, and evolution trends of its marine ecosystems, and the major eco-environmental issues and risks, China has built an ecosystem early warning and monitoring system. This system prioritizes nearshore waters, covers all waters under China's jurisdiction, and extends to key polar and deep-sea areas of interest.

In nearshore waters, targeted surveys and monitoring have been carried out in areas subject to high eco-environmental risks, as well as in those characterized by typical marine ecosystems, such as key estuaries, bays, coral reefs, mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and salt marshes. In waters under China's jurisdiction, analysis and assessment have been conducted to address issues such as sea level changes, ocean acidification, and low oxygen levels. Large-scale monitoring has been conducted for all major types of marine ecosystems, and monitoring on polar and deep-sea ecosystems has been expanded.

During the 14th Five-year Plan (2021-2025) period, China plans to set up more than 1,600 offshore eco-environmental trend monitoring stations and points and complete a national survey on the conditions of coral reefs, salt marshes and seagrass beds, and a general survey on the ecosystems of river estuaries and seaweed beds.

China released the Bulletin of China's Early Warning and Monitoring for the Marine Eco-Environment. Work has been done to build an effective early warning approach for typical marine ecosystems. Operational early warn-

ing has been basically realized for coral bleaching.

Conducting baseline survey of marine pollution. In order to have a full understanding of its marine eco-environment, China has conducted three baseline surveys of marine pollution – in 1976, 1996, and 2023, respectively. The 2023 survey covered four issues: marine pollutants, marine pollution sources, environmental pressure and impacts in coastal zones, and the refined eco-governance of bays. As well as obtaining basic marine eco-environmental data, this latest baseline survey provided scientific decision-making support for assessing China's marine eco-environment and enacting relevant protection strategies and policies.

3. Strict regulation and law enforcement

China has built a multidimensional regulation and law enforcement network covering its marine areas through coordinated regulation and law enforcement, inter-departmental collaboration, and synergy in central and local efforts. Illegal and unauthorized utilization of seas and islands and destruction of the marine eco-environment are severely punished.

Improving comprehensive maritime regulation. China has continued to improve the comprehensive regulation capacity over sea areas, islands, and coastal zones by establishing a system that covers all stages and aspects of ex-ante, in-process, and ex-post regulation. This system leverages the role of comprehensive regulation in maintaining orderly utilization of seas and islands, enforcing the red lines of resource security, ensuring eco-friendly utilization of seas and islands, and underpinning high-quality development.

The country is building and operating a full range of systems, including a regulation system for sea areas and islands, a regulation system for marine eco-environmental restoration, and an information system for territorial space planning that presents all information on a single map. It employs a regulation model in which satellite remote sensing monitoring, marine monitoring, and coast-based monitoring supplement each other to collect information about the utilization of sea areas, and the spatial and resource changes and eco-environmental status in sea areas and islands.

China employs diverse means such as remote sensing monitoring and marine and coastline patrols to conduct high-frequency monitoring of sea areas, islands, and coastlines. It gives extra attention to land reclamation projects, eco-environmental restoration projects, drilling platforms, submarine cables, cross-sea bridges, and other marine utilization activities; and to key areas such as those rich in marine sand, marine oil and gas exploration and development sites, ocean dumping sites, and mariculture and fisheries sites.

Intensive monitoring and regulation have been imposed to sanction marine eco-environmental violations once they occur, and the country's marine regulation and law enforcement capacity is steadily improving.

Strengthening comprehensive law enforcement for marine eco-environmental protection. In recent years, China has strengthened all-round law enforcement in the sea areas under its jurisdiction. Regular law enforcement inspections are conducted on marine engineering, marine nature reserves, marine fisheries, and maritime transport, while a formidable deterrence for violations is provided by specialized law enforcement inspections such as the Marine Shield for coastline conservation and land reclamation regulation and control, the Green Shield for rigorous supervision over marine nature reserves, the Emerald Sea for striking out at marine eco-environmental violations of laws and regulations, and the Blue Sword and the China Fisheries Sword for fisheries resource conservation.

Between 2020 and 2022, China conducted more than 19,000 inspections on marine engineering projects, drilling platforms, islands, and ocean dumping sites, and handled over 360 cases of illegal activities involving land reclamation from the sea, ocean dumping, and island eco-environmental damage. Severe punishments have been imposed for violations and crimes in key areas of marine eco-environmental protection.

4. Strengthening evaluation and inspection

China has implemented goal-oriented responsibility and performance evaluation systems for marine eco-environmental protection. It conducts Central Eco-Environmental Protection Inspection and State Natural Resources Inspection. These measures address key issues in the marine eco-environment and encourage local authorities to fulfill their responsibilities, giving officials an incentive to improve their performance.

Implementing the goal-oriented responsibility system and performance evaluation system for marine eco-environmental protection. In 2014, China amended the Environmental Protection Law and enforced the goal-oriented responsibility system and performance evaluation system for eco-environmental protection.

In 2015, China released the Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, which incorporated core goals and tasks such as the proportion of nearshore sea areas with good to excellent water quality, in the performance evaluation system for local governments in coastal areas.

In 2020, China included nearshore water quality in the performance evaluation system for the pollution control campaign, raising the standards for nearshore water quality year by year.

In 2023, China amended the Marine Environmental Protection Law to specify that coastal local governments at or above county level will bear responsibility for the environmental quality of sea areas under their jurisdiction. The performance evaluation results serve as an important basis for rewarding or punishing officials and for their promotion, and play an important role in ensuring that local governments and officials in coastal areas fulfill their responsibilities.

Zhejiang Province has initiated a comprehensive assessment system for the marine eco-environment, and incorporated the results into the Five-Aspect Water Governance [The Five-Aspect Water Governance comprises sewage treatment, flood control, flood drainage, water supply, and water conservation.] performance evaluation system and the Building Beautiful Zhejiang performance evaluation system. This has proved effective in encouraging local officials to improve their performance and break new ground at work.

Enforcing supervision and inspection of eco-environmental protection. Since 2015, China has carried out three rounds of central eco-environmental inspection across 31 provinces and equivalent administrative units, relevant departments of the State Council, and relevant state-owned enterprises directly under the central government. Oceans and seas have been designated as key subjects of inspection. Incidences of marine eco-environmental violations have been disclosed and reported to provincial-level Party committees and governments. These violations include unauthorized mariculture businesses in nearshore waters, mangrove ecosystem damage, illegal land reclamation from the sea that encroaches coastal zones, and nearshore water pollution.

With determination, the inspection teams have taken resolute measures to ensure environmental protection mechanisms are put in place at the local level. Their work has been central to problem-solving, gaining approval from the central authorities, recognition from the public, and support from all sectors.

China carries out provincial-level inspection on eco-environmental protection, with a focus on addressing acute marine eco-environmental problems. Routine inspections are conducted regularly, special inspections have been strengthened, and inspection mechanisms comprising routine inspection, regular inspection, and ad-hoc inspection have been established. Supervision and inspection of key projects, key areas, and key links has been advanced across the board, targeting marine pollution, ecosystem destruction, and other pressing problems.

Enforcing national inspection of natural resources with a focus on marine eco-environmental protection. In the Outline of the 13th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, China proposed to implement the marine inspection system and have regular marine inspections.

In 2017, the first round of marine inspection of 11 coastal provincial-level governments was launched, focusing on the local implementation of major decisions and plans of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on marine resources and the marine eco-environment, of relevant laws and regulations, and of relevant national plans, programs, and key policy meas-

ures. The inspection teams referred the problems identified to provincial-level governments, making sure that local governments fulfill their primary responsibilities in marine eco-environmental protection and reasonably allocate resources in the sea areas and islands under their jurisdiction by law.

In recent years, national natural resources inspection teams have carried out annual marine inspections of local governments in coastal areas, focusing on strict land reclamation control and coastal wetland conservation. These inspections ensure that provincial-level governments fulfill their primary responsibilities, and target new cases of illegal land reclamation, encroachment on conservation red lines, illegal approval of sea utilization projects, destruction of mangrove forests, uninhabited islands, and natural coastlines, and other pressing problems that adversely impact the marine eco-environment.

Problems identified are forwarded to the relevant provincial-level governments in the form of inspection notifications, and leaders of prefecture-level and city governments found with severe violations are summoned for questioning. Prominent problems are notified and made public. Follow-up inspection is then conducted to ensure local governments have fulfilled their duties.

VI. Advancing China's Green and Low-Carbon Maritime Development

China has always been committed to protecting the marine environment, dedicating its efforts to comprehending and managing the vast oceanic expanse. On the basis of ensuring ecological security, it has improved its efficiency in marine resource utilization and developed an eco-friendly marine economy to meet the people's diverse needs of the sea. Through high-level eco-environmental protection, China strives to foster new impetus for and new advantages in its high-quality development.

1. Promoting efficient utilization of marine resources

The ocean provides humanity with a treasure trove of resources that we rely on to survive and develop. So, too, does it provide a foundation to build China into a strong maritime country. China has continued to promote the economical and intensive utilization of marine resources. It coordinates and improves the supply of resources and factors of production from its sea areas, and preserves the ocean's reproductive capacity. In the pursuit of these goals, the country strives to form sound dynamics between high-level resource security and high-quality development.

Promoting the economical and intensive utilization of resources from sea areas. In recent years, China has actively planned for and carried out economical and intensive marine resource utilization, and adopted tailored policies for different resources accordingly.

To assess its marine resources, China has launched a pilot scheme to inventory its marine resource assets, which will form the basis for optimal resource allocation and efficient utilization. It has selected 18 demonstration cities and counties to test pioneering methods and technologies in order to establish benchmarks for the economical and intensive utilization of marine resources that can be replicated and improved upon with practical experience. Additionally, it will encourage various resources and factors of production to better contribute to China's high-quality development.

To effectively utilize sea area resources and transition from a two-dimensional to a three-dimensional management approach, China has introduced a multi-rights system for sea areas. Measures have been taken to guarantee the supply of sea areas, address outstanding problems in land reclamation from the past, and regulate sea area utilization across various industries, including optimizing the management of mariculture and determining its scale and layout on a scientific basis. It has also issued specific policies governing the occupation of sea areas by photovoltaic projects, promoting hybrid utilization and three-dimensional development.

Strengthening the sustainable utilization of fishery resources. China is employing scientific assessment in its efforts to balance the conservation and sustainable utilization of its fishery resources in the long run. Since launching its summer fishing moratorium in 1995, China has extended the duration and scope of the ban over the years and exercised effective control over fishing intensity in order to conserve and restore fishery resources and promote the sustainable and healthy development of the fishery industry. Since 2003, China has implemented the aggregate management of marine fishery resources, a fishing licensing system, and dual control over the number and engine power of marine fishing vessels, as well as species-based and region-specific fishing quota management.

2. Laying a solid foundation for green development of the marine economy

China is committed to achieving its targets for peak carbon dioxide emissions and carbon neutrality. One way in which the country aims to reach these targets is by integrating green and low-carbon concepts into the development of its marine economy. This includes promoting sustainable fishing and the green growth of ports, shipping, and shipbuilding, as well as the sound exploitation and utilization of clean marine energy. China's marine industries have already made positive progress in embracing this green transformation.

Modern ocean ranches. Ocean ranching is an approach to preserving aquatic life resources and restoring the marine eco-environment that has played a pivotal role in the sustainable development of marine fisheries in China.

By 2023, the country had established 169 national demonstration ocean ranches, generating an annual eco-environmental benefit of nearly RMB178.1 billion. The conservation of marine fishery resources led to a five-fold increase in the numbers of large yellow croaker, small yellow croaker, cutlass fish, and cuttlefish in Zhejiang Province in 2019 compared to the late 1990s, and the density of small yellow croaker increased by 34.1 percent.

Mariculture has expanded from offshore to deep-sea areas and high seas. The first item of fully submersible deep-sea fish farming equipment independently developed by China has been put into operation, creating a unique green mode of deep-sea and high-sea fish rearing.

Greener and more intelligent ports, shipping, and shipbuilding. China has intensified its efforts to build smart and green ports with growing clean energy utilization. The Port of Qingdao has established a cutting-edge hybrid energy supply system that integrates wind and solar power with hydrogen production and storage. Clean energy now accounts for 66 percent of the total supply at the port, and its intelligent sky rail logistics system reduces energy consumption by over 50 percent. The introduction of intelligent zero-carbon emission docks at the Port of Tianjin will contribute to carbon neutrality in production and consumption, lowering energy consumption.

China is also active in the construction of three green shipping corridors – connecting the Port of Shanghai with the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach, the Port of Guangzhou with the Port of Los Angeles, and the Port of Tianjin with the Port of Singapore. These corridors will accelerate the decarbonization of the shipping industry.

Additionally, China is making significant progress in the adoption of green ships and new energy vessels. Its first methanol dual-fueled ship can reduce carbon emissions by 75 percent, nitrogen emissions by 15 percent, and sulfur and particulate matter emissions by 99 percent. Its 700-TEU fully-electric container vessel reduces the same amount of carbon emissions as 160,000 trees can do in a year.

Booming clean marine energy. China's usage of clean marine energy continues to increase in both scope and share. By the end of 2023, the country's installed capacity of offshore wind power had reached 37.69 million kW, accounting for about half the global total capacity and solidifying its position as the global leader for the fourth consecutive year.

Renewable marine power is growing rapidly. The megawatt-class Fenjin marine current turbine generates green power that is fed into the State Grid; the Nankun, China's first independently developed deep-sea megawatt-class

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wave power generation platform, provides clean electricity to remote islands; and the Penghu deep-sea fish rearing platform can meet its own electricity needs using clean energy from wave and solar energy converters and energy storage devices.

3. Exploring methods for realizing the values of ecosystem goods and services

Blue seas and clean beaches, like clear waters and green mountains, are invaluable assets. China has been working to develop new systems for marine carbon sink, stimulate the business management and development of marine ecosystem goods and services, and explore mechanisms to realize their values.

Planning a compensation system for offshore eco-environmental protection. China has established a system that guides those who benefit from marine ecosystems in fulfilling their compensation obligations and motivates those involved in the protection of the marine eco-environment to perform their jobs to the highest level. By implementing this system, a positive relationship has been fostered between the two groups, ultimately promoting sustainable development of the marine economy.

The Opinions on Furthering the Reform of the Eco-Environmental Protection Compensation System, issued in 2021, stipulates the task of establishing a compensation system for offshore protection. Hainan Province, Hebei Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Lianyungang City in Jiangsu Province, and Xiamen City in Fujian Province have all tailored marine compensation policies to their specific local conditions and acted on these, with positive responses.

Developing new systems for marine carbon sink. Marine carbon sink will significantly contribute to the realization of China's targets for peak carbon dioxide emissions and carbon neutrality. The country has developed an action plan for blue carbon sink and has set technical standards for blue carbon surveying and monitoring. Pilot schemes have been launched to survey carbon stock and quantify carbon sinks in blue carbon ecosystems such as mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrass beds. Monitoring of sea-air carbon dioxide flux and greenhouse gas emissions reduction on oil and gas platforms is also under way.

China has published the Measures for the Administration of Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Trading (Trial) and the Methodology of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Voluntary Reduction Project: Mangrove Vegetation Creation (CCER-14-002-V01), and supported marine carbon sink projects in joining the China Certified Emission Reduction (CCER) trading market. Innovative initiatives such as incentive carbon trading, carbon sink insurance, and carbon sink mortgages, have been piloted in multiple provincial-level administrative regions, including Shandong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangxi, Guangdong, and Hainan.

Encouraging the business management and development of marine ecosystem goods and services. In 2021, China issued the Opinions on Establishing and Improving the Mechanism for Realizing the Values of Ecosystem Goods and Services and made comprehensive arrangements for its implementation. The Criteria for Crediting the Overall Values of Ecosystem Goods and Services (Trial) was published and came into effect alongside the Typical Cases for Realizing the Values of Ecosystem Goods and Services, providing the theoretical and technical underpinning for realizing the values of marine ecosystem goods and services.

Governments in coastal areas have actively sought innovation in their policies and mechanisms. In Dongtou District of Wenzhou City in Zhejiang Province, a creative model based on the government awarding funds and local budget funds was introduced to attract private capital to participate in the Blue Bay Restoration Project and the Ocean Garden Initiative. The China Oceanic Development Foundation established the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area's first eco-environmental special fund, designed to support the construction of the marine industrial parks, eco-parks, and marine engineering centers in the area and to facilitate technological innovation and industrial development of marine ecosystem goods and services.

Continuing to improve compensation for marine eco-environmental damage. China attaches great importance to compensation for marine eco-environmental damage, and defined a clear framework for its implementation in the 1999 amendment to the Marine Environmental Protection Law. Subsequently, the country promulgated the Measures of National Claims for Marine Ecological Damages and the Regulations on Several Issues in the Adjudication of Disputes Concerning Claims for Marine Ecological and Resource Damages to provide further practical guidance, leading to improved results in this area. In 2023, another amendment was made to the Marine Environmental Protection Law to further improve this system.

4. Launching a nationwide green and low-carbon campaign

China has developed a variety of education and scientific outreach initiatives aimed at promoting marine culture. These programs are designed to strengthen public awareness regarding environmental and ecological preservation, advocating for simple, moderate, and healthy lifestyles that prioritize green living and low-carbon practices. They encourage people to voluntarily participate in China's green development, fostering a sense of care, protection, and personal engagement with the sea among the public.

Building public awareness of marine eco-environmental conservation. China hosts yearly themed activities celebrating World Oceans Day (also China's National Ocean Awareness Day), Earth Day, World Environment Day, and World Wetlands Day. More than 160 ocean awareness promotion centers have been established across the country to foster public interest in ocean conservation.

A number of celebrations centered around the sea have become significant exhibition platforms for China's marine culture, including the Zhoushan Islands - China Ocean Culture Festival, the China (Xiangshan) Fishing Season Opening Festival, and renowned conferences and forums like the China Marine Economy Expo and the World Ocean Week in Xiamen. The National Maritime Museum of China, hailed as the "Forbidden City on the Sea", has opened to the public, providing an important space for people to learn about oceanic civilization and marine resources, and to reshape their values towards the ocean.

Furthermore, the National Marine Knowledge Competition has been held for the past 14 years, attracting six million participants from the public and students from over a thousand universities and colleges. The result of these efforts has been a significant increase in public interest and understanding of the ocean, and in the public's sense of duty, responsibility, and pride regarding the governance and utilization of the sea.

Encouraging public engagement in marine eco-environmental conservation. Eco-environmental awareness is championed throughout Chinese society, and every member of society is encouraged to spread environmental awareness and be an active practitioner. In 2019, the Blue Citizen concept was introduced, along with various projects and activities to encourage residents to play a role in preserving the beauty and cleanliness of the sea, fostering a generation of "blue citizens". Since 2017 and for seven years in a row, China has hosted the National Beach Cleanup and the Beautiful Oceans activities - two unique events that look to unite the collective efforts of all people across the country as they care for and protect the sea.

In Xiamen City, Fujian Province, chiefs of Lake Yundang are selected from the public, as a way of soliciting public opinions and suggestions regarding marine eco-environmental protection. In Hainan Province, a "garbage bank" has been established to encourage tourists to actively engage in beach cleanups, fostering a positive atmosphere through various activities that involve everyone in the conservation efforts.

Promoting a green lifestyle. It is the responsibility of every individual to preserve the marine eco-environment. A number of initiatives have been introduced to encourage voluntary public action in maintaining the wellbeing of the oceans. These include practicing responsible tourism, refraining from purchasing endangered marine life products, avoiding disturbance to marine creatures, and not throwing plastic waste in the sea. Additionally, more and more people are reducing their consumption of plastic bottles, bags, and meal kits by opting for reusable alternatives, thereby decreasing

plastic waste from the source. They are taking action to lead a green, low-carbon, and circular lifestyle.

VII. Carrying Out All-Round International Cooperation on Marine Eco-Environmental Protection

Marine issues are global issues, and protecting the marine eco-environment is a common concern for people all over the world. In 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment adopted the Declaration on the Human Environment, which included conservation of the marine environment in its 26 principles and initiated global action on marine environmental protection. In 1982, the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea adopted the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), opening a new chapter in global marine governance and providing comprehensive and systematic provisions for marine environmental protection.

The international community has steadily advanced global ocean protection by establishing a series of marine environmental protection agreements. Countries around the world are building consensus and working in synergy to address the risks and challenges facing the marine eco-environment, striving to make the oceans clean and beautiful.

China is committed to the vision of a maritime community of shared future, and conducts in-depth mutually beneficial cooperation with the international community through multiple channels and in various forms, contributing Chinese wisdom to global marine eco-environmental protection.

1. Actively fulfilling obligations and participating in global governance

To promote the wellbeing of humanity, China actively plays its role as a major country, and diligently fulfills its responsibilities and obligations under international maritime conventions through concrete action.

Diligently fulfilling its responsibilities and obligations under international maritime conventions. The marine eco-environment encompasses topics in a wide range of areas. China supports advancing global marine eco-environmental protection through a holistic approach, and actively promotes the implementation of UNCLOS and other international conventions concerning the sea.

In May 1996, China ratified and became a party to UNCLOS, opening a new chapter in the country's participation in global maritime governance. In addition, China has demonstrated its determination and commitment to marine protection in broader and more detailed areas by joining more than 30 multilateral treaties related to oceans, including the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, and the Antarctic Treaty.

Under the framework of international conventions, China has established a policy system surrounding marine eco-environmental protection, resource conservation, and management of polar activities. It carries out voluntary fishing moratoriums on high seas and fulfills its environmental protection obligations, including performing environmental impact assessment for its Antarctic expeditions.

China has also participated in the UN regular assessment of the state of the global marine environment, and released regular progress reports on the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, national reports on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and national communications on climate change, presenting to the international community China's actions and progress in marine eco-environmental protection and resource conservation, and making tangible contributions by fulfilling its obligations under various conventions.

Integrating into and promoting global ocean governance. China actively participates in the establishment of global maritime governance mechanisms and promotes a more just and reasonable global maritime governance system. It works hard to integrate into multilateral governance, and actively participates in the affairs of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-IOC), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

China plays an active role in the Conference of the Parties to the UNCLOS, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), and other agendas. Since 2012, China has submitted more than 120 proposals, independently or jointly, to relevant polar international organizations, and over 700 proposals to the IMO and other international organizations, engaging itself extensively in the formulation of relevant rules and regulations for environmental protection and resource conservation.

It has advanced the formulation of ISA's regulations on exploration and development, the negotiation of agreements and regulations on fisheries under the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO), the negotiation of an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, and other multilateral processes. China was also heavily involved in the negotiation and implementation of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean, and contributed significantly to the negotiations on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and its signing as a treaty, which took nearly 20 years to reach consensus. Overall, China has made an outstanding contribution to global ocean governance.

2. Expanding "circle of friends" for maritime cooperation

Addressing global marine eco-environmental issues remains a long-term and arduous task that requires extensive global participation and collaborative efforts. China upholds multilateralism, and has developed blue partnerships through an open and pragmatic approach. It works with the international community to build a sea of prosperity and beauty for all countries.

Building extensive blue partnerships. On a voluntary and cooperative basis, China has worked with other countries to establish a global blue partnership characterized by consultation and joint contribution. In 2017, China called for building a blue partnership at the first UN Ocean Conference, designed to promote international cooperation on "cherishing our ocean and protecting our blue home". The proposal was then made formal with China announcing the Vision for Maritime Cooperation Under the Belt and Road Initiative.

In September 2021, "actively promoting the establishment of a blue partnership" was designated by the High-level Dialogue on Global Development as one of the specific measures taken by China under the framework of the Global Development Initiative (GDI). At the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, China released the Blue Partnership Principles and launched the Sustainable Blue Partnership Cooperation Network and the Blue Partnership Fund, for joint action in the protection and sustainable utilization of the sea and its resources.

Currently, China has signed intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements on marine cooperation with more than 50 countries and international organizations participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, contributing significantly to cooperation on global marine eco-environmental protection.

Expanding platforms and mechanisms for maritime cooperation. China prioritizes marine eco-environmental protection as a key area of cooperation, taking the initiative to establish new platforms and mechanisms and build consensus among all parties. Leading cooperation with platform building as the foundation, China has taken a lead in establishing and operating the East Asia Marine Cooperation Platform and the China-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation Center. These platforms conduct practical cooperation with East Asian and ASEAN countries on marine scientific research, eco-environmental protection, and disaster prevention and mitigation.

It has built relevant mechanisms for international organizations in China, including the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center and the United Nations Decade Collaborative Center on Ocean-Climate Nexus, coordinating global innovation and cooperation in the ocean and climate fields, facilitating the sharing and exchanges of beneficial experience in marine eco-environmental protection, and playing an important role in jointly protecting the marine ecosystems.

Advocating and guiding bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Championing the principle of planning together, building together and benefiting together, China has continued to expand areas of international cooperation, conducting dialogue and exchanges on multilateral platforms.

It has held the Thematic Forum on Maritime Cooperation of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the World Coastal Forum, the Eco Forum Global Guiyang, and the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Forum, advancing cooperation towards new progress in eco-environmental protection and restoration, disaster monitoring and early warning, and marine plastic pollution prevention and control.

China attaches great importance to mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation between countries, and has established long-term bilateral cooperation mechanisms with many countries in many fields. It actively provides technical support to other developing countries, and has established joint marine research centers, laboratories, and observation stations with Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nigeria, Mozambique, and Jamaica, playing a positive role in strengthening marine eco-environmental protection in other developing countries.

China works with other countries to carry out research on endangered marine species, joint environmental surveys in the Yellow Sea, coral reef monitoring and data collection, and prevention and control of marine litter and microplastic pollution. The results from these programs have injected more impetus to regional marine eco-environmental protection.

3. Expanding cooperation in deep-sea and polar scientific expedition

Protecting deep-sea and polar eco-environments is the common responsibility of humanity. As an important participant, vigorous promoter, and active practitioner in deep-sea and polar affairs, China takes a leading role in international deep-sea and polar exploration and research, working together with the international community to promote sustainable development of these regions.

Jointly advancing deep-sea research and exploration. China actively takes part in international seabed affairs, coordinates deep-sea surveys, and strengthens the protection of the deep-sea eco-environment. It has conducted more than 80 scientific research voyages in the deep sea, going on joint scientific expeditions with Russia, Japan, Nigeria, Seychelles, and Indonesia, and contributing to a better understanding of deep-sea ecosystems.

For more than 10 consecutive years since 2011, based on its studies in the field of earth science, China has submitted seabed naming proposals to the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN), of which 261 have been approved, contributing to a clearer understanding of the deep-sea geography. Based on the results of its investigation of deep-sea biological resources, China has also set up a marine microorganism bank that leads the world in inventory and number of species, helping humans to expand their understanding of biological life processes in the deep sea.

Jointly expanding understanding of polar regions. China is committed to protecting the natural environment of the North and South Poles in accordance with international law, and actively participates in international cooperation to address environmental challenges and climate change for these regions. At the 40th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), China took the lead in jointly proposing the Green Expedition Initiative with more than ten countries, and the initiative was ultimately passed as a resolution to open a new chapter of Antarctic expedition.

China has built five Antarctic research stations, and two Arctic research stations in Norway and Iceland, which serve as important platforms for several thousand scientists to carry out polar observation, biological monitoring, and glacier research. Additionally, it has organized 13 scientific expeditions in the Arctic Ocean and 40 in the Antarctic, while signing memorandums of understanding or joint statements with the United States, Russia, Australia, Iceland, and New Zealand and carrying out international cooperation with more than 10 countries.

It is a key participant in the Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC) - the largest Arctic scientific research program - and plays a leading role in advancing international cooperation on the Joint Arctic Scientific Middle-Ocean Ridge Insight Expedition (JASMinE). China works with other countries to undertake the tasks of the Antarctic RINGS (Ice Sheet Margin) Action Group under the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), and has made positive contributions to a deeper understanding of polar regions on global marine ecosystems.

4. Providing extensive foreign assistance and training

Facing a deteriorating marine eco-environment, all countries are members of a community of shared future. China stands in solidarity with the international community and carries out cooperation with it. While pursuing its own development, it also brings more benefits to other countries and peoples, contributing its share to global marine eco-environmental protection.

Providing extensive foreign assistance. China has provided support and assistance to the best of its ability to other developing countries in addressing marine eco-environmental issues through various means. In 2012, it launched the Marine Scholarship of China program, which has enabled over 300 students from 45 countries, including Belt and Road partners, to obtain master's or doctoral degrees in oceanography and other related fields, helping other developing countries to cultivate professionals in marine sciences and management. It has provided technical assistance in marine spatial planning, marine economic planning, and sea level rise assessment to Thailand, Cambodia, and Cape Verde, and has held workshops on ocean dumping management technology under the London Convention and its 1996 Protocol, to help grow an awareness of the sea and provide the technology for marine eco-environmental protection for African and Latin American nations.

Actively carrying out foreign training. In order to provide a platform for marine education, training, and public awareness in developing countries, China has established several education centers, including the China-ISA Joint Training and Research Center, the China Western Pacific Center of the International Ocean Institute (IOC), the IOC Regional Training and Research Center on Ocean Dynamics and Climate (ODC), and the Tianjin Regional Training Center of the Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA).

As a positive contributor to improving the technical capabilities of scientific researchers in related fields in developing countries, it hosts various events in which participants share knowledge and practical experience on integrated coastal zone management, ocean governance, and marine eco-environmental protection, and provides training in this field for about 500 people every year.

Conclusion

Oceans constitute a blue home that ensures the survival of humanity. In the face of the global challenge to the marine eco-environment, humanity forms a community of shared future, and shares a common responsibility to protect the marine eco-environment and ensure its sustainable development.

Today, as China embarks on a new journey of rejuvenating the Chinese nation through Chinese modernization, the country's maritime endeavors have entered an era of historic opportunities. Protecting the marine eco-environment has become an essential requirement and fundamental guarantee for building China into a strong maritime country and achieving harmony between humans and the sea.

On this new journey, China will continue to champion the new development philosophy, promote eco-environmental progress, and build a marine eco-environment underpinned by harmony between humans and the sea. Embracing the vision of a better world through cooperation and mutual benefit, China contributes to a global maritime community of shared future through concrete actions. It is ready to work with other countries to lay the foundation for a marine eco-civilization, pursue green development of the sea, and build a cleaner and more beautiful world where oceans serve as a permanent home for humans to live and thrive.

COMMENT

Editorials

NATO needs to come to its senses as it is charging toward confrontation with China

In a communique that NATO released during its summit in Washington on Wednesday, the transatlantic military alliance not only declared Ukraine was on an "irreversible" path to membership of the organization, but also pointed an accusing finger at China, calling the country a "decisive enabler" of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The document, which smacks of the Cold War mentality that pervades in Washington, claims that Beijing continues to pose "systemic challenges" to European interests and security. China "cannot enable the largest war in Europe in recent history without this negatively impacting its interests and reputation," it warns.

Such remarks are provocative, given the underlying threat conveyed in the message. Moreover, they are based on the false proposition that China bears responsibility for the prolonged conflict, when in fact China has remained a neutral party and it is NATO that has been continually fanning the flames of the hostilities.

Unlike the United States and its NATO allies, which have been steadily supplying ever more sophisticated weaponry to Ukraine, China has never sent lethal assistance to either side, and it has exercised strict restrictions on exports of dual-use goods, including civilian drones. The normal trade relationship that it has maintained with Russia should be free from reproach as it does not target any third party, and conforms to international trade norms.

Actually it is NATO itself that should be blamed for the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. The military alliance, formed in 1949 to contain the former Soviet Union, should have long been dissolved along with the loss of its very reason for existence after the end of the Cold War. Yet despite decades of warnings from Russia, the alliance has transformed from a purportedly collective defense mechanism into an aggressive monster almost doubling in size since the end of the Cold War, and relentlessly pushing its armed front eastward, sowing the seeds of the current conflict.

China is neither a party to nor the creator of the Ukraine crisis. Rather, it has always worked to promote peace talks between Russia and Ukraine and a political settlement to the conflict. The peace proposals it has put forward have won endorsement and praise globally. By blaming China for enabling the ongoing conflict, NATO is trying to make people confuse black with white.

Instead of China posing a security threat to Europe and the West, it is NATO that is seeking to expand to the Asia-Pacific to contain China's rise. Former NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen, in an interview last year, made no secret of the alliance's plan for Ukraine to join NATO to "fix the Russia problem" and after that, "we will free up resources to address the real long-term global challenge: China."

That explains why the alliance, despite calling itself a regional defensive organization in the North Atlantic, is seeking to open a Tokyo liaison office as part of its advance into the Asia-Pacific region. NATO has already been working with Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the Republic of Korea during its recent summits under a so-called "partnership program" to try to form an encirclement around China "to tackle cross-regional challenges".

It seems that NATO, after causing chaos in Europe, is ready to repeat the same mistake in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific region aspires to peaceful development. But what NATO is doing is setting the stage for turning the region into a crucible of geopolitical competition, which will unavoidably jeopardize the region's prosperity, peace and stability.

China has been and will always be a contributor to global development and a defender of the international order. NATO should stop hyping up a "China threat" and refrain from stoking up confrontation with the country. Those members that have not lost their reason in the heady scent of putrefied ideology should strive to keep a tight grip on the reins of the organization, which seems intent on rushing headlong into another battle.

Marine conservation a common cause

The white paper on "Marine Eco-Environmental Protection in China" that the State Council Information Office issued on Thursday undoubtedly shows China's commitment to carrying out all-round cooperation to protect the marine ecology and environment.

The professionalism and objectivity of the fact-based document, jointly compiled by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, State Oceanic Administration and some other departments, is clear to see. The white paper clearly outlines the achievements China has made in marine ecological conservation and environmental protection since 2012 and shares its workable experience as well as some lessons that have been hard-learned.

It makes clear that China regards the ocean as a bond with other countries and a valuable resource asset of a community with a shared future. Marine eco-environmental protection should be a common cause of all countries, including inland ones, rather than being weaponized by some for their geopolitical games.

China attaches great importance to the marine eco-environment, and it has introduced strict management systems and laws on marine eco-environmental protection, giving equal attention to protection, pollution prevention and control, and restoration. It has effectively improved its marine eco-environment through land-sea coordination and by increasing river-sea connectivity.

In order to alleviate the impact of land-sourced pollution on the marine environment, China has adopted robust measures to coordinate land-sea pollution control and monitor the key pathways that channel land-sourced pollutants into the sea. Through comprehensive governance of key sea areas, land-sea coordination in pollution control, and building beautiful bays, China's nearshore water quality has improved. In 2023, the proportion of sea areas with good to excellent water quality saw a 21.3 percentage points increase from 2012.

China will continue to support and assist to the best of its ability other developing countries in addressing marine eco-environmental issues through various means. The land-sea coordination and the river-sea connectivity mechanism China has explored should be of reference value for the developing countries to minimize their extensive growth model's negative influences on the marine eco-environment, avoiding the costly treatment-after-pollution development curve that some parts of China have experienced.

Upholding multilateralism, China is committed to the vision of a maritime community with a shared future, and conducts in-depth mutually beneficial cooperation with the international community through multiple channels and in various forms, developing blue partnerships through an open and pragmatic approach.

On this new journey, as the white paper said, China will continue to champion the new development philosophy, promote eco-environmental progress, and build a marine eco-environment underpinned by harmony between humans and the sea.

Embracing the vision of a better world through cooperation and mutual benefit, China is contributing to the building of a global maritime community with a shared future through concrete actions. It is ready to work with other countries to lay the foundation for a marine ecivilization, pursue green development of the sea, and build a cleaner and more beautiful world where oceans serve as a permanent home for humans to live and thrive.

As the white paper states, marine issues are global issues, and protecting the marine eco-environment is a common concern for people all over the world. It is the responsibility of all countries to protect and improve the marine environment and to conserve and use marine resources in a sustainable way.

That should preclude attempts to sabotage or undermine China's cooperative outreach to its neighbors on marine eco-environmental protection.

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Luo Jie



Opinion Line

Economy seeing structural recovery, but domestic demand needs a boost

China's consumer price index rose 0.2 percent year-on-year and the producer price index fell 0.8 percent year-on-year in June, compared with respective 0.1 percent rise and 2.1 percent decline in the first half of this year, data released by the National Bureau of Statistics show.

This indicates China's prices are on a rising curve, with the CPI turning from flat in the first quarter to increasing slightly in the second quarter, and the decline in the PPI continuing to narrow. Prices have recovered somewhat, but they are still at a relatively low level, reflecting the weak demand despite emerging signs of economic recovery.

The increase of food prices has remained weak while nonfood prices have increased steadily. This is largely because of China's increased efforts to ensure the stable production and supply of grain and important agricultural products. China's grain output has

stayed above 650 million metric tons for eight years in a row, and the self-sufficiency rate of the main grains has remained above 95 percent, ensuring stable overall supply of food at low prices. Nonfood prices rose 0.8 percent in the first half of the year, contributing to positive year-on-year CPI growth, while overall nonfood price increases were well below those in major economies.

China's external demand was better than expected in the first half of the year, leading to the growth of its exports. The increased exports of some traditional industries helped curb the decline in their prices and even fueled price growth. However, affected by the shaky real estate market, the price index of some industries continues to fluctuate, the main reason for the negative year-on-year growth of PPI.

In view of the structural characteristics of its economic operation, especially the weak demand, China should increase its policy intensity in the sec-

ond half of the year to expand domestic demand. In fiscal terms, it should speed up the issuance of ultra-long treasury bonds and special bonds to improve market demand. Monetary policy should focus on maintaining price stability and promoting a moderate recovery of prices.

The country should also accelerate the development of new quality productive forces, and vigorously promote new industrialization and the development of artificial intelligence, to promote the rapid growth of high-tech manufacturing. At the same time, a new campaign aimed at promoting large-scale equipment renewal and the replacement of old consumer goods with new ones should be launched to boost the consumer market.

The effective implementation of such policy measures will play a positive role in stabilizing prices and improving expectations.

— 21ST CENTURY BUSINESS HERALD

New transformation on roads way to the future

The municipal authorities of Beijing released a draft regulation on Monday soliciting public opinion on the use of autonomous or driverless vehicles for public transport, ride-hailing services, car rentals, and other urban travel services. The draft makes it the government's responsibility to promote the establishment of standards and the authorized use and circulation of data, and establish regulatory sandboxes, which are essential for establishing a tolerant and prudent regulatory environment for innovation in autonomous driving.

The draft suggests that the government should coordinate the development of autonomous driving with infrastructure construction planning. New, renovated, or expanded roads

should reserve space for intelligent roadside infrastructure. It also lists various scenarios of autonomous vehicle innovation activities that the government should support, including ride-hailing services, which is a key step for autonomous driving because that means it can make money.

More importantly, the draft also addresses how to handle traffic rule violations committed by autonomous vehicles, and how to ensure the security of data and personal information related to autonomous driving, which is what people worry about most.

The nation's Road Traffic Safety Law still lacks regulation for unmanned vehicles, but most certainly the law will be revised in response to new situations in the future. Further, through-

out the development process of autonomous driving, it is always essential for policies, regulations, and laws to keep pace with the times. For example, according to the nation's Highway Law, motor vehicle manufacturers and other units are not allowed to use highways for testing the braking performance of motor vehicles, yet real-world road testing is indispensable for autonomous driving.

The capital city allowed companies to apply for temporary road usage for autonomous vehicles in 2017. The revision of the Road Traffic Safety Law is crucial. Local legislation can explore it first before it is promoted nationwide. The legislation Beijing is pushing for is worth watching.

— BEIJING NEWS

What They Say

Probe into possible EU protectionism justified

In response to the European Union's anti-subsidy investigations into imports of Chinese railway locomotives, new energy vehicles and green energy products, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce launched an investigation into the EU's probe on Wednesday after receiving an application for it to do so from the National Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products.

The ministry's probe into the EU's investigation into imports of Chinese railway locomotives, photovoltaic and wind power equipment, and security inspection equipment is being carried out through questionnaires, hearings, field investigations and other ways, and will be completed before Jan 10, 2025; although it could be extended to April 10,

2025, under special circumstances, according to the ministry. Some Chinese companies under investigation by the EU revealed that the information requested far exceeded the requirements of the anti-subsidy investigation, and even involved key technologies.

The application also says that the EU was using protectionist measures by arbitrarily distorting the definition of subsidies during the investigation, whose procedural standards were not open and transparent.

The EU's investigations are suspected of discriminatory law enforcement, and local companies established by Chinese companies in Europe are not given equal national treatment. Whether the EU discriminates against Chinese companies in actual practice is what the Ministry of Commerce of China is seeking to verify in its investigation.

The EU policymakers should realize

that they cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. The EU's unfair probe targets the global competitiveness of the Chinese products, which stems from the Chinese companies' long-term and tremendous R&D input and fierce competition at home rather than subsidies.

By intentionally degrading the business environment for factories owned by Chinese companies in the EU, the bloc is trying to help EU manufacturers.

China is firmly opposed to any unilateralism and protectionism that politicizes and weaponizes economic and trade issues. It is natural that the country should take all necessary measures to safeguard the Chinese companies' rights and interests when they are harmed by any such coercive, protectionist and bullying behaviors that abuse rules and harm their legitimate interests.

— LI YANG, CHINA DAILY

GLOBAL VIEWS



Editor's note: The world has undergone many changes and shocks in recent years. Enhanced dialogue between scholars from China and overseas is needed to build mutual understanding on many problems the world faces. For this purpose, the China Watch Institute of China Daily and the National Institute for Global Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, jointly present this special column: The Global Strategy Dialogue, in which experts from China and abroad will offer insightful views, analysis and fresh perspectives on long-term strategic issues of global importance.



SONG CHEN / CHINA DAILY

DANNY QUAH

Tanks rather than thanks

Contrary to the claims of the US and the EU, China is not flooding the world with loss-making EVs

The United States and the European Union have been hyping up allegations that China's overcapacity is a cause of unfair trade. The Joe Biden administration has used this as an excuse to quadruple to 100 percent tariffs on China-made electric vehicles.

Economic competition in important forward-looking, save-the-planet sectors is a good thing. But the assertion often made is that the rivalry here is also strategic. Some months ago at an academic conference in the US, I asked why EVs are a matter of national security. "Tanks, we make the best military attack vehicles when ours are the best automotive technologies."



In a related move, although less headline, the EU is imposing tariffs of up to 38 percent on Chinese EVs. The reason is that it is what is required to level the playing field against China's "unfair economic practices".

Unlike concerns surrounding national security — where even magnets and rubber tires are suspect — economic reasoning can be publicly interrogated using empirical evidence.

What is overcapacity? If it were no more than what the English language says it is, then overcapacity is just capacity that arithmetically exceeds use. In economics, it is excess of supply over demand; it is how much is produced over how much is consumed. In international trade, overcapacity in this sense is exports minus imports, for that is how much more an economy produces than it consumes. This isn't very useful, however, as comparative advantage implies every economy will have overcapacity in some sector.

An alternative view is that overcapacity refers to an unlevel playing field, i.e., where one side doesn't play fair. That side is a nation that applies slave labor, practices economic coercion and uses illegally-sourced raw materials, operates low-standard engineering processes, thereby emitting excessive CO2 and pollu-

tion, and subsidizes industry or otherwise distorts markets in ways that violate international rules. Such a nation is then unfairly able to produce at cost lower than others who appropriately obey rules.

In June 2024 the World Trade Organization registered 49 dispute cases against China, with the US raising 23 of them and the EU 11. However, China is not alone in facing dispute action for not obeying rules. Indeed, at that same time the WTO recorded 171 cases against the US, with China raising just 18 and the EU 35. In other words, the dispute cases against the US are more than three times the number against China.

One of these complaints I've heard in other discussions, is that China might well be producing clean-energy machines, but it does so using dirty energy. This needs to be documented; I have seen no credible empirical evidence supporting it. And further questions should be asked: how are other nations making their clean-energy machines? Should dirty energy never be applied to invest in cleaner energy devices? Is it preferred to use dirty energy so that it has no obvious impact on future possibilities for clean energy?

A more appropriate and more immediate way to look at overcapacity is how many economists might do so, that is via the concept of dumping: Is the exporter selling in a foreign country at a price lower than it sells in its own, and hence is it running losses on its own account so as to harm that foreign country? It is easier to get evidence on this. That evidence, however, does not support the hypothesis of Chinese overcapacity. Many Chinese products — especially batteries and EVs — are cheaper in China than in the EU or the US. This is hardly surprising in light of the so-called Balassa-Samuelson effect, which says poorer countries are cheaper countries.

Are Chinese industries accused of overcapacity seen to be making losses? Market competition in China is fierce. But many Chinese industries, especially EVs, are profitable in the aggregate. Some individual businesses of course do

fail, but that is evidence of creative destruction, not of dumping. The Chinese government does provide subsidies in the EV industry, but it does so for consumers to purchase EVs, not for producers to make them. Those consumer subsidies can be used to purchase Teslas just as easily as they can use to buy BYDs. Arguably, such consumer subsidies ought to be used more in all other economies to encourage the transition to clean-energy vehicles and away from fossil-fuel combustion.

Is China flooding Western markets with clean-energy products? China's total exports of EVs are only 14 percent of its aggregate production, a smaller fraction than that of cars exported by Japan and the Republic of Korea. Yes, that means more in absolute numbers — but penalizing a country for its size is a different economic argument than claiming it is breaking international trade rules. And, on the other side of the exchange: What fraction of total new car sales in the US are China-made EVs? Two percent.

While rightly looking out for their own industries and businesses, everyone needs to think a little also about the good of our planet. Simply put, the world needs clean cheap energy. To gain any reasonable measure of control over their own destiny, emerging economies will need massive sustained bursts of energy. The less-developed countries cannot afford costly technologies to replace fossil fuels and, as a result, unless things change, the Global South will be responsible for most of the world's impending carbon emissions. These countries are not agitating about clean-energy overcapacity: for the 70 percent of humanity that lives there, for a long while still, there is no state of the world where there are too many EVs, too much electric battery storage, or too many solar panels.

The author is Li Ka-shing professor in economics and dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at National University of Singapore. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

YU NANPING AND ZHANG YIRAN

Two-handed techno-tussle

Technology competition between China and the US is driving the evolution of international relations

Technology is traditionally viewed as being naturally affiliated with the economy and military and its role as a vital variable that influences international relations in its own right is often overlooked. After decades of rapid development, technologies, especially disruptive technologies, have been embedded in every aspect of politics and economic activities, to such an extent that they have restructured the patterns of global technological competition and even spurred substantial changes in international relations.



Yu Nanping



Zhang Yiran

Currently, the new generation of technologies, exemplified by artificial general intelligence, exhibits the classic "Medici Effect" of innovations that appear when disciplines and ideas intersect. The combination and deep integration of various new technologies, and the technological interactivity that arises are sparking a new wave of international technological competition.

The current technological competition is characterized by high entry barriers, a strong sense of competitive confrontation and the unprecedented strategic importance of industry and value chains.

The technological competition among countries is unfolding vigorously, with the US-China technological rivalry the most emblematic. The United States' global hegemony in the early 1990s was the result of its unmatched economic scale and technological superiority. However, the restructuring of global production systems driven by multinational capital and the expansion of global value chains in the process of economic globalization was accompanied by the transfer of technology, and as a result the economic and technological landscape began to shift.

Some developing countries, by actively participating in globalization, have enhanced their production and technological capabilities in many ways, thereby challenging the global economic and technological dominance of the US. As the Center for Security and Emerging Technology analyzes in a report, many believe that Chinese AI publi-

cations are increasingly influential. Accordingly, the US has launched purposeful collective actions, and its strategic techno-blueprint against China is now very clear. For instance, former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon warned: "It requires a new American consensus regarding the policies and priorities required to defeat this threat ... China's arsenal for global supremacy includes economic, informational, political, and military warfare."

In the technological competition in cutting-edge fields such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing, the US has promised clear government planning and financial support for technologies. Since the Joe Biden administration came to office, the support for developing future emerging strategic industries has increased and the pace has significantly accelerated. On the one hand, a series of policy measures around emerging industries, such as semiconductors, biotechnology and new energy, have been implemented, including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Chips and Science Act of 2022, the National Strategy for Advanced Manufacturing, and the National Biotechnology and Biomufacturing Initiative. On the other hand, the US' efforts to constrain China's development of frontier technologies never stops. During the Donald Trump administration, the US repeatedly rejected Chinese companies' acquisition applications citing national security reasons, even adding multiple Chinese companies and research institutions to the "Red Flags" list. The Biden administration has doubled down on this by implementing stricter measures in key technology areas, adopting the "small yards with high fences" strategy.

It is clear that the current situation initiated by the US is essentially a game between a technology-leading country and a technology-chasing country, in which the former will pose all-round strategic containment over the latter. Under this circumstance, technology is triggering a series of substantial geopolitical and ideological evolutions and confrontations in international relations.

On the operational level, the US has actively eliminated any hardware or software dependency in the cyberspace sphere, ending the product and technology sharing between the two countries, thereby elevating the competition into a more intense stage. It can be predicted that in the future, the US will

continue its competition and confrontation policies in relation to cutting-edge technologies, and will mobilize everything in its toolbox, including legislation, industry, market and allies, to launch a comprehensive technological containment to maintain its hegemony.

Of course, while the development of the new-generation artificial intelligence brings unpredictable risks to the world, it also offers opportunities. The emergence of AI governance as a global issue has endowed AI technology with the additional role of being a "buffer zone" and "testing ground" in the context of US-China relations. Given the interconnections within the global innovation industry, many countries have made valuable attempts to explore models for addressing AI-related risks. This also presents a window of opportunity for cooperation between the US and China. As highlighted in the US-China presidential meeting on Nov 16, 2023, the necessity of addressing the risks of advanced AI systems and enhancing AI safety was a priority of the agenda. As Michael Froman, who heads the Council on Foreign Relations, said in an interview, "they (China) are looking for ways to work with the US and the rest of the world on AI, and potentially there's something there that the US and China could do together?"

In the face of such common challenges, the US and China can strengthen their cooperation in technology research and development through resource sharing. This collaboration could even pave the way for the creation of a unified global framework and standardized regulations for AI governance.

Technology is leading, driving, and influencing international political changes with its disruptiveness, iterativeness and eruptiveness. For China and the US, the question is: will their economic interdependence and technological competition produce "peaceful competition" like that between the US and the Soviet Union during the Cold War? Or will it produce a "magnetic field theory" effect in technology and market scope on a global scale?

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WANG XIAOYING / CHINA DAILY

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Stock market may stabilize more on rules

Insiders laud regulator's curbs on short-selling, tighter scrutiny of trading

By SHI JING in Shanghai
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China's A-share market performance and investor sentiment will stabilize as financial regulators step up efforts to improve market fairness and advance the high-quality development of the capital market, said experts and insiders.

They made the comments after the China Securities Regulatory Commission, the country's top securities watchdog, announced late Wednesday more curbs on short-selling and tighter scrutiny over high-frequency trading.

According to the CSRC announcement, securities lending, in which brokers borrow shares for clients to short sell, have been suspended from Thursday, while existing contracts must lapse by the end of September. Stock exchanges will raise the minimum margin requirement from 80 percent to 100 percent for short-selling, and the bar will be higher for hedge funds.

The balance of securities lending in the A-share market is around 31.8 billion yuan (\$4.4 billion) now, down from 71.6 billion yuan at the beginning of the year. The balance of relending securities has declined to 29.6 billion yuan, as the CSRC has already halted new relending securities in February, explained Xu Kang, chief nonbanking analyst at Hua Chuang Securities.

Market sentiment will be boosted amid the CSRC's tightened grip, he said.

Lin Yixiang, chairman of TX Investment Consulting, applauded the CSRC's announcement, saying that some shareholders used to make private placements by incorporating short-selling. This practice used to create huge profits for them and they took advantage of the independent and globally accepted trading mechanism. This has impaired the interests of individual investors. The latter make up more than 90 percent of the A-share market investors and account for around 10 percent of total market capitalization.

"At this moment, only by adjusting the trading rules or product designs, which are most closely associated with the stock market, can the A-share market rise significantly," he said.

The stock market responded posi-

tively on Thursday with the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index ticking up 1.06 percent to close at 2970.39 points and the Shenzhen Component Index jumping about 2 percent. The total trading value on the Shanghai and Shenzhen bourses approached 800 billion yuan, up 17.6 percent from Wednesday.

Wei Wei, chief strategist at Ping An Securities, wrote in a note on Thursday that the CSRC's latest moves have shown the regulator's intention to safeguard fair trading. From the short-term perspective, the new measures will boost market confidence and stabilize the A-share market that has hovered over the historic low since June.

For the long run, more deepened reform policies can be expected from the upcoming third plenary session of 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee. Combined with the nine new measures introduced by the State Council, China's Cabinet, in April to advance the capital market's high-quality development, structural opportunities will increase in the A-share market, he said.

Deepened institutional reform in the financial sector will likely be stressed at the meeting, said Qiu Xiang, joint chief strategist of CITIC Securities.

There will likely be a more stringent grip over the entry and exit of capital market players. Efforts will be made to increase returns for investors. The introduction of more medium- and long-term capital will be underlined, he said.

Trading activity will pick up amid rising market liquidity after the meeting, he said.

The development of new quality productive forces, including the upgrade of traditional industries and the development of strategic emerging industries, optimized allocation of resources and further opening-up may be underscored in the meeting, said Chen Guo, chief strategist at China Securities.

Eugene Qian, chairman of UBS Securities, said that the development of new quality productive forces requires a more investor-friendly investment environment, smoother financing channels and a larger number of institutions focusing on long-term investment. This will help address the weak links in the Chinese capital market, he said.



Edible oil products on sale at a supermarket in Beijing. SONG JIARU / FOR CHINA DAILY

Experts urge mandatory standards for edible oil transport after mishaps

By CHENG YU
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China should put in place mandatory standards for edible oil transport, experts said on Thursday amid rising food safety concerns among consumers.

Several edible oil companies have reassured consumers of the safe transportation of edible oils following reports in Beijing News last week that stockpilers, including Sanhe Hopefull Grain and Oil Group and China Grain Reserves Group, or Sinograin, had transported cooking oils in the same tankers that they had previously used for delivering liquid fuels produced from coal.

China should step up efforts to introduce mandatory standards for edible oil transport and stipulate dedicated vehicles for cooking oil, said Liu Yanyan, a partner and lawyer at Grandall Law Firm (Shanghai).

"... (additionally) the country can learn from the United States in improving food recall processes and regulatory oversight, such as punitive compensation mechanisms," Liu said.

Mandatory standards are essential guidelines for corporate compliance and government supervision.

In terms of the bulk transport of edible vegetable oils, China currently has only one non-mandatory standard, which stipulates that bulk edible vegetable oils should be transported using dedicated tankers.

Yang Xin, an assistant researcher at the Rural Development Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said: "The reason why it is a non-mandatory or recommended standard is because China's food transport industry chain is still in an early stage of development with free competition, including nonspecialized transport fleets."

As China's food industry is vast in scale, complex in variety, and involves countless industry chains and division of labor, Yang said the supervisory power of society, including associations, media and consumers, can be fully utilized to supervise the food safety sector.

He said the country could learn from Europe and establish an incentive mechanism to encourage social forces to actively oversee the food sector.

Amid rising safety concerns, Xiwang Food, the country's biggest producer of corn germ oil, said that bulk oil makes up only a small portion of its business,

and these products are transported using specialized tanker trucks.

Packaged corn seed oil, its main business, is transported using vans rather than tanker trucks, the company said, adding that it has strict regulations on edible oil transport.

Shandong Luhua Group, one of the largest domestic edible oil manufacturers, said the company has strict food risk prevention and control measures throughout the entire supply chain, including transport, and it uses its own specialized tanker trucks for transporting edible oils.

The company said that the interior and exterior walls of these dedicated tankers are thoroughly cleaned and dried before loading any products. Each tanker is subsequently inspected and sealed individually. Oil products are also sampled and tested, with any that fail to meet quality standards being rejected.

On Wednesday, sales of some imported edible oils on e-commerce platforms surged. On e-commerce marketplace Taobao, more than 300 consumers bought a 5-liter canola oil of a Canadian edible oil brand within 24 hours.

Measures afoot to rev up Shanghai auto sales, boost used car exports

By WANG YING in Shanghai
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A nine-item action plan on promoting automobile consumption was unveiled on Wednesday by the municipal government of Shanghai, with an aim of raising the trade volume of the city's secondhand vehicle market to 900,000 units by 2027 and doubling the export of pre-owned cars from 2023 levels, according to official sources.

"Considering the auto sector's long industrial chain and huge market scale, it has major impact on economic stabilization and consumption growth," said Liu Min, deputy director of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce.

"Aligning with the central government's trade-in policies in consumer products and following sophisticated international experience, it is hoped the action plan accelerates the elimination and renewal of vehicles and improves the auto market structure. The plan will be constantly optimized in accordance with implementation conditions," Liu said.

Liu added that the nine items cover three broad aspects: encouraging demand by offering subsidies or incentives, innovating secondhand car circulation and upgrade, and optimizing the market environment.

"China's State Council released

Considering the auto sector's long industrial chain and huge market scale, it has major impact on economic stabilization and consumption growth."

Liu Min, deputy director of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce

an action plan in March to initiate large-scale equipment upgrades and trade-ins of consumer goods, vowing greater support to promote the upgraded consumption of automobiles," said Zhu Bingxin, an official with the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce's marketing department.

The action plan has set ambitious targets for trading and exporting secondhand vehicles. As many as 900,000 units of secondhand vehicles are expected to be traded across Shanghai by 2027, a growth of 50 percent from that of 2023. In the meantime, the city hopes to double its used car exports to 15,000 units in 2027 from 2023 levels. Furthermore,

the amount of scrapped vehicles getting recycled is expected to reach 50,000 units, doubling from 2023 figures.

To achieve such goals, the action plan encourages the setup of secondhand car dealerships, supports vehicle manufacturers to carry out trade-in services, backs the formation of the pricing evaluation system for used vehicles, and promotes the facilitation of secondhand car circulation.

"In developed countries, many used cars are exported, so will Shanghai. With China becoming one of the largest automotive production and consumption bases, there will be sufficient secondhand vehicles for export. This is also in line with the goal of optimizing resources," Liu said.

Liu added that the auto sector, just like any other consumer market, has entered a new phase of transformation and upgrade.

"Currently, 30 percent of new vehicle consumption comes from updating requirements, and that of new gasoline-powered cars accounted for 50 percent, which means we have entered the era of upgrading consumption.

"Therefore, our policies need upgrade, our industry development needs innovation and our environment needs optimization. Both of our systems and our industry development should catch up with the times," Liu said.

Green power certificates set record

By LIU YUKUN
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Some 24.82 million green power certificates, corresponding to 24.8 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity generated from renewable sources, have been traded in the last week of June on the Guangzhou Power Exchange Center in Guangdong province, marking China's largest single-batch green power certificate transactions as of date, China Southern Power Grid told China Daily on Thursday.

The transactions, organized by the GPEC, a subsidiary of CSG, involved 654 entities, including Guangdong Energy Group and Shenzhen Energy Group.

This also marked the first time that companies in Guangdong province traded large-scale cross-regional green power certificates with new energy enterprises in western regions such as Gansu province, Ningxia Hui autonomous region and Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

The transactions helped reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 19.84 million metric tons, according to China Southern Power Grid.

Green power certificates act as electronic IDs for green power transactions. Due to the homogeneity of electricity, once it enters the grid for transmission, its attributes cannot be distinguished by the grid or consumers. Only the generation side can differentiate it using green certificates.

Green power certificates are now assessed and issued by the National Energy Administration. Each certificate represents 1,000 kWh of green power generated from renewable sources.

Experts believe that the issuance of green certificates, assigning additional economic value to renewable energies will help new energy generation companies generate additional revenue by selling the certificates and granting users proof of carbon footprint reductions.

"With an increasing number of economies incorporating carbon footprint assessments into foreign trade transactions, green certificates provide traceable proof for Chinese electricity users on the consumption of green power," said Lin Boqiang, head of the China Institute for Studies in Energy Policy at Xiamen University.

The NEA is actively promoting comprehensive coverage of green power certificates for renewable energy development. Recently, the national green power certificate issuance and trading system started operations, encouraging participants to establish real-name accounts containing information on the certificates they hold and trade.

Relevant trading data are transmitted in real time by a national renewable energy information management center that is operated by the China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute, as well as the power exchange centers in Beijing, Guangzhou and the Inner Mongolia autonomous region. Renewable energy generation enterprises or project owners can also fill in the necessary information on their own.

Lin said that currently, regions and countries such as Europe and the United States have developed traceable proof on green power used across various industries. Relevant departments in China are also actively promoting the mutual recognition of green power certificates with those developed in other economies.



A view of the China Securities Regulatory Commission headquarters in Beijing. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Briefly

Central bank conducts reverse repos

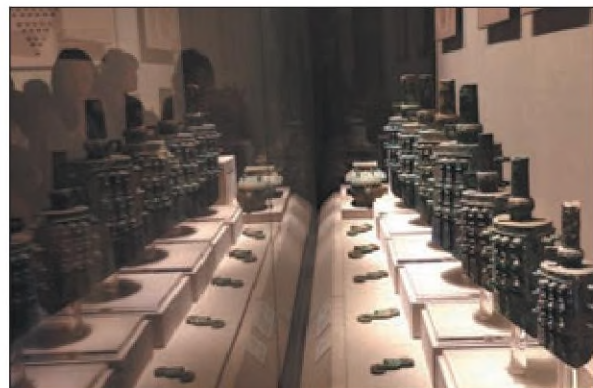
China's central bank conducted 2 billion yuan (\$280.35 million) of seven-day reverse repos at an interest rate of 1.8 percent on Thursday. The move aims to keep liquidity reasonable and ample in the banking system, the People's Bank of China said. A reverse repo is a process in which the PBOC purchases securities from commercial banks through bidding, with an agreement to sell them back in the future.

Renminbi strengthens against greenback

The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, strengthened 3 pips to 7.1339 against the US dollar on Thursday, said the China Foreign Exchange Trade System. In China's spot foreign exchange market, the yuan is allowed to rise or fall by 2 percent from the central parity rate each trading day.

XINHUA - CHINA DAILY

CULTURAL HERITAGE



From left: A Jiahu bone flute, the *bianzhong* chime bells, and the 6th-century terracotta figurines on display at the Henan Museum. The figurines showcase the ancient performing scenes. The artifacts unearthed are the constant inspiration for the Huaxia Ancient Music Orchestra who revive the thousands of years of tradition in ear-pleasing ways. PHOTOS BY ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

It's a quarter to 11 in the morning on a regular Tuesday as crowds pack into the Henan Museum in Zhengzhou, the capital city of Central China's Henan province. The museum, founded in 1927, is home to about 170,000 artifacts and sets and is particularly famous for its prehistoric pieces, bronzes from Shang and Zhou (c. 16th century-256 BC) dynasties, ceramics and jade ware.

A corner on the first floor of the museum houses a concert hall, which has diverse audiences ranging from parents with young children to the elderly queuing outside.

"What are we going to see? A pianist? Or dancing?" a boy asked his mother. "No, it will be very different," the young mother replies.

The bone flute

At 11 am sharp, the show begins with Yan Wentao dressed in costume from the Neolithic period (10,000 to 4,000 years ago), or New Stone Age, blowing a bone flute behind an LED transparent screen, with the screen flashing images of forest and mountains.

Yan is a member of the Huaxia Ancient Music Orchestra, the resident ensemble of Henan Museum founded in 2000, which currently has 30 members. *Huaxia* is a romantic Chinese word referring to China.

To revive the country's ancient musical traditions, the orchestra plays about 10 types of replicas of ancient musical instruments housed in Henan Museum, which come alive in an acoustic feast that transports listeners to a long-lost era.

With the introduction of the show's host, audiences learn that the bone flute is a replica of a key exhibit at Henan Museum of the Jiahu bone flute (*gudi*), from about 8,700 years ago.

Excavated at the Jiahu Site, Wuyang county, Henan province in 1987, the 23.1-centimeter-long flute was made from the wing bone of a bird from the crane family. It is shaped like a long pipe with seven holes drilled in a straight line down one side. It is the earliest musical instrument unearthed in the country that still produces sounds.

"The flute has a clear five-octave range, a possible basis for a seven-note scale. The discovery of the Jiahu bone flute has rewritten a portion of China's music history," the host says.

"Every time I perform the bone flute onstage, I feel I'm taking the audience on a trip back 8,700 years by bringing its timeless melodies back to life. The haunting melodies once reverberated across ancient China, echoing the sentiments of our early ancestors," says Yan, 28, who learned to play the bamboo flute as a child and joined the Huaxia Ancient Music Orchestra after he graduated from a music training program launched by Zhengzhou University and the Henan Vocational Institute of Arts in 2018.

A year after joining the orchestra, Yan started to produce bone flutes, which are replicas of the Jiahu bone flute.

"When I was a child, I was drawn to the sound of the bamboo flute, which gives me goosebumps. I planned on joining a traditional Chinese orchestra or becoming a music teacher. Now, I am doing more than that. I not only play the flute but also make instruments based on cultural relics and historical documents, reviving the melodic treasures of the past, which has introduced me to a whole new world," says Yan.

According to Yan, the Jiahu bone flute replicas use the bones of large birds, such as eagles, that died of natural causes. The most challenging part of making the flute is measuring the positions of the holes and drilling the embouchure. "Drilling each hole and adjusting

Museum strikes ancient notes with replicas

Resident ensemble brings China's history to life using duplicate instruments and classic dances, **Chen Nan** reports in Zhengzhou.



Top: Huaxia Ancient Music Orchestra, the resident ensemble of Henan Museum, revives traditional Chinese music by performing replicas of ancient musical instruments housed in the museum. Middle: Huo Kun, the director of the orchestra, displays a *paixiao*, or bamboo panpipe, a kind of traditional Chinese musical instrument. Bottom: Besides music, dance performances are also featured in the shows, which are choreographed based on cultural relics and historical documents.

played, the instruments come alive, reminding us of the richness and depth of China's musical heritage," says Huo, emphasizing the orchestra's role in bringing these relics to life. "These ancient harmonies are not just echoes of history but vibrant expressions that connect us to our cultural roots in a profound and unforgettable way."

The orchestra has also arranged over 150 music pieces by using the instruments they made. Beyond its traditional repertoire, the orchestra ventured into performing contemporary and pop songs, appealing to younger audiences while preserving its ancient sounds. The pieces, including adaptations of songs from the Harry Potter franchise and Chinese pop song *Lonely Warrior*, or *Gu Yong Zhe*, usually get the warmest feedback from the audience, according to Huo.

This fusion of old and new not only attracts a broader demographic but also revitalizes interest in traditional instruments among the youth.

Huo mentions that he had never expected that his life would be so deeply connected with archaeology, which is a crucial part of the orchestra's development.

Archaeological delights

He vividly recalls when he went to Xinyang Museum along with other members of the orchestra to do research in 2017, there he saw a set of *bianzhong* that was unearthed in 1957 in Xinyang, Henan province. With a history dating back to the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC), the nine bells, with the smallest as tall as 13.9 cm and the largest as tall as 40.1 cm, still shine a golden color.

"I was amazed by the bells. When I struck them, the beautiful sound took me back to ancient China instantly. I had many questions, such as who played those bells back then? Who did they play for? Beyond mere entertainment, they offer profound insights into the human experience, traversing time and space," Huo says.

Besides preserving ancient sounds, the orchestra also revives the costumes and there are traditional Chinese dances during performances — all based on research.

Wang Jing, 35, who learned classical Chinese dance as a child, joined the orchestra in 2011 as a dancer and choreographer.

"I visited Henan Museum with my friends in 2010 and saw the orchestra performance, which intrigued me. I contacted them after watching the show and applied for a job," recalls Wang, who graduated from Zhengzhou University with a major in musical performance.

"I started training in classical Chinese dance when I was nine and my training was all about imitating the movements of ancient Chinese beauties, which only exist in books, museums and paintings. After joining the orchestra, I can bring those beauties alive onstage, which may inspire and resonate with audiences today," says Wang.

Along with her colleagues, Wang visited museums across China, which allowed her to learn and get inspired by cultural relics such as pottery dancing figurines.

She also joins the orchestra's training program for children, which offers them a platform to learn how to play traditional Chinese musical instruments and dance.

"All of our choreographic pieces are rooted in cultural relics and historical documents, just like the orchestra plays replicas of ancient instruments. Each note played on these instruments and each dance step is a testament to the enduring beauty of Chinese culture," says Wang.

its size for the desired pitch is key to producing the flute. Tuning requires patience and experimentation," Yan says. "There are no textbooks to teach us how to play these instruments and they demand different techniques. We had to learn by trial and error."

"The restoration and replication of ancient musical instruments is not merely an academic exercise but a profound cultural endeavor. It's about celebrating the wisdom of our ancestors," Yan adds.

Sounds come alive

According to Huo Kun, the director of the Huaxia Ancient Music Orchestra, the orchestra concerts sold out quickly during weekends and public holidays.

"We give two shows each day except Mondays when the museum is closed. During weekends, public holidays and summer and winter vacations, we put on extra shows to meet the audience demand," says Huo.

Classically trained tenor Huo joined the Huaxia Ancient Music Orchestra in 2002 after graduating from Zhengzhou University. In 2015, he won the position of director of the orchestra.

He notes that when he first joined the orchestra, there were only 10 musicians and its repertoire was limited. During the past decade, the orchestra's mission has gone beyond mere performance — it is a journey to re-create and reinterpret the musical legacy of ancient China.

It has revived over 30 ancient Chinese musical instruments, such as a set of *bianzhong*, or bronze chime bells, consisting of a set of bells of varying sizes that produce different sounds when struck; *xun*, an oval flute-like clay instrument; and the bone panpipe, an ancient vertically blown braided wind instrument.

"In the quiet context of museums, these instruments are often displayed but once they could be

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LIFESHANGHAI

Summer season set to really heat up

Focusing on digitalization, events aim to attract global tourists with more convenience and ease, **Zheng Zheng** reports.

Shanghai, China's vibrant metropolis and an international gateway, is set to captivate global visitors with its Shanghai Summer season.

The event, running from July 6 to mid-October, promises to offer a blend of rich cultural experiences and convenient services while seeking to appeal to a wide spectrum of tourists, from history enthusiasts and art lovers to business travelers and leisure seekers.

Shanghai is dedicated to boosting the commercial environment and upgrading its commercial facilities, focusing on advancing the digitalization of commerce, said Gong Zheng, mayor of Shanghai, during the launch ceremony on Saturday.

Gong invites "global travelers to experience Shanghai's immense charm through gourmet feasts, cultural trips and fashion journeys".

Zhu Min, director of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce, highlights the city's appeal. "Shanghai's distinctive urban and cultural atmosphere has always attracted domestic and international visitors alike," Zhu notes.

With international flights gradually recovering and visa-free policies expanding, Zhu sees this event as an ideal opportunity to spotlight Shanghai during the peak tourism season.

The launch of Shanghai Summer coincides with China's 72/144-hour visa-free transit policy, which allows citizens from 54 countries and regions to enjoy up to six days in Shanghai and other designated cities without obtaining a visa, facilitating both short-term business visits and spontaneous tourism.

Shanghai's growing international appeal is echoed by official data. The city's airports had facilitated inspections and immigration clearance for over 3 million international travelers this year as of June — a 240 percent increase from the previous year.

Following recent adjustments to China's visa policies, visa-exempt foreign entries have surged tenfold to 446,000 compared to the same period last year.

At the heart of Shanghai Summer are seven benchmark activities, complemented by a lineup of 58 diverse events, including 18 exhibitions, 15 commercial activities, 12 sports competitions, nine cultural performances and four tourism



Clockwise from top: A band performs at one of the Shanghai Summer activities at Long Museum West Bund on Saturday. A dog seems to enjoy the day there. Visitors stop at a booth at one of the Shanghai Summer activities. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

events, according to Zhu.

Among the highlights is the *On the Top of Pyramid: The Civilization of Ancient Egypt* exhibition at Shanghai Museum, which invites visitors to explore the mysteries and marvels of ancient Egypt, and the inaugural Shanghai International Cruise Festival, which celebrates the city's status as a major port, tapping into the burgeoning global cruise tourism market.

For those eager to delve into Shanghai's urban fabric, the City Walk Pro, Experience Shanghai Now event provides curated walking tours, showcasing the city's architectural wonders, vibrant local lifestyle and more.

The Shanghai International Light Festival in 2024 will showcase the city's nighttime charm. Music enthusiasts will be thrilled by the STORM Electronic Music Festival, which embraces a science-fictional theme this year to create an immersive experience.

To enhance tourism, Shanghai has implemented comprehensive measures addressing various aspects of travel, from communication and convenience to payment and transportation, according to Liu Min, deputy director of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce.

China Mobile and China Telecom are setting up dedicated service sta-

tions at Pudong and Hongqiao airports offering data packages and SIM card services. A 24/7 English-language taxi booking hotline has been set up to ease transportation concerns.

The city is also expanding its network of luggage storage facilities, aiming for 500 locations in key commercial areas by the end of July with bilingual guides. To simplify financial transactions, Shanghai is increasing the acceptance of foreign bank cards, targeting 70,000 supporting terminals by the end of September.

Online travel platforms and airlines are joining forces to offer tailored travel and accommodation

packages, including attractive discounts on select hotels and airfares for visitors to the city.

An online event schedule is accessible through the "I GO Shanghai" WeChat mini-program, offering intelligent itinerary planning and bilingual voice consultation services.

Shanghai's commitment to inclusivity extends beyond short-term visitors to encompass the needs of expatriates living in or frequently visiting the city, says Jing Ying, an official from the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

The city has launched the multilingual international service portal

Events

Shanghai Summer 2024 promises a rich tapestry of events spanning from the first weekend of July to the second weekend of October. The lineup includes seven major international events:

- *On Top of the Pyramid: The Civilization of Ancient Egypt* exhibition
- The First Shanghai International Cruise Festival
- The City Walk Pro: Experience Shanghai Now event
- Shanghai Tourism Festival
- The First Shanghai International Light Festival
- The First Shanghai International Electronic Music Festival
- ATP 1,000 Shanghai Masters

BY ZHENG ZHENG

International Services Shanghai with three dedicated social media accounts. These platforms serve as comprehensive information hubs, offering insights on business opportunities, tourism highlights, work and study prospects and consumer information, Jing explains.

A multilingual *Guide to Shanghai for Expats* has been published, providing essential information on various aspects of city life. Additionally, a one-stop comprehensive service center at Pudong International Airport Terminal 2 offers services related to payments, culture, tourism, communication and transportation, ensuring that visitors' needs are met from the moment they arrive.

Merridy Smits, who arrived at the Pudong airport on June 29 with her daughter, praised the services as "excellent".

"It's a great service to have when you arrive, especially when you have never been here," says the Australian.

Arturo Achard from Mexico also made his first trip to Shanghai on the same day and exchanged money at the service center. "I like it that the city have different services in the same center."

Jing adds: "We've developed practical solutions to address the most common challenges foreigners might face in Shanghai."

From streamlining payment processes and simplifying bank account opening procedures to enhancing transportation services and easing Customs declaration, Shanghai is committed to making every aspect of life in the city more accessible to international travelers.

Xia Miao and Li Junfeng contributed to this story.

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Art center gets ready for galaxy of classical stars to shine

By ZHANG KUN
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From renowned pianists Martha Argerich and Krystian Zimerman to Grammy award-winning jazz musician Herbie Hancock and Russian conductor Valery Gergiev, the Shanghai Oriental Art Center announced a star-studded autumn/winter season for 2024-25 last week.

The theater released a series of 92 shows for 52 productions on July 5 for the upcoming season, which will run from September to January 2025.

About 70 percent of the productions will come from overseas, according to Lei Wen, general manager of the Shanghai theater.

World-celebrated classical pianist Argerich from Argentina will present two concerts at the Shanghai center on Nov 4 and 5 with violinist Gil Shaham, cellist Mischa Maisky and young pianist Theodora Ntokou.

Known among music lovers as "the reigning high priestess of the piano", Argerich turned 83 this year. When she held her debut concert at Shanghai Symphony Hall in 2019, tickets sold out immediately and music lovers feared it would be her last appearance in Shanghai.

The announcement of her upcoming concerts aroused excitement among audiences and journal-



The Vienna Philharmonic presents the 2022 New Year concert at the Golden Hall of the Musikverein in Vienna. Among the Shanghai Oriental Art Center's series of shows for the upcoming season, the orchestra will perform two concerts on Oct 30 and 31. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

ists at the news conference, who raised their mobile phones to take photos.

One of the most recognized halls for symphony concerts in Shanghai, the SHOAC will receive a series of globally recognized orchestras in the new season. The London Symphony Orchestra will be the first to visit, led by its new chief conductor Antonio Pappano, and joined by Chinese pianist Yuja Wang to present three concerts from Oct 8 to 10.

On Oct 20, Russian conductor Valery Gergiev and the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra will make their fourth visit to the center, presenting compositions by Mussorgsky, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky.

The esteemed Vienna Philharmonic, led by conductor Andris Nelsons alongside solo pianist Yefim Bronfman, will perform at the center on Oct 30 and 31. In 2016, the Austrian music company signed a partnership with the Shanghai center,

promising to hold concerts there annually from 2017. The company managed to perform in Shanghai three years in a row from 2017 to 2019 but was interrupted by the pandemic.

The return of the Vienna Philharmonic after five years "could lead to further collaboration and more concerts in Shanghai", Lei tells China Daily.

Teodor Currentzis, a rising star in the classical music scene, made his

debut in China last year and the Greek conductor will return to Shanghai on Nov 20 and 21 with his MusicAeterna Orchestra playing the works of Wagner, Mahler, Brahms and Shostakovich.

The Sao Paulo Symphony Orchestra will play under the baton of Thierry Fischer, violinist Guido Sant'Anna and Chinese soprano Huang Ying at a concert to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sino-Brazilian diplomatic ties.

Looking forward to her performance of *Bachianas Brasileiras No 5* at the concert, Huang says: "This will be the first time I sing this piece with an authentic Brazilian orchestra."

"Many years ago, I performed the piece with the 12 Cellists Ensemble of the Berliner Philharmoniker. I was very touched by the beauty of the music and I am confident I will interpret it well and pass on its beauty," Huang says.