



APEC PERU 2024

See news updates on www.chinadaily.com.cn | Special Coverage, pages 2-5

CHINA DAILY

APEC SPECIAL 中國日報 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024

China, Peru agree to boost partnership

Measures include free trade pledge, joint effort to build Belt and Road

By XU WEI in Lima
xuwei@chinadaily.com.cn

China and Peru agreed on a host of measures to deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership on Thursday, pledging shared steps to jointly build the Belt and Road, upgrade the bilateral free trade agreement and advance investment cooperation on green development.

President Xi Jinping, on his second state visit to the Latin American nation, and Peruvian President Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra reached wide-ranging consensus on elevating bilateral ties during their talks at the Government Palace of Peru in Lima.

Key agreements signed after the meeting include a cooperation plan between the two governments on jointly building the Belt and Road and a protocol on upgrading the free trade agreement between the two countries.

According to a joint statement released by the two nations, both sides agreed to deepen cooperation across digital economy, technological innovation, digital transformation, talent exchange in science and technology, technology transfer, and digital security.

China will continue to provide economic and technical assistance to Peru within its capabilities, working alongside the Peruvian government to support sustainable social and economic development, with a focus on "small and beautiful" livelihood projects.

Both sides expressed the intent to enhance sustainable fisheries cooperation, and support the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, according to the statement.

"Setting foot on the beautiful land of Peru, I felt a deep warmth from the friendship extended by the Peruvian people toward the Chinese people," Xi told Boluarte in their third meeting within a year.

He said that China and Peru share a rich heritage as ancient civilizations.

"This shared legacy endows both countries with wisdom and a broad vision, enabling us to understand the course of history, align with the trends of our era, and uphold mutual respect, equality and shared learning," he said.

"This approach has made us a model for unity and cooperation between nations of different sizes, systems and cultures."

He called on both sides to build on the successes of China-Peru cooperation, further improve their strategic planning, and enhance trade and investment as dual engines of growth.

Key steps include supporting the



President Xi Jinping attends a grand welcome ceremony hosted by Peruvian President Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra in Lima, Peru, on Thursday. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

development of both traditional and emerging industries, strengthening integration across industrial and supply chains, and elevating the quality of practical cooperation between China and Peru, as well as between China and Latin America.

"China values its longstanding friendship with Peru and appreciates Peru Congress' decision to designate February 1 as 'China-Peru Friendship Day,'" Xi said during the meeting. "With a shared commitment, I'm confident we can raise our comprehensive strategic partnership to new heights, benefiting both our peoples even more."

Boluarte rolled out the red carpet for the visiting Chinese president in front of the Government Palace of Peru, in a ceremony that included a gun salute, a guard of honor and a military band.

She described Xi's visit as a new chapter in the history of the bilateral relationship, which reflects the firm commitment from both nations to "work together toward a shared future of prosperity and development".

"Today with your presence, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthening and expanding our ties in the political, economic and cultural fields," she told the Chinese president.

Peru was one of the first Latin



A cavalry regiment escorts President Xi Jinping to the welcome ceremony in Lima on Thursday. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

American countries to establish diplomatic relations with China, and the relationship was elevated to a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2013.

Francisco Gavidia Arrascaue, an adviser to the Presidential Office of Peru, said in an interview on the sidelines of the meeting that the visit by the Chinese president "opens a new chapter of stronger economic relations between China and Peru with a future-oriented vision".

"It aims to increase economic and commercial exchanges as well as cooperation in other fields, such as technology, education, and security. Let us remember that China is currently Peru's main trading partner, and as a result, our relations are set to become stronger and more robust across various sectors," he said.

Mo Jingxi in Lima contributed to this story.

Xi hails opening of maritime corridor

By MO JINGXI and XU WEI
in Lima

President Xi Jinping on Thursday called on China and Peru to set sail the two countries' boat of friendship toward a brighter future as Chancay Port - the starting point of an Inca Trail of the New Era - has established a maritime connection across the vast Pacific Ocean.

Xi and Peruvian President Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra declared the opening of the natural deep-water port in Lima while attending the port's inauguration ceremony via video link at the Government Palace of Peru.

After hearing that the construction of the port had been completed in its entirety and the conditions for the start of operations had been met, the two leaders pronounced "proceed and move forward" to inaugurate the port.

Chancay, the first smart and eco-friendly port in South America, will bring substantial benefits to Peru, creating a large number of jobs and effectively consolidating Peru's position as a cultural gateway connecting the land and sea, as well as Asia and

Latin America.

"We're witnessing not only the flourishing of the Belt and Road Initiative in Peru, but also the birth of a new maritime corridor connecting Asia and Latin America in the new era," Xi said, urging the two sides to work together to ensure the success of Chancay Port from construction through operation.

Located about 78 kilometers north of Lima, Chancay is expected to generate \$4.5 billion in annual revenue for Peru and directly create more than 8,000 jobs. Upon its completion, the first phase of the project will reduce the sea shipping time from Peru to China to 23 days, cutting logistics costs by at least 20 percent, according to an official estimation.

Xi said that China and Peru should actively explore ways to use the new passage to promote the trade and economic development of all economies across the Pacific, so that the route from Chancay to Shanghai will lead Peru and all other Latin American and Caribbean nations to common prosperity and happiness.

See *Chancay*, page 3

Peruvian teen honored to greet President Xi

By MO JINGXI and XU WEI
in Lima

Thursday was a memorable day for Adriana, a student from the Colegio Peruano Chino Juan XXIII, a local Chinese-language school, as the lucky girl welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping upon his arrival at the airport in Lima, capital of Peru.

Wearing a peacock-decorated white dress for the traditional Peruvian dance "Marinera", the 16-year-old girl presented the distinguished guest with a bouquet of red roses and said in Chinese: "Welcome, President Xi."

"I'm really grateful for this opportunity because I know he is a very nice person," said the girl, who gave her

name only as Adriana. She said she would also perform the Chinese song *I Love You, China* on Thursday night.

The Chinese president is in Lima for his second state visit to the country and the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

"Stepping once more onto this historical, beautiful and resource-rich land, I feel a profound sense of connection," Xi said in written remarks delivered at the airport.

He noted that the friendship between China and Peru runs deep, with ties reaching back more than 400 years to when the two peoples began exchanges through the Maritime Silk Road and the Manila galleons, also known as "The China Ship".

China has been Peru's largest trad-

ing partner and export market for 10 years, with significant projects in mining and infrastructure development bringing tangible benefits to both peoples, he said.

Xi also expressed his expectations for the APEC meeting, stressing his readiness to work with various parties to advance an open Asia-Pacific economy, promote global economic growth and strengthen collective efforts to build an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future.

Before leaving the airport, Xi waved to a crowd of reporters who were thronging the airport for his arrival.

Blanca Mujica Acuna, who represented a Peruvian nonprofit association, said: "It was the first time that we're coming for the arrival of the



Adriana presented a bouquet of red roses to President Xi Jinping. XINHUA

Chinese president. He is influential globally in terms of diplomatic and economic issues."

Acuna said she also would go to the Chancay Port on Thursday afternoon to learn more about the Chinese economy. "China is the largest trading partner of Peru, and I believe the Chancay Port will play an important role in further promoting the two countries' economic relations," she said.

On his way to the hotel, the Chinese president was warmly welcomed by overseas Chinese, representatives of Chinese enterprises and students studying in Peru, as well as local people. They lined the streets and held up banners saying, "Long live the friendship between China and Peru!"

Contact the writers at mojingxi@chinadaily.com.cn

INSIDE

Seize the moment to release potential

Xi's Visit, p5

www.chinadailyglobal.com

© 2024 China Daily Global, All Rights Reserved
Vol. 6 - No. 1459

A member of

ANN

Newsstand prices:

US \$1, Canada C\$1,

UK £1, EUR, Kenya

50 Kenya Shilling

Asia Pacific: Thailand 120 thb, Philippines 120 p/p,

Myanmar 2000 kyat, Japan 210 yen, Dubai 10 dirham,

Pakistan 300 rupee



XI'S VISIT

Beyond blending in

Salon participants agree that Peru's legacy of immigration means Chinese culture is inseparably infused into its society. **Erik Nilsson** reports.

Chinese food isn't Chinese food in Peru. Instead, the fusion cuisine *chifa* is staple fare for all Peruvians of any background.

And this blend of culinary characteristics transcends ingredients and preparations. It ultimately reveals how Peru's legacy of immigration has inextricably baked Chinese culture into Peruvian society, like flour into bread.

"*Chifa*, for us, is not Chinese food anymore. It's part of what makes us Peruvians, and it's not just about the food, you know," said Selena Zhou, Peru's culture, education and tourism attaché in China.

Zhou, who joined a recent Embracing Cultures salon China Daily hosted at the Peruvian embassy in Beijing, is among the estimated 10 to 12 percent of Peruvians with direct Chinese heritage. Most are descendants of immigrants who came to Peru around the mid-1800s.

"We are really happy with that immigration," Zhou said. "It has enriched our history, our food, our way of speaking, our way of making friends and our openness to foreign cultures."

She explained that Chinese were more willing to marry locals than many immigrants during that period.

"Some countries learn to coexist with different cultures. But in the Peruvian case, we not only coexist, we mostly embrace it. So, we created a brand-new identity," Zhou said.

"*Chifa* is a reflection of how the Chinese people who emigrated to Peru many years ago learned to adapt their own heritage with the ingredients they had at hand. They even shared it with the Peruvian locals. They didn't keep it to themselves like other immigrants."

The names of many of its dishes are portmanteaus of pure Spanish and words that Peruvian Spanish incorporated from Chinese, especially Cantonese. Arroz chuafa, for example, combines the Spanish word for rice — arroz — with *chuafa*, from the Cantonese word for fried rice.

Even the name for *chifa* itself came from Chinese, Zhou explained.

"(Chinese) would yell out '*chifan*', (Chinese for) 'it's time to eat,' she said. "And the Peruvians around them would just hear '*chifa*', and they would say, Oh, that's *chifa* then."

Luo Xun, a Tianjin University of Technology professor and co-director of Connected Universal Experiences Labs, who joined Zhou at the salon, said *chifa* offered a taste of home when he visited Peru.

"This gives you a lot of familiarity that you feel," Luo said. "That's a deep connection with Chinese culture."

He said he's particularly fond of *chifa*'s seafood offerings.

"It gives you the feeling of being somehow remotely separated but still culturally connected because of the food and also because a lot of people there are of Chinese descent," he said. "You have a feeling of going to a familiar place that you never visited before."

Luis Carlos, a Peruvian student at Beijing Foreign Studies University who also joined the discussion at the embassy with Zhou, Luo and two cohosts from China Daily, explained that while *chifa* is the most conspicuous legacy of this heritage, another is Chinatown in Lima, Peru's capital.

"In the center of the city, there is a Chinatown where there are a lot of stores that sell original Chinese products. It's like they have a bit of China for showing to the Peruvians," he said.

The neighborhood also hosts dragon dances and traditional Peruvian dances around Spring Festival.

"We celebrate Chinese New Year, maybe more than Chinese people," Zhou said. "Those Chinese immigrants also maintain their connections to their heritage."

"It's really interesting because it's not that they are exclusively Chinese or that they exclusively have these Chinese customs, but they actually embrace it with Peruvian traditions, which is why we say that for us Chinese descendants, they are not Chinese, they're not Peruvians, but they are a brand-new identity."

Yet this culture extends to all citizens of any background, she explained.

"Even if you're a Peruvian who has absolutely nothing to do with Chinese (heritage), you still embrace Chinese food, you embrace Chinese Spring Festival, you love Chinese shows, you love the martial arts festivities," Zhou said.

Luo remarked that some similarities extend past cultural to geographical landscapes.



Luo Xun (second from left), professor at the Tianjin University of Technology, Selena Zhou (third from left), Peru's culture, education and tourism attaché in China, and Luis Carlos (fourth from left), a Peruvian student at Beijing Foreign Studies University, join China Daily reporters in a discussion about cultural ties between China and Peru in Beijing. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Visitors view Peruvian pottery at an exhibition entitled *Inca - Andean Civilization in Peru* at the Jinsha Site Museum in Chengdu, Sichuan province, on Jan 9. ZHANG LANG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE



A view of a Chinese restaurant in Chinatown in Lima, Peru, on Tuesday. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY



People pose for a selfie in Lima's Chinatown in Peru on Tuesday. GERARDO MARIN / REUTERS

He said that Lima's tableau reminds him of the mountainous coastal city of Qingdao in eastern China's Shandong province.

"What impressed me most in the first visit to Lima was the rich landscape when you look out the window of the airplane and see the mountains, and just right next to the mountains is the ocean," Luo recalled.

Carlos was likewise impressed by seeing Beijing from the airplane window when he first arrived in August.

"(Beijing) is so huge... The airport is like a city. It's massive. It's really, really big. I got lost in the airport actually," he said, laughing.

Peru's ambassador to China is advocating for direct flights between the two countries to facilitate trade and tourism. Currently, a couple of thousand Chinese make the two-day trip each month, Zhou said.

"Since the pandemic came to an end, we are slowly seeing the numbers rising of Chinese people interested in going to Peru nowadays. Most of our visas are for trade. A lot



Customers eat in a restaurant in Lima's Chinatown on Tuesday. GERARDO MARIN / REUTERS

of Chinese companies send their people overseas to see the South American market," she said.

"However, we're very happy that when we talk with most of them, they say, 'Oh, we went for business to Peru for a month! (We ask) 'How was your experience?' The first thing that they mention is they love

the Peruvian food, they love Peruvian landscapes, they love the Peruvian ambience, and then they tell us about their business."

Virtual visits

Luo is working on projects to enable Chinese to visit Peru without having to physically travel across

“Peru and China are very geographically distant. However, there are many (ancient) things that we have in common, from the textiles, the boneware, the ceramics, the techniques, the colors, the graphics.”

Selena Zhou, Peru's culture, education and tourism attaché in China

an immersive virtual museum to showcase the biodiversity of Peru's coastline.

"You get the seabirds, you get the fish, and you get the sea animals. That's really great, but very few people know about that," Luo said.

"At the same time, you can just 'teleport' yourself to historical sites like Machu Picchu. So, that gives you a kind of magical feeling."

Surprising similarities

These digitized displays are still a few years away. But in the past few years, physical exhibitions about ancient Peru in museums in China have proved popular, Zhou said.

These include a show about the Incas a few years ago, and one earlier this year that brought over 160 original pre-Incan artifacts from 14 leading Peruvian museums for display in Chengdu, Sichuan province. Next, the embassy hopes to bring ancient gold items from coastal Peru from the pre-Columbian period, she said.

She pointed out similarities between the two civilizations that predate contact by centuries, such as those shared by the Shu Kingdom in today's Sichuan and the Inca.

"Peru and China are very geographically distant. However, there are many (ancient) things that we have in common, from the textiles, the boneware, the ceramics, the techniques, the colors, the graphics."

Carlos said he was surprised to discover the resemblances between the traditional attire of ethnic groups in the Andes and southwestern China.

"It's really similar. It's like, wow, they are really far, far away from each other, but there are so many similarities in their clothes," he said.

Luo, who's from Sichuan, believes these similarities inspire fervent interest among Chinese museumgoers.

"If you look at the elements of the sun and the elements of the birds and the elements of making precious gold... they share so much in common and also share some values that are very similar to each other," he said.

"The sun is probably universal. But I wouldn't say the bird is universal." Zhou said: "In (Sichuan's) Jinsha, they have this golden bird. The Incas used to worship the condor, which is a bird of prey, and they used to think that the condor was a representation of freedom and ascension to the sun."

She also mentioned sophisticated water-management systems as another similarity that predates contact.

"The Incas were master engineers when it came to aqueducts, and it's the same with the China's Dujiangyan (ancient dams in Sichuan)," she said.

"It's exactly about how you used to control the flow of the river to prevent floods and guarantee that there would always be an irrigation system for agriculture."

New connections

Yet beyond parallels that predate contact and the immigration rush two centuries ago, China and Peru are now forging new connections amid globalization.

A growing number of Peruvians are learning Chinese to do business with the country, Zhou said.

Carlos, who is studying international business at BFSU and hopes to also complete his master's in China, said his mother encouraged him to learn the language.

He said he was "confused" at first, especially since Chinese is much more distant from Spanish than English.

"I really enjoy learning Chinese, especially writing Chinese, because it's really artistic. I really like the meaning of my (Chinese) name, Luo Yunshan," which means "cloud and mountain".

Zhou said authorities are working to expand opportunities to study Chinese in Peru, including outside of Lima.

"We're working on opening more centers for studying Chinese because we wish for our people to learn more about Chinese culture," she said.

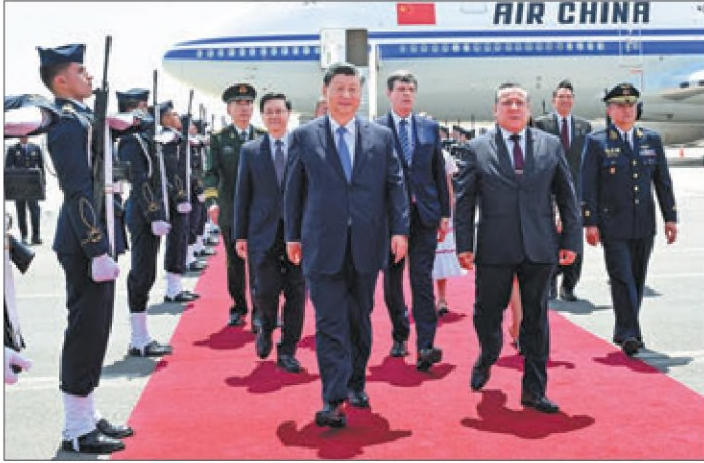
"Through mutual understanding, we can build a society that's prosperous for everybody."

Contact the writer at erik_nilsson@chinadaily.com.cn



Online See more by scanning the code.

APEC PERU 2024 **XI'S VISIT**



President Xi Jinping arrives in Lima, Peru, on Thursday for a state visit and the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. LI XUEREN / XINHUA



Peruvians welcome Chinese President Xi Jinping upon his arrival in Lima, capital city of Peru, on Thursday. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Peruvian President Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra shake hands during an agreements-signing ceremony at the Government Palace of Peru in Lima on Thursday. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

Xi: Usher China-Peru ties into bright future

In signed article, president supports 'small and beautiful' livelihood projects such as language skills and vocational training

By ZHOU JIN
zhoujin@chinadaily.com.cn

President Xi Jinping said that China is ready to launch in Peru more "small and beautiful" livelihood cooperation projects, open more Luban Workshops and centers for Chinese-language and professional skills, and strengthen cooperation on vocational education.

Xi revealed the information in a signed article published on Thursday in Peruvian media outlet El Peruano.

The Luban Workshop is a Chinese vocational training program that aims to nurture workers around the world who are highly skillful, professional and innovative.

"We will encourage Chinese companies to create more jobs and fulfill their social responsibilities in Peru, making our *paisano* friendship

more tangible and beneficial," he said, noting that Peruvians endearingly refer to the Chinese people as *paisano*, or compatriot.

China has been Peru's largest trading partner and largest export market for 10 consecutive years. Last year, Peru's exports to China accounted for 36 percent of its total exports, and Chinese businesses have an investment stock of about \$30 billion in Peru.

The Las Bambas copper mine, a project with investment from Chinese enterprises, contributes to about 1 percent of Peru's GDP, creating tens of thousands of job opportunities, Xi noted.

In addition, Saul Garrido Rosillo Hospital in Tumbes, a project undertaken by a Chinese enterprise, will serve over 100,000 local residents, and a water project in three districts of Lima will enable

more than 400,000 people to have access to clean water and sanitation services, he said.

Peru is the first Latin American country to sign a free trade agreement with China, and it is among the first in Latin America to participate in cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Calling Peru a "neighbor" of China across the Pacific Ocean, Xi said that every time he has gone to the country, he has been overwhelmed by the friendly sentiments of Peruvians toward the Chinese people.

Peru's Congress recently declared Feb 1 as Peru-China Fraternity Day; and Chinese restaurants in Peru are called *chifa*, which is similar to the Chinese word *chifan*, meaning dining.

This bond of friendship and affection is rooted in the wisdom of their ancient civilizations and has

become stronger through China-Peru win-win cooperation, he said.

Xi said that bilateral ties have grown stronger, and the two countries' results-oriented cooperation has been fruitful, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples.

'Trustworthy friend'

In fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, China sent a team of medical experts to Peru and provided vaccines and other medical supplies to the best of its ability, Xi said.

"We have proved through concrete actions that China is a trustworthy friend that Peru can rely on in crucial moments," he said.

The president also called on the two nations to strengthen exchange and cooperation in culture, arts, education, scientific research, tourism, youth, cultural heritage protection, archaeology and other areas.

He also urged more measures by the two sides to facilitate personnel exchanges to garner greater public support for bilateral relations.

Regarding the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, Xi said that China firmly supports Peru's presidency of APEC and will work closely with the Latin American country to ensure a successful and productive meeting.

The president also said Beijing is ready to work with Lima to enhance Asia-Pacific cooperation with a "Lima Imprint" and make new contributions to building an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future.

This will be the third time that Peru hosts the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, after 2008 and 2016.

The themes of the three meetings, from "A New Commitment to Asia-Pacific Development" to "Quality

Growth and Human Development", and this year's "Empower, Include, Grow", attest to Peru's firm resolve to promote an open Asia-Pacific economy and world economic growth, Xi said.

They also represent a strong "Lima Voice" for openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, he added.

China is ready to join Peru in championing true multilateralism and in promoting an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, Xi said.

Beijing also would like to work with Lima to implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative and build together a community with a shared future for mankind, he added.

Chancay: Port marks beginning of new stage

From page 1

Boluarte said that the port "will enhance Peru's competitiveness" and symbolizes an increase in potential once operations begin in the country. In addition, Peruvian products will reach Asian markets more efficiently.

The completion of Chancay Port will enable Peru to put in place a multidimensional, diverse and efficient network of connectivity spanning from the coast to inland, and from Peru to Latin America and farther on to the Caribbean.

"For Peru, Chancay marks the beginning of a new stage in economic development and also demonstrates the confidence of Chinese investors in our country," she said. "We're taking a firm step toward a future of greater integration, strengthening our relationship with China."



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Peruvian President Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra attend the virtual inauguration ceremony of the Chancay "mega-port", 78 kilometers north of the Peruvian capital, at the Government Palace of Peru in Lima on Thursday. FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY

Contact the writers at
mojingxi@chinadaily.com.cn



XI'S VISIT



Visitors admire a replica of a gold mask from Sanxingdui at an ongoing exhibition at the Inka Museum in Cuzco, Peru. The exhibition, titled *Light of the Sun: A Dialogue Between Ancient Shu and Inca Civilizations*, runs through Nov 20. XINHUA

Cuzco exhibition sheds light on shared beliefs of ancient Shu, Inca civilizations

By HUANG ZHILING and PENG CHAO

Paul Becerra is among the many visitors who have been captivated by the stunning reproduction of artifacts from Southwest China's Sichuan province on display at an exhibition at the Inka Museum in Cuzco, Peru.

"I have never seen such impressive artifacts before," said Becerra, a reporter with News Cusco, adding that he was thrilled to discover the similarities between the ancient Shu civilization—a remarkable culture that thrived in the region of present-day Sichuan—and the Inca civilization.

The exhibition, titled *Light of the Sun: A Dialogue Between Ancient Shu and Inca Civilizations*, features 16 replicas and 3D-printed imitations of representative artifacts from the Sanxingdui Museum and the Jinsha Site Museum in Sichuan, along with seven sets of Inca cultural relic items. It opened on Nov 5 and runs through Nov 20.

Although the two civilizations thrived thousands of miles apart in different eras with different customs, the ancestors of both regions shared similar spiritual beliefs and common material pursuits, the event's organizers said.

A large number of artifacts made of gold and belonging to the ancient Shu civilization have been unearthed from the Sanxingdui and Jinsha archaeological sites, both dating back more than 3,000 years. Many of these cultural treasures are objects of veneration, indicating the practice of sun worship among the ancient Shu people.

In the Inca Empire, which was one of the largest in pre-Columbian



A replica of a gold and bronze mask from Sanxingdui is on display at the Inka Museum. XINHUA

America, the king was seen as a descendant of the sun god, and gold was used to adorn palaces and make artifacts.

The organizers expect the exhibition in Cuzco, which was the ancient capital of the Inca Empire, to further enhance cultural exchanges between the two civilizations.

An exhibition on the Inca civilization was held at the Jinsha Site Museum from January to April, and it showcased 168 pieces or sets of exhibits from 14 museums in Peru, attracting over 600,000 visitors.

Wang Fang, deputy director of the Jinsha Site Museum and Chinese curator of the ongoing exhibition in Cuzco, said the replicas of the priceless artifacts from the Sanxingdui and Jinsha sites include items made of gold, jade, bronze and wood.

"These items are displayed together with precious artifacts from the Inca civilization, with the

aim to enable visitors to appreciate the extraordinary wisdom and creativity of the ancestors of both regions," she said.

Wang said the Peru exhibition is using digital technologies such as naked-eye 3D displays to create an interactive viewing experience that allows visitors to feel they are transcending time and space.

Mohenir Julinho Zapata, director of the Inka Museum, said he hopes the exhibition will serve as a window into Chinese cultural heritage for the people of Cuzco, and deepen exchanges and mutual understanding between Peru and China.

He added that he sees the event as an opportunity to promote long-term exchanges and dialogue between Sichuan and Cuzco. An international academic forum was concurrently held on Nov 6 at the National University of Saint Anthony the Abbot of Cuzco.

Experts and scholars from China and Peru delivered keynote speeches and held dialogues on topics such as the latest archaeological achievements, experiences in cultural heritage preservation, and the values and characteristics of the ancient Shu and Inca civilizations.

The Inka Museum exhibition is guided by China's State Council Information Office, the Chinese Embassy in Peru, the Ministry of Culture of Peru and the Regional Government of Cuzco. It is organized by the Sichuan Provincial Government Information Office, the Sichuan Provincial Bureau of Cultural Relics and the National University of Saint Anthony the Abbot of Cuzco.

Contact the writers at pengchao@chinadaily.com.cn

Museums open window for cultural exchanges

Chinese, Peruvian exhibitions help to enhance mutual understanding

By DENG ZHANGYU dengzhangyu@chinadaily.com.cn

"If they can learn about Peruvian culture right at their doorstep, it might encourage some of them to travel to this country in the future."

QI XIN, director of the Nanshan Museum



At the Inka Museum in Cuzco, Peru, visitors are greeted by a fascinating juxtaposition of cultural treasures, with giant bronze trees, golden masks and ornaments from China's ancient Shu kingdom displayed alongside relics from the ancient Peruvian Inca civilization.

The exhibition, *Light of the Sun: A Dialogue Between Ancient Shu and Inca Civilizations*, which opened on Nov 5, highlights the intriguing similarities between these two distinct cultures, both of which revered the sun and cherished gold. The replicas of Chinese artifacts and 3D-printed imitations that are on display are on loan from the Jinsha Site Museum in Chengdu, Sichuan province, and the Sanxingdui Museum in Guanghan, Sichuan.

The exhibition can serve as a window into China's cultural heritage for the people of Cuzco, and can deepen exchanges and mutual understanding between China and Peru, said Mohehir Julinho Zapata, the Inka Museum's director.

Zapata added that the exhibition will strengthen the friendship and exchanges between China and Peru and create opportunities for long-term communication and dialogue.

It's not the Peruvians' first experience of China's ancient culture.

In 2016, to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of China-Peru diplomatic relations, a show featuring more than 100 exhibits from museums across China opened at the National Museum of Archaeology, Anthropology and History of Peru in Lima.

Ivan Ghezzi, who was then director of the Lima museum, said: "It was the cultural event of that year in Lima. Thousands of people from Lima and also from other provinces of Peru visited the show. They appreciated artifacts they only knew from books and photos, such as the famous terracotta soldiers."

Ghezzi said that although China and Peru are becoming closer in areas of investment and trade, frequent cultural exchanges have helped Peruvians to understand that their shared history and cultural connections are even deeper than economic and political ties.

In the past few years, many key museums in China have also hosted exhibitions of relics from Peru, introducing to Chinese audiences the Andean civilizations, a series of complex societies that developed in the Andes Mountains region of South America and spanned from the northern highlands of Peru to northern Chile and Argentina.

Andres Alvarez Calderon, president of the Larco Museum in Lima, said that 24 of its exhibits, including pottery, gold objects and textiles, were displayed in China through a joint exhibition involving 11 Peruvian museums in 2021. The exhibition toured five major cities in China, including Beijing, Tianjin and Chongqing, and received a warm welcome from Chinese visitors.

Calderon said that Peru, like China, Egypt, Mesopotamia, India and Mexico, was a cradle of civilization, and these peoples formed the basis of modern civilization more than 5,000 years ago.

"In historical terms, we have a lot in common, and there are many examples of Chinese symbolism that coincide with the agricultural societies that developed in our lands: symbols of birds representing the world above, snakes representing the underworld, and felines representing our earthly world," he said.

The number of Chinese visitors to the Larco Museum, though not yet significant, is increasing each year, with most of them very interested in the gold artifacts, according to Calderon.

A passionate collector and archaeologist, Calderon is also fascinated by relics from ancient China, especially those from the Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 220), whose decorative items, in his eyes, are similar to those of the Formative Epoch of Peru, which thrived about 3,200 years ago.

"The relation between Peru and China becomes more extensive and stronger day by day. I think the historical component is essential to understand that we, as human beings, have a common root, a very similar history, and that these features should unite us to strengthen our current relationship," he said.

Another exhibition involving 14 Peruvian museums and featuring 168 artifacts has been displayed in China, garnering great popularity.

From January to April, the exhibition was held at the Jinsha Site Museum in Chengdu, Sichuan, and drew more than 600,000 visitors. They experienced the Inca civilization, which was centered in what is now Peru and thrived from the early 13th century until the Spanish conquest in the 16th century.

On April 19, the show went to the Nanshan Museum in Shenzhen, Guangdong province. It featured a diverse range of artifacts, including bone tools, metalwork, stone objects, pottery, woodwork, textiles, paintings and mummies.

Originally scheduled to conclude in August, the exhibition was extended until October due to popular demand, attracting about 400,000 visitors. In comparison, the Nanshan Museum recorded a total of more than 800,000 visitors throughout last year, said Qi Xin, the museum's director.

"I was quite surprised by the enthusiasm of the audience. Many children even researched this geographically unfamiliar civilization before visiting the exhibition," said Qi.

During the summer vacation, the museum experienced a peak in visitor numbers, with up to 10,000 visitors in a single day. The museum was open seven days a week and extended its closing time, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Visitors learned from the exhibition that some common foods, such as potatoes, originally came from Peru, and they were very interested in the mystery of the Inca civilization's disappearance, said Qi. They also were impressed by the vibrant colors of the artifacts.

On July 25, when Peruvian President Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra began a visit to China in Shenzhen, her first stop was the Nanshan Museum to visit the exhibition of Peruvian artifacts.

Museum director Qi said: "As a district museum in Shenzhen, I never imagined that our exhibition would attract the president of Peru. She really emphasized the importance of cultural exchanges."

Qi also said he believed that only through mutual learning can people from different civilizations establish a better foundation for communication, and visiting exhibitions and learning about artifacts are effective ways to learn about each other's culture.

"For many Chinese people, Peru is distant and not the top destination, but if they can learn about Peruvian culture right at their doorstep, it might encourage some of them to travel to this country in the future," he said. "This is what I believe makes our exhibition very meaningful."

Experts highlight crucial role of forum

By KARL WILSON in Sydney karlwilson@chinadailyapac.com

In its 35th year of existence, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation continues to remain relevant despite the emergence of other regional forums and is projected to maintain its growth in the face of global uncertainties and challenges, experts said.

In 1989, then Australian prime minister Bob Hawke first floated the idea of a regional trade alliance, but the regional picture has altered dramatically since, leading some commentators to question the APEC's relevance.

Their argument is that the forum lacks cohesion and has drifted from its original mandate of fostering trade and investment.

However, the APEC has grown from 12 economies to 21, is home to 2.9 billion people, and represents over 60 percent of global GDP today, showcasing its resilience and adaptability.

Tim Harcourt, industry professor and chief economist at the University of Technology Sydney's Institute for Public Policy and Governance,

insisted the APEC continues to be relevant.

"The fact (that) APEC is run by consensus rather than being rules-based is a good thing," Harcourt said, pointing out its difference from the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

He added that the APEC includes South American economies such as Peru and Chile as members, which makes it especially important to countries like Australia.

Hans Hendrischke, professor of Chinese business and management at the University of Sydney Business School, said, "APEC's role in facilitating dialogue among political and economic leaders is more crucial than ever at this time of growing protectionism and economic decoupling."

"For the 21 APEC members this will be the first opportunity to warn the incoming new US president of the dangers of protectionism and decoupling and present a joint commitment to free trade," Hendrischke told China Daily.

The motto of APEC 2024 —

"Empower, Include, Grow" — enables members such as China to showcase their achievements in trade liberalization, digitalization and sustainability, he said.

Hendrischke added that China's concept of an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future is being realized through its leadership in sustainability and energy transformation, and proves its benefits for member economies.

According to APEC Regional Trends Analysis report in August, the region's GDP is expected to grow 3.5 percent in 2024, on a par with the growth rate in 2023.

Growth for 2025, however, is expected to ease slightly to 3.1 percent.

"While growth rates may vary across the region, the collective commitment to controlling inflation and adopting prudent monetary policies has been pivotal," said Carlos Kuriyama, director of the APEC Policy Support Unit.

"It is crucial that we remain vigilant and flexible, ensuring that our economies can weather future challenges and continue on a path of sustainable development," he



The Brazil booth at the 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services at the China National Convention Center in Beijing showcases coffee and other products on Sept 14. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

said in a statement published with the report.

The report said the region is currently grappling with increased trade tensions, leading to a notable rise in trade restrictions and remedies, such as anti-dumping and countervailing duties.

Persistent supply chain disruptions have also increased the cost

and time of transporting goods across borders, putting additional pressure on prices.

The report said that strategic economic policies and international cooperation are expected to play a crucial role in navigating these issues.

"The steady growth we are witnessing across the APEC region,

despite global uncertainties, is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of our economies," Kuriyama said.

"As we continue to navigate complex challenges, APEC's commitment to sound economic policies and regional cooperation will be critical in sustaining this momentum and fostering long-term prosperity."



XI'S VISIT



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.



SONG CHEN / CHINA DAILY

EDUARDO TZILI-APANGO

Seize the moment

APEC should look to release potential of a trans-Pacific economic vision of the Asia-Pacific

Nowadays, there is no doubt that the Asia-Pacific region is the most economically dynamic region in the world. It is estimated that the region accounted for 40 percent of global trade activities by 2023, and trade in goods may reach \$18.5 trillion by the end of 2024, which would represent 5.1 percent growth over that of the previous year, surpassing the projected world trade growth of 2.6 percent.



The vibrant APEC economies are the direct results of 212 trade agreements (between regional, or RTAs, and bilateral, or FTAs), registered as of July 2023, and representing nearly half of the world's total. One may think that the regional trend would lead to the establishment of a huge RTA, which in fact has been discussed since 2004 in the APEC meeting within the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific framework. Nevertheless, geopolitics has somehow conditioned trade dynamics, and has divided efforts toward a free trade region into two agreements: the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

In this sense, the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Peru is a significant event for both China and Latin America for two reasons. First, at the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 2014, four documents were approved, among which the Beijing Roadmap for APEC's Contribution to the Realization of the FTAA stands out. This effort is considered to have represented an innovative concrete step toward the realization of the FTAA as it implemented the Collective Strategic Study on Issues Related to the Realization of the FTAA of 2016, which in turn committed to achieve the FTAA outside of APEC and in parallel with the APEC process, among other things.

In the same year 2016, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement was being signed between 12 Pacific Rim economies, six rounds of RCEP negotiations were taking place, and the APEC leaders approved the Lima Declaration on the FTAA which reaffirmed the commitment that the FTAA should be built upon ongoing regional undertakings and through the existing TPP and RCEP. This is the second reason why the APEC Peru 2024 is a significant event, as it draws upon previous solid efforts promoted by China and Latin America in this respect.

Thus, as a manifestation of positive geopolitization — one that may aid APEC's objectives — it is important to promote a more "trans-Pacific" view of the Pacific Rim to transcend the former view of Asia-Pacific, and to further integrate the Pacific with Latin America.

While the RCEP has achieved a degree of consolidation with its entry into force in 2022, the TPP faced a setback with the United States' withdrawal in 2017, and posterior adjustments in the form of the CPTPP, which entered into force in 2018. One may point out that the RCEP also met with problems when India pulled out of the deal in 2019, which occurred in the context of the "negative geopolitization" of the "Indo-Pacific" region through the Quad mechanism. However, the RCEP — already considered the "world's largest free trade pact" in terms of population and trade volume — has had more progress along the APEC FTAA line than the CPTPP.

For example, in 2022 the intra-RCEP overall growth rate was 8 percent. In contrast, intra-CPTPP trade increased by only 5.5 percent between 2018 and 2021. The RCEP accounts for about 30 percent of the world's GDP, while the CPTPP accounts for approximately 13 percent. Although the RCEP's degree of trade liberalization may be less than CPTPP's — 63.4 percent vis-a-vis 86.1 percent of the tariff lines respectively — US President-elect Donald Trump has brought back onto the table

"tariff diplomacy", which may harm many CPTPP economies with close ties with the US market, such as Japan and Mexico.

In other words, it appears that there is a bigger political disposition and resources in the RCEP to pursue APEC's FTAA than in the CPTPP, even in the context of "negative geopolitization" of the "Indo-Pacific" and world trade. This is the reason why APEC Peru 2024 is a paramount event for China and Latin American countries, as they have the opportunity to delineate policies in order to maintain the pace of trade liberalization in the Pacific Rim. Among these the consolidation of strategic autonomy of the Latin American region is fundamental.

To date, China has signed an FTA with five Latin American countries respectively; there are two more ongoing events — the upgrade of the FTA with Peru, and a joint-feasibility study of a free trade agreement with Colombia. Twenty-two Latin American countries have formally joined the Belt and Road Initiative. While seven RCEP economies are also in the CPTPP, to which China and Indonesia have formally applied for accession, only Chile as a Latin American CPTPP economy has formally requested accession to the RCEP.

In these perilous times of US endorsed protectionism and "negative geopolitization" of trade dynamics, it is important to update APEC's geopolitical vision of the Asia-Pacific, which may contribute to seizing the trade opportunities and encouraging investments. Thus, as a manifestation of positive geopolitization — one that may aid APEC's objectives — it is important to promote a more "trans-Pacific" view of the Pacific Rim to transcend the former view of Asia-Pacific, and to further integrate the Pacific with Latin America. The potential of a trans-Pacific vision may create bridges to get closer between societies across the Pacific.

The author is an associate professor and researcher at the Politics and Culture Department of the Metropolitan Autonomous University, and a member of the Mexican Eurasia Studies Group. 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.

MARCOS CORDEIRO PIRES

Sign of the times

Increasing collaboration between countries in the Global South is the best response to the selfishness of the US

November is marked by three major global events: the APEC summit to be held in Peru from Nov 13 to 15; COP29, in Azerbaijan, from Nov 11 to 22; and the G20 summit, in Brazil, from Nov 18 to 19.

The Azerbaijani presidency of COP29 has defined two pillars of action: "raising ambition", which aims to expand the implementation of ambitious and transparent national plans, and "enabling action", which focuses on the role of finance in making resources available to face the climate crisis.

The APEC summit, with the slogan "Empower, Include, Grow", will prioritize greater economic and technical cooperation, promoting prosperity and well-being for all people in the Asia-Pacific region, covering trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected growth, innovation and digitalization to promote the transition to the formal and global economy, and sustainable growth for resilient development.

Brazil's priorities for the G20 summit are the fight against hunger, extreme poverty and social inequality. It also prioritizes tackling the climate crisis and the urgency of an energy transition at the global level. The third focus is to engage the G20 in Brazil's fight for the reform of global governance, mainly in financial organizations, to reflect that the countries of the Global South today have a political and economic weight that they did not have at the end of World War II, when many of them were still European colonies.

The overarching focus of the three events therefore is on the environment, sustainable development, human dignity and the better functioning of global governance. The four topics involve the urgent need for cooperation to reorganize the international economy more equitably. Each country must make its own contributions to solving these problems, shouldering its responsibilities and making the most of the possibilities. Different countries cannot be treated in the same way. It is unfair to demand that Papua New Guinea bear a similar burden to that of the United Kingdom for instance regarding

We believe that the hosts of the APEC summit in Peru, the COP29 in Azerbaijan, and the G20 in Brazil will have to seek practical commitments that will not be subject to the scrutiny of the Washington government since the participation of President Biden and his advisors will be merely decorative, as the newly-elected government will not comply with determinations that violate the selfish principle of "America First".

greenhouse gas emissions.

It is important to emphasize once again the need for international coordination to overcome major global problems. Pollution and greenhouse gases do not respect national borders. Millions of hungry and desperate people are emigrating from their communities of origin because they cannot find decent living conditions. Climate change is exacerbating this problem, whether through floods and hurricanes or severe droughts that last for years. Just look at what is happening on the southern border of the United States. Mexicans, Guatemalans, Salvadorans, and Hondurans, migrate in search of a better life. However, the United States' response has focused on repression and closing the borders. There is no action led by the world's greatest power to address the causes of the emigration. There are no major development projects supported by the Washington government that would help develop the economies of Central American countries.

The presidential election of Donald Trump on Nov 5 is a warning sign for multilateralism. The history of his first administration and the promises made during the presidential campaign indicate that countries in the Global South will

need to increase their cohesion and mutual support to overcome international challenges without the support of the US. After all, Trump has promised more than once to abandon clean energy policies in favor of fossil fuels. During the Republican National Convention in July, Trump said: "I will lower the cost of energy ... We will drill, baby, drill."

The new government in Washington will continue to block multilateralism in terms of trade and maintaining open supply chains. It has also promised to prioritize the country's industry and impose a new wave of import tariff hikes against China and across the board, including against its allies. It also promises to toughen negotiations to renew the trade agreement with Canada and Mexico. It is worth remembering that Trump paralyzed the activities of the World Trade Organization, and Joe Biden maintained this position.

Finally, the new US administration will negatively impact the search for global collective solutions. In his first term, Trump withdrew the country from the World Health Organization, the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Paris Agreement.

We believe that the hosts of the APEC summit in Peru, the COP29 in Azerbaijan, and the G20 in Brazil will have to seek practical commitments that will not be subject to the scrutiny of the Washington government since the participation of President Biden and his advisors will be merely decorative, as the newly-elected government will not comply with determinations that violate the selfish principle of "America First". Despite this, we should view the articulation in defense of multilateralism with optimism. Significant positive changes are occurring amid a very challenging situation. The distancing of the hegemonic power from major global issues is a great opportunity for the Global South to design a more inclusive international order. The BRICS grouping has all the credentials to lead this process.

The author is a professor of international political economy at Sao Paulo State University in Brazil. 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

CHINA

Official promotes hydrogen energy efforts

By HOU LIQIANG
houliqiang@chinadaily.com.cn

China has emerged as the global leader in both hydrogen production and consumption, having successfully attained expertise in essential technologies across its industrial chain and production processes, a senior climate diplomat said.

Hydrogen energy is one of the key enablers for global energy transition, serving as a crucial element in constructing a clean, low-carbon, secure and efficient energy system, stressed Zhao Yingmin, head of the Chinese delegation at the ongoing COP29 United Nations climate change conference.

Formally known as the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the event in Baku, Azerbaijan, began on Monday and is scheduled to conclude on Nov 22.

Addressing an event themed on hydrogen, Zhao, who is also vice-minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, noted efforts from the Chinese government are being made to promote hydrogen development as the country forges ahead with its climate targets of peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and going carbon neutral before 2060.

In 2022, the Chinese government rolled out a plan for the development of hydrogen energy for the 2021-2035 period, positioning the gas as a crucial component of the national energy system and also setting targets for various stages of industrial development, he noted.

According to the plan, China aims to increase its hydrogen production from renewable energy to between 100,000 and 200,000 metric tons per year, and make it an important part of newly added hydrogen energy consumption by 2025.

Jointly released by the National Development and Reform Commission and the National Energy Administration, the plan said the production of such green hydrogen is expected to facilitate the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 1 million to 2 million tons per year.

Zhao said Chinese lawmakers passed the country's first energy law on Nov 8. The law, which takes effect on Jan 1, officially places hydrogen energy on an equal footing with traditional energy sources.

He also noted proactive efforts being made in China to tap the potential of using hydrogen to power vehicles and replace traditional fossil energy in the industrial sector.

The vice-minister also noted that the country's first million-ton steel-making experimental facility fueled by hydrogen has been operating steadily for one year.

Hydrogen production in China reached 35.5 million tons last year, representing 40 percent of the global total, he said, adding the annual demand for the energy in the country has been about 33 million tons.

"The hydrogen energy industry in China is now showing a positive trend of development," he said.

Ma Yongsheng, chairman of Sinopec, said despite significant progress in hydrogen energy development worldwide, the sector is still in the early stages of development.

"While the production cost of green hydrogen remains relatively high, there is still ample opportunity for enhancing the production of crucial materials and technologies," he said.

The standards and regulations for hydrogen development are not yet perfect, highlighting the need to deepen international scientific and technological cooperation, Ma added.

Autumn admirers



Visitors take photos of ginkgo trees in the courtyard of the Capital Hotel in Beijing on Thursday. Since their leaves turned golden, the roughly 200-year-old ginkgo trees, one male and one female, have become a popular attraction for hotel guests seeking autumnal scenery. DENG WEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Global South alliance established

By CAO DESHENG in Nanjing
caodesheng@chinadaily.com.cn

The Global South Think Tanks Alliance was officially launched on Thursday to deepen exchanges and cooperation among the countries of the Global South so they can contribute their wisdom to promoting a more equal multi-polar world and more inclusive global governance.

A ceremony was held in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, at the Second Global South Think Tanks Dialogue, which was hosted by the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the CPC Jiangsu Provincial Committee and the China Council for BRICS Think-Tank Cooperation.

President Xi Jinping proposed the establishment of such an alliance at the "BRICS Plus" leaders' dialogue in Kazan, Russia, in October to promote people-to-people exchanges and experience-sharing in governance among the Global South nations.

"The collective rise of the Global South is a distinctive feature of the great transformation across the world," he said at the BRICS event.

More than 200 universities and think tanks from China and other emerging markets and developing countries have expressed their willingness to join the alliance, which is

committed to equality, openness and cooperation, according to the International Department of the CPC Central Committee.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the two-day dialogue meeting, Liu Jianchao, head of the department, called for carrying forward the spirit of the Global South featuring independence and autonomy, unity and mutual assistance, fairness and justice, and openness and inclusiveness.

Looking to the future, member countries should work together to pursue development and rejuvenation, uphold world peace, promote the progress of civilizations and improve global governance through joint consultations to build a community with a shared future for the Global South, Liu said.

Political leaders and representatives of think tanks from more than 100 nations attending the meeting voiced their concerns over the current international order undermined by unilateralism, protectionism and hegemony by Western powers, and they expressed a strong desire to speak with a unified voice to express their common aspirations and enhance their representation and say in global affairs.

Bimala Ghimire, vice-chairperson of the National Assembly of Nepal, said that the Global South is no

longer the silent majority, but an awakened force and a new hope for change.

The world is becoming increasingly uncertain with conflicts in areas such as Ukraine and Gaza, rampant unilateralism, protectionism and hegemonism, as well as a sluggish global economic recovery, she said.

"In a more turbulent era, we are faced with the common question of where we are heading in the future, a question that confronts all of us in the Global South," Ghimire said.

She highlighted equality as the common voice of the Global South, openness as its defining feature, and cooperation as its collective pursuit.

Tahir Budagov, deputy chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party, commended China's commitment to ensuring that the voices of developing countries are better heard and enhancing mutual understanding among nations, which he said lays the foundation for building win-win cooperation.

"Countries of the Global South are able to set new standards for sustainable development, digital transformation, and social progress," he said. "Through unity and cooperation, we can address issues such as inequality, isolation and unfair competition, while contributing to the establishment of a more balanced and equitable international relations system."

First-of-its-kind military radar developed

By ZHAO LEI in Zhuhai, Guangdong
zhaolei@chinadaily.com.cn

China Electronics Technology Group Corp, one of the world's largest suppliers of defense electronics, is promoting a new radar system that the State-owned conglomerate said is the first of its kind in the world.

Developed by the CETC 14th Institute in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, the YLC-2E radar is on display at the ongoing 15th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, which opened on Tuesday in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, and runs through Sunday. It is China's newest hardware for countering stealth aircraft, according to the institute, the country's largest and most renowned developer of military radar.

A researcher at the institute, who wished to be identified only as Zheng, said the S-band multifunc-

tional radar incorporates state-of-the-art technologies and is capable of detecting and tracking stealth fighter jets, as well as guiding missiles toward the targets.

"In modern wars, stealth combat planes are among core threats to ground assets, so it is very important to figure out effective methods to handle such threats," Zheng said. "We have developed several models of meter-wave radar systems that can detect and track stealth targets. The YLC-2E is a new addition to our portfolio of anti-stealth radar and is the first in the world based on the S-band mechanism."

S-band radio waves are a common set of frequencies and wavelengths used for everything from air traffic control radar to household Wi-Fi.

The researcher said the YLC-2E features a modular design, world-class hardware and intelligent algorithms, so it boasts excellent detection capability.

The radar system incorporates high-power transmitter/receiver modules across an array that spans half a badminton court and has optimized power efficiency. Both of the traits enable the radar to generate substantial energy for identifying stealth targets.

In addition, it uses sophisticated algorithms, which can further enhance the system's detection and tracking performance, and allow it to operate under an enemy's electronic jamming interference, he noted.

Wu Peixin, a defense industry observer, said that China has become a leader in the field of anti-stealth radar, and its many radar capabilities are the best in the world.

"The new radar and its meter-wave predecessors work on different bands, so if they were deployed together, they can form a massive surveillance network that no stealth aircraft will be able to sneak through," he said.

Guideline to help 2025 grads find jobs

By CHINA DAILY

As China braces for a record number of university graduates in 2025, authorities are ramping up efforts to address increasingly flagging youth unemployment, according to the Ministry of Education.

On Thursday, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security held a joint meeting in Beijing to coordinate employment and entrepreneurship efforts for next year's university graduates. Statistics indicate that the number of graduates from regular higher education institutions — those requiring students

to sit the national college entrance examination, or *gaokao* — is expected to reach 12.22 million next year, an increase of 430,000 compared with this year.

The Ministry of Education has launched multiple initiatives to direct local governments and universities to implement supportive measures for youth employment. Since September, universities and local authorities have held 55,000 recruitment events offering 10.93 million jobs.

Speaking during a recent visit to Shanxi province, Education Minister Huai Jinpeng highlighted the need to align academic programs

with labor market demand and adjust university discipline structures accordingly.

In a new guideline issued on Monday, the Ministry of Education outlined initiatives to help new graduates secure jobs or launch businesses, stressing the need for "high-quality and full employment" for these young adults, who are seen as vital to China's talent pool.

The guideline called on universities to launch emerging disciplines and majors that align with regional development priorities, technological advancements and national strategic goals. Programs with low employment rates will receive "red or

Premier takes inspection tour of Hebei

Li calls on province to boost efforts to build Xiong'an into high-quality area

By CAO DESHENG
caodesheng@chinadaily.com.cn

Premier Li Qiang has urged Hebei province to step up efforts to build the Xiong'an New Area into a high-quality area with high standards and make new progress in promoting the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

Li made the statement during an inspection tour in Hebei on Wednesday, which took him to Xiong'an, a centerpiece of China's regional development strategy, and the cities of Baoding and Zhuozhou.

He also called for efforts to drive development through innovation and accelerate a comprehensive green transition.

During his visit to China Satellite Network Group in Xiong'an, the premier underscored the need to attract more competitive enterprises to settle in and cultivate a high-tech industrial system to inject new momentum into the development of the area.

He said industrial agglomeration is the foundation of urban development, and it is essential that developers continuously improve the institutional mechanisms conducive to undertaking Beijing's non-capital functions and aggregating innovative resources, and actively promote the implementation of landmark projects.

Li also learned about efforts being made to protect Baiyangdian Lake and praised the work that has been undertaken to improve the local environment. He said it is crucial to promote the coordinated protection and ecological restoration of the lake and its upstream and downstream areas.

A good ecological environment is an important demonstration of the value of the Xiong'an New Area, Li said.

He urged efforts to implement the strategic decisions of the Communist Party of China Central

Committee on developing the area, improving infrastructure construction and public service levels comprehensively, and creating a modern, livable and business-friendly environment.

It is important to develop new business models, cultivate new growth drivers and make "intelligence, greenness and innovation" the shining highlights of Xiong'an, he said.

After seven years of development, the Xiong'an New Area, embodying the vision of a "City of the Future", has made remarkable progress. The completion of the Beijing-Xiong'an high-speed rail link stands out as a testament to the area's growing connectivity.

The economic landscape of Xiong'an is increasingly characterized by high-tech and innovative industries. Last year, the area saw a surge in high-tech enterprises, with 323 new firms registered, a 47 percent increase year-on-year, according to the local government.

It aspires to be a model of high-level socialist modernization by 2035, showcasing green and low-carbon living, open and innovative economic systems, advanced information technology and a high quality of life.

During Wednesday's inspection tour, Li also visited a semiconductor company in Baoding, where he was briefed on its progress in scientific and technological innovation. He encouraged the company to grasp cutting-edge trends, increase R&D investment, strive to overcome challenges in key and core technologies and continuously enhance the competitive advantage.

In Zhuozhou, the premier visited a dike construction site, where he reviewed its latest progress and listened to reports on major post-disaster water conservancy projects in Hebei. He urged local officials to give extra attention to the well-being of affected residents as winter approaches, ensuring they stay safe throughout the season.

Shadow show



Children experience traditional shadow puppetry at a kindergarten in Changxing county, Zhejiang province, on Thursday. Local education authorities have organized nearly 100 activities to bring folk culture and traditional arts into area schools. TAN YUNFENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

yellow warning cards," signaling a need for updates or changes to address shifting job market requirements. The ministry encouraged schools to organize small, specialized job fairs tailored to various industries and regions.

The guideline also advised incorporating career education throughout university programs, offering career planning competitions, internships and other preparatory resources. To spur hiring, the government will provide incentives for companies to increase recruitment and promote flexible employment options for graduates.

In an effort to ensure fair hiring practices, the guideline prohibits discriminatory recruitment practices based on university background, sex or hometown. Additionally,

phrases like "985 and 211 project university graduates only" are now banned in job listings.

The "985" and "211" projects are two government initiatives to foster top universities, with an aim to enhance the quality and reputation of higher education in China. The terms "985" and "211" universities are still commonly used to refer to these prestigious schools, and employers often prioritize the hiring of workers who graduated from them.

The Ministry of Education will host recruitment events specifically for the education sector, both online and in person, aiming to generate more than 180,000 job opportunities for the class of 2025.

Xu Nuo contributed to this story.

GLOBAL LENS



The scientific research vessel carrying French researcher Agathe Serres sails near Jiangmen, Guangdong province, on Aug 24.



A Chinese white dolphin is spotted during a research trip with French researcher Agathe Serres in Jiangmen on Aug 24.



French researcher Agathe Serres (left) takes photos of Chinese white dolphins near Jiangmen on Aug 23.



Agathe Serres and her colleague Shi Yihuang review research footage of their trip on Aug 24.

French connection

Dolphin researcher maintains lifelong link with cetaceans across the oceans



Agathe Serres looks out for Chinese white dolphins on her research vessel on Aug 24.

By CHINA DAILY

When Agathe Serres was 10, her family moved from Paris to Quimper, a French city known for its links with the sea.

Growing up near the coast, she soon began her love affair with cetaceans — aquatic mammals that include whales, dolphins and porpoises.

Serres, now 31, developed a deep fascination with the ocean, drawn to the idea of living as freely as the cetaceans.

But distressing news about the animals emerged from time to time. Whales can have a prolonged maturation period before becoming reproductive and they give birth to a single calf per pregnancy; amid the increasing occurrence of human activities in the marine habitat, many cetacean species are now endangered, according to latest research.

Recent findings of a significant increase in the number of China's Yangtze finless porpoises, climbing to more than 1,200 or a rise of over 23 percent in the past few years, fueled renewed optimism among cetacean conservation researchers like Serres.

"The case of the Yangtze finless porpoise proves that if the Chinese authorities want to do a good job and implement a policy, they can do it," she said, adding that she believes another vulnerable species, the Chinese white dolphin, can avoid extinction.

For the past three years, as an assistant researcher at the Institute of Deep-sea Science and Engineering of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Serres has traveled to Guangdong and Hainan provinces and the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, carrying out research and conservation work for the Chinese white dolphin.

Known to many people as the "panda of the ocean", the adult humpback dolphins appear pink under sunlight, earning them the nickname "pink dolphins". The cetacean was designated as a national first-class protected wild animal in China in 1988. In 2008, it was classified as "vulnerable" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species.

From August to September, Serres navigat-



French researcher Agathe Serres at the Cetacean Specimen Museum of the Institute of Deep-sea Science and Engineering of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Sanya, Hainan province, on Aug 16. PHOTOS BY LIU QICHENG / SANYA DAILY

ed the Pearl River estuary, journeying downstream to the Chinese White Dolphin Nature Reserve in Jiangmen, Guangdong. She spent five consecutive days at sea, observing and sailing for over eight hours a day.

Serres then joined a research vessel three more times, venturing into the South China Sea to gather ecological, acoustic and behavioral data on common cetacean species, while also expanding her understanding of the habitat range of rarer cetacean species.

"I hope that one day, I will see pods of Chinese white dolphins leaping joyfully across the sea, playing with people, delighted by an endless abundance of fish, free from worries of a fractured home," Serres said.

Li Songhai, a professor at the Institute of Deep-sea Science and Engineering, said that establishing nature reserves is currently the most effective way to protect the Chinese white dolphin.

"The white dolphins don't ask for much — just a one-kilometer buffer beyond the coastline, designated as their habitat. With dedicated nature reserves and systematic planning, we can ensure their protection," Li said.

"The vast ocean should hold a place for the Chinese white dolphin," Serres said, adding that protecting the Chinese white dolphin and marine life is ultimately about safeguarding Earth's ecosystem and preserving the home that humans depend on.

In that regard, the green model of development taken by the Hainan Free Trade Port in the southern island province not only means industry and economic growth, but also ecological and environmental advancement, fostering a shared beauty between humans and marine life, and reflecting a harmonious coexistence between people and nature, she said.

Serres said she also hopes to work alongside her friends in China to create a safer, more harmonious and joyful home for the "pandas of the ocean ... allowing the beautiful and miraculous song of their lives to play on forever".

Lu Jubo and Chen Chaoquan from Sanya Daily and Zhao Hairuo contributed to this story.



Agathe Serres looks for Chinese white dolphins on her research vessel in Jiangmen on Aug 24.



A researcher measures the temperature of the seawater around Jiangmen on Aug 23.



French researcher Agathe Serres operates a drone to film Chinese white dolphins around Jiangmen on Aug 23.



The research vessel sonar equipment used to locate dolphins is shown at Jiangmen on Aug 24.



Researchers Agathe Serres and Li Songhai at the Institute of Deep-sea Science and Engineering in Sanya, Hainan province, on Oct 10.

CIIE PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON SHANXI'S UNIQUE CULTURAL CHARMS

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Province's heritage, industries, rich history showcased to global visitors at import expo's seventh edition

Since its first time in 2018, the North China province of Shanxi has used the China International Import Expo, or CIIE, as a platform to promote its high-level opening-up, share global resources and showcase its new development patterns.

This year's CIIE, running from Nov 5 to 10 in the eastern coastal metropolis of Shanghai, has entered its seventh edition.

When Shanxi's presence at this year's expo featured four functions of international purchase, investment and trade promotion, cultural exchanges and business cooperation, as it had in the previous sessions, it attracted a great deal of attention from visitors with a perfect combination of its culture and economy.

This year's CIIE, featuring the participation of attendees from 152 countries, regions and international organizations, is seen as a prime showcase of Shanxi's cultural and tourism resources, latest industrial developments and trade and investment opportunities.

More than 7,000 representatives from Shanxi's 2,140 enterprises attended this year's CIIE. They mainly represented businesses engaged in the fields of foreign trade, retail, manufacturing, culture and tourism.

A highlight of Shanxi's attendance this time is that there were many exhibits representing Shanxi's cultural heritage, tourism projects, and time-honored brands with deep roots in history and culture.

New image

The Shanxi pavilion at the expo spanned an area of 405 square meters, showcasing the general image and business opportunities of the province.

The pavilion was among the most attractive provincial exhibition zones at the CIIE as it featured immersive and interactive experiences. With the help of modern digital technologies, the pavilion displayed Shanxi's natural landscapes, history, culture and life, as well as achievements in industries and technologies.

The most impressive part of the Shanxi pavilion was an interactive zone called "Travel Shanxi with Wukong", showcasing Shanxi's cultural and tourism resources using the hit video game *Black Myth: Wukong*.

On Aug 20, the highly anticipated game made its domestic and global debut, immediately becoming an industry hit.

It has also sparked interest in Chinese culture, as it is deeply rooted in Chinese mythology and inspired by the legends of the Monkey King — or Sun Wukong — in *Journey to the West*, a classic Chinese novel that has been represented in numerous films, TV shows and cartoons.

The art design of the game took inspiration from ancient Chinese architecture and other cultural elements. The unique cultural features have resulted in additional benefits outside the game industry, arousing fervent enthusiasm from netizens to experience the Chinese cultural heritage displayed in the game.

Shanxi is one of the biggest beneficiaries of this game. Of the 36 scenic spots featured, 27 are in Shanxi, including sites of ancient buildings, like Foguang Temple and Nanchan Temple in Xinzhou; Xuankong Temple in Datong; Shuanglin Temple in Jincheng; and Yuhuang Temple in Jincheng.

As a result of the win-win cooperation between the game's developer and Shanxi's tourism authorities, local tourism operators have been authorized to use the game to promote its cultural tourism attractions.

Following the game's launch, the Shanxi Culture and Tourism Depart-



The interactive zone called "Travel Shanxi with Wukong" is the most attractive part of the Shanxi pavilion. PHOTOS BY YAN JIE / FOR CHINA DAILY

ment began a massive promotional campaign called Travel Shanxi with Wukong. This time, the seventh CIIE has become a stage for promoting this campaign.

When leading visitors to take part in a cosplay show featuring Wukong and other legendary figures in the game, a Shanxi tourism official said scenic sites relating to the game have seen a rapidly growing number of tourists, who want to see the real things that have been rendered into the game images.

"This time, we expect to draw overseas tourists' attention to Shanxi, as the CIIE is a grand expo featuring the large number of foreign visitors," said the official.

Other attractions

In addition to tourism sites relating to the game, Shanxi's landmark attractions like the Yellow River, the Great Wall and the Taihang Mountains are also showcased on a big display screen at the Shanxi pavilion.

The Taiyuan Drama Troupe held a drama show entitled *Dreamy Trip to Shanxi's Museums*, giving visitors a glimpse into the many cultural and historical relics in the province.

"Among the many provincial pavilions I've visited, the Shanxi pavilion is the most impressive," said a Shanghai visitor surnamed Chen. "This gives me a strong interest in Shanxi and the province will be on my visiting schedule in the future."

In addition to the cultural and tourism resources on display, exhibited products with distinctive local cultural characteristics of Shanxi, proved another big draw to visitors.

On display were a great number of products made using centuries-old, traditional techniques, with some on the national and local lists of intangible cultural heritage items, like the Fenjiu white liquor from Fenyang, matured vinegar from Qingxu, *fuhua* cloisonne ware from Changzhi, hand-polished lacquerware from Pingyao, *chengni* ink slabs from Jiangxian, *lu* silk products from Changzhi and Jincheng, and iron kettles from Jincheng,



A foreign visitor poses for a picture with Wukong and Erlangshen, two figures in the game *Black Myth: Wukong*, at the Shanxi pavilion.

showing how the traditional assets are well preserved and still alive in people's daily life.

Lu'anfu Silk Group, based in Jincheng, took part in the CIIE for the first time. It showcased the *lu* silk products made with both traditional and modern techniques.

Lu silk is a local silk variety developed in the Shanxi city of Changzhi and neighboring areas like Jincheng.

With a production history of many centuries, the *lu* silk industry reached its peak of prosperity in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). While being supplied to the royal and noble families in China, the products were

also exported to overseas regions on a large scale by the renowned Shanxi merchants during that time.

The ancient technique for making *lu* silk is still alive to this day and was included in the national intangible cultural heritage list in 2014.

Liu Duoxia, branding manager of Lu'anfu Silk Group, said that her company's silk products are made with both traditional and modern techniques.

"Silk products are traditionally delicate and need to be taken care of in a special way," Li said. "For instance, they cannot be washed by machines."

However, as Lu'anfu uses modern production techniques to strengthen the durability of its *lu* silk products, they become more popular among the ordinary consumers as they can be washed by both machine and hand, according to Liu.

Local produce

A range of Shanxi's local farm produce was also exhibited, attracting great interest from visitors.

One example was the millet from Qin Zhou. The yellow millet variety, produced by a local company under the brand name of Qin Zhou Yellow, drew attention from both domestic visitors and overseas buyers.

Millet was among the earliest grains in China. It has been planted on the Loess Plateau that today includes Shanxi and Shaanxi provinces for around 7,000 years.

Qin Zhou is a major producer of yellow millet in Shanxi and is known throughout the country for the high quality of its products.

Qin Zhou Yellow is a famed millet brand with a geographic indication. It was a favorite food of the royal families during the Ming and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, according to Wang Zhen, branding manager at Qin Zhou Yellow Millet Group.

To cater to overseas buyers, Wang said the company prepared English brochures to introduce the taste and nutritional values of the produce at the seventh CIIE. The company's products have been sold in 28 provincial-level regions in China and a number of foreign counties including the United States and Poland.

"We see our exhibition at the CIIE as a crucial step in globalization," Wang said. "We hope more overseas consumers have a better understanding of this produce unique to China and have a new dietary option."

High-tech products

In addition to products with deep roots in history and culture, Shanxi's companies also exhibited a great variety of high-tech products developed and positioned to improve people's quality of life.

Among the prominent exhibits in

this field were the recombined human-origin collagen products made by Jinbo Biopharmaceutical based in Taiyuan.

A company executive said at the CIIE said that Jinbo Biopharmaceutical was one of the earliest companies in the world that mass-produced the medicine when volume production began in January 2021.

Recombined human-origin collagen is a crucial product for post-surgery recovery because of its performance in helping in hemostasis and wound healing.

The executive said that the company has also developed a range of products derived from the collagen, especially those related to plastic surgery, forming an industrial cluster that has reached a scale of 10 billion yuan (\$1.39 billion) in output value.

Platform for networking

In addition to exhibiting products, the CIIE has also offered a platform for networking for Shanxi's businesses and their counterparts from around the world, as well as a platform to promote local business and investment opportunities.

On Nov 4, on the eve of the seventh CIIE, a promotional fair called the Shanxi Chambers of Commerce Festival was held in Shanghai. Representatives from 11 Shanxi chambers of commerce in Shanghai, as well as similar chambers in Sichuan, Heilongjiang, Liaoning, Yunnan, Inner Mongolia autonomous region and Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, attended the festival.

Promoting the business opportunities in Shanxi's tourism industry was a highlight of this festival. Shanxi's officials introduced the province's major investment projects in this sector.

Yang Chunquan, chief of the Shanxi Investment Promotion Bureau, said that businesses from the rest of the country should be aware of the investment opportunities brought by the latest developments of the three landmark tourism routes in Shanxi — the Yellow River, the Great Wall and the Taihang Mountains.

He said construction of an extensive sightseeing road network linking the scenic spots along the three routes — the Yellow River, Great Wall and Taihang No 1 highways — was fully completed in October.

"The road network, with a total length of 13,000 kilometers and total investment of nearly 100 billion yuan, will mean a substantial improvement of the accessibility to the many tourist destinations in Shanxi," Yang said. "This also means great investment opportunities will arise in the tourism industry, especially those related to culture-tourism integration and rural revitalization."

On Nov 6, a roadshow and promotional event for Shanxi's next-generation information technology and artificial intelligence industries were held in Shanghai during the CIIE. A total of 150 representatives from Shanxi and Shanghai attended the events.

Officials from the Shanxi Department of Industry and Information Technology and the province's development zones released lists of projects that they hope to cooperate on with businesses from Shanghai. And there were also roadshows for five Shanxi projects with the highest potential for investment.

During the events, businesses on both sides signed agreements on investing in seven projects in the fields of next-generation IT, semiconductors, AI, intelligent manufacturing and smart industrial zones. The agreed total investment amounted to 1.93 billion yuan.

Li Yao contributed to this story.



From left: A business representative from Shanxi introduces products to a foreign visitor. Xinghuancun Fenjiu's white liquor products are exhibited. Creative cultural products from Yongji city are on display.

ADVERTORIAL

BUSINESS FOCUS

Nation adopts 'urban mine' green growth model

TIANJIN — At a recycling plant in Tianjin, scrapped vehicles make their way down a disassembly line. Within just 15 minutes, a vehicle is reduced to fragments that can be recycled for materials like copper, aluminum and plastic.

In addition, electric vehicle batteries also undergo testing, sorting and reassembly at the plant, with usable components repurposed across various sectors, while leftover parts are safely dismantled and converted into raw materials for new batteries.

The plant is located in Tianjin's Ziya Circular Economy Industrial Park. A few years ago, when the concept of a circular economy was virtually unknown, the area hosted only a few family workshops for the dismantling of discarded appliances.

Today, it has transformed into China's first national economic and technological development zone dedicated to circular economy as its core undertaking.

Urban mines generally refer to discarded household appliances and electronic waste rich in rare and precious metals, such as lithium, titanium, gold, indium, silver, antimony, cobalt and palladium.

In a production workshop at GEM Co Ltd in Tianjin, a warehouse spanning over 2,000 square meters is filled with various types of batteries awaiting processing.

In 2023, GEM recycled and reused over 20,000 metric tons of nickel resources, accounting for more than 20 percent of China's primary nickel extraction, the company said.

The China Association of Circular Economy said approximately 260 million tons of scrap steel were recycled in China in 2023, accounting for around 25 percent of total crude steel production.

Recycled nonferrous metal output reached about 17.6 million tons in China in 2023, roughly 25 percent of total nonferrous metal production, while recycled pulp production neared 60 million tons, making up about 70 percent of total pulp production.

As a hub for circular economy, Tianjin has developed an industrial chain focused on urban mining, leading the country in areas such as the recycling of discarded electronic appliances, circular transformation of industrial parks and water resources recycling.

On Oct 18, China Resources

XINHUA



A view of GEM's booth during an industry expo in Yibin, Sichuan province, in June 2023. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

“The circular economy significantly enhances resource utilization efficiency.”

Zhu Liyang, president of China Association of Circular Economy

Recycling Group Co Ltd, a centrally administered State-owned enterprise, was officially launched in Tianjin.

The newly established enterprise will specialize in resource recycling and reuse, undertaking the important task of building a national platform in this respect.

Tianjin is among many cities in the country stepping up efforts to pursue a circular economy.

In Hefei, capital of East China's Anhui province, food waste collected from urban communities and dining establishments is transformed into raw material for biodiesel production by China Energy Conservation and Environmental Protection Group.

As one of the leading waste treatment facilities in China for comprehensive waste utilization, the factory is designed to process around 730,000 tons of municipal waste annually.

To accelerate the construction of a waste recycling system and consolidate green and low-carbon foundations for the country's quest to achieve high-quality development, the State Council — China's Cabinet — has also released a guideline specifying goals and measures.

By 2025, the annual utilization volume of major renewable resources such as scrap steel, scrap copper and scrap aluminum is expected to reach 450 million tons, according to the document.

“The circular economy significantly enhances resource utilization efficiency,” said Zhu Liyang, president of the China Association of Circular Economy. “It is truly a 'gold mine'.”



Electric vehicles are being charged at a shared charging station in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, in May 2023. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Dawn of supercharging puts China's NEVs in fast lane

Southern tech mecca of Shenzhen leads way in such key infrastructure

SHENZHEN — As you plug your electric vehicle into a supercharger stall in Guangdong province's Shenzhen — a major national tech hub — you find yourself marveling at the rapid charging progress bar on the car's dashboard.

At the brand new Lianhuashan supercharging station in Shenzhen, a driver of a new energy vehicle surnamed Sun unplugs the charging cable, saying, “I've got nearly 500 kilometers of range in roughly 20 minutes.”

“And the range is enough for my daily commute and weekend outings for two weeks,” Sun added.

“Recharge over a cup of coffee before hitting the road” is the slogan seen at many NEV supercharging stations that have recently sprung up in the city in South China. In June 2023, Shenzhen debuted its first fully liquid-cooled supercharging demonstration station and unveiled an initiative that seeks to establish Shenzhen as the “City of Supercharging” by 2030.

By the end of April, the city — home to approximately 18 million permanent residents as well as prominent NEV producer BYD — had installed 362 supercharging facilities, surpassing the number of gasoline stations. The latest available statistics put the number of supercharging stations in the city at 670 and Shenzhen plans to expand the number to 1,000 by

the end of this year.

As the tech hub leads the push for ultrafast charging of NEVs, another tipping point was reached in the automotive sector, highlighting the growing dominance of NEVs over traditional gasoline-powered vehicles across the country.

Retail sales of NEVs nationwide reached 878,000 units in July, accounting for 51.1 percent of the total market for all auto sales during the period, according to data released by the China Automobile Dealers Association.

Behind this milestone, the country's ongoing efforts to enhance the charging infrastructure have played a crucial role in easing drivers' “range anxiety”, which in turn has significantly boosted NEV adoption.

The availability of supercharging makes NEVs a more appealing choice as it significantly shortens charging times. While it usually takes seven to eight hours to charge a vehicle using a slow charging pile, and one to two hours using a fast charging pile, a supercharger is capable of charging an electric vehicle to 80 percent or above within 10 minutes — adding up to one km of range per second.

“For me, the biggest concern in driving an electric car was the slower charging speed compared to gas refueling. However, this concern has been dispelled by the option of supercharging,” said Sun.

Shenzhen is home to more than 1 million NEVs, which accounts for a quarter of its entire vehicle fleet. In the first half, the penetration rate of NEVs in Shenzhen reached some 72 out of every 100 newly registered vehicles in the city being NEVs — well above the national level.

The city boasts over 360,000 public charging piles, an equivalent of roughly 180 piles per square kilometer. Most of the new superchargers are built upon existing public charging facilities and are distributed in large business complexes, bus stations and industrial parks across the city.

Across the country, other megacities are also installing supercharging facilities and developing roadmaps for building supercharging networks. Southwest China's Chongqing plans to build more than 2,000 supercharging stations for NEVs by 2025. Beijing plans to install 1,000 supercharging stations by the end of 2025.

In a policy interpretation issued in August, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform said that Chinese consumers are increasingly expecting “on-the-go” charging experiences similar to gas refueling. The efficiency of charging services, in particular, affects consumer's decisionmaking when it comes to vehicle purchases.

Supercharging technology and a related service network are crucial to the appeal of NEVs, according to authorities.

Chinese industry research insti-

tute Forward published an analysis report saying that as of mid-June, the number of supercharging stations in China had exceeded 7,700, citing data retrieved from Chinese mobile mapping service Gaode Map.

Guangdong province topped the table in terms of the number of such facilities.

The year 2024 is the inaugural year for the implementation of supercharging-related standards, said Li Yangxing, vice-president of R&D at Sunwoda EVB Co Ltd, a new energy technology company, adding high-power charging stations will dominate the future landscape of public charging infrastructure.

“We found during our investigation that consumers are willing to pay more to upgrade to superfast charging. If their vehicles can achieve a 200-km range in just five minutes of charging, consumers are willing to pay up to 6,500 yuan (\$897) to adapt their vehicles to the charging facilities,” Li said.

Forward expects production at scale and the extensive construction of supercharging stations is likely to further drive down unit costs, which will contribute to the extensive adoption of supercharging.

As the government continues to intensify its support for the new energy sector, the construction and operation of supercharging stations can be guaranteed, according to the institute.

XINHUA

Swiss embrace adaptable, affordable Chinese EVs

ZURICH — Chinese electric vehicles are gaining popularity among Swiss importers and consumers thanks to user-friendly affordable products.

At Switzerland's largest motor show, Auto Zurich 2024 — which concluded on Sunday, 70 brands showcased their latest models and technologies to over 64,000 visitors. Among them were Chinese automakers Dongfeng Motor Corp, Leapmotor, MG and JAC Motors.

“I will certainly take buying a Chinese EV into consideration as the products are so inviting,” said local consumer Hans Affeltranger. He added that Chinese EVs provide outstanding quality at competitive prices, bringing a strong alternative to European brands.

Patrick von Bachel, Swiss importer of Leapmotor, believes that Chinese EVs are leading in the

market, pushing the entire industry forward.

“The technology and the affordability of the cars are two major advantages,” he said, praising Chinese EVs' design, comfort and battery range.

Sergio Kaufmann, importer of Dongfeng Motor, echoed this sentiment, saying that Chinese EVs are “very well-built with exceptional batteries” and Chinese manufacturers are “very adaptable and professional.” Kaufmann praised the adaptability of Dongfeng EVs to Switzerland's challenging climate, particularly their performance in winter.

He credited China's complex geography for the comprehensive testing of these vehicles. “People in Switzerland have specific requirements for driving on icy mountain roads. Thanks to the diverse geography and climate in China, Chinese

EVs have been well tested and proven in various extreme conditions,” Kaufmann said.

Dongfeng Motor started selling EVs in Switzerland more than a year ago, and now operates through 10 Swiss dealers, with the number to be increased to 25, Kaufmann added.

“Sales data for the past 23 months were quite strong,” he said, noting that 40 cars were sold in the last few days.

Leapmotor launched its EVs in Switzerland last Friday and already has 20 local dealers. Bachel said that the free trade agreement between China and Switzerland has fostered government support for Chinese EVs.

The high quality of Leapmotor's products has appealed to Swiss consumers, who are “very curious, yet critical”, said Bachel. “Customers are very excited to test drive and try

it out. And this is what's going to happen in the next couple of months.”

The entry of these brands will help Switzerland shift toward affordable sustainable mobility, said Bachel.

Kaufmann said Chinese EVs play an important role in achieving zero emissions and sustainable development, especially in protecting the environment and maintaining tourism resources.

“In Switzerland, tourism is very important and we have to take care of the environment. Thus zero emission is very important. I am looking forward to enhancing long-term cooperation with Chinese automaker Dongfeng Motor,” he said. “We will be very successful in selling these products.”

XINHUA



People check out a car developed by Chinese manufacturer MG Motor at an auto show in Zurich, Switzerland, on Nov 8.

LIAN YI / XINHUA

WORLD

Attacks on peacekeepers and humanitarian workers decried

UN calls for respect for international law as conflicts intensify in Gaza and Lebanon

By JAN YUMUL in Hong Kong
jan@chinadailyapac.com

The United Nations Security Council has led calls condemning recent incidents that injured peacekeepers in Lebanon and humanitarian workers in Gaza as Israeli attacks continue unabated.

The Security Council called on all parties to abide by international humanitarian law, while medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres urged the protection of medical facilities, health workers and civilians.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Security Council condemned several incidents that affected the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, injuring peacekeepers between Oct 29 and Nov 8.

It urged all parties to "take all measures to respect the safety and security of UNIFIL personnel and premises", adding peacekeepers "must never be the target of an attack".

The statement also expressed deep concern for civilian casualties and suffering, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, the damage to cultural heritage sites in Lebanon, the endangerment of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Baalbek and Tyre, and the rising number of internally displaced people.

Jawaid Iqbal, chairman of the Department of West Asian and North African Studies at Aligarh Muslim University in India, told China Daily that Israel was targeting UN forces in Lebanon so that "no one can record its violations of international law".

"For decades, Israel has been propagating a narrative of the UN as a breeding ground for antisemitism. That is because international law clearly considers as illegal the genocidal actions being pursued by Zionists," said Iqbal.



People hug as they stand on the rubble of damaged buildings in the aftermath of Israeli strikes in Joun village, Lebanon, on Wednesday. AZIZ TAHER / REUTERS

Pressing its offensive against Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, Israel launched airstrikes on Beirut's southern suburbs for a third consecutive day on Thursday.

Despite the blows it has suffered, Hezbollah has kept up rocket fire into Israel and has been battling Israeli troops on the ground in the south, where Israel said on Wednesday that six soldiers had been killed in combat.

Their deaths mean 47 Israeli troops have been killed in combat with Hezbollah since Sept 30, when Israel sent ground forces into Lebanon.

In Gaza, at least 43,736 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's military offensive since Oct 7 last year, the Hamas-run territory's health ministry said on Thursday.

In a post on X, Medecins Sans Frontieres said an airstrike hit the densely populated zone of Al-Mawasi in southern Gaza on Wednesday, with casualties reported.

"MSF only had a few minutes to evacuate its healthcare clinic located

around 250 (meters) away from the place of the attack," it said.

It did not receive any evacuation orders from Israeli forces but was notified by the residents, it said.

"Both staff and patients fled the clinic. We later found the facility with equipment destroyed, and shrapnel damaged the desalination plant.

"The use of heavy weapons in zones declared by Israeli authorities as safe is further proof of the blatant disregard for Palestinian lives and humanitarian law.

"We strongly condemn such attacks and call once again for the protection of medical facilities, healthcare workers, and civilians."

On Wednesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country "will not continue and develop its relations with Israel".

"We do not have such an intention," he was quoted by the state-run TRT as saying.

The Turkish government suspended trade with Israel in May in response to Israeli attacks on Gaza.

Meanwhile, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has proposed that the bloc suspend political dialogue with Israel, citing possible human rights violations in Gaza, according to four diplomats and a letter seen by Reuters.

In the letter sent on Wednesday to EU foreign ministers ahead of their meeting early next week, Borrell cited "serious concerns about possible breaches of international humanitarian law in Gaza" and said that "thus far, these concerns have not been sufficiently addressed by Israel".

However, Iqbal expressed pessimism that the proposals would advance, citing the EU's financial links with Israel.

"Borrell's statement about the possible suspension of dialogue with Israel doesn't represent the actual reality of EU-Israel relations. The EU continues business and cooperation with Israel," said Iqbal.

Agencies contributed to this story.

APEC members urged to build closer links, bolster trade capacities

By YANG HAN in Hong Kong
kelly@chinadailyapac.com

Amid complex geopolitical challenges, it is more important than ever for member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to build closer links and strengthen regional trade capacities, experts said at a webinar on Wednesday.

APEC stands at a pivotal crossroads as its members explore ways to increase trade capacity and diversify their trade, said Sissi De la Pena, director of the Mexican Academy of Cybersecurity and Digital Law.

She was speaking at the webinar titled "Navigating New Horizons: A Latin Perspective on APEC Trade & Supply Chain Shifts 2024", held by the Pacific Basin Economic Council, a business association in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

As the APEC Economic Leaders' Week unfolds in Peru, De la Pena said the forum provides a great opportunity for members to identify how they can learn from each other and explore new areas of trade, particularly in digital trade.

Although economic and geopolitical factors are slowing down growth in the APEC region, trade has shown signs of recovery, according to a report issued by the APEC Secretariat and APEC Policy Support Unit.

In the first half of this year, merchandise exports rebounded with modest growth, rising by 3.1 percent in value and 3 percent in volume, with imports showing a similar trend.

As more Latin American companies expand into Asia, they also represent a big market for Asian companies looking for new opportunities in the "blue ocean," said Thomas Wong, co-founding partner of accounting and advisory firm CW CPA in Hong Kong.

Wong, who is also Hong Kong's representative for the Brazil-China Chamber of Commerce, said he expects business exchanges between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland, and Latin American countries to further deepen in the next few years.

Evodio Kaltenecker, an associate teaching professor of international business and strategy at Northeastern University's

The name of the game, for many Latin (American) countries, will be diversification."

Evodio Kaltenecker, an associate teaching professor of international business and strategy at Northeastern University in Boston

D'Amore-McKim School of Business in Boston, highlighted the potential effect of US President-elect Donald Trump's agenda on the reconfiguration of trade and the global value chains.

"The name of the game, for many Latin (American) countries, will be diversification," said Kaltenecker.

Mexico in focus

From the perspective of Mexico, with 90 percent of its agricultural exports going to the US, it is necessary for the country to diversify exports as much as it can to other markets, said Federico G. Lepe, president of the International Logistics Commission at the Council of Industrial Chambers of Jalisco.

Located in western Mexico, Jalisco is home to Guadalajara, a city often referred to as the "Silicon Valley of Mexico" for its strong tech reputation.

Many years ago, when it was still difficult to have direct logistics connections between Jalisco and Asia, Lepe said he decided to work with Hong Kong carrier Cathay Pacific Airways to connect the city with Guadalajara, which reduced the transit time from eight days to two, saving \$700 million a year for the tech ecosystem back then.

Guadalajara is expanding its production lines in the electronics industry, Lepe said, and since there will be more demand for supplies from Asia, it will be key to maintaining the cargo routes.

Lepe said he hopes the Chancay Port in Peru, a key project under China's Belt and Road Initiative, can provide new opportunities for trade between Asia and Latin America.

Hitting a purple patch



Afghan women harvest saffron flowers in a field on the outskirts of Herat, Afghanistan, on Wednesday. Afghan saffron is often ranked among the world's best because of its strong color, aroma and taste. The country's saffron industry has become a symbol of economic hope, especially in provinces such as Herat that have ideal climate and soil conditions. MOHSEN KARIMI / AFP

Scholz seeks support for faltering reign

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

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has called on opponents to steer clear of divisive politics and back his minority government after the breakup of the so-called traffic light coalition, which has paved the way for a vote of confidence on Dec 16 and a likely national election in the new year.

The coalition of Scholz's Social Democrats, the Green Party and the liberal Free Democratic Party was agreed upon in December 2021 but fell apart last week when Scholz removed the Free Democrats' Finance Minister Christian Lindner in a row over the budget, relating to Germany's continued support for Ukraine.

Scholz asked rival parties to put aside tribal differences and to act for the good of the nation for the remainder of the time his government is in office.

"The times in which we live are damned rough," he said.

"We live in one country. We are better off when we stick together — when we can still look each other in the eye even after an argument," he said, adding "there is no democracy without compromises".

Germany's economy has been faltering for some time, and Scholz's personal popularity rating was already low, as was that of the coalition government, before the parting of ways with Lindner.

That came when the finance chief refused to ease strict financial rules and take on more debt in what Scholz claimed were exceptional times, leading to a standoff between supporting Ukraine and helping Germany's pensioners.

"It cannot be, and it should not be, that support for Ukraine leads to cuts in German pensions," said the chancellor. For his part, Lindner said "sometimes a dismissal is also a liberation" and accused Scholz of "running around in circles".

Friedrich Merz of the center-right Christian Democrats had already declared his candidacy for the posi-

tion of chancellor in elections that were scheduled to take place in the fall of 2025 before the breakup of the coalition moved them closer.

His polling performance suggests he could lead the country's next government, and he said he would not assist Scholz's legislative program in the run-up to the confidence vote as he did not trust him to stick to any promises he may make before then.

Merz has said that should he become leader, he would backtrack on Germany's current climate policies and take a "totally different approach" to migration.

"I'll guarantee a new leadership in Europe for Europe," he added. "Germany is a sleeping middle power and must become an active middle power."

He has, however, made a point of ruling out any possible cooperation with the far-right populist Alternative for Germany party, which has enjoyed growing support in recent elections, mainly in the east of the country.



A woman walks out of a polling station with her daughter after casting her vote in Sri Lanka's capital Colombo on Thursday. THILINA KALUTHOTAGE / REUTERS

Sri Lanka votes in parliamentary election

COLOMBO — Sri Lankans were voting in a parliamentary election on Thursday that is key for the country's new president to follow through on promises of economic recovery.

Some 17 million eligible voters were choosing between more than 8,000 candidates for the 225-member parliament for a five-year term. A record 690 political parties and independent groups were in the fray across 22 electoral districts.

The election is seen as crucial for both President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's National People's Power and his political rivals.

The 55-year-old was elected in September, but his National People's

Power coalition had just three seats in the outgoing assembly, prompting him to dissolve it and seek a fresh mandate.

Dissanayake has pledged a transformative agenda for Sri Lanka, including combating graft and recovering the economy, which requires a solid parliamentary majority to advance his goals.

He had been a member of parliament for nearly 25 years and was briefly an agriculture minister.

"I expect a new country, a new government that is friendly toward the people," said 70-year-old pensioner Milton Gankandage, who was among the first to vote in Colombo's Wellawatte district.

Umeshi Perera, 32, who waited in line to vote in a Colombo suburb, said, "I think we are seeing the first signs of a positive political change in Sri Lanka after the president was elected and we should give him the chance to continue that change."

Police spokesman Nihal Thaldudwa said they were using drones for the first time to monitor an election, with 80,000 police officers deployed.

"The military is also on standby to assist the police but we do not expect any incidents," he added.

Votes would be counted soon after polling closed on Thursday, with results set for Friday.

AGENCIES—XINHUA

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:

x.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 Dairy Ashford Suite 100

Houston, TX 77077

Tel: 713-595-7660

CANADA | TORONTO

4711 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.

WORLD

CHINA LINK

Expert upbeat on Argentina's ties with China

'Historical complementarity' between both nations is to evolve, economist says

By JIMENA ESTEBAN
in Buenos Aires
For China Daily

After a long corporate career focused on trade and investment links between Argentina and China, Diego Marcos is increasingly convinced that both countries have much to gain from one another.

Marcos, 48, is a professor at the Universidad Nacional de Rosario in Santa Fe, Argentina, and an assistant professor of economics at Shenandoah University in Virginia, United States.

As a founding member of the Civil Association for Argentine-Chinese Cooperation, he also regularly advises Argentine companies.

His links to China have been forged through extensive research, including a stint in northern China in his late 20s. He has also made more than 35 visits to the country and was invited to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China five years ago.

In 2015, he received a certificate from the State Council, China's Cabinet, as a foreign expert.

"The friendship between Argentina and China is experiencing a very positive period. Day by day, there are more commercial, institutional and

touristic exchanges. Two very rich and diverse cultures (are engaged in) this interaction."

A laid-back man, he was drinking Argentina's traditional "mate" tea during an online interview as he shared his views on the relationship between the two countries.

Marcos is passionate about his work. He spent much of his corporate career in the steel industry, but has also served as a consultant and board director in various sectors, leveraging his international business expertise with a focus on China. He has worked with companies in Argentina, Paraguay and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Marcos has tapped into his deep knowledge of Sino-Argentine relations to write a book titled *Argentina-China: Basis for an Integration*.

"The relationship between both countries began to intensify in the early 2000s. Since then, the foundation of the relationship has been built on commercial and financial agreements, as well as cooperation in energy, technology and education," he said.

Marcos expects greater trade and investment flows over the next decade, potentially improving Argentina's technological base.

"In the long term, the economic



Visitors select products imported from Argentina at the seventh China International Import Expo in Shanghai on Sunday. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

relationship between China and Argentina will continue to strengthen, as Argentina has consistently done with the rest of the world."

Marcos expects China to continue investing in infrastructure projects like railways, mining and energy in the Latin American country. Moreover, he envisions that the relationship will extend far beyond infrastructure. For example, China's vast domestic savings and investment potential could help fund Argentina's new ventures.

'New economy'

"These funds could finance the global expansion of Argentine startups. This presents an unprecedented opportunity to (tap into the potential) of the new economy, which is focused on innovation. Greater and improved cooperation in technology is the future," said Marcos.

Marcos believes that China and Argentina's relationship is on a long-term growth path.

"The structural complementarity

and affinity between the peoples (of both nations) suggest long-term cooperation," he said.

In Argentina, China has found a significant and reliable source of natural resources, energy and agricultural products.

After Brazil, China is already the second-largest destination for Argentina's exports. Over the past three years, bilateral trade has topped \$16 billion annually, according to Argentine government figures. Soybeans and beef are among the top exports from the Latin American nation.

On the socioeconomic front, he sees favorable relations between the people, institutions and companies of Argentina and China.

"For Argentina, the relationship with China has been invaluable, especially in helping prevent inflation from spiraling into hyperinflation," Marcos said.

With Argentina facing huge debts, China has become an important and reliable source of

finance over the past few years.

"Thanks to financial agreements with China, Argentina was able to access foreign currency at times when international credit markets were completely closed. Many argue that Argentina would have experienced hyperinflation without the support of the People's Bank of China," said Marcos.

"Additionally, China consistently supplied essential intermediate and final goods for the economy, and their low prices helped contain rising inflation in Argentina," he added.

Marcos also pointed to the deeper, direct relationships between some provinces in the north of Argentina, such as Jujuy and Salta, and China. These are driven by Chinese investments in lithium and renewable energy.

Argentina's vast lithium resources may be crucial for China's automotive and technology industries, especially the electric battery sector. In 2023, more than 40 percent of Argentina's lithium exports went to China.



Diego Marcos

Founding member of the Civil Association for Argentine-Chinese Cooperation

Education:

Master in Finance from Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina
Master in Project Management from University of CEMA, Buenos Aires, Argentina

PhD in Economics from Universidad Nacional de Rosario

Career:

Professor of Economics at Universidad Nacional de Rosario
Assistant Professor of Economics at Shenandoah University, Virginia, US.

Former Director of the Economic Program at Universidad del Centro Educativo Latinoamericano, Argentina

Book:

Argentina-China: Basis for an Integration

Between 2020 and 2023, Chinese firms invested \$3.2 billion in mining projects in Argentina, including seven lithium projects.

Among the China-funded projects are the Cauchari Solar Park in Jujuy, one of the largest in Latin America, and the Cafayate Solar Park in Salta.

The "historical complementarity" between Argentina's natural resources and financing from China is expected to evolve, said Marcos.

However, he said China's shift to a "new economy" will require both nations to diversify their economic interactions beyond traditional trade and present a new opportunity to boost the relationship between the peoples of both countries.

The writer is a freelance journalist for China Daily.

Event aims to empower and benefit participants

By HAO NAN
haonan@chinadaily.com.cn

The 26th China Hi-Tech Fair, currently being held in Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong province, has attracted significant attention from numerous domestic and international professional buyers.

According to the fair's organizing committee, over 400,000 professional buyers, including 1,200 buyer groups, from across the world completed the registration before the commencement of the event by submitting online forms and offline attendance receipts for the global buyer matchmaking conference, a key part of the fair.

Among them, professional buyer groups from various countries such as Russia, Brazil, Greece, Singapore, Iran and five Central Asian countries are being led by government officials.

For instance, the Singapore trade delegation is headed by David Koh, the chief executive of the country's Cyber Security Agency; the Russian delegation is led by officials from the city of Nizhny Novgorod; and the Brazilian delegation is spearheaded by officials from the State of Mato Grosso, one of the country's important agricultural and livestock regions.

Many buyer groups have specific procurement needs in critical sectors such as semiconductors and electronic information, new energy, high-end medical equipment, biotechnology, energy equipment, industrial machinery, automotive engineering, aerospace, artificial intelligence, and robotics.

This highlights the global market's strong demand for high-tech products. A Russian company, for example, aims to purchase equipment and technology in fields of energy minerals and building engineering at the fair, with an intended procurement amount of up to 7.3 billion yuan (\$1.01 billion).

Chinese buyers from over 30 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions are also proactively participating in the fair. These regions include Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Chongqing, Heilongjiang, Hebei, Guangdong,



A company staff member demonstrates how to interact with a robotic arm at the 26th China Hi-Tech Fair in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on Thursday. PARKER ZHENG / CHINA DAILY

Shandong, Shanxi, Zhejiang, Henan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Jiangxi, Liaoning, and the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

For example, an electrical enterprise based in Shenzhen has expressed an intention to purchase software and hardware worth up to 12 billion yuan.

Additionally, an internet company in Zhejiang plans to procure AI visual analysis technology, chips, and other related products, with an intended procurement amount of 500 million yuan. And a research institute in Shenzhen intends to purchase photovoltaic power generation and food processing equipment, with an intended procurement value of up to 200 million yuan.

Furthermore, more than 32,800 business associations, research institutes, universities, multinational corporations, and enterprises in key industries have clear procurement needs, with intended procurement amounts exceeding 100 billion yuan.

These entities hail from more

400,000+ buyers

from across the world participating in the 26th China Hi-Tech Fair in Shenzhen

than 120 countries, including the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Belgium, Pakistan, and the Czech Republic.

The fair's organizing committee said that to effectively ensure the practical benefits for exhibitors, the ongoing event has implemented a systematic and comprehensive effort to attract participants.

Through targeted invitations to professional buyers globally, the aim is to create a fair that empowers and benefits participating enterprises and organizations, allowing them to fully experience the pulse and trends of Chinese technological innovation at this grand gathering.

In today's increasingly competitive global technological landscape,

the significance of this high-tech fair, renowned as the premier showcase of Chinese technologies, is becoming more prominent.

It not only provides a superb platform for global high-tech enterprises to showcase innovative achievements and exchange cutting-edge technologies but represents a significant opportunity for buyers to discover quality products and expand business collaborations.

Through the fair, numerous exhibitors and buyers from different countries and regions can connect precisely, collectively propelling the integration and development of technology and the economy, the organizing committee noted.

The fair has set up exclusive negotiation areas for buyers, creating a comfortable and quiet environment for discussions. It also provides professional translation services, exhibition guides, industry information, and comprehensive promotion for buyers who reach significant procurement agreements.

Latest Russian sci-tech progress on show at fair

By HAO NAN

The Russian Ministry of Education and Science, in collaboration with seven esteemed universities, academies, research institutes, and enterprises from Russia, has set up a booth at the ongoing 26th China Hi-Tech Fair in Shenzhen, Guangdong province.

Together, they are showcasing their latest sci-tech projects and solutions tailored for the international market.

Among these entities is the International Union of Instrument Manufacturing and Information Communication, a professional social association comprising scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs. These members mainly specialize in instrument manufacturing, radio electronics, information technology, software engineering, and communication systems.

The union represents the interests of various enterprises and institutions across Russia. Its presence at the fair aims to secure funding for the Russia-China bilateral science competition and explore potential collaborations with Chinese counterparts.

Another notable participant is the National Center of Genetic Resources of Agricultural Animals, which is focused on establishing a cryobank for the genetic material of indigenous Russian cows, including sperm samples and frozen embryos.

The center's work involves setting genetic standards for cattle breeds, conducting genomic analysis, and selecting donor heifers. It is now seeking scientific partnerships in areas such as transcriptome analysis, assisted reproductive technology, genome editing, and genome research on farm and wild animals, hoping to engage in related international funding programs.

Moscow State University of Civil Engineering is also attending the fair, with a focus on scientific cooperation in new building materials, particularly in areas of heavy structural materials for construction, lightweight concrete structural

materials, and polystyrene-based structural insulation materials, all suitable for 3D printing.

Additionally, the 26th session of the fair features the Digitalization of Industrial Russia, or CIPR, and six Russian companies.

Their objective is to network with Chinese counterparts in sectors such as telecommunications, transportation, finance, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and information technology solutions for software exports, and communicate with those interested in implementing such solutions or sharing their implementation experiences.

The CIPR places special emphasis on international cooperation, and fosters dialogue with partners in high-tech fields, as evidenced by the signing of cooperation agreements in information communication technology, cybersecurity, and export support by several Russian and foreign companies at this year's session held in June.

Moreover, the CIPR this year included a showcase by Chinese enterprises presenting their digital solutions across various domains.

At the 26th fair, the Australian government has organized the participation of seven companies offering solutions in water treatment, energy project simulation platforms, new materials, carbon accounting, and data security for corporate global expansion.

They have brought diverse expertise and the latest legal information to aid businesses in achieving sustainable development in overseas markets.

These companies include Telstra, one of the largest Australian telecommunications companies; Simble, a listed company specializing in zero-carbon solutions and new energy asset development and management; MinterEllison, a law firm with a history of nearly 200 years; Intimiti, a company dedicated to developing high-performance eco-friendly materials; and Bio Organics Group (Hong Kong), headquartered in Queensland and a member of the Alliance for Water Stewardship.

COMMENT

Editorials

'Chip war' disturbs global industry and supply chains leaving no party unscathed

TSMC and Samsung face new US restrictions on exports of advanced chips to the Chinese mainland. And Tokyo Electron and ASML have been also subject to mounting US pressure to plug all the loopholes in the ban on exports of their high-end chipmaking equipment to the Chinese mainland.

Although the ramping up of the Joe Biden administration's "chip war" was initiated at the height of the US presidential election, the latest pressure applied during the power transition period suggests that the Biden administration expects the next administration to carry on the efforts to build a "chip iron curtain" against the Chinese mainland, just as the Biden administration did when it accepted the baton of the outgoing administration's tariff war against China.

The Biden administration released a large-scale government support policy in September, CHIPS Incentives Program's Funding Opportunity for Commercial Fabrication Facilities, with the aim of catalyzing long-term economically sustainable growth in the domestic semiconductor industry in support of "US economic and national security".

But US allies, such as the Republic of Korea, Japan and the Netherlands, are all complaining about their companies being the ones to bear the cost of the US "chip war".

And all the signs point to the US continuing its "chip war" against China. That explains why the affected ally companies appear to be much more cooperative this time than before in the face of the latest demand from the Biden administration that they restrict key exports to China. By acquiescing, they hope to leave a good impression for the incoming US administration.

Those taking part in the US "chip alliance" should bear in mind that there is little likelihood that the next administration will recognize their sacrifice for the US' cause by compensating them for their losses. The incoming US administration, meanwhile, should be aware that unless it is able to help the companies find substitutes for the Chinese mainland, the politically motivated "chip war" will ultimately be unsustainable.

Even if the US could somehow emerge victorious in its "chip war", it would bear a heavy cost as it would not only affect China's tech development, to some extent, but also deprive the vast majority of developing countries of their right to scientific and technological progress and normal development, and subject those countries to forever remain at the low end of the value chain, a colonial practice they will naturally bear a grudge against.

It is to be hoped that the US side can see reason and work in the same direction with China, view China's development in a rational and positive light, seeing it as an opportunity rather than a challenge, and work with China to find a way for the two countries to get along.

The selfish bullying exemplified by the "tech war" undermines the stability of the global industry and supply chains, and will eventually backfire on the US.

China opposes decoupling and supply chain breaking and "small yard, high fence", resists protectionism and unilateral sanctions, and promotes the establishment of a fair, reasonable and transparent international economic and trade rules system.

In addition, China will push technology-related development issues back to the core of the international agenda, so that developing countries can better integrate into the international division of labor and make the fruits of development more and more equitable to benefit the people of all countries.

In the face of the unilateral bullying of sanctions and blockades, China firmly supports all countries in defending their legitimate rights, maintaining the fairness and openness of the international system, enhancing inclusive and coordinated global development, jointly opposing technological blockades, and jointly resisting decoupling and disconnection. Containing China will not solve the US' own difficulties.

Autonomy serves Australia's interests best

This is a time of unprecedented geopolitical complexity and uncertainty, fresh after the incumbent US administration tried so hard to revive traditional alliances and partnerships. But recalibrating bilateral relations in light of a retrogressive US foreign policy and repositioning themselves on the global stage relative to the US' anticipated policy reversals will be an inevitable balancing act for every US ally and partner.

This certainly will not be an easy one, especially when it comes to a choice between China and the US trade wise, which appears likely considering the hawkish look of the list of the US president-elect's potential picks for his Cabinet.

Australia, however, might offer some useful reference for those struggling to strike such a balance.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in a Wednesday interview that he told US president-elect Donald Trump in a latest phone call that it is in Washington's interest to "trade fairly" with its allies, and that "it's in Australia's interest to engage with China as our major source of trade".

In another interview with the media on Oct 29, the Australian leader said: "The relationship with China is obviously important for Australia, they're our major trading partner, something like one in four of our export dollars, comes from China." But, as he acknowledged, so too is the relationship with the United States, which is Australia's largest two-way investment partner.

Australia's ties with China deteriorated when the previous Australian government fell under Washington's anti-China spell. But Canberra has woken up to the significance of those ties under the Albanese government and set out repairing them.

The strategic autonomy the Albanese government has displayed has proved that those ties are in both parties' interests. It is also evident that economic ties with China and the US do not have to be mutually exclusive.

China and Australia are both Asia-Pacific countries and important members of the G20, with no historical grievances or fundamental conflicts of interest, but every reason to be partners of mutual trust and mutual achievement. And the two sides need to keep to the right direction of bilateral relations amid the profound changes in the world.

China and Australia should follow the trend of the times, proceed from the common interests of the two countries, pursue a bilateral relationship that features treating each other on an equal footing, seeking common ground while shelving differences and mutually beneficial cooperation, and push forward the China-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership. This serves the common interests of the two countries and peoples, meets the common expectations of countries in the region, and helps the international community better respond to the risks and challenges.

A "small yard, high fence", "decoupling and severing industrial and supply chains" and "de-risking" are essentially protectionism, which runs counter to the laws of the market, the laws of scientific and technological development, and the trend of human society.

China pursues a win-win strategy of opening-up and a new development pattern with the aim of achieving national rejuvenation through a Chinese path to modernization, which will bring unprecedented opportunities to Australia and other countries. China and Australia should therefore enhance mutual understanding and trust to promote common development through mutually beneficial cooperation.

In the Asia-Pacific region, China does not engage in exclusive cliques, bloc politics, or camp confrontation. Small cliques can neither solve the major challenges facing the world nor adapt to the drastic changes in today's world. So all regional countries should be vigilant against and oppose those attempts to throw the region into chaos.

Luo Jie



Opinion Line

Manila will harm itself if it acts as a reckless pawn for external forces

The Chinese government has always exercised restraint in handling its disputes with other countries in the South China Sea, advocating dialogue and negotiation to resolve differences.

However, this should not be interpreted as a weakness, or a sign that China will choose to back down when it comes to its sovereignty, territorial integrity and core interests. China will decisively take measures to counter provocative activities that undermine its territorial integrity or maritime rights and interests. That is why China released on Sunday the baselines for the territorial sea adjacent to Huangyan Island in the South China Sea in a bid to counter infringements by the Philippines.

In a solemn representation filed on Wednesday to the Philippine Foreign Ministry regarding Manila's signing of the "Philippine Maritime Zones Act" and the "Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act", Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Huang Xilian stated Chi-

na's stance on Huangyan Island and territorial waters. He called it a necessary response to the Philippines' provocations and the Chinese government's normal move to strengthen maritime management in accordance with international law and practice.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army also announced on Wednesday that it started conducting combat readiness patrols in the territorial waters and airspace of China's Huangyan Island and its surrounding areas. That the PLA Navy and PLA Air Force conducted the action on the same day the Chinese ambassador made the representation to the Philippine side demonstrates China's determination to safeguard its maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea.

Huangyan Island has been a traditional fishing ground for Chinese fishermen and an inalienable part of China's territory since ancient times. A large number of historical documents and maps clearly show Huangyan

Island as belonging to China, which is enough to prove that China has indisputable sovereignty over it.

The Philippines' claim on the island, on the ground that it is closer to its coastline than to the Chinese mainland, is ridiculous and does not hold water. Any attempt by the Philippines to add the island to its territory is futile and also contradicts the basic principles of international law. Such actions are violations of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and will only exacerbate tensions in the waters.

Also, there is always the shadow of countries outside the region in Manila's provocative actions in the South China Sea. Beijing has always been committed to the peaceful settlement of the dispute. The Philippines should not abuse China's sincerity and goodwill, and should stop acting as a pawn of certain external powers in their China-containment strategy. That will ultimately harm Manila's own interests.

— WU YUXUE, CHINA DAILY

Restructuring and tech key to lowering logistics costs

The ratio of total social logistics costs in China's GDP will be reduced to around 13.5 percent by 2027, said an action plan recently released by relevant central departments for reducing logistics costs.

In 2023, the ratio of China's total logistics costs to GDP was 14.4 percent, down 0.3 percentage points from 2022, reflecting an improvement in domestic logistics efficiency.

However, compared with developed countries, there is significant room for enhancement.

To bring down costs, it is essential to identify the root causes and recognize the structural issues.

To address the issue of low supply

chain logistics efficiency, it is necessary, first of all, to promote the integrated and innovative development of the logistics and manufacturing industries, and optimize their layout.

To tackle the issue of unbalanced transportation structure, it is vital to deepen the adjustment of transportation structures, leveraging the comparative advantages of various modes of transport such as public roads, railways, waterways and air transport. Railway lines should also be advanced into port areas, industrial parks, and factory zones to improve the combined efficiency of comprehensive transportation.

Technological cost reduction

through digital transformation is also an option.

By promoting the integration of online and offline logistics resources, updating the layout with mechanized, automated and intelligent equipment, and utilizing unmanned driving, unmanned delivery, automatic sorting and other smart technologies, logistics operation efficiency can be continuously improved.

It necessitates the joint efforts of the entire industry and society. Only by breaking through cost constraints can the logistics industry advance fast on the path of high-quality development.

— SECURITIES DAILY

What They Say

A lot riding on COP29 in spite of practical gap

Editor's Note: The following are excerpts of speeches and interviews by Liu Zhenmin, China's special envoy for climate change, before and during the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, Azerbaijan:

Countries must not only ensure energy security and promote economic and social development, but also accelerate the transition to clean energy and strive to achieve the goal of net zero emissions. At the same time, it should be noted that the energy transition has become a key factor affecting economic, trade and technological cooperation among countries, and has also become a focus in major power games.

It is actually more difficult for China to realize the transition to green energy than other major countries, and it faces huge challenges. It is difficult for industrial processes to fully achieve net zero emissions, and the carbon capture, utilization and storage technologies have not yet fully matured to be

applied on a large scale. China's energy consumption continues to grow rapidly, and it faces great pressure in coordinating its green transformation with energy security and reliability. While wind power and solar photovoltaic technologies are mature and the cost has been reduced, energy storage and power grid supporting technologies are still not advanced. Hydrogen energy has developed rapidly, but it cannot replace oil and natural gas in the near future.

The deterioration of the international economic environment has already had an impact on China's green transformation. In addition to the unreasonable tariffs imposed by developed economies such as the United States on Chinese green products, the carbon content or carbon footprint of imported and exported goods has become a key factor in reshaping trade links.

COP29 should seek to enhance the confidence of the global community in the achievability of the necessary global green transformation. It should stress the importance of upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and diligently enforce the legal agreements that are in place.

China stands ready to work with the international community to uphold multilateralism, ensure fairness and justice in climate governance, respect market rules and free trade, and contribute to the success of COP29 to provide greater stability and certainty to global climate governance.

The developed countries should fulfill their commitments by providing financial support to help developing countries enhance their capacity to respond to climate challenges.

CHINA DAILY WORLDWIDE

Contact us at

China Daily
15 Huxin Dongjie 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 6270
editor@chinadailyuk.com

China Daily Asia Pacific
China Daily Hong Kong
Unit 1818, Hing Wai 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 27261-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
+254 (0) 20 242 8589 (Nairobi)
editor@chinadailyafrica.com
enquiries@chinadailyafrica.com
subscription@chinadailyafrica.com

COMMENT

David Morris

APEC beneficial to both Australia, China

In these turbulent times, Asia-Pacific leaders have a golden opportunity to re-invest in those things that have delivered success for the Asia-Pacific region's economy and avoid what would put it all at risk, when they meet in Lima, Peru, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting this week.

APEC accounts for 60 percent of the world's economy and is home to 3 billion people. It's a forum in which Australia and China have many common interests, including sustaining free trade and the rules enabling our small, medium-sized and large businesses to access markets and create jobs, in the face of growing protectionism in many economies.

For Australia and China, APEC provides another opportunity for Chinese and Australian leaders to meet and to strengthen the bilateral economic relationship, as well as to explore new areas of cooperation in fields such as the emerging green economy.

One of the architects of the APEC Leaders Meeting, former Australian prime minister Paul Keating, understood very well the value of personal meetings between leaders, as well as building permanent regional structures and agreements to embed the habit of dialogue between leaders, and rules to govern free and fair trade among APEC members.

Since its first ministerial meeting in Canberra in 1989, and then the first leaders' meeting in Seattle in 1993, APEC has advocated for an open multilateral trading system. The lowering of trade barriers has supercharged economic integration, creating growth and new jobs, and improved the living standards of hundreds of millions of people.

The Asia-Pacific has been an economic success story, unlike the slower growth and trade imbalances of other regions of the world. Australia and China have been two of the biggest beneficiaries of the Asia-Pacific model of free trade, and integration of global supply chains.

More than 80 percent of Australia's exports are now destined for the region, up from 60 percent in 1989 when APEC was created. Since then, Australia's economy has grown nearly sevenfold, by supplying regional countries with the goods and services they need, from iron ore to education. Unlike most other rich countries, Australia enjoys a trade surplus with Asian economies. And unlike the United States or other major powers, Australia has a small domestic market and therefore relies on trade and



SONG CHEN / CHINA DAILY

regional peace for its prosperity. One quarter of Australian jobs rely in one way or another on trade, and those jobs generate higher incomes.

China's economy today is dozens of times its size in the 1980s, with its rapid development enabled by access to regional and global markets, supplying the world with affordable products, especially since China's accession to the

World Trade Organization in 2001.

Today, China accounts for 30 percent of global manufacturing and leads the world in the rollout of new green industries, from solar and wind energy to electric vehicles and EV batteries. China enjoys a trade surplus with the world — \$800 billion last year — while also importing more than 50 percent of the world's commodities.

A steady hand on the tiller of regional trade can keep Asia on route to becoming the center of the world economy, and with wise leadership that can benefit the entire region.

APEC member states are not immune, however, to global headwinds of rising protectionism and geopolitical contest. That makes the APEC Leaders Meeting in Lima all the more important. It's an opportunity for APEC members, which have benefited so much from open regionalism, to re-invest in APEC's purpose and to re-commit to driving the Asia-Pacific region's growth and development. That means freer flows of trade, investment, finance, tourists and students, as well as strengthening the rules underpinning economic cooperation.

A host of new leaders — from Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — will attend the APEC meeting this year. Each will bring his or her own perspectives and priorities but for them, doubling down on the region's free trade is a no-brainer. Indonesia and Vietnam, for example, will be keen to follow the model developed by other Asian economies to further integrate into the global supply chains and create new jobs and business opportunities. Australia and China, on the other hand, continue to be important, complementary partners for these fast-developing economies.

To be sure, the events of the past few years have injected a dose of pessimism into international affairs. Fears are often expressed that we are headed towards worst-case scenarios of confrontation and conflict, with deepening strategic distrust. That's why APEC remains very important as a platform that enables leaders of the region to pragmatically focus on what works rather than what would throw all the hard-won gains away. A steady hand on the tiller of regional trade can keep Asia on route to becoming the center of the world economy, and with wise leadership that can benefit the entire region.

The author is a former Australian diplomat, a non-resident senior fellow at the Beijing-based Center for China and Globalization. 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

Global solidarity badly needed in fight against climate change

Speaking at the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP29, in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Tuesday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "We are in the final countdown to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and time is not on our side." His remarks came immediately after a World Meteorological Organization report said that 2024 is on track to be the hottest year on record.

Without elaboration, Guterres said that supply chain shocks are raising costs everywhere in the world.

To me, his remarks sound like a stern warning to the US for its efforts to bifurcate the global manufacturing and technological supply chains, something that the UN secretary-general has been warning against repeatedly over the past years.

Government leaders and experts at the COP29 are focusing on increasing climate finance to help developing countries to realize their green transition. However, the huge disruption of global supply chains caused by the US' policies have not only slowed down the global green transition but made it more costly, especially for the developing countries.

While the whole world regards climate change as the biggest challenge facing humankind, the US administration in recent years has been trying to project China as its biggest challenge and has thus spared no efforts to undermine China's economic progress, including in the green industry.

The message from COP29 is crystal clear: the world urgently needs to build a united front to combat climate change.

The Joe Biden administration's punitive tariffs on Chinese-made solar panels, electric vehicles and EV batteries are proof of saboteur and protectionist mentality despite its bid to present those tariffs as part of "stiff competition".

Worse, the threat of the US launching a new tariff war against China and other countries, as evidenced from president-elect Donald Trump's statements has already raised concerns around the world, including in the European Union.

Whether and when Trump will withdraw the US from the landmark Paris Agreement for a second time after he takes office on Jan 20, 2025, is a matter of grave concern for many delegates to COP29. This feeling prevails despite US climate envoy John Podesta asserting at COP29 that efforts to combat climate change remain a commitment in the US, and the country will continue those efforts. But the world has not forgotten that one of the first things Trump did after taking office for the first time in 2017 was to pull the US out of the Paris Agreement and put climate actions on the back burner.

Trump's pledge to deregulate the energy sector and allow unfettered drilling for oil and gas industry is seen by many as sending the wrong signal to those engaged in the global fights against climate change.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who does not see eye to eye with Trump on many issues, has, contrary to expectations, tried to cozy up to the US president-elect to avoid a potential US tariff war by saying that the EU will buy more liquefied natural gas from the US.

While she claimed the LNG from the US was cheaper, experts argue that LNG from across the Atlantic was much more expensive and less environmentally-friendly when shipped across the ocean, compared with those available through the Russian pipeline.

Warning against increasing use of fossil fuels, Guterres urged the world to advance the global goal of tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030.

China has set a good example in this regard. According to an International Energy Agency report in October, China will account for almost 60 percent of the total global installed renewable energy capacity between now and 2030. Also, China has become a global leader in EVs and EV batteries, and Chinese companies make nearly two-thirds of the world's EVs and more than three-fourths of EV batteries, according to Washington-based Information Technology and Innovation Foundation.

There is no doubt that China's technological advancement and manufacturing capacity could make even greater contributions to the international community's efforts to realize green transition. But these efforts have been undermined by the trade barriers and disruptions in the global supply chains, largely due to the US policies.

The message from COP29 is crystal clear: the world urgently needs to build a united front to combat climate change. Geopolitical rivalry, fueled by the US and some other Western countries, should not undermine global solidarity and cooperation in the global fight against climate change.

Li Renda

Blaming others for its woes won't solve US problems

Former US president Donald Trump won the presidential election partly due to the support of millennials and voters in the Rust Belt spurred by Trump's running mate, J.D. Vance, a promising US political star.

So, what drives Vance? His best-selling memoir, *Hillbilly Elegy*, offers insights. The autobiographical book captures Vance's journey from a small town in the Rust Belt to Yale Law School. Marked by four main themes, *Hillbilly Elegy* provides a window into Vance's beliefs and values, and sheds light on the stories behind the 2024 US presidential election.

The book *Hillbilly Elegy* puts emphasis on character. Vance admires the integrity of his community — their kind acts including helping strangers dig cars out of snow and greeting everyone with warmth, their respect for traditions such as paying respect to funeral processions, their deep connection to the roots — as seen in him feeling uncomfortable in revealing his prestigious school background even as a student — and their sense of gratitude, like Vance's appreciation for his mentor, Amy Chua, who advised him to apply for an editor's position in pursuit of a feeder judge's post and to give priority to his relationship with his girlfriend over a distant job opportunity. He says these were the best pieces of advice he received in his life.

Vance's emphasis on character is based on a simple yet powerful principle: people's goodwill toward each other, as was evidenced in the spirit of the

With pressing global challenges like climate change, AI regulation and drug control, only by working together can the two countries build a safer, more prosperous world.

Flying Tigers, which remains a testament to the enduring friendship and mutual support between China and the US. Vance says in his book that his great-grandfather served in World War II, fighting against the Japanese in the Pacific.

The memoir of the vice-president-elect highlights the importance of resilience, narrating the story of two generations on the move: his grandparents left small-town Jackson in Kentucky's Appalachian Mountains in the late 1940s for Middletown, a steel town in Ohio where they built a middle-class life during the manufacturing boom. Decades later, Vance himself moved from Middletown to New Haven, San Francisco, and then to Washington, D.C., and other cities. He doesn't shy away from sharing his difficult childhood: his parents divorced early, and he was raised by his mother, a nurse with a long history of drug abuse and a chaotic life. Studies and personal accounts suggest children from a background such as that of Vance often give up on them-

selves. Yet his grandparents, particularly his strong-willed, cigarette-smoking, gun-toting grandmother, provided him with a rare sense of security to overcome his painful childhood experiences.

During his formative, high-school, years, Vance put his faith in the mantra "hard work pays off", working at a grocery store, laboring at a tile company one summer before enrolling in Yale and shining in academics at the university with the help of mentors such as Chua, and his girlfriend and spirit guide, Usha. These experiences laid the foundation for his ability to handle the challenges he faced later in life.

What's more, Vance has said it is important for the US to properly handle the drug crisis at home. Synthetic opioids are the leading cause of drug-related deaths among people aged 18-49 in the US. And Vance says in the book that his grandmother once questioned the priorities of a society that "could afford aircraft carriers but not drug treatment facilities" for people like his mother. This gives rise to a bigger question: Why does the US squander taxpayers' money on freedom-of-navigation operations in the Asia-Pacific instead of spending on drug treatment and rehabilitation at home?

As a country that has effectively combated drug trafficking and abuse, China offers a successful drug-combating model. Pooling resources to address the US' opioid crisis could be a shared goal, especially given the common challenges both countries face.

Graham Allison, a professor at Harvard, has said Sino-US relations should

transcend zero-sum, "either-or" games. With pressing global challenges like climate change, AI regulation and drug control, only by working together can the two countries build a safer, more prosperous world. Even history tells us that cooperation benefits all, while conflict harms everyone.

The book *Hillbilly Elegy* also talks about responsibility. Vance has criticized the culture where individuals increasingly blame society or government for personal setbacks. He shares two stories: that of a friend who quit his job because he hated waking up early in the morning, and blamed his failure on "Obama economy"; and a co-worker who took long bathroom breaks during office hours. So blaming job losses in the US on "Obama shutting down coal mines or "Chinese grabbing all jobs" is ridiculous.

Following Vance's logic, blaming China for all the US woes is an effort to create a false sense of crisis? If the real objective is to push the US and China toward the "Thucydides trap", the American people should question whether both countries falling into the trap is in their best interest. And people in general should remember that blaming other countries or external forces for domestic issues rarely addresses any of the issues.

The author is an associate professor at the Party School of the Hainan Committee of the Communist Party of China. The views don't necessarily represent those of China Daily.

LIFE

Growth is tourism industry's destination

As traveler numbers grow, sector targets benefiting communities and more inbound visitors, Xu Lin reports.



Yalong Bay Tropical Paradise Forest Park Tourist Area in Sanya, Hainan province, promotes sustainable tourism. ZHANG MAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

A walk along Wukang and Anfu roads in Shanghai's Xuhui district offers a glimpse of the city's culture and landscape. The combination of historical architecture with well-designed cafes and shops draws numerous tourists, making it the trendiest place for a stroll.

This is no coincidence. Both the authorities and the community have cooperated to combine cultural preservation with contemporary vitality, striking a balance with tourism. This approach has also benefited residents by improving infrastructure and public services.

It's one of China's successful examples of developing communities through sustainable tourism, which was among the key topics at the World Tourism Alliance's Xiang-hu Dialogue 2024, recently held in Sanya, Hainan province, under the theme of "geared up for a new venture — the future is now".

Representatives from international organizations, tourism authorities, cities, companies and travel agencies from 32 countries and regions gathered for the discussions. These included trends in the global market and tourism between China and Europe.

"The tourism industry has become an emerging strategic pillar industry, promoting both livelihood and happiness," says Zhang Xu, chair of the World Tourism Alliance. The annual conference acts as a platform for the global tourism industry to communicate and enhance cooperation.

According to UN Tourism, formerly known as UNWTO, a leading international organization in the field of tourism, the number of tourists traveling internationally had almost returned to pre-pandemic



Left: Foreign tourists stroll along Hejie Street in Changde, Hunan province, to savor the fascinating culture. CHEN SIHAN / FOR CHINA DAILY



Right: The scenic old town of Fenghuang, Hunan province, boasts an enduring ecology and ethnic-group culture. LIU GUOXING / FOR CHINA DAILY

levels in the first seven months of 2024, driven by robust demand in Europe, and the reopening of markets in Asia and the Pacific.

Jaime Mayaki, director of the Department for Technical Cooperation and Silk Road at the UN Tourism, identifies trends in the global tourism industry, including regenerative tourism, wellness tourism, sustainable development and the use of artificial intelligence.

"In community-based tourism, we should ensure that local residents benefit from tourism and preserve their culture as well," he says. "Also, the numbers of digital nomads (those who travel and work remotely) are increasing globally, and destinations should offer them the necessary infrastructure, such as reliable internet."

He believes that tourism plays a vital role in terms of driving job creation, economic development, cultural exchange, environmental conservation and poverty reduction.

"Sharing best practices among countries is important for global tourism cooperation," he says. "China excels in using technologies like AI in creating personalized experiences. It can share its popular digital payments, virtual reality and augmented reality practices."

Istvan Ujhelyi, head of the EU-China One Belt One Road Culture, Tourism, Education and Economic Development Committee, emphasizes that everyone involved in tourism, such as policymakers and corporations, should realize that it's a global industry.

"While making policies, they should consider that tourism is not targeted at a specific country or region; its impact goes beyond one place — it can affect the whole world like a chain reaction. Sustainable development and environmental management also count," he says.

Ujhelyi adds that in terms of China-Europe tourism, greater numbers of Chinese tourists visit Europe than the

other way around. However, in recent years, Chinese tourism authorities and corporations have been working to balance the trend.

"They are putting greater efforts into attracting European tourists to China, such as promoting tourist itineraries and products to European travel agencies, and facilitating the recovery of flights between China and Europe."

He says that according to data, more Chinese tourists are choosing to take cruises in Europe, especially in the Mediterranean, generally 12-day voyages to seven or eight ports. "This new trend in Sino-European tourism is growing rapidly," he says.

According to Sarah Wang, regional director for Asia at the World Travel and Tourism Council, sustainable practices are essential to global businesses in tourism, such as hotels and airlines.

"Consumers, especially the younger generation, want to make a positive impact on destinations. It's

a trend for both suppliers and consumers to agree on the importance of sustainable travel options and products," she says.

The WTTC's data showed that in 2023, the contribution of China's tourism industry to GDP reached \$1.3 trillion. It estimated that by 2034, China is expected to overtake the United States and become the world's largest tourism economy, leading to significant changes in the global tourism landscape.

Data also showed that by the end of this year, spending by Chinese tourists on outbound tourism is expected to make up 14 percent of global spending, exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

"Chinese tourism companies wield significant global influence in the industry, serving both local and global travelers. We look forward to more Chinese companies sharing their expertise and technology, advancing the global tourism industry," she adds. Wang also emphasizes the great

potential of the Chinese inbound market. "To attract more inbound visitors, it's necessary to make travel more convenient," she says.

China has been extending its visa-free policies to include more countries. Meanwhile, many cities have rolled out 144-hour visa-free transit for international travelers.

She says it's important to continue to improve flight connections, especially direct international flights.

When it comes to promoting the country as an international destination, she recommends sharing compelling stories that resonate with people from different regions and cultures, and spark their interest in visiting, and going beyond just showcasing scenery and hospitality.

"Overseas tourists are interested in in-depth communication and interactive experience. Social media can offer diverse ways to promote China, sharing vivid stories of everyday people that foster a sense of connection," she says.

Adam Burke, president and CEO of Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board, agrees. "Those from the US already have an awareness of the in-depth culture and ancient history of Xi'an, Shaanxi province. We'd like to build off that because there's more to see within the province than just the Terracotta Warriors," he says.

In May, Los Angeles signed a tourism partnership with the city to boost cultural and tourism communication.

"As we provide travelers from the US with more information about China, we are likely to get more help from the airline industry to increase direct flights. And it will help bilateral tourism as well," Burke adds.

Contact the writer at xulin@chinadaily.com.cn

By LI YINGXUE

liyngxue@chinadaily.com.cn

Growing up near Beijing's Xiangshan Mountain, Zhang Zhaohui has long nurtured a deep connection to trees and the natural world. After more than 20 years of studying art theory, the now 59-year-old reinvented himself as an artist more than a decade ago, using his work to explore the relationship between traditional Chinese ink painting and nature.

This summer, Zhang took his practice outdoors, participating in an exhibition deep within the forests of Massachusetts in the United States. There, he presented his nature-inspired works in the very environment that fuels his creative vision — a powerful experience that reinforced his bond with the natural world.

Earlier this month, Zhang returned to Beijing, bringing his tree-themed works to the Red Gate Gallery for the exhibition, *Trees: The Great Connectors*, in collaboration with Irish visual artist Niamh Cunningham, who also shares his passion for the natural world.

"I've always been drawn to plants and nature," Zhang says. "Throughout my art, nature has remained my central theme. This exhibition is my way of expressing awe for the natural world."

In *Trees: The Great Connectors*, Zhang displayed a series of tradi-

Artists deliver a naturally inspiring exhibition



From left: Chinese artist Zhang Zhaohui (first from left) and Irish artist Niamh Cunningham (first from right) co-presenting the exhibition *Trees: The Great Connectors* in Beijing. Guests at the opening ceremony of the exhibition earlier this month. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

tional ink works on rice paper alongside his photography. His paintings, infused with emotion, capture his deep connection to nature. *Tanglewood*, a series which he painted last year, was inspired by his time living in the wild forests of the US.

"In the forest, I had a profound, intimate experience of nature," Zhang recalls. "In winter, the vast, snow-covered wilderness left a lasting impression. One of the pieces depicts a forest blanketed in snow,

branches frozen and slowly melting, a moment of crystalline purity that I found deeply moving. It was a moment of extraordinary beauty."

Zhang says that he hopes that his work will awaken a sense of longing for the natural world. "As artists, we can only communicate our understanding and feelings through our work," he says.

The monochrome elegance of Zhang's ink paintings on display found vivid counterpoint in the

vibrantly colored, tree-themed works of Cunningham. A former biomedical scientist who pivoted to art, Cunningham brought an experimental edge to the exhibition with her acrylics on canvas and pieces created from sugar using crystallization techniques.

The two artists met through a previous exhibition and found common ground in their fascination with trees and nature. Despite their distinct ethnic backgrounds, this

shared reverence led to their collaboration on the exhibition.

US art scholar and writer David Adam Brubaker says that engaging with nature has become an increasingly urgent topic, especially in recent decades, and that artists face the unique challenge of playing a role in environmental protection.

"I see two strategies here for contemporary artists, who want to let us respond to the challenge people raised," he said at the exhibition.

He says that when Zhang displayed his work in the forests of Massachusetts, his paintings responded to the rain, wind and other forces of nature. "He changed the context, allowing nature and the paintings to interact, so that the art truly connected with the natural world," Brubaker says.

Cunningham, on the other hand, uses crystallization, which Brubaker describes as a fascinating physical process. "So, her artwork is not just her imposing her intentions on nature, she's taken a little piece of nature and put it into her painting. And her painting never quite stops," he says.

Recently, Cunningham returned from an artist residency at the A4 Art Museum in Chengdu, Sichuan province, where she shot a series of short-video stories about trees for her socio-ecological project, *Memory Palace of Tree Stories*. Some of these videos were included in the exhibition, further enriching the dialogue between art and nature.

Many of Cunningham's tree-themed paintings feature skies and open air, elements she describes as part of her *Forest Breath* series.

For this exhibition, she displayed pieces such as *Banna Vortex* and *Electric Fronds*, inspired by her time in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan province, in 2021 and 2023.

"Air is 400 million years of forest breath," Cunningham explains. "These pieces are part of that breath."

LIFESHANGHAI



Left and middle: Art enthusiasts flock to the West Bund Art and Design, a key part of the 6th Shanghai International Art Trade Week, in November. Right: ART021, another key fair for the week, sees Shanghai's art market picking up momentum.

Trade week paints a positive outlook

Events bring together international galleries and institutions, proving the country is becoming a central hub for collectors of original and valuable high-quality works, **Zhang Kun** reports.

The 6th Shanghai International Art Trade Week, which ran from Nov 7 to Monday, witnessed the recovery of the art market and its rising public enthusiasm. More than 300 art institutions from home and abroad presented 125 events showcasing more than 10,000 masterpieces.

Since its first edition in 2019, the annual art week "has vigorously accelerated Shanghai's aim of becoming an important international art trade center", Zhong Xiaomin, head of the Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism, said on Nov 7 at the opening of West Bund Art and Design, which is a flagship event of the international art trade week.

Following other major international art trading centers such as New York, London and Paris, Shanghai claimed the week in early November each year as its allocated period for global art trade, as this time sees hundreds of galleries and institutions from around the world meeting up to do business in Shanghai, holding more than 100 fairs, exhibitions and other events around the city, she said.

This year, West Bund Art and Design was larger and broader, showcasing artworks more valuable than any of its previous 10 sessions since its founding in 2014. The international art fair brought together more than 170 galleries, exhibitors and institutions from 54 cities in 24 countries and regions from Friday to Sunday. More than 4,500 artworks were showcased, a 20 percent increase from last year. The value of the exhibits totaled approximately 1.5 billion yuan (\$207.84 million), an increase of 150 percent from the previous year.

The fair expanded southward to several new venues along the Huangpu River, such as the Orbit, an artistic center on Longteng Avenue, and Gate M, a commercial center redesigned from a hundred-year-old cement factory, both



West Bund Art and Design is larger and broader this year in scale and numbers of exhibitors involved, showcasing artworks more valuable than during any of its previous 10 sessions since its founding in 2014. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

located on the West Bund, that officially kicked off the further expansion of the West Bund region, which refers to the Xuhui Waterfront along the Huangpu River.

It will extend as far as the Xupu Bridge area, where a new art-themed park is planned and calls will open for international proposals for a new landmark structure that integrates sport, cultural activities and live performances.

Timothy Taylor, founding director of the Timothy Taylor Gallery from London, has participated in the West Bund Art and Design for nine consecutive years. He notices that the collector base "has broadened enormously" during this period. Art buyers in Shanghai are well-traveled, incredibly well-in-

formed and more international — "They understand the artists that we are representing", he told China Daily at the fair.

Through the years, the gallery has presented solo exhibitions in Shanghai for important artists, such as Alex Katz and Annie Morris. This year, the gallery joined hands with the Long Museum in Shanghai to present *Immortals*, a solo exhibition of paintings by British artist Daniel Crews-Chubb, from Nov 7 to Jan 5.

"This is like Frieze London," Crews-Chubb says, referring to one of the world's most influential contemporary art fairs that takes place each October in London's Regent's Park. "It's very busy, very bustling. A lot of the art worlds are

here; all of the major galleries are here. All of the powerhouse galleries seem to do both of these fairs — the West Bund and Art021, and more. It's very energetic."

Hauser & Wirth, an international gallery, with locations in Zurich, London, New York, and other major cities, is also a regular participant in West Bund Art and Design. The gallery presented paintings, installations and conceptual artworks at the fair spanning a wide range of prices from \$10,000 to \$1 million.

A conceptual work priced at \$150,000 by British artist Martin Creed featuring stripes of white and blue paint on the wall attracted wide interest at the gallery's booth. "A few art museums are very

interested in the piece and talked to us about it," Lihsin Tsai, senior director of the gallery, told China Daily on opening day. "We have confidence in the potential and acceptance of the Chinese market, collectors and institutions, so we hope to bring something newer and better to the West Bund every year," she said.

Art021, another important fair for the art week, received more than 60,000 visitors from Nov 7 to Sunday at the Shanghai Exhibition Center, where 131 galleries and institutions presented exhibitions from 43 cities in 20 countries and regions. About half the participants were domestic galleries, with 30 percent making their debut.

ART021 sees Shanghai's art market picking up momentum, with new galleries participating and art enthusiasts buying original work.

Zhou Dawei, co-founder of ART021, says that aside from Western art institutions, this year the fair invited galleries from countries involved with the Belt and Road Initiative, presenting a "real international outlook of the art world", he says.

Compared to established art fairs such as Art Basel in Switzerland, "we are still young, and our core mission is to promote contemporary Chinese art. We are going to establish a distinctive identity centered in the global art scene", Zhou says.

The Hive Center for Contemporary Art from Beijing has been a regular participant in all 12 sessions of Art021.

Xia Jifeng, director of the center, says: "We had the largest booth this year and presented a series of the most sought-after artists. We achieved very good sales, more than we expected, though the art market is still going through a turbulent period of adjustment."

Swiss bank UBS shared its findings regarding China's art market at West Bund Art and Design. According to the Art Basel and UBS Survey of Global Collecting 2024, which was authored by Clare McAndrew, founder of Arts Economics, high-net-worth individuals from the Chinese mainland had the highest expenditure on art and antiques in 2023, as well as the first half of 2024, with a median of \$97,000, more than double of that of any other region.

This suggests that the strong return of post-pandemic spending has been sustained, says Marina Lui, head of Wealth Management China, UBS Global Wealth Management.

Contact the writer at zhangkun@chinadaily.com.cn

Dance play dips toes in Chu culture during arts festival

By WANG XIN
wangxin2@chinadaily.com.cn

With renowned veteran dancer-choreographer Yang Liping as the chief director, the epic dance play *Jingchu Impression* made its Shanghai debut on Oct 30 at the Shanghai Grand Theatre during the 23rd China Shanghai International Arts Festival, offering audiences an immersive experience of the profound Chu culture.

Jingchu generally refers to the current region of central China's Hubei province known for Chu culture, a critical part of Chinese civilization that thrived over 2,000 years ago.

The patriotic poet Qu Yuan, who lived around 340 to 278 BC, is an iconic figure in Chu culture and one of the greatest poets of ancient China. Qu also serves as the thread of the dance play that connects its four chapters named after Qu's classic poems — *Tian Wen* (Heavenly Questions), *Jiu Ge* (Nine Songs), *Li Sao* (On Encountering Sorrow) and *Ju Song* (Ode to An Orange Tree).

Focusing on several mythological figures inspired by Qu's poetry anthology *Chu Ci*, as well as real historical heroes, the play follows Qu's

life experiences and presents mysterious, romantic, impassioned and love-hate stories during the Chu state from the Warring States Period (475-221 BC).

"Yang is dedicated to telling China's stories and showcasing Chinese culture with her stage performances. This play is the first of its kind in China to stage the brilliant Chu culture, with young dancers injecting new vitality. We believe it will bring audiences closer to the enduring charm of traditional Chinese culture," says Li Ming, president of the center for the arts festival.

Working with Yang, young dancers such as Dong Chonghan and Cheng Peiyang are presenting classical figures with their innovative expressions.

Dong performs as a spirit of the mountain inspired by one of Qu's poems titled *Shan Gui* (The Mountain Spirit). The spirit is usually regarded as a female but Dong saw the figure as a pure fairy, blurring its gender. As a male performer in this role, Dong has been well-received by audiences.

Cheng presents the eye-catching Phoenix to her own advantages. "I was told that my shoulders can open quite wide and it became my

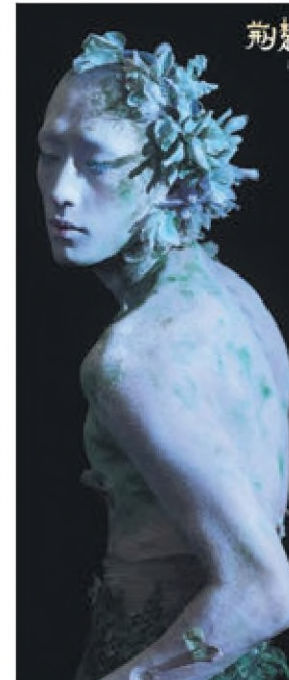
strength to make my Phoenix look different from others."

Yang agrees: "To perform a classical role accurately is not only about the dance or body movement but is more about integrating the dancer with the character in mindset. The dancer needs to learn the role's personality, behavior and soul to naturally become it and present it."

In addition to dancers, the production team has made great efforts in costume design, stage sets, musical arrangements, lighting effects and more, in a bid to offer audiences both audio and visual feasts.

Elements of *bianzhong*, or bronze chime bells, an ancient instrument symbolizing Chu culture, can be found onstage and in the music. It is worth noting that the play also combines other traditional forms of art, such as Chinese operas and shadow puppetry.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to the many artists working together to present the dance play. We hope *Jingchu Impression* can refresh the audience's memories of Chu culture, remind them of the past and the noble characters that we have to remember, and eventually, help us to better live in the moment and keep exploring," says Yang.



Clockwise from right: Dancer Dong Chonghan plays the central character, the spirit of the mountain. A scene from *Jingchu Impression*. Chief director Yang Liping (in red) with dancers. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

LIFE

The Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra is embarking on its first ever China tour, presenting concerts at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing on Wednesday as part of the NCPA's Spring and Autumn Achievements showcase of performing arts from art institutions, and at the Hong Kong City Hall as part of the Hong Kong Generation Next Arts music festival on Nov 24. On Tuesday, it will present a pre-tour concert at the Tianjin Juilliard concert hall.

The Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra was established in September 2020, and soon after, plans for a tour began. The 2024-25 season marks the school's fifth anniversary. It is the first overseas campus of the New York-headquartered Juilliard School. The tour is part of the celebrations.

"We have been planning the tour for quite a while. We are eager to have our students go out and demonstrate their artistic talent, while presenting a successful teaching model to our peers. To me, the Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra is the best representation of our school's educational philosophy of 'focusing on collaborative musicianship,'" says He Wei, the CEO and artistic director of the school.

The orchestra is made up of students from two graduating classes, meaning that every September, it experiences a major turnover, with around 50 percent of its members changing each year. As He says, it's an orchestra that never gets old. This tour is the orchestra's third concert of the 2024-25 season.

It has prepared a program that is musically rich and deep. It opens with the *Rite of Passage* by Zhou Tian, a demonstration of the orchestra's commitment to performing the works of contemporary Chinese composers. Viola professor Hanna Lee and cellist He Sihao will then join Max Bruch's *Romance in F Major, Op 85*, and Tchaikovsky's *Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op 33*, the Russian composer's first composition for cello and orchestra, as an illustration of the high artistic level of the school's resident faculty.

The second half will include Paul Dukas' *L'apprenti sorcier* (The Sorcerer's Apprentice), *Adagio* from Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian's *Spartacus*, which is known for its lively rhythm and energy, and Russian composer Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol, Op 34*. These three classic pieces, with their varying styles and solo segments, provide a great challenge for the students, while also giving them the opportunity to demonstrate their talent.

"Indeed, the programs present a challenge, but the orchestra always enjoys that. The students want to push themselves by embracing different challenges and achieving growth," says Ken Lam, resident conductor of the orchestra and also conductor on the tour.

Lam says that a successful tour helps increase the visibility of students, faculty and the institution itself and is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their talent on a wider stage, potentially attracting attention from professional ensembles and artistic directors. The exposure to music during the tour helps students broaden their repertoire and explore different genres and



Practice makes perfect on Tianjin Juilliard tour

Five years on, the music school, a collaboration between China and the United States, is reaching out to broaden its base, **Chen Nan** reports.



Top: The Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra will be embarking on its first tour with shows in Beijing and Hong Kong as part of the Tianjin Juilliard's fifth anniversary. **Middle left:** The orchestra performs at the school on May 5 under the baton of Ken Lam, resident conductor and also tour conductor. **Middle right:** South Korean violist Hanna Lee (right) performs with Tianjin Juilliard students at the school's concert hall on April 19. **Above left and right:** The Tianjin Juilliard Orchestra in concert at the school on Oct 20. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

styles, and encourages flexibility and adaptability as they must quickly adjust to different performance settings and demands.

South Korean violist Hanna Lee, who joined Tianjin Juilliard as a faculty member this September, says: "Collaborating with the stu-

dents on performances is something that brings me great joy. Their sincerity and passion for music are truly moving. I started

getting involved with the teaching and performance activities here in the spring, and we've had many opportunities to perform alongside

students. The faculty is deeply involved in student rehearsals and performances, truly embodying the concept of teaching by example. In my 10 years of teaching, this has been a unique experience."

Taysia Petersen completed her undergraduate studies in the United States before coming to China to study. The 23-year-old is the principal oboist on the tour. Last year, she performed Richard Strauss' *Serenade in E-flat Major, Op 7*, with her wind faculty, and had the opportunity to closely observe the playing of her colleagues, and to gain firsthand performance experience, something, she says, she can't get in class.

"This will also be my first time participating in an orchestra tour. Performing in different cities and concert halls is a new experience for me, and Tianjin Juilliard has created many unprecedented opportunities for us," she adds.

According to Lam, it is a student orchestra but quite professional. He refers to it as "an orchestra in the early stages of a professional career". The Tianjin school has produced graduates who are highly sought-after by professional orchestras. Over the past few years, it has sent over 30 young musicians to Chinese and international orchestras, including the China NCPA Orchestra — the resident symphony orchestra of the NCPA — the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, and the Suzhou Symphony Orchestra.

The Tianjin school has a series of other important events to mark its fifth anniversary. In January, its annual Festival Connect will focus on one of the most revolutionary composers of the 20th century, French-born American composer Edgard Varese. The festival will invite percussion students from countries including Singapore and South Korea to perform the Chinese premiere of Varese's *Ionization* along with Tianjin Juilliard students. The groundbreaking composition presented unique ideas and problems for percussion orchestration when it was written. In February, the faculty will travel to New York to collaborate with colleagues on the New York campus for a faculty concert.

As a highlight of the fifth anniversary program, the school will also hold an orchestra forum during graduation season next May. Teachers and students from the world's leading music conservatories will gather in Tianjin to discuss topics related to classical music education, and form a student orchestra to rehearse and perform together.

"As a cooperative educational institution between China and the US, cultural exchange is embedded in the DNA of the school. We will host over 200 concerts this season, with numerous faculty and student performances. Almost every week, musicians and professors from around the world come to Tianjin to perform, or give master classes, bringing the best performances and educational resources here," says He. "With our tours, forums and other events, we hope to launch the school into a broader public sphere."

Contact the writer at chennan@chinadaily.com.cn

Young tech-savvy remote workers vitalize villages

KUNMING — In the village of Dazhifang, at the foot of the Cangshan Mountain in Dali, Yunnan province, the aroma of coffee drifts through the courtyard of a homestay called Black Persimmon.

Teng Yan is typing away in the communal area, reveling in the perks of a commute-free remote-work lifestyle. "A month's rent in Beijing can get me a place in Dali to live in for over half a year," Teng says, adding that he appreciates the value and tranquility of his new way of life.

Teng is a typical modern-day nomad — or what most people call a digital nomad. Sick of four years of his nine-to-five job routine as a programmer, he boarded a flight to Dali in 2022 with his expertise and a laptop.

"Although the company I work for is registered in Beijing, my colleagues are everywhere, in Tokyo, Japan, and Chiang Mai in Thailand," he says. Each Sunday, he convenes a virtual gathering with his colleagues to strategize the week's agenda, and for the remainder of the week, they act on their own.

While remote working in Dali, Teng frequently travels elsewhere

in search of inspiration, leaving footprints in the likes of Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan. "As digital nomads, we enjoy the freedom to work from any locale with an internet connection, and the mobility afforded by transportation networks enhances our flexibility," he adds.

Since the 1980s, it has been common for people in remote rural areas to move to big cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou in search of work. However, in recent years, the young generation has begun to move against the current, flocking to the vast rural area to set up home.

This reverse migration is backed by sound infrastructure, an extensive and interconnected modern transportation system and advanced digital technology.

The nomadic lifestyle is taking root not only in Dali, but also in many other rural locations in southwestern China. Over the past few years, Renli village in the Sichuan Basin has welcomed a number of new young residents.

After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2021, Ke Yu returned to China in

2023 and began looking for a place to establish a digital nomad community. While browsing online, a photo of a sightseeing platform in Renli village caught her attention.

From the bird's-eye view, the spiral design of the platform resembled a lollipop. "I didn't expect that in such an inconspicuous village, there would be such distinctive architecture, where the rural atmosphere and modern design are cleverly integrated," Ke says.

In early January, Ke decided to settle in the village after liaising with the authorities.

"Not far from the platform there were already three finished buildings. With just a little modification, they could be turned into a community comprising spaces for offices, accommodation, dining, entertainment and social functions," she says.

Renli village's proximity to the Chengdu Tianfu International Airport, which is only a 20-minute drive away, is a significant advantage in luring more digital nomads, she adds.

In April this year, the international digital nomad community in Renli village officially began opera-

tions, and within half a year, over 380 digital nomads have settled there. One of them is Choo Ho-jin from the Republic of Korea. Coming with a "why not give it a try" perspective, he soon decided to stay, signing a 10-year agreement with the community operators.

Digital nomads are known for a travel-based lifestyle, and those coming to Southwest China were initially drawn to the region's natural beauty and lower living costs. However, their arrival has introduced not only a fresh way of living but also a subtle transformation of the local landscape.

"The digital nomads are very talented. Some of them are market-savvy. Some are tech experts or marketing wizards," Teng says. "Even though we're in the countryside, we're still aware of the latest information in the metropolises. If we have good ideas or projects, we can gather a few like-minded individuals and bring them to life."

Longshan village near the city of Anning, 35 kilometers from the main urban area of Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan, was once populated mostly by elderly people. With the development of rural



Village houses on the banks of Erhai Lake seen against the backdrop of the Cangshan Mountain in Dali, Yunnan province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

tourism, however, it has also become a popular destination for digital nomads. To date, it has hosted 86 digital nomads from more than 10 countries and regions, including India, Pakistan and Russia.

Li Erniu, the founder of a technology company, came to Longshan village in August this year to work remotely while preparing for a marathon. During his daily jogs, Li discovered that the villagers were struggling to sell their walnuts. He stepped in to assist with

his marketing talent and soon sold 1,000 kilograms of nuts online.

More and more digital nomads are coming to Longshan village, giving a new look to this once obscure, underdeveloped spot. Now, the village boasts a cafe, open-air rest areas, leisure facilities and cozy office spaces.

While digital nomads relish the beautiful scenery and low-cost living, villagers also enjoy a better life through thriving tourism.

XINHUA