



# 2024 FOCAC SUMMIT

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# CHINA DAILY

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President Xi Jinping (left) and his wife, Peng Liyuan (right), host a banquet on Wednesday to welcome international guests who are in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.  
WANG ZHUANGFEI / CHINA DAILY

## A WARM WELCOME, AN ENDURING BOND

Xi praises FOCAC as vital platform, says China, Africa can accomplish new feats

By XU WEI  
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President Xi Jinping hosted African leaders at a banquet in Beijing on Wednesday, reaffirming his belief that the people of China and Africa, united by shared goals, can accomplish new and even greater feats in their paths toward modernization.

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, welcomed foreign leaders attending the 2024 Summit of the Forum

on China-Africa Cooperation and their spouses at the Great Hall of the People.

In a toast to the dignitaries, the Chinese president emphasized the enduring bond between China and Africa — a relationship that he characterized as “rooted in traditional

friendship” and bolstered by mutual struggles against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.

Recalling his 10 visits to Africa and numerous meetings with African leaders, Xi spoke of a deep connection with the continent. “All our meetings have been cordial and heartwarming. They have reinforced my belief that the China-Africa community with a shared future is built on a strong foundation, has been blessed with a good start, and enjoys broad prospects.”

The China-Africa community with a shared future thrives on the strength of win-win cooperation, he added.

Xi praised FOCAC, now in its 24th year, as a vital platform that has transformed the lives of millions through projects across the continent.

“Through this key cooperation platform, we have together built roads, railways, schools, hospitals, industrial parks and special economic zones,” he said.

Meanwhile, the China-Africa

community with a shared future has grown in step with the times.

He pointed to the success of the nine programs agreed upon at the Eighth FOCAC Ministerial Conference in Dakar, Senegal, in 2021, which included initiatives on matters ranging from poverty alleviation and health to trade.

“We pulled together in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. We maintained close cooperation and coordination on major international and regional issues. Together we have made the voice of the Global South stronger.”

“We human beings have been

dreaming of a community with a shared future, and modernization is what it takes to turn our dream into reality,” Xi told the dignitaries.

China and Africa have been, and remain, pioneers in building this community, and we will stay at the forefront in pursuing modernization, he said.

Xi emphasized that as long as the more than 2.8 billion Chinese and African people are united toward shared goals, they will definitely spearhead the modernization drive of the Global South, and make greater contributions to a community with a shared future for mankind.

## Consul General Huang Ping visits US veteran

By LIA ZHU in San Francisco  
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On a day of historical significance, Chinese Consul General in New York Huang Ping made a special visit to Malvern, Pennsylvania, to honor Jack Goodrich, a centenarian Flying Tigers veteran.

The visit, which took place on Tuesday, coincided with the 79th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and the global war against fascism.

Goodrich, one of the few

remaining “Hump Pilots” who flew treacherous routes over the Himalayas during World War II to aid Chinese war efforts, warmly welcomed Huang in his home. Goodrich received two medals from the Chinese government for the 60th and 70th anniversaries of China's victory against Japanese aggression.

Huang highlighted the positive developments in US-China relations following the summit between the two countries' top leaders in San Francisco last

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Chinese Consul General in New York Huang Ping (center) visits Flying Tigers veteran Jack Goodrich in Malvern, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday. YI FAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Shared prosperity key to ties with Senegal

By ZHANG YUNBI  
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“Modernization” and “sharing governance experience” stood out among the key words and phrases used during the talks between President Xi Jinping and visiting Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye on Wednesday in Beijing.

China is willing to work with Senegal to realize their respective modernization and help advance Senegal's industrialization and agricultural modernization, Xi said.

China will continue to send technical experts in agriculture to Senegal, support the country in building industrial parks, and expand cooperation in emerging fields such as new energy, he added.

Faye, who is on his first state visit to China, is attending the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation that started in Beijing on Wednesday and runs through Friday.

Observers said the visit fully reflects the great importance the new Senegalese administration attaches to developing its relations with China.

China is currently Senegal's largest trading partner. Last year, the two-way trade volume reached \$5.57 billion, a year-on-year increase of 32.9 percent, according to the Foreign Ministry.

After their talks, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of bilater-

al cooperation documents covering areas such as the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, investment and economic cooperation, information and communication technology, human resources and green development.

The two countries also issued a joint statement on deepening their comprehensive strategic partnership, which was established in 2016, and building a high-level China-Senegal community with a shared future.

Senegal was the first West African country to join the Belt and Road Initiative, and bilateral cooperation has seen major highlights in areas such as trade, investment, agriculture and infrastructure construction.

As part of the most recent top-level interaction, Xi sent a message to Faye in March, congratulating him on his election as Senegal's president.

Senegal looks to strengthen exchanges of governance experience with China, Senegalese Foreign Minister Yassine Fall told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday.

In a recent signed article, Chinese Ambassador to Senegal Xiao Han said that after the new Senegalese administration took office, “China-Senegal relations have realized a smooth transition, and bilateral cooperation in various areas have been enriched.”

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## Continent can now reclaim its rightful place

The 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation is being held in Beijing. Themed “Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future”, the summit provides a policy platform for leaders from the two civilizations to promote exchanges on the status quo and prospects of China-Africa cooperation.

Since its inception in 2000, FOCAC has grown to become the greatest shared human value of promoting sustainable development. It has redefined the concepts of development and modernization while connecting

### WORLD WATCH

By Dennis Munene

and transforming the continent of Africa and China. Once described as the dark and hopeless continent by Western-led partners, Africa after 24 years of FOCAC can now reclaim its rightful position as a rising continent.

Anchored on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, FOCAC has greatly bolstered the economic development of the continent, attracting foreign investment, promoting local employment, freeing people from

poverty, and gradually moving populations toward a prosperous and well-off life.

FOCAC has also paved the way for other shared human values in Africa such as the adoption and implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Outlook on Peace and Development in the Horn of Africa and the Global Civilization Initiative. These transformative initiatives have played a huge role in revolutionizing Africa's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

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# 2024 FOCAC SUMMIT

XI'S VISION | CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION

## Initiatives, actions boost common prosperity for all

China-Africa ties in business, world affairs bear fruit

By ZHANG YUNBI  
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Comments from visiting African leaders and senior officials serve as the latest reminders of how China's lasting, ever-evolving philosophy, visions and actions, as promoted by President Xi Jinping, have led to a gearing up of common development and profound amity with the African continent.

Thierry Lezin Mougalla, the Republic of Congo's minister of communication and media and a government spokesman, expressed his great respect for Xi for the visions that he has put forward, including the landmark Belt and Road Initiative.

Xi has "turned such visions into reality" by earnestly participating in high-level meetings with African leaders and strengthening communication mechanisms, Mougalla said at a forum in Beijing last month.

In 2018, China and the Republic of Congo signed a memorandum of understanding on jointly building the Belt and Road. In 2022, trade between the two countries reached \$6.57 billion, up 22 percent year-on-year.

"The greatness of a country is not only determined by the size of its geographical area, but also by the competence and caliber of its leadership, the leadership's vision for its people and for the future, as well as their ability to offer the best of their country to the rest of the world," the minister said.

Leaders and delegations from Africa are in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which is being held from Wednesday to Friday.

Officials and scholars from both sides said that Xi highly values ties with Africa, as reflected by the fact that he visited Africa on his first trip abroad after he became president in 2013.

During a state visit to Tanzania at the time, Xi outlined the principles guiding China's Africa policy — sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith.

He has also pointed out on many occasions that China and Africa have always been a community with a shared future.

Vice-Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong said at a recent media briefing that Xi summarized and refined the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, and he "mapped out the future development of China-Africa relations in the new era in person".

As navigated by head-of-state diplomacy, the construction of the China-Africa community with a shared future "keeps a leading position among efforts in building a community with a shared future for mankind", Chen added.

China-Africa pragmatic cooperation has produced fruitful results, according to Foreign Minister Wang Yi, as the two sides' trade volume increased from \$10.5 billion in 2000 to \$282.1 billion in 2023, a nearly 27-fold increase.

Currently, 52 African countries and the African Union Commission have signed Belt and Road cooperation documents with China.

In addition, Africa became the first continent as an entirety to welcome and support the Xi-proposed Global Development Initiative, and "33 countries have now joined the Group of Friends of the GDI", Wang said in a recent signed article.

China has been Africa's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years.

"China and Africa are vigorously promoting the transformation and upgrading of their practical cooperation, moving (their focus) from trade in commodities to cooperation in the production and supply chain," Wang noted.

Cooperation in new industries and new forms of business like the digital economy, green development and the blue, or ocean, economy is even booming, which has brought huge opportunities, he added.

Wang Yiwei, a professor at Renmin University of China's School of International Studies and director of the university's Institute of International Affairs, said that China and Africa naturally have a shared future, because China is the largest developing country, while Africa houses the largest number of developing countries among all the continents.

"The two sides have supported each other in the international arena and have forged a profound friendship," he said.

He noted that China's foreign ministers have developed a fine tradition since 1991 by visiting Africa each year for 34 consecutive years to kick off the new year.

Observers voiced their hopes on China's further pooling of efforts and resources to build on the solidarity and prosperity among the vast number of Global South countries.

Siddharth Chatterjee, the United Nations' development system resident coordinator in China, said the discussions at the FOCAC Summit "will set the agenda for China-Africa cooperation in the coming years".

"Increasing investment in Africa is essential for tackling the global challenges we face. It is only through collective efforts that we can achieve the goals outlined in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensure that no one is left behind," Chatterjee said.

Increased partnerships between Chinese and African businesses will "not only accelerate growth, but also increase employment opportunities, strengthen local industries and enhance access to essential goods and services", he said.

In the international multilateral context, China and Africa have joined hands in defending multilateralism and opposing unilateralism, hegemony and protectionism, analysts said.

With the joint efforts of China and Africa, the African Union has officially become a member of the Group of 20, and Egypt and Ethiopia have joined the BRICS grouping.

"China was also among the first countries to state clearly its support for the AU's joining the Group of 20," said Wang, the Renmin University professor.

Furthermore, Beijing firmly supports African countries and the AU playing a greater role in international and regional affairs, and it supports special arrangements for prioritizing Africa's demands regarding the UN Security Council's reform, he added.

## First ladies meet



Peng Liyuan, wife of President Xi Jinping, shares a chat over tea with Marie Khone Faye, wife of visiting Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye, on Wednesday at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. WANG JING / CHINA DAILY

## Academicians inspired by reply letter from Xi

By MO JINGXI and LUAN RUIYING

Ehizuelen Michael Mitchell Omoruyi, a Nigerian scholar working in China, said he felt "valued, appreciated, seen and accepted" when he read a reply letter from President Xi Jinping, in which the Chinese leader recognized the efforts of African scholars in fostering understanding between China and Africa.

"It is a public reward for all the hard work we have been doing," said Omoruyi, the executive director of the Center for Nigerian Studies at Zhejiang Normal University's Institute of African Studies.

Omoruyi is one of a group of scholars from 50 African countries who jointly sent a letter to Xi ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, calling for greater collaboration between Africa and China in various fields of academics and research.

"Our decision to (write the letter) was because we believe that the prospects of African and Chinese cooperation are both bright and promising," he said.

In his reply, Xi said, "I would like to express my appreciation for your commitment to studies on China and China-Africa relations and the platform you have provided for Africans to know more about China's history, culture and endeavors in the new era."

Gert Grobler, a former South African diplomat and honorary professor at Zhejiang Normal University's Institute of African Studies, said the Chinese leader's letter serves as a significant inspiration for the scholars to continue building bridges of understanding between the two sides.

"President Xi's esteemed support motivates us to further step up our rigorous research and strive for excellence in our contributions to China-Africa relations," he said.

Grobler said it is the shared belief of African scholars that the FOCAC Summit in Beijing represents a crucial opportunity to chart the course for continued cooperation and envision a brighter future for China-Africa relations.

Paul Frimpong, executive director of the Africa-China Center for Policy and Advisory, a think tank based in Ghana, said that thanks to a series of initiatives proposed by China, academic exchanges on China-Africa relations are improving.

"China-Africa academic exchanges have yielded fruitful results," Frimpong told Xinhua News Agency. "Many African scholars like me can access various platforms to do field research and exchange academic ideas with African and Chinese counterparts, enabling the two sides to deepen our mutual understanding and foster better policies to boost bilateral cooperation."

Grobler said an important contributor leading to their idea of approaching Xi was the constructive China-Africa Think Tanks Forum, an important FOCAC sub-forum, that reached a consensus at its 13th meeting, held in the Tanzanian port city of Dar es Salaam in March.

The Dar es Salaam Consensus sent out a collective call of the Global South to deepen development cooperation based on the principles of mutual respect, solidarity, win-win cooperation, openness and common prosperity.

"This commendable document represents a significant and admirable strategic initiative by Chinese and African scholars to deepen exchanges and mutual learning," Grobler said.

Omoruyi, the Nigerian scholar, said it is important that the research of scholars and institutions focuses on issues such as climate change adaptation and equitable access to technology.

"This will shape various discourses that advance the interests of the Global South and ultimately lead to a more responsive approach to policy development and research geared toward addressing the needs and challenges of Chinese and African peoples," he said.

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## Relations: Partnership with Senegal emphasized

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Before arriving in Beijing, Faye said the Chinese path to modernization, which is based on strong innovation, advanced industrialization and efficient resource management, has lifted hundreds of millions of Chinese people out of poverty — an achievement that has attracted global attention.

"China is an inspiration to many developing countries, including Senegal," he told China Central Television.

When meeting with Xi on Wednesday, Faye expressed his gratitude for China's great hospitality, which he said offered him an opportunity to appreciate the beauty and friendliness of the country.

Senegal and China have worked together to carry out many successful projects that have strengthened Senegal's economic development and improved its people's livelihoods, Faye said, adding that his country is willing to enhance cooperation in areas such as agriculture, industry, digitalization, vocational training and youth.

Xi emphasized that China and Senegal "are friends and partners on the road to national development and revitalization", and that China is willing to strengthen the synergy between the two countries' development vision and seek common development.

China is also ready to step up exchanges with Senegal in terms of governance experi-

ence, Xi said, adding that the two nations will continue to support each other on issues involving their core interests and major concerns.

Senegal, together with China, has been co-chairing FOCAC since 2018. The two countries are co-hosting this year's FOCAC summit in Beijing.

As the fourth African co-chair of FOCAC, Senegal has made important contributions to China-Africa solidarity and cooperation over the past six years, Xi said.

China is ready to work with Senegal to make the summit a complete success, jointly promote the modernization of China and Africa, and start a new journey in China-Africa relations, he added.

## Projects: Infrastructure promoting regional integration in continent

From page 1

Today, Africa has benefited by having more than 100,000 kilometers of roads, 10,000 kilometers of railroad, 1,000 bridges and approximately 100 ports completed under BRI and FOCAC. These projects have enabled Africa to become a fulcrum and frontier of development.

Similarly, the already completed infrastructure projects have promoted regional integration. For example, the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway has connected Ethiopia, a landlocked country, to the maritime trade routes of the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. The Kenyan Standard Gauge Railway, which is anchored on the East African Railway Master Plan, once completed will rejuvenate the railways connecting Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and beyond. Goods and services will be easily transported from one country to another in a safer, faster and more cost-efficient way. This spurs the true concept of Pan-Africanism where Africa not only shares a common

history, but a common destiny.

FOCAC has also provided the most affordable capital development assistance to the continent and essentially accelerated the continent's recovery from centuries of slavery, colonialism, and neo-colonial domination. More than \$200 million has been given either as concessional loans and preferential export buyer's credit to African countries. This triggered a new global focus on Africa, normally referred to as the new scramble for Africa. This funding from FOCAC has also re-engineered the inequalities of the colonial projects and now Africa is experiencing sustainable development.

FOCAC has also helped to reduce the trade imbalance that African countries have been complaining about for decades by ensuring the continent moves away from extractive exports to industrialized goods. The efforts made toward industrial goods tend to promote African industrialization and the advancement of its manufacturing sector, which will automatically lead to more employment opportunities for the continent.

Thus, as African and Chinese leaders in

Beijing meet to assess the effect of the agreed nine programs of Africa-China cooperation, including poverty reduction, trade and investment promotion, digital innovation and green development program from the last Ministerial Conference of FOCAC, they must all guard the gains made from the anti-globalization trends.

The focus of the 2024 FOCAC Summit is more on boosting the green silk road, health silk road, and a digital silk road.

The green silk road will help Africa utilize its rich green energy resources such as solar, hydro, geothermal and wind power to combat the effects of climate change in the continent.

The health silk road is key as Africa's health system during the COVID pandemic proved to be the weakest link in the continent's growth and development. This will also help African countries curb the spread of Mpx.

Lastly, the digital silk road will help Africa tap into the global markets linking the Africa Continental Free Trade Area with other free trade areas such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. This will help spur its economic growth in the post-COVID era.

The author is the Executive Director of the China-Africa Center at the Africa Policy Institute. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

## Sky is the limit



An African reporter flies a self-made traditional Chinese kite at the media center for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing on Tuesday. LI HE / XINHUA



## 2024 FOCAC SUMMIT

## LEADERS HAIL CHINA-AFRICA CONNECTIONS

**Editor's note:** President Xi Jinping continued his busy schedule on Wednesday as he held a series of bilateral meetings with foreign leaders who are in Beijing to attend the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

## Cooperation to deepen with Sierra Leone

China is willing to work with Sierra Leone to enhance synergistic development strategies and deepen cooperation in the areas of agriculture, infrastructure, resources and energy, President Xi Jinping said during his meeting with Sierra Leonean President Julius Maada Bio in Beijing.

Xi pledged to implement economic and livelihood projects to continuously improve people's well-being.

He called on the two countries to continue to firmly stand together on matters concerning each other's core interests and major concerns.

China is ready to strengthen coordination and cooperation with Sierra Leone under the United Nations and other multilateral frameworks, and promote unity and cooperation among countries in the Global South, Xi said. He added that China would like to work with Sierra Leone to advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and economic globalization that benefits all, and jointly safeguard the interests of developing countries in Africa and elsewhere.

Bio expressed his appreciation for Chinese economic development assistance, saying he hopes to further advance bilateral cooperation in agriculture, security and other fields. Sierra Leone highly appreciates the global initiatives proposed by Xi, which have made important contributions to promoting world peace and development, Bio said.

He thanked China for supporting Sierra Leone in fulfilling its duties as the rotating president of the UN Security Council last month, and expressed a willingness to strengthen international multilateral coordination with China.



Julius Maada Bio

ZHOU JIN

## Equatorial Guinea looks to expand collaboration

President Xi Jinping met with Equatorial Guinean President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo on Wednesday, vowing to open up new prospects in the comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation between the two countries.

Xi said China and Equatorial Guinea are good friends enjoying a high level of political mutual trust, comprehensive pragmatic cooperation and profound people-to-people friendship.

In recent years, the two countries have advanced cooperation in various fields and collaborated closely with each other on international affairs, Xi said.

He said China hopes to work with Equatorial Guinea to consolidate mutual support, expand pragmatic cooperation and deepen cooperation in defense and security.

China is willing to assist the African country in diversifying its economy, so that the two countries will make progress together in their efforts toward modernization, Xi said.

China hopes to collaborate closely with Equatorial Guinea to ensure the success of the summit, Xi said.

Obiang said he immediately felt the sincere and friendly sentiments of the Chinese people toward the people of Equatorial Guinea and Africa upon his arrival in Beijing.

He said the theme of the summit is in line with African countries' aspirations for modernization, and he believes the summit will be a success.

Cooperation between Equatorial Guinea and China has yielded rich outcomes, Obiang said, adding that investment from Chinese companies has helped the African country take on a new look.



Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo

WANG QINGYUN

## Tanzania to strengthen governance exchanges

President Xi Jinping met with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan in Beijing on Wednesday, calling on China and Tanzania to carry on their traditional friendship.

Noting that this year marks the 60th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations, Xi said China hopes to work with Tanzania to advance and deepen their comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

The two countries should strengthen exchanges of their governance experience, enhance political and strategic mutual trust and deepen pragmatic cooperation that is mutually beneficial, he said.

China hopes to take the 2024 FOCAC Summit as an opportunity to promote the revitalization of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority railway, Xi said. It also hopes to engage in cooperation to improve the rail-sea intermodal transportation network in East Africa and make Tanzania an exemplar of deepened high-quality Belt and Road Initiative cooperation between China and Africa, Xi said.

Hassan said she was deeply impressed by her trip to China in 2022 and is pleased to visit China again. China has always implemented the outcomes of FOCAC summits in an active manner, Hassan said, adding that cooperation in that regard plays an important role in promoting African countries' socioeconomic development. China is a trustworthy and indispensable cooperative partner for Tanzania, Hassan said, adding that her country will actively promote BRI cooperation with China.

Wang Huning, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, also met with Hassan on Wednesday.



Samia Suluhu Hassan

WANG QINGYUN

## China, Zambia to build on friendly relationship

President Xi Jinping called on China and Zambia to work together to advance their respective modernization and usher in a new chapter of friendly China-Zambia relations, as he met visiting Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema in Beijing on Wednesday.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Xi highlighted the elevation of China-Zambia relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership last year. He said that mutual trust between the two countries has continued to deepen, and fruitful results have been achieved in mutually beneficial cooperation over the past year. He said China and Zambia need to continue to enhance exchanges at all levels, strengthen mutual learning, expand practical cooperation and bolster international collaboration.

Noting the summit comes at an opportune time, Hichilema said Africa admires the great achievements made by China, and hopes to learn from its successful experiences to bring more benefits to the African people.

He said he was pleased to witness with Xi a commitment to revitalize the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority railway to continue the friendship built by previous generations of leaders of both countries and create a new channel for connectivity between Africa and China.

While pledging the country's firm commitment to the one-China principle, Hichilema said Zambia is willing to deepen all-around cooperation with China and welcome more Chinese companies to invest.

Zambia appreciates China's constructive role in promoting global peace and stability, and is ready to closely cooperate with China in multilateral affairs, he added.



Hakainde Hichilema

ZHAO JIA

## Mozambique sees bright future as trust grows

China and Mozambique should act as good brothers trusting and supporting each other, good partners promoting mutually beneficial cooperation and shared development, and good friends standing together for mutual assistance and coordination, President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday.

Xi made the remarks during the meeting with visiting Mozambican President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi in Beijing. He highlighted the deepened mutual political trust and fruitful cooperation between the two countries in recent years, saying bilateral ties have ushered in a new and promising future.

China is willing to work with Mozambique to expand cooperation in infrastructure, energy and minerals, agriculture, the digital economy and other fields to support its industrialization and economic diversification, Xi said.

Nyusi reaffirmed his country's commitment to the one-China principle, and said that Mozambique supports China's positions on its core interests, such as the Taiwan question and the South China Sea, supports China's "one country, two systems" policy and opposes groundless accusations against China on issues like human rights.

He expressed the hope that the two countries will deepen cooperation in trade, agriculture, infrastructure connectivity, security and other areas.

Mozambique highly appreciates the global initiatives Xi has proposed and his major proposals for improving global governance, and is willing to enhance mutual support with China on multilateral issues to promote the establishment of a fairer and more rational international order, he added.

Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, also met with Nyusi on Wednesday.



Filipe Jacinto Nyusi

CAO DESHENG

## Libya agrees to form strategic partnership

President Xi Jinping and the Chairman of the Libyan Presidential Council Mohammad Al-Manfi jointly announced the establishment of a strategic partnership between China and Libya on Wednesday as part of the countries' efforts to strengthen ties.

They made the announcement during their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Xi pointed out that China and Libya have enjoyed a long-standing traditional friendship. Over the 46 years since they established diplomatic relations, the two countries have always supported and treated each other sincerely, he said.

No matter how the international landscape evolves, China remains unchanged in its support for Libya's stable development and the promotion of friendly cooperation with it, he said.

Xi expressed China's willingness to deepen mutual political trust with Libya and expand exchanges and cooperation to promote the long-term and steady development of bilateral ties.

China supports Libya in rebuilding its economy and improving people's livelihoods, Xi said. He expressed the hope that Libya will create a sound business environment for Chinese enterprises.

Al-Manfi said that China is very important to Libya in terms of peace and economic development.

He said that Libya is willing to strengthen economic, trade and investment cooperation with China within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

Libya firmly upholds the one-China principle, he added, and will not change that position under any circumstances.



Mohammad Al-Manfi

CAO DESHENG

## 50-year China-Gabon friendship a 'role model'

China and Gabon should draw strength from their traditional friendship and firmly support each other, President Xi Jinping said in a meeting with Gabonese President Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema on Wednesday.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Gabon.

Xi noted that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries "have developed into a role model for China's relations with African nations and the vast number of developing countries".

China is willing to work with Gabon to build on their traditional friendship, seize the opportunities of the times and continue to create a brighter future for the two countries' comprehensive strategic partnership, Xi said.

Jointly implemented projects such as power grid upgrades and the construction of vocational education centers have been welcomed by the Gabonese people, Xi noted.

China is willing to deepen bilateral cooperation in areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare and the digital economy to help Gabon diversify and transform its economy, he said.

Nguema thanked Xi for inviting him to China to attend the 2024 FOCAC Summit and for the meeting with him.

Xi's actions fully reflected the friendship between the two peoples and the strong relations between the two countries, he said.

The two countries enjoy close ties in various fields, and China is Gabon's most important partner, contributing to Gabon's national development in many ways, he said. Nguema said he appreciated the support given by China to Gabon's political transition process, and said Gabon steadfastly upholds the one-China policy.



Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema

ZHANG YUNBI

## Ties with Cameroon elevated to new level

China pledged on Wednesday to advance cooperation with Cameroon in fields such as infrastructure, industrial development, connectivity, agriculture and healthcare to assist the African country's efforts in developing a diversified economy.

The commitment was made when President Xi Jinping met with visiting Cameroonian President Paul Biya in Beijing. The two heads of state also announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

Xi said Biya's attendance at all the FOCAC summits held in Beijing showed the African leader's high regard for developing China-Africa cooperation as well as his profound friendship with China.

China is willing to work together with Cameroon for more substantive cooperation and bring the two countries' relationship to a higher level, he said. Xi also said China appreciates Cameroon's active participation in multilateral affairs and is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with Cameroon to jointly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries.

Biya, who is making his eighth visit to China, said bilateral ties have maintained positive momentum over the years, and many Chinese-invested projects in Cameroon have greatly boosted his country's economic development. Cameroon welcomes more Chinese investment to help the country transform its advantages such as mineral resources into the driving force of development, he said.

Biya also said his country firmly adheres to the one-China principle, appreciates and supports the series of global initiatives proposed by Xi, and will strengthen multilateral coordination with China for world peace and international justice.



Paul Biya

MO JINGXI

## President ready to work more with Ethiopia

President Xi Jinping expressed China's readiness to expand pragmatic cooperation with Ethiopia on Wednesday, saying the nation supports it in leveraging its strengths as a regional transportation hub to build a rail-sea intermodal transportation network in East Africa and a demonstration area for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Xi made the remarks during a meeting with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

He said China-Ethiopia relations have become a good example of friendship and cooperation between China and Africa, with a strong foundation of political mutual trust and the continuous advancement of high-standard cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

China is willing to deepen unity and cooperation with Ethiopia and further advance their all-weather strategic partnership in order to make greater contributions to promoting China-Africa friendship, Xi said.

Xi emphasized the unwavering support between China and Ethiopia in defending their core interests and jointly opposing external interference, and said that the two countries have forged an unbreakable friendship.

Abiy lauded China's policies toward Ethiopia as embodying equality and mutual respect, saying the two countries' relations are based on mutual benefit.

He acknowledged the significant contributions of Chinese investments and cooperation to his country's economic and social progress, and said that Ethiopia remains committed to firm mutual support with China.

Ethiopia looks forward to deepening cooperation with China in various fields, such as trade, infrastructure, industry, land-sea intermodal transportation and security, he said, adding it is ready to closely collaborate with China in international multilateral affairs.



Abiy Ahmed

CAO DESHENG



# 2024 FOCAC SUMMIT

Zhu Feng

## Green shoots, deep roots of a shared future

The ongoing 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation promises to be a milestone in the development of China-Africa relations. Following the historic summits in Beijing (2006 and 2018), Johannesburg (2015), and Dakar (2021), Chinese and African leaders have once again gathered in Beijing to explore new ways of strengthening Sino-African ties and fortifying the Global South amid the fast-changing international landscape, and increasing challenges and uncertainties.

The summit, the largest diplomatic event in China this year, has garnered global attention, with many expecting it to offer constructive answers to the pressing questions of how to maintain global peace and promote development, and boost China-Africa cooperation.

As the world's largest developing country and the continent with the highest number of developing countries, China and Africa have always prioritized cooperation and partnership. That Xi Jinping chose Africa as his first overseas visit after being elected as president of China in March 2013 shows the great importance China attaches to Sino-African relations. During that visit, President Xi declared in Tanzania that China and Africa are like a community with a shared future.

Since then, China has deepened cooperation with African countries across multiple sectors with fruitful results, with the two sides working together to build a China-Africa community with a shared future. But given the turbulence and rapid changes, characterized by great power competition and economic instability, the world is experiencing, people across the world desire peace and development more than ever before.

However, the changes in the global political and economic landscape present both risks and opportunities. As such, optimizing the structure and model of China-Africa development cooperation is crucial for further strengthening Sino-African friendship and deepening cooperation within the Global South, as well as creating a favorable external environment for China to realize its goal of becoming a modern socialist country.



JIN DING / CHINA DAILY

African countries have expressed their interest in learning from China's development experience. While African countries seek to expand their development cooperation with China, they also expect China to further refine its policy toward Africa. Their evolving demands are distinct, emphasizing the need for industrial upgrading, regional economic integration, sustainable development and deeper collaboration in nurturing talents.

In recent years, African countries have been working to boost regional economic integration based on the ambitious blueprint outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063. Regional integration will improve the overall business environment in Africa, and attract more Chinese investments, thus boosting the continent's economic development.

One of the key goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which went into operation in 2021, is to build a comprehensive regional value chain. Also, African countries are eager to strengthen collaboration with China to advance economic integration, especially in areas such as transport infrastructure and digital connectivity,

to clear the bottlenecks hindering regional trade.

Moreover, environmental protection has become a central issue on Africa's sustainable development agenda. African countries are keen to learn from China's experience in ecological governance and deepen cooperation in this area. This means China and Africa are likely to focus on environmentally-friendly and resource-efficient projects, such as green energy initiatives and water resource management. Increased investment in renewable energy, including in solar, wind, and hydropower, will reduce Africa's environmental pressure, helping it to achieve the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

China has mutually beneficial partnerships with African countries. From supporting Africa's anti-imperialist and anti-colonial struggles to helping build a China-Africa community with a shared future, China has engaged with African countries across different fields over the past seven decades, and helped the African countries meet their needs by deepening multi-layered, unconditional development cooperation through different platforms.

But since African countries vary significantly in terms of their political and social governance capabilities, development levels, and capacity for green transition, with some not having the resources to combat climate change, China should adopt different approaches to engage with different

African countries while making sincere efforts to foster collective development.

The key to Africa achieving self-reliance in different fields lies in generating internal growth momentum. Keeping this in mind, China has always exercised caution when considering Africa's financial needs, focusing on the efficiency and effectiveness of investments.

Meanwhile, the Belt and Road Initiative has encouraged Chinese "green" enterprises to invest and expand their businesses in Africa, and share green transition technologies with the African countries, and deepen cooperation in renewable energy and related industries. China has also been promoting "small and beautiful" projects in Africa in fields such as agriculture and healthcare.

Committed to peaceful development and reform, China will continue to help maintain global peace and uphold international justice, while contributing to the global modernization process, particularly the revitalization of the Global South. In this regard, the ongoing FOCAC Summit is expected to consolidate the traditional Sino-African friendship and cooperation, and boost the development of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future and safeguard the common interests of the Global South.

*The author is executive dean and a professor with the School of International Relations at Nanjing University. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.*

Charles Onunaiju

## FOCAC Summit to bring the next frontier closer

The ongoing 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation is expected to elevate Sino-African engagement and cooperation to a higher level, as it is likely to suggest ways to overcome the challenges facing the world and outline the measures needed to consolidate the gains already made by the two sides.

The third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, held in July, resolved to comprehensively deepen reform and promote high-level opening-up, thereby creating new opportunities for Africa and the rest of the world to share the fruits of China's development.

The robust cooperation between China and Africa, especially after the first China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo was held in Hunan province in 2018, has provided African countries greater access to the Chinese market. Trade between the two sides in 2023 reached \$282.1 billion, up 11 percent year-on-year, and Chinese investment in Africa has increased to \$40 billion.

Apart from trade and investment, the summit will also give the African leaders an opportunity to discuss with their Chinese counterparts ways to eradicate poverty, because China achieved the monumental task of eradicating extreme poverty in 2020.

As expected, African countries are upbeat about their engagement with Chinese leaders during the summit in Beijing. Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, while receiving Chinese vice-foreign minister in Nigeria recently, said that he commends what China is doing in Africa as China helps with capital mobilization for projects that positively impact the lives and livelihoods of our people in Africa.

As a veritable mechanism for Africa-China engagement, the FOCAC has been credited with both being a platform for dialogue and consultation, as well as for enabling practical and tangible outcomes for African countries.

From infrastructure construction, trade and investment to vigorous cultural and educational exchanges, the FOCAC has helped meet the needs of African countries, and ameliorate the historical infrastructure and connectivity deficits on the continent. The second and third FOCAC summits held in Johannesburg and Beijing in 2015 and 2018, respectively, were game-changers for China-Africa cooperation. The two summits outlined critical and targeted areas of cooperation, including infrastructure construction, industrialization, agricultural modernization, healthcare, capacity building, and cultural and educational exchanges, and have contributed immensely to the economic recoveries of African countries, and promoted regional trade under the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The FOCAC mechanism has become Africa's most impactful platform for global cooperation through extensive consultations and widening engagements, while consolidating China-Africa cooperation and advancing the construction of a Sino-African community with a shared future.

From Beijing, Africa is likely to get practical inputs, along with promises of more investments, increasing trade and infrastructure construction, which will not only cushion the side effects of economic reform across the continent, but also provide critical support that makes tough economic reform a worthwhile endeavor both in the short and long terms.

Thanks to reform and opening-up, China has performed an economic miracle, becoming the second-largest economy in the world, eradicating extreme poverty and building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. China's economic journey has been fascinating and its development model perhaps the most successful. But by blindly copying China's development model, African countries cannot achieve much, because the ground realities and the economic and political systems of China and African countries are very different.

Africa-China cooperation has come a long way, but at this historical inflection point, where China needs to strengthen South-South cooperation as a bulwark against the US-led West's China-containment policy, Africa and China need to recalibrate their cooperation mechanisms to ensure they go beyond the normal exchanges.

The challenges created by the increasing global uncertainties mean traditional partners such as Africa and China have to be creative, for they need to not only sustain the momentum of their relationship but also inject a new vitality into their partnership, which can turn the existing opportunities into concrete and tangible outcomes.

The FOCAC summits and other meetings have outlined cooperation issues and accompanying funding support, while African countries have to rise above the summit's glitz to devise a road map for following up the decisions made at the summit. The situation across Africa is too dire for African leaders and officials to be contented with the photo-ops and handshakes that are a part of summits. They have to act, and act now.

China's spectacular economic rise can be attributed to its immaculate planning, robust implementation, methodical follow-ups, and mutually beneficial engagement with other countries. Therefore, African countries have to abandon their casual approach to follow-ups, lackadaisical implementation of economic plans and, instead, follow through development projects and turn economic potential into real gains if they want to emulate China in terms of economic development.

Of course, the ongoing summit will provide the answers to the pressing question of how to achieve sustainable development, maintain global peace, and foster mutually beneficial partnerships, but unless the African countries take practical remedial actions, they cannot overcome the challenges and realize prosperity.

And the FOCAC Summit is widely expected to push for the reform of the global governance system to build a fairer and just world order which adheres to the principle that the world as a whole is a community with a shared future.

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**China's economic journey has been fascinating and its development model perhaps the most successful.**

David Monyae

## Chinese high-tech can boost Africa's farm sector

The Chinese and African leaders' meeting for the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Summit in Beijing from Thursday to Friday will discuss a range of issues, from trade and investment to security and social development.

One of the most important topics should be cooperation in digital technology, which has emerged as a driver of economic growth and development over the past 15 years.

Digital technology is not a new issue for China-Africa cooperation. Since 2006, cooperation in digital technology has been part of the FOCAC action plans, though it became more prominent in the 2021 Action Plan. Several initiatives, including the "Initiative to Jointly Build a China-Africa Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace" and the "China-Africa Digital Innovation Partnership Program", have been proposed to enhance cooperation in this field. That was in addition to the China-Africa Digital Cooperation Forum which facilitates discussions on digital cooperation between FOCAC summits.

China pledged to implement 10 digital assistance projects in Africa to aid the development of digital infrastructure in Africa. China is already one of the most visible players in Africa's digital technology sector, with

Chinese companies having been contracted to build national information and communications technology infrastructure in several countries across the continent including Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Cameroon and Nigeria.

According to a 2021 white paper issued by the Chinese government, Chinese enterprises have laid more than 200,000 kilometers of optical fiber, connecting millions of people to the internet, partnered with 1,500 companies in Africa in their digital transformation strategies, and worked with 29 African governments for developing e-government services. Also, China is venturing into Africa's public cloud market with its companies having been contracted to build data centers in countries such as Senegal and South Africa.

All these show digital technology has become a prime driver of economic growth and development. The construction of digital technology infrastructure will boost Africa's capacity to harness big data and develop artificial intelligence (AI) tools, which can improve productivity and economic efficiency leading to positive development outcomes.

Studies by McKinsey Global Institute show the strategic use of big data could add \$13 trillion to the global economy by 2030. And a report by the World Economic Forum has argued that the application of big data analytics in the healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, energy, banking and insurance, automobile, telecom and logistics sectors could add \$500 bil-

lion to the Indian economy by 2025.

As such, it is imperative for Africa and China to explore ways to harness digital technology in order to boost the economy in critical sectors such as agriculture and industry. While Africa has the largest share (about 60 percent) of the world's uncultivated arable land, it still spends \$78 billion of scarce foreign currency per year on food imports. And although agriculture is the largest economic sector in Africa, accounting for 35 percent of its GDP, as well as the biggest employer, it still does not produce enough crops to feed its people.

This dire state of agriculture is largely due to numerous factors, including weather patterns, political instability, misgovernance and the use of outdated technology. The use of big data in agriculture gathered through sensors, satellites, drones and other technology devices can improve efficiency and help farmers make more informed decisions. These technologies collect data on different aspects of farming including soil conditions, weather patterns, crop health and optimal use of inputs.

AI algorithms can be used to analyze these data, helping farmers make better decisions about when to plant, the amount of inputs to use, as well as read the weather patterns. Hence, the use of big data and AI in African agriculture can increase productivity and help alleviate concerns about food security.

As a global leader in digital technology and with 24 agricultural technology demonstration centers across

Africa, China is better placed to help African countries boost their agricultural production by using advanced technologies. In this regard, the ongoing FOCAC Summit should come up with practical strategies on how this can be done. Industrial production in Africa, too, lags behind other regions. As a result, the continent loses precious foreign currency by importing most of the manufactured products it needs.

The share of the manufacturing sector in Africa's GDP is a relatively low 13 percent while its share in global manufacturing is a paltry 2 percent. Like in agriculture, big data analytics and AI can be used to improve efficiency and productivity in the African manufacturing sector. Technologies such as industrial internet of things, manufacturing execution systems and industrial control systems have been used in manufacturing to gather, process and analyze information, which aids decision-making and increases productivity.

In other words, African countries should work with China to facilitate the transfer of the new technologies to their industrial sectors. The FOCAC Summit presents an opportunity for the two sides to discuss and chart a way forward in incorporating technology in the critical sectors of agriculture and manufacturing.

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# 2024 FOCAC SUMMIT



A view of the booth of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd during an e-commerce expo in Changsha, Hunan province. Alibaba has been offering a range of specialized training programs for African entrepreneurs. LIU XIANGJUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

## E-tailers help African businesses

From local farmers to small firms, all benefit from push for digital shift

By FAN FEIFEI

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Chinese e-commerce platforms are investing more resources to expand their presence in Africa, helping local farmers sell their specialties, providing related cross-border e-commerce training courses and facilitating the digital transformation of local enterprises, as part of a broader push to bolster Sino-African economic and trade cooperation.

Tech heavyweight Alibaba Group Holding Ltd has been offering a range of specialized training programs for African entrepreneurs, including teaching them how to run online stores and sell distinctive agricultural products. Such training complements support in local smart logistics and fulfillment services, so as to promote the development of the digital economy in African countries.

Alibaba has worked with the Rwanda Development Board since 2018 to help Rwandan small and medium-sized enterprises sell their products, including coffee and handicrafts, to Chinese consumers through Alibaba's online marketplaces.

Rwanda was the first African country to join the eWTP — electronic World Trade Platform — an Alibaba-led initiative that aims to lower barriers to global trade for SMEs via e-commerce.

Alibaba.com, Alibaba's online business-to-business marketplace for global wholesalers, signed a new e-commerce cooperation agreement with local authorities in

Rwanda last year, allowing an initial group of 20 Rwandan SMEs to sell their products through Alibaba.com as a way to start their digitalized operations.

The company has provided comprehensive e-commerce operational guidance and a full range of support services for the Rwandan SMEs, such as web design, training and counseling, to help them establish online stores, select suitable products and optimize store operations. So far, more than 250 African companies have registered with Alibaba.com.

Zhang Zhouping, a senior analyst of business-to-business and cross-border activities at the Internet Economy Institute, a domestic consultancy, said unlike Europe and the United States, where penetration rates of online shopping are relatively high, Africa has enormous growth potential in the cross-border e-commerce sector.

Zhang underscored that digital trade is expected to play a bigger role in promoting economic and trade cooperation between China and Africa, and empower the development of the real economy in Africa.

"As a new form of foreign trade, cross-border e-commerce witnessed rapid growth during the COVID-19 pandemic and became a new engine of the country's foreign trade development," Zhang said, adding that it is playing a vital role in helping micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to build new brands and open up more overseas markets.

Industry insiders said the proliferation of smartphones and mobile devices has contributed to increasing internet penetration in Africa, which led to the robust growth of the e-commerce sector across the continent.

The overall revenue of the e-commerce market in Africa is expected to reach \$59.18 billion in 2027, up from \$32.49 billion in 2022, according to TechCabal Insights, an Africa-focused digital economy consultancy.

To satisfy Chinese consumers' rising demand for high-quality specialties made in Africa, Chinese e-commerce giant JD has opened online national pavilions covering a broad range of commodities from African countries such as South Africa, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Mali.

The company said African agricultural products like wine, coffee and tea are gaining popularity among Chinese consumers, while some local skincare products, such as shea butter produced in Mali, are also favored by shoppers.

In addition, JD, in collaboration with Spier, one of South Africa's oldest and most esteemed vineyards, unveiled their exclusive wine series to the Chinese market last September. The partnership would enable more Chinese consumers to buy South African wines via direct overseas procurement model.

China's cross-border e-commerce industry has seen robust growth in recent years, with the sector's import and export scale reaching 1.22 trillion yuan (\$171 billion) in the first half of this year, up 10.5 percent year-on-year, the General Administration of Customs said.

Online discounter PDD Holdings, parent company of Chinese e-commerce platform Pinduoduo, launched its cross-border e-commerce platform Temu in South Africa in January. It is the 49th country that Temu has entered since its launch in September 2022 in the United States.

According to global research firm Statista, the number of registered e-commerce users in South Africa stood at about 27 million in 2022, and the figure is expected to rise to 33.4 million by 2025, with an e-commerce penetration rate of 53.1 percent, making it the largest e-commerce market in Africa.

Temu has gained popularity among worldwide consumers there as it offers a wide array of merchandise, including apparel, consumer electronics, jewelry, shoes, bags, cosmetics, baby products and pet supplies at competitive prices.

Chen Lei, chairman and co-CEO of PDD, said they hope to leverage the supply chain capacities it has accumulated over the past years to create a new channel that enables consumers from different countries and regions to directly purchase products from factories, providing more flexible and personalized supply chains and more cost-effective shopping experiences.

"Chinese online retailers who are making inroads into overseas e-commerce markets should learn about the preferences of local consumers, comply with local laws, regulations and quality standards, step up localization efforts and seek development strategies to differentiate themselves from competitors," said Chen Tao, an analyst at internet consultancy Analysys in Beijing.

## Kenyan farmers reap rich harvest from dragon fruit cultivation

By EDITH MUTETHYA

in Naivasha, Kenya

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In 2018, Zhang Wensheng and his friends were vacationing in Kenya, when they realized that the country boasts weather conditions favorable for cultivating some of the fruits usually grown in China.

This aroused their entrepreneurial instincts.

The next year, they established a six-hectare dragon fruit orchard on the shores of Lake Naivasha, 90 kilometers northwest of the capital Nairobi.

In 2020, Zhang received his first harvest, and the locally grown variety of the exotic tropical fruit became available in Kenya for the first time.

However, despite the initial success, the fruit was not popular in the domestic market and Zhang had to rely on exports to countries such as Spain and Italy.

Four years since the introduction of dragon fruit, which is widely grown in the tropical and subtropical areas of China, the juicy, brightly colored fruit has been planted across Kenya, and is readily available in markets and stores, creating many employment opportunities and helping many farmers overcome poverty.

When a China Daily reporter visited Zhang's orchard, run by Kai-view Ecological Horticulture Ltd, in August, only two out of the four vendors who had come to source the fruit were lucky enough to obtain some quantity of it.

Ezekiel Githinji, who sells the fruit to retailers in Nairobi, could buy 40 kilograms, while Rachael Nyambura, who sells it in Naivasha town, purchased 10 kilograms, less than their requirements.

They both admitted that it is a lucrative business that has transformed their lives.

At the orchard, one kilogram of dragon fruit — two or three in number — sells for \$1.9-\$3.9, depending on the size and quality. At the market, retailers earn a profit ranging from \$0.78 to \$1.16 per fruit, Githinji and Nyambura said.

Beatrice Wanjiru, a dragon fruit vendor in Nakuru town, said sales of the fruit have lifted her out of poverty, and she is now able to educate her children comfortably.

"I was hawking some items in Nakuru town in 2020 when I found some women eating a fruit that I had never seen. I inquired about the fruit and where I could get it. The following day, I traveled to Kai-view, bought some and headed to the market. The reception was amazing. That's how I became a dragon fruit vendor," she said.

Wanjiru usually buys 80 kilograms of the fruit, which she sells within three days. Her wish is that many farmers should consider growing the fruit to meet ever-growing demand.

With increased cooperation between China and Kenya over the past two decades, more agricultural

products have been introduced in Kenya, contributing to the country's dominant agricultural sector.

When Anthony Mugambi, a telecommunications engineer, was sent by his employer to China in 2003 on official duty, a Chinese friend gave him a fruit he had never seen before.

Its taste as well as its name, which was similar to a mythical creature, however, remained etched in his memory long after he returned to Kenya.

In 2012, he planted the seeds of the fruit in his farm in Meru town, about 225 kilometers northeast of Nairobi. This marked the start of a journey that would take eight years before he could get the first harvest.

With no professional background in agriculture and not having seen anyone grow the fruit in Kenya, he had to rely on books, the internet and video-sharing platform YouTube for knowledge. He started off with 200 dragon fruit trees.

The experience, he said, was like a roller coaster, falling and rising, but he remained determined.

"Seeing the first tree flower was the most exciting part of the eight-year journey. I had never seen such a beauty," he said.

In 2020, Mugambi harvested his first dragon fruit, which weighed 844 grams. As he sat down to consume it, his confidence was strengthened. He then engaged in selective breeding, identifying trees with superior characteristics and propagating them.

Mugambi runs the Gravity Farms, where he grows the fruit on a more than eight-hectare plot. He is now an expert in dragon-fruit farming, receiving visitors from across Africa interested in growing it. He has also found a way of reaping the harvest within three years.

He has trained several farmers from across the country, and some of them are running successful businesses.

In many arid and semiarid regions of Kenya, where crop production has been low, dragon fruit can be easily grown and turned into a good source of income for farmers, he said. As Kenya boasts favorable climatic conditions for the growth of dragon fruit, it has the potential to become a major agricultural export commodity.

A client from Italy wanted 5 metric tons of dragon fruit every week, he said. "Another client called from Jordan, asking for 15 tons and wanted to pay upfront, but I can't supply to any of them because I don't have (enough)," Mugambi said. "We're unable to meet local demand," he added.

He said there is scope for value addition, and plans to explore it through the production of dragon fruit juice, pulp, powder and oil, among others.

He said Kenya will be among the largest producers of dragon fruit in the world in 20 years, and this business will bring hundreds of millions of dollars to Kenya every year.

## E-commerce widening Africa's online market

By OTIATO OPALI in Nairobi, Kenya

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When Benard Mungai started his shoe business in Nairobi, Kenya, back in 2015, he could only trade in secondhand shoes in the city's Gikomba open air market. However, as his business grew over the years, he managed to open his first shop in 2018 and needed to upgrade his stock to new shoes for his customers. After various endeavors to secure a reliable supply of merchandise, he came across Kilimall, a local e-commerce platform.

"It was recommended by my fellow traders. From this website, I can order goods from any country in Asia, Europe or the Americas and many other places across the globe which do not ship to Kenya. Most importantly, their turnaround is fast," Mungai said.

Taking advantage of the e-commerce platform, Mungai has earned his clients' trust for delivering genuine sneakers, sports jerseys and other items because he gets his supplies from the source through the online hub, which sources them directly from prequalified merchants and

delivers directly to him.

Kilimall, which was founded by Yang Tao, a former employee of a Chinese tech firm's branch in Kenya in 2014, has so far grown to be a leading e-commerce platform in Kenya, attracting more than 10 million registered users and an average of over 1 million monthly visitors.

The popularity of e-commerce has transformed business models in the East African country and brought great convenience to the lives of locals. In Nairobi, online shopping and food delivery are as popular and swift as in China.

Kilimall's senior marketing supervisor Dickson Nganga said that the platform offers services that provide more variety and convenience for shoppers, especially those in businesses, by saving them the cost and trouble of traveling to far-away markets.

Nganga pointed out that there is increasing demand for numerous products from different global markets, and through online shopping they hope to tap into the growing demand for global products from East Africa's bulging middle-income group.

German data and business intelligence platform Statista estimates that last year Kenya grew to be the third-largest e-commerce market in Africa, driven by the increase in internet penetration, making it an attractive investment market. Kenya, whose e-commerce revenue is expected to have a positive annual average growth of 16 percent by 2025, is ranked third in the continent's e-commerce market penetration behind Egypt and South Africa.

Following the success of Kilimall, the local e-commerce sector also sprang up in Kenya in recent years. Before 2014, the dominant players in Kenya's e-commerce sector included global online malls such as the United States-based Amazon, which offered free shipping for items, but they would take about a month to arrive. They also did not ship high-value items such as designer watches or gold-plated jewelry to certain zones, thus failing to attract higher spenders.

The successful entry of Kilimall into the Kenyan e-commerce space in 2014 led to the birth of more players in the industry with platforms like Germany-based Jumia, Spain's

Glovo, Nigeria-based Jiji and Kenya's own Masoko. This expansion has created many opportunities for locals, with the number of users expected to exceed 12 million this year, accounting for nearly a quarter of Kenya's total population.

Liao Zhengrong, Kilimall's brand director, recently told Xinhua News Agency that under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, a key platform for bilateral cooperation, Kilimall has received great support and grown rapidly. Digital technology is also an important area of China-Africa cooperation stressed during the 8th ministerial meeting of the FOCAC, held in Senegal in 2021.

Through this digital cooperation, other Chinese e-commerce giants such as Alibaba, Pinduoduo and JD have also launched cross-border platforms, which have helped in expanding Africa's digital space.

Nganga said that owing to the rising numbers of tech-savvy youth who are acquiring global tastes in the region, e-commerce platform Kilimall plans to scale its operations beyond Kenya into the wider East African region.



Employees work at a warehouse of Kilimall in Kenya. LI YAHUI / XINHUA

"From last year we started going to wider East Africa, starting with Tanzania. This will be a great opportunity for our sellers to ship products across the continent," Nganga said.

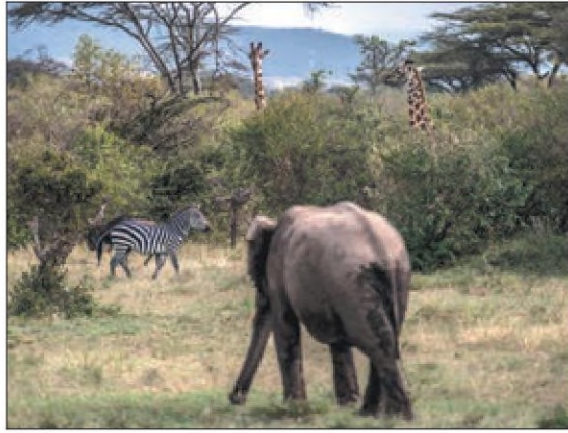
Mungai, whose footwear business is now thriving, said that he credits the expansion of the Kenyan e-commerce market for helping him open two shops in Nairobi's central business district. He currently imports an average of

300 pairs of shoes per month through Kilimall.

"When I used to sell secondhand shoes in the open air market, I would hear people talking about importers and exporters and I would think it involved big money and big ships and many months of waiting. Nowadays, I tell my friends that I am a mobile importer because all I have to do is to order my merchandise through my phone," Mungai said.



# 2024 FOCAC SUMMIT



Elephants, zebras and giraffes live in harmony at Ol Kinyei Conservancy in Maasai Mara on Aug 22.

## GUARDIAN OF THE WILD

Chinese conservationist contributes to wildlife protection in Kenya



Giraffes wander around at Ol Kinyei Conservancy in Maasai Mara on Aug 22.



Zhuo Qiang helps a Maasai ranger climb a tree for wildlife observation in Maasai Mara, Kenya, on Aug 22. PHOTOS BY WANG GUANSEN / XINHUA



Zhuo Qiang observes elephants at Ol Kinyei Conservancy in Maasai Mara on Aug 22.

From watching cartoons depicting wild animals in childhood to becoming a guardian of their natural habitat, Zhuo Qiang — known as Simba, which means lion in Swahili — is the first Chinese to work full-time on wildlife conservation in Africa.

In 2011, Zhuo traveled to the Mara-Serengeti savannah in Kenya, where he had been staying with the indigenous Maasai people and working with local conservationists at Ol Kinyei Conservancy, a sanctuary for wildlife.

He has continued his work there ever since and his role includes patrolling across the conservancy to prevent poaching and illicit grazing,

monitoring wildlife and rescuing injured animals.

Zhuo believes that wildlife conservation requires the integration of local communities. "Wildlife conservation can only be achieved by a united community," he said.

Meanwhile, eco-friendly tourism has proved to be an effective alternative to develop the local economy, offering the Maasai people a means to improve their livelihoods without having to kill the animals, Zhuo said.

Through years of unwavering dedication, Zhuo has gained the trust and respect of the local tribes.

XINHUA



Zhuo Qiang prepares supper with locals at a camp in Maasai Mara on Aug 21.



Left: Zhuo Qiang visits a Maasai family in Maasai Mara on Aug 22.



Right: Zhuo Qiang checks the condition of a cow attacked by lions at a Maasai family yard in Maasai Mara on Aug 22.



# 2024 FOCAC SUMMIT



## Kung fu as cultural ambassador in Cameroon

YAOUNDE — When Rodrigue Tene Taling was 4 years old, he was captivated by Bruce Lee's kung fu movies which inspired awe and admiration in his hometown of Bafoussam in western Cameroon.

"Bruce Lee gave us the impression that a man can be invincible." He began to see Lee as an idol and promised himself that one day he would travel to China to learn kung fu.

His burning ambition was nearly dashed by the lack of a kung fu club in Bafoussam at the time. However, Taling's dream finally came true when he attended the University of Dschang in a neighboring town to study mathematics, where he discovered a martial arts club and immediately enrolled.

After years of practicing in college, Taling moved to the capital city of Yaounde and set up a kung fu club to train youngsters.

During a training session, the club received a special guest — the director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Yaounde II — who watched them practicing kung fu and was moved by the passion of young Cameroonians for Chinese culture.



The martial arts are an art of discipline where you are taught awareness of the damage that violence can cause, and self-control."

**Rodrigue Tene Taling**, executive director of the Center for African Films and TV under the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University

That encounter deepened Taling's engagement with traditional Chinese culture. In 2010, through a scholarship offered by the Confucius Institute, he enrolled to learn Chinese language and culture and went on to graduate as one of the top students in his class.

With another scholarship from the Chinese government, Taling studied for a master's degree in Chinese language at Zhejiang Normal University, and for a PhD in Chinese traditional sports and culture at the Shanghai University of Sport. Today, the 38-year-old is the executive director of the Center for African Films and TV under the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University.

"China is in a way my second country," he says. "My stay here is pleasant and peaceful."

According to Taling, the institute has produced a film focusing on his martial arts journey which will soon be aired in cinemas. Codirected by Taling himself, it is part of a Sino-African film project to tell the stories of individuals similar to his own.

With a deeper understanding of traditional culture, Taling intensified his kung fu training, receiving instruction from some of the best known masters.

He feels that kung fu embodies traditional Chinese medicine and physical strengthening, as well as the beauty of Chinese culture. "The martial arts are an art of discipline where you are taught awareness of the damage that violence can cause, and self-control."

Taling aspires to serve as a cultural ambassador, fostering understanding between Cameroon and China and promoting China's traditions. He says he has achieved more than he ever dreamed of as a child, thanks to the strong relationship between the two countries.

"China is one of the most important partners of Cameroon," he says, adding that ever-growing bilateral relations help create more opportunities for younger generations to realize their dreams.

XINHUA

When producer Liang Zhenhua was filming a scene for the Chinese TV series *Welcome to Milele* in Zanzibar, Tanzania, he got help from the local actors association to assemble 1,200 extras for a key scene involving an ambulance navigating a traffic jam caused by a marathon at Zanzibar's busiest intersection.

Over the past few years, the 35-episode series about a Chinese medical team dispatched to Africa has received substantial assistance from its African counterparts. Since July, the Swahili-dubbed Chinese series has been broadcast on major TV stations, and become popular on streaming platforms in Kenya and Tanzania.

Liang, who was also the scriptwriter for the series, explains that "Milele", the name of the village where the Chinese medical team settled, means "forever" in Swahili, and symbolizes China's commitment to foreign medical aid. Liang and his team traveled to locations around Tanzania to capture scenes of beauty, including of people diving from platforms on Zanzibar Island, the great migration of wildebeests across the Serengeti Plain, and Mount Kilimanjaro.

"During field research for the series, I could clearly sense the desire of local residents for more Chinese TV productions to come to Africa. They particularly enjoy our dramas about everyday life and are eager to see the daily lives of Chinese people," says Hu Yating, co-scriptwriter of the series.

Hu visited several cities in Africa in search for inspiration for the drama two years ago. She says that ratings increased rapidly in August.

"I believe that human emotions are universal, and Africans especially want to understand China through TV dramas. Our series can provide experience for future joint productions telling touching stories involving China and Africa," Hu says.

More than 1,400 actors participated in filming, with around 190 making guest appearances. Zambian actor Kawawa Kadichi plays the key role of a medical student. He recently received lots of messages from Tanzanians who watched the drama, saying that they really liked it, that it has helped them understand China better, and that it has strengthened the friendship between China and Africa.

This is not the first time Kadichi has participated in a Chinese production. He is also in the epic sci-fi film

## Connecting through the small screen

Popularity of Chinese shows and TV series continues to rise across Africa, **Deng Zhangyu** reports.



**Top:** A Swahili-dubbed version of the popular TV series *Welcome to Milele*, following a Chinese medical team dispatched to work in Africa, which began airing in July in Kenya and Tanzania, is getting a good response. **Above:** A scene from the TV series shows the medical team having a party outdoors with their African counterparts. **Left:** Zambian actor Kawawa Kadichi (center) as the student of the protagonist, a cardiac surgeon played by Jin Dong. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

*The Wandering Earth II*, adapted from famed writer Liu Cixin's novel.

"I believe there is tremendous potential for film and TV cooperation between China and Africa. I expect more collaboration in the sector," says Kadichi.

He says that China has extensive experience in film production, advanced technology, and professional teams, while Africa boasts vibrant cultures, beautiful natural scenery, and exciting story material. Both sides can collaborate in

areas such as scriptwriting, production, and actor training to create films and series with Chinese and African characteristics.

By the end of last year, the National Radio and Television Administration had translated and broadcast 237 audiovisual works and 180 episodes of agricultural programs in African countries, including TV dramas, animations, documentaries and variety shows.

There were 50 television channels in Africa broadcasting Chinese pro-

grams as of last month, in 11 languages including English, French, Portuguese, Swahili and Hausa. Chinese companies have 16 television channels airing Chinese programs in Africa, and their satellite and digital channels cover 31 countries.

Cao Shumin, director of the administration, said at the 6th Forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation last month that collaboration will be strengthened through a range of support policies to encourage the joint production of pro-

## Martial arts making waves among Kenyan youths

By **OTIATO OPALI** in Nairobi, Kenya  
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Andrew Konde, a second-year engineering student at Kenya's Strathmore University, was inspired to start learning kung fu after watching movies on the martial art form as a child. However, what began as an extracurricular activity has become a lifestyle for the student, who is the chairman of the college's Titan Martial Arts club.

Growing up, Konde was fascinated by the prowess of legends like Jackie Chan. When he was admitted to Strathmore University in 2022, his interest in kung fu received a boost when he joined the martial arts club. Through hard work, he rose to become the club's chairman and has had the privilege of leading

his team to wins at national martial arts championships, including at the All-Africa University Games last year, where they emerged as second-best overall team.

"The practice of kung fu leads to better health and fitness, greater coordination, and higher self-esteem. These qualities are vital to a happier, longer life. This is why I love it," Konde says.

The student, who has a Yellow Belt and three international gold medals to his name, has also won silver and bronze medals in local competitions since he made his debut two years ago. He considers last year to be the highlight of his kung fu practice after he was declared one of Kenya's top competitors in the featherweight category. He also competed in five championships.

Originating in China and part of the country's traditional culture, kung fu has become popular in Kenya, particularly among school-age children. They find it interesting because it keeps them in shape, and teaches them self-defense and self-control.

Konde adds that Chinese martial arts are lifetime exercises and involve balanced movements of the legs and hands, making them preferable to some other forms of exercise.

Kevin Obonyo, a lecturer of economics at Strathmore University and a kung fu instructor, says that kung fu frenzy is sweeping the continent thanks to the friendly relations between China and Africa, cemented through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the



Participants put on a show of kung fu at the third edition of the Kenya Kung Fu Wushu Tournament in Kiambu, Kenya, in April.  
LI YAHUI / XINHUA

Belt and Road Initiative, among others. He adds that cultural exchange activities like kung fu have gone a long way toward improving the relationship between China and Africa, which has become stronger since the

establishment of the forum. "We have seen tangible improvement in sectors ranging from agriculture and communications, to construction, manufacturing, culture, sports and games, and people-to-people exchange," Obonyo says.

# CHINA

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## China, BRI partners forge closer ties on IP

Patent applications rise on both sides, especially in digital, green sectors

By CAO YIN  
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China and other countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative have increased cooperation in intellectual property rights, with major progress seen in patent applications, an official at the country's top IP regulator said on Wednesday.

Liang Xinxin, a spokesman for the China National Intellectual Property Administration, said at a news conference that China and other BRI economies have seen vibrant patent development on both sides over the past decade, especially in the digital and green sectors.

Liang cited data to show that Chinese enterprises had applied for 70,000 patents in other BRI countries and relevant organizations from 2013 to 2023, maintaining an average annual growth rate of over 20 percent.

Among the applications, Chinese tech giant Huawei ranked first, followed by Xiaomi and Alibaba, he said.

During the decade, the number of patents applied by BRI countries in China totaled 285,000, with an average annual growth rate of 5.6 percent, he added.

As digital transformation and environmental protections increase, patent applications related to relevant industries are soaring.

For instance, during the 2016-23 period, China's green and low-carbon invention patent applications in other BRI countries and relevant organizations rose to 3,637, with an average annual growth rate of 26 percent, the data showed.

"The applicants include traditional Chinese petrochemical enterprises, as well as those focusing on new energy and digital communication," Liang said.

He also said that a high-level IP conference for countries involved in the initiative will be held in Beijing next week.

The event, Liang said, will promote a series of cooperation projects in patent, trademark, geographical indication and copyright fields.

Sheng Li, deputy head of the administration's international cooperation department, said some 450 guests from home and abroad, including government officials, IP specialists and enterprise representatives, will take part in the conference, and joint discussions on regional cooperation, green development, digital transformation and value enhancement.

While advancing IP-related matters between China and other BRI countries, China has been participating in formulating and improving international IP rules over the past few years, with an aim to foster a sound business environment for domestic and foreign innovators, Sheng said.

The administration said it has set up 71 centers nationwide to help Chinese businesses deal with IP disputes overseas, providing training and guidance for entities going global and enhancing their awareness and capability for protecting IP rights.

In the first half of the year, the administration helped Chinese entities handle 166 overseas IP cases, and updated and published IP-related information of 14 countries on an online platform.

## Quick to the rescue



Competitors participate in the International LifeLine Rope Rescue Invitation Tournament in Quanzhou, Fujian province, on Monday. The event, which concludes on Thursday, has brought together 18 professional teams from countries including China, Thailand, Belgium, Sweden and Japan, and demonstrated thrilling outdoor rope rescue skills. CAO DEMENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

## Firefighting craft to aid in emergencies

By ZHAO LEI  
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China has begun deploying large firefighting aircraft, giving fresh hardware to its emergency response and rescue system.

According to the Aviation Industry Corp of China, the nation's dominant aircraft manufacturer, two firefighting variants of the MA-60 jetliner were delivered recently to the Ministry of Emergency Management in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi province.

The State-owned industry conglomerate said in a statement that the delivery marked the end of the absence of a Chinese large firefighting aircraft.

The new model, it added, will effectively boost the development of the country's aerial emergency response and rescue capability.

Designed and built by Xi'an Aircraft Industry, a subsidiary of AVIC, the MA-60 firefighting variant is

**6**  
metric tons

amount of water an MA-60 firefighting variant can carry each trip

capable of carrying 6 metric tons of water, or 28 people, each trip.

In addition to extinguishing fire, the plane can also perform command and control, communications relay, personnel deployment and cargo transport in emergency response tasks, according to its designers.

Design work of the MA-60 firefighting model started in June 2021 and took two years. It conducted its maiden flight in Xi'an in July 2023.

Its baseline model, the MA-60, is a turboprop-powered airliner that has been in service in several countries including China, Laos, Zambia and Sri Lanka since the early 2000s.

The new model of MA-60 is currently the only fixed-wing plane in China that can suppress fire, and will soon be joined by a larger partner, the AG600M, which is the fire-extinguishing variant of China's AG600 seaplane.

So far, four AG600M prototypes have been used in test flights and have carried out trial fire-extinguishing operations in typical blaze scenarios.

Project managers plan to gain the model's type certification this year.

After receiving type certification, civilian aircraft also need to gain production certification and airworthiness certification to make way for delivery.

In a typical firefighting operation, an AG600M will collect 12 tons of water from a lake or sea, which should take less than 20 seconds, and use it to douse fires over an area of about 4,000 square meters.

## Over 90 nations, organizations set for Beijing Xiangshan Forum

By JIANG CHENGLONG  
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More than 500 representatives from over 90 countries and international organizations have confirmed their participation in the 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum as of Tuesday, the organizers said on Wednesday.

Wu Jianguang, an official of the high-level security forum's organizing committee, said that the attending officials include more than 30 defense ministers and chiefs of staff, as well as over 200 experts and scholars from China and abroad.

In addition, the participants also include leaders and representatives from international and regional

organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union, he said.

This year's forum has achieved new breakthroughs in terms of the level, scale and representative nature of the participants, said Wu.

The United States is set to send Michael Chase, deputy assistant secretary of defense, to the forum, according to a Reuters report citing a US official.

The forum, co-hosted by the China Association for Military Science and China Institute for International Strategic Studies, will be held in Beijing from Sept 12 to 14.

The theme of this year's forum is

Promoting Peace for a Shared Future. It will feature four plenary sessions and eight parallel group sessions, focusing on topics such as security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, multipolarity and the international order, the Global South and global security governance, according to the forum's official website.

Additionally, a series of special academic activities will be held during the forum, including seminars involving senior experts and scholars from home and abroad, as well as dialogues between young military officers and scholars from China and elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the official agenda indicates that this year's forum will also organize discussions among

renowned scholars from China and abroad on subjects focusing on the security of artificial intelligence and the positive use of emerging technologies.

Luo Xi, a researcher at the People's Liberation Army Academy of Military Science, said that AI is a highly emerging technology that can greatly influence national defense and military strategies, stressing, however, that there is still a significant gap in managing this emerging technology.

"It is necessary for all countries, especially those with strong AI capabilities, to jointly advocate for cooperation and exchanges in areas such as arms control and global governance, in order to minimize the risks that AI technology might pose to

global security and stability," she said.

According to the organizers, this year's forum will focus on global security concerns, encouraging relevant parties to engage in in-depth exchanges and equal consultations, advocating for a new path of security featuring dialogue rather than confrontation, partnerships rather than blocs, and win-win rather than zero-sum outcomes.

While continuing to provide a platform of equal dialogue for participating countries, this year's forum will also further expand the participation of developed countries from Europe and North America, as well as emerging ones.

## Y-20 transport plane conducts first overseas airshow

By ZHAO LEI

China's Y-20 strategic transport plane conducted its first overseas performance on Tuesday, displaying complicated maneuvers to visitors at an airshow in Egypt.

The People's Liberation Army Air Force said in a news release that a Y-20 performed several stunts such as high-angle climb-outs and dives, steep turns as well as low-speed flyovers during its nine-minute flight over the El Alamein International Airport on the first day of the Egypt International Airshow 2024.

The three-day event opened on Tuesday in the Mediterranean coastal city of El Alamein in northwestern Egypt, marking the first international airshow in the African nation.

Before the airshow in Egypt, the Y-20 had flown at multiple Chinese

“By taking part in overseas events, Chinese pilots can show their skills and their aircraft's capability.”

Wang Yanan, chief editor of Aerospace Knowledge

airshows though never at foreign events.

Pang Rongqi, one of the pilots who operated the Y-20 in the flight demonstration, was quoted as saying in the release that his crew designed a set of maneuvers for the Egyptian show, based on conditions

at El Alamein International Airport, the positions of spectators and safety considerations, in an attempt to display the good maneuverability of the plane.

Developed by Aviation Industry Corp of China, a State-owned defense contractor, the Y-20's maiden flight was in January 2013. It started deliveries to the PLA Air Force from July 2016.

With a maximum takeoff weight of around 200 metric tons, the jet is able to transport cargo and personnel over long distances in diverse weather conditions. It is now one of the world's largest strategic heavy-lift jets, and is a pillar of the PLA Air Force's strategic transport capability, according to the Chinese military.

Before the commissioning of the Y-20, the PLA operated a transport fleet that mainly consisted of Y-7, Y-8 and their variants, all of which were

designed based on types imported from the former Soviet Union.

In addition to the Y-20, the PLA Air Force also sent its August 1st Air Demonstration Team, China's best-known aerobatics team, to the Egyptian airshow.

Together with the Y-20, seven J-10 fighter jets from the August 1st team arrived in Egypt on Aug 26, after making the longest deployment the aerobatics unit has ever carried out in its 62-year history.

On Aug 28, the Chinese combat planes, led by the Y-20, flew over the renowned Giza Pyramids in a training flight.

The Egyptian airshow will mark the first time that the August 1st team flies in Africa.

Wang Mingzhi, a hardware expert with the PLA Air Force, said that the Chinese planes flew nearly 10,000 kilometers to arrive in Egypt and



Chinese fighters are on display during the Egypt International Airshow 2024 in El Alamein, Egypt, on Tuesday.

WANG DONGZHEN / XINHUA

the long-distance flight was quite challenging.

The operation has testified to the flight skills and physical ability of Chinese pilots involved, and has also shown the PLA Air Force's long-range operational capability, he said.

Wang Yanan, chief editor of Aerospace Knowledge magazine, said that the PLA Air Force's participation in

## Country's WorldSkills delegation departs for France

By QIU QUANLIN in Guangzhou  
qiuquanlin@chinadaily.com.cn

China's delegation for the upcoming 47th WorldSkills Competition has been established, with the group to participate in all 59 projects across six categories, said the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.

This year's competition will be held in Lyon, France, from Tuesday to Sept 15, with over 1,400 participants from WorldSkills member countries and organizations.

Having participated in the biennial event six times, China this year boasts the highest number of competition categories among participating members.

A member of WorldSkills since 2010, China has won 57 golds, 32 silvers and 24 bronzes at the previous six WorldSkills competitions, the ministry said.

This year, among China's 212-member delegation, 68 are skilled competitors, with an average age of 22. These competitors will compete in categories including transportation and logistics, construction and building technology, as well as social and personal services.

With the departure date set for Thursday, Wang Xiaojun, leader of the Chinese WorldSkills Competition delegation, said, "After intensive training and rigorous assessments, we have finally selected the representatives to participate in the world-class finals."

The competitors have undergone meticulous selection processes and are poised for the upcoming competition with exceptional and masterful vocational skills, said Wang, who is also deputy director of the ministry's vocational capacity training department.

"The WorldSkills competition has greatly assisted and boosted the development of China's national skills team," he said, adding that with the platform of the competition, participants can exchange ideas, promote vocational skill development and enhance the training of technicians.

"It is particularly important that by participating in the competitions, we can promote the transformation of the competition's technical achievements, with an aim to bring advanced standards, facilities, technical requirements and operational concepts seen during the competition into our skill development plans," said Wang.

During an experience-sharing event prior to the delegation's departure, Yang Denghui, a teacher at Guangdong Machinery Technician College and gold medal winner at the 44th WorldSkills, said, "A positive mindset, thorough preparation and optimal performance are essential elements for achieving outstanding results."

## WORLD

# China's green efforts to gain momentum

High-quality development promoted to accelerate transformation: Experts

By ZHENG WANYIN in London  
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Experts said China's efforts in promoting high-quality economic development and fostering new quality productive forces could further boost the nation's green transition.

Their comments came after the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China which concluded in July. The plenum's resolution described high-quality development as a "primary task" in building China into a modern socialist country in all respects, and identified fostering new quality productive forces as one of the key guidelines in achieving the goal.

Some detailed measures in the resolution include further developing new energy sectors soundly and orderly; encouraging companies to apply digital, intelligent, and green technologies to transform traditional industries; and imposing tighter institutional constraints for environmental protection, among others.

Following the closing of the plenum, China has also introduced a series of policies to accelerate the green transition, including the establishment of a dual control system that now prioritizes carbon emission reductions over the previous focus on energy consumption intensity and total energy consumption.

Muyi Yang, senior electricity policy analyst for China at Ember, an energy think tank headquartered in the United Kingdom, praised this trajectory for being "sustainable".

"By focusing on high-quality development, China aims to build an economy that is not only larger but also more sophisticated, efficient, and adaptable to future challenges, including climate change. This philosophy emphasizes the need to upgrade industries, foster technological innovation, and enhance productivity while minimizing environmental impact, thereby ensuring long-term prosperity and social well-being," he said.

Belinda Schaepe, China policy analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, which is based in Helsinki, Finland, noted that China's continuous push for its new development path has already led to a boom in clean technologies.

"Clean energy was already the top driver of China's economic growth in 2023, contributing 40 percent of the GDP expansion," she said, quoting a research paper published by the center in January this year. "The heightened focus by the Chinese government on fostering new quality productive forces, including green technologies, will likely further drive production in this sector."

She said the growing volumes of affordable clean products in China could also help the global energy

China's investment and production of green technologies were key drivers in bringing down international prices, accelerating the uptake worldwide."

Belinda Schaepe, China policy analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air

transition and the supply chains that need to be expanded worldwide.

"China's investment and production of green technologies were key drivers in bringing down international prices, accelerating the uptake worldwide," Schaepe said. "Chinese companies are already setting up new production facilities in other countries. They can contribute to diversifying supply chains and offering technology transfer, particularly with countries in the Global South."

## Sustained focus

Meanwhile, China's sustained focus on green transformation has also driven some traditional energy-intensive industries to become cleaner, both experts pointed out.

Yang found out that both China's central and local state-owned enterprises in the electricity sector, while owning the majority of coal power assets in the country, have actively diversified into renewable energy, which significantly contributed to controlling the emissions by limiting coal consumption increase.

The steel sector saw no new permits for coal-based steel plants in the first half of 2024, signaling a shift toward cleaner production methods such as electric arc furnaces, Schaepe said.

"The record expansion of renewables capacity, coupled with saturation in the real estate sector and emission reductions from heavy industry, signals that China may already have seen a carbon emissions peak in 2023," she said. Despite that, China's path to carbon neutrality can still be "long and winding," she admitted.

Schaepe called for ambitious, staged carbon reduction targets leading from peak to carbon neutrality, a clearer coal phase-down plan, and stronger support for grid flexibility and power market reform to integrate renewables.

Yang expressed hope that policy support for clean industries would remain on course, emphasizing the need for continued investment in research and development, creating new supply chains to deliver essential materials and components, and cultivating a new generation of skilled workers to support a decarbonized economy.



A Flying Tigers delegation from the US pays tribute to anti-Japanese aviation martyrs in Nanjing, in China's Jiangsu province, on Tuesday. On the same day, the memorial hall announced the addition of the name of Jack Hammel, a Flying Tiger pilot, to the monument. YANG BO / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

## Flying Tigers' spirit 'a common treasure'

By YIFAN XU in Washington  
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China's ambassador to the United States said that the spirit of the Flying Tigers "has been, and will continue to be, a common treasure of China and the United States".

Ambassador Xie Feng also said that he hopes "more Flying Tigers members of the new generation" will "write new stories of friendship and cooperation".

The Flying Tigers, established in 1941 by US General Claire Lee Chennault, were officially known as the American Volunteer Group of the Chinese Air Force. They traveled to China to assist in the defense against the invading Japanese forces from 1941 to 1945.

Xie delivered his remarks via video link at the *Remember the Heroes - Historical Photo Tour of the Flying Tigers (Nanjing)* opening ceremony held in Nanjing Anti-Japanese Aviation Martyrs Memorial Hall, in East China's Jiangsu province. The exhibition showcases approximately 180 photographs and more than 100 cultural relics, including General Chennault's medals.

Xie said the spirit of the Flying Tigers is about upholding justice and defending peace, helping each other and uniting as one, as well as valuing and renewing the two nations' friendship.

He said that President Xi Jinping spoke highly of the historical contributions of the Flying Tigers in assisting China in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45) and the profound friendship forged between the two peoples.

Xie said that China is still helping to search for the remains of US service members who assisted China. "To date, nearly 500 Flying Tigers veterans and hundreds of their family members have visited China nearly 80 years after the end of World War II."

"We welcome the Flying Tigers veterans to come back to China often, and jointly support the Flying Tigers Friendship School and Youth Leaders Program and President Xi's initiative of inviting 50,000 young Americans to China on exchange and study programs in the next five years," Xie said. "We expect more similar events to be held in the United States as

well, to tell the story of the Flying Tigers to the public and continue enhancing exchanges between our two peoples and deepening our time-honored friendship."

China also released for the first time a list of 2,590 anti-Japanese aviation martyrs from the US, most of whom were from the Flying Tigers, according to the Nanjing memorial hall.

Xie mentioned "a special ceremony" for the addition of the name of Lieutenant Jack Hammel, a Flying Tiger pilot "who gave his life in China".

According to the Xinhua News Agency, Hammel, a pilot from Michigan, died at the age of 23 on July 25, 1945, in China's Jiangxi province, after his fighter plane was hit by Japanese ground fire.

In 2017, Hammel's family and friends visited the memorial hall but couldn't find his name. Hammel's identity was confirmed with assistance from the Chinese embassy in the United States, the Sino-American Aviation Heritage Foundation and other institutions and his name was added to the monument.

## Visit: Tribute to centenarian Flying Tiger

From page 1

November. He emphasized the enduring legacy of the Flying Tigers, describing their story as an "immortal chapter" in the history of the global anti-fascist struggle and their spirit as a "precious asset" in US-China relations.

In a touching moment, Goodrich proudly showed Huang his World War II combat uniform and gave him a tour of his backyard garden, sharing stories of how he and his family built their lives after the war.

The Flying Tigers veterans and their descendants have played a crucial role in fostering exchange and deepening friendships between our peoples in this new era, said Huang. He also stressed the importance of continued cooperation and exchange across various sectors to maintain stable development in bilateral relations.

Goodrich affectionately referred to Huang as "family" and thanked the Chinese diplomat for the visit. He recounted his experiences flying the perilous "Hump" route, supplying critical resources to Chinese forces during the war.

The veteran expressed his heartfelt wish for the US-China friendship to be passed down through generations and for lasting peace between the two nations.

In a touching moment, Goodrich proudly showed Huang his World War II combat uniform and gave him a tour of his backyard garden, sharing stories of how he and his family built their lives after the war.

## The intriguing story of China's 'Dragon City'

By MINLUZHANG in New York  
minluzhang@chinadailyusa.com

Some 1,600 years ago, long before modern globalization, a vibrant cultural melting pot existed in a region of Northeast China known as "Dragon City" — present-day Chaoyang in Liaoning province.

People from different corners of the Asian continent converged on the region from the years of 337 to 436.

The fascinating details are part of an exhibition at the China Institute Gallery in New York City titled *Gold from Dragon City: Masterpieces of Three Yan from Liaoning, 337 - 436*, which opens on Thursday.

The story of the civilization established by the nomadic Murong Xianbei people is being presented in the United States for the first time.

Among the artifacts on display are Roman glass cups, inkstones and tiger-shaped vessels from Han Chinese culture. There are long swords used by the Xianbei.

Jointly organized by the China Institute Gallery and the Liaoning Provincial Museum, the exhibition illustrates the history of ethnic integration and cultural exchange along the Silk Road, which transformed North China.

*Gold from Dragon City*, which will run through Jan 5, 2025, also features treasures from nearly 70 years of archeological excavations in China, including sculptures, bronze mirrors, imperial seals, equestrian objects, ceramics, jewelry and ornaments, many made of gold.

"Gold holds the greatest significance and value in Chinese culture.

and West inspired and enriched cultures along the Silk Road."

Upon entering the gallery, viewers will first see two sculptures of the heads of men who are not Chinese, with high nose bridges and deep-set eyes. Hai explained that the entrance highlights the diversity of the society then in that region.

"To understand the globalization that occurred in the ancient world, you see that it's not that different from what's happening today. What's important is how understanding different people and their cultures — where they came from — helps us communicate better," Hai told China Daily.



An exhibition at the China Institute Gallery in New York City titled *Gold from Dragon City: Masterpieces of Three Yan from Liaoning, 337 - 436* opens on Thursday. One of the highlights of the exhibition is a series of golden headdress ornaments worn by the Murong Xianbei people, featuring shimmering, swaying leaves, known as *buyao*, which literally means "step and sway". MINLU ZHANG / CHINA DAILY

## Wheeling power



Policewomen under Pakistan's Pink Wheels project, initiated for women's safety, listen to instructions at the Women's Enclave reporting center in Gujranwala on Tuesday. AFTAB RIZVI / AFP

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## ACROSS ASIA

Editor's note:

In this weekly feature China Daily gives voice to Asia and its people. The stories presented come mainly from the Asia News Network (ANN), of which China Daily is among its 20 leading titles.



Fire and rescue departments use crane to dig after receiving reports that a woman has fallen into the sinkhole after a section of the sidewalk caved in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Aug 23. VINCENT THIAN / AP

## A fall into the pit

Kuala Lumpur underground mapping demands solution after sinkhole incident

**K**uala Lumpur should establish a comprehensive underground mapping system for city infrastructure and utilities, if it does not already have one, said Malaysian experts and politicians.

President of the Institution of Engineers Malaysia, or IEM, Jeffrey Chiang Choong Luin, said the recent sinkhole that swallowed 48-year-old Indian tourist Vijaya Lakshmi in Jalan Masjid India, or "Little India", in the city center of Kuala Lumpur, highlighted urgent need for action.

Heavy rain that deluged Kuala Lumpur in the past weeks meant there was a lot of fast-moving water in the sinkhole and sewer, complicating the search efforts.

The Malaysian authorities said a portion of a large concrete sewer at the bottom of the sinkhole was broken, and the victim might have fallen in and been swept away.

A second sinkhole appeared in Jalan Masjid India on Aug 28, about 50 meters from the first one on Aug 23, causing further alarm.

"This is an opportunity to leverage technology and map out the city's intricate underground infrastructure. With the right resources and determination, future disasters can be prevented," Chiang told The Star.

"Furthermore, IEM is willing to assist in this crucial endeavor, should the DBKL (Kuala Lumpur City Hall) be open to collaboration," he added.

IEM, which has over 50,000 members, had earlier issued a statement regarding the Jalan Masjid India sinkhole incident, urging DBKL to conduct a thorough investigation and offering its expertise to support the effort.

The organization called for more stringent safety checks by qualified professional engineers in the design, construction and supervision of critical infrastructure to prevent a recurrence.

In 2020, The Star reported that then Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan had ordered an interagency study with utility companies to map out



Top and above: Rescue workers use ladders and cranes on Aug 23. PHOTOS BY AP

the extensive network of underground cables and pipes in the capital city, prompted by the increasing number of sinkholes.

Nor Hisham said that while Kuala Lumpur had developed a basic framework for addressing such issues, significant challenges remained due to aging infrastructure, some of which were over 50 years old.

In a recent interview, Nor Hisham stressed the need for comprehensive underground mapping for Kuala Lumpur as well as good collaboration between agencies.

During his tenure, Nor Hisham said he had difficulties obtaining accurate underground mapping due to lack of cooperation from utility companies.

"One of the significant challenges we faced was getting utility companies on board with the mapping process."

"Many were reluctant to share their data, which made it difficult to create a comprehensive and reliable map of the underground infrastructure," he said.

Nor Hisham also believed that DBKL's current data might not be

accurate as records could be outdated and unreliable.

This, he said, could lead to unforeseen delays in construction projects and pose hazards for road users and contractors.

Members of the Parliament of Malaysia, or MPs, suggested implementing a mapping system to safeguard residents in vulnerable areas.

Cheras MP Tan Kok Wai said the DBKL should reveal its early findings on the incident and address concerns whether Kuala Lumpur is safe. He agreed that there should be some form of mapping system to alert the public of areas that are prone to sinkholes.

Tan suggested revealing whether the Jalan Masjid India incident had issues related to piping, sewage or limestone cavities under the roads.

"DBKL should release a preliminary report immediately. We have different parties, professionals and even laymen discussing it, and this could cause unnecessary concern," he added.

Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun said DBKL should explain the reason behind the sinkhole. However, it must be done carefully not to cause unnecessary panic or fear.

"We need to inspect the whole area as the safety of the public comes first. The authorities must conduct a review on all the areas, even those underground."

"They can use the latest technology or machines to test the underground before coming up with the mapping," he said.

Wangsa Maju MP Zahir Hassan said DBKL should conduct public engagement from time to time and raise awareness on the warning signs for sinkholes.

"We cannot assume, for example, if there are small cracks on the pavement or road on the ground surface, there isn't a huge hole underneath."

"The public needs to know what they can or how to report if they see any signs of sinkholes. This will be a better solution to address the issue," Zahir said.

THE STAR, MALAYSIA

## Female boat masters prove a hit on mother lake in Cambodia

More than a thousand women who paddle tourist boats on the Tonle Sap Lake are attracting the attention of both domestic and international visitors.

They believe that this seasonal occupation not only generates additional income, but also elevates their status, showcasing their independence and strength.

Tonle Sap, a lake in the northwest of Cambodia, is the mother lake of the country. Belonging to the Mekong River system, Tonle Sap is the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia.

The women masters of the tourist boats, usually middle-aged, hail from the three villages of the Kampong Phluk commune in Siem Reap's Prasat Bakong district, a popular natural tourism area on the Tonle Sap Lake.

Each morning during the rainy season, they gather under the shade of large trees, waiting to paddle tourists in their small wooden boats, which are equipped with mats, life vests, umbrellas and cushions.

These women, who are not just oarsmen, but skilled tour guides, are pleased to share their depth of knowledge about the local environment and the traditions of their communities, all maintaining a warm and friendly demeanor, according to the district administration.

Sang Kong, head of the Kampong Phluk Natural Tourism Community, explained that the group was established in 2013 and currently includes 1,058 boats.

Every family in the three villages — Tnaot Kambot, Dey Kraham, and Kork Kdol — owns a boat.

"We established this group to empower women by giving them occupations similar to men. We want to enhance the dignity of women, who were traditionally seen as confined to household tasks."

"Now, we have women who can take charge in the same way as their husbands and brothers," Kong said.

To ensure fairness, the boats are

assigned to tourists on a rotational basis according to the number of daily visitors, meaning that not every craft is deployed every day.

Five boats belonging to the village's most elderly women are prioritized however, allowing their children or grandchildren to earn them an income without needing to follow the rotational system.

This occupation is only seasonal, lasting from August until late November or early December.

Tourists can enjoy experiences such as observing the local way of life — including stilt houses, fish and prahoc production — or rowing through the flooded forest to admire the scenery, do some bird watching or watch the sun set over the lake.

Khut Vanda, a member of the Meanchey Kampong Phluk Tourist Transportation Community,

The community organized the option of paddling tourist boats, helping them (the women) to generate additional income to support their families."

Khut Vanda, member of the Meanchey Kampong Phluk Tourist Transportation Community

**220,000** tourists

visited Kampong Phluk in the first seven months of 2024, according to the Department of Information of Siem Reap Province.

option of paddling tourist boats, helping them to generate additional income to support their families," said Vanda.

"Most of the women are middle-aged or elderly. They have free time and grew up on the lake, so they are confident at handling their small vessels."

"Many tourists are particularly interested in the women skippers, after seeing posts on social media," he added.

According to Department of Information of Siem Reap Province, over 220,000 tourists visited Kampong Phluk in the first seven months of 2024.

THE PHNOM PENH POST, CAMBODIA



A woman boat master rows at Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia, in 2019. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

## Vietnam's mooncake markets feature wider choices

With the Mid-Autumn Festival drawing near, the mooncake market is bustling in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. People can find a wide array of cakes with all sorts of flavors and eye-catching design and packaging.

This year new brands have made an appearance alongside familiar names to offer a broader range of choices to customers.

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the "Children's Festival" in Vietnam, is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, which falls on Sep 17 this year.

Mooncakes are commonly given as a gift during the festival.

This year KIDO Group Corporation, a Vietnam-based company engaging in the food processing industry, offers mooncakes under two brands, KIDO's Bakery and Tho Phat, the latter a newbie in the market.

Tho Phat offers traditional mooncakes with fillings like green bean, taro, lotus seeds, coconut milk, lap cheong sausage and roasted chicken, while KIDO's Bakery uses premium ingredients such as abalone, shark fin, Alaska shrimp, and scallops.

Phuong Diem Thuan Bakery based in Ho Chi Minh City is filled with customers these days.

Phuong Trien Phong, its owner, said people started buying mooncakes in early August, one to two weeks earlier than normal.

The bakery is selling 18 varieties this year, and mooncakes with pineapple, taro, lotus seed paste and juice of panda leaf are the top sellers, he said. For the first time, it is selling mooncakes with a scallop and XO sauce filling.

Thanh Long Bakery, one of the

oldest mooncake producers in Ho Chi Minh City, is offering eight new mooncake box designs.

Hoang Ngoc Thanh, its sales director, said a distinctive feature of Thanh Long's mooncakes is that it produces and processes the main ingredients using traditional family recipes, giving the cakes a unique and pure flavor.

According to market players, with people's health awareness increasing, they have launched low-sugar, vegan and gluten-free mooncakes. Co.op Bakery has launched a new

mooncake line with both vegetarian and meat options. The fresh mooncakes are handcrafted by skilled artisans using natural ingredients and without preservatives priced from 50,900 Vietnamese dong (about \$2) per piece.

Central Retail in Vietnam is selling 19 mooncake varieties at prices ranging from 29,000 to 99,000 Vietnamese dong per piece, equivalent to 240,000 to 500,000 Vietnamese dong per box.

Nguyen Thi Bich Van, head of communications at Central Retail in Vietnam, said a new feature of the mooncakes is that, besides being affordable, they also contain 30 percent less sugar compared to last

year and minimal quantities of preservatives.

With the rise of e-commerce, in addition to traditional brick-and-mortar stores and modern retail outlets, consumers can also order mooncakes from a variety of brands and have them delivered to their doorstep on popular e-commerce platforms such as Shopee, Lazada, Tiki, Grab, and the TikTok Shop.

According to mooncake producers, though the prices of inputs have increased significantly this year, they have only hiked mooncake prices slightly amid the economic downturn.

VIET NAM NEWS, VIETNAM

## COMMENT

## Editorials

## China-Africa community spirit built on bonds of friendship and cooperation

The Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which is being held in Beijing from Wednesday to Friday, provides the two sides with another opportunity to strengthen their strategic communication and deepen their practical cooperation.

The reason why the FOCAC has become so popular among African nations since it was founded in 2000 is that it is not a talk shop. The outcomes and cooperation projects that have been its fruits have brought tremendous benefits to African countries and the African people.

Over the past 24 years, the trade volume between China and Africa has increased from \$10.5 billion in 2000 to \$282.1 billion in 2023. And China's investment in Africa has accumulated from less than \$500 million in 2000 to more than \$40 billion at present. The nearly 100,000 kilometers of roads, more than 10,000 kilometers of railways, nearly 1,000 bridges, and nearly 100 ports that have been jointly constructed are tangible testimony to the cooperation between the two sides.

Promoting Sino-African cooperation is not a makeshift strategy of Beijing for short-term gains but a long-term commitment to friendly relations with the continent. It focuses on helping African countries develop endogenous driving forces for their development, and encourages them to firmly grasp the initiative of development in their own hands. While sharing China's development experience, technology and development opportunities with African countries, it respects their choice of development paths. And in so doing, China has helped them become more closely integrated into the global economy.

Africa is the continent with the highest concentration of developing countries and the region with the greatest development potential in the world. Its role in the global industry chains and supply chains will become increasingly important.

The next 10 years will be a critical decade for the world economy, as it transitions from old to new drivers of growth and experiences a profound reshaping of the global governance system.

Western countries often view China's engagement in Africa as a form of economic and strategic competition, particularly in terms of access to resources and influence. But by engaging with each other with sincerity and affinity and in good faith, China and Africa can make it clear that they seek to be pioneers and paragon practitioners of the three global initiatives that President Xi Jinping has proposed to address the four deficits that humanity is facing — namely the growing governance deficit, trust deficit, development deficit, and peace deficit — and establish their relationship as a cornerstone for a community with a shared future for mankind.

For that purpose, they should stand shoulder to shoulder as defenders of multilateralism and make greater efforts to promote the realization of a fairer international order and more effective global governance system. The two sides should work together to jointly defend multilateralism and the free trade system, should staunchly oppose protectionism, unilateralism, bullying and the harmful and erroneous theory of a clash of civilizations, and advance the democratization of international relations.

As President Xi has pledged, China will fulfill its commitments to Africa without fail, unwaveringly support Africa's development, and make greater contributions to the continent's vitalization.

As part of these efforts, China is encouraging the international community to increase its investment in Africa and working with the United Nations and international partners to carry out trilateral cooperation in Africa.

As of Wednesday, the Chinese leader had held talks with over a dozen African counterparts in Beijing, ahead of the opening of the summit on Thursday, highlighting that China is deepening its engagement with Africa across the board.

As Xi wrote in a signed article on Sino-African relations, it has been 10 years since he put forth "sincerity, real results, amity and good faith" as the principles for China to develop its relations with Africa. The past decade has witnessed the forging of a strong and productive relationship that is now ready, willing and able to provide fresh impetus to global development and give greater stability to the world.

## 'De-risking' efforts and exercise in futility

Driven by strategic and economic considerations, in recent years, policymakers in Washington have been encouraging US and other Western multinationals to either "reshore" to the US or relocate their production and supply chains out of China to "friendlier shores".

Pushing ahead with a strategy of "de-risking", to reduce the dependence on Chinese products and supply chains and address purported threats to national security, is aimed at weakening China's position as a manufacturing powerhouse and thus thwarting its development.

As part of these efforts, apart from waging a trade war and continuously cracking down on Chinese high-tech firms, the Joe Biden administration has been working to strengthen the US' relations with India.

By leveraging closer economic ties with India and encouraging greater collaboration between the two sides in areas such as information technology, space exploration and renewable energy, the Biden administration hopes to hold back China's development by reducing its leadership advantages and, by positioning India as an alternative, diminishing its importance as the center of gravity in the global industry and supply chains.

Yet the US strategy seems to be going nowhere. Chinese supplies remain crucial for India's manufacturing sector. Although the US strategy intends for India to reduce its commercial ties with China, the Indian economy has become even more dependent on Chinese imports, according to a recent report by The Washington Post.

India's imports from China have been growing twice as fast as those overall and now make up nearly one-third of Indian imports in industries ranging from electronics and renewable energy to pharmaceuticals, according to the Global Trade Research Initiative, an Indian think tank.

That dynamic is phenomenal, given the restrictive measures India has taken targeting Chinese investment following a deadly clash between the two countries' border troops in 2020. It is only in recent months that New Delhi seems to have softened its attitude toward Chinese investors, with the issuing of new guidelines to expedite visas from China.

"To boost Indian manufacturing and plug India into the global supply chain, it is inevitable that India plugs itself into China's supply chain", was the conclusion of a recent economic survey prepared by the office of the Indian government's chief economic adviser, Venkatramanan Anantha Nageswaran. Even senior officials of the Biden administration have admitted it is not realistic to think that inputs from China can be excluded at this moment from US supply chains, according to the US newspaper report.

Moreover, the US-led de-risking strategy against China will only make the global supply chains unnecessarily longer and more complex, resulting in a significant drag on the growth of the global economy.

The fundamental reason that China has become the top choice for the international business community lies in the strength, resilience, and vitality of its economy, its complete industry chains and the huge Chinese market. Which explains why, despite the calls from Washington for them to reshore, many multinationals still look to China as their key market and manufacturing base.

Thus, although US policymakers view New Delhi as a crucial partner in their efforts to contain China and reduce the US' reliance on Chinese products and supply chains, growing evidence points to the fact that their partnership is making little headway in achieving those objectives.

Policymakers in Washington should consider the wisdom of continuing with their "de-risking" strategy and, putting aside all the ideological baggage they carry, if just for a moment, pause to ponder what is actually best for the US.

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## Cai Meng



## Opinion Line

## Turkiye's BRICS application shows attractiveness of grouping

Turkiye has reportedly submitted a formal application to join BRICS, which, if approved, would add another important emerging economy to the grouping.

Since its establishment in 2006, BRICS has always served as an important platform for promoting cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries.

On Jan 1, the BRICS mechanism admitted Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as new members, marking the further internationalization and diversification of the cooperation mechanism.

With about 28 percent of the global economy, about 45 percent of the

world's population, and 44 percent of global crude oil production, the expanded BRICS will become a more important force for promoting a multipolar world and democracy in international relations, the resolving of global issues and the pushing for better global governance.

BRICS cooperation has long gone beyond the scope of the BRICS countries themselves. Since its inception, the grouping has been closely linked with the destiny of emerging markets and developing countries, making it an ever-growing important force on the world stage, representing the Global South.

As an important founding member,

China always stands ready to work with other BRICS countries to uphold the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation and it supports more like-minded partners to participate in BRICS cooperation.

The growing appeal and international influence of the BRICS cooperation mechanism have naturally attracted more emerging economies and developing countries to join. Turkiye's application for BRICS membership not only shows the increasing influence and attractiveness of the grouping, but will also further enhance its influence and attractiveness.

—WUYIXUE, CHINA DAILY

## Price tag on WeChat could cost Apple dearly

Apple's response to widespread rumors that the new iPhone operating system might not continue supporting the popular app WeChat, or that the app might no longer be available on Apple Store, has done little to address people's concerns.

Apple said recently that it cannot comment on the rumors until Apple and Tencent talk it out.

The public's concerns are understandable given that according to market survey institution QuestMobile, iPhone users number over 200 million in China, while the number of active WeChat users exceeds 1 billion on the Chinese mainland alone.

WeChat is a must-have app for most Chinese as it is a convenient service platform.

The large number of WeChat users is a key factor why so many businesses, be they official account holders or

livestreamers, have made money on the platform. It's with the support of WeChat that Tencent earned 609 billion yuan (\$85.6 billion) in business revenue in 2023.

However, even Tencent dare not turn WeChat into a paid app for fear of losing users. In some sense, collecting money from WeChat users would not be a profitable move because an imagined annual user fee of 10 yuan would only help it rake in 10 billion yuan on the mainland, which might be far less than the losses that might result if it became a paid app.

That's why Tencent has several times countered rumors to say it was not turning WeChat into a paid app.

That is a lesson Apple can learn. In the age of social media, users are the biggest resources and any software or hardware developer that has the big-

gest number of users wins.

Instead of insisting on its 30 percent "Apple tax" or other fee it can collect on such a popular app in a nation with a 1.4 billion population, Apple might need to think creatively to make money in other, more sustainable ways so that its users remain loyal.

Latest data from technological industry research institute RUNTO show that while Apple tablets remained the best selling in China, in July their sales registered a 21 percent year-on-year dip.

Market survey agency Canalsys, too, found that in the second quarter of 2024, iPhone sales were ranked second among all brands, which shows a downward trend.

Unless Apple changes its attitude and approach, this downward trend might continue.

—ZHANG ZHOUXIANG, CHINA DAILY

## What They Say

## Justified response to malicious, unscrupulous move

The Canadian government said on Aug 26 that it plans to impose a 100 percent additional tariff on imports of Chinese-made electric vehicles from Oct 1, and a 25 percent additional tariff on steel and aluminum products imported from China from Oct 15 to protect Canadian interests in the face of "unfair competition" from China.

In response, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce announced a number of countermeasures on Wednesday.

According to the ministry, China will initiate an "anti-discrimination investigation" into relevant restrictive measures taken by Canada; and it will launch an anti-dumping probe on canola imports from Canada; and it will organize an antidumping investigation on relevant Canadian chemical products based on domestic industry applications in accordance with

WTO principles. China will bring Canada's relevant practices to the World Trade Organization dispute settlement mechanism.

This is the first time that China has launched an "anti-discrimination investigation" in the foreign trade sector. In terms of the additional tariff rate, Canada blindly followed the United States and did not conduct any investigation or research itself. Its decision is subjective, malicious and unscrupulous. It is an obvious discriminatory prohibition and restriction measure.

The basic principles of the WTO can be summarized as nondiscrimination, fair trade and transparency. This move by Canada seriously violates those basic principles, and openly challenges the international trade order. Canada's protectionist and unilateral moves seriously violate WTO

rules and serve no party's interest. It is irresponsible for Ottawa to treat Canada's trading relations with China so recklessly and unprofessionally.

Canada's canola exports to China have increased significantly in recent years and it is suspected of dumping its excess capacity in the Chinese market, which seriously affects the interests of domestic canola-related industries. China's countermeasures indicate Beijing will take all necessary measures to defend the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies.

China has always been a defender and contributor to the multilateral trading system. All of China's countermeasures will comply with international law and WTO rules, and will be carried out within the scope of compliance and legality.

—XINHUA NEWS AGENCY

## COMMENT



China and the World Roundtable | People's congress system

**Editor's note:** This year marks the 70th anniversary of the people's congress system. Five experts share their views with China Daily on how the rule of law and whole-process people's democracy safeguard the overall development of the country.

Asit K. Biswas, Tang Qihong and Cecilia Tortajada

# Green mountains, lucid waters golden assets

China's reform and opening-up have unleashed untold economic forces. China's per capita GDP of \$156.8 in 1978 was significantly lower than another major developing country, India (\$206.07). But reform and opening-up transformed China's development landscape, with the country moving from being a planned economy to a market-oriented economy.

The emergence of new economic forces, thanks to reform and opening-up, contributed to double-digit GDP growth for an unprecedented three decades, which is unparalleled in history. Consequently, by 2023, China's per capita GDP had skyrocketed to \$12,614.1 compared with India's \$2,484.8. In other words, China's per capita GDP, which was only 76 percent of India's in 1978, became more than five times that of India in the next 45 years.

Up to 2010, China focused on, and succeeded in, achieving fast-paced economic growth. By the early 2000s, it was becoming evident that such economic growth was contributing to serious air, water and soil pollution, which in turn was posing a threat to human and ecosystem health.

In one way, China's economic development and consequent increase in environmental pollution were somewhat similar to what other industrialized countries witnessed during their development period. Till the early 1970s, all industrialized countries more or less believed environmental pollution was a side-effect of development and a price to be paid for continued economic progress.

Only when these countries became economically developed did they realize that environmental pollution is not a sign of progress but a serious impediment to long-term health and well-being of the people and ecosystems. While Western policymakers took some 100 years to realize this fact, China recognized the problem in less than three decades. The National People's Congress and its Standing Committee have enacted and amended over 30 environmental laws, more than 100 administrative regulations, and over 1,000 local regulations.

One of the most serious aspects of air pollution is the concentration of PM2.5. Because of the effective policies, average annual PM2.5 levels in Beijing declined from 101.56 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) in 2013 to about 39  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  by 2023. While it is still on the high side, the progress in reducing air pollution during the last 12 years has been remarkable. The new policy introduced by the State Council, China's Cabinet, in 2023 to "strictly and reasonably" control total coal use and restrict high-emissions projects is expected to reduce air pollution even further.



JIN DING / CHINA DAILY

The policy stipulates that by 2025, China will reduce the density of PM2.5 by 10 percent compared with the 2020 level, and the number of days with severe pollution to less than 1 percent. In addition, coal consumption in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and surrounding areas will be reduced by 10 percent compared with the 2020 level, with corresponding reduction in the Yangtze River Delta region being 5 percent, with additional reductions in Shanxi and Shaanxi provinces.

China is phasing out inefficient and small-scale coal-fired boilers, and promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs) to reduce carbon emissions and other hazardous air pollutants. In July, for the first time, the sales of EVs and hybrid cars (51.9 percent) in China exceeded those of cars with internal combustion engines (48.1 percent).

The success of China's air pollution control policy can be gauged from the fact that in 2005 the majority of the world's top 10 polluted cities were in China but by 2020 not even one Chinese city figured in the list of top 15 most polluted cities.

China has also made significant progress in monitoring and controlling water pollution over the past four decades. For example, in 1985, the country was monitoring 35 water quality parameters for drinking water. In 2006, it started monitoring 106 water quality parameters. In 2023, further adjustments were made, with the number of non-mandatory parameters that could be monitored being nearly doubled, from 28 to 55. China's current water quality standards specify upper limits for 152 water quality parameters which must not be exceeded.

China proposed specific water-related targets in the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20), which included constructing new treatment facilities to treat 50.22 million cubic meters per day of sewage. It also included construction of 125,000 kilometers of new sewage pipelines. All these targets were achieved by or before 2020.

China currently uses six-tier water quality systems for quality classification of surface water. Grade III and above are considered to be of fairly good quality. Grades V and VI are the most polluted. The country also plans to recover water

flows in 53 dried-up rivers, restore native fish species to a stable population in 127 major water bodies, and create an additional 213 square km of wetlands by 2025.

Besides, to effectively reduce water pollution, the government has appointed government officials as river chiefs. Party leaders at all levels, too, have been designated as river or lake chiefs. Their success or failure to maintain the water quality of the sections they are responsible for will determine their overall performance evaluation which would directly affect their promotion in the Party hierarchy.

The river chief model is a unique Chinese development strategy to maintain surface water quality, and more than 1 million river chiefs have already been appointed. This and

associated developments have significantly reduced water pollution in China's rivers and lakes. More steps are likely to be taken during the next six years to reduce the levels of water pollution significantly.

President Xi Jinping has said that green mountains and clear rivers are mountains of silver and gold. With such strong support, it is highly likely that China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) will stipulate highly ambitious but achievable air and water pollution targets by 2030. And hopefully, by 2030, China's air and water will be far cleaner than they have been during the past 50 years.

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Adnan Akfrit

## Chinese true democracy guards real human rights

As a writer from a country that has been grappling with "ethnic terrorism" apparently fueled by the United States for more than 40 years, I have done in-depth research on the resolution of ethnic issues. My research spans across the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Since 2004, I have made numerous study and research trips to Xinjiang, exploring not just urban centers but also rural areas and impoverished villages. I've witnessed firsthand the varying levels of development in northern and southern Xinjiang. For the past year, I have been living and working in Urumqi. Based on both the theoretical and practical research, I can say with confidence that no country has been more successful in resolving ethnic issues than the People's Republic of China.

Some Western countries like to discuss the subject of China's internal ethnic affairs. But a straightforward way to gauge the effectiveness of China's ethnic autonomy policy is to compare the lives of ordinary black people in the US who still face discrimination.

The primary reason for China's success in resolving ethnic issues lies in its commitment to liberating its people. When the People's Republic was founded in 1949, China was one of the poorest countries in the world. Today, it is the world's second-largest economy in terms of GDP (nominal) and the largest economy in terms of GDP (purchasing power parity).

By following whole-process people's democracy, China has been encouraging the people to participate in governance and foster a sense of unity. Sustained economic development and good governance benefits everyone. Accordingly, China's massive infrastructure development — including building factories, schools, hospitals, housing, roads, high-speed railways, 5G networks, and developing AI — is for the benefit of all Chinese people, regardless of their ethnicity.

China has implemented affirmative action policies to help ethnic minority groups to improve their livelihoods and thus economic condition. For example, ethnic minority students get extra points in university entrance exams and civil service exams.

Throughout the world, regions inhabited by ethnic minorities are often the least developed because they face tough historical and geographical challenges. The Xizang autonomous region, for example, is surrounded by towering mountains and vast glaciers, while the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region has two large deserts and major mountain ranges, creating a natural barrier against external threats.

China has prioritized the development of the western region in all its five-year plans. In particular, since 2012, under President Xi Jinping's leadership, China has strictly followed the principle of "leaving no one behind", ensuring that ethnic minorities benefit from the campaign to eradicate absolute poverty. In both Xizang and Xinjiang, the population below the absolute poverty line has been reduced to nearly zero. China's actions should gain understanding of Muslim people, as Muslims have a saying that "the one who eats while his neighbor is hungry is not one of us."

Another reason for China's success in resolving ethnicity-related issues is its focus on building bridges of understanding and unity. The resolution to ethnic issues lies in winning hearts and minds.

China's policy of granting autonomy to regions with a high concentration of ethnic and religious minorities, as enshrined in the Constitution, ensures smooth economic development. Within autonomous regions, there are also autonomous prefectures and counties, such as the Hui autonomous prefecture and the Kyrgyz autonomous county in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

China has made concerted efforts to recruit more leaders from ethnic minority groups, and the number of Party members and officials from these groups has been increasing by the year. From the beginning, the CPC Central Committee has had members from the Uygur, Hui, Tibetan and other ethnic minority groups. Ethnic minorities are also represented in the central government. For example, a Uygur has served as the vice-president of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's highest legislative body, since its inception.

In fact, ethnic minorities are represented across all sectors, including the military, police, State-owned enterprises, the academia and the arts. There are plenty of job and business opportunities, too, for members of ethnic minority groups. More importantly, wealthy entrepreneurs from these communities can still benefit from affirmative actions despite their wealth.

Despite the efforts of certain Western media outlets, China's true democracy allows it to serve as a read advocate for human rights for all.

*The author is the chairman of the Turkish-Chinese Business Development and Friendship Association. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.*

Hisham AbuBakr Metwally Mohamed

## China a stabilizer of world peace, development

The ongoing 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held from Wednesday to Friday in Beijing serves as a compelling illustration of China's commitment to promoting peace and development worldwide. The deepening China-Africa cooperation is poised to reach new heights.

The world has been witnessing the construction of a multipolar international order despite the many crises and conflicts across the world, and the threat of another world war. Against this background, China's foreign policy acquires added importance, because China is a major player in international relations today. China has proposed many important initiatives, including the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, calling for dialogue to find ways to overcome the challenges the world is currently facing.

China's enactment of the Law on Foreign Relations on July 1, 2023, delineates the foundational principles and objectives guiding its international engagements. Notably, the Chinese version of the law emphasizes "peace" 11 times and "development" 40 times. Article 1 of the

law underscores the establishment of a community with a shared future for mankind, underscoring China's dedication to fostering global peace and development. This underscores China's foreign policy objective of upholding peace and advancement on a global scale.

There are two basic principles that distinguish Chinese foreign policy from those of other countries. The first is the principle of peaceful development without wars or invading other countries to seize their wealth. And the second is the principle of equal treatment, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The law explicitly states that China follows the path of peaceful development, adhering to the fundamental policy of opening-up, and pursues a mutually beneficial strategy of opening-up in which all win.

In line with the law, China has intensified its diplomatic efforts to overcome global challenges. China has realized that if it leaves the issues to the developed countries to resolve, the conflicts raging around the world, including the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine conflicts, will not end anytime soon, threat-

ening global peace and stability and creating grave problems for China's trade and investments. Also, China has been making more efforts to deepen cooperation with many countries to restore peace in conflict zones, including in the Middle East, which has been witnessing wars since the US invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

China has achieved successes in this direction. For example, it mediated a rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia in March last year, with the two countries agreeing to resume diplomatic relations after seven years. China has also succeeded in bringing together the Palestinian factions, which agreed to achieve "a comprehensive Palestinian national unity that includes all Palestinian factions under the PLO framework, and to commit to the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital... with the help of Egypt, Algeria, China and Russia."

China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative 11 years ago, and through it, China has proved that it is possible to establish cooperation among all countries so global trade and investment can be conducted freely. But despite the initiative's mutually beneficiary nature, the US has

been trying to disrupt its progress.

In addition, the US' financial policy and continuous printing of dollar bills is causing a global wave of inflation, affecting countries across the world, especially the countries in the Global South. It has also hindered developing countries' ability to invest in infrastructure because of rising costs and those countries' inability to borrow funds from international financial institutions due to raised lending rates and/or downgrading of their credit ratings. Not to forget the conflicts raging in the Middle East, including the Israel-Palestine conflict, have increased the cost and time of shipping oil and gas, and other products, affecting supply chains and new investments.

Hence, it is important for China to intensify its diplomatic efforts to overcome global challenges for the benefit of not only China but also the rest of the world, and to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

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## GLOBAL VIEWS



SONG CHEN / CHINA DAILY

KHALIFA MTUMWA

## Fully engaged

Cooperation between China and Tanzania is contributing to the realization of the Global South Development Agenda

The bilateral relationship between China and Tanzania has improved significantly in the 21st century. Their cooperation spans various international platforms where both countries advocate for the interests of the Global South. The arenas include the Forum on China-Africa



Cooperation, which promotes mutual respect and sovereignty, equality and peace among the member states.

In particular, the cooperation extends to improving the digital and the blue economy under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, fostering growth and innovation in these critical sectors. To promote sustainable development and deeper economic integration among the members of the Global South, Chinese companies have played a critical role in executing strategic development projects in Tanzania including the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, which is the longest heated pipeline in the world, covering 1,443 kilometers running from Uganda to Tanzania, the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Station with an installed capacity of 2,115 megawatts (the largest in East Africa), the Mtwara-Dar es Salaam Natural Gas Pipeline and improvement of the National ICT Broadband Backbone Network.

Other forums include the G77+China, which enables Global South countries to advocate their economic interests and strengthen their negotiations within the United Nations, hence promoting South-South cooperation. Both countries are members of the Non-Aligned Movement which stands for the interests of developing countries in the UN Security Council.

For almost a decade, China has been the largest source of foreign direct investment in Tanzania with more than 260 development projects that have created more than 114,000 jobs for the local people. These projects range from manufacturing, construction, agriculture, transportation to services. Notable projects include the expansion of Tanzanian ports, the Kigongo-Busisi Bridge, the longest bridge in East and Central Africa, and the construction of the fifth phase of the Standard Gauge Railway from Isaka to Mwanza by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation. These projects, which not only benefit Tanzanians but also ensure the alignment and implementation of

**The outcomes of the summit will particularly strengthen the bilateral relationship between China and Tanzania by enhancing their cooperation and further aligning it with the Global South Development Agenda.**

the Global South Development Agenda, are maintained to enhance connectivity and promote economic integration among developing and member countries.

China has been the largest trading partner of Tanzania for more than a decade. In 2023, the bilateral trade volume stood at \$8.78 billion, an increase of 5.6 percent year-on-year. To improve the bilateral trade situation, Tanzania has opened its economic and industrial zones for Chinese companies to invest, produce and sell in neighboring markets ensuring a win-win situation between the two countries. On the other hand, Tanzania exports a variety of agricultural and mineral products to China. The agricultural exports consist of sisal products, sesame seeds, tobacco and cotton. Mineral products include copper ores, precious stones and gold. Additionally, Tanzania supplies lobsters, fresh or chilled, as part of its seafood exports to China. This engagement is in line with the Global South Development Agenda goal of ensuring member countries increase their bilateral trade to foster economic integration and self-sustaining economic growth, thereby reducing their dependency on the traditional economic powers.

Educational and cultural exchanges between China and Tanzania have been an important part of the bilateral engagement. Currently, about 1,000 Tanzanian students are pursuing their studies in China at undergraduate, master's and PhD levels through different scholarships offered by the Chinese government. The Chinese government has also sponsored Tanzania government officials for short-time courses and workshops which include site and factory visits providing them with both theoretical knowledge and practical experience in various sectors. China has two

Confucius Centers in Tanzania located in the University of Dar es Salaam and the Dodoma University which signifies the importance of cultural exchanges, including language learning, which are significant for building shared Global South values, knowledge and experience.

The health sector is one of the key focuses of the bilateral relationship between China and Tanzania. For decades, this relationship has been strengthened by deploying Chinese medical teams in Tanzania including the recent visit by the "Peace Ark", which docked at Dar es Salaam Port on July 16, 2024, providing medical services to more than 5,000 local residents. China has been building hospitals in Tanzania including Mvizi Hospital, the largest public hospital in Zanzibar, Abdulla Mzee Hospital and 76 residential quarters for medical personnel in Pemba, Zanzibar. This engagement extends to the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases. The efforts of the Chinese government reflect the Global South's commitment to addressing common health issues affecting member countries through collective engagement.

These are some highlights of the bilateral relationship between China and Tanzania which exemplify the principles of the Global South Development Agenda. China works with other countries with respect and on an equal footing.

The 2024 FOCAC summit is being held in Beijing from Sept 4 to 6, signaling further cooperation between China and Africa in several key areas. These areas include modernizing the existing cooperation to build a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future, the expansion of trade and tapping investment opportunities including enhancing further BRI engagement, particularly in infrastructure development. Global challenges such as climate change and public health will also be issues for discussion. The outcomes of the summit will particularly strengthen the bilateral relationship between China and Tanzania by enhancing their cooperation and further aligning it with the Global South Development Agenda.

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CHEN XIUXIA

## FOCAC shows the way

China-Africa economic ties will continue to deepen, providing a vision for sustainable collaboration and industrial transformation

As the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation summit, themed "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future", is being held in Beijing from Sept 4 to 6, the development of China-Africa relations has



become a focal point of global attention. During this summit, leaders from both sides will renew ties and work together to outline a more multifaceted, broader, and higher-quality framework for China-Africa cooperation.

Looking back, the FOCAC has been a pivotal multilateral platform since its inception in 2000, facilitating collective dialogue between China and African countries. Through friendly exchanges and equal consultations, the forum has not only enhanced the shared interests of both sides but also ushered in a new era of collaboration among developing nations. Historical data show that China's investment in Africa continues to grow steadily, with increasingly diverse investment sectors and more varied models of bilateral economic and trade cooperation emerging. From "market-driven investments" to "emerging sector investments", an increasing number of Chinese companies are integrating into Africa, contributing to local economic growth and advancing Africa's industrialization, thereby propelling China-Africa relations into a new phase of development.

However, in today's rapidly changing world, China-Africa cooperation faces multiple challenges, including shifts in the international landscape, intensifying competition among major powers, and the growing emergence of global issues. At the same time, we also see significant opportunities, such as the deepening interdependence between China and Africa and Africa's ongoing economic transformation. How to fully leverage the complementary strengths of the two major economies has become a pressing question for Chinese and African entrepreneurs alike. A more mature, stable, and sustainable top-level framework for China-Africa cooperation will undoubtedly serve as a crucial driving force for entrepreneurs

**The FOCAC Beijing summit will provide us with a valuable opportunity for exchange and learning. China's private enterprises will play an even more active role in Africa's industrialization process.**

like us to further expand bilateral investments and economic and trade cooperation.

Amid these significant changes in the domestic and international environment, the strategy of Chinese companies "going global" must closely follow the development direction of the new domestic economic landscape and emerging industries. According to the latest policy directions and market demands, industries such as the digital economy, new energy and advanced manufacturing are gradually becoming new pillars of China's economy. Unlike the traditional pillar industries that were primarily State-owned, these emerging industries are largely led by private enterprises. It is worth noting that in recent years, private enterprises and the private sector have accounted for 70 percent of China's investments in Africa, playing an irreplaceable role in China-Africa economic and trade cooperation. These companies have gradually shifted from traditional trade models to more in-depth participation in local economic construction and industrialization through methods such as investing in building factories, training local employees, and operating through public-private partnership models, resulting in numerous pioneering and landmark projects.

Among many African countries, Nigeria stands out due to its large market and economic potential. China and Nigeria share deep complementarities in their economic and industrial structures. When China's manufacturing capabilities combine with Nigeria's resource and labor advantages, it inevitably stimulates local eco-

nommic development, providing more job opportunities and tangible benefits to the local population. In recent years, the Lagos state government of Nigeria and China's CHOICE International Group have continuously deepened their public-private partnership, jointly launching Africa's largest e-hailing mobility platform — LagRide. This project has not only opened a new chapter for new energy transportation in Africa, but also set a new benchmark for China-Africa cooperation in green economic transformation. This initiative reflects not only the strategic necessity for Chinese enterprises to "go global", but also the concrete realization of the win-win nature of China-Africa cooperation.

In the long run, Chinese enterprises investing in Africa must first develop a strong strategic resolve and commitment to strike roots in Africa, continuously strengthening their international perspectives and innovating their business models. By fostering cultural recognition, companies can drive the localization of Chinese brands, emphasizing the improvement of product quality and service standards to win market and consumer trust through a good reputation. At the same time, in the face of new technologies and the evolving economic environment, Chinese companies must adhere to a long-term strategy of sustainable development, coordinating with local communities, the local economy and the local environment. This involves focusing on ecological protection and community relations to ensure the long-term stability and operation of projects, achieving both economic and social benefits.

The FOCAC Beijing summit will provide us with a valuable opportunity for exchange and learning. China's private enterprises will play an even more active role in Africa's industrialization process. We will continue to advance China-Africa economic and trade cooperation, assisting in industrial upgrading and technology transfer, and contributing Chinese wisdom and solutions to Africa's economic development.

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JIN DING / CHINA DAILY

# BUSINESS

## German expo firm bullish on China's biz prospects

By ZHONG NAN  
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Messe Frankfurt GmbH, one of the world's largest trade fair and event organizers by sales revenue, plans to hold over 50 commercial exhibitions across China in 2025, said a senior executive, adding that the company is eager to keep pace with the nation's rapidly evolving trends in emerging sectors.

The German group held 41 exhibitions in China in 2023 and plans to hold 45 trade shows in the country this year. It will add security and low-altitude economy-themed business exhibitions within the country next year.

Highlighting that the expo business is a reflection of market trends, Stephan Buurma, a board member of Messe Frankfurt, said that China is now at the forefront in many sectors, excelling not only in economic development, but also in technological advancements.

Take the auto sector as an example. A decade ago, China wasn't particularly dominant in car manufacturing. However, the country today has become a major player in this industry, especially in the field of electric vehicles, said Buurma, who is also managing director of Messe Frankfurt Asia Holding Ltd.

"This clearly indicates China's progress up the value chain, and we have seen growing demand for trade shows in this area," he added.

Driven by market demand and China's industrial upgrade, Shanghai hosted a total of 260 exhibi-



A visitor checks out products during the 2024 Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics: Autumn edition in Shanghai in late August. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

tions, covering a total area of 9.46 million square meters in the first half, jumping 53.85 percent and 24.62 percent year-on-year, respectively, with the scale of exhibitions slightly surpassing that of the same period in pre-COVID-19 2019, said the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce.

Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan province, hosted 587 major exhibitions and events during the January-June period, generating total revenue of 77.46 billion yuan (\$10.87 billion), up 5.9 percent on a yearly basis, said the city's exhibition bureau.

The Frankfurt-based group held the 2024 Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics: Autumn edition in the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai) in late August, featuring nearly 4,000 exhibitors from 27 countries and regions.

Buurma said this big-ticket trade fair has proven to be a thriving hub

for business, with participants expressing renewed optimism about prospects in the Chinese market. It serves as a meeting point where business and innovation converge.

Supported by 2,500 employees at more than 30 locations across the world, services provided by Messe Frankfurt include renting exhibition grounds, trade fair construction, marketing, personnel and food services.

Despite global foreign direct investment exhibiting a contraction trend in 2023 due to factors such as sluggish economic growth and geopolitical tensions, Buurma said that his company is not withdrawing its resources from China. On the contrary, the group has a strong pipeline in the country and remains fully committed to investing in the market.

"We are also looking at bringing Chinese exhibitors to other ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, as we believe that intra-Asian trade will become

increasingly dominant and significant in the future. Intra-Asian trade is a key focus area for us, and we're closely monitoring its developments," he said.

That sentiment is in line with the latest data. ASEAN remained China's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade value reaching 3.92 trillion yuan from January to July, up 10.5 percent from a year ago, accounting for 15.8 percent of the country's total foreign trade, said the General Administration of Customs.

For industrial and supply chains, professional exhibitions not only serve as a bridge connecting supply and demand for companies, but also provide a convenient platform for industry chain integration and upstream-downstream collaboration, said Lin Meng, director of the Modern Supply Chain Research Institute at the Beijing-based Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.

## Zambia links deepen with energy tie-up

PowerChina's 50 engineering projects over 25 years transform electricity mkt

By ZHENG XIN  
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**120**  
million kW

total installed capacity achieved by Chinese energy enterprises in Africa since 2000

Energy and power have emerged as the most significant areas of collaboration between China and Zambia over the past few decades. They are playing an important role in promoting the economic development of both countries, a top company executive said on Wednesday.

Cooperation between China and Zambia has bright prospects, with energy and power playing a pivotal role, said Ding Yan Zhang, chairman of Power Construction Corp of China, which is also known as PowerChina, during the Zambia Power Development Forum in Beijing on Wednesday.

"PowerChina is willing to leverage its integrated full-industry chain advantage in energy and power investment, construction and operations and help meet the power demand of Zambia's socio-economic development," he said.

According to Ding, Zambia is one of PowerChina's core markets in Africa. Since entering the Zambian market in 1999, PowerChina has helped cooperation between the two sides to deepen and grow with continuous achievements.

Over the past 25 years, PowerChina has completed 50 engineering projects in Zambia, including power stations with a total installed capacity of over 1,500 megawatts and more than 1,100 kilometers of power transmission and distribution lines, said Ding.

The Kafue Lower Hydro-power Station was put into operation last year. It now generates over 2.4 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, increasing Zambia's national power supply by about 38 percent, he said.

Located over the Kafue River about 90 km south of Lusaka, capital of Zambia, the station has substantially improved the country's power supply and played a key role in power regulation during peak power consumption periods.

Equipped with five mixed-flow generator units, it has a total installed capacity of 750 MW. An iconic project under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, it has also helped develop trade, transportation and mining industries during its construction phase.

Experts said the energy projects built by Chinese companies in Zambia have helped relieve power shortages in the country while providing technology and experiences to the region.

As a firm supporter of, and an important partner in, Africa's green transition, China has pro-

vided substantial achievements in China-Africa energy cooperation in recent years, said Lu Junling, chief economist of National Energy Administration, during the forum.

China has helped its energy enterprises build power generation projects with a total installed capacity of 120 million kW since 2000 and 66,000 km of transmission and distribution lines in Africa, significantly improving the energy infrastructure of the African continent and laying a solid foundation for further green and low-carbon transition, he said.

Lu further said it is necessary to continuously improve energy utilization capacity in order to enhance Zambia's power supply capacity, while improving investment and financing capabilities to promote the development of the clean energy sector in the country.

In response to Zambia's current situation of power shortages and urgent need for energy sources, continuous efforts should also be made in technological solutions such as micro-grid photovoltaic and energy storage, he said.

China, as a leader in the green energy revolution, has become an important partner to Zambia and Africa's energy transition. Both China and Zambia have benefited from the former's support of the green energy field, said Johnstone Chikwanda, chairman of the Energy Institute of Zambia.

Significant progress on this particular goal will have to happen with the support of China, as that's where the technology, skills and more innovative financing will be coming from, he said.

Chen Guanfu, chairman of PowerChina International Group Ltd, said Zambia is a country with abundant natural resources and great potential for development, and PowerChina is willing to help increase local emergency power sources, optimize the power structure and improve the power grid to alleviate the power shortage.

The company has successively undertaken a series of power projects such as the Kariba North Hydropower Expansion Project and the Kafue Lower Hydro-power Station, with its power projects accounting for 45 percent of Zambia's total installed capacity, he said during the forum.

## BOE riding high on OLED boom, internet of things

By FAN FEIFEI  
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Chinese display panel maker BOE Technology Group Co Ltd will invest more than 100 billion yuan (\$14.05 billion) in technological research and development by 2030, and is doubling down on new-generation semiconductor displays represented by organic light-emitting diodes, a top company executive said.

Chen Yanshun, chairman of BOE, said the company has accumulated core technological capabilities in the training of artificial intelligence-powered models, big data and the internet of things, and is focusing on bolstering the integration of AI with the manufacturing sector in hopes of empowering semiconductor displays by leveraging cutting-edge AI technology.

Chen made the remarks during the BOE Global Innovation Partner Conference 2024 — the company's annual gathering for global partners in the display industry — which kicked off on Wednesday in Beijing. He highlighted BOE's transformation from a display supplier to an innova-

tion-oriented internet of things firm.

The global semiconductor display industry saw a temporary recovery in the first half, but effective demand from consumer devices remains insufficient, Chen said, adding that fast-growing AI technology is spearheading the evolution of traditional industries.

BOE is stepping up efforts to bolster the application of displays in a wider range of scenarios by integrating more features and forms, deepening cooperation with partners of industrial chains, improving technological innovation capacities and driving the digital transformation of various industries, Chen said.

The company is accelerating steps to expand its presence in the OLED display tech sector, which boasts immense application potential in various fields such as vehicle-mounted displays, smartphones, televisions and wearable gadgets.

Compared with traditional liquid crystal displays, OLED is a relatively new technology and part of the latest innovations in displays. It boasts great improvements in terms of image contrast, bright-

ness and color spectrum.

Currently, BOE owns three flexible active-matrix organic light-emitting diode production lines in Chengdu and Miayang in Sichuan province, as well as in Chongqing.

It has announced plans to invest 63 billion yuan to set up a new AMOLED production line in Chengdu. The products will mainly be high-end touch screens such as those used on mid-sized laptops and tablets.

Market research firm Omdia said BOE secured the top position nationwide in terms of shipments of flexible OLED panels last year, and ranked second worldwide behind Samsung.

According to Sigmaintell Consulting, a Beijing-based market research firm, global shipments of OLED panels will likely reach 710 million units this year, an increase of 14 percent year-on-year, with the vast bulk of these products to be used in smartphones — likely reaching 680 million units in 2024.

Moreover, an increasing number of OLED panels are gradually being applied in tablets, laptops and mid-sized electronic devices. The penetration rate of OLED panels used in

tablets is expected to increase from 5.7 percent in 2024 to 17.9 percent in 2028, said the consultancy.

China will overtake South Korea to become the biggest OLED manufacturer this year, as more Chinese companies have invested large sums in production lines, said Zhou Hua, chief analyst at CINNO Research, a Chinese flat panel display consultancy firm.

Zhou said that at present, China has become the world's largest display panel producer and is expected to account for about 76 percent of global OLED production capacity by 2025.

Li Yaqin, general manager of Sigmaintell Consulting, said demand for flexible OLED panels used in foldable smartphones will continue to rise on the back of 5G commercial applications. Panel makers should further improve their yield rate capacities and reduce production costs.

The penetration rate of OLED displays in the mobile market is expected to reach 50 percent by 2024, Li said, adding that flexible OLED panels will likely gain popularity in mid-range smartphones, which will sell for at least 2,500 yuan by 2025.

## Rising demand speeds up steel industry's recast

By LIU YUKUN  
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Structural adjustment in China's steel industry is accelerating to meet rising demand for steel from the automotive, shipbuilding and home appliance industries as well as emerging sectors like wind and solar power, said the China Iron and Steel Association recently.

Latest data from the association showed that the proportion of steel used in manufacturing had increased from 42 percent in 2020 to 48 percent in 2023, with a further uptrend observed this year.

From January to July, production of long products fell year-on-year, with rebar down by 13.4 percent and wire rods down by 2.9 percent. In contrast, production of flat products continued to grow, with hot-rolled wide steel strips up by 10.6 percent and cold-rolled wide steel strips up by 14.4 percent.

"We see a shift in the product portfolio from long steel for construction

to flat steel for transportation and machinery. This requires higher quality production. At the same time, decarbonization is driving big investments in cleaner production routes, scrap collection and upgrading, as well as access to renewable energy," said Karel Eloit, senior partner at McKinsey & Company.

"All of this provides great opportunities for local and foreign companies in the broader steel ecosystem to collaborate and to bring innovative solutions to build a more sustainable and stronger steel value chain," he said.

China is the world's largest steel producer and consumer, according to the CISA. In 2023, China's steel output reached 1.019 billion metric tons, accounting for about 54 percent of global production, while its consumption of steel represented about 51 percent of the global total.

Yao Lin, chairman of the CISA, said: "Green and low-carbon initiatives are the primary focus for the steel industry's transformation and upgrade. By the end of June, 140 steel

enterprises with over 600 million tons of crude steel capacity had completed or partially completed ultra-low emission transformations and passed our evaluations. The average investment per ton of steel for these transformations was approximately 466.36 yuan (\$65.5)."

Experts said that there is still a significant demand gap for high-performance electrical steel and steel products with high strength, high toughness and high corrosion resistance. Further technological innovation is needed to support the steel industry's high-quality development.

"More efforts are also needed to leverage new technologies such as intelligent scheduling and resource optimization based on industrial internet, and full-process quality analysis and optimization based on big data, to create a highly efficient, clean, low-carbon, circular, green and intelligent manufacturing system," Yao said.

Wang Xiangwei, a director of procurement at Chinese carmaker FAW Group, said that with the develop-

ment of the new energy vehicle industry, demand for high-performance electrical steel and structural steel materials will increase accordingly. Benefiting from the need for improved vehicle safety in NEVs, steel products with high performance and advanced technology also have growth opportunities.

Ma Yunshuang, general manager of CRRC Group, a major railway equipment supplier, stated that in the construction of a modern logistics system, there is an increasing need for steel products that feature characteristics such as lightweight, high strength, high toughness, high corrosion resistance and high environmental resistance.

Gao Xiang, president of China International Marine Containers (Group) Co Ltd, said the company is expected to use nearly 10 million tons of steel for product manufacturing in 2024.

"The steel used will be diverse in types and specifications, with demand for products that can resist



An employee works on a production line of steel products in Maanshan, Anhui province, in August. LUO JISHENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

high-pressure, low-temperature, corrosion and wear," he said.

"To further accelerate technological innovation to support the steel industry's high-quality development, efforts should focus on building a comprehensive low-carbon

technology innovation system, fostering collaboration among universities, research institutes and enterprises, cultivating talent, and facilitating effective transformation of technological achievements," Yao said.

## Z WEEKLY

All about Gen Z

## Z WEEKLY

## Uniting youth across continents



Zhou Yefan (left) and Joseph Olivier Mendo'o at the Ethiopian Embassy in China on March 17, 2023. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

By MENG WENJIE

Joseph Olivier Mendo'o, a 31-year-old from Cameroon, has dreamed of becoming a diplomat and has been fascinated by diverse cultures since childhood.

Driven by his aspirations and open-mindedness, he closely followed the deepening cooperation between China and Africa. In 2014, Mendo'o enrolled in a local Confucius Institute to learn more about China.

In 2015, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Cameroon and toured the Confucius Institute where Mendo'o was studying. As a student representative, Mendo'o had a brief conversation with the minister, which inspired him to pursue further studies in China and experience the country firsthand.

In 2016, Mendo'o began his master's degree at Peking University and was accepted as a PhD candidate in 2018.

At a welcome party hosted by the university's African Students Association, Mendo'o met Zhou Yefan, a member of the Fuyang Youth Federation in Hangzhou, East China's Zhejiang province.

The two young men quickly hit it off, both recognizing the great potential for cooperation between the youth of China and Africa. In 2019, they established the China-Africa Youth Federation (CAYF).

Over the past five years, the federation has organized numerous initiatives to achieve its goals. According to Zhou, one significant project is the "African Corner", where the federation invites African diplomats to share information about their countries' investment policies and unique resources.

"In this way, we create a cozy and comfortable atmosphere for Chinese youth and entrepreneurs, helping them gain a deeper understanding of these countries," Zhou said.

Over the years, Mendo'o has explored over 50 villages to study China's poverty alleviation efforts. He was particularly impressed by Lyuliang in North China's Shanxi province, where the local residents have achieved economic success by selling paper-cutting artifacts under the "one village, one product" concept.

"In Africa, we have always thought that we can only rely on big investments and projects for development. But what I saw in China was the opposite. They help the poor by promoting the art of paper-cutting," he said.

Mendo'o has also actively engaged with Chinese youth. For example, he has visited over 70 grassroots schools in China. Through conversations with local middle school students, he discovered many similarities between China and Africa.

"We're all developing countries. We share the same pursuits. We all have dreams, and we all want to develop. You can go fast on your own, but only together can we develop and go farther," he said.

Regarding the ongoing Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit, held from Sept 4 to 6 in Beijing, Mendo'o expressed his desire that the event will encourage young people from both regions to visit each other's countries.

"I hope that more and more Chinese young people will recognize, contact, and understand the real Africa. I also hope that more African young people, as 'seeing is believing', will come to China to grasp the real situation," he said.

## Vision for stronger China-Africa ties

African students in China discuss their continent's cultural richness and the potential for deepening China-Africa cooperation in *Youth Power*.



Counterclockwise from top left: Jenipher Asimwe from Uganda, Sheik Osman Seisay from Sierra Leone, Uzodinma Chinenye Gerlof from Nigeria, Sarah Marjorey Kisakye from Uganda, Fathiya Mohamed Said from Tanzania, Jenny Andrea from Cameroon, and Calvin Nyagudi from Kenya. DONG MING / FOR CHINA DAILY

By MENG WENJIE  
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Many African friends living in China are often asked a curious question by locals: Is Africa hotter than China's sweltering *sanfu* period, known as the "dog days of summer"?

This question was one of the topics explored in the latest episode of China Daily's *Youth Power*, which aired on Aug 30, featuring seven young people from six African nations.

Jenipher Asimwe, a 35-year-old Ugandan student at the Communication University of China, shared that Uganda's climate differs from China's. While China experiences four distinct seasons, Uganda typically has a dry season and a rainy season.

"The temperature during the dry season can range from 28 C to 31 C, whereas during the rainy season, it drops to around 24 C," she explained.

The diverse climates and geographical features across Africa have given rise to distinctive natural landscapes, including the famous wildebeest migration.

Calvin Nyagudi, a Kenyan student pursuing his doctorate at Beijing Jiaotong University, described the breathtaking scene of wildebeests crossing rivers. "Some of them are attacked by crocodiles, while others manage to reach the other side. It's quite magnificent," he said, noting that the best time to witness this spectacle is during July and August.

In addition to its striking natural scenery, Africa, as the world's second most populous continent, is also renowned for its cultural diversity.

Uzodinma Chinenye Gerlof, a 29-year-old Nigerian student at Beijing Foreign Studies University, highlighted that Nigeria is home to around 250 ethnic groups speaking over 500 languages.

"All these ethnic groups come together to form one country and live peacefully together," he said.

"The world needs China-Africa cooperation because I believe it has the potential to foster growth, cultural exchange, and sustainable development on a global scale, and that's what the world needs right now."

Jenny Andrea, 19, a Cameroonian student at Tsinghua University

He is amazed that Africa's diverse cultures have not hindered the continent's unity, progress, or global interactions.

A good example, as mentioned by the episode's host Zhong Yutong, is the Bandung Conference. In 1955, representatives from 29 Asian and African countries and regions gathered in Bandung, Indonesia. This historic event marked the first major international conference where Asian and African nations independently discussed their interests and development.

The conference resonated with the rising global movements for national liberation at the time and remains a significant moment in China-Africa cooperation and friendship, which emphasizes principles of equality, mutual benefit, and inclusivity.

"In Tanzania, we gained our independence in 1961, and our diplomatic relationship with China was established in 1964. This year, we celebrate our 60th anniversary," said Fathiya Mohamed Said, a 25-year-old Tanza-

nia student.

As a medical student at Jiangsu University, Said observed that while many African students study medicine abroad and return home, Africa still faces considerable healthcare challenges.

She explained that the problem is often not a lack of medical talent but rather the inadequate supply of essential medical equipment and medications. Fortunately, Tanzania has benefited from China's humanitarian assistance, which has greatly improved the well-being of its people.

"I really appreciate the Chinese medical team. It's not a one-time occurrence where they say, 'OK, we'll come back in five years or once a decade'; it's an annual thing that they do every year," she said.

Asimwe also mentioned that one of the major hospitals in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, was established through collaborative efforts between China and Uganda.

According to her, people traveling from the western city of Fort Portal to Kampala once faced a two-day journey covering 281 miles, which posed a serious risk to those in urgent need of medical care. However, with the support of Chinese enterprises, the road linking the two locations has been significantly improved, reducing travel time to just four hours.

Nyagudi also highlighted China's role in helping Kenya develop critical transportation infrastructure. One standout project is the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway, a flagship collaboration between China and Kenya under the Belt and Road Initiative.

According to Nyagudi, this railway has played a crucial role in advancing Kenya's economic and social growth, earning it the local title of a "road to happiness".

While pursuing his doctoral degree in economics and management in China, Nyagudi has gained valuable

insights into poverty alleviation through China's rural revitalization efforts.

He pointed out that in the past, inadequate rural infrastructure in Kenya, particularly poor road conditions, allowed middlemen to exploit farmers by purchasing their products at low prices, leading to substantial profits for the middlemen while leaving the farmers disadvantaged.

With improved infrastructure now in place, Nyagudi is developing software to address this issue. He is inspired by China's successful e-commerce platforms such as Pinduoduo and the Taobao villages model — a poverty reduction initiative that engages rural residents in e-commerce to promote local products online.

"They help farmers link directly to consumers," Nyagudi said. "If China can do it, so can we — and we will do it."

For Jenny Andrea, a 19-year-old Cameroonian student at Tsinghua University, the advancement of infrastructure not only improves the transportation of goods but also encourages cultural interactions in Cameroon.

She explained that Cameroon is often referred to as "Africa in miniature" due to its rich diversity in ethnic groups. In this context, infrastructure plays a crucial role in helping these groups understand and appreciate each other's cultural differences.

"The world needs China-Africa cooperation because I believe it has the potential to foster growth, cultural exchange, and sustainable development on a global scale, and that's what the world needs right now," Andrea said.



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# Z WEEKLY



“We send doctors to each other’s hospital to share ideas and explore possibilities for future cooperation.”

**Hui Shangyi**, an attending physician in the anesthesiology department at Peking Union Medical College Hospital



“As Chinese doctors practicing Western medicine, we’ve been developing treatments that combine both approaches and promoting them globally.”

**Guo Chao**, deputy director of thoracic surgery at Peking Union Medical College Hospital



“More and more foreigners are accepting and acknowledging the effectiveness and science behind TCM treatments.”

**Dylan Walker**, a reporter for China Daily

## Global force against disease

The latest episode of *Not Only About Us* sees medical professionals from China and the US forging deep bonds through charitable acts and collaborative efforts to advance global healthcare.

By **LI XINRAN**  
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“Transcending borders, race, and cultural backgrounds, we face a common enemy of humanity: disease,” said Guo Chao, deputy director of thoracic surgery at Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH), in the latest episode of China Daily’s *Not Only About Us*.

This episode focuses on the daily charitable acts and exchanges between medical professionals in China and the United States, demonstrating how these efforts by individuals and hospitals impact both countries and the world.

In this episode, Dylan Walker, a reporter for China Daily, donated blood for the 13th time in China. “The blood donated daily is far from enough,” he said. “I once read in the diary of Lei Feng (1940-1962), a role model for selfless dedication, that ‘A human’s life is limited, but what they can do for the people is unlimited.’ I was inspired, and I believe we need to start with the little things and gradually influence the people around us.”

This commitment to humanity and the connection between China and the US are also reflected in the growing collaboration among a group of medical professionals.

In June, the “Bond with Kuliang: 2024 China-US Youth Festival” took place in Kuliang, East China’s Fujian province — a special and monumental location in Sino-US medical history.

At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, as ports opened up, groups of Americans settled in Kuliang and gradually became part of the local community. Among them was Edward Bliss (Chinese name: Fu Yihua), who held a medical PhD and helped locals with childbirth and treated dis-

eases like malaria.

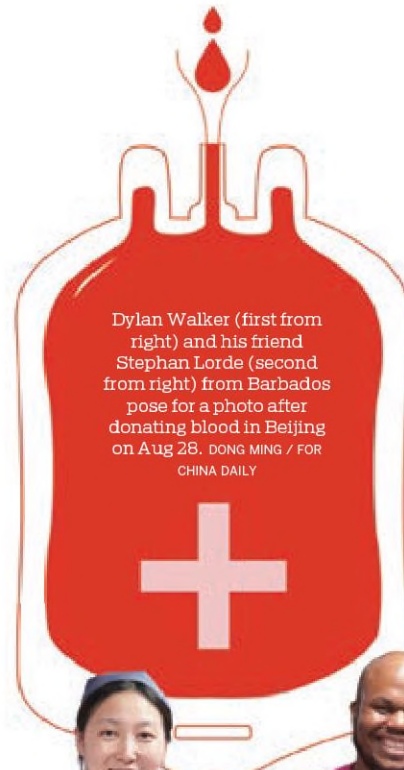
During the event, among those invited were 12 doctors from PUMCH and 11 medical students from universities including the University of Chicago and Johns Hopkins University in the US.

A group of orthopedic doctors from the US also participated in professional ward rounds and academic exchanges at PUMCH.

Founded by the Rockefeller Foundation in 1921, PUMCH is a testament to the long-standing and ongoing cooperation between the two countries and has been fostering exchanges over the years.

“For the young US doctors, this experience allowed them to understand how different countries approach medicine and conduct research,” Guo said. “It helped them realize that in the process of medical education, they can gain knowledge within a variety of cultural contexts.”

Hui Shangyi, an attending physician in



Dylan Walker (first from right) and his friend Stephan Lorde (second from right) from Barbados pose for a photo after donating blood in Beijing on Aug 28. DONG MING / FOR CHINA DAILY



the anesthesiology department at PUMCH, pointed out that, in addition to the exchange event in Kuliang, the hospital has been actively fostering collaborations with medical institutions in the US.

“We send doctors to each other’s hospital to share ideas and explore possibilities for future cooperation,” she said.

This year, Guo has visited the US twice for medical and academic exchanges. During his visits, he learned about the curricular reform measures at the University of Michigan Medical School and observed the thoracic surgery department at the University of Chicago, where he noted their effective integration of in-school education and post-graduate medical training.

“The training period for medical professionals is relatively long because they learn through practice. This is a common problem that

both countries face,” said Guo.

He believes that by cooperating and constantly exchanging ideas in medical education, it’s possible to “improve efficiency and safety during training”.

On the US side, Walker mentioned that a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) clinic near his hometown of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, has been gaining popularity, with many locals seeking remedies for issues like asthma.

“More and more foreigners are accepting and acknowledging the effectiveness and science behind TCM treatments. There’s also a growing number of international students, including those from the US, coming to China to study TCM,” said Walker.

Guo explained that TCM is a practical science, with its methods refined over thousands of years and proven effective.

“Like Western medicine, TCM has also evolved over the years. Today, TCM focuses more on developing methods with universal and broader impacts,” he said. “As Chinese doctors practicing Western medicine, we’ve been developing treatments that combine both approaches and promoting them globally.”

Guo highlighted the importance of cooperation between China and the US, as they are two of the most influential countries in the world.

“Our partnership will undoubtedly play a significant role in driving progress in the global medical industry,” he said.

“The US has advanced medical technology and pharmaceutical research, while China has a large pool of experienced doctors and a rich heritage of TCM. Together, these strengths will inspire medical professionals from both countries, leading to collaborative efforts to combat common health challenges facing humanity.”

### Social Media Digest

#### Pinkie problem

Mobile phones are getting larger nowadays, leading many people to use their pinkie finger to support the bottom of the phone when holding it with one hand. Over time, this can cause a dent or arch to form on the finger due to the pressure.

Recently, this issue has sparked discussions on TikTok, with 163 million related posts. Netizens have even coined a term for this deformity: “phone pinkie”.

In March, the Daily Mail conducted street interviews and discovered that only two out of those interviewed had normal pinkie fingers. One of them uses a phone stand, while the other avoids using her pinkie finger when holding her phone.

Despite the phenomenon, all participants expressed that they find it



Using the pinkie finger to support the phone can cause a dent to form on the finger. TUCHONG

hard to reduce their phone usage. According to a June report by What’s the big data, a website specializing in AI tools and data, Generation Z spends an average of 7 hours and 18 minutes per day on screens, including smartphones, computers,

and other digital devices.

Physiotherapist Christynne Helfrich believes that “phone pinkie” is basically harmless, causing at most finger soreness.

She suggests that the best solution is to limit phone usage and take breaks every 10-15 minutes to relax the hand.

“If this is a recent development, making some adjustments and being mindful of prolonged use can help resolve symptoms more quickly than if this has been going on for months,” Helfrich told Bustle, an online US women’s magazine.

#### Selling the sun

A video has recently gone viral online, in which a man who is standing on the outskirts of Los Angeles at night claims he can instantly

“summon” sunlight. He opens a mobile app, enters his location, and clicks the “light up” button. Immediately, his surroundings are illuminated.

The man is Ben Nowack, the founder of the emerging lighting and energy company Reflect Orbital.

The video showcased the company’s core concept: using a series of satellites orbiting Earth to reflect sunlight and deliver it to specified locations for customers.

Nowack hopes that with this service, people can purchase sunlight on their phones at any time of night, whether for outdoor camping, concerts, romantic proposals, finding their way in the forest, or even powering solar energy systems.

Nowack, who previously worked as an engineer at SpaceX, is well-versed in the aerospace industry. His



Reflect Orbital employs satellites to reflect sunlight and direct it to various locations on Earth. TUCHONG

partner, high school classmate Tristan Semmelhack, is a drone expert. Six months ago, Reflect Orbital

was officially founded. The team began in-depth research on the business and identified their biggest challenge: launching thousands of satellites for the project.

Another pressing need is investment. Media estimates suggest that this project could require tens of billions, if not hundreds of billions, of dollars.

The project has also been receiving much criticism online. YouTuber Dylan O’Donnell released a video accusing Nowack of “being a fraud” and suggested that this grandiose project is just a ploy to deceive investors.

In a world where light pollution is already a growing concern, this may not be the “bright” project as Nowack aspires.

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