

Hitting the spot

Martial arts make an impact in Sierra Leone
GLOBAL LENS, PAGE 7



CIIE helps LDCs to access market in China
BUSINESS, PAGE 9



Tradition reimaged

Designs inspired by Chinese cultural heritage shine on global runways
LIFE, PAGE 15

CHINA DAILY

GLOBAL EDITION 中國日報 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024

Manufacturing expands amid policy boost

Revived confidence bodes well for economic momentum and full-year growth outlook

By ZHOU LANXU and OUYANG SHIJIA

China's manufacturing activity expanded last month for the first time in half a year, official data showed on Thursday, as stimulus measures boosted production and revived confidence, boding well for fourth-quarter economic momentum and the full-year growth outlook.

Nevertheless, analysts said that it may still be too early to conclude that the Chinese economy had fully bottomed out, as the challenges of insufficient demand and property woes persisted, making intensive stimulus that is "rare in a noncrisis period" still likely in 2025.

Wen Bin, chief economist at China Minsheng Bank, said, "With additional policies to be introduced and synergistic policy effects to unfold, the economy is on track for stable growth in the fourth quarter after factory activity improved in October." Wen added that "it is highly possible for the country to meet the annual economic and social targets. However, the policy transmission to help the economy bottom out still needs to be strengthened, which is evident in areas such as lukewarm manufacturing new orders and the subdued vitality of smaller enterprises."

The official purchasing managers index for the manufacturing sector rose for the second consecutive month to 50.1 in October, standing above the 50 mark that separates expansion from contraction for the first time in six months, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Thursday.

The reading was up from 49.8 in September and stood above 49.9, as many analysts had expected, mostly driven by accelerated production activity, while new market orders remained generally unchanged with improving domestic demand offsetting weakening export orders.

A subindex gauging manufacturers' expectations in terms of production and operations came in at 54, up significantly from 52 in September and hitting a four-month high, the NBS said.

Sentiment in the broader economy also improved. The composite PMI, covering both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing activity, came in at 50.8 in October, up from 50.4 a month earlier.

"With the introduction of a package of incremental policies and the

effects of existing policies gradually emerging, China's economic vitality continued to pick up in October," said Zhao Qinghe, an NBS statistician.

Despite the overall pickup, the bureau said that the PMI for small manufacturers dropped from 48.5 in September to 47.5 in October, indicating worsening operating conditions.

Even with an acceleration in infrastructure construction, the PMI for the construction sector declined from 50.7 in the previous month to 50.4 in October, which analysts attributed to a lingering slackness of real estate construction.

As manufacturers' new export orders further contracted in October, Betty Wang, lead economist at British think tank Oxford Economics, said that China's exports may soften in the fourth quarter as the global semiconductor cycle is likely to reach its peak.

Wang said that broad coordination between monetary and fiscal policy support is still likely over the next few quarters to support growth, which is "rare in a noncrisis period."

In particular, Wang said her team expects the government to increase its spending by 2 trillion to 3 trillion yuan (\$281 billion to \$421 billion) next year, financed by special treasury bonds, in areas such as infrastructure investment and assistance to targeted household groups.

On the monetary front, Zhu Haibin, chief China economist at JPMorgan, said his team expects the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, to cut the policy benchmarks of interest rates twice in 2025 — by 10 basis points each — along with two cuts to the reserve requirement ratio, of 25 basis points each.

"Fiscal and monetary policy will not quickly swing back to neutral or a tightening stance as observed in recent years, aiming to support a continuous recovery in the coming quarters," said Zhu, who had revised upward the 2025 full-year growth forecast for China, from 4 percent to 4.6 percent year-on-year.

As part of China's intensified efforts to shore up the property market, the central bank decided to implement a normalized adjustment mechanism to narrow the gap between the interest rates of existing mortgages and new mortgages, starting on Friday.

Contact the writers at zhoulanxu@chinadaily.com.cn

Naval might



The People's Liberation Army Navy's CNS Liaoning and the CNS Shandong aircraft carrier task groups take part in a combat training exercise in the South China Sea in late October. It marked the first time that the two carrier strike groups participated in the same exercise that was intended to hone the joint operation capability of the groups' personnel. CHEN MENGXI / XINHUA

Joint conservation of rare bird pays off

By YAN DONGJIE in Beijing and QIN FENG in Xi'an

Japan transferred on Thursday 16 locally born Asian crested ibis to China, honoring an agreement between the two countries to advance conservation efforts to reduce the extinction risk of the avian species.

This is the first such return of the internationally protected birds in eight years.

According to Japan's Ministry of Environment, the transferred birds — nine females and seven males — were born at a conservation center on Sado Island in Niigata prefecture between 2016 and 2022, China Central Television reported.

In 1999, when the crested ibis was on the brink of extinction in Japan, China gifted two birds — named Yang Yang and You You — to help its neighbor to artificially breed the species in Sado, said China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration. Five more birds were sent from China to Japan in three exchanges in 2000, 2007 and 2018.

As of 2023, Japan's crested ibis count in the wild was estimated to be 532, Japanese media reported, quoting the country's Ministry of Environment. Japan has downgraded the status of the crested ibis from "extinct in the wild" to "critically endangered 1A".



File photo shows crested ibis in Huzhou, Zhejiang province. XIE SHANGGUO / FOR CHINA DAILY

According to a memorandum of understanding signed between the two nations, Japan is required to return half of its artificially bred crested ibis offspring to China. Between 2002 and 2016, a total of 47 birds were sent to China in seven exchanges, Japanese media reported.

The Asian crested ibis (*Nipponia nippon*) was once widely distributed across East Asia. However, by the 20th century, the species had almost disappeared from the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

In 1981, seven of these birds were spotted in the Qinling Mountains in Northwest China's Shaanxi province, sparking hopes of saving the species from extinction in the wild.

Currently, the total population of the Asian crested ibis is more than 10,000, with all the birds being offspring of the seven found in

Shaanxi, according to the Hanzhong Crested Ibis National Nature Reserve in Shaanxi.

This incredible achievement made the efforts to protect the crested ibis a "successful model for saving endangered species worldwide," the nature reserve said.

Zhang Yueming, a senior engineer at the reserve, said that from 1991 to 2000, the number of crested ibis nesting sites in the wild continued to increase, reaching 18 by 2000, with the population surpassing 100.

Zhang said that he has witnessed a steady improvement in the ecological quality of the Qinling Mountains, with continuous breakthroughs in the artificial breeding of and reintroduction techniques for the crested ibis.

In 2007, China achieved the world's first successful reintroduction of the crested ibis into the wild in Ningshan county, Shaanxi, where 26 of these birds were released.

Apart from Japan, China has gifted its crested ibis to South Korea — in 2008 and 2013. Over 500 birds have been successfully hatched and raised at a restoration center in that country.

Jiang Xueqing in Tokyo contributed to this story.

Contact the writers at yandongjie@chinadaily.com.cn

WORLD WATCH
By Grzegorz W. Kolodko

System that works and ensures happiness

While China's leaders and luminaries of social sciences outline a bright time for the country on its 100th anniversary in 2049, when, according to President Xi Jinping, it will be "a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful", in the West, some politicians and Sinologists wonder when the system ruling in the Middle Kingdom will collapse. While paying more attention to its political than economic characteristics, they lose sight of the essence of the matter.

People in China accept the system because they are happy with the economic progress that has raised their standard of living. In this year's World Happiness Report, China is not far behind Japan and South Korea and ranks higher — in some cases significantly, if, for example, compared to India — than other BRICS countries such as Iran, Russia, South Africa and Egypt. It outperforms others too, including states with larger per capita GDP. Interestingly, the Chinese are happier than citizens of certain European Union nations, such as Croatia, Greece, and Bulgaria.

On the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, we have read commentaries in *The Economist* about how China's leaders are pondering about the experience of the failed Soviet Union. Yet I think that China has learned a lot from it and from former socialist countries of East Central Europe and has drawn the proper conclusions. The decisive reason why the Soviet-style state socialism failed was not lack of democracy, which is the dominant thesis in the West, but the miserable economic progress marked by huge shortages and inflation. The dreadful coexistence of both undermined the efficiency of enterprises and, consequently, limited the scale of household consumption growth.

See *Reforms*, page 3

Painful aftermath



Residents walk past piled up cars following deadly floods in Valencia in eastern Spain on Wednesday. Rescue efforts continued as Spain coped with its worst flooding disaster in decades, with at least 140 people dead and dozens more missing. MANAURE QUINTERO / AFP See more, page 6

MARATHONS THRIVE IN CHINA, DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Visually impaired runners embrace opportunity to participate in events

By XINHUA

In a time of 2 hours and 7 minutes, Li Zezhou, a 17-year-old visually impaired runner with a second-level disability, crossed the finish line of the 2024 Tianjin Marathon, to complete his first half-marathon.

"Although I cannot see, the cheers from the crowd filled me



with joy. Thanks to the support of my accompanying runners, the race went smoothly," said Li, a student from Tianjin School for Visual Impairment, who participated in the Oct 20 event

alongside five other visually impaired runners.

Yan Zhuang, head of the Tianjin Red Cross Foundation's public welfare running project, hosted a celebration for them at the finish line. "Regardless of the results, they have conquered themselves," Yan said.

See *Marathons*, page 2

Newsstand prices:
US \$1 Canada C\$1
UK 15p EUR 16p
Kenya 50 Kenya Shilling
Asia Pacific: Thailand 120
thb; Philippines 120 php; Myanmar 2000 kyat;
Japan 210 yen; Dubai 10 dirham; Pakistan 300 rupee

www.chinadailyglobal.com
Member of ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK
China Daily Global
©2024 All Rights Reserved

INSIDE
Keeping global governance machinery running
Global Views, page 13



PAGE TWO

Marathon: Rise in participation, inspiring stories

From page 1

For visually impaired people, overcoming their fears is the most important step. Before the event, the Tianjin Red Cross Foundation recruited several experienced accompanying runners and regularly organized special training sessions at the school.

Yan added that a visually impaired runner is usually accompanied by at least three other runners. The most critical one is the main guide runner who holds the guide rope and needs to give the visually impaired runner verbal and physical signals for when to accelerate, decelerate, and turn. The other two guides run behind and in front of the visually impaired athlete as shields and hand the runner supplies when needed.

"In an unfamiliar environment, we are their eyes. They entrust their hearts to us. We believe in each other," said Wang Lan, an accompanying runner with four years' experience of guide running.

The Tianjin Marathon was the first time she had accompanied a visually impaired athlete in a race, and the experience gave her a deeper understanding of the visually impaired community. "Before this, I never thought that blind people, who face many difficulties in daily life, could also run marathons," Wang said.

Golden season

Autumn is the golden season for marathons in China.

At least 20 marathons were held simultaneously across the country on Oct 20, including Tianjin, Dalian, Liaoning province, Xi'an, Shaanxi province, and Changsha, Hunan province.

Despite the abundance of events, many Chinese runners still struggle to secure spots, reflecting the high demand and growing popularity of marathons nationwide.

The marathon boom in China has been going on for several years. A report from the Chinese Athletics Association identified 2016 to 2019 as a period of rapid growth, with 1,828 road races held in 2019.

After the COVID-19 pandemic eased, the momentum quickly returned, with 699 events held in 2023, averaging nearly two marathons a day. Experts predict that the number of marathon events will surpass the 2019 peak in the coming years.

This trend is driven by a balance of supply and demand. Analysts point out that when a country's per capita GDP exceeds \$5,000, a sports consumption cycle begins, often marked by a rise in marathons. China reached this threshold in 2011, and as people's fitness needs and consumption habits have evolved, the demand for running events has increased, prompting a rise in marathon offerings.

The surge in marathons is also fueled by efforts to boost consumption and economic growth. Local governments are eager to host marathons due to the economic benefits they bring.

The influx of participants and tourists, combined with extensive media coverage, translates into economic gains for cities, particularly in the cultural and tourism sectors. Hosting a marathon also offers cities a chance to enhance their image and promote their attractions.

For example, the 2024 Tianjin Marathon route featured landmarks such as the Tianjin Eye ferris wheel, the Jiefang Bridge, and Minyuan Square, offering runners a scenic and memorable race. Xue Hui, director of the Tianjin Sports Bureau, said that marathons boost a city's visibility, reputation,

and long-term vitality.

On the commercial side, when many sports events struggle to find sponsors, top marathons often attract numerous businesses eager to be associated with the event. The road-running industry spans various sectors, from event management and sports equipment to tourism, media, and health services. A healthy marathon ecosystem benefits the entire industry chain.

Chinese cities are being encouraged to develop unique marathon events tailored to their local culture and resources. Existing races should focus on improving professionalism, market appeal, and participant services to enhance the overall experience. Balancing economic and social benefits is crucial, ensuring that marathons meet fitness demands while contributing to broader economic and social development.

Beijing bustling

The 2024 Beijing Marathon is set to kick off on Sunday, with organizers announcing a record number of over 180,000 runners registering for the event.

Despite the participation cap of 30,000 athletes, the overwhelming demand has led to an unprecedented number of sign-ups. After registrations opened on Oct 2, a remarkable 182,949 runners from 43 countries and regions submitted their applications in just three days.

Wang Xiaoying, a member of the executive committee of the Chinese Athletics Association, emphasized that the Beijing Marathon, as a premier marathon event in China, will continue to strengthen organizational standards, optimize event services and enhance overall quality.

The start, located on the eastern side of Tian'anmen Square, will be moved 100 meters north, allowing all runners to

assemble on the eastern road of the square for a more streamlined start.

The event organizers also unveiled the design for this year's finisher's medal and participant apparel. The medal blends Eastern aesthetics with modern artistry, featuring a design that highlights the unique shapes of the National Stadium (Bird's Nest) and the National Speed Skating Oval (Ice Ribbon).

The overlapping patterns on the medal reflect the rich cultural heritage of Beijing as an ancient capital and its identity as a city that has hosted both Summer and Winter Olympics.

Cai Cheng, a visually impaired man born in the 1990s and head of a domestic service company, competed in the Tianjin Marathon and completed his first half-marathon in 3 hours and 5 minutes. "I only had two months of structured marathon training, and I owe my performance to Wang and the other accompanying runners," Cai shared, admitting that he rarely has the chance to exercise.

For marathon participants, a certain level of excitement can boost performance, but for first-time runners like Cai, too much excitement can hinder progress.

Before the race, Cai experienced discomfort in his feet, but he was determined to push through. "If I quit halfway, it would be unfair to the accompanying runners who have supported me the whole way. I had to finish the race for them," Cai said.

To help Cai pace himself, Wang and the other runners kept talking to him, encouraging him and helping him focus. "Holding the guide rope, my initial fear and tension disappeared, and by the final kilometers, I had forgotten about the discomfort in my body," Cai added.

After crossing the finish line, Cai and his accompanying runners embraced warmly.

"I used to focus on my result, but this time, I dedicated all my energy to supporting others. It felt completely different. It was a challenge to manage my own pace while encouraging someone else," Wang said.

"Many people came to cheer for the visually impaired during this race, showing that more and more people are paying attention to these individuals who strive to live their lives. We should also consider what more we can do for them. Perhaps we can start by ensuring that blind lanes are kept clear of obstacles," she added.

Runners' enthusiasm for marathons is growing across the country. On Oct 20, events were held in more than 20 cities, including Tianjin, Dalian, Liaoning province, Xi'an, Shaanxi province, and Changsha, Hunan province. PHOTOS BY WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY AND PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Pioneer female runner tracks event's 43-year road to success

By XINHUA

Luo Minqin hasn't run a marathon for several years, but her legend is still well-known by many runners.

Luo was one of the first women to participate in marathon races in China. Competing in the inaugural Tianjin Marathon in 1981, she was women's champion at the age of 25.

A physical education teacher at a middle school in Tianjin at the time, Luo loved sports and enjoyed running, but she had only officially participated in a 5,000-meter race.

She and the vast majority of her contemporaries had never heard of the marathon and had no idea how to run a distance of over 40 kilometers.

Out of curiosity, Luo signed up for the inaugural Tianjin Marathon.

For the first 20 km, she ran with a group of male runners, feeling proud and confident. However, after 30 km, her body had a severe reaction. She vomited continuously and it felt as if her legs were filled with lead.

For her safety, the staff of the organizing committee urged her to give up. Ambulances and medical personnel were on standby. But her strong will and the cheers from the crowd enabled her to cross the finish line.

With a time of 4:26:34, she was the first woman to finish. This result might seem insignificant nowadays, but 43 years ago, there were very few people involved in marathon running in China, and women who dared to tackle the marathon course were even rarer.

After winning the women's championship in her first full marathon, Luo has been fascinated by marathons ever since. "It's not that I chose the marathon, but the marathon took me in. It gave me peace and a sense of belonging," Luo said.

Continuous fatigue from racing, coupled with a lack of scientific training and nutritional care, led to sports-related injuries in different parts of her body. Once, she fell from a pull-up bar at school, fracturing her knee joint, which almost ended her athletic pursuits.

She still insisted on running, but she had to reduce the frequency of marathons and later could only run half-marathons, and 10-km and 5-km races.

As she grew older, Luo became involved in the organization and service work of marathon events. Now, at 68, Luo no longer participates in official competitions, but she still loves sports and is active in various fitness organizations and sports associations in Tianjin.

At the 2024 Tianjin Marathon held on Oct 20, Luo was busy organizing cultural performances and cheer squads, and also promoted the event via livestreams.

She marveled at the rapid changes and developments in China's marathon events over the past 40 years.

In 1981, the Tianjin Marathon had only 165 participants, but this year it reached 30,000, with the number of registrants exceeding 120,000. "From a few hundred to tens of thousands of participants, it is a microcosm of the explosion of China's marathons," Luo said.

China's marathon events are growing in many cities nowadays. According to a blue book released by the Chinese Athletics Association, there were 699 road running events held nationwide in 2023, with a total of 6 million participants. Almost every day, two marathons take place in China. April and October see a high cluster of events, with an average of four races per day.

Even with so many events, the number of marathons is still far from enough. In Luo's view, the demand is a manifestation of the continuous improvement of Chinese people's understanding of health and their pursuit of a healthy lifestyle.

"Over 40 years ago, people first took care of food, clothing, and daily needs. The concept and demand for sports and fitness were very vague. It was difficult to find a running partner. At that time, marathon (running) was a lonely sport," Luo said.

Now, running a marathon has not only become an effective way to achieve sports and fitness goals, and a positive and trendy lifestyle, but also a platform for releasing pressure, calming emotions, and socializing, according to Luo.

Marathons are also continuing to evolve and adapt to new situations. "The initial marathon races only had the full marathon. At that time, I had no choice," Luo said.

"Now, we have many types of running including half-marathons, women's marathons, rock-and-roll marathons, forest marathons, health runs, parent-child runs, and charity runs."

Marathon events also require great efforts in organization, operation, security, and service, with high-tech technology and cultural ingenuity, if they want to become the once-in-a-lifetime marathon that runners must participate in.

At the age of 70, Luo said she wants to put on her running shoes again and return to racing, embracing the new era of China's marathon.



Runners start the Beijing Half Marathon 2024 on April 14. The 2024 Beijing Marathon is set to kick off on Sunday. WEI XIAOHAO / CHINA DAILY

TOP NEWS

Experts voice concerns over Japan's election

By CAI HONG
caihong@chinadaily.com.cn

The crushing defeat of Japan's ruling coalition in Sunday's general election has captured the attention of experts in international relations, particularly in the United States, which is Japan's closest ally.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner, Komeito, lost their majority in the lower house, the more influential chamber of Japan's parliament. Now, Prime Minister and LDP leader Shigeru Ishiba is trying to cling to power through a minority government after the Democratic Party for the People, a key opposition entity, declined to join the coalition on Tuesday, Nikkei Asia said.

Japan finds itself in uncharted political territory. A special parliamentary session is expected to convene on Nov 11 to elect a new prime minister, Kyodo News reported.

The largest opposition party, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, made significant gains in the election and is now projecting its head, Yoshihiko Noda, as a potential leader if the opposition camp can cobble together a majority.

US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller reaffirmed on Monday during a press briefing that the US' long-standing alliance with Japan will remain steadfast, regardless of the outcome of any election in Japan.

In an article for The Japan Times, Kuni Miyake, president of the Foreign Policy Institute, a private think tank in Tokyo, echoed this sentiment, asserting that there is unlikely to be any substantial shift in Japan's foreign policy despite the political turbulence. As long as an LDP-led administration continues, there is "little chance" of any major changes to the Indo-Pacific policies established by the late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, he noted.

Even if the CDPJ-led opposition coalition were to take power, "there would be no reason to significantly alter Tokyo's foreign policy," as both the LDP and CDPJ regard the Japan-US alliance as foundational to Japanese security, Miyake said.

Defense alliance

Meanwhile, White House officials met with Japan's experts on Monday to assess the potential implications for US-Japan relations, with a particular focus on timelines for enhanced defense cooperation, according to Nikkei Asia.

Some US experts have voiced concerns that Sunday's election results could hinder Japan's progress on promised defense reforms.

In an interview with Nikkei Asia, Sheila Smith, senior fellow for Asia-Pacific studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, warned of a possible return to Japan's "revolving-door" leadership era. Beginning with Abe's first premiership in 2006, Japan saw six different prime ministers over a span of five years.

Frequent leadership changes make it challenging to maintain the momentum for advancing a cohesive alliance or strategic agenda with partners, Smith noted.

She pointed to the period from 2009 to 2012, when the Democratic Party of Japan was in power. During that time, the US-Japan alliance faced strains as Japan's leaders sought a more "balanced" foreign policy approach, which involved distancing Tokyo from

Adjustments to bilateral defense and security cooperation may be necessary in the future given the opposition camp being in the majority in the lower house."

Chen Yang, visiting research fellow at the Institute of Japan Studies at Liaoning University

Washington and strengthening ties with Beijing.

However, Chen Yang, visiting research fellow at the Institute of Japan Studies at Liaoning University, suggested that the election results are unlikely to trigger a sudden shift in Japan's strategic direction.

"Adjustments to bilateral defense and security cooperation may be necessary in the future given the opposition camp being in the majority in the lower house," Chen said. "However, the opposition parties remain divided on key issues such as the US-Japan alliance, US military bases (in Japan) and defense cooperation with the United States," Chen added.

Chen further cautioned that political instability could slow Japan's progress on critical initiatives, including its defense buildup.

The LDP has pledged to increase defense spending to 2 percent of Japan's gross domestic product by 2027, a move in line with US encouragement for Japan to play a larger role in regional security. The party was expected to decide by the year's end on the timing of proposed defense tax increases to fund this expansion.

Japan's traditional left-leaning parties, such as the Japanese Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party, oppose these defense initiatives, contending that increased military investment and a strengthened Japan-US alliance risk destabilizing East Asia.

Although they have only a marginal presence in parliament, Japan's left-leaning parties have historically played a significant role in tempering the country's foreign policy.

Also, Ishiba himself advocates revisiting the Japan-US Security Treaty and the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement, aiming to address what he perceives as an imbalance in the alliance. His vision for a more equitable partnership includes potentially stationing members of Japan's Self-Defense Forces at US bases and comanaging US military installations in Japan.

Lian Degui, director of Center for Japanese Studies at Shanghai International Studies University, noted that "the idea of revising the Status of Forces Agreement has long been a delicate issue, as it could potentially eliminate the privileges currently afforded to US service members and their families, subjecting them to Japan's domestic laws".

Japanese officials, too, are reportedly cautious about the proposal. "Some have expressed concerns that pushing the revision too aggressively could strain Tokyo's relationship with Washington," Lian added.

Honor for sports legend



Chinese table tennis icon Ma Long (center) receives the Outstanding Sporting Career Award during a ceremony of the Association of National Olympic Committees Awards 2024 in Cascais, Portugal, on Wednesday. Ma, 36, has won six gold medals from four consecutive Olympic Games since London 2012, becoming the most decorated Chinese Olympian. MENG DINGBO / XINHUA

Foreign firms keen to invest more in China

Survey finds 90% of companies satisfied with business environment

By ZHONG NAN
zhongnan@chinadaily.com.cn

China's ongoing progress in market openness, product innovation and business model transformation will secure its position as a strategic priority for multinational corporations, creating long-term financial returns, said market watchers and corporate executives on Thursday.

According to a report released on Thursday by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, about 90 percent of surveyed foreign companies rated China's business environment as "satisfactory" or higher. The survey included more than 400 foreign companies operating in China in the third quarter.

Among the evaluated criteria, the highest satisfaction rates were for market access, access to business premises and completion of exit procedures.

From a market perspective, foreign companies that were surveyed remained optimistic about China, said Sun Xiao, a spokesman for the council.

Expanding production lines in

China or implementing digital transformation are the primary uses of increased investment among these companies, said Sun.

The surveyed foreign businesses have shown increased willingness to invest in China. Nearly 20 percent of the surveyed companies said they plan to increase their investment in China, an increase of 2.07 percentage points from the previous quarter. The country's eastern region is the primary area for their investment, accounting for 59.52 percent of the total, according to the report.

Denis Depoux, global managing director at management consultancy Roland Berger, said that since 2010, China's economic growth has been on a path of normalization. This can be viewed as a typical development path for a more mature economy.

"If we compare China's GDP growth in 2023 with other major economies, the country has demonstrated solid growth," he said, adding that China's growth prospects for the near future suggest resilience despite differing global trends, with a gradual yet steady growth trajectory ahead. Depoux

added that the nation will remain a key destination for multinational companies.

With the structure of foreign investment continuing to be optimized, China saw the high-tech manufacturing sector use 77.12 billion yuan (\$10.83 billion) in foreign direct investment in the first three quarters of 2024, accounting for 12 percent of the national total, according to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce. That is an increase of 1.5 percentage points from the same period last year.

Also in that period of time, FDI in the manufacturing of medical instruments and equipment grew 57.3 percent year-on-year, while that for professional technical services increased 35.3 percent.

Executives of multinational corporations noted that as China intensifies its commitment to high-quality growth and enhances institutional openness through new policy measures and large-scale business platforms like the China International Import Expo, foreign companies are eager to explore expanded opportunities stemming from China's modernization efforts.

Speaking ahead of the seventh CITE, which will be held in Shanghai next week, Takao Yagi, chairman and CEO of Toshiba (China) Co, said that during the grand event, the Japanese group will unveil to a global audience a number of trailblazing innovations across key areas, including semiconductors, carbon neutrality and digital solutions.

"In line with China's green development goals, we seek to demonstrate our technological advancements dedicated to environmental protection and sustainable growth," he said.

United States-based industrial conglomerate 3M will put its intelligent converting center into operation at its Shanghai manufacturing site next week, following a \$50 million investment.

Henry Ding, 3M's senior vice-president and president of the group's China branch, said this facility will work in synergy with its structural adhesive production line and prototyping center located at the same site, to better meet the diverse and evolving needs of product development and manufacturing in China's electronics and industrial sectors.

According to the report, about 60 percent of US companies that were surveyed and 48 percent of European companies noted a rise in China's market attractiveness in the third quarter, with increases of 15.26 percentage points for the US enterprises and 5.42 percentage points for the European ones.

Inside

Comment, page 11

Reforms: Hybrid of market, State power at work

From page 1

China, on the other hand, has reformed its economic system so profoundly that it has allowed entrepreneurs to make profits and people to earn increasingly decent wages.

The economies of many centrally-planned countries collapsed in the past due to inflation. The inflation was hidden by suppressing price rises through political decisions. This defied the logic of the market economy and was akin to an ostrich burying its head in the sand. Worse still, because of inconsistent reforms that liberalized markets only partially, price rise was accompanied by absence of goods. I call it the shortage-inflation syndrome; although things were getting increasingly expensive, they were not always available in the market.

During the post-socialist system transformation — after the Polish political turn of 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 — the recovery from the shortage-inflation was devastating for the real economy. A deep recession lasted for three years in Poland, where the GDP declined by almost 20 percent. In Russia, it lasted 10 years, during which time the GDP

Only China, thanks to its gradual reforms and prudent policy, found its way out of the nightmare of the shortage economy, avoiding long-term recession.

fell by more than half. A radical collapse of production and simultaneous high inflation was accompanied by a deep redistribution of income and wealth, with all political consequences it entailed.

Only China, thanks to its gradual reforms and prudent policy, found its way out of the nightmare of the shortage economy, avoiding long-term recession and without provoking the outbreak of hyperinflation. The elimination of shortages proceeded in parallel with economic growth, while open inflation associated with price liberalization remained low. While the consumer price index, or CPI, increased from 3.1 percent in 1990 and 3.4 percent in 1991 to 6.4 percent in 1992 and 14.7 percent in 1993, the rate of GDP growth

boosted from 3.8 percent in 1990 to 9.2 percent in 1991 and then accelerated to 14.2 percent in 1992 and 14 percent in 1993.

In the former socialist European countries, the systemic reforms failed, whereas in China they succeeded. The contemporary Chinese political system differs in quality from those of other countries, whether state socialism with its inherent soft budget constraints, or liberal capitalism with its hard constraints. I define this system as Chinism. It is a hybrid, in which multiple forms of ownership of the means of production coexist and which combines the power of the invisible hand of the market with the power of the visible hand of the State. Importantly, this combination is accompanied by meritocracy and responsible professionalism in economic management. The system and the policies implemented within it work in practice, which irritates anti-China circles in the West, especially in the US. In their zealous criticism, they even resort to statistical manipulation by using the current prices to belittle Chinese achievements, claiming that China's "GDP has been slipping of late, from about 75 percent of America's in 2021 to

65 percent now" (The Economist, Oct 19).

In reality — counting correctly, i.e. at constant prices — this ratio at least has not changed between these years and even improved, since China's economy has been growing faster than that of the United States. In the long run, China's GDP increased from approximately 11 percent of the US' GDP in 1960, to 66 percent in 2024. Moreover, since 2016, China's GDP measured in purchasing power parity has been greater than that of the United States and now it exceeds it by 26.6 percent.

The economic dynamism of China should not be a cause for concern, but rather a reason for satisfaction, as it contributes not only to improving the living conditions of millions of Chinese people, but also stimulates economic development in other parts of the world.

The author is a director of Transformation, Integration and Globalization Economic Research (TIGER) at Kozminski University in Warsaw, former deputy prime minister and minister of finance of Poland and distinguished professor of the Belt and Road School of Beijing Normal University.

CHINA DAILY USA

NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS

1500 Broadway, Suite 2800,
New York, NY 10036

Telephone: 212-537-8888

Fax: 212-537-8898

editor@chinadailyusa.com
readers@chinadailyusa.com

Subscription: 212-537-8899

Advertising: 212-537-8916

Follow us on:

twitter.com/chinadaily
facebook.com/chinadaily

usa.chinadaily.com.cn

These materials are distributed by China Daily Distribution Corp. on behalf of China Daily Beijing, China. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

WASHINGTON
National Press Bldg, Suite 1108
529 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20045
Tel: 202-662-7249
Fax: 202-662-7247

SAN FRANCISCO
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 900, San Francisco,
CA 94104
Tel: 415-348-8288
Fax: 415-348-8388

SEATTLE
800 Fifth Ave, Suite 4100
Seattle, WA 98104
Tel: 206-922-2868

HOUSTON
1001 South Dabry Ashford Suite 100
Houston, TX 77077
Tel: 713-595-7660

CANADA | TORONTO
471 Yonge Street, 10th Floor
Toronto, Ontario, M2N 6K8
Tel: 416-481-5706

CHINA DAILY (ISSN 0748-6154) is published daily except weekends by China Daily USA, 1500 Broadway, Suite 2800, New York, NY 10036. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CHINA DAILY USA, 1500 Broadway, Suite 2800, New York, NY 10036.

Vol. 38 - No. 1449

CHINA

US arms sale to Taiwan condemned

Defense ministry rips G7 statement blasting China over sea, Ukraine affairs

By JIANG CHENGLONG
jiangchenglong@chinadaily.com.cn

China strongly condemns and firmly opposes the United States' newly approved arms sale to Taiwan, a defense spokesman said on Thursday.

Senior Colonel Zhang Xiaogang, spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense, made the remarks during a news conference in Beijing, noting that China has lodged solemn representations to the US.

The US Department of Defense recently approved arms sales worth nearly \$2 billion for Taiwan, including a surface-to-air missile system and a radar system.

Zhang said the arms sales severely violated the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiques.

"This move seriously undermined China's sovereignty and security interests, seriously disrupted China-US relations, undermined peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and sent very wrong signals to the 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces," he said.

The US has reneged on its own promise and is intensifying efforts to arm Taiwan, emboldening the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces and pushing Taiwan closer toward the "abyss of military conflict," the spokesman said.

He said Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party authorities purchased weapons to solicit US support, allowing the US to exploit the hard-earned money of the people in Taiwan to feed its military-industrial complex.

"Records have proved time and again that the 'Taiwan independence' separatists and foreign interference are the source of chaos that undermine the status quo, cause cross-strait crises and disrupt regional stability," Zhang stressed.

The official reiterated China's stance regarding the Taiwan question, which he said is at the very core of China's interests and is the first red line that must not be crossed in China-US relations.

"China urges the US to fully recognize the severe consequences of

arming Taiwan, which would surely backfire, and not to go further down the wrong path," he said.

Several pieces of US weaponry will not close the cross-strait military power gap, let alone stop the historical trend of China's reunification, Zhang said.

"The People's Liberation Army will continuously improve its combat readiness, comprehensively enhance the military capability to fight and win, and firmly safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity," he warned.

Zhang expressed firm opposition to any military contact between the US and Taiwan, responding to media reports that Taiwan military authorities signed an agreement with the US government to purchase up to 1,000 unmanned attack drones from US defense contractors.

At the news conference, the spokesman also refuted the joint statement recently issued by the G7 defense ministers' meeting.

The statement criticized China for its stances on issues related to the Taiwan Strait, the East China Sea, the South China Sea and the Ukraine crisis, and called on China to stop supplying dual-use materials to Russia.

Zhang said that China firmly opposed the statement, which disregarded the facts, made groundless accusations against China, and was "filled with lies and prejudice".

Regarding the Ukraine issue specifically, he said China has always adhered to promoting peace talks and has strictly controlled the export of dual-use items.

"In contrast, it is the G7 countries that have been fanning the flames and escalating tensions while attempting to shift blame and responsibility onto China," said Zhang, noting that the international community has witnessed this clearly.

"We urge the relevant countries to genuinely adhere to the basic principles of international relations, refrain from acting as 'teachers' and stop interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, and instead inject positive energy into a world fraught with turmoil," the spokesman said.

Bridge building



The main bridge of the Xinglian Road Grand Link across the Xiangjiang River is under construction in Changsha, Hunan province, on Wednesday. The bridge will be nearly 5 kilometers long upon completion, making it the longest bridge in the provincial capital.

GUO LILIANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

2 carrier strike groups join same drill for first time

By ZHAO LEI
zhaolei@chinadaily.com.cn

The two carrier strike groups of the People's Liberation Army Navy have recently conducted a joint combat exercise in the South China Sea, according to the Navy.

The operation took place in the middle of a long-distance exercise carried out by the CNS *Liaoning* aircraft carrier and its strike group that sailed across the Yellow, East China and South China seas from September to October, the Navy said in a brief news release.

After the *Liaoning* group arrived in the South China Sea, it was joined by another carrier strike group led by the CNS *Shandong*.

It marked the first time that China's two carrier strike groups took part in an exercise together and was intended to hone the joint operation capability of the two groups' personnel, according to the release.

The *Liaoning* group has returned to its homeport in Qingdao, Shandong province, the Navy noted without disclosing the *Shandong* group's whereabouts.

In addition to the release, the Navy published several pictures and video clips showing the two groups sailing in a formation.

According to the pictures and clips, 11 other vessels also took part in the joint exercise, including three Type 055 destroyers and two supply ships.

Up in the air, 12 J-15 carrier-borne fighter jets flew over the ships in a triangle formation in what appeared to be a parade moment, the pictures and clips showed.

At a news conference in Beijing on Thursday afternoon, Senior Colonel Zhang Xiaogang, a spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense, said the two-carrier exercise was part of the Navy's annual

training plan and aimed at improving the carrier strike groups' systematic combat strength.

Song Zhongping, a military affairs commentator and retired PLA officer, said that the operational prowess of two carrier strike groups combined is much greater than that of two groups operating separately.

"Fighting together will integrate and magnify the power of all of the two groups' assets and can enable the fleet to better organize strikes and handle threats from air and sea," he said, noting the number of combat aircraft of two carrier groups combined exceeds that of the entire military of many nations.

"As the size of China's carrier force keeps growing, the country will deploy its two carriers in a single operation on a regular basis and that will extensively strengthen the Navy's operational capability," the observer said.

Currently, the Navy operates two aircraft carriers — the *Liaoning* and the *Shandong*. Both have a standard displacement of around 50,000 metric tons and a conventional propulsion system, and they use a ski jump method for launching fixed-wing aircraft.

The country has built a third aircraft carrier — the CNS *Fujian*, which displaces more than 80,000 tons of water and uses an electromagnetic launch system, or electromagnetic catapult, to launch fixed-wing aircraft.

Compared with its two predecessors, the *Fujian* is much bigger and heavier, and has a larger flight deck and smaller superstructure.

The new carrier has become the largest and mightiest warship that any Asian nation has ever built, as well as the world's biggest non-US aircraft carrier. It is now in the sea trial stage and is expected to be commissioned in the near future.

Satellite mission finds mysterious celestial object

By YAN DONGJIE
yandongjie@chinadaily.com.cn

A Chinese-led satellite mission has detected a mysterious, transient celestial object in a discovery scientists say could represent a previously unknown category of cosmic phenomena.

Known as EP240408a, the object was first spotted in April by China's Einstein Probe satellite after it experienced a massive X-ray outburst. During the event, the object grew 300 times brighter but faded within seconds and disappeared roughly 10 days later.

The Einstein Probe, developed by the National Space Science Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, is designed to monitor transient and eruptive celestial bodies. The mission's first formal study on the object was published Wednesday in the *Science China Physics, Mechanics & Astronomy* journal.

"The characteristics of this object don't fit any known models, suggesting it may belong to an entirely new class of transient celestial phenomena," said Yuan Weimin, principal investigator of the EP mission and a researcher at the National Astronomical Observatories of the CAS.

The EP's advanced Wide-field X-ray Telescope and Follow-up X-ray Telescope enable it to detect X-rays from faint, transient sources that other observatory tools often miss. Yuan noted that the EP's field of view and detection capabilities offer sensitivity and spatial resolution that is 10 times better than existing international equipment.

Operating 590 kilometers above the Earth's surface, the EP focuses on X-ray sources that could shed light on black holes, gravitational waves and other cosmic events predicted by Albert Einstein's theories. It has identified 60 confirmed transient bodies and cosmic phenomena

since its launch in January, including white dwarfs, neutron stars, black holes, gamma-ray bursts and more than 480 stellar flares.

"These findings illustrate EP's major impact on science," said Paul O'Brien, a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom.

The satellite also observed a distant gamma-ray burst, capturing its early soft X-ray emissions and offering new insights into the universe's poorly understood reionization era, a period in the early days of the universe during which neutral hydrogen atoms were reionized by intense radiation.

The EP Science Center, together with the EP science team, has issued over 100 alerts to the global astronomy community, prompting follow-up studies.

In addition to detecting individual events, the EP has conducted repeated sky surveys, successfully

generating China's first all-sky X-ray map. The EP science team comprises about 300 scientists, about three quarters of whom are from Chinese institutions and one-quarter from Europe.

The EP team annually solicits research proposals from Chinese scientists and provides data access to international researchers one year after acquisition.

China's recorded interest in transient phenomena dates back to the Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 220). In 1054, astronomers from the Song Dynasty (960-1279) documented the "Guest Star of Tian Guan," later known as the Chinese Nova, a supernova explosion considered among the most significant astronomical observations in history.

Yuan said the Einstein Probe, known as Tian Guan in Chinese, honors this legacy and seeks to inspire future contributions to world astronomy.

Ready to help



A border control officer provides customs clearance services for a study group consisting of 800 Mongolian and Russian teenagers entering China through the Erenhot Port in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region on Thursday. GUO PENGJIE / FOR CHINA DAILY

Five international cities get Shanghai Award in Alexandria, Egypt

By ZHOU WENTING in Shanghai
zhouwenting@chinadaily.com.cn

Agadir in Morocco, Thiruvananthapuram in India, Doha in Qatar, Iztapalapa in Mexico, and Melbourne in Australia won the second Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities on World Cities Day in Alexandria, Egypt, on Thursday.

The honor, also known as the Shanghai Award, was given to five cities that have made strides in their implementation of the goals set by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the

New Urban Agenda, according to the UN Human Settlements Programme, or UN-Habitat. The program and the Shanghai government jointly presented the award.

Youth leading vibrant communities, innovative development for urban prosperity, quality and secure housing for diversified needs, and low-carbon and climate-resilient urban development were among the main criteria for this year's award, which was themed "Building a Sustainable Urban Future for All".

Fifty-five cities with different levels of development, income levels

and demographics from 28 countries applied for consideration.

Agadir was named a winner as the city, in response to land and water resource shortages, has made tremendous improvements in sustainable urban development after implementing its Communal Action Plan. It has actively promoted sustainable water management, constructed green infrastructure and encouraged citizen participation in urban governance.

Specific actions detailed in the plan included the adoption of Morocco's first extensive initiative for smart public lighting encompass-

ing over 6,000 light points, sustainable water resource management and its Bus Rapid Transit system.

The city's first BRT line is 90 percent complete, stretching 15.5 kilometers with 35 stops, including six transfer stations, and an average distance of 450 meters between stops. Bicycle lanes and sidewalks are being built alongside the BRT line to further promote low-carbon travel.

Such initiatives align with global sustainable development goals and are replicable, providing a valuable example for other cities, according to UN-Habitat.

What's noticeable in Doha's sus-

tainable strategy is that in addition to its well-planned commercial activities and availability of residences and offices, young entrepreneurs were also considered in the city's planning process.

Part of the city's strategy is to provide entrepreneurial urban spaces to allow for their businesses to be developed in vibrant, livable, integrated and resilient areas. The government's temporary use of some urban spaces provides such spaces for young people and emerging artists to establish their startups.

To boost green transportation, Doha has built the world's longest

continuous cycling path, which is more than 32 km long and 7 meters wide. Between 2013 and 2022, walking and cycling trails totaling 2,131 km were developed in the city.

Chen Yujian, vice-mayor of Shanghai, said the Chinese metropolis has made great efforts to fulfill its commitment to build a smart, resilient and residential friendly city over the past five years.

"For example, more than 30 million square meters of old residential apartments have been renovated, benefiting more than 1.3 million residents," he said. "Construction of 15-minute community life circles has been extended to more neighborhoods, allowing residents to access a variety of goods and services within a 15-minute walk."

Editor's note: As protection of the planet's flora, fauna and resources becomes increasingly important, China Daily is publishing a series of stories to illustrate the country's commitment to safeguarding the natural world.

Red-crowned crane

ELEGANCE IN THE AIR

Red-crowned crane have small, round and dark eyes.

The naked pattern of red skin on the crown becomes enlarged and more intensely colored in threat or courtship display.

Standard measurements of the culmen (from the distal tip of the bill to the feather line): 13.5 to 17.7 cm

The bill is strong and pointed. It's both a dagger and a digger, used for stabbing at fish and animal prey, as well as rooting out food from the soil

They can reach 1.5 meters tall, and are considered big cranes.

They have been observed to dance elegantly with their wings spread graciously.

The wingspan measures 220 to 250 cm.

They can reach 1.5 meters tall, and are considered big cranes.

The feathers on the neck are black until they reach the head.

Females have lighter feathers on the neck.

Black inner wings or tertials

These black inner feathers cover the short, white tail when the wings are folded.

White short tail

The entire body of the red-crowned crane is snow white.

Young cranes start to follow their parents as they forage in marshes around 3 months of age.

Long and separated toes give them balance.

These cranes have long and thin legs, with pointy claws.

Weight: 7.5 kg to 10.5 kg

Weight is similar to an adult pug.

EXTINCTION RISK

← Less risk → More risk →

LC NT **VU** EN CR EW EX

Least concern Vulnerable Extinct

This species is facing threats such as wetland degradation, human disturbance and environmental contamination.

CRANE SPECIES

Cranes fall under the *Gruidae* family, which has more than a dozen species. Red-crowned crane is one of the biggest in the family.

76 cm: Demoiselle crane
100 cm: Hooded crane
120 cm: Blue crane
130 cm: Common crane
139 cm: Black-necked crane
150 cm: Red-crowned crane
160 cm: Whooping crane
175 cm: Wattled crane

Size comparison with a common pigeon: 25 cm

CRANE DANCE

The dancing is a confirmation of their happy courtship period. The most observed rationale behind their dance is to declare, express happiness, and strengthen the bond of courtship.

RANGE MAP

■ Breeding area
■ Non-migratory area
■ Wintering area

The red-crowned crane is mainly distributed in China, Japan, ROK, DPRK, Mongolia, and Russia.

According to satellite monitoring data from the Heilongjiang Provincial Meteorological Bureau, total vegetation in the Zhalong Reserve doubled from 2000 to 2020.

In Yancheng wetland red-crowned cranes arrive each year for the winter.

RED-CROWNED CRANE IN CHINESE ART AND MYTHOLOGY

Bamboo and Cranes, by Bian Jingzhao, early 15th century

Four Immortals Saluting Longevity, by Shang Xi, early 15th century

Xiangyu, the Immortal, by Zhang Lu, late 15th to early 16th century

Rank Badge with Crane, early Qing Dynasty (17th-18th century).

Crane and Tortoise, from the Mausoleum of Jingdi Emperor of Han Dynasty, 2nd century BC

Snow Plums and Twin Cranes, by Bian Jingzhao, early 15th century

Silver Silk Covered Jar with Pine and Crane Patterns, around early 20th century

WORLD



Wounded people, including children and women, are taken to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in central Gaza on Wednesday after Israeli attacks on tents sheltering civilians. ASHRAF AMRA VIA GETTY IMAGES

Israeli strikes claim 30 with hospital hit

Saudi Arabia leads push for two-state solution as violence in Gaza escalates

CAIRO — At least 30 Palestinians were killed in Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, mostly in the north where one attack hit a hospital, torching medical supplies and disrupting operations, the enclave's health officials said.

Israel's military has accused the Palestinian militant group Hamas of using Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya for military purposes and said "dozens of terrorists" have been hiding there. Health officials and Hamas deny the charge.

Northern Gaza, where Israel said in January it had dismantled the Hamas command structure, is currently the main focus of the military's assault in the enclave. Earlier last month, it sent tanks into Jabalia, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya to flush out militants it alleged had regrouped there.

Eid Sabbah, director of nursing at Kamal Adwan Hospital, told Reuters that some staff members had suffered minor burns after the Israeli strike hit the third floor of the hospital.

There were no reports of any casualties at the hospital, which Israeli forces stormed and briefly occupied last week. Israel said it had captured about 100 suspected Hamas militants in that raid. Israeli tanks are still stationed nearby.

The Health Ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip called for all international bodies "to protect hospitals and medical staff from the brutality of the (Israeli) occupation".

The Israeli military said its forces are operating in the hospital area

based on intelligence about the presence of terrorists and terror infrastructure in the vicinity.

Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said on Thursday that one of its doctors at the hospital, Mohammed Obeid, had been detained on Saturday by Israeli forces. It called for the protection of the doctor and all medical staff members who "are facing horrific violence as they try to provide care".

The Palestine-Israel conflict began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct 7 last year, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages back to Gaza, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's retaliatory assault on Gaza has killed more than 43,000 Palestinians and reduced most of the enclave to rubble, Palestinian authorities said.

Renewed attention

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia is working to bring renewed international attention to the two-state solution, hosting a meeting of a global alliance dedicated to advancing Palestinian statehood.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution on Wednesday in Riyadh, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud condemned the escalating violence in Palestine and Lebanon, as well as the spread of conflict across the region.

He urged the international community to respond firmly to Israeli violations of international law,

saying these actions undermine the prospects for a two-state solution and contribute to instability.

The alliance, first announced in September, brings together countries from the Middle East, Europe and beyond.

Nearly 90 states and international organizations were taking part in the two-day meeting in the Saudi capital, Faisal bin Farhan said.

"The region is witnessing an escalation and continuation of Israeli aggression on Palestine and Lebanon," he was quoted as saying by Arab News.

"The escalation of this conflict regionally and maybe internationally urges us all to take a firm and immediate stance to put an end to the crimes and violations committed by Israel. Convictions and partial solutions are no longer enough."

The establishment of a State of Palestine "is the Kingdom's condition for moving forward with normalization with Israel," he was quoted as saying by Turkiye's Anadolu Agency.

Rasha Al Joundy, a senior researcher at the Dubai Public Policy Research Centre, told China Daily that the diplomatic move of Saudi Arabia "aims to transfer the Palestinian cause from a floating process in the UN to practical steps toward the two-state solution".

"This means that the countries who back this solution for the conflict need to declare real political commitment to implement it," she said.

Jan Yumul in Hong Kong contributed to this story.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA

Devastating floods kill 140 in Spain

By JULIAN SHEA in London
julian@mail.chinadailyuk.com

At least 140 people have been killed in floods caused by a year's worth of rain falling in eight hours around the city of Valencia in eastern Spain.

The aftermath of the downpour on Tuesday has left tens of thousands of people without power. Rail services between Valencia and Madrid could be out of action for up to three weeks and cars have been swept away in floodwaters, while more bad weather is forecast.

"There are already very strong storms in the area, especially in the north of Castellon," said a statement from Spanish state weather agency AEMET.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, who was due to visit the city on Thursday, said, "For those who are looking for their loved ones, all of Spain weeps ... our priority is to help you. We are putting all the resources necessary so that we

can recover from this tragedy."

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said a civil protection mechanism could be put into action, with Spain able to call upon support from the other 26 member states of the European Union, should it want to. "Europe is ready to help," she added.

Insurance experts say the flooding could end up being the most expensive natural disaster Spain has ever seen, surpassing the floods in areas around the northern coastal city of Bilbao in 1983, which killed 34 people and saw insurance payouts of hundreds of millions of euros.

"(That) was tremendous, with rainfall that had not been seen in 500 years, but what has happened in Valencia could be even worse," said Pilar Gonzalez de Frutos, who was a senior figure dealing with compensation in 1983.

The Associated Press reported that the latest confirmed death toll of 140 is the worst caused by flood-

ing in Europe since 2021, when at least 243 people died in floods across Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Romania. It is also the most deadly flooding incident to hit Spain since at least 150 people died in the southeast of the country in 1973.

Linda Speight, a lecturer at the University of Oxford's School of Geography and the Environment, said climate change was making such extreme weather incidents harder to anticipate, and their consequences even harder to manage.

"Climate change is changing the structure of our weather systems, creating conditions where intense thunderstorms stall over a region leading to record-breaking rainfall, a pattern that we are seeing time and time again," she said.

"It is incredibly hard to issue warnings for intense thunderstorms because the exact location of the heaviest rainfall is often not known in advance."

China: End arms shipments to Ukraine

By MINGMEILI
at the United Nations
mingmeili@chinadailyusa.com

China's envoy to the United Nations on Thursday called for de-escalating the conflict in Ukraine and a halt to arms shipments there.

"Many (Security Council) members, including China, have expressed concerns about the increased lethality of the weapons and the rising risk of diversion and proliferation," Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, said at a Security Council meeting on the Ukraine crisis.

"The continued supply of weapons to the battlefield will only exacerbate the cruelty, danger and unpredictability of the war; hasten the spread of the spillover effects, and further dim the hopes for the cessation of hostilities," he said.

In a recent briefing, Adedeji Ebo, director and deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, highlighted ongoing arms transfers to both Ukraine and Russia. He noted that Ukraine continues to receive heavy conventional weapons, including armored combat vehicles, combat aircraft, large-caliber artillery and missile systems.

"Weapons may help win wars,

but they cannot win lasting peace," Geng said.

Geng said that the current battlefield is a "show of weapons", emphasizing that the pressing priority of the moment is to follow the three principles of "no expansion of the battlefield, no escalation of the fighting, and no provocation by any party"; and to work toward de-escalating the situation and resolving the crisis politically as soon as possible.

China calls on the parties to the conflict to demonstrate their political will in earnest, start peace talks and stop the fighting as quickly as possible, he said. He also urged the international community to actively create favorable conditions and provide constructive assistance toward that end.

"China has called for an early cease-fire and an end to the fighting, for the settlement of disputes through diplomatic negotiations, and for the promotion of a political settlement," Geng said. "Over the past three years, China has been speaking out and using its good offices to that end. I think the international community can see clearly who is supporting peace and who is obstructing it."

Geng restated and emphasized that China has not provided arms to any party involved in the conflict in

Ukraine and has consistently maintained strict control over dual-use items.

"Chinese enterprises carry out normal economic and trade cooperation with countries around the world, including Russia and Ukraine, in accordance with WTO (World Trade Organization) rules and market principles, which is reasonable, legitimate and beyond reproach," he said.

"We oppose the US use of the Ukraine issue to smear China's image and exert pressure on China, and its wanton imposition of unilateral sanctions and illegal long-arm jurisdiction on Chinese entities and individuals."

"We will take all necessary measures to safeguard the legitimate and lawful rights and interests of Chinese enterprises and citizens," Geng said.

He said that the US has previously discredited and vilified China, blaming it on the Ukraine issue.

"The Ukraine crisis is essentially an eruption of the built-up security tensions in Europe, a result of the long-term accumulation and worsening of the security and trust deficit in Europe," said Geng.

He said that the situation was exacerbated by the United States, which has continually heightened tensions, expanded the trust deficit, and fostered division and confrontation across the region.

DPRK top leader oversees ballistic missile test-fire

SEOUL — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile on Thursday morning, with the country's top leader overseeing the event and stressing the DPRK will not change its policy of developing nuclear forces, the Korean Central News Agency reported.

Kim Jong-un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, said at the scene that the test-fire was an appropriate military action "to inform the rivals ... of our counteraction will", KCNA reported.

"The rivals' dangerous tightening of their nuclear alliance" and military maneuvers highlight the need to strengthen nuclear forces, Kim said.

"We should never allow any threat to approach the security sphere under our state's influence."

A spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense confirmed the test. KCNA described the test as a demonstration of the DPRK's strategic missile capability, adding it "updated recent records" and underscored the reliability of what it called "the world's most powerful strategic deterrent".

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said on Thursday that China has taken note of the relevant reports.

As a close neighbor, China is following the developments on the Korean Peninsula, Lin said at a regular news conference in Beijing.

"China always believes that safeguarding peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and advancing the political settlement of the Peninsula issue serves the common interests of all parties," he said.

XINHUA

BIODIVERSITY IS LOVE.
BIODIVERSITY IS LIFE.
BIODIVERSITY IS THE FUTURE.

CHINA DAILY
中国日报

PUBLIC INTEREST AD: 0092

GLOBAL LENS



From left: Mandarin language teacher Liu Mei (right) helps a local student at the Confucius Institute in Freetown, Sierra Leone, during a class for Fourah Bay College Secondary School students on Oct 15. Liu Mei smiles after class on Oct 15. Students of Fourah Bay College Secondary School take Mandarin language classes on Oct 15.



Above and below: Chinese martial arts teacher Liu Wei (center) practices moves with Fourah Bay College Secondary School students during a training session at the Confucius Institute in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on Oct 15. Chinese language and martial arts classes are becoming popular among many students in Freetown amid efforts to promote people-to-people exchanges. PHOTOS BY SAIDU BAH / AFP



In a small yard in Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone on the southern coast of West Africa, dozens of students practiced their kung fu moves.

The city's hot weather posed a physical challenge for the students, leaving them drenched in perspiration, but their passion for Chinese martial arts was obvious.

Liu Wei, a Confucius Institute martial arts teacher at the University of Sierra Leone, has been sharing his expertise in kung fu since he arrived in the country. Liu teaches multiple classes a week, with each session lasting three hours.

In Sierra Leone, Liu discovered many students physically suited for martial arts. He said that many young people had been introduced to kung fu through martial arts-themed movies and TV shows.

Liu recalled how students displayed great enthusiasm whenever he mentioned Shaolin, the name of the Chinese temple and a symbol of kung fu. Some even expressed a desire to visit China after meeting Liu.

HITTING THE SPOT

Chinese martial arts make impact in Sierra Leone

To help his students quickly grasp the essentials of martial arts, Liu dedicated many nights to researching and refining his teaching methods to overcome cultural and language barriers. He demonstrated classic kung fu routines during class breaks and used movie clips to enhance his classes.

Liu enjoys practicing with his students, teaching a range of skills from basic stances to Shaolin fist and saber techniques. He emphasizes to his students that martial arts classes should not focus solely on skills; they should also understand the spirit of kung fu, which promotes self-improvement and virtue alongside physical skills.

“Chinese culture, Chinese people and everything that is Chinese is becoming commonplace in Sierra Leone and around the world ... People want to be able to engage and understand the culture.”

Julius Maada Bio,
Sierra Leonean president

“Martial arts classes should not be just about martial arts techniques,” Liu said.

He also teaches students the Chinese language, martial ethics, etiquette and other knowledge he

considers essential for their overall martial arts development.

Liu similarly engages his students in various cultural exchange activities, including martial arts performances and traditional

Chinese festivals and events.

Chen Xuebin, the Chinese director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Sierra Leone, said that Liu has taught nearly 1,000 students in Africa over three years.

Liu said he hopes to build a “martial arts bridge” in the future, giving more African students with martial arts talent the chance to visit China to explore opportunities beyond their borders.

China and Sierra Leone have been engaging in various cultural exchanges, in line with China's broader Belt and Road Initiative.

The Confucius Institute at the University of Sierra Leone, a key entity within the network, plays a

significant role in fostering cultural diplomacy and promoting Chinese language and heritage.

Established in 2012 in collaboration with the University of Sierra Leone, the institute offers a range of programs, including language instruction and immersive cultural experiences such as calligraphy, martial arts and traditional music.

Freetown's Confucius Institute is witnessing a surge in participation, offering diverse activities like martial arts, tai chi and Chinese language courses.

Sierra Leonean President Julius Maada Bio commented on the widespread appeal of Chinese culture in an interview with Chinese media, noting its increasing presence not only in his nation but also globally.

“Chinese culture, Chinese people and everything that is Chinese is becoming commonplace in Sierra Leone and around the world ... People want to be able to engage and understand the culture,” he said.

XINHUA—CHINA DAILY

WORLD

US GDP growth falls short of expectations

Voters grapple with inflation as Harris, Trump run final leg of presidential race

WASHINGTON — US economic growth undershot analyst expectations in the third quarter, according to government data released on Wednesday, weighing on voters before the presidential election.

GDP of the United States expanded at an annual rate of 2.8 percent in the July-September period, helped by consumption and government spending, slowing from the second quarter's 3 percent pace, the Department of Commerce said. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the US economy advancing at a 3 percent pace.

The GDP estimate was published less than a week before Election Day on Nov 5, with Vice-President Kamala Harris, the Democratic Party candidate, up against former president Donald Trump.

Despite spending more, US consumers have been downbeat about their job and financial prospects, with Harris trailing Trump in opinion polls about the economy.

"If you were to look at numbers like GDP growth ..., you'd say: 'Gosh, this economy is in pretty good shape,'" said Dan North, senior economist for Allianz Trade North America.

"The one thing that completely destroys that narrative is the inflation that consumers have had to deal with," he told AFP.

North explained that as compared with January 2021, when price increases started ballooning, wages have cumulatively grown 18 percent. But households contended with larger overall upticks on expenses like food, shelter and gasoline.

This is likely the reason that vot-

ers felt the economy is doing poorly despite wage growth, alongside relatively low unemployment levels.

"It's been pretty hard to swallow," he said.

A recent poll jointly conducted by The Economist and YouGov showed that nearly 40 percent of US voters rank prices, inflation, jobs and the economy as the most critical issues in the election.

To gain more votes, both candidates have made sweeping promises to tackle inflation. However, many experts remained skeptical about their efficacy and sustainability, citing vague funding plans and the potential strain on a debt-reliant federal government.

Price woes

To address soaring prices, one of the major policies proposed by Harris is to impose a federal ban on "corporate price-gouging" on food and groceries. However, economists argued that the fundamental reason for soaring prices is limited supply rather than corporate price hikes.

A Bloomberg research indicated that US manufacturers have raised prices primarily to maintain profits in the face of rising costs and supply chain disruptions rather than inflating prices. Imposing restrictions on corporate pricing would disrupt the supply-demand balance and harm the economy.

Trump proposed expanding fossil fuel extraction to reduce energy costs to tame overall inflation. But experts cautioned that the plan may fall short of its promises.

Many of the largest shale drillers hesitate to ramp up production due

to the uncertain global economic outlook.

Meanwhile, Trump and Harris took their nail-biting race to the western states on Thursday, seeking supremacy on border security and aiming to woo crucial Latino voters days ahead of the election.

Both campaigns have been sidetracked in recent days after controversies stemming from a remark by a warm-up speaker at a Trump rally, which initially blew back against Republicans before a damaging gaffe from President Joe Biden.

Harris made political hay from the comedian calling the US territory of Puerto Rico a "floating island of garbage", winning the backing of some Puerto Rican celebrities. But she then found herself on the defensive after Biden appeared to call Trump supporters "garbage" — prompting the Democratic candidate to state that she disagreed with criticism of people based on who they vote for.

Trump, who himself has branded Harris allies "garbage" at a public rally, was quick to pounce on the misstep with a publicity stunt as he climbed into a garbage truck at an airport in Wisconsin.

A Tuesday Reuters/Ipsos poll showed Harris leading Trump by 44 to 43 percent among registered voters nationally, well within the poll's margin of error.

Tensions are running high, with election workers in competitive states bracing for violence and Florida authorities arresting a man for menacing voters with a machete.

More than 59 million voters have already cast their ballot, according to the Election Lab at the University of Florida.

AGENCIES—XINHUA

Perilous journey



Migrants board a smuggler's inflatable dinghy in an attempt to cross the English Channel, on Ecault beach in Saint-Etienne-au-Mont, northern France, on Wednesday. A migrant died on Wednesday while attempting to cross the channel, bringing the number of deaths this year linked to crossings in overcrowded dinghies to 57. SAMEER AL-DOUMY / AFP

Briefly

UNITED NATIONS Countries vote against US embargo on Cuba

The UN General Assembly on Wednesday adopted overwhelmingly an annual resolution urging the United States to end its long-standing economic and trade embargo against Cuba. The resolution garnered support from 187 states, with only the US and Israel casting against it and Moldova abstaining. The General Assembly reiterated its call for all states to refrain from promulgating or applying restrictive laws and measures in line with their obligations under the UN Charter and international law. Though nonbinding, the result reflects the isolation of the US regarding its long-standing embargo policy, first imposed in 1960.

UNITED KINGDOM Record tax increase announced in budget

Britain's new Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves announced the biggest tax increases in three decades in her first budget on Wednesday, saying she had to repair the country's broken public services with heavy spending. Reeves said she would raise taxes by 40 billion pounds (\$52 billion) a year, blaming the Conservatives for leaving her Labour Party with a budget "black hole". She also changed the government's fiscal rules to increase borrowing for long-term investment to boost the economy. The Office for Budget Responsibility, whose forecasts underpin government budgets, said the economy was set to grow by 2

percent in 2025, slightly up from the 1.9 percent it had forecast in March.

UNITED STATES Bird flu confirmed in swine for first time

A pig at a backyard farm in the US state of Oregon tested positive for H5N1 avian flu, the first such case in the United States, officials said Wednesday. The US Department of Agriculture, or USDA, said that the pig was found to be infected on Tuesday, four days after poultry on the same farm tested positive for the highly contagious virus. Authorities euthanized the pig as well as four others kept on the farm "to facilitate additional diagnostic analysis", USDA officials said.

XINHUA—AGENCIES

SAVE 1/3

We waste 1/3 of the food we produce

If we avoid wasting food, we'll also avoid wasting all the resources that go into producing it. Here is just some of what we can save every year if we Save 1/3.

- 250 trillion litres of freshwater**
That's 30 years' drinking water for every person on Earth
- 11,113 TWh of energy**
Enough to power over 1 billion homes for a whole year
- 18,919km² of forests**
2.6 million football fields' worth of trees to slow global warming

Save 1/3 for a more sustainable tomorrow Find out how at saveonethird.org

战略合作伙伴 STRATEGIC PARTNERS WWF ONE PLANET 一个地球

BUSINESS

MORE NEWS WHENEVER YOU WANT IT · CHINADAILY.COM.CN/BUSINESS

CIIE to help LDCs access China market

African product zone to be expanded at upcoming import expo in Shanghai

By WANG KEJU
wangkeju@chinadaily.com.cn

Amid a tepid economic recovery globally, the China International Import Expo is leveraging its role as an international public good to better support least developed countries (LDCs) in accessing China's super-sized market and further integrating into the world economy, experts and executives said.

This year's expo, to be held in Shanghai from Nov 5 to 10, will see the participation of 37 least developed countries, with the organizers providing over 120 free exhibition booths, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

According to the latest data from the United Nations, as of 2023, there were a total of 45 least developed countries globally, of which 33 are in Africa.

The African product zone at this year's CIIE will be significantly expanded, providing a platform to highlight a variety of specialty agricultural products from the continent, such as shea butter, coffee, sesame, peanuts and soybeans, the ministry said.

The CIIE will be an international springboard for Zambia's specialty product, honey, to expand its market share and take its reach further to consumers across China and beyond, said a local executive.

From a modest start of less than 1 metric ton in 2018, honey exports annually from Zambia have soared to nearly 20 tons, thanks to the opportunities presented by the CIIE, said Zhang Tongyang, general manager of Mpundu Wild Honey Ltd, which is based in Kabwe town in central Zambia.

"We don't just hand over the beehives — we first give the local people comprehensive training, ensuring that they have the skills to maintain the hives meticulously," Zhang said.

"After all, the more honey a hive produces, the greater the rewards for the hardworking hands that tend to it."

Ahead of the 7th CIIE, Mpundu plans to expand its booth space to 36 square meters, a substantial increase from the 9 square meters it occupied during its initial presence in 2018.

"A great many small businesses from Africa are also keen to utilize

the CIIE to access the Chinese market, but independent participation is a hurdle for them. That's why we've decided to lend our support, bringing their products to the expo to be showcased together," Zhang said.

Rooibos tea, Ghanaian black soap, Malian shea butter creams, and aloe vera gels from the Cape of Good Hope will be brought to the event to be exhibited jointly, Zhang added.

“A great many small businesses from Africa are also keen to utilize the CIIE to access the Chinese market, but independent participation is a hurdle for them.”

Zhang Tongyang, general manager of Mpundu Wild Honey Ltd

The CIIE is just one component of China's broader initiative to support the world's least developed countries, especially those in Africa. In a recent announcement, China said that it would grant duty-free access to 100 percent of products originating from 33 African countries, further bolstering its commitment to advancing inclusive global growth.

The duty-free access pledge will dramatically improve the competitiveness of exports from these African countries, enabling them to penetrate the vast Chinese market more effectively and diversify their economic activities, said Wang Zhimin, a researcher at the Academy of China Open Economy Studies, which is part of the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

The synergies between China's duty-free access pledge and initiatives such as the CIIE can have a truly transformative impact, empowering African countries to better integrate into global supply chains and drive sustainable economic progress, Wang added.



Sinopec employees check CCUS equipment operations in Dongying, Shandong province.
FAN CHANGGUO / XINHUA

Oil giants diversify revenue sources

By ZHENG XIN
zhengxin@chinadaily.com.cn

China's three State-owned oil giants have been accelerating efforts in new energy sectors, including solar, hydrogen and wind power, to diversify revenue sources and adapt to a fast-changing global energy landscape.

This is part of the oil giants' efforts to expand their renewable portfolios to hedge against oil price volatility and support China's ambitious energy transition goals, they say.

The companies, collectively known as the "big three", reported stable profits for the first three quarters of 2024 and unveiled significant expansion into renewables like wind, solar, hydrogen and carbon capture, as they navigate an evolving energy landscape.

China National Petroleum Corp, or PetroChina, has been accelerating the integration of oil and gas exploration with new energy development during the first three quarters of this year, advancing large-scale renewable energy projects.

It maintained rapid growth in wind and solar power generation, geothermal energy, hydrogen, and carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) operations, with its renewable energy and oil-gas hybrid operations posting an 8.7 percent profit growth to 144.26 billion yuan (\$20.26 billion) during the first three quarters of this year, underscoring a promising start for its clean energy endeavors.

While China Petroleum and Chemical Corp (Sinopec) has been focusing its efforts on the hydrogen

transportation sector, vigorously promoting the development of its charging and fueling network to support steady growth in hydrogen-powered transportation, China National Offshore Oil Corp has been striving to lead in deep-sea wind power, actively promoting the integration of offshore wind power with oil and gas production and increasing the level of green power substitution and advancing the industrialization of CCUS technologies.

According to the companies' third-quarter reports, the "big three" oil companies collectively achieved a net profit of approximately 293.43 billion yuan. Of this, PetroChina reported a net profit attributable to parent company shareholders of 132.52 billion yuan, Sinopec reported 44.25 billion yuan, and CNOOC reported 116.66 billion yuan.

Analysts believe that through the development of new energy businesses, the "big three" oil companies are advancing efforts to diversify their revenue sources.

While traditional energy remains central to their operations, the trio's pivot to renewables is crucial for future-proofing against fluctuating oil prices and meeting China's renewable energy targets, said Wang Lining, director of the oil market department under the economics and technology research institute of China National Petroleum Corp.

Traditionally focusing on oil and gas, Sinopec's recent entry into geothermal power for example, reflects a strategic move toward diversifying the energy portfolio of the company, which has been the world's largest refiner, he said.

Their focus on traditional and new energy sources reflects their calculated approach to energy transition — building on their core competencies while strategically positioning in renewables, he added.

According to the institute, new energy is set to advance rapidly over the next decade, enhancing the country's technological and manufacturing capabilities to accelerate the global energy transition.

Despite an ambitious renewable push, the oil majors also continue to increase upstream spending while stepping up oil and gas exploration to ensure domestic energy security, said the companies.

PetroChina reported a modest 2 percent year-on-year growth in oil and gas output to more than 1.34 billion barrels of oil equivalent during the first nine months of this year, while CNOOC's net production rose 8.5 percent year-on-year, setting a historical high, it said.

Sinopec, though impacted by lower international crude prices, posted progress in its domestic shale oil and gas exploration efforts during the first three quarters, notably in Sichuan Basin shale gas and Beibu Gulf Basin projects.

Li Ziyue, an analyst at BloombergNEF, noted that national oil companies have focused on securing supply, a strategy likely to bolster strong growth in gas production going forward.

China's three State-owned oil giants managed to set new production records in 2023, despite a slowdown in global economic growth and lower international crude oil prices.

Country's green drive hits major milestone

By LIU YUKUN
liuyukun@chinadaily.com.cn

China achieved a major milestone in renewable energy development with installations of wind and solar power generating units surpassing 1.2 billion kilowatts, six years ahead of schedule, said the National Energy Administration on Thursday.

As of end-September, installed capacity of renewable energy power generating units reached 1.73 billion kW, a year-on-year increase of 25 percent, accounting for approximately 54.7 percent of the total installed capacity in China. This includes hydropower installations of 430 million kW, wind power installations of 480 million kW, solar power installations of 770 million kW, and biomass power installations of 46 million kW.

3.16 billion kW

total installed capacity for power generating units by the end of September

Meanwhile, electricity generated from renewable energy sources has been steadily increasing. In the first three quarters, power generated from renewable energy sources reached 2.51 trillion kilowatt-hours, a 20.9 percent year-on-year increase, representing about 35.5 percent of total electricity. Combined electricity generated from wind and solar power reached 1.349 trillion kWh, a 26.3 percent increase year-on-year, nearly matching the electricity consumption of the tertiary sector (1.3953 trillion kWh) during the same period and surpassing electricity consumption for urban and rural residents (1.1721 trillion kWh).

NEA spokesperson Zhang Xing said, "In the first three quarters, China has continuously enhanced its energy security capabilities, vigorously promoted the green and low-carbon transformation of the energy industry, strengthened the development of new growth drivers through technological innovation, invigorated development through deepening reforms, and made new progress in the establishment of a new type of energy system, providing strong support for high-quality economic development."

The rapid development of renewable energies necessitated growth of energy storage facilities. The NEA said new types of energy storage systems, which exclude pumped storage hydropower as a conventional power storage method, have played a crucial role as "super power banks" for renewable energy, contributing significantly to ensuring power supply during peak hours.

As of end-September, China had 58.52 million kW of operational new types of energy storage facilities, an increase of approximately 86 percent compared with end-2023. In terms of regions, East China has seen rapid growth in new types of energy storage installations, with over 9 million kW added this year. From January to August, the total charge and discharge capacity of new types of energy storage systems in the country reached approximately 26 billion kWh.

Overall, as of end-September, total installed capacity for power generating units in the country reached 3.16 billion kW, a 14.1 percent year-on-year increase. The capacities for coal, oil and gas production have also steadily increased in the first three quarters, with crude oil and natural gas production growing by 2 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively, said the NEA.

Briefly

BYD revenue, net profit up in Jan-Sept

Chinese automaker BYD registered higher revenue and net profit for both the first nine months and the third quarter of this year, the company said. The Shenzhen-based company's revenue for the January-September period was 502.25 billion yuan (\$70.35 billion), up 18.9 percent year-on-year. Its net profit during the period increased 18.1 percent year-on-year to 25.24 billion yuan. In the third quarter, BYD's revenue rose by about 24 percent, while its net profit climbed 11.5 percent, the company said in its quarterly report.

Renminbi strengthens against greenback

The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, strengthened 140 pips to 7.1250 against the US dollar on Thursday, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trade System. In China's spot foreign exchange market, the yuan is allowed to rise or fall by 2 percent from the central parity rate each trading day.

XINHUA — CHINA DAILY

Fujian, Taiwan eyeing closer financial links

By HU MEIDONG
and YANG JIE in Fuzhou

East China's Fujian province is moving to deepen financial cooperation with Taiwan province by introducing a string of measures to better facilitate two-way financial activity and make it easier for Taiwan residents and companies to access financial services on the mainland.

The measures include better facilitating the financing of Taiwan-funded enterprises and mobile payments for Taiwan residents when visiting Fujian. The province also plans to set up a number of specialized banking and insurance organizations for Taiwan companies and residents, said Chen Zhiyong, deputy director of Fujian's Taiwan Affairs Office.

Eligible Taiwan-funded enterprises based in Fujian can directly apply for debt at local banks without having to go to an exchange management department. In addition, Fujian provides convenient services for investors to open share trading accounts. It has set up 30 counters for Taiwan residents at Industrial Securities and Huafu Securities to carry out online and offline financial services, Chen said at a news conference on Tuesday in

Fuzhou, Fujian province.

When it comes to listing services for Taiwan-funded enterprises, Chen said the Xiamen Cross-Strait Equity Exchange will carry out 37 special capital matchmaking activities, such as financing roadshows and equity incentives, and providing one-on-one services.

For Taiwan residents, banks such as Industrial Bank Co Ltd have launched special bank cards to facilitate mobile payments through China UnionPay and code swipe payment modalities, Chen added.

Such services effectively enrich the supply of mobile payment products, further enhance the convenience of mobile payments and greatly benefit Taiwan residents, said Cao Guiyuan, a senior official at the Fujian Provincial Branch of the People's Bank of China.

"In the next stage, we will focus on entry ports such as airports and rail terminals, as well as industrial parks and residential areas to promote those payment products that benefit the 'Taiwan compatriots,'" Cao said.

Fujian is committed to improving checking and inquiring of credit information for Taiwan residents. It has deployed 113 credit report self-service inquiry machines, which sup-



Employees work on a production line of baseball-related products at a Taiwan-funded company in Longyan, Fujian province.
ZHANG BIN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

port identity documents including Taiwan residence permits, to inquire into detailed credit information, according to the proposed measures.

More than 300 financial institutions have been encouraged to raise credit quotas, reduce loan interest rates and cut fees for Taiwan enter-

prises with financial credit certificates, Cao said.

Tan Guoling contributed to this story.

Contact the writers at tanguling@chinadaily.com.cn

BUSINESS



Consumers dine at a Luckin Coffee store in Shenyang, Liaoning province, in August. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Luckin Coffee to ramp up global expansion

By WANG ZHUOQIONG
wangzhuoqiong@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese coffee chain player Luckin Coffee is looking to expand in the United States and other overseas markets amid intensified domestic competition that is impacting same-store sales.

Guo Jinyi, chairman and CEO of Luckin, said during an earnings call on Wednesday that the international market is filled with opportunities, but also presents significant challenges that require patience, time and continuous investment.

Guo said: "We remain both patient and confident in our ability to succeed."

"We are actively evaluating opportunities in the US and other markets."

News outlet Financial Times reported this week that Luckin is considering a US launch as early as next year, targeting cities with large numbers of Chinese students and tourists, such as New York.

The report also suggests that Luckin Coffee plans to undercut US incumbents by selling drinks priced around \$2 or \$3.

Luckin expanded its presence in Singapore a year and a half ago. The company opened eight new stores there in the quarter, bringing the total number of stores to 45.

Guo said that the company's initial attempts in Singapore resulted in financial losses, but these experiences provided invaluable insights into the complexities of overseas operations.

The company will continue to increase overseas investment in areas such as store expansion, supply chains and branding.

Considering the maturity and competitiveness of the US coffee market, Luckin intends to approach its expansion strategy there with careful consideration and a disciplined execution plan, Guo said.

"With fierce competition in the Chinese coffee sector, overseas expansion and the possibility to regain trust from the capital market might be strategic options for Luckin. However, the tarnished reputation brought by its previous scandal on the capital market might affect Luckin's branding image in the US," said Jason Yu, general manager of Kantar Worldpanel China.

Luckin's Guo said that the company will continue to focus on domestic markets, given the large potential of the coffee industry in China.

According to Luckin's financial results for the three months ended Sept 30, the company's quarterly revenue stood at 10.8 billion yuan (\$1.45 billion), a 41.4 percent year-on-year increase. Net profit was 1.3 billion yuan, reflecting a net margin of 12.8 percent.

The operating profit of self-operated stores was 1.75 billion yuan, with a self-operated store operating margin of 23.3 percent, compared to a store-level operating profit margin of 23.1 percent in the same quarter of 2023.

Same-store sales growth for self-operated stores in the third quarter was down 13.1 percent, compared to a growth of 19.9 percent in the same quarter of 2023.

This decline reflects domestic consumers' sensitivity toward price and fierce competition, said Yu. "As the number of coffee shops increases without a similar increase in the number of customers, the profit from each individual store is going

to take a hit," Yu said, adding that this is a widespread challenge among coffee chains across the country.

In the fourth quarter, Starbucks China has faced a 14 percent decline in comparable store sales, driven by an 8 percent decrease in average product prices and a 6 percent drop in comparable transactions.

The company has accelerated its expansion into lower-tier cities and new county-level markets, where the performance of newly opened stores continues to exceed that of those in higher-tier cities, said Starbucks China.

The coffee shop chain opened a net 290 stores, entering 78 new county-level markets.

Yu is concerned about the prospects of their penetration strategy where coffee consumption at county-level stores is often seen just as "social currency" and not a necessity.

"Starbucks continues to face challenges in China somehow, as the overall consumer spend remained soft and consumers are increasingly opting for a cost-effective option when it comes to coffee consumption," Yu said.

AstraZeneca 'operating normally'

Pharma firm: Senior exec cooperating with probe by Chinese authorities

BEIJING — AstraZeneca is operating normally in China under the leadership of its current general manager and that it would, if requested, fully cooperate with an investigation by authorities on a senior company executive in the country, the company said.

Leon Wang, executive vice-president international, and China unit president at AstraZeneca, is cooperating with the ongoing investigation, the pharmaceutical company said in a statement late on Wednesday.

Separately, responding to a query from a journalist regarding the investigation of Wang, Lin Jian, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said during a news conference on Thursday, "What I want to point out here is that the Chinese government welcomes foreign companies to invest and operate in China, and will protect their legitimate rights and interests."

For specific details, one should inquire with the relevant Chinese authorities, he added.

AstraZeneca's share price fell more than 3 percent at close of trade on the Nasdaq stock market on Wednesday, with its market capitalization down to \$225 billion.

In a letter to employees on Wednesday, Michael Lai, general manager of AstraZeneca China, said the company has participated in and benefited from the development of the country and the Chinese pharmaceutical industry.

"I hope everyone will continue to perform well as always, and our management team and I will give you full support," he said.

Eva Yin, chief commercial officer of BeiGene in China, and a former senior executive at an AstraZeneca unit in China, has been questioned by Shenzhen Customs authorities in an investigation last week.

According to a report in Economic Observer News, sources said that Yin was suspected of involvement in smuggling during her tenure at AstraZeneca. Other senior AstraZeneca executives have also been questioned, the Chinese news outlet said.

BeiGene said later in a statement that several employees were cooperating with relevant investigations, which, based on currently available information, involve matters unrelated to BeiGene.

Yin worked at AstraZeneca from 2006 to 2021, and served as general manager of AstraZeneca's oncology business unit in China from 2018 to 2021.

In July 2021, based on a tipoff, the Shenzhen medical insurance authorities verified that some AstraZeneca employees were suspected of defrauding insurance claims.

Later, the relevant authorities dismantled a group suspected of tampering with genetic testing results of tumor patients to deceive medical insurance funds and apprehended 17 individuals involved.

However, according to AstraZeneca's statement on the issue, the aforementioned insurance fraud was discovered by the company in August 2021 during an internal compliance check.

During the same period, more than one executive left AstraZeneca's China region, including Yin. In January 2022, Yin joined BeiGene as its chief commercial officer.

China is AstraZeneca's second-largest market by revenue. Its revenue in the country grew 15 percent to \$3.378 billion in the first half of this year. Its 2023 revenue in China was nearly \$5.9 billion.

In the past two years, AstraZeneca has invested more than \$1.2 billion in manufacturing units in the nation, including a new inhalation aerosol site in Qingdao, Shandong province, at an investment of \$750 million; a new small-molecule drugs factory in Wuxi, Jiangsu province at \$475 million; and a global diabetes drug production line in Taizhou, Jiangsu province.

AstraZeneca has said that it supported over 130 Chinese companies last year to explore business opportunities overseas in markets including the Middle East and Europe.

Yin Mingyue contributed to this story.

CHINA DAILY

Xpeng Aeroht makes great leap skyward

By QIU QUANLIN
qiuquanlin@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese carmaker Xpeng's aerial vehicle arm Xpeng Aeroht has begun construction of a manufacturing base for its modular flying cars in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, taking a lead worldwide to leverage an assembly line for large-scale production of such aerial vehicles.

The plant will produce Land Aircraft Carrier models with a projected annual capacity of 10,000 units, the company said.

"The manufacturing base will prioritize environmentally friendly production and artificial intelligence, and establish a global benchmark for flying car production," said Zhao Deli, founder of Xpeng Aeroht.

The facility in Guangzhou will cover an initial footprint of some 180,000 square meters and incorporates four major workshops of composites: joint fitting, painting, assembling and other support infrastructure.

"The new factory design integrates workshops and centralized logistics in a streamlined and compact layout, reducing waste in stor-

"The manufacturing base will prioritize environmentally friendly production ... and establish a global benchmark for flying car production."

Zhao Deli, founder of Xpeng Aeroht

age and transportation while enhancing production efficiency," Zhao said.

The company said the new production line will employ a comprehensive traceability system that ensures compliance with strict aviation safety standards, tracking each component from the supply chain to final assembly.

Additionally, the plant will implement solar power generation across its facilities, employ energy-saving equipment in high-energy areas, and utilize a digital energy management system for real-time

monitoring, significantly lowering its carbon footprint.

The modular flying car has ground and air modules which can autonomously separate and combine. The air module facilitates vertical takeoff for low-altitude flights, while the ground module ingeniously envelops the air module, allowing for ground transportation, according to the company.

The establishment of the flying car production facility plays an important role in Guangzhou's advancement in the low-altitude economy sector, said Shao Jingbo, deputy director of Guangzhou Development District's administrative committee.

An action plan for promoting the high-quality development of the low-altitude economy in Guangdong proposes to build a world-leading low-altitude economy hub in the province within three years, with the economic scale exceeding 300 billion yuan (\$41.4 billion) by 2026.

Guangdong will nurture a number of leading enterprises and specialized innovative companies in the low-altitude economy by supporting the development of the industry through government investment

funds and establishing special funds through market-oriented approaches to guide more funds into key areas of the low-altitude economy, according to the plan, which was announced earlier this year.

Guangzhou will closely collaborate with Xpeng Aeroht to drive the flying car industry forward, reaching new heights and expanding the industry's impact on national economic growth, Shao said.

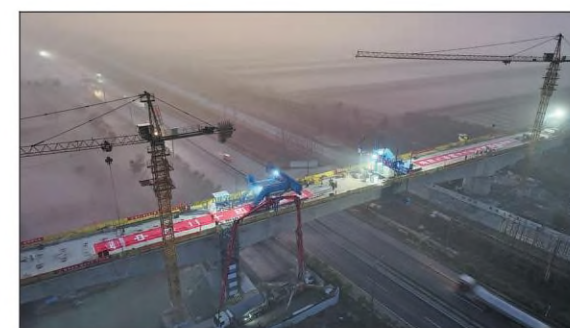
Xpeng Aeroht recently completed an inaugural manned test flight of the air module. The modular flying car is scheduled for its global public flight debut at Airshow China, which is scheduled in November in Zhuhai, Guangdong, with presales beginning by the end of the year.

Qiu Mingquan, vice-president of Xpeng Aeroht, said earlier that the true arrival of flying cars in urban air mobility might take some time.

"But the modular flying car targeting individual users will be able to fly in the next five years because the land module can be driven and the air module can fly in some specific areas," said Qiu.

He Yingqing contributed to this story.

Right on time



An overpass on the Tianjin-Weifang High-speed Railway achieves full linkage upon schedule last week, which its State builder China Railway 24th Bureau Group Corp said is a construction milestone for the HSR. The railway is part of a national major vertical line. SOEs are ramping up efforts on major transportation projects to echo the nation's focus on infrastructure. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Nation's largest TBM rolls off assembly line

By ZOU SHUO in Changsha
zoushuo@chinadaily.com.cn

China's largest tunnel boring machine — with a diameter of 16.64 meters — rolled off the production line in Changsha, Hunan province on Thursday.

The machine, weighing around 5,000 metric tons and 145 meters long, is the largest TBM designed in the country and has been named Jianghai — the Chinese

equivalent of river and ocean.

The machine is jointly developed by China Railway Construction Heavy Industry Corp Ltd and China Railway 14th Bureau Group Co Ltd (CR14G), both units of China Railway Construction Corp, a centrally administered State-owned enterprise.

The TBM will be used for building a tunnel across the Yangtze River linking Nantong and Suzhou in Jiangsu province.

The tunnel is a section of a high-

way spanning 39 kilometers, which is expected to finish construction in 2028. The tunnel under the river, with the deepest areas reaching 75 meters underground, is some 11.2 km long.

Meanwhile, the tunnel is situated in areas with underground water sources, soft earth and silt, which make it impossible to use traditional manual tunneling methods, said You Shaoqiang, chief engineer of the project at CR14G.

The machine can advance 12 to 16 meters per day, and it will take about two-and-a-half years for the tunneling to be completed, he said.

As the tunnel is situated at the estuary of the Yangtze River, the precision of the tunneling area needs to be kept within 1 centimeter in order to protect the safety of dams across the river, the engineer said.

In 2022, a TBM with a diameter of 16.07 meters was manufactured by

the two companies, which has been used for a renovation project in Beijing.

Fan Ruiqiang, senior engineer at CRCC's heavy industry arm, said it took the research team more than two years to make the new and largest TBM.

The new TBM is also more intelligent and comes equipped with a database that contains previous problems in tunneling. This means the machine can offer suggestions to drivers when similar problems occur, he said.

Wang Jun, deputy head of the Jiangsu transport project construction bureau, said the new machine

marks the first step in the construction of the highway, which is a major transport infrastructure for the province.

The new machine is also a major breakthrough in China's manufacturing industry and showcases the hard work of engineers and previous achievements in the sector, Wang said.

The successful manufacturing of the larger TBM with new technology and materials shows China's industrial upgrading. The constant breakthroughs in TBM technology have improved the country's influence and competitiveness in the sector, he added.

COMMENT

Editorials

Self-reflection will certainly do France a world of good in these troubled times

Differences and disputes should always be settled through dialogue, not unilateral measures, for unilateral punitive measures invite a similar response from the opposing party. That's why China has always called for dialogue to resolve differences.

It is therefore good to learn that France's Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness Sophie Primas will reportedly visit Shanghai from Sunday to Tuesday to meet with Chinese officials and seek the justification for China imposing anti-dumping duties on brandy imported from the European Union from early October, because most of the brandy comes from France.

China also launched antidumping probes into dairy products and pork imported from the EU almost at the same time, after the bloc voted to impose "anti-subsidy" tariffs of up to 35.3 percent on Chinese-made electric vehicles, above the existing 10 percent duty on imported cars, on Oct 4, ignoring China's strong opposition.

Primas is welcome to visit China, as it will also give Chinese officials an opportunity to better understand what motivated France to support the imposition of punitive tariffs on Chinese-made EVs, and convey to her China's core concerns over the move.

Although France is only one of the 10 EU member states that voted for the tariffs, it accounts for 15 percent of the EU's total population thanks to its population of 68.2 million. In comparison, Italy and Poland, the two other major EU member states that supported the tariffs, account for 13 percent and 8 percent of the EU's population. Which means France's vote carries more weight than any other EU member that supported the move and could have tilted the results, because it requires the opposition of a qualified majority of 15 EU members, accounting for 65 percent of the EU's population, to block the proposal.

Since Italy's and Poland's trade with China in brandy, pork and dairy products is relatively negligible, France will be the hardest hit by China's countermeasures, because it is the largest exporter of brandy and dairy products to China within the EU. The French government is under mounting pressure from the liquor, dairy and meat industries at home — particularly from Cognac makers for whom China is the second-largest export market, after the United States, and the most profitable — to resolve the issue, which explains the necessity of Primas' visit to China.

Her visit will give China an opportunity to make France see reason and change its position on the EU's tariffs which came into force on Wednesday. Primas, reports say, is likely to attend the China International Import Expo which is scheduled to open on Tuesday in Shanghai, perhaps because it is a major platform from where China welcomes imports and rolls out new import policies. That's an encouraging sign indicating France's pro-trade stance when it comes to China.

Sino-French relations have developed healthily over the years, laying a solid foundation for the two sides to settle their trade disputes through negotiations. Known for its strategic autonomy, France should be well aware that the roots of the EU tariffs on Chinese-made EVs germinated in the US, as Washington kept instigating Brussels for months to target Chinese EVs and green products. That five EU member states voted against the move and 12 abstained shows the rift within the bloc on the issue, because the tariffs will slow down the EU's green transition instead of boosting the bloc's EV industry's competitiveness.

As Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during his meeting with Laurent Fabius, president of the French Constitutional Council and former French prime minister, in Beijing on Monday, setbacks in China-EU economic and trade relations don't serve the interests of either side. France should bear the bigger picture of Sino-French relations in mind and play its due role to resolve the problems faced by Sino-EU economic and trade ties not only to serve its own and the bloc's interest but also to honor the principles it stands for.

US' indoctrination leading Canberra astray

In 2021, Australia's decision to join the United States and the United Kingdom to form the trilateral security alliance AUKUS triggered domestic and international concern about an accelerating arms race in the region and its consequences.

This concern intensified when the three countries announced their agreement for Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines with the help of its two alliance partners.

Now, the country has exacerbated the concern by announcing its intention to increase its missile defense and long-range strike capabilities.

In a speech on Wednesday, Australia's Minister for Defense Industry Pat Conroy said Canberra would invest up to 18 billion Australian dollars (\$12 billion) to boost its manufacturing of missiles, including making advanced guided missile systems in the country for the first time. The Australian defense industry chief justified the move by saying that strategic competition between the US and China has become a primary feature of Australia's security environment. In other words, as a close US ally, Australia is obliged to help its ally win this competition.

Hence, to serve as a faithful US ally, Australia has to pay the US so it can arm itself to the teeth. While shelling out a huge amount to get at least eight nuclear-powered attack submarines from its AUKUS partners, the country is also bolstering its air and missile defense capabilities under a 7-billion-Australian-dollar deal with the US to acquire state-of-the-art long-range missiles.

As a country that comfortably sits tens of thousands of miles away from all the major global and regional hot spots, the acquisition of nuclear-powered subs and long-range missiles is beyond the country's defensive needs. This has called into question the purpose of AUKUS' and Australia's role in the grouping, which is displaying an increasingly aggressive character.

To make Australia's missile case stronger, Conroy cited China's test firing of an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile in September, claiming that the "Indo-Pacific" region was on the cusp of a new missile age, where missiles are also "tools of coercion".

China's Defense Ministry made it clear at the time that the ICBM test was part of its routine annual training and not directed at any country or target, and that relevant countries had been notified in advance. A Pentagon spokesperson confirmed this, saying that the US had received "some advanced notification" of the test from Beijing, and calling it "a step in the right direction ... to preventing any misperception or miscalculation".

Rather than China's testing of the performance of its defense equipment as well as the training level of the troops in the face of growing hostility toward it, it is Australia's seeming eagerness to be part of the ring of steel that the US is trying to enclose China in that is accelerating the advent of a missile age in the region.

In recent years, it has become a routine practice for the US and its allies to constantly hype up a false narrative about China's so-called growing assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific region so as to give a plausible excuse for their military expenditure and bloc confrontation initiatives.

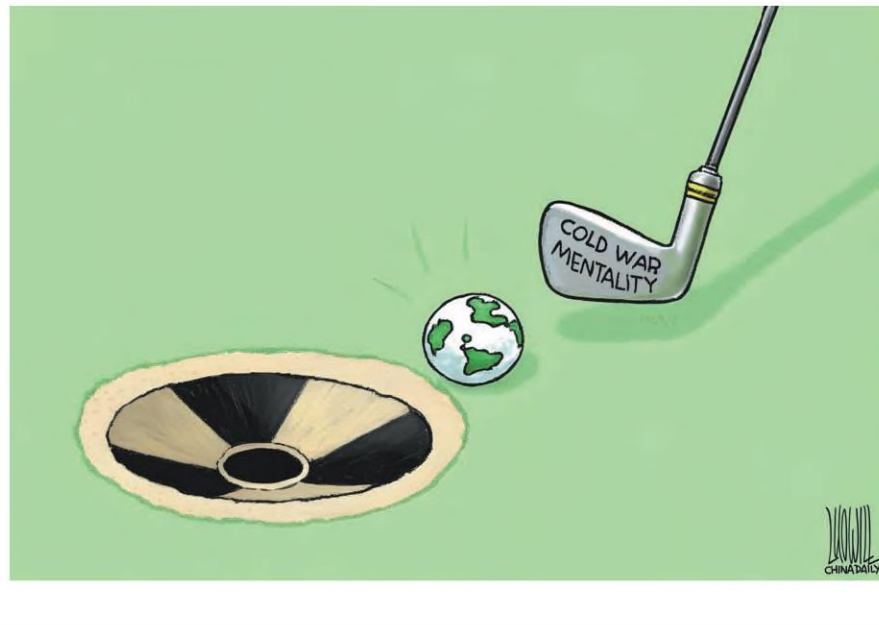
In August, the Lowy Institute, an Australia-based think tank, citing "challenges" from China, highlighted that the Pacific Islands' region is facing challenges due to "unbridled strategic rivalry" in a report titled "The Great Game in the Pacific Islands".

The US' blind pursuit of Western military supremacy to maintain its hegemony is making the regional situation increasingly volatile.

Whatever Canberra may think to the contrary, absolute security and exclusive security are simply not viable in today's interconnected world. This is evidenced by the conflicts in Ukraine and in the Middle East, which have been triggered by the US' wholehearted embrace of this outdated security mindset and manipulation of other countries willing to subscribe to its "them or us" viewpoint.

Rather than continuing to wade into dangerous waters, Canberra should reflect on the fact that it is the US and its allies that are responsible for creating the "unbridled strategic rivalry" in the Asia-Pacific region as part of their efforts to curtail China's development momentum.

Luo Jie



Opinion Line

Incremental policies effective to maintain economic growth

Since the beginning of this year, China's economy has been on a generally steady, sound and upward trajectory, showing both dynamism and resilience. In the first three quarters of this year, China's trade volume with over 160 countries and regions increased, total import and export hit a record high, and China was leading major economies in the world in terms of GDP growth.

These speak volume about the booming Chinese economy, and prove once again that the overall trend of China's steady growth in the long run has not changed. The package of incremental policies rolled out by multiple Chinese authorities recently further unlocks growth potential, spurs consumption and investment, and boosts the world's confidence in China's development. International financial institutions, including Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan, the Swiss National Bank, have raised their forecast for China's economic growth this year. In a recent survey

of over 100 Swiss businesses, the decision-makers of these firms largely maintain a high level of confidence in successfully doing business in China, and around 50 percent of respondents consider China to be among their top three global investment priorities.

The vitality of the Chinese economy also comes from its people, especially its entrepreneurs. China knows this and thus has been committed to creating a market-oriented, law-based and internationalized business environment to attract more enterprises and individuals with entrepreneurship worldwide to invest in China.

Data from various sectors of society seem to prove that a series of incremental policies introduced by the country will continue to create a better business environment. The country is committed to pursuing innovation-driven high-quality development, and striving to improve the market rules and legal environment to ensure economic entities

under all forms of ownership have equal access to factors of production in accordance with the law, and participate in fair market competition, which will offer more opportunities for enterprises and individuals at home and abroad.

A recent International Monetary Fund report predicts that the world economic growth will be driven more by BRICS than by the West, with China contributing 22 percent to global growth over the next five years, more than the G7 countries combined. In the context of rising protectionism and escalating geopolitical tensions, the sustained resilience of China's economy is drawing worldwide attention to its macroeconomic policies and growth drivers.

As global economic growth slows, China is determined to maintain stable growth through implementing more effective incremental policies, which will unleash more vitality, and offer new drivers to global growth.

— WU YIXUE, CHINA DAILY

Make renewable energy affordable to increase use

Relevant central departments have made clear China's long-term objective in the renewable energy sector and provided feasible ways of achieving it.

According to a document they released recently, the goal is for the national renewable energy consumption to reach the equivalent of more than 1.1 billion tons of standard coal by 2025, and exceed the equivalent of 1.5 billion tons of standard coal by 2030, to provide a strong support for realizing the carbon peaking target.

Which is a challenging task, considering the need to both ensure economic development as also transition to renewable energy. To solve that problem, the document advocates multiple kinds of renewable energies to replace

coal as a source of power. The document says the use of bio-diesel, bio-aviation fuel, bio-methane, green hydrogen, ammonia alcohol and other new energies will be increased to lower the percentage of coal in the total energy mix.

The key is to form a commercially sustainable mode that people will be drawn to. According to data from the China Automobile Dealers Association, from July to September, new energy vehicles accounted for more than half of the total sales of automobiles domestically, exceeding the sales of traditional gasoline vehicles. What helped is the setting up of 8.59 million charging piles nationwide by the end of 2023, as well as the relatively low price of electricity.

That's also where the other kinds of new energies can make progress. A good example is bio-methane, which is produced from organic waste in an environmentally-friendly way but at a rather high cost. If more support can be rendered toward their technological progress to lower costs, bio-methane can be popularized in a much more efficient way.

Bio-diesel, green hydrogen, ammonia alcohol and other environmentally-friendly fuels cost considerably more than coal. The key to making their large-scale use feasible lies in lowering their costs so that it becomes sustainable commercially. And that should be a new direction in the field of research.

— ZHANG ZHOUIXIAN, CHINA DAILY

What They Say

Openness defining traits of Chinese business environment

A recent survey indicates that 90 percent of foreign-funded enterprises in China find its business environment "satisfactory", says a report recently released by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

Among the indicators in the survey, which was based on questionnaires answered by representatives of more than 400 foreign-funded enterprises and field research of more than 50 foreign companies and chambers of commerce, market access, obtaining sites for business operation, and handling business closure procedures are the ones that the surveyed foreign-funded enterprises rated the highest. That can be attributed to the introduction of relevant supporting policies recently, such as the one that lifts restrictions on foreign capital's entry into the manufacturing sector.

The CCPIT has held more than 540 symposiums with foreign-in-

vested enterprises this year and conducted on-site surveys of more than 3,300 foreign-funded enterprises across the country. Relevant foreign-funded enterprises expressed their optimism about the Chinese market as well as their strong confidence in investing in China.

China is committed to creating a market-oriented, law-based and transparent business environment, attracting more enterprises and talents to invest and develop in China and create more wealth.

The wide attention the world business community pays to the approaching China International Import Expo, which will be held in Shanghai from Nov 5 to 10, also testifies to the charm of the Chinese market. A total of 3,496 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions are scheduled to participate in the event.

The expo is expected to show to the world that China will continuously improve the evaluation system for promoting the effectiveness of foreign investment. The Chinese government

will give full play to the role of the round-table meeting system for foreign-invested enterprises and strengthen service guarantees for foreign-invested enterprises.

The government will also continuously revise and expand the catalogue of industries that encourage foreign investment, improve the system and mechanism for promoting and guaranteeing inbound and outbound investment, enhance the management and service system, and encourage international cooperation in the global industry and supply chains.

The country is committed to promoting trade and attracting foreign investment by boosting trade in both goods and services, and opening up more sectors and industries to foreign capital.

To that end it will implement the negative list of cross-border service trade, actively promote digital trade, expand opening-up in the digital economy, and deepen cooperation with other countries in digital trade.

— LI YANG, CHINA DAILY

CHINA DAILY WORLDWIDE

Contact us at:

China Daily
15 Fuxin Chengde Chaoyang District,
Beijing 100029
News: +86 (0) 10 6491-8366
editor@chinadaily.com.cn
Advertisement: +86 (0) 10 6491-8631
ads@chinadaily.com.cn
Subscription: +86 400-699-0203
subscription.chinadaily.com.cn
App: www.chinadaily.com.cn/mobile/daily.html

China Daily UK
90 Cannon St, London EC4N 6HA, UK
+44 (0) 207 398 8270
editor@chinadailyuk.com

China Daily Asia Pacific
China Daily Hong Kong
Unit 1818, Hing Wa Centre, 7 Tin Wan
Praya Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong
+852 2518 5111
editor@chinadailyhk.com
editor@chinadailyasia.com

China Daily USA
1500 Broadway, Suite 2800,
New York, NY 10036
+1 212 537 8888
editor@chinadailyusa.com

China Daily Africa
P.O. Box 27281-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
+254 (0) 20 242 8589 (Nairobi)
editor@chinadailyafrica.com
enquiries@chinadailyafrica.com
subscription@chinadailyafrica.com

COMMENT

Hong Nong

China, Russia navigate in Arctic cooperation

The opportunities for Sino-Russian cooperation in the Arctic region are significant in several areas. The Arctic is home to vast, untapped reserves of oil, natural gas and minerals. China, with its growing energy demand, is keen to secure a stable supply of these resources, including from the Arctic — even though Russia, which lacks capital and technology for large-scale oil and gas extraction, also stands to benefit from Chinese investment and technological support.

The melting of Arctic ice due to climate change has made the Northern Sea Route more accessible, which could significantly shorten the shipping distance between Asia and Europe, while reducing the time and investment for global trade. Russia, which controls this route, sees the Arctic as a good opportunity to boost its economic development. As for China, it views the Northern Sea Route as an essential component of its Belt and Road Initiative, particularly the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

But despite the potential benefits, there are several challenges and uncertainties that make the long-term success of Sino-Russian cooperation in the Arctic difficult to predict. From a geopolitical perspective, the United States and its allies are likely to view Sino-Russian cooperation in the Arctic with suspicion, potentially leading to increased strategic competition in the region.

Some NATO member states could even impose sanctions on or take diplomatic actions against China and Russia to disrupt their collaboration in the Arctic, especially if they perceive the moves made by China and Russia as a "threat" to the existing balance of power in the Arctic region. For example, following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022, Finland and Sweden changed their longstanding military non-alignment policy, eventually joining NATO in April 2023 and March 2024, respectively.

Besides, US troops stationed in Alaska are advancing to become the US military's "Arctic force", and holding joint exercises with countries like Norway, Canada, Finland and Sweden.

While China and Russia have quite a few common interests in the Arctic, their relations face certain historical and strategic challenges, which could limit the scope and depth of their cooperation. Among the other challenges the China-Russia partnership faces are building the necessary infrastructure for the Northern Sea Route, and extracting resources in harsh Arctic conditions, including extreme cold and extensive ice cover. These tasks are not only very difficult but also very expensive.

Also, the fluctuating global energy market could affect the feasibility and profitability of such ventures. The stalling of Russia's Arctic LNG 2 project is among the economic fallouts of the Ukraine crisis. Moscow's enthusiasm for developing the Northern Sea Route is largely driven by a pressing need to offset the economic impact of Western sanc-

The ability of China and Russia to navigate these legal frameworks, while securing their interests, will be crucial to the long-term success of their cooperation.

tions. The Northern Sea Route offers Russia a strategic alternative to traditional shipping routes that are more vulnerable to sanctions and geopolitical pressures.

For Russia, the Northern Sea Route represents a means of sustaining and expanding its economic ties with Asia, particularly China, while reinforcing its sovereignty and control over the resource-rich Arctic region.

However, China sees the Northern Sea Route as a valuable alternative to the traditional shipping routes like the Suez Canal, but not an essential one. China's broader strategy involves securing multiple trade routes and diversifying its energy supplies to reduce dependency on any single route. Therefore, despite being interested in the Northern Sea Route, China is not as heavily invested in its development as Russia.

Besides, Chinese companies involved in the Northern Sea Route face signifi-

cant risks due to ongoing geopolitical tensions between Russia and the West.

As such, China must balance its interest in the Northern Sea Route with the broader implications of its actions in the Arctic. While the Northern Sea Route offers potential economic benefits, these must be weighed against the risks of Chinese enterprises becoming entangled in the geopolitical rivalry between Russia and the West. Consequently, China's approach to the Northern Sea Route is likely to remain cautious, focusing on opportunities that align with its broader strategic goals while avoiding actions that could invite Western retaliation.

In addition, while China has made significant strides in technology, it lacks the capability to operate effectively in the Arctic. Russia, too, faces limitations in terms of technology, particularly in offshore drilling. Overcoming these hurdles will require substantial investment and time — even then the success of these ventures is not guaranteed.

However, this also presents an opportunity for both countries to engage in joint technological innovation, particularly in areas such as ice-resistant infrastructure, advanced navigation systems, and sustainable resource extraction techniques.

Environmental concerns, too, loom large on Sino-Russian cooperation in the Arctic. Spills or accidents could have catastrophic consequences, leading to international condemnation and potentially

stringent regulations. Environmental concerns may also prompt indigenous communities and global environmental organizations to oppose the exploration of the Arctic.

The success of this cooperation will largely depend on how both countries navigate these complex challenges while balancing their national interests with the broader geopolitical dynamics of the Arctic.

Another challenge lies in the legal realm. The Arctic is governed by a complex web of international laws and agreements, most notably the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. As China and Russia expand their activities in the region, they may encounter legal issues with Arctic nations over resource rights and shipping lanes. The ability of China and Russia to navigate these legal frameworks, while securing their interests, will be crucial to the long-term success of their cooperation.

The success of Sino-Russian cooperation in the Arctic will largely depend on how both countries navigate these complex challenges while balancing their national interests with the broader geopolitical dynamics of the Arctic region.

The author is the executive director of Institute for China-America Studies, and a senior fellow at Beijing Club for International Dialogue. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.



JIN DING / CHINA DAILY

Francisco Leandro and Li Yichao

Portuguese-speaking African nations look eastward

China has been using three very important instruments of foreign policy — forums, partnerships and global initiatives — to deepen relations with countries. The Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, held in Beijing in September, has probably been the most important event of the year diplomatically speaking, as it represented a combination of all these instruments.

Also, China and the African countries agreed to work together to take 10 partnership actions for modernization and to deepen China-Africa cooperation in the next three years, as well as spearhead the modernization of the Global South.

In the 24 years since its establishment, the FOCAC has undergone transformational changes for four reasons because China, unlike other major powers, has advanced bilateral relations with 53 African states; has been consistently offering to African countries a comprehensive development program of action based on fairness, justice, openness, inclusiveness, win-win cooperation, inclusiveness, and people-first and eco-friendly principles; was the first to offer African states a global vision; and is the first global power to deal with African states as partners, not less- or least-developed countries.

China has always pursued a "non-aligned" foreign policy, establishing different types of partnerships with countries around the world, and continuously upgrading and strengthening



These initiatives reinforce national development plans, promote regional integration and facilitate higher-level trade flows between China, Africa and the Global South.

these partnerships. The reports of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in 2012 through to the 20th CPC National Congress in 2022 have emphasized that it is necessary to establish a new type of global development partnership, develop global partnerships and deepen and expand global partnerships, reflecting the importance China attaches to partnerships in its foreign policy.

Among the countries that have established partnerships with China, the percentage of countries of the Global South is overwhelming — slightly more than 70 percent.

This year has seen remarkable improvement in relations between China and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. In March and May, China upgraded its relations with Angola and Equatorial Guinea to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. In July, it established a strategic partnership with Guinea-Bissau.

During the FOCAC Summit in Beijing, China established a strategic partnership with Cabo Verde and upgraded its partnership with São Tomé and Príncipe to a strategic partnership. And Mozambique established a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership with China way back in 2016. The leaders of both Mozambique and China said they hoped to take the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations (in 2025) to further advance their bilateral engagement and deepen their existing partnership.

China has established partnerships with all Portuguese-speaking countries, all at the level of strategic relations.

Cabo Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe are Portuguese-speaking small island developing countries. While they have natural advantages in tourism, agriculture and fisheries, they also face challenges from climate change and find it difficult to pursue sustainable development. The Beijing Declaration on Jointly Building an All-Weather China-Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era urges the international commu-

nity to accommodate and take seriously the particularities of developing countries, including African countries, and place equal importance on small island countries and landlocked developing countries.

China engages with all African countries as "partners", not as poor countries. In particular, China recognizes the economic vulnerability of small island countries, and is open to exploring their potential in bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation initiatives.

The consistency of China's contribution to development, the number and types of partnerships, including the ties with Portuguese-speaking countries, and the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, along with the Belt and Road Initiative, are a game changer in the South-South relations. These initiatives reinforce national development plans, promote regional integration and facilitate higher-level trade flows between China, Africa and the Global South.

Francisco Leandro is an associate professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences and deputy director of the Institute of Global and Public Affairs at University of Macau, China; and Li Yichao is an assistant research fellow at the Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University, China. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.



Chen Weihua

The author is chief of China Daily EU Bureau based in Brussels. chenweihua@chinadaily.com.cn

Rising trade protectionism in the West disturbing

The European Commission's decision to impose countervailing duties on Chinese-made electric vehicles is the latest protectionist move by Western economies which once championed free trade, but not anymore.

The punitive tariffs, starting on Thursday for a period of five years, are aimed at protecting the European Union's EV industry from Chinese competitors. But the fact that only 10 of the 27 EU member states voted in favor of imposing the tariffs in early October shows how unpopular the move is.

Many economists and trade experts have pointed out that government subsidies are not a major factor for the huge competitive edge China's EV industry enjoys. In fact, US and EU carmakers, from General Motors and Tesla to Volkswagen and Renault, have all benefited from China's EV industry boom.

The economists and experts have also said that shielding EU carmakers from international competition by imposing high tariffs on imports will not make them more competitive or innovative; instead, it could undermine their competitiveness.

The US is much worse than the EU in this regard, as it has decided to impose 100 percent tariffs on Chinese-made EVs, a move that even The Economist magazine decried as "bad policy, worse leadership" in disintegrating the global trade system.

Both the United States and the EU played a critical role in China's globalization process. They did the same for some other developing nations.

US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo led the fearmongering against Chinese-made EVs by alleging they collect data on the driver, and the locations and surroundings they pass through, and thus pose a national security risk. One can make a much stronger case of surveillance against US tech products, which are sold all over the world. After all, the National Security Agency runs the biggest surveillance program in the world and has installed backdoors in many US tech products.

Both the United States and the EU played a critical role in China's globalization process. They did the same for some other developing nations. But what the world has been witnessing over the past years is that the two largest Western economies have increasingly turned protectionist.

The popular perception is that Republicans and Democrats don't see eye-to-eye on anything, except taking a tough stance against China. But that is not entirely true, because they also agree on trade protectionism. The fact that neither party would talk about any new free trade agreement is the best proof they agree on protectionism.

The Joe Biden administration has not revoked former president Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese products as he once promised, because in the US that is seen as being politically incorrect. He only replaced US punitive tariffs on EU steel and aluminum with a quota system.

Most economists, including former International Monetary Fund chief economist Maurice Obstfeld, in his article last week, agreed that the US tariff wars hurt US consumers, workers and businesses. Europeans, who revere the US as their closest ally, learned a bitter lesson when Trump canceled the talks on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership after he withdrew the US from the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement.

Many in the EU had pinned high hopes on Biden but were disappointed with him because he didn't show any interest in reviving the TTIP. The EU cried foul when Biden implemented the Inflation Reduction Act, a law that has been criticized as protectionist even by US allies.

The widely publicized EU-US Trade and Technology Council, launched in 2021, has also been described by EU trade experts as only a talk shop with little substance. With the 2024 US presidential election only days away, much of the talk in the EU is centered on how to prepare for the shocks of more US protectionist measures, regardless of who wins the election.

The EU's competitiveness report by Mario Draghi in September warned against resorting to protectionism to meet the challenges from the US and China. Yet the EU's tariffs on Chinese-made EVs are a major protectionist move, although it will not make the European economic bloc more competitive; instead, it will slow down the bloc's ambitious green transition.

GLOBAL VIEWS



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

DOMENICO LOMBARDI

Building shared successes

Collaboration over confrontation will lead our interconnected economies toward cycles of mutual growth and understanding

In recent years, we have witnessed a complex ballet of economic interdependence and strategic rivalry that has shaped interactions between major economies. These relationships are not merely bilateral but form a triangular dynamic where each action and policy reverberates across the global economic landscape. This interplay is crucial, affecting not only the parties involved but also setting the tone for global economic policies and practices.



Today, we find ourselves at a critical juncture. The European Union, China and the United States form a trio of economic powerhouses that underpins significant aspects of global trade, investment, and technological advancement. Over the past decades, our intertwined economies have crafted a web of interdependence that is both a strength and a source of tension. The economic interdependence between these regions is profound, with supply chains crisscrossing continents, integrating industries and markets. Yet, recent years have seen this relationship characterized by strategic competition, especially in areas of technological innovation and national security.

The EU and China, for example, have seen fluctuations in their economic interactions, with significant political and trade negotiations impacting their bilateral relations. The Comprehensive Agreement on Investment between these two was a landmark attempt to foster closer ties but faced challenges that highlight the complex dance of diplomacy and economic interests.

On Oct 4, the EU's Trade Defense Committee experienced a pivotal moment, reflecting the growing trade tensions between the EU and China. During this meeting, representatives from the 27 member states failed to achieve the qualified majority needed to approve or reject the proposal of new tariffs on imports of electric vehicles produced in China. This impasse not only demonstrates the internal divisions within the EU but also the escalating challenges in maintaining a balance between protecting the domestic market and promoting free trade.

China, with its EVs now accounting for a quarter of the European market, is perceived as a "threat" to the competitiveness of the European automotive industry, which employs about 14 million people. The EU's response to this perception of unfair competition was to initiate an investigation in 2023, which concluded that Chinese industries benefit from state subsidies, causing significant economic harm to European manufacturers.

Against this background, trade relationship between the EU and China needs to increase opening-up despite any appearance to the contrary.

This scenario underscores the urgency for a more strategic and collaborative approach in international trade relations. It is crucial for the EU to consider

not only the immediate needs for industrial protection but also the long-term implications of its political and commercial decisions.

The Italian government reminds us of the importance of pursuing a "win-win" logic based on reciprocity, hoping for a fair and shared solution, whether achieved bilaterally or through the World Trade Organization.

Turning to the US-China economic relationship, that too is a complex, multi-faceted arena characterized by both cooperation and contention. Recent years have witnessed escalating tensions, particularly in the realm of trade and technology. The US, alarmed by rapid advancements in Chinese technology sectors, especially in electric vehicles and 5G telecommunications, has implemented various tariffs aimed at curbing what it perceives as unfair competitive advantages fueled by state subsidies. This approach has prompted retaliatory measures from China, creating a cycle of trade barriers that affect global markets.

These disputes have not only affected bilateral trade but also raised questions about the future of international trade norms and the role of global institutions such as the WTO. As both countries navigate this turbulent environment, they also engage in negotiations to strike a balance between protecting domestic interests and maintaining the global trade system's stability. These negotiations are crucial, as they involve the world's two largest economies, whose decisions can have far-reaching implications beyond their bilateral relations.

Moreover, in the technological realm, both nations are vying for leadership, influencing global standards and alliances. The US has expressed concerns over "national security threats" posed by Chinese technology, leading to significant restrictions on Chinese tech companies. Conversely, China is advancing its own technological capabilities and setting up its global networks.

However, the significance of maintaining robust multilateral relations cannot be overstated. Our interconnected economies play pivotal roles not only within their own territories but across the global stage. It is imperative that we continue to engage in open and cooperative interactions, despite the complexities and challenges that may arise. The concept of economic decoupling, particularly between the US and China, presents a significant risk that could reverberate through all sectors of the global economy. Such a shift could lead to inefficiencies and increased costs, impacting global growth negatively that simply no one can afford. The West cannot do without China and — I'd like to think — the opposite also holds true. There are limits to global economic disintegration and such limits must be weighed carefully and wisely and assessed against alter-

native courses of actions.

Indeed, our interconnectedness, while occasionally a source of friction, is also our greatest strength, offering resilience against economic shocks and fostering shared progress that individual country efforts cannot match.

Moreover, the potential benefits of sustained multilateral relationships are vast. These include not only economic gains but also advancements in technology and innovation. Collaborative efforts, particularly in research and development, are crucial for tackling global challenges such as climate change, public health, and cybersecurity.

The strategic competition must be managed carefully to avoid undermining the very fabric of international cooperation that supports the world's economic architecture. Instead, we should focus on leveraging our economic interdependencies to enhance not only our own prosperity but also to contribute to global stability. This includes recognizing and respecting each nation's strategic interests, while proactively finding common ground on issues of mutual benefit.

The global landscape is undoubtedly fraught with challenges, from geopolitical tensions to technological competitions. However, it is within these challenges that we find the seeds of immense opportunity — an opportunity to redefine the future through collaboration, mutual respect, and shared goals.

Looking ahead, we must foster a world where competition coexists with cooperation, where we leverage our interdependencies to fuel innovation rather than foster conflict. Imagine a future where these three economic giants lead not only in terms of economic output and technological advancements but also as pioneers of global stability and prosperity. This vision is not merely aspirational but achievable with concerted effort and strategic diplomacy.

By choosing collaboration over confrontation, we can ensure that our interconnected economies do not lead us into cycles of retaliation but toward cycles of mutual growth and understanding. The potential for synergistic partnerships in technology, trade, and environmental sustainability is boundless. Such collaborations could set new standards for the global community, driving progress in ways that isolated efforts cannot achieve.

Moreover, as we embrace this optimistic vision, we must also commit to engaging in continuous dialogue, building trust, and understanding each other's strategic interests and cultural contexts. It is through these sustained efforts that we can transform potential adversities into shared successes.

The author is a professor and director of the Policy Observatory at LUISS University, Italy, and former executive board member of the IMF and the World Bank. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.



LIMIN / CHINA DAILY

YU YONGDING

Keeping global governance machinery running

As the world's second-largest economy, China will work with developing countries to urge the West, led by the US, to fulfill their responsibilities

The rise of new global powers, such as China and India, has significantly changed the power balance in the international system. When institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization were established, the global economy was dominated by the United States and Western Europe. The economic landscape has



changed dramatically over the past few decades, with emerging markets now playing a much larger role. Despite these changes, the governance structures of many international institutions remain largely unchanged, leading to frustration among emerging economies that feel underrepresented. This lack of adaptation has contributed to a decline in trust in these institutions and has raised questions about their relevance in the world today.

For instance, we can examine the multilateral trade system as an example. In April 2018, the then Donald Trump administration initiated a trade war with China. The Trump administration openly claimed that it did not merely want to ensure that China complies with existing rules, it wants to prevent China from catching up with the US technologically. This is obviously not acceptable to China. In the National Security Strategy that the Trump administration released in 2017, China was cited as the main challenger to "American power, influence, and interests", an adversary that is "attempting to erode American security and prosperity".

This perspective fuels the risk of the so-called Thucydides Trap, in which an established power's fear of a rising rival leads to conflict.

Under the Joe Biden administration, the US toned down its rhetoric a bit but has expanded the scope of sanctions on Chinese companies, such as by placing hundreds, if not thousands, of Chinese companies on its so-called Entity List, blacklisting them on national-security grounds.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said these meas-

ures are not a "technology blockade". But the claim is dubious. While national security is a legitimate concern for any country, it is difficult, or impossible, to decide whether supply chains — or segments of supply chains — have security implications. The concept of national security can be easily abused to violate WTO provisions. Since the US-China trade war began in 2018, the US has imposed heavy tariffs on Chinese imports and China has retaliated with tariffs. The trade war increased costs for businesses and led to a significant reduction in bilateral trade.

Even if the geopolitical situation deteriorates further, China cannot disengage fully from global supply chains — at least not without paying a heavy price. But the same is true of the West, which may be tempted by the idea of forcing China out. Just as the Chinese industry would suffer massively from the economy's isolation, so would Western businesses. Achieving a pyrrhic victory in a trade war actually benefits nobody. It is also important to note that the trade war has led to decoupling and reshaping of global production chains against the principle of comparative advantage. While some countries might benefit in the short term, all countries will eventually diminish in the long run.

Recently, I met with a respected US business leader, who told me that China uses industrial policy to gain competitive advantage. I asked him why he does not sue China in the court of the WTO. His answer is that it does not help, because China has not violated WTO rules technically. Instead, the US will just copy China, using industrial policy to improve its industries' competitiveness. This is a worrying development. All countries should abide by WTO rules and the US should stop obstructing the normal functioning of the WTO. For example, the US government should stop blocking the appointment of new members of the Dispute Settlement Body.

Solving trade disputes within the WTO framework is of utmost importance to uphold multilateralism. If the world wishes to avoid repeating the terrible mistakes of the past, all countries, especially the US, should return

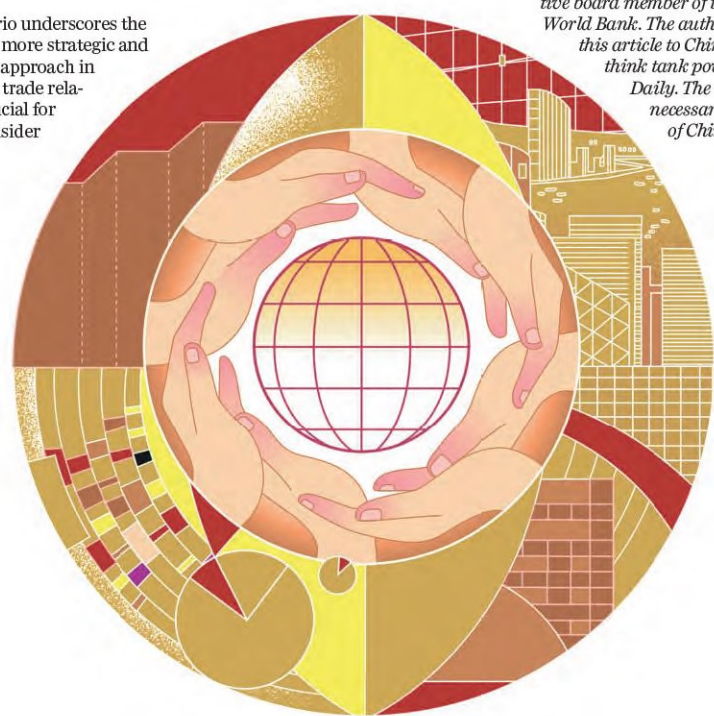
to the WTO to solve trade disputes, rather than acting unilaterally.

Currently, the other challenge faced by global governance is the issue of development financing for developing countries. To achieve the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations, developing countries need to make large-scale investments in infrastructure, food security, climate change, health and education. The funding gap is estimated at \$2.5 trillion.

At the same time, according to UN statistics, by 2022, the external debt stock of developing countries had reached \$11.4 trillion, double the figure 10 years ago. Developing countries, especially low-income developing countries, face a heavy debt service burden. Due to the impact of the pandemic, the debt situation in developing countries has further deteriorated. The UN's Report titled "2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report: Bridging the Financing Gap" indicated that, on average, the poorest developing countries need to allocate 14 percent of their income to pay debt interest — almost four times the rate of developed countries (3.5 percent). Globally, due to the pandemic, many developing countries have been forced to cut budgets that should have been allocated for education, infrastructure, and other sectors.

In 2020, the G20 introduced the Debt Service Suspension Initiative. From May 2020 to December 2021, the initiative suspended \$12.9 billion in debt-service payments owed by 73 low-income countries to creditors, with China making the largest contribution. As the world's second-largest economy, China is still on its way to becoming a middle-income country in terms of per capita income. China will shoulder the responsibilities that it should and can take as a major power. China will also work with other countries, especially developing countries, to urge the West, led by the US, to fulfill their responsibilities.

The author is academic member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.



SHI YU / CHINA DAILY



Xinghuacun Fenjiu reaping rewards of rural vitalization

Sorghum farmers throughout numerous regions harvesting success from renowned white liquor brand's growing production needs

The Ximazhai sorghum farming base in Shanxi's Fenyang city is called the "first workshop of Fenjiu". PHOTOS PROVIDED BY HAO SHENGYU / FOR CHINA DAILY

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Xinghuacun Fenjiu, the renowned Shanxi white liquor company based in the city of Fenyang, is contributing to rural vitalization by developing large-scale sorghum farms throughout the North China province, as well as other regions in the country.

According to the company's executives, sorghum is the major ingredient for the production of its white liquor, which is also known as *baijiu* in China. It is now supplied by sorghum farms in Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Gansu, Hebei and even Northeast China, with a combined area of nearly 90,000 hectares.

"The areas between 36 and 45 degrees north latitude are the most suitable for sorghum farming," said a company executive. "So we are developing sorghum supplying bases in this belt stretching several thousand kilometers."

The county of Yanggao in northern Shanxi, for instance, is located at the heart of this belt.

The sorghum farms in this county, which are part of the supply bases for Xinghuacun Fenjiu, are managed by the Yanggao branch of Shanxi AMP Group, one of the leading farming-related companies in Shanxi.

At his office in Yanggao's Longquan township, Chen Jun, general manager of the branch company, said sorghum farming is quite different from what it looked like in the past.

"Farming here has become smarter," Chen said, showing an app on his smartphone. "On the phone, we have

all the information relating to sorghum farming on our farms that span more than 20 km, like conditions of weather, soil and nutrition, and crop growth dynamics."

He explained that the smartphone is just one end of an intelligent farming platform that is composed of a central operational system and a far-reaching network. At the other end of the network are numerous sensors for weather, soil, pest and crop growth monitoring.

The platform's function is not limited to crop monitoring, the central operational system can also complete data analysis to help managers in decision making, according to Chen.

Chen noted that under a new operational model that involves the close partnership between Xinghuacun Fenjiu Group, farming companies, local rural cooperatives and individual farmers, the crop growth data are accessible to every stakeholder.

As the platform in Yanggao county is part of a wider network system managed by the Xinghuacun Group, it allows the *baijiu* producer to track the whole process of sorghum growth, helping it in quality control at the supply side.

"Individual farmers are also using the system to improve farming efficiency," Chen said.

Song Guijun is a farmer in Yanggao's Gucheng township. He is a contracted supplier to Shanxi AMP Group, with a dedicated farm of about 0.35 hectares.

"In the past, the farm's annual sorghum output was about 2,000 kilograms, using traditional farming techniques," Song said.

The farmer said since he signed a supply contract with Shanxi AMP, he has received regular training at the com-



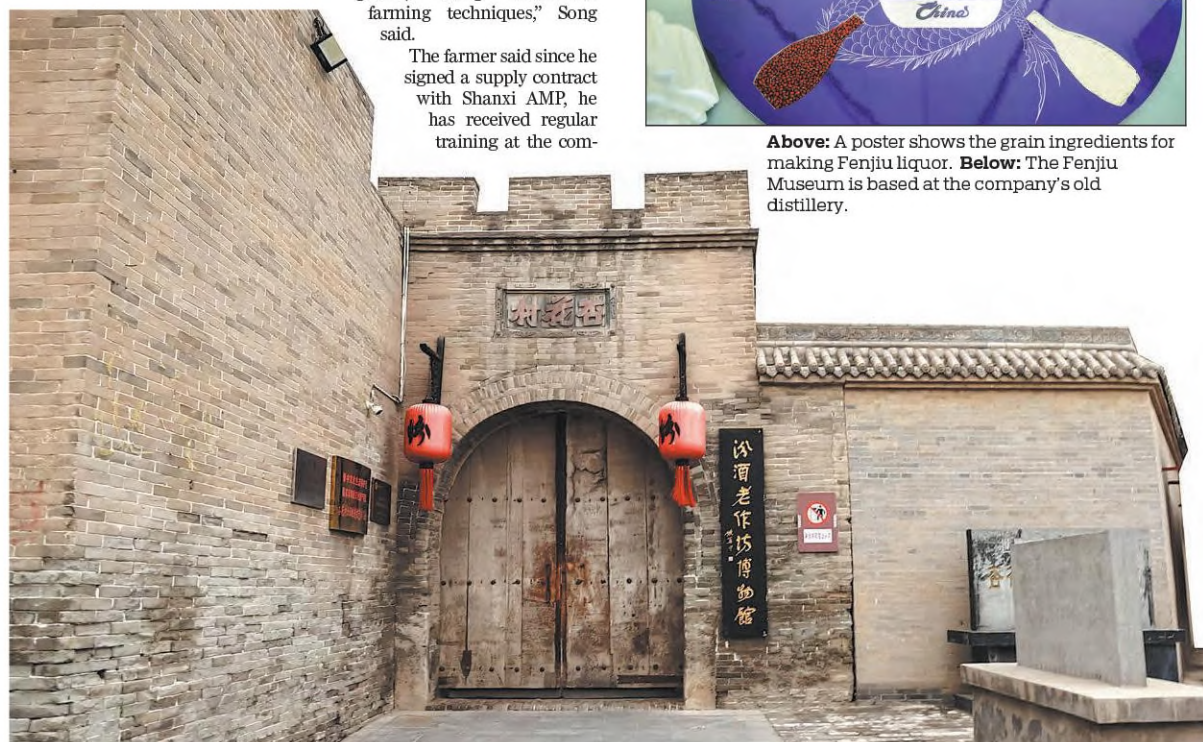
Visitors taste Xinghuacun Fenjiu's liquor at the company's museum.



Xinghuacun Fenjiu's liquor varieties are on display at the company's showroom.



Above: A poster shows the grain ingredients for making Fenjiu liquor. Below: The Fenjiu Museum is based at the company's old distillery.



pany's Yanggao branch, learning modern farming skills.

He noted that the smartphone app for farming is the most useful, helping him improve every link of sorghum farming.

"We are now selecting seeds, planting and making farm management according to the green farming standards set by Xinghuacun Fenjiu and other requirements by Shanxi AMP," Song said. "Sorghum now grows better and the annual output has increased about 25 percent from that in the past," Song said.

The farmer added his revenue is growing steadily as a result of a stable sales channel — sorghum is directly sold to Shanxi AMP after harvesting and eventually supplied to Xinghuacun Fenjiu.

According to Chen, as a major supplier to Xinghuacun Fenjiu, Shanxi AMP has established partnerships with 12 rural cooperatives and a great number of farmers in eight townships to develop sorghum farming bases for the distillery company.

"We have signed purchase contracts with farmers in Yanggao, agreeing to buy their produce with guaranteed prices. And the farmers can collect their payment upon delivery," Chen said.

The manager said that, in addition to purchasing deals, Shanxi AMP also offers farmers training, farming machine leasing, as well as other technical services relating to soil improvement, crop disease control and crop growth monitoring.

Driven by the demand from Xinghuacun Fenjiu, the sorghum farming industry in regions other than Shanxi also grew substantially.

Lishu county in Northeast China's Jilin province, for instance, is another major sorghum supplier to the Shanxi distillery company. The county now has more than 6,000 hectares of farms to produce sorghum for Xinghuacun Fenjiu.

According to Wu Tianpeng, general manager of Xinghuacun Fenjiu's supply base in Lishu, the county is among the highest-quality sorghum production sites in China because of its fertile black soil and adequate sunlight and water supply. He added that Lishu-produced sorghum features a high content of starch, which is conducive to improving the quality of the company's white liquor.

The executive added that the Lishu supply base is promoting farming modernization to improve efficiency, quality and output.

"We are using China's most advanced agricultural machines for sorghum farming, from spring sowing to autumn harvesting," Wu said. He added that intelligent technologies are also used in the full process of crop growth.

To improve crop quality, the supply base has cooperated with the Jilin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, the Shanxi Academy of Agricultural

Sciences and similar research institutes in Liaoning and Heilongjiang provinces to breed high-quality sorghum varieties.

The collaborations have helped to cultivate two excellent sorghum varieties fitting in the natural environment of Lishu. And the grains have been recognized by Xinghuacun Fenjiu as a high-quality ingredient for *baijiu* production.

"The advanced farming machines, the modernized operations and the enhanced investment in research have made the Lishu supply base a benchmark supplier for Xinghuacun Fenjiu," Wu said.

Yuan Qingmao, board chairman of Xinghuacun Fenjiu Group, said developing sorghum farming is an important part of the company's branding strategy.

"Our branding strategy is implemented in the entire industry chain — from sorghum farming and supply to liquor production and sales," Yuan said. "The strategy aims to lift the brand profile of our company by implementing higher quality standards in every link of the chain."

This year, the company has made ingredient grain farming a priority in its branding strategy. Through applying the "Fenjiu" brand to the farming industry, the company aims to offer crucial support for its high-quality development.

Xinghuacun Fenjiu is applying for three ingredient grain trademarks to promote the brand building of its farming sector.

According to a company executive, the farming sector brand-building initiative will include efforts like strengthened investment in seed cultivation, farming standardization, intelligent platform construction, as well as in other areas like standardized logistic operations and consolidated collaborations with farming companies and farmers.

The executive noted that Xinghuacun Fenjiu has made some breakthrough achievements in farming modernization, which include the use of molecular-marking technology and other genetic technologies in sorghum seed cultivation and the promotion of advanced machines and digital technologies in farming.

The company has also strengthened cooperation with the government in promoting sorghum farming.

For instance, Xinghuacun Fenjiu has collaborated with the government of Fenyang city to develop a high-standard sorghum base of nearly 7,000 hectares. The farms are located in Ximazhai, a village near the headquarters of the company. Due to its proximity to the company, the farming base is always referred to by locals as the "first workshop of Fenjiu."

Hao Hong contributed to this story.

LIFE



At the Sino-French Fashion Week, which concluded last month, designer Meng Yueming presents 30 outfits to the runway at the China Cultural Center in Paris. He taps into the rich cultural heritage in Quanzhou, Fujian province, including ancient buildings (left and middle) and the local traditional dresses and decorations, such as *zanhua* (a floral headdress, right). PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



From top: A dress with inspiration from the local architecture. Clothing with wave patterns. An outfit inspired by Dehua porcelain for the show.

Chinese fashion struts on global stage

Designers parade their expertise and heritage to audiences in Paris, **Wang Qian** reports.

Fashion inspired by traditional Chinese culture is experiencing a renaissance on the global stage with designers and their collections increasingly fascinating runway audiences.

At the recently concluded Sino-French Fashion Week at the China Cultural Center in Paris, designers showed 30 outfits, jewelry and hat elements, depicting the cultural legacy of Quanzhou, a coastal city in East China's Fujian province, which became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021.

As the highlight of the Sino-French Fashion Week, the closing show on Oct 3 was dedicated to Quanzhou, which was the starting point of the Maritime Silk Road, and showcased its fusion of rich historical heritage and modern fashion through references to the Song (960-1279) and Yuan (1271-1368) dynasties and the maritime theme. During the two dynasties, Quanzhou was one of the largest and busiest seaports in the world.

"The event initiated a dialogue between tradition and modernity, Eastern and Western aesthetics," says designer Meng Yueming, 33, who was responsible for the outfits.

Meng adds that he hopes the event will foster cultural exchange between Quanzhou and Paris, as a symbol of the once-again flourishing friendship, which dates back centuries.

Borrowing aspects of the city's heritage, including *zanhua* (a floral headdress), the traditional dress of Hui'an women, local tea culture, and Dehua porcelain, Meng blended traditional and modern elements into his designs.

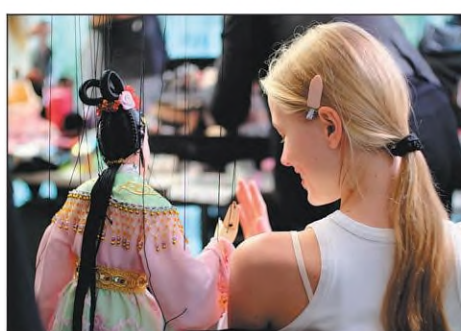
"Everything in Quanzhou is somehow connected with the ocean, which has inspired me in several ways," says the designer from Beijing. "It's quite different from the way I used to create. The fusion of culture is a completely different feeling."

Zhang Kaidi, the show's jewelry designer, feels the same. Drawing inspiration from marine elements, such as shells, fishes and waves, she designed a collection of bracelets, necklaces and earrings, using 3D technology.

For her, the event was a good opportunity for Chinese culture and designers to be seen on the global stage.

Describing the show as "fantastic", Isabelle Lawson, executive director of the French International Art Salon, says it was a "brilliant" idea for the designers to transform Quanzhou's landmarks and architecture into the patterns displayed on the runway.

The week was designed to deepen China-France cultural exchange and cooperation in the realm of fashion, aligning with the specific measures outlined in the joint de-



Above: Meng (left) discusses styles with the hairdressers backstage. Left: A model interacts with a marionette, a noted form of folk art in Quanzhou.

claration to enhance collaboration in the cultural and creative industries between China and France, according to the introduction on the official website of the China Cultural Center in Paris.

Mixing elements from centuries-old culture with a modern twist, more designers, such as Meng and Zhang, have carved themselves a niche in the fashion industry, both within China and overseas. In June, Nie Ruohan was one of the six finalists for the Andam Grand Prize at the 35th edition of the Andam Fashion Awards in Paris, an important launchpad for emerging designers. A graduate of New York's Parsons School of Design, Nie founded her eponymous New York-based label in 2020.

"Before this show, my understanding of traditional culture was superficial, but when I dug deeper, I found a trove in front of me to tap into," Meng says, adding that he feels that using Chinese elements is important for domestic designers and brands to go global.

Meng designed five outfits inspired by Dehua porcelain for the show. He blended the texture of porcelain with clothing. Blanc de Chine is the name given to the

white porcelain made in Dehua, a town in Fujian. Historically, its potters made a wide range of white porcelain and other ceramic products. In the 18th century, the popularity of Blanc de Chine inspired European potters to develop their own hard-paste white porcelain. Today, Dehua still thrives as a porcelain town, boasting both industrial success as well as artistic creativity.

"In the design of the outfits, I used ostrich feathers to embody the delicate feeling of white porcelain," Meng says, adding that the clothing's curves are inspired by porcelain vases.

Besides Blanc de Chine, Meng also drew inspiration from Quanzhou's architecture, as 22 sites around the city were included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site listing.

"I extracted their distinctive architectural silhouettes and combined them with clothing silhouettes in minimalist forms that complement architectural and floral patterns," he says.

As a result of the show, the designer, who was born in Shanxi province in 1991, has become interested in rediscovering the glamour of his own hometown's heritage buildings.

"There are many elements in these old structures, like the colors and patterns in the murals, to tap into. The temples and caves were not interesting to me as a boy, but now I can appreciate the timeless aesthetics behind them," Meng says.

Graduating from the Tiangong University in Tianjin in 2014, the fashion and apparel design major worked at a studio in Beijing and later established his own brand, Ksiezyc.

"It is a process of exploring myself, my style through my design and brand," he says, adding that he is still trying to find his own way of expressing himself. From the bold looks of his early designs, Meng has turned to a softer aesthetic that is more layered.

"Since the late 1970s, following reform and opening-up, I think that most Chinese were influenced by the Western lifestyles and development, and we were eager to learn. Now as China demonstrates the growing significance of the Chinese fashion market on a global scale, designers at home and abroad are expanding their exploration of things from Asia," Meng adds.

At the 2015 Met Gala in New York, pop star Rihanna wore a yellow gown made by designer Guo Pei, which demonstrated China's rising influence in fashion. Increasingly, international fashion houses have made use of Chinese design motifs, such as the 12 animals of the zodiac, in their clothing designs.

Meng's experience reflects the trend among many domestic designers to draw on their heritage and cultural traditions and embrace their own cultural identity.

On the runways at recent fashion weeks in Paris, Milan, New York and London, an Asian aesthetic tapping into Chinese culture and history has continued to sweep beyond borders.

New Chinese style, or *xinzhongshi*, is a wave incorporating Chinese cultural symbolism into fashion design. Whether it's domestic designers interpreting traditional Chinese culture in a fashionable way, or international designers expressing a fresh take on Chinese style, the trend is a growing force on the runways.

For Meng, it is good time for Chinese designers to find their voice on the global stage, and to show how diverse and refined Chinese style can be today.

Contact the writer at wangqian@chinadaily.com.cn



Online Watch the video by scanning the code.

What's on



Sculpt the time

The year 1958 saw the unveiling of the Monument to People's Heroes in Beijing. The project took nearly six years to complete. The carving of the reliefs, the bottom of which depicted critical moments in the progress of the Chinese revolution over a century, was the work of prominent sculptors, several of whom also taught at the Central

Academy of Fine Arts and helped usher in modern Chinese sculpture.

The links between the teaching of sculpture at the central academy and Chinese art in the 20th century is currently being given a review at its campus.

In the CAFA Art Museum and outside at locations around the campus, pieces by sculptors, who have taught at the school and who have been pioneers in the art world, are on display.

The exhibition, *The Great Series of Sculpture*, runs until Nov 24. At its opening, a number of figures who contributed to Chinese sculpture were given awards.

9:30 am-5:30 pm, closed on Mondays. 8 Huajiadi Nanjie, Wangjing, Chaoyang district, Beijing. 010-6477-1575.

Crafting nature

Artists from Fuzhou, East China's Fujian province, are showing works of imagination and creativity at the Chinese Traditional Culture Museum in Beijing until Nov 24.

Surrounded by ranges of mountains in three directions, as well as the Minjiang River, Fuzhou has built



up a rich tradition of art and culture. For generations, artists there committed themselves to the kind of superb craftsmanship evident in a variety of handicrafts.

The exhibition highlights four disciplines — lacquer making, Shoushan stone carving, cork carving, and wood carving, and shows how people use these materials sourced from nature to decorate their living spaces and lives.

9 am-5 pm (last entry 4 pm), closed on Mondays. 16 Hujing Donggu, Chaoyang district, Beijing. 010-8799-1800; 010-8799-1866.

New calligraphy

Wang Dongling, an artist and professor of calligraphy at Hangzhou's China Academy of Art, in Zhejiang province, is known for paying con-

temporary homage to the traditional practice.

For decades, the vanguard artist has explored new frontiers of calligraphy and the ways it is presented.

Not only does Wang demonstrate technical expertise, he also surprises his audience by turning writing into a performance of strength, and integrates the presentation of his works with other forms of art.

Pilgrim to Tianjin, Wang's exhibition at the Tianjin Art Museum introduces the purity and expressiveness of the line under his experimental strokes, adding dimensions to calligraphy, and his installations magnify the scale of writing as an art form.

Wang says that the exhibition is his salute to people in Tianjin. He



also pays tribute to eminent culture figures once living in Tianjin, who helped revive artistic traditions in modern times. The exhibition runs until Jan 5.

9 am-4:30 pm, closed on Mondays. 60 Pingjiang Dao, Heji district, Tianjin. 022-8388-3300.

LIFE

After an 11-year hiatus, the Vienna Philharmonic returned to Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts, dazzling audiences over two consecutive evenings on Monday and Tuesday with an unforgettable musical experience.

Their eagerly awaited tour will also take the celebrated orchestra to Shanghai, Xi'an in Shaanxi province, and Guangzhou in Guangdong province, between last Sunday and Nov 6, to present eight concerts featuring a repertoire of symphonies, concertos, and symphonic poems, designed to demonstrate the depth and variety of symphonic music.

Founded in 1842, the Vienna Philharmonic is known for a unique structure that forgoes a music director or permanent conductor. This independence allows the orchestra to create its own sound. Their annual New Year concert, which is broadcast around the world, has cemented the orchestra's reputation as a global icon of classical music.

Leading it on this tour is Latvian conductor Andris Nelsons, a star of the new generation of conductors, and a philharmonic partner since 2010. His frequent collaborations with the orchestra — 121 performances and counting — have further solidified his status as one of the most important contemporary conductors. In 2020, he conducted the New Year Concert, his fresh approach gaining him global attention. He also led the philharmonic's 2022 and 2023 Summer Night Concerts, captivating audiences with his dynamic, masterful style.

"We've been touring China since 1973 and the warm welcome from the Chinese audience has left us with lots of beautiful memories," violinist Daniel Froschauer, chairman of the Vienna Philharmonic, said at the NCPA before the concert on Monday. "Music transcends language and speaks directly to the heart. This tour will allow us to share our passion with Chinese audiences, and experience the beauty of their own artistic traditions."

Froschauer says that when it came to preparing the program for this tour, the orchestra wanted to perform a range of music, not only to showcase the long musical tradition of which they are proud, but also new music they have never performed before, to keep it on a path toward the future.

The evening began with Shostakovich's *Symphony No 9 in E-flat Major, Op 70*, a lively and uncharacteristically lighthearted piece completed in 1945, which captures the euphoria at the end of World War II.

"Nelsons is celebrated for his authoritative interpretation of Shostakovich's work. The delicate agility of the strings and the playful woodwinds provided a vivid contrast to the solemn weight that usually accompanies ninth symphonies, adding a refreshingly whimsical touch," Froschauer says, noting that in the spring of 1945, Shostakovich, who was already a revered composer with eight symphonies to his name, composed his grand *Ninth Sym-*



From last Sunday to Nov 6, the Vienna Philharmonic is touring China under the baton of Andris Nelsons, visiting Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, and Guangzhou, with a repertoire including pieces by composers such as Shostakovich, Dvorak and Beethoven. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Vienna's philharmonic triumph

Latest Chinese tour includes the capital after 11-year hiatus, with audiences eagerly awaiting the orchestra's annual New Year broadcast, **Chen Nan** reports.



Left: Conducted by Latvia's Andris Nelsons, the Vienna Philharmonic returned to Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts on Monday and Tuesday. Right: Nelsons (left) conducts a rehearsal at the NCPA in Beijing on Monday.



“Music transcends language and speaks directly to the heart. This tour will allow us to share our passion with Chinese audiences.”

Daniel Froschauer, violinist, chairman of the Vienna Philharmonic

phony in homage to Beethoven's towering oeuvre. His piece defied conventions. In place of an epic, choral masterwork, he delivered a compact piece that was unexpectedly only 25 minutes in length. When it premiered in 1945, this unconventional symphony surprised and puzzled audiences with its brevity, subverting the lofty expectations normally associated with the genre.

Also featured in the program is Dvorak's *Symphony No 7 in D Minor, Op 70*, a piece inspired by the grandeur of Brahms' *Third*

Symphony. Completed in 1885, it is a stirring piece, filled with emotional depth and national pride.

Other highlights include Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No 3 in C Minor, Op 37*, which is a masterful and intense composition that marks a significant development in the piano concerto form, and Richard Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben, Op 40*, or *A Hero's Life*, which is considered one of his most ambitious and innovative compositions. This piece blends autobiographical elements with grand orchestration to depict the

life, struggles, and triumphs of a hero. Pianist Yefim Bronfman performed during the concerts in Beijing.

On Monday, the enraptured audience applauded vigorously, calling for encores. The orchestra responded with two famous Viennese pieces: Josef Strauss' waltz *My Life Is Love and Joy*, and Johann Strauss II's lively *Tritsch-Tritsch Polka*. The encore allowed the Vienna Philharmonic to display its trademark style of charm and technical elegance, transporting the Beijing audience to

the heart of Vienna.

"Chinese classical music enthusiasts know the Vienna Philharmonic through watching our New Year Concert, which has been broadcast in China for years. It has helped us to gain lots of fans, for which we are grateful," says Froschauer, adding that the 2025 New Year Concert will take place on Jan 1, under the baton of maestro Riccardo Muti in the Golden Hall at Vienna's Musikverein. To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Johann Strauss II, eight of his masterworks are scheduled, with less familiar pieces programmed for the second part of the concert, including the *Ferdinandus Waltz*, which was written by Constanze Geiger, a contemporary of Strauss, and the first composition by a woman to be performed as part of the New Year Concert.

"We are thrilled to connect with Chinese audiences and celebrate our shared love for classical music. Whenever we return to China, we see many new concert halls, and feel the growing interest in classical music, particularly among young audiences," says Froschauer.

"To keep the orchestra's tradition, the key is to take on new and young musicians," says Michael Bladerer, general manager of the philharmonic, who also plays contrabass with the orchestra. "For this tour, we have some new members with us, who stood out from our Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra Academy. We know that there are many talented musicians from China, and we want to have them in our academy, and even become members."

The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra Academy was founded in the summer of 2018. Its main objective is the training of young musicians through individual private lessons, and preparing them for chamber music, auditions, and orchestral training by working with the orchestra.

"We are often asked about the unique sound of the orchestra and the reasons behind its longevity. I would say that there is perhaps no other musical ensemble more consistently and closely associated with the history and tradition of European classical music than the Vienna Philharmonic," Bladerer says.

He adds that besides this history, the other notable aspect is the relationship between the Vienna State Opera orchestra and the Vienna Philharmonic. Only a member of the Vienna State Opera orchestra can become a member of the philharmonic. Musicians must prove their ability at the state opera over a period of three years before becoming eligible to submit an application for membership in the association of the philharmonic.

"Both Froschauer and I started by performing in the Vienna State Opera orchestra. Opera productions are full of drama, love and skill, which means the playing must be dramatic and passionate. We kept that passion when we joined the philharmonic," Bladerer says.

Contact the writer at chenan@chinadaily.com.cn

Beijing's educational alliance to dance across global stages

By CHEN NAN

The Beijing Dance Academy has established the World Dance Education Alliance, with the aim of creating a collaborative platform for dance arts education, which will bring together leading institutions and experts from around the globe.

Nearly 70 institutions from 38 countries in five continents have joined. Member organizations represent a range of leading institutions in the field of dance and the broader arts, including the California Institute of the Arts and the New York University from the United States, the UK's Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and Australia's University of Melbourne, all of which are among the world's top-ranking universities.

"Every region and every culture play a crucial role in preserving the world's cultural diversity and bear a corresponding responsibility. This alliance highlights not only the professional representation of global dance education, but also geographical and cultural diversity, reflecting the alliance's aim of building a global community of dance arts," says Xu Rui, president



Left: The ceremony of the World Dance Education Alliance at the Beijing Dance Academy on Oct 18. Right: Attendees from art institutions from around the world at the ceremony in Beijing. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



of the Beijing Dance Academy.

The official launch of the alliance took place on the morning of Oct 18, with an online forum, coinciding with the 70th anniversary celebration of the Beijing Dance Academy.

The design of the alliance's logo has been inspired by Matisse's painting *Dance*, which features dancers embracing and radiating outward in a concentric circle, forming the

letter "D". The five colors represent dance educators from the five continents, holding hands and dancing in a circle.

According to Xu, the alliance will be a platform for uniting global experts and scholars in dance education. Through this network, the alliance will foster collaborative talent development, joint artistic practices, academic research, and

faculty exchange programs.

"China, with its long history and rich traditions, continues to contribute its unique philosophy, aesthetics and artistic expressions to the world. Chinese dance is a vivid manifestation of this cultural heritage," Xu said in his speech. "Since reform and opening-up in 1978, the interaction between Chinese and Western dance cultures through modern

Western dance has profoundly influenced the concepts and methods of Chinese dance. It is within this cultural background, of the fusion of modern and traditional, the East and the West, that Chinese dance has developed a unique, contemporary style."

"We are responsible for teaching something beyond virtuosity and versatility so that our pedagogy

prepares them for the multiple worlds that dance is now building and inhabiting. How do we train creativity? How do we teach authorship? We can invite and reward invention, collaboration and innovation," says Rosanna Gamson, choreographer and dance educator based in Los Angeles, who is a faculty member of the Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at the California Institute of the Arts, and also artistic director of the Rosanna Gamson/World Wide dance company.

Anna Maria Galeotti, director of Italy's Accademia Nazionale di Danza, emphasizes the importance of collaboration among global dance education institutions. She says that contemporary dancers need not only physical readiness, but also artistic sensitivity. Dance institutions in various countries should prepare students both psychologically and technically.

"The launch of the new alliance should aim to enhance the quality of dance talent development through close cooperation among dance education institutions, contributing to the flourishing of dance as an art form," she said in Beijing.