

China's inclusive approach recognized

Analysts highlight Beijing's efforts to support developing countries in global economic order

By CAO DESHENG
caodesheng@chinadaily.com.cn

In a fragmented world that needs to fix deficits in peace, development and governance, China's visions, proposed by President Xi Jinping at the 19th G20 Summit, of building a just world of common development and promoting

a fair and equitable global governance system are of great relevance to making the world a better place, according to analysts.

The G20 Summit, hosted by Brazil in Rio de Janeiro on Monday and Tuesday, took place amid shifting geopolitical dynamics and economic uncertainty, providing an opportunity for world

leaders to get together to discuss solutions to address urgent global challenges, including economic stagnation, trade disruptions, food security, reform of multilateral institutions and climate governance.

As leader of the second-largest economy and the largest developing country in the world, Xi's attendance and his

interactions with other leaders at the summit were in the spotlight.

Addressing the summit, he outlined China's eight actions to support global development, including pursuing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, implementing the Global Development Initiative, supporting international cooperation on poverty reduction and

food security, and supporting the G20 in carrying out practical cooperation for the benefit of the Global South.

He called for improving global economic, financial, trade, digital and ecological governance to build a world economy characterized by cooperation, stability, openness, innovation and eco-friendliness.

Evandro Menezes de Carvalho, a professor of international law at Fluminense Federal University in Brazil, said that taking a systemic view of global governance, Xi highlighted key actions in each of the main areas of global governance in his speech.

See *Analysts*, page 3

Sound greeting

A local band greets President Xi Jinping upon his arrival in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, for a state visit on Tuesday. Xi traveled to Brasilia after attending the 19th G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. LIXUEREN / XINHUA



Sino-French ties strategically unique

China and France are independent, mature and responsible major countries, and the relationship between the two nations is of unique strategic significance and global influence, President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday.

Xi made the remarks during a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Noting that the international situation is undergoing fresh changes, Xi said that it is the shared responsibility of China and France to lead the international community in unity to address global challenges.

He underlined the need for both countries to deepen strategic communication and strengthen mutual support in order to maintain the momentum of the steady and positive development of bilateral relations, and to work together to make a greater contribution to the sound development of China-Europe relations as well as world peace and stability.

China's new round of reform and opening-up will provide new opportunities for the countries' pragmatic cooperation, he said.

Xi expressed the hope that both sides will make good use of high-level economic and financial dialogue and other mechanisms to tap into cooperation potential, address their differences properly and achieve mutual benefit and win-win outcomes.

Macron said that France adheres to strategic autonomy and is willing to engage in dialogue and cooperation with China based on the spirit of mutual respect, properly handle economic and trade disputes, and maintain the healthy and stable development of bilateral economic and trade relations.

France is ready to strengthen cooperation with China in areas such as climate change and global artificial intelligence governance, he said.

The Chinese and French presidents also exchanged views on the Ukraine crisis.



Emmanuel Macron

For Beijing, Berlin, 'long' view backed

China and Germany should continue consolidating their all-around strategic partnership "from a long-term and strategic perspective", and further enable each other's success, President Xi Jinping said when meeting on Tuesday with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Rio de Janeiro.

Xi said that Beijing is willing to work with Berlin to uphold respect for each other's core interests and major concerns, and seek common ground while reserving differences. China will "continue to provide broad market opportunities for German enterprises", and the two sides should focus on digitalization, intelligence and low-carbonization to upgrade cooperation and work hand in hand to develop third-party markets, he said.

Noting that it is crucial for Germany and China to strengthen communication and cooperation, Scholz said that Germany looks to further strengthen bilateral and multilateral dialogues and cooperation in the spirit of equality, frankness and mutual respect, properly resolve differences, achieve mutual benefits, and contribute to global economic growth.

Regarding China-European Union relations, Xi said the EU's tariff levy on electric vehicles produced in China has sparked worldwide concern. China has always adhered to resolving differences through dialogue and consultation, he said.

Scholz expressed his hope that the EU and China will soon resolve the EV issue through dialogue and negotiation, saying that Germany is willing to take active steps in this regard.



Olaf Scholz

ZHANG YUNBI

Belt and Road has benefited Bolivia

President Xi Jinping told Bolivian President Luis Arce on Tuesday that China is willing to align Belt and Road cooperation with the South American country's 2025 development plan and elevate bilateral ties to new heights as next year will mark the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with Arce in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

He said relations between the two countries have maintained a good momentum, and the fruitful results from Belt and Road cooperation have brought concrete benefits to their peoples.

China will use the 40th anniversary as an opportunity to work with Bolivia to carry forward traditional friendship, deepen strategic mutual trust and expand mutually beneficial cooperation, he said.

China is Bolivia's second-largest trading partner and its primary source of imports. Last year, bilateral trade reached nearly \$2.6 billion, with a year-on-year increase of 34.5 percent, Chinese statistics showed.

Xi stressed the need for the two sides to expand cooperation in areas such as infrastructure, plateau agriculture, green development and digital economy.

He also called on China and Bolivia to deepen coordination within the United Nations and other multilateral institutions to jointly promote solidarity and common development of Global South countries.

Arce said China's huge achievements in its modernization drive have provided important reference and guidance for the development of Bolivia and other countries.

The country is willing to work with China to deepen the strategic partnership, and strengthen cooperation in infrastructure facilities, connectivity and other areas, to bolster Bolivia's national development and improve people's well-being, the Bolivian president said.

As a strategic initiative to guide Bolivia's national development until 2025, the 2025 plan aims to guide the country toward a more prosperous and equitable future.



Luis Arce

MO JINGXI

Bright outlook for China-Argentina ties

President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday that cooperation between China and Argentina holds broad prospects, and China welcomes Argentina to seize the opportunities created by the country's high-level opening-up and further expand its share in the Chinese market.

He made the remarks while meeting with Argentine President Javier Milei in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was the first meeting between the two leaders since Milei won the presidential election in November last year.

As both countries celebrate a decade of their comprehensive strategic partnership, Xi said the China-Argentina relationship was at an important juncture, adding that China treasured the traditional friendship between the two peoples.

He stressed the need for China and Argentina to promote the long-term and stable development of bilateral ties.

Xi also said that China and Argentina are highly complementary on economic and trade structure. Last year, trade volume between the two countries exceeded \$17 billion, with China being Argentina's second-largest trading partner.

Xi said China is ready to work with Argentina to continuously promote Belt and Road cooperation and deepen the relationship in areas including energy and mining, infrastructure, agriculture, sci-tech innovation and digital economy. He also expressed Beijing's willingness to continue financial cooperation with Buenos Aires to assist the Argentine side in maintaining economic and financial stability.

Milei praised the profoundly friendly relations between the two countries, saying that Argentina firmly supports China's position on the Taiwan question and adheres to the one-China principle.

He said his country is willing to further cooperation with China and welcomes more Chinese enterprises for investment and cooperation in Argentina.



Javier Milei

MO JINGXI

www.chinadailyglobal.com

© 2024 China Daily Global. All Rights Reserved

A member of ANN Newsstand prices: US \$1, Canada C\$1, UK £1, EU 1€, Kenya 50 Kenya Shilling, Asia Pacific: Thailand 120 thb, Philippines 120 php, Myanmar 2000 Kyat, Japan 210 yen, Dubai 10 dirham, Pakistan 300 rupee



CAO DESHENG

G20
BRASIL 2024

XI'S VISIT

Latin America shows rising interest in Chinese NEVs

Automakers, policymakers fostering growth in green mobility

By WANG KEJU
wangkeju@chinadaily.com.cn

In the bustling streets of Brazil's Sao Paulo, a quiet revolution is unfolding. The rumble of traditional gas-guzzling engines is giving way to the smooth, silent glide of new energy vehicles. At the forefront of this green mobility transformation are Chinese-made NEVs.

The advanced technology and competitive pricing of Chinese NEVs are rapidly translating into rising market share for China's automakers in Brazil and other Latin American countries in recent years.

Data from the China Passenger Car Association shows that Brazil ranked second among the top destination markets for China's NEV exports from January to September this year, with 140,412 units shipped.

According to data from Brazil's National Federation of Motor Vehicle Distribution, also known as Fenabrave, Chinese automaker BYD sold more than 50,000 NEVs in the country in the first nine months of this year.

BYD has established itself as the dominant player in Brazil's electrified vehicle segment, commanding a substantial 73 percent market share.

The technological sophistication and affordability of Chinese NEV brands are proving to be a winning combination that is resonating with consumers in the region, said Zhang Yongwei, vice-president and secretary-general of China EV 100, a major auto industry think tank.

Chinese NEV makers have great agility in responding to the evolving market demands. By constantly expanding and refining their product lineups, they are able to cater to the varied needs of consumers across different use cases and applications, Zhang said.

In addition to Brazil, Mexico has also experienced a surge in the acceptance and demand for Chinese-made NEVs.

Mexico became the sixth largest importer of Chinese NEVs globally during the first three quarters of this year, shipping in 64,746 units, according to data from the China Passenger Car Association.

Bai Ming, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, said that interest is growing among governments as well as consumers. "Across Latin America, we're see-



Above: Workers assemble an electric bus motor at the BYD solar panel and electric bus chassis production facility in Campinas, Sao Paulo state, Brazil, in November last year.

JONNE RORIZ / BLOOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES

Left: Attendees browse vehicles at a BYD dealership event in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in October last year.

VICTOR MORIYAMA / BLOOMBERG VIA GETTY IMAGES

ing a concerted effort by policymakers to support the growth of the NEV market through various incentives and infrastructure investments," he said. "This has created a favorable environment for NEV adoption in the region."

Coupled with the policy support, consumers in Latin America are increasingly prioritizing sustainability and environmental protection, and this shift in mindset is translating into a growing appetite for Chinese NEVs, Bai said.

A successful long-term presence in the Latin American market requires more than just competitive products, according to analysts, who've called for more efforts toward investing in local production, creating employment opportunities and developing robust after-

sales service networks.

In March, BYD started building its first large-scale production base in Camacari in Brazil's Bahia state.

The new complex, to be completed by 2025, will specialize in the production of electric bus and truck chassis, electric and hybrid passenger cars, and lithium and iron phosphate processing, and is expected to produce 150,000 vehicles per year.

Chinese automaker Great Wall Motor also plans to open a production facility in Brazil by May next year, opting for a piece-by-piece assembly process at the site instead of using pre-assembled component kits imported from China.

This move, driven by the tax incentives under the Brazilian government's Mover program, will accelerate

the process of nationalizing production and, consequently, enable the company to export from Brazil.

The Mover program provides tax incentives for companies to invest in decarbonization and energy efficiency.

Yin Tongyue, chairman of Chinese carmaker Chery, said that Chinese NEV manufacturers have demonstrated remarkable advancements in critical domains such as power train electrification and intelligent driving.

The integration of Chinese NEV technologies can empower local automakers to enhance their product offerings and embrace sustainable manufacturing practices, ultimately driving the overall competitiveness and resilience of the local automotive industry, Yin said.

China, Brazil oil cooperation to boost energy security

By ZHENG XIN
zhengxin@chinadaily.com.cn

China and Brazil have been strengthening collaboration in deep-sea oil and gas exploration in recent years, with analysts and industry leaders seeing this as a strategic move to enhance energy security and drive technological innovation for both countries.

Brazil has abundant and high-quality deep-sea oil and gas reserves, while Chinese oil and gas firms bring unique advantages in funding and market access. This complementary relationship positions their partnerships as critical to ensuring energy stability, they said.

As technological advances reshape global energy demand, deep-sea resources are increasingly viewed as a growth driver within the ocean economy, according to a research institute of the China National Offshore Oil Corp, the third-largest oil company in China.

In recent years, global exploration and development of marine oil and gas have accelerated, with deep-sea and ultra-deep-sea fields emerging as strategic reserves to support global energy needs, it said.

According to the institute, Brazil, rich in offshore oil reserves and aiming to expand its capacity in both traditional and ultra-deep-sea drilling, is emerging as a prominent new

Chinese companies should expand their focus from securing resource rights to advancing local industry development, especially in sectors like power grids, solar and wind energy, where collaboration opportunities are ample."

Sun Hongbo, researcher in China-Latin American relations at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

player in the global oil production market while drawing major investments from domestic and international interests.

Brazil has rich reserves of oil, natural gas and minerals, while China has significant advantages in the extraction, processing and technology of energy and mineral resources, leading to the vast potential for cooperation in the oil, gas and mining sectors, the institute said.

CNOOC secured a long-term con-

tract in August for the trade of 12 million barrels of crude oil from Brazil's Mero oilfield, the third-largest pre-salt ultra-deepwater oilfield in the world.

The Chinese oil company has been involved in Brazil's deepwater oilfields for a decade, collaborating with companies such as Shell, BP and Petrobras to participate in oil and gas project bids, securing several key exploration and development projects.

Mariana Rodrigues Franca, deputy director of the technology and environment department at the Brazilian National Agency for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels, emphasized China's involvement in Brazil's development and in the wider region.

"China plays a crucial role in global political, economic and technological spheres, contributing significantly to world peace and development," she said.

Franca expressed optimism that cooperation in marine technology will continue to advance, driving innovation forward.

Sun Hongbo, a researcher in China-Latin American relations at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that Latin American countries are eager to deepen energy cooperation with China, viewing China as a stable, long-term and reliable strategic partner.

"Latin America's energy collaboration with China is anchored in priorities such as stabilizing oil

exports, reducing energy costs to strengthen industrial competitiveness, ensuring sustainable long-term energy supplies, and fostering macroeconomic stability through energy sector growth," he said.

"This expanding partnership goes beyond energy security, intertwining with broader areas of trade, political relations, finance and mutual development goals, thus heightening the strategic importance of these alliances."

Sun advised Chinese enterprises to align more closely with Latin American domestic market demands and the region's overall energy needs.

"Chinese companies should expand their focus from securing resource rights to advancing local industry development, especially in sectors like power grids, solar and wind energy, where collaboration opportunities are ample," he said.

In the long term, Chinese companies should seize these opportunities by advancing research into the potential of global deep-sea oil resources, strengthening strategic positioning and focusing on deep-sea exploration technologies and engineering equipment. By pooling resources and collaborating on different stages of the production chain, Chinese firms can bolster their competitive edge in deep-sea exploration in Brazil, driving innovation and fostering collaborative strength in international markets, Sun said.

Home appliance makers localize for Brazilian market

By FAN FEIFEI
fanfeifei@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese home appliance makers are expanding their footprint in Brazil and increasing investments in localized operations covering research and development, production and marketing, so as to tap into the immense development opportunities in South America's largest market.

Midea Group, one of the world's largest producers of appliances and industrial robots, said it will continue to increase its investments in product innovation, brand building and localization in Brazil, one of its most important overseas markets.

The company, headquartered in Guangdong province, held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new 700-million-yuan (\$98.3 million) factory in Pouso Alegre in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais last year.

Covering an area of over 70,000 square meters, the factory, which is Midea's third in Brazil, and produces refrigerators and washing machines, is now in trial operation.

With an annual production capacity of more than 1 million units, the plant integrates digital and innovative production technologies, and is expected to enhance Midea's competitiveness in the local market. Products made there will be sold locally and in other markets in South America.

The new facility joins Midea's other two factories in Brazil, one located in Manaus producing household air conditioners and microwave ovens, and the other in Canoas making commercial air conditioners.

"Our goal is to become one of the leading brands in the Brazilian refrigerator market within four years. Midea will provide Brazilians with more choices for intelligent home appliances and improve the quality of life of local consumers," said Wang Jianguo, vice-president of Midea Group.

Chinese consumer electronics maker TCL Technology Group has also intensified efforts to make forays into the Brazilian market, with a key focus on home appliances and photovoltaics, as part of a broader push to expand its global footprint.

Yue Haiping, general manager of the overseas marketing department's Brazil branch at TCL, said the company has huge growth potential in the Latin American country, and hopes to introduce more leading consumer electronics products to the Brazilian market and bring more choices to local consumers by leveraging its advantages in products, technology, supply chain and brand promotion.

The company has two manufacturing bases in the city of Manaus in Brazil's Amazonas state, where the local government has provided favorable tax policies. Yue said the annual production capacity of its TV factory has reached 3 million units, while its air conditioner factory, which was put into operation in 2022, can produce nearly 1 million units each year.

"We have more than 1,500 employees in Brazil. The localized manufacturing capacity is of great significance to expand TCL's business in the country as you learn more about the local market, and local consumers will also have a higher level of recognition and acceptance of brands and products," Yue said.

Felipe Hannel Fay, vice-president

The localized manufacturing capacity is of great significance to expand TCL's business in the country as you learn more about the local market."

Yue Haiping, general manager of the overseas marketing department's Brazil branch at Chinese consumer electronics maker TCL

of SEMP TCL, said Brazilian consumers have an increasing demand for high-end electronic devices, especially large flat-screen TVs and premium refrigerators, air conditioners and washing machines.

SEMP TCL is a joint venture established by TCL and Brazilian home appliance manufacturer SEMP in 2016. It mainly targets the mid- to high-end market in Brazil.

Founded in 1942, SEMP launched Brazil's first TV in 1951 and has laid a solid foundation in understanding the Brazilian market and building a local distribution network, which was exactly what TCL needed in exploring the local market.

Fay said there is tremendous growth potential in fields like air conditioners, refrigerators and washing machines in Brazil, adding that apart from the consumer electronics industry, Chinese companies can further explore development opportunities in the country's automobile segment.

He added there will be plenty of new opportunities to be jointly explored by Chinese and Brazilian enterprises in terms of the green energy transition and the rapid development of the internet of things and 5G technologies.

Liang Zhenpeng, an independent consumer electronics analyst, said that in the past, most Chinese enterprises adopted the OEM or original equipment manufacturer model, but nowadays they tend to build their own brands to participate in global competition.

He said setting up production bases in Brazil not only brings China's advanced manufacturing, research and development as well as management capabilities to the local market, but creates job opportunities for locals and enhances the global competitiveness of Chinese enterprises.

China's domestic home appliance market is almost saturated, so major players should accelerate steps to expand in emerging markets such as South America and Africa, and seek new sources of revenue and long-term development, he added.

Zhao Meimei, assistant president of Beijing-based market consultancy All View Cloud, said building a sound global industrial chain and enhancing operational capacity in the overseas market will help Chinese home appliance companies utilize global resources, reduce costs and improve management efficiency.

Brazil is the largest market in South America, and local consumers have exhibited growing demand for high-end home appliance products, she said.



Workers assemble components on a production line for television sets in Manaus, Brazil, in March. SEMP TCL, a joint venture between Chinese company TCL and local enterprise SEMP, hires about 1,000 employees locally. WANG TIANCONG / XINHUA

G20
BRASIL 2024

XI'S VISIT



President Xi Jinping and other G20 leaders take a group photo after the conclusion of the 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Tuesday. LI TAO / XINHUA

Analysts: China has taken 'concrete' steps on inclusive growth

From page 1

"China has already given concrete demonstrations of being a country committed to the development of a more inclusive international order. In addition, it has been very active in promoting green development with significant investment in technology and environmental protection," he said.

The professor noted that global economic development depends on a balanced, stable financial and trade system that takes into account the needs of developing countries in order to promote a more inclusive international order, highlighting the importance of Xi's remarks on improving global digital and ecological governance with the Global South and developing countries involved.

"Global digital governance and ecological governance, which are increasingly linked to each other, if well directed towards the common good, could contribute to opening new paths for the future for humanity as they increasingly exert influence in today's world."

Under the Brazilian presidency, the Rio G20 Summit adopted the motto "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet", focusing on three priority themes: energy transition, fair sustainable development (with an emphasis on combating hunger, poverty and inequality), and reform of multilateral institutions.

China, standing at the forefront of the Global South, has been advocating for greater representation of developing countries in global governance to promote an international order that is truly democratic, inclusive and multilateral.

From advocating the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence to proposing the construction of a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation, and building a community with a shared future for mankind, China's consistent goal has been to build a more equal and just world, ensuring that developing countries have a greater voice in global affairs, observers said.

At the Rio G20 Summit, Xi urged the World Bank to carry out a shareholding review and the International Monetary Fund to carry out quota share realignment in line with the agreed time frame and road map in order to increase the voice and representation of developing countries.

He said that China, alongside Brazil, South Africa and the African Union, is proposing an Initiative on International Cooperation in Open Science to help the Global South gain better access to global advances in science, technology and innovation.

Anthony Moretti, an associate professor in the Communication and Organizational Leadership Department at Robert Morris University in the United States, said

that Xi is spot on when he suggests that isolationism is not what the global community needs right now. This is especially true for the developing world, Moretti added.

Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, executive director of the Center for South Asia and International Studies in Islamabad, Pakistan, said that Xi has made proposals for an open, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for international economic cooperation through a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

His proposals support developing countries in better integrating into digital, smart and green development to bridge the North-South gap, and they constitute a holistic and comprehensive policy badly needed for economic recovery, poverty reduction and job creation, Khan said, adding they reflect the global need for complete transformation from isolation to integration, from Cold War mentality to international cooperation.

As the Ukraine crisis and Palestine-Israel conflict remain protracted, Xi highlighted at the Rio G20 Summit that "global security governance is part and parcel of global governance". The G20 should support the UN and its Security Council in playing a greater role, and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises, he said.

China and Brazil, together with

“

China has already given concrete demonstrations of being a country committed to the development of a more inclusive international order.”

Evandro Menezes de Carvalho, a professor of international law at Fluminense Federal University in Brazil

some other Global South countries, have launched a group of "friends for peace" on the Ukraine crisis, with the goal of bringing together more voices for peace.

Khan said that the proposal of the group of "friends for peace" is innovative and well-timed, which must be listened to and implemented for achieving peace in Ukraine and Palestine.

Marcos Cordeiro Pires, a professor of international political economy at Sao Paulo State University, said that the China-proposed Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Global Civilization Initiative and Belt and Road Initiative are becoming inter-

national public goods that offer a path to building actions that help overcome the immense challenges faced by humanity.

These initiatives are a counterpoint to selfishness and unilateralism by pointing out that development is essential to overcoming hunger and poverty, that no country can guarantee its security at the expense of others, that peaceful coexistence between civilizations presupposes respect for the uniqueness of each culture, and, above all, that building infrastructure is one of the best ways to guarantee progress and address inequalities, Pires said.

The Chinese president also urged G20 countries to "see each other's development as opportunities rather than challenges and view each other as partners rather than rivals", highlighting the need to observe the basic norms of international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and defend the international order based on international law.

Xu Feibiao, a senior researcher and the director of the Center for BRICS and G20 Studies of China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said that China, unlike traditional Western powers, remains committed to safeguarding a multilateral system with the UN at its core, following the path of peaceful development, and advocating for

the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

It calls for a new type of international relations and upholds the principles of "extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits" in global governance, Xu said, adding these efforts and principles are gaining broader recognition and respect from countries all over the world, offering hope for the G20 to regain its relevance in global governance.

The Rio G20 Summit adopted a leaders' declaration, with the G20 leaders reaffirming their strong commitment to multilateralism and pledging to reform the global governance system.

The leaders pledged to work for a reinvigorated and strengthened multilateral system, rooted in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law, with renewed institutions and a reformed governance that is more representative and effective, according to the declaration.

They also pledged to reform the UN Security Council to align it with the realities and demands of the 21st century and make it more representative, inclusive and effective, the declaration said.

Rena Li in Los Angeles, Yifan Xu in Washington and Xu Weiwei in Hong Kong contributed to the story.

Rousing welcome



Overseas Chinese welcome President Xi Jinping upon his arrival in Brasilia for a state visit to Brazil on Tuesday. XU RUI / XINHUA

Rio orchestra thrives with help from Chinese firm

By MO JINGXI in Rio de Janeiro
mojingxi@chinadaily.com.cn

For Amanda Magalhaes Soares Rodrigues, the second child of a postman and a cleaner living in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, classical music was practically nonexistent until she changed schools for more affordable tuition fees at age 15.

Her new school was located near the Rio neighborhood of Mare, where many poor children tend to skip classes and risk gang-related violence. To her surprise, the teenager found an orchestra project involving thousands of students from more than 20 schools in Mare.

"I have been a member of the orchestra since 2014," said Rodrigues, now 25, principal cellist with Mare do Amanha Orchestra, or Mare Orchestra of Tomorrow. She also teaches cello in a school in Mare to students ages 6 to 10.

In August, Rodrigues and about 20 other musicians of the orchestra made their first-ever trip to China and performed in collaboration with Chinese musicians to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Brazil. In addition to Brazilian songs,

they performed classical Chinese pieces including Jasmine Flower, Butterfly Lovers, and Big Fish.

"The trip was so good. I met nice people and had delicious food such as the Peking duck. More importantly, I played with a cellist from China, and she taught me how to play better and even gave me some books with Chinese songs," Rodrigues said.

The Brazilian musician said that playing the cello helped her become more disciplined, and the same now holds true for her students.

"As a young girl, there were times when I was very anxious and depressed, but having the cello helped me feel relieved. It helped me channel my emotions and focus on playing," Rodrigues said, adding that she couldn't have asked for a better life.

Filipe Kochem, a violinist and conductor of the orchestra, said the flourishing China-Brazil relationship has played a fundamental role in the survival and success of the orchestra, which aims to harness the power of music to transform the lives of children in Mare.

Mare do Amanha Orchestra was founded in 2010 by Carlos Eduardo Prazeres, the son of conductor and



Mare do Amanha Orchestra, which is from the Mare neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, performs at the opening of the China-Brazil Friendship Garden at the Botanical Garden in Rio on Saturday.

WANG ZHUANGFEI / CHINA DAILY

educator Armando Prazeres, who was murdered in 1999 by a resident of Mare. The orchestra lost its sponsorship soon after launch, but received a fresh lease of life in 2011 from the State Grid Corp of China.

Kochem said the Chinese power supply company's helping hand changed fortunes of the orchestra.

"After this help from China, we gained respect. I think it's the most important thing for us, because like today, we play for a lot of important people," he said, referring to an event attended on Saturday by Chinese Ambassador to Brazil Zhu Qinqiao and Brazil's Minister of Culture Margareth Menezes.

The orchestra also performed for President Xi Jinping during his

state visit to Brazil in 2014, marking the 40th anniversary of the two countries' diplomatic relations.

As the Chinese president arrived in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday for the 19th G20 Summit and a state visit to Brazil, Kochem said that with such high-level exchanges between the two countries, China and Brazil are like brothers growing together for common development.

Rodrigues, the cellist, said she wants to play the cello throughout her life, and is preparing for admission to college.

It would be "an unimaginably good thing" if President Xi's visit could bring more opportunities for her to visit China again, or even study in that country, she added.



XI'S VISIT

It's love at first sight for specialist lived in Beijing

By MAY ZHOU
in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

In early November, Lucia Anderson returned to China, where she had spent more than six years living in Beijing, to undergo training for two months for her new job with BYD in Shenzhen, Guangdong province.

Anderson joined leading EV maker BYD Brazil as a senior specialist for intercultural training, a position she called "my dream job" for "building bridges to connect China and Brazil" when she announced it on LinkedIn.

"I am hired to give cultural trainings for Brazilians to better understand China and for Chinese to better understand Brazil," Anderson said, adding that her job also requires her to train Portuguese teachers who prepare Chinese to work in Brazil.

BYD has made a big investment to build a manufacturing complex in Campinas, northeastern Brazil. It's expected to go into operation by the end of this year or early next year with an estimated annual production capacity of 150,000 units in the first phase.

"It's going to be a very, very big factory. We are expecting to have between 10,000 to 15,000 employees. I know for China it's not too many, but for Brazil it's a very significant number," Anderson said.

Her extensive involvement with China came as an accident, Anderson said. She joined IBM in Brazil after college and three years later decided to gain some international experience.

"I applied for more than 60 countries. China was the first one that offered me a position. I went to China not because I was interested in China. I just went for a work opportunity. But as soon as I arrived, I fell in love with this country," Anderson said.

After her 10-month program with a Chinese pharmaceutical company in Beijing, Anderson decided to stay and landed a job as a Portuguese specialist for Xinhua News Agency for two and a half years.

The job allowed her to learn various aspects of China and she became obsessed with Chinese language and culture. To better understand it, she got into a master's program in Chinese language and history at Communication University of China in 2010.

By the time Anderson finished her master's, her stint in China had turned into a stay of over five years. While pursuing her degree, Anderson became obsessed with another dream: studying at Peking University.

She worked as a cultural consultant between China, Brazil and the United States for a few years from 2012. In 2016, she got accepted into a joint PhD program at Peking University and State University of Campinas in Brazil with a focus on Brazil-China relations.

She went back to Beijing for her



Lucia Anderson (right) during her last day of class with her students in June as a Portuguese lecturer at Beijing Normal University in Beijing. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

“I came to China to stay just 10 months. I liked it so much that I ended up staying a lifetime.”

Lucia Anderson, senior specialist for intercultural training at BYD Brazil

PhD, but the pandemic interrupted her plan to return to Brazil right after graduation. She ended up taking a job as a Portuguese lecturer at Beijing Normal University, a position she held until she returned to Brazil in July this year.

In total, Anderson has spent about 13 years in China's capital and considers herself almost a "Beijinger".

"I came to China to stay just 10 months. I liked it so much that I ended up staying a lifetime," Anderson said, speaking to China Daily from Shenzhen.

It's easy to fall in love with China, she said. "I love Chinese food so much, and I like all the different cuisines and the variety of them."

Another thing she likes about China is the sense of security. "In China I walk alone in the evening. I love this feeling of being safe. Even in Europe and in many parts of the US, it's not possible to feel as safe as I feel here."

"I love Beijing. I love the parks. I love the temples. I love walking and exploring the hutongs."

Anderson said she loves the friendliness of Chinese people and has made many friends with them. She recalled that one time she took a taxi and had a very bad cold. The taxi driver stopped the car and asked her to wait. Minutes later, he brought her a grapefruit drink from a store and told her that vitamin C would help her get better.

"I was really touched by his gesture. He showed me the kindness and generosity of Chinese people."

Relations between China and Brazil have grown commercially, diplomatically, culturally and linguistically, Anderson observed, and teaching Portuguese at a Beijing university gave her some unique perspectives.

"There is a long tradition of teaching the European version of Portuguese in China, but the market needs more Brazilian Portuguese speakers," Anderson said.

Chinese students who learn European Portuguese find that they have to relearn the Brazilian version of Portuguese to adapt to the market.

"So now we are seeing a change that more and more universities are teaching Brazilian Portuguese," Anderson said. "For sure it is due to the increased partnership and exchange between China and Brazil."

Demand for Portuguese language has also grown in China. "When I started working for the university over five years ago, around 40 universities offered Portuguese. Now there are more than 60."

There is also a big and growing

demand for knowledge of Chinese language and culture in Brazil, Anderson said, and all sorts of programs on how to do business with China are popping up.

"I have observed that some people came to China for two or three months and they went back saying they know about China," Anderson said with a tone of disapproval. "China now is very popular in Brazil and people are more aware of the importance of the country."

Through her job with BYD, Anderson hopes to help Chinese people learn how to work in Brazil and how to deal with Brazilians, and conversely, she wants to help Brazilians know more about China.

"I want them to know how things have a different way to function in the two countries so in the end we can cooperate and learn from each other," she said.

For example, time flows differently for Chinese and Brazilians, Anderson said. Chinese have a sense of urgency and they want things to be done fast. "But in Brazil, the time is different. Usually there is a flow to the process and things take time. Some Chinese have difficulty understanding that."

On the other hand, Brazilians have a hard time understanding Chinese sometimes because Chinese people are not used to saying "no" directly, which can confuse Brazilians, Anderson said.

"I think we're doing a good job trying to better understand each other. It takes time but we are on the right path."

Expert finds many reasons to hail China

Brazilian coordinator says Global South can take cue from Chinese development

By MAY ZHOU
in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
mayzhou@chinadailyusa.com

Brazilian Melissa Cambuhy, who calls herself a Marxist, said her keen interest in Chinese socialism led to finding her mission in life: strive for improved partnership between China and Brazil.

Her winding path has earned her different titles: lawyer, professor, researcher, and PhD candidate in international relations at Rio de Janeiro State University. Cambuhy is also the coordinator for Brazil-China International Cooperation as well as the Working Group Brazil-China Dialogues on Global Development and Governance at the Lula Institute in Sao Paulo.

She said, "I'm a Marxist, and it sparked an interest in Chinese socialism. So, the first thing that got my attention was this socialist experience that I would like to learn more about. Then I started researching and studying China-Brazil relations and working with international cooperation. So, one thing was becoming all these other things, but the first thing that developed my interest in China was its socialism."

At first, she was interested in law and development, but soon China's development story caught her eyes. By the time she was getting her master's degree, her thesis was examining how China was building a harmonious society.

Cambuhy's focus gradually shifted toward contemporary China, and she started to lecture about China's political economy and development.

Her research into China's development led to some realizations.

"I think that this Chinese experience can offer some important lessons to the Global South," she said. "The Global South countries can look up to the Chinese experience and realize that there are a lot of other ways for development in the world."

"The North, they tried to convince us — the Global South and Brazil — that capitalism would be enough to bring development to Brazil and the other countries. But it didn't work for us," she said.

Cambuhy didn't imply that Brazil should do exactly what China did.

According to her, for example, Brazil has its own problems such as "great racial inequality" with a history of slavery. She said that she believes in the "Chinese experience and the power of Chinese socialism" and in that China has shown that "there is another way", and Brazil can learn and build its own path of development.

Her research on China led her to another pursuit: international relations. She is pursuing a PhD degree in the field, with a focus on cooperation between Brazil and China. For the doctoral program, Cambuhy took a position last December as visiting researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing and spent six months studying on China.

The connections she made in Beijing gave her opportunities to facili-

tate exchanges between Brazil and China, she said, adding a CASS delegation visited Brazil in September.

Having made friends with some of the delegation while in Beijing, Cambuhy coordinated the signing of a memorandum of understanding between her school, Rio de Janeiro State University and CASS.

"I'm really happy that I could have them in Rio de Janeiro, and I could build this partnership between both institutions," she said.

Cambuhy also said that she was delighted by her social life in Beijing. "I lived in a hutong in Beijing. It was a great experience because I had a deep interest in the Chinese way of life. I was living in a very traditional city of Beijing, and at a really traditional place that is the center of the city in the hutongs," Cambuhy said.

Cambuhy took her daughter, Helena, with her to Beijing. Living among Chinese people, she said she could truly experience the Chinese way of life, "and I love it!"

"I can't speak Chinese, but there is something very special about Chinese people because even if you can't speak Chinese, they will try to communicate with you," she said.

She hired an *a-yi*, or babysitter in Chinese to take care of her daughter. "People asked me, 'How can you have a Chinese *a-yi* when you can't speak Chinese?' I told them, at first, we used the translator but then we started communicating with our hearts. I could communicate with people like that in some moments," Cambuhy said.

The first words her daughter uttered were Chinese — *a-yi* and *ni hao* (how are you?). "People in our neighborhood talked to her, and I'm sure that she could understand them. She made a lot of old friends there," she added.

A grandfather living across the alley would often take Helena for a walk around the hutong in the morning while Cambuhy was leaving for work at the academy. Sometimes, she would also take her daughter to play in the nearby park.

"Our normal days in the hutong were like that," she said. "Helena was so happy in the hutongs."

She visited a few other places in China and was delighted by the beauty of Gulangyu Island in Fujian province. However, what impressed her the most was how Chinese people live.

She plans to spend more time to learn about China and wants to return there in a few years when her daughter is a little older so that Helena could attend a public school in China. Cambuhy said she wants her daughter to live in a safer social environment.

"China has a lot of opportunities to explore in terms of cooperation, so I'm trying to help Brazil to explore all these opportunities. I really love Chinese people, and I love living in China, and I love Brazil. I have a big commitment with my country, so I hope that I can spend my whole life working in this partnership," said Cambuhy.

Bridging cultural differences to develop friendship

By MINLU ZHANG
in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
minluzhang@chinadailyusa.com

Gustavo Tavares sports silver studs in his right ear, and a yellow phone charger peeks out of his black pants. He looks stylish, perhaps owing to his year working in Rio's fashion industry just out of college.

Now, he's a mid-level staffer at State Grid Brazil Holding in Rio, working at the intersection of Brazilian and Chinese business cultures.

Tavares, 31, was born and raised in Paracambi, a town about 70 kilometers from the center of Rio de Janeiro. After working in fashion for a year, he returned to his hometown in 2017.

At that time, State Grid was constructing the world's largest ultra-high-voltage transmission line in Paracambi, a 2,500-kilometer project geared to transporting electricity from a massive hydroelectric plant in the north of Brazil to the more populated and industrialized regions in the south.

Fernando Coelho Filho, who was then minister of mines and energy, praised the confidence shown by the Chinese in taking charge of the project, which had a budget of R\$9.6 billion (\$1.7 billion), even amid the worst recession in the country's history.

Tavares found a job in the field working as a translator for the Chinese team and local teams. In addition to Portuguese, he speaks English, a language more commonly spoken by the Chinese.

At the end of a narrow dirt road in Paracambi, yellow tractors were lined up in an open field before the clearing for the project began.

"It was just sand. It was just ground," said Tavares. "They were cutting through the mountains and leveling everything," he said. That was the earthwork stage, preparing the foundations before the actual construction started. The place has changed a lot since, he said.

"When I started working with the Chinese team, I learned a lot. It was where I improved my English and picked up skills I never expected, like discussing construction and earthworks, and planning construction projects. It was a great experience. By the time I joined the communications team in 2020, it felt like a dream come true," Tavares said.

Now back in Rio working in the communication and marketing department of SGBH, Tavares said he enjoys working with his team. "I've learned a lot, and I've grown professionally. I made many

friends there, and I love my team — they're truly like friends to me," he said.

SGBH has 892 employees in Rio, about 60 of them are Chinese and more than 93 percent of them are local employees. Tavares is one of the company's 832 Brazilian employees.

"Chinese culture and Brazilian culture are very different," said Tavares, who has worked for the Chinese company for more than six years. When his Chinese colleagues arrive in Brazil, they often are a bit shy, he said. Tavares is usually the first to step forward and make friends with them.

"I think it's about how we treat each other. Brazilians are very warm. When the Chinese first arrived, they needed to feel this warmth, too. They needed to understand this aspect as well. The way Brazilians do things, and the way the Chinese approach things — it takes a little time for both sides to meet in the middle. However, six years later, I've gotten used to it," Tavares said with a laugh.

UNESCO named Rio as "World Capital of Architecture" for 2020. In the Centro area of the city, many of the concrete structures have sustained damage from the humid tropical climate, giving the neighborhood a worn-out appearance. Yet, the 16-story office build-

ing of the Chinese company State Grid stands out with its new, glass facade.

Over the past six years, Tavares has worked with many Chinese colleagues and made close friendships. He even invites his current Chinese manager to his birthday party every year.

"We're almost the same age, so we think alike. We're very close in how we see things because of our similar age. We met each other, and we like each other a lot," he said.

On Nov 16, at Rio's Botanical Garden, one could look up and see the statue of Christ the Redeemer, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Below the icon, Tavares and his team were busy organizing the China-Brazil Friendship Garden opening event.

The Chinese Ambassador to Brazil Zhu Qingqiao, and the Brazilian Minister of Culture Margaret Menezes attended. Tavares and his team had been preparing for the moment for several months.

"I also learned from my Chinese colleagues about responsibility. They're very responsible about everything. They are very respectful of their country, their history, and everything related. I've learned from them to be more passionate about our country's history," Tavares said.



Melissa Cambuhy takes a selfie with her daughter in front of the door of their temporary hutong residence in Beijing in March. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

CHINA

Deep-sea research ship to sail soon

Multifunctional *Tansuo 3* ready to enhance oceanic research capabilities

By ZHAO LEI
zhaolei@chinadaily.com.cn

China will soon commission an advanced, multifunctional research ship that recently concluded its first sea trial.

The *Tansuo 3*, or Exploration 3, was jointly designed by researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Deep-sea Science and Engineering, China State Shipbuilding Corp's Guangzhou Shipyard International and other research entities. Its construction started in June 2023 at the shipyard, and the main body was completed in April.

The vessel underwent an eight-day trial voyage in late October and then returned to the shipyard for a final equipment installation and some fine-tuning. There are plans for the ship to undergo more sea trials, according to He Guangwei, deputy chief engineer of Guangzhou Shipyard International and the vessel's chief designer.

"During the trial operation, engineers tested the ship's capabilities and performance, including its speed, maneuverability, operational noise and information capacity, and the results were satisfactory. It is scheduled to be commissioned in early 2025," he said on Friday.

Measuring 104 meters long and with a displacement of about 10,000 metric tons, the *Tansuo 3* has a maximum speed of 16 knots, or 29.6 kilometers per hour, and can sail as far as about 27,800 km in a single voyage. It is operated by 80 sailors and scientific instrument operators.

According to the Institute of Deep-sea Science and Engineering in Sanya, Hainan province, the *Tansuo 3* is equipped with world-class scientific equipment such as advanced deep-sea sonar and release systems for crewed and robotic submersibles, and is able to conduct comprehensive surveys of oceanic elements such as deep-sea water and seabed geographies.

The ship also has bidirectional ice-breaking capability that enables it to operate in polar regions in the summer.

It can conduct deep-sea investigations and cultural relic excavations from the seafloor, the institute said, noting that Chinese researchers have made several technological breakthroughs with the ship's development.

The new ship will greatly improve the country's deep-sea scientific exploration efforts, helping scientists better understand the deep-sea ecosystem, geological structures and distribution of marine resources, according to researchers.

China has invested heavily in its oceanic research capability and has built a considerable fleet of survey ships.

On Sunday, the nation's first domestically designed and built deep-ocean drilling ship, named *Mengxiang*, or Dream, was delivered to the China Geological Survey under the Ministry of Natural Resources.

It will be used to drill through the Earth's crust and into the upper mantle to survey resources and collect samples.

Technological event



A robotic arm is on display at the China 5G+ Industrial Internet Conference in Wuhan, Hubei province, on Tuesday. The event featured interactive exhibition zones with industrial robots, humanoid robots and intelligent connected vehicles, as well as demonstrations of autonomous driving technology outside the venue. SHI WEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

China making strides in circular economy

By HOU LIQIANG in Baku, Azerbaijan
houliqiang@chinadaily.com.cn

The significant advancement of China's circular economy has emerged as a crucial driver of the nation's sustainability efforts, contributing to 25 percent of the country's overall carbon emission reduction, a senior climate expert said.

Zhu Liyang, a member of China's National Expert Panel on Climate Change, also noted that despite entering the circular economy arena relatively late, the country has risen to become a global giant in the field.

"After over 20 years of development, China has made remarkable progress in promoting its circular economy," said Zhu, who is also president of the China Association of Circular Economy, in an interview with China Daily on the sidelines of the ongoing COP29 United Nations climate change conference.

The UN gathering of almost 200 countries kicked off in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Nov 11 and is slated to conclude on Friday.

Zhu especially noted China's efforts to promote the transformation of industrial parks across the country — which contribute to 30 percent of the country's carbon emissions — to help them better cater to circular development.

He said the coupling of upstream and downstream industrial chains is one of the priorities, with an aim to optimize the recycling and use of waste resources to establish a robust new industrial chain that bolsters the circular economy.

Thanks to such efforts, China used 4 billion metric tons of bulk solid waste in 2023, and the usage rate of newly added solid waste that year was nearly 60 percent, he added.

"This is a very remarkable achievement," he said.

Bulk solid waste refers to large quantities of solid waste materials that are typically generated by industrial processes, construction activities or other sources. This type of trash is usually heavy and not easily compacted.

China recycled 260 million tons of steel waste in 2023, he said, and of that, 220 to 230 million tons were used as scrap for steel making.

The practice has shortened the steel production process, contributing significantly to the reduction of energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions, Zhu said.

"Once a laggard in circular economy development, it has swiftly caught up with leading nations and now spearheads the field, all within a mere 20-year span," he remarked.

The United States and European countries embarked on circular economy initiatives much earlier, he said. In his recent discussions with representatives from these countries, however, he found many of them expressed eagerness to glean insights from China's experiences.

Zhu highlighted the significant potential of online electronics recycling platforms to boost China's circular economy.

Currently, over 400 million mobile phones are discarded every year in China, with only about 5 percent of them entering professional recycling channels, according to the China Association of Circular Economy.

As digitalization and smart technology advance, internet recycling platforms have embraced a boom, and old devices can now be efficiently and conveniently recycled through such platforms, he said.

The mature technologies of some of the platforms in data erasure

have addressed many people's concerns over the safety of information in their devices, he added, citing online platform Zhuanzhuang as an example.

This enables the reintroduction of many of the devices, including cellphones, into the market, he said.

According to Chen Xiaochen, president of Zhuanzhuang's Sustainable Development Committee, the company established in 2015 has started offering a service to collect secondhand products at sellers' homes following online orders, and plans to make the service available in 270 prefecture-level cities and 300 county seats by the end of this year.

The number of cities covered by such business is expected to increase to about 1,000 by the end of 2025, she said at a side event at COP29.

As of last year, the trading of secondhand goods through Zhuanzhuang's platform has contributed to a reduction of over 4.1 million tons in carbon emissions.

The reduction is comparable to the emissions produced by a traditional oil-fueled car circling the Earth's equator 580,000 times or traveling a distance of 23.1 billion kilometers, the company said.

Zhu emphasized that while some idle cellphones may not be suitable for reuse, they can still be disassembled for recycling purposes to recover valuable metals, rubber and plastics.

He called on the government to establish standards aimed at enhancing the regulation of electronic product designs, ensuring they are easily and efficiently disassembled to maximize resources that can be recovered.

"The online recycling businesses are still in their early stages, but they boast huge market potential," he said.

Suzhou has new sister city in Peru

By CANG WEI and PENG CHAO

Suzhou in East China's Jiangsu province will facilitate exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation with Chancay, its newly established sister city in Peru's Lima region, local officials said.

Wei Shujie, director of the Suzhou Foreign Affairs Office, said the two cities will promote the sister-city relationship to boost cooperation in areas such as trade, port agreements and industrial park construction, contributing to the China-Peru comprehensive strategic partnership.

He said a key aspect of their cooperation will be the partnership between Suzhou Port and Chancay Port, with the shipping routes between them fostering the common development of the two countries.

The container throughput of Taicang Port, a major port area of Suzhou Port, exceeded 8 million twenty-foot equivalent units last year, ranking eighth in the country, while the first phase of the Chancay Port project has been designed with an annual throughput of 1 million TEUs, Wei said.

The Chancay Port, developed by China's COSCO Shipping Group and inaugurated on Thursday by the presidents of both countries, is a natural deep-water port on the east coast of the Pacific Ocean.

\$604 million

Value of bilateral trade between Suzhou and Peru in the first three quarters this year, an increase of 29.3 percent year-on-year.

As a landmark project under China's Belt and Road Initiative, it is expected to boost Peruvian exports and strengthen trade between Latin America and Asia.

Chen Zuxiang, deputy general manager of Taicang International Container Terminal Co, said 160 sets of equipment required for port operations were dispatched in September and October in two batches from Taicang Port to Chancay Port.

He said Chancay Port is a multifunctional, automated terminal that provides a highly convenient channel for the export of goods from the Yangtze River Delta region, especially the Suzhou Port area, to South America.

Wang Minyong, director of the development and services bureau of the Jiangsu Taicang Port Management Committee, said that many shipping routes from China to Latin America had to pass through the Panama Canal in the past, resulting in longer distances and travel times.

"With the opening of the Chancay Port, the direct maritime route from the port to China will significantly shorten the transportation time by about 10 days to 23 days, reducing logistics costs by at least 20 percent," he said.

This will boost traders' confidence in bringing time-sensitive goods such as fruits and fresh produce from Latin America to Suzhou and the Yangtze River Delta region, and facilitate the transportation of industrial products from Suzhou and its surrounding areas to Latin America, Wang added.

Trade between Suzhou and Latin America has been growing in recent years. The value of bilateral trade between Suzhou and Peru in the first three quarters this year totaled \$604 million, an increase of 29.3 percent compared with the same period last year, according to statistics from the Suzhou Foreign Affairs Office.

In the first 10 months, 121,000 passenger cars were exported from Taicang Port to 28 Latin American countries and regions, an increase of 40.6 percent year-on-year.

Guo Jun contributed to this story.

Contact the writers at
pengchao@chinadaily.com.cn

Chow time



Students enjoy various foods at a campus food festival at Congjiang Second Ethnic Middle School in Congjiang, Guizhou province, on Monday. Students cooked dishes and created fruit platters to showcase labor education achievements. LU ZHONGNAN / FOR CHINA DAILY

HK court sentences 45 for illegal poll

By WILLIAM XU and WU KUNLING in Hong Kong

Four masterminds and 41 key participants behind a subversive attempt by the opposition camp to paralyze the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government in 2020 were slapped with court sentences ranging from four to 10 years on Tuesday.

The 45 — including former law scholar Benny Tai Yiu-ting and prominent activist Joshua Wong Chi-fung — were among 47 who were charged with violating Hong Kong's National Security Law for their roles in promoting an illegal poll orchestrated by the opposition camp to win a majority in the Legislative Council election, with the goal of eventually paralyzing the HKSAR government. They were convicted of conspiracy to subvert State power in May, with two people acquitted of the charge.

In its 82-page judgment handed down on Tuesday, the court said Tai "was not only the initiator" of the primary election, but also "an organizer" of it.

Calling Tai "the mastermind" behind the scheme, the judges agreed that he "could be well

placed" in the "principal offender" category. Tai was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Along with Tai, three other defendants — former legislator Au Nok-hin and ex-district councilors Andrew Chiu Ka-yin and Ben Chung Kam-lun — were also deemed by the court to be "principal offenders", worthy of sentences of 12 to 15 years. However, they were given reductions in their sentencing because they pleaded guilty early and assisted the prosecution in the trial, among other mitigating factors.

Au, who later became a prosecution witness, was sentenced to six years and nine months in prison.

Chiu received a seven-year prison term, and Chung was sentenced to six years and one month.

Of the 45 convicted, the court identified 41 as "active participants" and meted out prison terms ranging from 50 months to 93 months.

Among them was Joshua Wong Chi-fung, a prominent activist who was sentenced to 56 months in prison, while former lawmaker Claudia Mo Man-ching received a 50-month sentence. Owen Chow Ka-shing, another leader of the primary election scheme, was sentenced to seven years and nine months in prison.

Former reporter of the now-defunct news outlet Stand News, Gwyneth Ho Kwai-lam, received a seven-year sentence.

During a news conference in Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said that Hong Kong upholds the rule of law, and adherence to laws and holding offenders accountable are foundational principles. He stressed that no individual should be allowed to partake in unlawful acts under the pretext of democracy and then seek to evade legal consequences.

Lin pointed out that the allegations made by certain Western nations regarding the impartial enforcement of the National Security Law by Hong Kong's courts lack merit and amount to a contravention of the rule of law, given that these nations also safeguard their national security through judicial procedures.

Furthermore, he reaffirmed that the central government strongly supports Hong Kong in protecting national security and lawfully prosecuting any actions that pose a threat to national security.

On Tuesday afternoon after the court's sentencing, Hong Kong's Secretary for Security Chris Tang



Correctional Services Department vehicles arrive at the West Kowloon Law Courts Building in Hong Kong on Tuesday ahead of the sentencing of 45 people convicted of conspiracy to commit subversion under the National Security Law for their involvement in a so-called "primary election" held in July 2020. ADAM LAM / CHINA DAILY

Ping-keung said that the length of the sentences reflects the seriousness of the relevant offenses and demonstrates the government's determination to severely punish crimes that endanger national security. He said the authorities will carefully examine the sentences and judgments of individual defendants and consider whether to file appeals.

The high-profile case, which spanned 16 months, drew long queues of residents and media outside the West Kowloon Law Courts

Building on Tung Chau Street, despite the rain on Tuesday morning. Some residents lined up the night before in order to secure a seat in the public gallery.

Police officers and courthouse staff were at the scene to maintain order. The courtroom's public gallery filled up quickly. A total of 400 seats were set aside for the public, with livestreaming made available in overflow rooms.

Contact the writers at
williamxu@chinadailyhk.com

CHINA



The first show of the Sino-French Children's Chorus Friendship Bridge event is held at the Hainan Center for the Performing Arts in Haikou, Hainan province, on Oct 24. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

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

Singing groups from Hainan, Paris forge unlikely friendship, advance cultural understanding, exchanges

Children from ethnic villages in the tropical rainforest of Hainan province have formed an unlikely friendship with their peers from cosmopolitan Paris — their liaison forged by the unifying power of song.

During French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to China in April 2023, the French children's song *Si j'allais en Chine* (If I had the opportunity to go to China) went viral online.

In 2024, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and France, the Parisian children's choir Le Choeur des Polysons, performed the song and shared Lunar New Year greetings with China via a television broadcast.

Moved by the show of warmth, Liu Min, composer, conductor, and artistic director of the Li and Miao Ethnic Children's Chorus from Wuzhishan city, Hainan, composed a song called *Sing Wuzhishan to France*.

Established in August 2022, the Wuzhishan chorus consists mostly of students from the Li and Miao ethnic groups. Growing up surrounded by green mountains and clear waters, the children had no idea that their love of singing would one day take them to the other side of the world.

On May 6, the Wuzhishan chorus traveled to France to take part in 60th anniversary celebrations with the Parisian children's choir. During the event, 18 Li and Miao children donned traditional ethnic attire and sang *Sing Wuzhishan to France* in both French and Chinese.

Singing the song in French was no easy task for a group of Chinese children with zero knowledge of the language.

"French grammar is quite challenging. The children had to transcribe all the lyrics into Chinese characters and pinyin, mark the tones, and then practice reciting the lyrics fluently," Liu explained. "By understanding the meaning of each line and stringing the lyrics together, they were able to both comprehend and sing it."

The song's lyrics declare Wuzhishan's tropical rainforest and the snow-capped mountains of France are both beneath the same bright sun. The lyrics also refer to the allure of Wuzhishan's black tea and Bordeaux's fine wines, with each area appreciating the other's unique beauty.

Liu said through the song's performance, the children of Wuzhishan expressed their wish for friendly



Chinese and French children quickly bond and become friends during a study tour in Wuzhishan, Hainan, on Oct 25. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



interaction between the people of both nations.

At the Paris event, children from Wuzhishan also performed Li and Miao ethnic music.

Li Ye, interpreter for Le Choeur des Polysons and director of the Association Vent d'Orient Vent d'Occident which has co-organized the concert in Paris, said the occasion marked French people's first exposure to Hainan's ethnic minority music and art, with songs sung in the Li and Miao dialects.

Warm welcome

The joint performance on stage and the exchange of gifts offstage fostered profound friendships between the two groups of children. The young French choristers pledged to one day visit Hainan and immerse themselves in the distinctive culture of the province's ethnic groups.

Five months later, the Parisian children's choir fulfilled this promise.

Three performances were held from Oct 24 to 27 as the first part of the Sino-French Children's Chorus Friendship Bridge event. One was at the Hainan Center for the Performing Arts in Haikou, another in the Hainan University Lecture Hall in Haikou, and the third at the Baoshan Bamboo House in Maona village, Wuzhishan.

During the performances, many classic songs were featured.

"The highlight of the show was when the French children's choir sang *The Moon Represents My Heart* in Chinese, which elevated the atmosphere to a climax," said an audience member from Haikou surnamed Wang, who attended the first show.

"My family and I couldn't help

but join in singing along from the audience."

Elisabeth Trigo, founder, conductor and artistic director of Le Choeur des Polysons, said after the first meeting in Paris in May, she began eagerly looking forward to visiting Hainan.

"I never expected that this dream would come true so quickly. Music has built a bridge of friendship between China and France. The exchange experience is truly unforgettable," Trigo said.

She said the third performance held at the Baoshan Bamboo House was a highlight, and described the unconventional outdoor atmosphere and the joyous bonfire party that followed the show as truly remarkable.

Wider horizons

In addition to the music performances, the French children also participated in educational and cultural activities, including exploring the Wuzhishan section of Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park and immersing themselves in local heritage.

The visitors had the opportunity to learn and experience Li musical instruments, Li and Miao songs, Li brocade weaving, Miao silver jewelry-making techniques, and bamboo dances.

Traditional instruments in Hainan are often crafted from bamboo, wood, and other natural materials, including animal skins, that are available on the tropical island. These elements contribute to the simple, naturalistic music style.

The Li people, lacking a written language, preserved their history and cultural traditions through their traditional music.

The Li ethnic group also has a rich

tradition of creating brocade, with a history spanning over 3,000 years. This intricate craft, involving spinning, dyeing, weaving, and embroidery, was inscribed on the World Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2009.

Before departing Wuzhishan, the French children also tried Li pottery. Under the guidance of local instructors, each child unleashed their creativity, by shaping clay into diverse forms inspired by their surroundings.

"Some sculpted roses, others crafted star shapes, and one child molded the clay into the likeness of Wuzhi Mountain itself, expressing a deep fondness for the locale," said Li Ye, the interpreter.

Anouk du Chaffaut, a member of the Parisian choir, sculpted a Li pottery piece to gift to her close friend Wang Mingru, a member of the Wuzhishan chorus. The item not only has Wang's name etched into it, but also features traditional patterns from Li culture. Chaffaut said she hopes that when Wang looks at the piece of pottery, she will think of her French friend.

Valentin Remond Lebec, a member of the French choir, said: "Hainan is even more beautiful than I imagined, and it is different from other parts of China I have visited before. There is more vegetation here, with lush greenery as far as the eye can see. I find it incredibly beautiful, and I really like it."

Trigo, the founder of the Parisian choir, said the visit to Wuzhishan, with its breathtaking natural landscapes and rich ethnic heritage, had introduced her to a different side of China.

"We brought 25 children this time, and there were 25 children

who couldn't come," she said. "We will share our experiences with those who couldn't make it and take back souvenirs, including Li brocade ribbons, skirts and picture frames, local tea from Wuzhishan, and Li pottery vases."

Le Choeur des Polysons has around 50 members ranging in age from seven to 15 years old. It was established in 1994 and has performed in many countries including the United Kingdom, Italy, and Switzerland.

Trigo said that all the children in the choir will wear the Li brocade ribbons during the choir's 30th-anniversary celebration in Paris in December.

New experiences

For choir member Camille Lepreire the simple pleasure of drinking a coconut for the first time was a highlight of the trip. "I am thrilled to observe the process of opening and savoring coconuts in Hainan. And I also bought Li ethnic earrings, skirts, and clothing that I truly adore," she said.

For another choir member, Clementine Mathieu Veniard, the most unforgettable experience was singing with the Chinese children. She said they were very friendly. The children from both countries sang together, interacted well, visited many places, and participated in multiple activities.

Wang Ruhuan, a member of the Wuzhishan chorus, was fond of the gift exchanges and deepening friendships. She said that during their first and second meetings, the children exchanged gifts including a red handkerchief and a miniature model of the Eiffel Tower. On their second meeting in Hainan, they exchanged dolls.

"Through these interactions, I have formed stronger bonds with my French choir friends and made six new acquaintances. During their visit to Maona village, two French friends bought me a Miao hair pin, which I will treasure and keep in a very special place," she said.

Wang said she shed tears when they had to part, but she eagerly looks forward to reuniting with her French pals. She vowed to give them the "best gifts" when they reunite.

Liu, the conductor of the ethnic chorus, described the children's shared rehearsals as heartwarming, as they learned new vocal techniques and performance styles from each other.

After meeting in Paris in May, they formed friendships and further deepened their bond through rehearsals, performances, and interactions, he said. "As the children bid farewell, they found it hard to part ways," Liu said.

In tune together

Despite the language barrier, music serves as a means of emotional and spiritual connection, allowing them to communicate through simple English, French, and Chinese as well as gestures, eye contact, and even sentiments, Liu added.

Trigo said it had been wonderful sharing musical experiences with the children from Hainan, and receiving numerous gifts and warm greetings from a diverse range of people they had met on the trip.

"These memories will be deeply engraved in our hearts. Just like the French version of *Auld Lang Syne* goes, 'This is just a farewell, until we meet again,'" she said.

On the last day of the trip, the French children visited the Hainan Tropical Wildlife Park and Botanical Garden in Haikou. Trigo expressed hope they could come together again for an animal-themed concert, which would be a new avenue for the young choristers.

Many of the young French visitors said that only by visiting China can its beauty and marvels be understood.

"The song *Si j'allais en Chine* marks just the beginning of a dream to visit China. There are still many wonders in China waiting for me to explore and discover," said Lebec from the French choir.

Liu said at the end of each show, children from both countries sang *Auld Lang Syne* together, symbolizing the enduring friendship between the two groups and exemplifying the wishes for stronger bilateral relations.



Left: Children from Le Choeur des Polysons and Wuzhishan's Li and Miao Ethnic Children's Chorus visit the Hainan Tropical Wildlife Park to experience the biodiversity of the island province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY Middle: Singers from both countries interact warmly at Baoshan Bamboo House in Wuzhishan, on Oct 27. Right: Members of Le Choeur des Polysons learn how to do the bamboo dance at the Oct 27 event. PHOTOS BY LUO YUNFEI / CHINA NEWS SERVICE



CHINA

Female runner discovers joy of marathons

'My goal is to keep running until I'm 99'

By ZHAO RUINAN in Nanchang
zhaoruinan@chinadaily.com.cn

Sun Jiaoqiong, a 54-year-old runner, just completed her fifth marathon of the year in Nanchang, Jiangxi province, finishing in 4 hours and 14 minutes.

Since she began running six years ago, Sun has accumulated 9,900 kilometers, just shy of the 10,000-km milestone.

"I'm definitely hitting that mark this year," said Sun, adding that her training has suffered in 2024 due to a busy work schedule, which has left her feeling less than ideal.

The 2024 Nanchang Marathon, held on Nov 10, saw a record 35,000 participants.

On the 42.2-km marathon circuit, Sun and her running friends find themselves in a distinct minority: older female participants. At the same time, this demographic difference is a source of pride for her. "Typically, women runners make up only about 20 percent of participants in a marathon," she said.

Women over 50 who take on this challenging sport are a minority within that minority.

For instance, in the upcoming Xiamen Marathon in early January, official statistics show that women over 50 constitute less than 10 percent of the approximately 35,000 entrants.

Sun said that a fellow female runner from Huangpu district in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, who recently turned 74, completed the Beijing Marathon in an impressive 4 hours and 54 minutes on Nov 3.

This kind of runners inspire



Besides life and death, I believe there's no difficulty that can't be overcome."

Sun Jiaoqiong, runner from Lianshan town in Guanghan, Sichuan province

Sun. "I want to learn from her. My goal is to keep running until I'm 99," she said.

A native of Lianshan town in Guanghan city, Sichuan province, Sun's talent for long-distance running was recognized in junior high during school sports events. As she wasn't fast in sprints, she chose to focus on longer distances, such as the 800 meters and 1,500 meters. "Classmates used to say, 'How can someone so petite run so well?'" said Sun, who is less than 1.6 meters tall.

Her passion for running was reignited in August 2018 when she volunteered at a hospital in Huangpu district in Guangzhou. There, she connected with a group of long-distance enthusiasts who helped her get back on track.

Currently, she works as a cleaner at Asensing, a Guangzhou-based Chinese startup specializing in high-precision positioning technology.

As she navigates the workstations with her cart every day, she often goes unnoticed by the engineers focused on coding and product development.

However, her slightly tanned skin, Garmin sports watch on her



Sun Jiaoqiong participates in the 2024 Nanchang Marathon in Jiangxi province on Nov 10. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

left wrist, and impressive collection of colorful running shoes reveal her identity as a veteran runner.

"I have a lot of running shoes — over a dozen pairs," Sun said.

Over the past six years, Sun has left her mark in 12 locations across China, including Guangdong, Sichuan, Guizhou, Hunan and Jiangxi provinces.

When asked about the greatest

change that running marathons has brought to her life, Sun said that it "brought me out of my mental distress".

"Besides life and death, I believe there's no difficulty that can't be overcome," she said.

On Dec 1, she will participate in her 16th marathon, and sixth of the year, on the seaside island of Hailing in Yangjiang, Guangdong province.

Improved highways boost development in Guizhou

GUIYANG — Every morning at 6:50 am, 47-year-old driver Yang Changkai sets off in his truck loaded with parcels from an express logistics hub located 15 kilometers from downtown Guiyang, Guizhou province.

He drives to the logistics center in Guanling Bouyei and Miao autonomous county, ensuring the parcels arrive by 9:40 am for same-day delivery to rural buyers.

Yang's route, once a challenging journey through winding mountain roads, is now much quicker thanks to new highways and construction of the Baling River Bridge. These developments have significantly reduced travel time and transportation costs.

"Now it takes just over two hours for a one-way trip, but 15 years ago the same distance would take almost an entire day," he said.

Mountainous and hilly areas account for 92.5 percent of Guizhou's land area. The province once suffered from poor transportation, a lack of logistics networks and delayed information flow.

However, after years of development, Guizhou has built a "bridge-and-tunnel plain" among its mountains. By the end of last year, the province had constructed over 200,000 km of roads, including 8,784 km of highways.

Baling River Bridge, which opened to traffic in 2009, marked the dawn of Guizhou's world-class bridge construction. In recent years, Guizhou has strived to upgrade its transportation system with an eye toward modernity and connectivity. Currently, more than 30,000 bridges have been built or are under construction in the province.

Today, Guizhou boasts around half of the world's 100 highest bridges. Some not only help shorten travel time between major cities and scenic spots but have also become tourist attractions in their own right.

As the transportation network continues to improve, the logistics network in Guizhou has also expanded, greatly facilitating daily life and production for the local population.

"In 2013, when the delivery station was first established, we only handled about 200 parcels

per day. This year, the daily average reached 6,500 parcels," said Zheng Yong, head of a courier company at a logistics center in Guanling.

He added that residents are buying more goods through express delivery services. Additionally, convenient logistics have helped local specialties such as pepper, spicy chile and yellow ginger reach markets beyond the mountains.

Currently, over half of all parcels entering and leaving Guizhou are sorted and processed at the Guizhou express logistics hub. Covering more than 50 square km, the hub is home to 46 express logistics, warehousing and distribution companies. It handles over 3.5 million parcels daily and directly creates about 9,000 jobs.

"Guizhou's transportation used to be inconvenient, with few companies and factories, so many of us had to leave home to find work. Now, with the development of highways and high-speed railways, there are companies right at our doorstep, giving us more job options," said Yu Jianghong, an employee at one of the logistics companies in the hub.

Her job mainly involves packaging goods that customers order online. After she carefully packs each item, the products are delivered via express services and typically reach their destinations in two or three days.

New roads extending into rural areas have also become vital routes for selling agricultural products from mountainous areas.

Despite being 76 years old, Wang Xueliang, a resident of Baling village in Guanling, still works tirelessly in the fields.

This year, he planted several types of vegetables, including loofah and gourd. With over 20 years of experience in vegetable farming, Wang earns a good income each year and lives a comfortable life.

"In the past, selling vegetables meant carrying them on our backs, and it was hard to get a good price even in town, let alone in the city. Now, with convenient highway access, trucks can drive straight to the fields to purchase our vegetables," Wang said.

XINHUA



An aerial photo of a section of the Jianhe-Liping Expressway in Guizhou province on Oct 20. YANG WENBIN / XINHUA

Craftsman keeps musical tradition thriving

URUMQI — In a small courtyard dappled with light under a grape arbor, 65-year-old Nurdun Esmayil was making handmade folk musical instruments with his family and apprentices. Although he cannot read music, his keen ears have enabled him to make and play these instruments with precision.

Hailing from a village in Xinhe county in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, Nurdun Esmayil is a master craftsman specializing in making Uygur folk musical string instruments such as *dutar*, *tambur* and *satar*.

An important spot along the ancient Silk Road up to 2,000 years ago, the county is known for traditional Kuqa music and dance, named after the ancient kingdom of Kuqa.

While China has attached importance to preserving ethnic

culture, recognizing traditional craftsmanship skills as intangible cultural heritage and encouraging businesses to help pass down such skills, locals have developed the ethnic instrument manufacturing industry as a key source of income.

Born into a family that makes instruments, Nurdun Esmayil has been in the business for over 40 years. In 2008, Xinhe county's ethnic instrument-making techniques were added to China's national intangible cultural heritage list. That same year, Nurdun Esmayil was officially recognized as a regional-level inheritor of this tradition, receiving financial support to continue his work.

He has trained over 100 apprentices, passing down his knowledge to ensure the art does not fade away.

His method is rigorous. "Crafting a tuning peg can be

mastered in a week, but to meet my standards, they should spend at least a year," he said, underscoring the level of precision his father taught him.

The materials Nurdun Esmayil uses have changed over the years, ranging from traditional mulberry wood to other imported materials. Traditional sheep-gut strings have given way to modern nylon.

"Unlike in the past, when it was extremely hard to bring an ideal piece of wood home because of the bumpy road and not having vehicles, now we can have any materials delivered from anywhere in the world," he said.

Nowadays, the village is home to more than 120 artisans producing over 50 varieties of instruments, with more than 20,000 pieces sold every year.

Eyeing the potential of the vil-

lage's unique intangible cultural heritage, local authorities have rebranded the area as a tourist destination under the "musical instrument village" brand, drawing visitors from around China and abroad.

Inspired by peers, Nurdun Esmayil is considering registering a trademark to pass down the cultural heritage and leave it as a legacy to his family.

Born in the internet era, his 12-year-old grandson likes playing drums and dancing to welcome visitors, showing promise as a potential inheritor of the family's musical legacy. "If I could start over, I'd study music theory, read music and play all kinds of music that I want to," Nurdun Esmayil said, watching his grandson attentively.

XINHUA

Beijing's ancient trees receive tender care and restoration

As Hungarian tourist Peter Tuli wandered through Jingshan Park in central Beijing, his gaze was drawn to a remarkable sight: a millennium-old Chinese scholar tree standing proudly.

This ancient tree, with its tall and upright trunk, stretches its branches wide, standing out against the backdrop of the park's architecture adorned with gray tiles and red walls.

"I read the introduction about this tree, tracing its roots back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907). It's simply amazing," said Tuli, capturing the moment in a photo.

In recent years, experts have been conducting regular inspections and protection of the ancient trees here. They are periodically brought in to assess the trees' health, and urgent rescue and restoration work is carried out for endangered and weakened specimens.

Benefiting from the dedicated care, historic tree clusters in Jingshan Park, the Forbidden City, the



Ancient trees line the path to a hall in Beijing's Jingshan Park on Nov 1. PHOTOS BY LUO XIN / XINHUA

Imperial Ancestral Temple, the Altar of Land and Grain, the Temple of Heaven and the Temple of Agriculture have been revitalized.

Thousands of ancient trees now thrive, telling the story of Beijing's rich and enduring history to the many visitors.

"We have implemented a series

of restoration measures for the ancient trees, such as connecting green spaces to expand their nutrient area and installing protective fencing to reduce visitor interference," said Zhou Mingjie, an official with Jingshan Park's management office.

Alongside the trees, dozens of



Fencing is used to protect an ancient tree at the Temple of Heaven Park in Beijing.

crafted stone tree pits have also been preserved, Zhou added.

Tang Shuo, an engineer with

Zhongshan Park's management office, said digital technologies have been employed to provide

data support for the research and protection of ancient trees. Over the years, the city has also ramped up its initiatives to raise public awareness, with measures such as organizing family educational activities and creating digital identity cards for the trees.

"By scanning with a mobile phone, users can instantly access information such as the age, height, average crown width, and historical and cultural details of the ancient trees in the park," said Wang An, an employee of the landscape management bureau of the Temple of Heaven Park. Each ancient tree is a living piece of history, and protecting them means safeguarding the essence of this city, said Wang.

XINHUA

Wishing China's high-level government visit to Brazil great success!



AD

BUSINESS

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

Stimulus measures to be enhanced

Large-scale equipment upgrades, cash-for-clunkers seen boosting GDP

By OUYANG SHIJIA

ouyangshijia@chinadaily.com.cn

China will ramp up efforts to drive large-scale equipment upgrades and trade-in deals for consumer goods, with plans for strengthened supervision of the funds and measures to stimulate consumer spending, China's top economic regulator said on Tuesday.

Li Chao, a spokeswoman for the National Development and Reform Commission, said the next phase will see strengthened full-chain supervision of funding, ensuring that projects swiftly deliver tangible outcomes. Authorities will also crack down on market malpractices, such as deceptive pricing tactics like "raising prices before applying discounts" and false promotions.

"We will conduct evaluations to strengthen support for policies

aimed at driving equipment upgrades and trade-in deals for consumer goods, summarizing and extending successful experiences and practices," Li said at a news conference in Beijing on Tuesday.

"Meanwhile, we will study and propose new policy measures to further increase support and expand the scope of the policies, which will be publicly announced in due course after completing the necessary procedures," she added. "The goal is to continue using the policies to benefit the public, enhance corporate profits and drive economic improvement."

China's accelerated push for driving large-scale equipment upgrades and promoting trade-in deals for consumer goods is paying off, with significant growth in consumer spending on key goods like home appliances and accelerated development in industrial upgrad-

ing, providing a solid base for the country's continued economic recovery, said officials and experts.

In October, sales of home appliances — also known as white goods — and audiovisual equipment jumped nearly 40 percent year-on-year, the NDRC said.

Li said the policies are designed to stimulate economic recovery from both the supply and demand sides, as businesses are encouraged to upgrade their products to meet evolving consumer needs, while trade-in incentives boost consumer spending.

The approach is yielding results. In the first 10 months, investment in purchases of equipment and tools rose 16.1 percent year-on-year, contributing over 60 percent to overall investment growth.

The National Bureau of Statistics said retail sales, a key measure of consumer spending, grew 4.8 percent year-on-year in October, up from 3.2 percent in September.

"Thanks to policymakers' cash-for-clunkers program funded by

150 billion yuan (\$21 billion) in ultra-long-term government bonds, retail sales growth jumped in October," said Lu Ting, chief China economist at Nomura.

As the trade-in program continues to boost sales of cars and white goods, his team expects retail sales growth to remain elevated over the rest of this year, he added.

Zhou Maohua, a researcher at China Everbright Bank, said he believes China will likely register around its 5 percent annual economic growth target, buoyed by a suite of countercyclical policies introduced since September.

"The measures have boosted market expectations, with consumption and investment showing signs of strengthening in the year's final stretch," Zhou said. "Robust demand management policies are aligning domestic demand with stable supply, positioning the economy for a balanced recovery."

Looking ahead, Li from the NDRC said China's economy is

expected to sustain its recovery momentum during the November-December period, building on the upward trend seen since October, as existing policy measures take effect and new policies are implemented.

"We are working collaboratively with all sectors to ensure the annual growth goal is met," she said.

Li added that China's economic outlook for 2025 remains optimistic, supported by robust structural factors and favorable market conditions. Key among these are over 300 major reform initiatives set in motion at the third plenary session of the 20th Communist Party of China Central Committee, which will boost the internal driving forces and invigorate innovation and vitality.

Meanwhile, she said China's vast domestic market continues to be a significant asset, with substantial untapped demand. And policymakers still have ample policy space and policy tools to maintain economic stability.

Maiden energy law expected to hasten green wave

By LIU YUKUN

liuyukun@chinadaily.com.cn

China's first energy law, to fully take effect on Jan 1, 2025, is set to fortify the legal framework within the energy sector, ensuring national energy security and catalyzing the shift toward green and low-carbon practices, experts said on Monday.

The energy law was approved in early November at the 12th session of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress, China's top legislature.

It includes nine sections, covering stipulations on energy planning, development and utilization, energy market systems, energy reserves and emergency measures, energy technology innovation, supervision and management, legal responsibilities and supplementary provisions among others.

Experts noted that as the world's largest energy producer and consumer, China has long lacked a fundamental and overarching energy law. The introduction of the energy law will fill this legislative gap, significantly strengthening the legal foundation in the energy sector, ensuring national energy security and promoting green and low-carbon transformation.

Prior to this development, China had enacted individual laws in the energy domain such as laws on coal, electricity, energy conservation and renewable energy.

Wang Peng, a professor at North China Electric Power University, highlighted that the energy law will bolster the impetus for green consumption.

"It establishes clear objectives for green energy advancement and delineates the responsibilities of involved entities. Moreover, it articulates precise requirements for various renewable energy types including hydropower, wind energy, solar energy and more," Wang said.

"For instance, in the development and utilization of wind and solar energy, the law requires a combination of both centralized and distributed systems and lays a legal foundation for distributed power trading, microgrids and other innovative business models," he added.

Wang emphasized that the new energy law also fortifies institutional support for green energy consumption. Article 34 advocates for the establishment of mechanisms, such as green electricity certificates, to incentivize and propel green energy consumption.

Green electricity certificates serve as electronic IDs for green power transactions in China. Each certificate represents 1,000 kilowatt-hours of green power generated from renewable sources.

Jing Chunmei, director of the energy, green and low-carbon development research department at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, underscored the necessity for a foundational and comprehensive energy law in China, especially in the context of evolving energy security and climate change challenges on a global scale.

The latest data from the National Energy Administration showed that the country had achieved a major milestone in renewable energy development with installations of wind and solar power generating units surpassing 1.2 billion kilowatts by end-July, which was six years ahead of schedule.

"This law was designed from a top-level perspective to establish the strategic goals and policy direction for China's energy development, clarify the rights and obligations of various entities, provide legal safeguards for China's energy security and energy transition, and help promote the establishment of a just, fair and equitable global energy system," Jing said.

Preferential tax policies to boost home sales

By WANG YING in Shanghai

wang_ying@chinadaily.com.cn

Preferential taxation policies unveiled by Shanghai and Beijing are expected to further enable the recovery of local real estate markets by lowering purchase costs and boosting market confidence, industry analysts said on Tuesday.

"The policies, which are aligned with the central government's deployment, have shown the municipal governments' resolution in stabilizing the property market," said Liu Zhuowei, an analyst with the China Index Academy.

"The adjustments in taxation will be helpful in both releasing potential demand for improved housing and speeding up the circulation between new and the used home markets by lowering transaction costs and simplifying taxation procedures. The new policies will reduce personal income taxes and deed taxes in home transactions, which can make trading costs more reasonable and help in stabilizing market expectations," Liu said.

Yan Yuejin, deputy head of the Shanghai-based E-House China R&D Institute, said he expected other top-tier cities to follow suit by unveiling similar measures to ease taxation.

"Taking effect from Dec 1, Shanghai's policies include unifying housing standards and cutting the home transaction tax, which are expected

to actively support people's inelastic demand and requirements for better living, according to a notice issued on Monday.

The Beijing edition, published late on Monday, also has unified standards for identifying ordinary and non-ordinary housing.

Value-added tax has been exempt for all residential apartments as long as the properties are retained by sellers for two years or longer, the nation's two largest cities announced.

In line with the nationwide measures, a favorable 1 percent deed tax has been extended to apartments sized at or below 140 square meters against the previous requirement of 90 sq m or below for both first and second homes, according to the notices.

"Since last year, a number of measures have been introduced by the departments of land, finance and taxation, and these supportive measures are believed to effectively activate market demand, improve market confidence, optimize supply and demand, and help Shanghai's property market become stable and healthy," Yan said.

Zhang Dawei, chief analyst at Centaline Property Agency, said there have been visible positive signals in Shanghai following the supportive measures.

"Figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics last week showed that Shanghai's pre-owned housing market had reversed the



A building under construction in Shanghai. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

downward tendency and reported a small-digit growth month-on-month. As of Sunday, about 15,000 units of pre-owned flats changed hands in the secondary market, and preliminary deals signed online during weekends exceeded 1,000 per day in the past three weeks," said Zhang.

According to Liu, as many as 4,909 units of newly built residential apartments were traded across Shanghai during the first 15 days in November, a year-on-year growth of 58.5 percent.

As the supportive measures percolate, Zhang said the transaction enthusiasm will last until the end of

the year, which is helpful in consolidating both trade volumes as well as prices in the housing market.

Likewise, measures introduced for home transactions since the beginning of this year have reportedly enhanced Beijing's market activity in terms of pre-owned home transactions.

As many as 17,000 units of used apartments changed hands in October, the highest in 19 months and up 31 percent month-on-month, the Beijing Evening News reported, citing data from the Beijing Municipal Commission of Housing and Urban-Rural Development.

"The previous standards on ordinary and non-ordinary housing no longer fit the current real estate market, which has seen major changes in supply and demand. The unified standard allows more homebuyers to enjoy the favorable tax and home mortgage policies, and their home transaction costs are further reduced," said Zhao Xiuchi, an expert on real estate research at the Capital University of Economics and Business.

The new standard will facilitate housing market recovery as well as allow more homebuyers to purchase their dream homes at a lower cost, Zhao added.

Briefly

Fiscal revenue up 5.5% in October

China's fiscal revenue increased 5.5 percent year-on-year in October, data from the Ministry of Finance showed. According to a breakdown of the data, the country's tax revenue edged up 1.8 percent from a year earlier. The monthly fiscal revenue continued its growth trajectory, reflecting stronger economic recovery momentum.

More auto trade-ins on policy support

China reported a rapid increase in auto trade-ins, thanks to policy support designed to benefit consumers. The Ministry of Commerce said on Tuesday that it had received over 4 million subsidy applications for trade-ins of passenger vehicles as of Monday under a mass renewal program initiated early this year. Currently, people trading in an old car for a new energy vehicle are entitled to a 20,000 yuan (\$2,781) subsidy, while those buying a new gas car will get 15,000 yuan.

XINHUA — CHINA DAILY

Ice and snow tourism sector eyes record year

By ZHU WENQIAN

zhuwenqian@chinadaily.com.cn

The tourism market in Northeast China, led by "ice city" Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang province, has become popular again this winter with upgraded facilities, after the city went viral online and achieved record tourism sales last year.

This winter, the Harbin Ice and Snow World theme park, which is set to open mid-December, plans to expand its area to 1 million square meters from 810,000 square meters last year. The number of ice and snow slides that are sought after by tourists will increase from 16 to 24, according to the local government.

Bookings of hotels in Harbin have jumped more than 50 percent year-on-year, and the search volume of travel products related to Harbin this month was threefold higher than last month, according to Qunar, a Beijing-based online travel agency.

Most travelers who have shown interest in visiting Harbin come from cities in southern part of the country such as Shanghai, Hangzhou, Zhejiang province; Chengdu, Sichuan province; Nanjing, Jiangsu province; and Shenzhen and Guangzhou in Guangdong province.

"Despite the fact that most ski

resorts in China have not opened yet, consumers have started to get passionate about taking ice and snow trips. Tourists who come from the southern part of the country seem to have a higher enthusiasm for going skiing, and some indoor ski resorts in Guangdong have already become popular destinations," said Xiao Peng, a Qunar researcher.

The travel appeal of Harbin is also driving the popularity of neighboring cities. Hotel bookings of hotels in Yichun and Qiqihar in Heilongjiang jumped some 50 percent over last year.

In addition, bookings of flights to Yichun, Qiqihar and Mohe, China's northernmost city, have all climbed more than 40 percent on a yearly basis, Qunar found.

Earlier this month, the State Council issued a guide to stimulate the vitality of the ice and snow economy in the country and proposed 24 measures. By 2027, sales of the ice and snow economy in China are expected to reach 1.2 trillion yuan (\$165.8 billion), and by 2030, the figure is forecast to hit 1.5 trillion yuan.



Tourists enjoy an ice and snow theme park in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang province. GUO JUNFENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

expanding ski venues and hotels, have increased, consultancy Frost & Sullivan said.

"The main groups who are interested in going skiing in China are young, highly educated and high-income consumers from first-tier cities. Males account for about 70 percent of the total, and those who were born in the 1980s and 1990s make up about 80 percent of all age groups," said Sean Jia, partner and managing director of consultancy Frost & Sullivan China.

Besides Northeast China, the Aba Tibetan and Qiang autonomous prefecture in Sichuan prov-

ince has become a hot destination for ice and snow tourism this year, thanks to the newly launched high-speed railway and magnificent glacier landscapes locally.

Wang Wei, a traveler from Beijing, said he changed his plan of traveling to Harbin and has booked a flight to Aba in late November.

"I have always wanted to experience the Dagu Glacier, the lowest and youngest glacier in the world, as well as experience the world's highest-altitude cableway in Aba. The launch of the high-speed rail from Chengdu to Aba has made it much more convenient," Wang said.

WORLD

Xi's call for collaboration commended

Experts say messages of partnership through economic openness timely

By XU WEIWEI in Hong Kong, CHEN WEIHUA in Brussels and XING YI in London

President Xi Jinping's messages at the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and the APEC CEO Summit for building an open and interconnected paradigm for Asia-Pacific collaboration through economic openness are highly relevant and commendable, experts said.

Also, the Chinese leader's call for strengthening APEC's role in the global economy will help advance greater regional economic integration and connectivity, they said.

Jasna Plevnik, president of Geo-economic Forum Croatia, noted that Xi said that China is ready to bolster the building of an "interconnected paradigm", and that Xi's address at the APEC economic leaders' meeting, which took place late last week in Lima, Peru, has reduced the space for uncertainties in international relations, which is highly needed at this moment for the future of regional and global economic cooperation.

As the world is facing new waves of unpredictability and protectionism, Xi has urged APEC economies and the global community at large to meet the challenges, take each other as partners in global trade, pursue cooperation in advanced technologies and support each other, she added.

"That approach captures the spirit of the modern times and interests of people."

Swaran Singh, a professor of international relations at Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi, said China has been increasingly recognized as the flag-bearer for global growth and economic globalization. Xi's reiteration of China's commitment to economic globalization is reassuring for China's economic partners and for the future of multilateralism in general, Singh said.

Ukeru Magosaki, director of the East Asian Community Institute of Japan and a former senior official at Japan's foreign ministry, said that with the impending return of the Donald Trump administration, unilateralism and protectionism are expected to gain momentum in Washington through trade policies, marking a departure from the post-World War II trend of fostering an open global economic system centered on mutual development.

"China's future trade policies ... will significantly influence the global economy," he said. "From a broader perspective, the Asia-Pacific region is anticipated not only to develop through mutual cooperation but also serve as a key driver of economic globalization."

Dicky Budiman, a scholar associated with Australia's Griffith

University and Indonesia's YARSI University, said the president's speeches "inspire optimism for a collaborative pathway toward sustainable development and regional stability, creating opportunities for nations to thrive together while addressing the global challenges of our time."

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, in Pakistan, said Xi's speeches can be summarized in five words: inclusivity, green development, connectivity (digital and traditional), innovation, and cooperation.

The president assured the world that China is committed to strengthening global cooperation for the inclusive and people-centric green transition, enhancing connectivity, and sharing the dividends of technological development by building fair cooperation mechanisms, the expert said.

To achieve the objectives, President Xi said that China is deepening reforms and opening-up, creating more avenues of cooperation and partnerships, Ahmad noted.

Interconnected growth

James Gomez, regional director at the Bangkok-based Asia Centre, said the latest APEC meeting focused on trade and investment for inclusive and interconnected growth. In terms of promoting sustainable development through innovation, China, as the world's second-largest economy, should further play a leading role in expanding free trade, he said.

Brian Renwick, a British business adviser who was a Hong Kong-based consultant to public and private sector organizations for 28 years, said he was glad to see China playing such a large role in the APEC meeting.

"There is no doubt that China's approach to cooperation, both regionally and globally, is outstanding," he said.

"With the world population rising by three times in just the last 50 years, there is not only space for a multipolar world, but it is essential for global prosperity and security," he said.

Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, executive director of the Islamabad-based Centre of South Asia and International Studies, said openness, transparency, fair, free and equitable economic cooperation, is a must for greater development, integration, progress, and prosperity.

Jiang Xueqing in Tokyo and Yang Wanli in Bangkok contributed to this story.

Contact the writers at vwienxu@chinadaily.com.

Reviving memories



Volunteers from the University of Valencia work on Monday to repair the photographs damaged by Storm Dana in Valencia, Spain. The university has launched this initiative to repair damaged photographs and albums that hold great sentimental and personal value for affected families. EUROPA PRESS / NEWS.COM

Media exchange hailed at Tokyo event

By JIANG XUEQING in Tokyo
jiangxueqing@chinadaily.com

Officials and experts from China and Japan called for the media to help foster a constructive and stable bilateral relationship that aligns with the demands of the new era at a Sino-Japanese journalists' symposium held in Tokyo on Monday.

At the symposium commemorating the 60th anniversary of the exchange of resident correspondents between China and Japan, they also called on the media to provide accurate, objective reporting and promote mutual understanding between their people.

The event was organized by the Chinese embassy in Japan and Xinhua News Agency, with support from the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association.

On April 13, 1964, then Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai met with Japanese politician Kenzo Matsumura, which led to an agreement on the mutual dispatch of journalists between the two countries. On Sept 29 that year, a delegation of seven Chinese journalists led by Xinhua reporter Ding Tuo arrived in Tokyo, while nine Japanese journalists landed in Beijing the same day.

This milestone marked the first formal exchange of resident correspondents between the two nations.

Liu Deyou, former vice-minister

of China's Ministry of Culture, praised the milestone in a video message played at the symposium's opening ceremony.

He said the exchange of journalists was made possible by the vision and persistent efforts of earlier generations of Chinese leaders and farsighted Japanese politicians who sought to break the diplomatic deadlock.

Solid foundation

Liu also noted that establishing memorandum trade offices and the journalist exchange marked a significant shift from purely civil interactions to semiformal exchanges, laying a solid foundation for the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations in September 1972.

Wang Jinfu, director of Xinhua's Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau, said 60 years of mutual journalist exchanges demonstrates that the media serves as a vital bridge for fostering mutual understanding, particularly between China and Japan.

Chinese Ambassador to Japan Wu Jianguo emphasized that resident correspondents build a bridge of information between the two countries, bearing the important responsibility of enhancing mutual understanding among their people.

Wu noted that Sino-Japanese relations are currently at a pivotal stage of development.

He urged journalists from both countries to serve as advocates for stronger Sino-Japanese relations by understanding the broader trajectory of bilateral ties, promoting accurate perceptions, and supporting mutual benefits and shared development.

Tsuyoshi Hasebe, vice-president of the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association, emphasized the pivotal role journalist exchanges play in fostering mutual understanding between the people of China and Japan. He noted that reporting from both sides has provided valuable insights into each other's nations.

"Through our coverage, we can create dynamic exchanges between the two countries," Hasebe said.

Akiko Ikuina, Japan's parliamentary vice-minister for foreign affairs, highlighted the symposium's profound significance in advancing constructive and stable Japan-China relations.

"Both government officials and journalists must make tireless efforts to convey the right message to our citizens," Ikuina said.

Shoichi Kondo, a member of Japan's House of Representatives, highlighted the need to objectively convey the realities, viewpoints, and genuine circumstances of each country through the exchange of resident journalists.

Indonesia chemical sector set for growth

By LEONARDUS JEGHO in Jakarta
ForChinaDaily

With China becoming Indonesia's reliable source of investment, the country's chemical industry is witnessing a stronger growth path. That was the message conveyed by speakers and participants at a Jakarta forum on Monday.

The Indonesian government is pushing for a better future for investment in the chemicals sector — currently a significant contributor to the country's gross domestic product.

Erlangga Rismantojo, vice-president for strategic development at state-owned fertilizer producer Pupuk Indonesia, told the forum the country needs many local and foreign partners to further develop the chemical industry. "We need people with

the technological capability to develop and invest in our chemical industrial sector," he told participants at the one-day Chemical Industry Investment Summit, or ICII, 2024, which was attended by representatives from about 600 companies.

Among the Chinese companies taking part were leading players China National Chemical Engineering Sixth Construction and Nanjing Iron & Steel Group. Indonesian firms that were taking part included Pupuk Indonesia and Amer Technology Indonesia.

In the past couple of decades, Indonesia has maintained the chemical industry as a strategic part of its national development, through supportive policies and regulations.

The chemical industry has become a basic asset for the country's busi-

nesses to produce food and beverages, cloth fibers, packaging materials, plastic articles, and electronic items.

The chemical industry ranks fifth among sectors with the largest foreign investment. On top, according to the Ministry of Investment, is the basic metal and related equipment sector, followed by transportation, warehousing and telecommunication, the mining sector, and the food industry.

Rismantojo was among the business leaders who spoke at ICII 2024, jointly held by PT Shan Hai Map and China Unicom, and which aimed to help Chinese investors gain better knowledge and understanding of business opportunities in Indonesia.

Guo Guanbo, general director of the Indonesia (Malaysia) Office of China National Chemical Engineering Sixth Construction, said at the

Practical progress in bilateral ties urged

By ZHOU JIN
zhoujin@chinadaily.com

Foreign Minister Wang Yi has called on China and India to make practical progress as soon as possible on the resumption of direct flights, exchanges of journalists and visa facilitation.

He made the remarks on Monday in a meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Wang urged the two countries to enhance mutual trust and reduce suspicion, expand cooperation and reduce attrition.

More positive signals should be sent out and more efforts are needed to boost bilateral exchanges, he added.

The talks came close on the heels of the meeting between President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kazan, Russia, held less than a month ago. The meeting was described by Wang as a restart of bilateral ties.

Both Beijing and New Delhi should respect each other's core interests, consolidate mutual trust through dialogue and communication, properly deal with differences with sincerity and push bilateral ties back to the sound and steady development track at an early date, Wang said.

China and India will celebrate the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic ties next year. Wang called for planning commemorative activities and encouraging communications and visits in various fields and at various levels to enhance mutual understanding and trust.

He emphasized that shared interests far outweigh the differences between the two neighbors.

As major developing nations, Wang said China and India should view each other's development as opportunities, and join hands to achieve common development and vitalization.

He also called on the two countries to strengthen coordination in international affairs and promote greater development of BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Jaishankar said India hopes to resume relevant dialogue mechanisms with China, and maintain the momentum of improving bilateral relations through enhanced communication.

forum that Indonesia is a good place for Chinese investment, judging from the company's achievements since 2012, the year it first entered the Indonesian market.

He said Indonesia has a huge potential to develop the caustic soda and soda ash industry and will demand plenty of industry salt.

"We are expecting the development of Indonesia's basic chemical industry and to get involved in the EPC (engineering, procurement and construction)," Guo said.

Allan Han, managing director of the China-ASEAN Business Alliance of ASEAN Plus Group, said Chinese companies are eyeing Indonesia, a big market given the size of its population. On the one hand, Indonesia needs businesses from China, while at the same time, Chinese businesses need markets, Han said.

The writer is a freelance journalist for China Daily.

Logo released to mark Sino-Thai 50th anniversary

By YANG WANLI in Bangkok
yangwanli@chinadaily.com

China and Thailand jointly released on Tuesday a logo that marks 2025 as "the Golden Jubilee for Thai-China Friendship". The two countries will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic relations next year.

Jointly announced by the foreign ministries of the two countries, the 50th anniversary's official logo is an image of intertwined "Chinese dragon" and "Naga", mythical creatures that represent China and Thailand, respectively, by using colors from both countries' national flags.

The Naga and the dragon, which are facing each other and looking at a golden orb, imply both Thailand and China are aiming for the same

goal — Sino-Thai community with a shared future for enhanced stability, prosperity and sustainability.

In his opening remarks, Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs Maris Sangiampongsa emphasized the special relations between Thailand and China, which have continuously developed over the past half a century, since the two parties signed the Joint Communique on the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations on July 1, 1975.

"The 50th anniversary will be a good opportunity for both sides to further enhance their cooperation, marking 2025 as 'the Golden Jubilee for Thailand-China Friendship' and moving toward the building of 'a Thai-China community with a shared future for enhanced stability, prosper-

ity and sustainability," he said.

He said the people from the two countries share brotherly ties and such a long friendship between them is mutually beneficial, as it was established based on mutual respect.

With a shared aim of benefiting people from both sides, Maris said the close relations between China and Thailand will lay a solid foundation for deeper cooperation in the future.

Reliable friend

Han Zhiqiang, Chinese ambassador to Thailand, said China will always be a reliable friend of Thailand and continue to support the kingdom in achieving greater success in its own development path.

"We will join hands to build a

Sino-Thai community with a shared future, remaining true to our original aspirations and moving forward hand in hand," he noted.

On Tuesday, representatives from the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chinese embassy, the Tourism Authority of Thailand, and the Thai-Chinese Friendship Association participated in the panel discussions where they shared plans for the 50th anniversary celebrations next year, as well as the role of each organization in promoting Sino-Thai cooperation.

The Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced a special collaboration with Chinese company Pop Mart, and the launch of a limited-edition Dimoo toy, which will be promoted as a "Special Friend of Thailand-China Golden Jubilee", and is



China and Thailand jointly release on Tuesday a logo that marks 2025 as "the Golden Jubilee for Thai-China Friendship". YANG WANLI / CHINA DAILY

expected to be launched next year as part of the anniversary celebrations.

Created by young Chinese artist Ayan Deng, Dimoo World aims to foster the concept of helping each other for joint development, said Chen

Xiaoyun, vice-president of Pop Mart.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Pop Mart will launch a special Dimoo figure dressed in Thai costume, Chen added.

WORLD

Relics bolster ties between China, France

Leaders pen prefaces for Paris display, stressing bilateral cultural exchanges

By WANG QINGYUN
wangqingyun@chinadaily.com.cn

President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron have respectively written a preface to an exhibition of Chinese cultural relics from the Tang Dynasty (618-907), highlighting the role cultural exchanges play in China-France ties.

The exhibition, titled *Tang China — A Cosmopolitan Dynasty (7th-10th Century)*, was inaugurated at the Guimet National Museum of Asian Arts in Paris on Monday.

Noting that this year marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and France, Xi said that during his visit to France in May, the two sides reached an agreement to hold an exhibition of artifacts from the Tang Dynasty at the museum.

The president said he was pleased to see the exhibition was launched as scheduled.

The Tang Dynasty was the most prosperous dynasty in China's history, with its culture influencing other parts of Asia and spreading to Europe through the Silk Road, he said, adding its artistic achievements, such as poetry, painting, and gold and silverware, have been praised by people to this day.

Xi said he believes the exhibition will allow French and European audiences to obtain a more vivid understanding about the splendor, confidence and openness of the Tang Dynasty, as well as the distinctive

charm of the Chinese civilization.

Both the Chinese and French nations enjoy a long history and splendid culture, and the two peoples have long appreciated and been attracted to each other, he said, adding friendly exchanges between the two countries date back a long time.

Xi called for both sides to seek inspiration from history and culture, deepen exchanges and mutual learning in the field of humanities, and deepen cooperation on cultural heritage protection to build a more solid and vigorous China-France comprehensive strategic partnership.

Macron, for his part, said the exhibition is held to celebrate the 60th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic ties and the Year of Culture and Tourism between the two countries, which was launched in January.

The Tang Dynasty holds a special status in the history of Chinese civilization, featuring brilliant culture and incredible creativity, he said.

The exhibition is of historic significance and demonstrates once again the vitality of cultural exchanges between the two countries, which will continue to play an important part in the development of bilateral ties, he added.

The exhibition, directed by the Chinese National Cultural Heritage Administration and the French Ministry of Culture, displays more than 200 sets of artifacts from 32 cultural institutions and museums in China.



Visitors admire the exhibition *Tang China — A Cosmopolitan Dynasty (7th-10th Century)* at the Guimet National Museum of Asian Arts in Paris on Monday. GAO JING / XINHUA

Israel, Hezbollah trade fire as truce hopes rekindled

BEIRUT/GENEVA — An Israeli airstrike killed five people in central Beirut on Monday, Lebanon's Health Ministry said, the second day in a row Israel has hit a target within the capital as it presses its campaign against the armed group Hezbollah.

Smoke was seen rising from the strike in the densely populated Zuqaq al-Blat neighborhood, near the central Beirut district where the Lebanese government is headquartered. Two people were missing after the strike and another 31 were wounded, the ministry said.

Israel has intensified its bombardment in and around the Lebanese capital over the past week, and Hezbollah has kept up missile fire into Israel.

Rocket sirens sounded across Tel Aviv and much of central Israel on Monday evening.

Falling shrapnel from an intercepted missile hit a main street in a Tel Aviv suburb, the Israeli military said. The blast wounded six people, according to Israel's ambulance service.

Hezbollah said in a statement it launched a salvo of drone attacks at "sensitive military sites" in Tel Aviv.

On Tuesday, UNICEF spokesman James Elder said more than 200 children have been killed in Lebanon in the less than two months since Israel escalated its attacks targeting Hezbollah.

"Over the last two months in Lebanon, an average of three children have been killed every single day," he added.



Civil defense teams and civilians take part in a search and rescue operation after an Israeli attack on a building in the al-Jala neighborhood of Gaza City on Monday. DAWOUD ABO ALKAS VIA GETTY IMAGES

Meanwhile, Lebanon and Hezbollah have agreed to a US cease-fire proposal and made some comments on the content, a top Lebanese official told Reuters on Monday, describing the effort as the most serious yet to end the fighting.

Ali Hassan Khalil, an aide to Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, said Lebanon delivered its written response to the US ambassador in Lebanon on Monday.

Hezbollah has endorsed Berri to negotiate a cease-fire, Reuters reported.

"All the comments that we presented affirm the precise adherence to (UN) Resolution 1701 with all its provisions," said Khalil.

The success of the initiative now depends on Israel, Khalil said. If Israel does not want a solution, "it could make 100 problems," he added.

There was no immediate com-

ment from Israel on Lebanon's latest assessment of the diplomacy.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel in October last year in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Tuesday that at least 43,972 people have been killed in more than 13 months of the Palestine-Israel conflict.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA

Chinese students 'very much welcome': US official

By CHANG JUN in San Francisco
junchang@chinadailyusa.com

Chinese students are "very much welcome" in the United States and the country is making concerted efforts to continue attracting them, US officials and educators said as the latest industry figures were released on Monday.

In the 2023-24 period, the US hosted more than 1.1 million international students, who comprised 6 percent of the whole US higher education population and contributed more than \$50 billion to the US economy last year, according to the US Department of Commerce.

The record number was also up 7 percent from the previous academic year, according to the Open Doors 2024 Report on International Educational Exchange.

India surpassed China by sending the most students — 331,602 — to pursue higher education in the US in the 2023-24 academic year, a 23 percent year-on-year increase.

China sent 277,398 students to the US in the 2023-24 school year. It remained the top country for sending undergraduates and nondegree

students to the US, numbering 87,551 and 5,517, respectively.

Chinese students pursuing the Optional Practical Training program, which provides temporary employment directly related to the major area of study of those with an F-1 visa, increased by 12 percent to 61,552.

Despite a 4 percent overall decline from the previous year, China "makes up a substantial portion" of the international student population in the US and its students "are welcome here," said Marianne Craven, who works in educational and cultural affairs at the State Department.

The US has tightened student visas for Chinese applicants majoring in "sensitive" high-tech fields, with a few universities issuing presidential proclamations targeting Chinese nationals.

Florida State University in June imposed visa and entry restrictions for "certain students and researchers from China" who currently are or used to be involved at or on behalf of any entity in China that is accused of being connected to the so-called military-civil fusion strategy.

Referring to student-visa restrictions in recent years for Chinese

applicants majoring in "sensitive" high-tech fields, amid concerns over strained US-China relations, Craven said: "I want to confirm that we very much welcome students from China to the US. We have the largest number of Chinese students studying outside of China here. We do know that US universities are continuing to value Chinese students."

Alice Zhang, a graduate student majoring in material science at Beijing University in Beijing, said: "Some policymakers in the US government are making groundless accusations. My F-1 visa application was rejected twice because of my major. I was considered a 'possible thief' who would 'acquire and divert foreign technologies, specifically critical and emerging technologies, to incorporate into and advance' China's military capabilities."

Zhang, 23, had to give up her plans to study in the US and is temporarily continuing her graduate research at her undergraduate alma mater. "I might seek opportunities from the United Kingdom or Germany next year," she said.

Allan Goodman, CEO of the Institute of International Education,

said: "They (Chinese students) are welcome here. They have been welcome here all through periods of hot and cold, good and bad relations. The flow is going to continue."

Henry Lee, a freshman at the University of California, Berkeley, said he has met several Chinese-speaking peers in a week to practice his Mandarin.

"They are open-minded, friendly and very knowledgeable," he said, adding that all the Chinese students choose science, technology, engineering and mathematics as their majors. "They are super cool and super bright."

According to the IIE, the US states of California, New York and Texas host the most international students. California hosts 140,858 international students, with China, India and South Korea the top originating countries.

Craven said there is strong bipartisan support in the US Congress for academic exchange and collaboration and "it has been a priority for both governments at the highest levels to encourage these people-to-people ties, encouraging students traveling back and forth."

Resilience and innovation key to e-commerce success

By RENA LI in Los Angeles
renali@chinadailyusa.com

Chinese entrepreneurs are reshaping cross-border e-commerce through resilience and innovation amid geopolitical tensions, according to latest industry analysis.

Jeff Chien, a senior vice-president at the Plug and Play company, emphasized the enduring strength of the entrepreneurs during a recent panel discussion in Los Angeles.

"Post-COVID, we've seen Chinese startups venturing abroad with remarkable optimism," Chien told the forum.

"As investors, we are drawn to three main startups: gaming, e-commerce infrastructure and traditional businesses. These areas are proving resilient, offering strong cash flows even in turbulent times."

Gaming was a natural forte for Chinese entrepreneurs, long before its wave of global expansion, Chien said.

"China's expertise in e-commerce infrastructure — ranging from logistics optimization to advanced payment systems — provides a competitive edge. Meanwhile, the success of traditional businesses underscores the adaptability of Chinese entrepreneurs in catering to local tastes while maintaining operational efficiency."

Paul Zhang, head of business development at e-commerce platform AliExpress, highlighted the importance of localization in reshaping

the global retail landscape.

"Our strategy is simple — adapt to the unique needs of each market," Zhang said. "We collaborated with local celebrities and brands to build trust. In the United States, quick delivery is paramount, so we're enhancing our logistics network to ensure five-to-eight-day delivery times."

The localization strategy has positioned AliExpress as a key industry player. According to a report by research firm eMarketer, the platform holds a 15 percent market share in cross-border online retail, making it a go-to choice for millions of international shoppers.

Max Liang, senior business development director at Zyla, a subsidiary of fintech major Ant Group, stressed the critical role of compliance with local laws in achieving long-term success in cross-border e-commerce.

"To us, the first thing is compliance in this market," Liang said. "We have been diligent in securing all required licenses to operate in the US and ensuring that our business aligns with local regulations."

Liang highlighted the company's transition from a China-centric operational model to a decentralized approach.

"We've built a local team that reflects the diversity of this market — Americans, Chinese Americans, and different backgrounds. This ensures we can better understand and respond to local needs," he said.

Innovation in digital payments

has played an important role in the field. Liang discussed Zyla's pioneering blockchain solutions, enabling real-time dollar-renminbi payments for cross-border merchants.

"Blockchain is revolutionizing this space by making transactions faster, cheaper and more transparent," he added.

Digital payment platforms such as Zyla are being seen as critical in supporting China's growing presence in global e-commerce.

China processed more than \$67 trillion in mobile payments in 2022, reflecting the country's technological edge in fintech, according to data compiler Statista.

Global presence

John Xiao, vice-president of Hikvision, a leading provider of video surveillance products, offered suggestions on how to navigate the complex US regulatory environment while maintaining a global presence.

"Technology is often ahead of regulation," Xiao said. "However, regulation is crucial to safeguard fairness, transparency and security, especially in protecting personal data and intellectual property."

He pointed to Shanghai as an example of technology enhancing urban safety and quality of life. "At the end of the day, technology benefits people's lives. While regulations may pose temporary headwinds, they ultimately align with fostering sustainable innovation."

Xiao underscored the broader challenge for Chinese tech companies operating in the US market. Despite increased scrutiny under measures such as the US CHIPS Act and restrictions on certain exports, companies such as Hikvision demonstrate how compliance and innovation can coexist.

Anna Yu, chief growth officer at Thunder International Group, a third-party logistics provider, stressed the crucial role of logistics in supporting cross-border e-commerce.

"Chinese brands are shifting from B2B (business-to-business) and B2C (business-to-consumer) models to M2C (manufacturer-to-consumer) models, but they face challenges such as language barriers, regulatory compliance and trademark issues," Yu said.

To overcome those obstacles, the company launched a new platform that connects sellers with tailored logistics and warehousing solutions.

"We serve as a bridge, helping Chinese brands optimize their supply chains and navigate the complexities of international markets," Yu said.

The China-US e-commerce market has emerged as a powerful driver of economic exchange. According to a report by the US International Trade Commission, cross-border e-commerce grew at an annual rate of 16 percent in 2015-22, with China accounting for a significant share of US imports in the sector.

Ride to safety



Residents ride a tractor through the Muara Angke area, which is inundated because of tidal waves, in North Jakarta, Indonesia, on Monday. The weather agency has urged coastal residents to stay alert for high waves and tides. EKO SISWONO TOYUDHO VIA GETTY IMAGES

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 6R8

Tel: 416-461-5706

CHINA DAILY (ISSN 0748-6154) is published daily except weekends by China Daily USA, 1500 Broadway, Suite 2800, New York, NY 10036.

Periodical postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CHINA DAILY USA, 1500 Broadway, Suite 2800, New York, NY 10036.

Vol. 38 — No. 1462

COMMENT

Editorials

New starting point for G20 to act as force to move history forward in right direction

There were countless challenges facing leaders of the Group of 20 economies attending their 19th summit meeting in Rio de Janeiro on Monday and Tuesday.

The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, potentially explosive geopolitical hotspots in certain regions, the lackluster post-COVID-19 global recovery, protectionist and isolationist tendencies in international trade and general state-to-state relations, climate change's devastating impacts on the world's poorest communities, and the de facto paralysis of some key institutions of global governance. The list could go on and on. But everything has to do with justice and sustainability, the two subjects the Rio summit aspired to address under the essential priority of "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet".

The most significant accomplishment of the meeting, in terms of its potential immediate practical effects, was the inauguration of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty. Despite some analysts' anticipation of a failure to produce a joint final document, the attending heads of state and government did manage to produce one. That in itself underscores a collective recognition of the urgent need to answer the increasingly divided world's calls for healing.

All participating leaders brought with them their own country's perspective on the meetings' central topics, with those from the West displaying elements of divisiveness, and those from Global South nations focusing more on inclusiveness.

The voice from Beijing unequivocally upheld the shared benefits that would accrue from justice and inclusiveness. Chinese President Xi Jinping's speeches delivered at the two sessions of the meeting were titled respectively "Building a Just World of Common Development", and "Working Together for a Fair and Equitable Global Governance System". Which not only aligned seamlessly with the Rio summit's core concerns, but again elaborated the Chinese leadership's vision of just global development and governance from the perspective of its proposed community with a shared future for humankind.

In his speech on "fighting hunger and poverty", President Xi urged countries to promote more inclusive, universally-benefiting and resilient global development. Drawing on China's own experiences in poverty alleviation over the past decades, as both a beneficiary of economic globalization and victim of rising protectionism, the Chinese leader called for more bridges for cooperation rather than "small yards with high fences". For building a just world of common development, he called for an open, inclusive, and nondiscriminatory environment for international economic cooperation so as to narrow the North-South development gap. Responding to the growing geopolitical divide in the international community and bloc confrontation, he appealed for countries to adhere to true multilateralism, preserve the international system centered on the United Nations, the international law-based global order, and basic international conventions based on the UN Charter and principles.

The eight actions the Chinese leader announced in the speech for supporting global development represent significant moves to honor the country's commitment to global public welfare as a member of the Global South. Designed with an eye on both China's own development needs and those of the other members of the Global South, they will not end up as empty talk, as they are all eminently executable being based on the key proven-effective international development programs Beijing has been promoting all these years — the Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative, aid projects in Africa, and unilateral openness to the least-developed nations. The actions accord harmoniously with the global community's aspirations for a cooperative, stable, open, innovative and eco-friendly world economy that leaves no one behind, as Xi underscored.

But it will take more than the mutual goodwill on display at the summit for countries to see each other's development as opportunities, not challenges. In reality, to avoid a zero-sum game making a Cold War 2.0 a self-fulfilling prophecy requires countries to offer helping hands to each other irrespective of their differences. That is the call of the times that leaders worldwide need to answer.

NATO's aggression behind pro-peace veneer

China has increasingly become a scapegoat for some in the West to cover up their failure to resolve the Ukraine crisis, if not an excuse for them to advance certain parties' geopolitical schemes.

NATO and the European Union are ramping up efforts to pressure China to stop its "assistance" to Russia, and help get the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to stop its support to Russia for its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

China's normal and stable diplomatic ties and economic and trade cooperation with any other country, including its two neighbors, are by no means leverage those Western forces can apply to advance their own agenda.

That both North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the EU have stepped up their collusion with and sealed certain forms of security pacts with such Asia-Pacific countries as Japan and the Republic of Korea citing "common threats" from other regional countries should be regarded as a political lever that these forces want to use to press China to do their bidding on the Ukraine crisis.

In an opinion piece, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte wrote: "China bears particular responsibility here, to use its influence in Pyongyang and Moscow to ensure they cease these actions. Beijing cannot pretend to promote peace while turning a blind eye to increasing aggression."

After meeting with the top US diplomat on Wednesday, Rutte said "the Euro-Atlantic and the 'Indo-Pacific' really have to be seen as one theater, and not as two separate ones"; and that "our security, therefore, now more and more is global, and we have to look at this as a global issue".

Neither NATO nor the EU, or their common ally across the Atlantic, has provided any substantial evidence to support their claim that China is providing "military assistance" to Russia.

Instead, the whole world sees clearly which party is playing an ugly role in both the Ukraine crisis and the Korean Peninsula issue, along with the Gaza conflict, for its own narrow ends, and which party is upholding a neutral, fair and balanced stance on these issues, tirelessly working for cease-fires and lasting peace.

The haste with which the new NATO chief inherited the mantle of his predecessor in trying to weld together the transatlantic and the "Indo-Pacific" alliance networks using made-in-China welding rods clearly indicates the real motive is not to resolve the conflicts but to make China part of them as "a decisive enabler", "a potential accomplice" and then "a real threat".

These tactics are also an integral part of the decoupling and de-risking moves of some developed economies targeting China, providing the China hawks on the economic front with "evidence" to transform a long-term major trading partner into an enemy at the gate overnight.

The EU has sanctioned multiple Chinese entities on groundless charges that they are providing support to Russia's military in the Ukraine crisis. And even though its imports of Russia-sourced energy remain sizable and it keeps silent on other countries' fast rising trade with Russia, it attacks China's normal trade with the country.

The Ukraine crisis has been ongoing for 1,000 days. Both parties to the conflict are yet to give up their obsession with winning by force and keep launching large-scale attacks against each other, which have been expanding in recent days. China has no self-interest in the Ukraine crisis, and along with other Global South countries, it has established the Friends for Peace group that calls for no spillover of the battlefield, no escalation of the fighting, and no provocation by any party.

Those Western forces trying to smear China over the Ukraine crisis should realize that, as history has proven time and again, military means will not bring lasting peace, and that all conflicts will, in the final analysis, end at the negotiating table. They should stop their scapegoating tricks and jointly send a strong message for an early cease-fire and a political settlement of the crisis with China and other peace-loving nations.

CHINA DAILY WORLDWIDE

Contact us at:

China Daily
15 Fuxin 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 8270
editor@chinadailyuk.com

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

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

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

Luo Jie



Opinion Line

Zero tolerance for instigation under banner of 'democracy'

A court in Hong Kong has sentenced 45 anti-China instigators to imprisonment for "conspiracy to subvert the state power". Benny Tai Yiu-ting was sentenced to 10 years in prison and the others to various terms of imprisonment.

The High Court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region delivered the sentence after a hearing at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts on Tuesday. This is the first time the Hong Kong SAR has handled a case involving subversion of State power.

In January 2021, Hong Kong police arrested more than 50 people under the national security law in Hong Kong on the suspicion of organizing or participating in the illegal "primary elections" of the Legislative Council in 2020. Among them, 47 were prosecuted by the Department of Justice of the HKSAR government, including Benny

Tai and some former lawmakers.

The case was first heard at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts from March 1 to 4, 2021, before being transferred to the High Court. During the trial, 31 of the accused pleaded guilty, while 16 refused to plead guilty. After multiple hearings, on May 30 this year the court found 14 of the 16 individuals guilty and acquitted two. On Tuesday, the High Court delivered sentences on the 45 individuals who were found guilty.

The trial is Hong Kong's internal affair and demonstrates the SAR's adherence to the rule of law. By planning and participating in the illegal "primary elections", the 45 people conspired to subvert State power by organizing or participating in acts aimed at disrupting the HKSAR government's duties through unlawful means.

The trial is an effort by the HKSAR

to rebuild social stability. It sends a clear message that those who attempt to challenge national security and violate the rule of law will be punished by the law. It also helps maintain justice and legal authority in the SAR, ensures the independence of Hong Kong's judicial system and safeguards national security and "one country, two systems".

Hong Kong is a society under the rule of law, and no one can engage in illegal activities under the banner of "democracy" and attempt to escape justice. Some Western countries, on the one hand, ignore the fact that they safeguard their own national security through judicial procedures, while on the other hand making groundless accusations against the HKSAR for its implementation of the law on national security.

— WU YIXUE, CHINA DAILY

Continue improving policy environment for SMEs

According to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the small- and medium-sized enterprise operating index was 50.7 in October, expanding for six consecutive months.

Additionally, China Association of Small and Medium Enterprises data indicate that the SME Development Index for October stood at 89, a rise of 0.3 percentage points from that in September, marking the largest increase since March 2023. Also, another nationwide official survey revealed that companies operating at full capacity accounted for 40.2 percent of the total, an increase of 4.4 percentage points from the month before.

China has introduced a package of

incremental policies to boost market demand to help the SMEs overcome their difficulties.

For instance, the MIIT has introduced a series of policies to improve SMEs' innovation capabilities, focus on their core businesses and follow a path of specialization, refinement, distinctiveness, and innovation.

At the 19th China International SMEs Fair held recently, relevant departments announced that China has cumulatively nurtured over 140,000 specialized and innovative SMEs and formed 300 characteristic industrial clusters for SMEs.

The government departments also released a special action plan for digital empowerment of SMEs from 2025

to 2027 at the event. The action plan is aimed at establishing a well-matched supply and demand ecosystem for SME digital transformation, pushing the digital transformation of SMEs toward a broader scope, higher level and better quality and efficiency.

While promoting their development quality, it is also necessary to continuously improve the business environment for SMEs. For example, due to fiscal pressures in some regions, businesses have reported issues such as arbitrary charges, fines, and levies. Therefore, it is essential to continue advancing market governance and create a better business environment for enterprises.

— 21ST CENTURY BUSINESS HERALD

What They Say

Head-of-state diplomacy key role in enhancing ties

The multiple bilateral meetings between Chinese President Xi Jinping and leaders from different countries, including Australia, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Germany and France, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro on Monday and Tuesday highlight once again the key role head-of-state diplomacy plays in China's international relations.

The positive and warm responses of the foreign leaders to President Xi's call to maintain healthy bilateral ties between China and their respective countries on the basis of mutual respect, win-win cooperation and equality demonstrate the importance they attach to relations with China as the world's second-largest economy and a responsible major country dedicated to world peace and development.

Their responses also underscore the broad common interests between their countries and China in both the economy and trade spheres and in

addressing common challenges. The amicable atmosphere of the meetings and the broad common understandings and consensus that have been reached on not only deepening win-win cooperation but also the necessity of addressing differences through negotiations and dialogues should drive home the message that, in these leaders' eyes, China is by no means a threat to their countries, as some Western China-bashing politicians peddle, but a cooperative and friendly partner, and that China's development by no means brings risks and uncertainties, but rather opportunities and a source of stability.

The proposal China has made on building a community with a shared future for humankind, which it has been acting on accordingly, the global initiatives for development, security and civilization it has put forward, the neutral and responsible stance it adopts in its approach to burning issues and its hallmark Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which are the cornerstones of

China's diplomacy, make the country a reliable and responsible partner to both developed and developing countries.

The face-to-face talks with Xi have provided the foreign leaders with a firsthand understanding that what China is striving for is common development, world peace and stability, a just and fair global governance system and an equal and orderly multipolar world. In the process, China will address both the domestic and international imperatives, while firmly safeguarding its national sovereignty, security and development interests.

It is to be hoped the foreign leaders have been convinced that the smearing of China by some is unfounded and the country will always commit to openness and inclusiveness, and consolidate and expand its global network of partnerships. China will put forward more Chinese proposals, contribute more Chinese wisdom, and provide more public goods that serve to promote world peace and development.

— LI YANG, CHINA DAILY

COMMENT

David Gosset

APEC, G20 mark Latin America's moment

With the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders Meeting in Lima, Peru, being immediately followed by the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, all eyes are on Latin America. These gatherings have always held importance for the world, as they bring together global leaders to discuss issues critical to global prosperity, security and cooperation.

The stakes are particularly high this year, with both meetings taking place amid a tumultuous global landscape marked by economic struggles, geopolitical tensions and widespread challenges that need collaborative solutions.

People's expectations of the meetings were very high even before Donald Trump was elected the United States' president for a second time, because many consider APEC and the G20 to be platforms for promoting global cooperation, especially at a time when countries are striving to revive economic growth. Yet now, with Trump's victory in the presidential election and his return to the White House in January, world leaders in Peru and Brazil will likely be grappling with a new question: how to defend multilateralism when one of the world's largest economies, to be soon led by Trump, seems increasingly inclined toward a unilateral approach.

The need for multilateral solutions has never been clearer. Countries have been forced to not only deal with slow economic growth but also are facing a range of other challenges, from climate change and health crises to energy shortages and trade disruptions. These issues demand cooperation across borders, regions and industries. However, Trump's "America first" agenda has always leaned toward a more isolated, unilateral stance, one that prioritizes US interests above all else. With Trump's return to power, the "America first" policy is likely to return as well, potentially in a more intense, uncompromising form — effectively, Trump 2.0 on steroids.

US President Joe Biden, who will soon bid farewell to the international stage and could be attending his last important global meetings in the two Latin American cities, has been a staunch advocate for a cooperative, multilateral approach. He even made good his campaign promise of re-entering the US in the Paris Agreement, and supported, even if only in words, collaborative efforts to address global challenges. But with his departure, the responsibility of upholding multilateralism now rests with other leaders who believe in the value of cooperation and diplomacy.

The leaders attending APEC and the G20 have a critical choice to make. They can either shirk their international responsibility and choose to serve only their own national interests, risking the

erosion of global frameworks or they can work together to improve and strengthen global governance to better address modern challenges. Multilateralism, although challenging and at times slow, remains the most effective path to finding solutions that work across diverse national boundaries and address the global village needs of our time.

The globally important meetings this year presented an opportunity for leaders to focus on strengthening, not abandoning, global cooperation. Leaders could, for example, prioritize creating fairer trade practices that allow smaller and developing countries to grow alongside the larger economies, implement tangible steps toward sustainability that involve both developed and developing nations, and focus on a coordinated response to health crises that doesn't leave poorer countries behind. These objectives won't be easy to achieve, especially with Trump's influence pushing in a different direction, but with patience and a commitment to the common good, it is possible to realize them.

As for Latin America, the high-profile meetings gave it the opportunity to showcase its own growing importance on the world stage. Countries such as Brazil, Peru and Mexico are becoming increasingly influential players in global trade, environmental protection and ecological conservation. The APEC and G20 meetings offered these countries an opportunity to advocate for policies that reflect their interests and challen-

ges, and to help build a more balanced, more representative and fairer global governance system where the voices of the Global South will also be heard.

While Trump's rhetoric centers on an "American golden age", the world needs to aim higher. We need a golden age for humankind as a whole, one that embraces shared prosperity, sustainability, and peace. Such a vision may sound ambitious, even idealistic, but without having set meaningful collective goals, the world risks falling back into a fragmented system where each country fights for itself.

With global leaders gathered in Latin America for the key events, the world is watching and waiting. This is a pivotal moment for the APEC and G20 gatherings, a chance to prove that multilateralism is not just an ideal but a necessity. If leaders can align on common goals and establish frameworks that serve the collective good, they will be defending multilateralism not just in theory but in practice. And if they succeed, they may just pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future — not only for their respective countries but for all of humanity.

The author is the founder of the China-Europe-America Global Initiative, editor of China and the World in three volumes, and the creator of the Inspiring Series, a collection of books that aims to introduce China to the world. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

Amakobe Sande

Let's listen to children on mental health

Today is World Children's Day. Across China, more than 50 cities and communities are joining their counterparts around the world in reaffirming their commitment to children's rights. Each year, UNICEF creates space for children to speak out on an issue that matters to them. In China, this year's theme is an issue of growing concern: mental health of children and adolescents.

UNICEF defines mental health conditions as a range of conditions, including anxiety and depression, that affect a child's thoughts, emotions or behaviour, and can interfere with their ability to learn and function at school, at home, and in the community.

Around the world, poor mental health is causing suffering for children and young people. It is a top cause of death, disease and disability, especially for older adolescents. Globally, more than 13 percent of children and adolescents aged 10 to 19 (one in seven) are living with a diagnosed mental health condition, according to the World Health Organization and UNICEF. This is severely affecting their childhoods.

In China, too, many children and adolescents are experiencing high levels of stress, anxiety and depression. More than 17 percent of children and adolescents aged 6 to 16 are living with one or more mental health condition, according to the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, 2022. This is often driven by academic pressure, bullying, online exposure and relationships with other children and parents.

However, with the right intervention, many of these conditions can be prevented or treated. UNICEF is working with the government of China to address this issue. For example, through our adolescent mental health program, we are working with the National Health Commission and other partners to improve mental health services and skills in more than 300 schools, health facilities and communities across China. This program includes lessons on mental health, encouraging adolescent participation and empowering children to support their peers.

We are working with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and other partners to train and support social and community workers, who guide families in coping with mental health challenges. Following natural disasters, we support mental health counselling for affected children.

This year's World Children's Day campaign, "Listen to Every Child's Voice, Light up Their Future", led by UNICEF along with the Ministry of Education, highlights the mental health issues that children face in schools and at home, and how best to respond to these. It includes a high-level event at a school in Chengdu, Sichuan province, where children will share the mental health challenges they face and how they are being supported to cope with them. Other cities around China are painting murals about children's mental health in schools and communities to spread awareness about mental health conditions.

But this is not just a job for UNICEF and the Chinese government. Supporting children's mental health is everyone's business. It needs the whole of society to come together and support children. That is why we have developed guidelines for parents, teachers and children themselves on how to recognize and respond to mental health issues, which we're promoting through the World Children's Day campaign and can be found on the UNICEF China website.

If you are a parent, we ask you to be patient with your child and appreciate him or her for who he or she is. Be kind and listen without judgment. Discuss mental health with your child and share emotions openly. Educate yourself about the early signs of anxiety and depression and avoid stigma. Help your child get enough sleep, exercise and spend quality time with him or her. Lastly, if you are not sure how to handle your child's mental well-being, seek support from a health professional.

If you are a child, we want you to know that mental health is like physical health — we need to look after it. It is okay to sometimes feel stressed, worried or sad. Your emotions are there for a reason, so do not feel ashamed of them. Be kind and help your friends — listen to them and help them if they need it. Celebrate differences and do not be silent about bullying. And if you are not sure what to do, seek help from an adult you trust.

We celebrate World Children's Day on Nov 20 because on this day in 1989, countries around the world, including China, agreed to protect children's rights. To do this, they created the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This important document explains that all children, everywhere, have special rights that they need to learn, grow, play, develop and reach their full potential.

Every child has the right to grow up in a loving, nurturing and safe environment with supportive relationships and access to quality mental health and psychosocial support.

When we ignore children's right to good mental health and well-being, we also undermine their other rights such as the right to learn. But if schools, parents, teachers and others can all come together to take action on children's mental health, we can help build a better future for all.

The author is UNICEF representative to China. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.



Ye Yu

Development banks can help resolve global crises

After the survival crisis at the end of the 20th century, the revival and expansion of the multilateral development bank (MDB) system, led by the World Bank, has become one of the most prominent transformations in the global development financing system since the 2008 global financial crisis.

Following the adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, multilateral development banks (MDBs) set a goal to increase their capital mobilization capacity from "billions to trillions", reflecting the emergence of a development finance paradigm that lies between government and market forces. More fundamentally, this shift is driven by the growing challenges of financing gaps on the demand side of international development.

In the context of global security, economics and health as well as the environment, the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda faces significant challenges. Only 17 percent of its targets have been met on schedule, leading to calls for comprehensive reforms of the MDBs in order to make them "better, bigger, and more effective" in tackling these challenges.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the Bretton Woods institutions. This year has also seen the MDBs' reform becoming a top agenda in global governance. From the just-concluded G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to the UN Future Summit and the ongoing 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29), all global forums have identified the MDBs' reform as essential to resolving various global issues.

The MDBs have evolved into "omni-banks" with a broader mission scope, which now includes not only poverty alleviation but also crisis relief, peace-building, climate action, providing better healthcare and other global public goods.

Significant progress has indeed been made in the reform of the MDBs. First, their scale has become "larger." According to the G20 Independent Expert Group, various MDBs have enhanced their capital adequacy through reforms such as lowering equity to loan ratios, introducing hybrid capital, and leveraging shareholder members' guarantees. These reforms are expected to significantly increase the lending capacity of the MDBs, with a total increase of \$357 billion by 2030, a 30 percent increase compared with 2019. This includes an additional \$150 billion in loan capacity for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.



JIN DING / CHINA DAILY

well as private sector default data in a bid to enhance investors' confidence.

Second, the MDBs have made significant strides in building a more cohesive system. The World Bank, with its mission of promoting international development, is no longer working in isolation. It is now part of a broader system of more than 30 regional and sub-regional development banks, including larger ones such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and newer institutions like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank.

The World Bank, which has the largest multilateral concessional financing window and knowledge capability, remains the central node in this system and maintains its leadership position. Under the leadership of the new World Bank President, Ajay Banga, the heads of the MDBs have said efforts would be made to strengthen mutual recognition of procurement standards. They have also launched a shared platform for project data sharing and co-financing, marking a new milestone in the integration of the MDB system.

Third, the MDBs are becoming more flexible in terms of responding to the increasingly turbulent and uncertain development landscape. At the World Bank annual meeting, Banga highlighted several measures taken by the bank to make its operations faster and simpler. For example, the World Bank has released data on sovereign default and recovery rates over the past 40 years, as

shorten it further to 12 months by June 2025.

However, these reforms fall far short of both external expectations and their objectives. Amid rising geopolitical conflicts and competition, the reform of the MDB system faces various fundamental challenges.

Under the new narrative of strategic competition, the substantial expansion of the MDBs — leveraging billions of dollars to mobilize trillions of dollars — faces structural obstacles. In the broader trend of global economic debt, the MDBs' growth must rely on greater fiscal support from shareholder countries, and it is unlikely that they can achieve large-scale mobilization of private resources or meet the climate goals purely through financial innovations or policy coordination. Several studies suggest that MDBs' efforts to mobilize private resources so far have been like "a drop in the ocean."

However, general capital increase is not yet on the agenda of most MDBs, especially the World Bank, due to its implications on power sharing with emerging economies. The Brazilian presidency of the G20 this year, under the theme of "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet" strongly advocated for more equitable global governance, especially the reform of the Bretton Woods institutions. But the implementation of reforms remains uncertain.

Besides, the headwinds against economic globalization fundamentally are undermining the global development mission of the MDBs, and developed economies are according priority to trade protectionism, and "de-risking" in

their policy agendas. Plus, their global development policies are increasingly aimed at serving their own strategic economic interests, creating a "siphoning effect" rather than development opportunities for developing countries.

Also, developed economies are increasingly using earmarked funding mechanisms under the MDBs while being unwilling to contribute to core resources of the MDBs, making the system more fragmented. Worse, the re-election of Donald Trump as US president has cast a cloud on the contributions of the MDBs in the future.

While MDB reforms call for better coordination and helping developing countries improve their investment climate to mobilize resources, such actions often are used as a convenient way of "avoiding the real issues".

Moreover, growing nexus between security and development since the Sept 11, 2001, attacks, has led MDBs to become deeply entangled in the geopolitical games under the integrated peace-building framework. As a result, more resources are being diverted to resolve humanitarian crises, crowding out funding for long-term development priorities like infrastructure.

While the MDBs have grown "bigger", the real question remains: How can they become "better" and "more effective"? As geopolitical complexities increase, finding an answer to this challenge becomes ever more difficult.

The author is deputy director at the Institute for World Economy Studies, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies. The views don't necessarily represent those of China Daily.

GLOBAL VIEWS



MA XUEJING / CHINA DAILY

FABIO MASSIMO PARENTI

The rational solution

More dialogue with China can make the EU economically competitive again

The outbreak of the crisis in Ukraine, followed by the crisis in the Middle East, has amplified the Cold War mentality and the fallacious logic of confrontation between opposing blocs. Suffering most from the consequences of such an approach are the peoples of Europe, who are

forced to make major sacrifices in their daily lives to endure the results of many sanctions, tariffs and trade restrictions targeting Russia. Rightly, many observers have defined the European Union's sanctions and tariffs as having a "boomerang" effect, affecting firstly peoples of EU member states. These measures are all unnecessary, enacted by certain European leaders and at the mercy of the United States, with the sole aim of hitting and harming Russia.

The EU must abandon such logic as soon as possible and take another path — dialogue. When trade ties between major powers present critical issues, they can only be resolved by talking and dialogue in order to reach compromises. Any other solution, all the more so at a historical stage when the global order is shifting from a unipolar world to a multipolar architecture, is only conducive to tensions and misunderstandings. In all this, EU-China relations play a significant role in promoting stability, peace and security not only in Europe but also in broader Eurasia.

It is incumbent on us to consider the fears of European citizens, who in recent years have been suffering the negative consequences of at least four unprecedented challenges: a large-scale war in Eastern Europe; internal polarization within the EU between individual governments; the breakdown of economic ties with Russia; and a worrying start to a trade war with China. The result of these contingencies coincided with a combination of economic deterioration and political instability.

European competitiveness, downsized and torn apart by nefarious political dynamics, much more in line with the needs of the US than those of the European people, has also suffered. For example, the recent closure policies imple-

mented by Brussels have undermined European imports of gas from Russia (thus altering the energy plans of most European economic powers such as Germany), damaged the automotive sector, with tariffs that prevent the continent's auto giants from working with their Chinese counterparts. Moreover, most importantly, they are dumping all the costs on the shoulders of the people.

European competitiveness will not regain vigor by implementing serious and urgent measures such as tariffs and duties. On the contrary, it is crucial for the continent's industries to break out of the so-called middle technology trap identified by Mario Draghi in his report on the vision of the future of European competitiveness. For the former president of the European Central Bank, the European high-tech industry has remained in an average technology limbo. And it has chosen to stay there deliberately — as in the case of German automotive — for fear of leaving the field it knew. The EU needs a different approach to foreign economic relations to become competitive again. Certainly, Brussels needs domestic reforms and investment in critical areas, but little or nothing will have a major effect without first shaping a clear vision for foreign economic relations. A vision that should not be exclusively on the demand of the US, but, on the contrary, should abandon any Cold War mentality and engage in dialogue with everyone: including and above all with China.

Not least because the US, in the economic sphere, plays its own game. A game within which all others — including Europe — are considered strategic rivals. Put another way, in the economic sphere the US considers the EU a competitor, and this will most likely be even better understood when US President-elect, Donald Trump, takes office. He may also impose sanctions on US imports from Europe (as he has repeatedly threatened to do in the election campaign). Not only that. Recently, under the Joe Biden-led administration, the US has adopted legislation, such as the US CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, both of 2022, which respectively authorized \$280 billion in new funding to promote domestic research and semiconductor

manufacturing, as well as tax incentives to develop the clean energy and manufacturing sectors. The EU could only watch helplessly the capital flight to the US and, more recently, was forced again by its US partner to plunge into a dangerous and counterproductive trade war with China.

It only takes a look at the numbers to see that China and the EU cannot and should not decouple, much less fight a trade war. In 2023, despite the global trade crisis, China-EU trade reached \$783 billion, with trade averaging nearly \$1.5 million per minute. The stock of bilateral investment between China and the EU exceeds \$250 billion, and companies on both sides continue to view each other's markets favorably. According to the Business Confidence Survey 2024 published by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, 40 percent of European companies surveyed plan to make China one of their top three destinations, unchanged from 2023. At the same time, the 2023 Annual Report of the China Chamber of Commerce to the EU shows that more than 80 percent of surveyed Chinese companies expect to improve their business in Europe.

Given the delicate international situation, the EU should not listen to US sirens urging it to isolate itself economically from China. Europe's major export-oriented economies — and Italy is one of them — need export markets, and China, from this perspective, is the largest export market for many large European companies (which also need access to China's vast manufacturing base).

China and the EU should address the real needs of their companies, resolve crises through dialogue and negotiation, and firmly promote international cooperation to address challenges, jointly promoting multilateralism and global governance. The EU's competitiveness will shine again the moment Brussels stops flattening itself to Washington's positions and, on the contrary, becomes the bearer of the interests of the peoples of Europe.

The author is a member of Earth Charter International China. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

YU HONGYUAN AND WANG XINYU

'Green and just transition'

The EU views China as a partner for cooperation, an economic competitor and a systemic rival, thus changing its policy on the basis of specific issue area in question

Following the 2024 European Parliament elections, a competitiveness strategy has been incorporated into the European Union's strategic agenda. The Future of European Competitiveness, a report introduced in September, addresses a range of areas, including scientific and technological competi-

tiveness, green competitiveness, fair competitiveness, social competitiveness, industrial competitiveness and so forth. The report offers a detailed examination of the factors influencing Europe's future competitiveness, accompanied by strategic recommendations for addressing these challenges. It provides a comprehensive assessment of

the obstacles confronting Europe in the context of the evolving global landscape and proposes a series of programs aimed at achieving sustainable growth, enhancing productivity and safeguarding European values.

The EU is currently facing a significant challenge to maintaining its industrial competitiveness, prompting a search for solutions.

First, the Centre for European Policy Studies has indicated that the EU economy has been affected by the Ukraine crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the escalation of US export controls and tariffs on China has resulted in an acceleration of Chinese products entering the EU market. The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research posits that as oil and gas prices rise, the EU is becoming increasingly reliant on external clean energy products in its green transition. The EU's dependence on China for photovoltaic and wind power equipment and new energy vehicles is estimated to exceed 20 percent.

Second, the energy crisis and the Ukraine crisis, along with other significant occurrences, have given rise to a novel political climate. This has prompted the EU to accord greater consideration to the significance of its single market, strategic autonomy and competitiveness concerns, while also expressing concern about China's "economic intervention and control" of the EU.

Third, the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis has resulted in a decline in the EU's competitiveness across all aspects of the triangles of great powers, including the China-US-Russia, China-US-Europe and China-Europe-Russia triangles. This has led to a weakening of the EU's strategic autonomy and its influence in international

affairs. The EU is striving to spearhead the "green and just transition", a process of competitiveness-building that will enable it to maintain its voice in the great power triangles and avoid becoming a victim of geopolitical competition between China and the United States.

The EU's competitiveness strategy of a green and fair transition will be based on the construction of its internal supply chains, green trade barriers, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive and other tools. The objective is to curb industrial outflow and reduce import dependence, as well as to enhance the level of the EU's local manufacturing industry. The improvement of the European single market represents a pivotal aspect of this strategy. One key objective is the formation of a new green supply chain spanning the Nordic countries, Central and Eastern Europe, and Germany and France, with a focus on critical raw materials for the energy transition. This initiative aims to reduce external dependence through the construction of the EU internal market. The EU's "fair competition" policy considers not only strategic autonomy and climate change, but also the demands of the middle class within EU member states. First, the EU's fundamental premise is that the cornerstone of a green and fair competition strategy is strategic autonomy. The EU's Fair Competition Strategy represents a solution to the dual challenges of pursuing climate change ambitions and improving industrial competitiveness. It also offers a means of achieving a balance between economic security and industrial decarbonization. This strategy places an emphasis on consensus among EU members, promotes policy coherence, and builds on the previously agreed European Green Deal to adapt and innovate policy instruments in order to highlight the competitiveness of the EU's climate economy. Second, the EU considers it essential to safeguard the interests of the middle class in all member states in order to ensure green and fair competitiveness. While the US is becoming increasingly detached from globalization, the EU is also aware of the dangers of over-globalization, which is detrimental to the interests of the middle class. The Centre for European Policy Studies posits that globalization has harmed the interests of the middle class and that Europe must find a way to accommodate both emerging and existing developed economies. In this regard, the EU has emphasized the decentralization of the industrial chain to different countries within the union, as well as the use of subsidies to finance the development of the industry. Third, the EU's foreign policy is still based on the principles of multilateralism, which it will continue to uphold in order to

ensure fair competitiveness. The internal market and the system of bilateral and small multilateral trading partners will be accorded greater priority than global trading systems such as the World Trade Organization.

The EU is increasingly examining its relations with China through the lens of "fair competitiveness", which is based on the concept of a green transition. First, the EU perceives China as engaging in unfair competition within the green industries, emphasizing that China is heavily subsidized in its pursuit of competitive advantage. For example, the Bruegel Institute in Brussels posits that China's subsidies and production capacity are excessive, that green industries are directly supported by the government, and that China's system has a natural advantage over other countries in manufacturing, which undermines the fairness of the global marketplace. The EU perceives China as a strategic competitor, with a government that exerts significant influence over the country's economic and industrial policies. Concurrently, given the pivotal role of the automotive industry in the European economy, the EU will implement policies to safeguard this sector in the near to intermediate term. For instance, the EU has the capacity to establish standards and implement tariffs with the objective of safeguarding its automotive industry. Furthermore, it has the option of postponing the decarbonization of its transportation sector in order to mitigate the impact of China's electric vehicles and advance its own clean energy industry. At present, the EU has put forth a strategy, designated as the "China+1" approach, with the objective of establishing a contingency plan for its manufacturing sector. Second, the EU continues to adhere to a tripartite positioning of China as a "partner", "competitor" and "rival" in a relatively short period of time. The EU views China as a partner for cooperation, an economic competitor and a systemic rival. Consequently, the EU differentiates its policies toward China based on the specific issue area in question. In the context of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and the evolving relationship between Russia and China, the EU perceives China as a potential rival and a disruptive force in Sino-European relations. In the domains of energy and climate change, the EU perceives China as a cooperative partner.

Yu Hongyuan is a professor and director of the Institute for Public Policy and Innovation at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies. Wang Xinyu is a research assistant at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies. The authors contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.



WANG XIAOYING / CHINA DAILY

Z WEEKLY

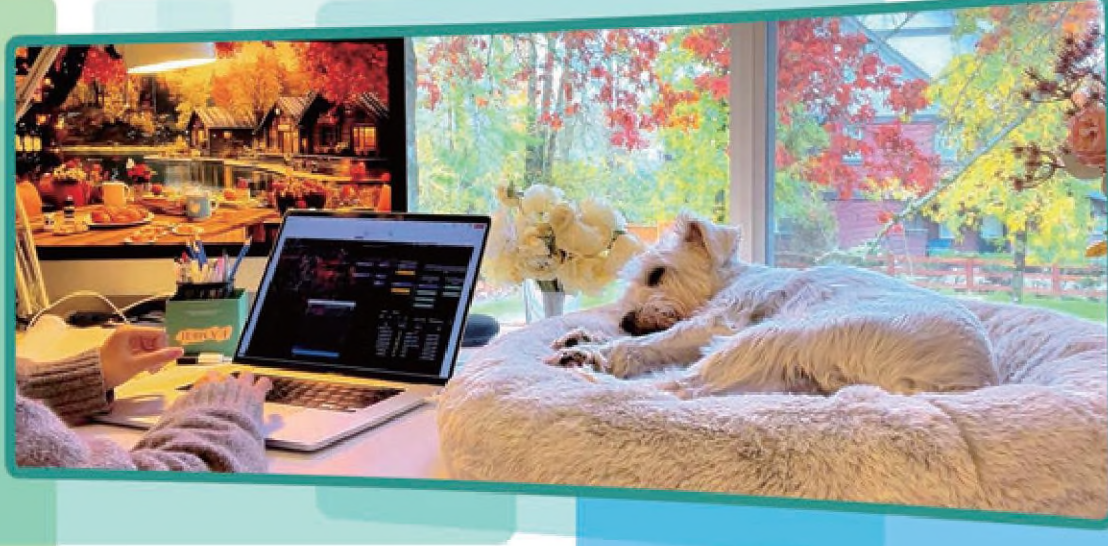
All about Gen Z

Z
WEEKLY

Learning together

Young people are embracing “companion studying” through videos and livestreams, creating supportive online communities that enhance focus and motivation for lifelong learning.

Left: A glimpse of Zhang Qiuyang's desk. Right: The cover of one video from Xiao Zheyue's "Study With Me & My Dog" series.
PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



By GUI QIAN
guiqian@i21st.cn

Zhang Qiuyang, from Chengdu, Sichuan province, was once an avid viewer of “study with me” videos. These videos typically feature vloggers setting up their cameras to capture their desks, offering a detailed glimpse into their study routines. Viewers can study alongside the videos, syncing their pace with the vloggers.

Now in her early 30s, Zhang is part of a growing community of young people embracing the ethos of “lifelong learning”. This group includes individuals preparing for postgraduate qualifying exams, civil service exams, and other tests that — if passed — have the potential to reshape their career paths.

Zhang describes herself as someone who struggles with “initiation difficulties”. “When I perceive something as difficult — like studying — I become anxious and don't want to start,” she explained. “However, watching someone else actively engage in that task through a video helps me realize that it may not be as daunting as I imagined.”

About a year and a half ago, Zhang began creating her own videos in this genre and quickly amassed nearly 30,000 followers on the video-sharing platform Bilibili. Through this process, she discovered even greater benefits.

In her videos, she allocates specific times for each study task and regulates her pace using a timer. “Being on camera adds a certain level of pressure and accountability, compelling me to persist even when I want to give up,” Zhang explained. “Once I get used to this heightened level of focus, studying becomes much easier.”



“By tuning into live study sessions, they actively immerse themselves in a study-focused mindset.”

Xiao Zheyue, a study livestreamer

New ways of learning

In addition to “study with me” videos, the rise of the internet and social media has introduced more innovative forms of “companion studying”.

Xiao Zheyue, 28, from Zibo, Shandong province, also began by creating “study with me” videos and later took it a step further by livestreaming her study sessions for up to 14 hours a day.

Starting with just around 20 viewers, Xiao now typically has over 100 people watching her livestreams simultaneously. She has noticed that many people genuinely rely on this content to create a productive learning environment — one that provides a sense of security. “By tuning into live study sessions, they actively immerse themselves in a study-focused mindset,” she said.



“Being on camera adds a certain level of pressure and accountability, compelling me to persist even when I want to give up.”

Zhang Qiuyang, a study vlogger

Despite her growing viewership, Xiao prefers not to engage directly with her audience during livestreams, aiming to maintain a balance between intimacy and detachment.

“I usually start a session only when I have an important task or a pressing learning goal for the day,” she explained. “For me, it's mainly a way to establish a focused study period without the distractions of my phone.”

On Chinese and international platforms like Xiaohongshu, Discord, Reddit, and TikTok, 24-hour online study rooms allow users to join freely, with some channels hosting tens of thousands of people studying together. Zhang has been one of them.

According to her, these rooms usually discourage chatting, but some participants may turn on their webcams to showcase



“When you realize that many people around the world are experiencing similar challenges, you understand you are not fighting alone.”

Liu Shuxia, a content consumer

their study sessions. “You can hear them writing or flipping through books, which makes me feel like I'm in a library,” Zhang said.

“Everyone wants a study buddy, but real-life social interactions can sometimes be stressful. On the other side of the webcam are complete strangers, yet we're all doing the same thing — studying and working toward our own goals. You can genuinely feel a sense of companionship without the pressure,” Zhang added.

Mutual companionship

Liu Shuxia, from Ulaanqab in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, highly values the emotional support she gains through “companion studying”.

The 25-year-old began preparing for her

postgraduate entrance exam two years ago. At the time, she felt lost and lonely as her former classmates had moved on to different stages of life, making it difficult to seek their advice or confide in them.

In search of connection, Liu joined Douban's Pre-Exam Anxiety Group, where she interacted with like-minded people and also watched videos by study vloggers.

While watching these videos, Liu paid special attention not only to the vloggers themselves but also to the messages and bullet comments from other viewers, many of whom shared insights and study schedules.

This sense of camaraderie helped Liu feel a strong connection.

“When you realize that many people around the world are experiencing similar challenges, you understand you are not fighting alone,” she said.

Unlike other livestreams or videos, “companion studying” reflects the mutual needs of both content creators and their audience: the focus is not just on the host; fans who check in and leave comments also feel acknowledged, fostering a reciprocal dynamic and a sense of community.

As a content creator, Xiao admits that while her initial motivation for making videos was self-discipline and documenting her life, the participation of her audience has become a source of inspiration, encouraging her to continue learning and filming.

Zhang also finds joy in reading comments and messages from her viewers. Knowing that her videos have helped them through tough times is especially fulfilling.

“Through my videos, both I and the strangers behind the screen have shared significant milestones in life together, which creates a unique bond. They feel like my online neighbors,” she said.

Social Media Digest

Kitty at fifty

Hello Kitty might be the most famous cat in the world — with a round face and a red bow tied to her pointed ears. She celebrated her 50th birthday on Nov 1.

To mark the occasion, Hello Kitty's manufacturer, the Japanese company Sanrio, created a special web page, and the Sanrio Puroland theme park in Tokyo displayed large birthday posters. Starting in spring, Sanrio has released collaborative products with brands like Uniqlo and McDonald's. In September, the Hello Kitty-themed cafe at Universal Studios Hollywood, US, officially opened.

According to Sanrio, the prototype for Hello Kitty was inspired by a little girl from London. In 1974, Hello Kitty's image debuted on a plastic coin purse and quickly gained worldwide popularity.

Hello Kitty has also achieved significant commercial success. At one point, she was



A Hello Kitty model is displayed at ExCeL London on Sept 24. vcg

the primary source of profit for Sanrio. As reported by Xinhua, about a decade ago, approximately 75 percent of Sanrio's profits came from Hello Kitty. Today, while the company holds the copyrights to hundreds of popular cartoon characters, Hello Kitty still contributes about 30 percent of its profits.

Christine Yano, professor emerita of anthropology at the University of Hawaii at

Manoa, explained Hello Kitty's enduring appeal. “Her minimalist design, with no mouth, allows fans to project their own emotions onto her, making her a personal and emotional icon for people from all walks of life,” she told the university's news website.

“In today's world, Hello Kitty brings joy and empathy, and I think there's value in that. It's comforting to see something so simple evoke such positive emotions.”

Healing narratives

With Han Kang winning the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature, South Korean literature has quickly become a prominent force on the global stage.

In recent years, alongside the works of renowned authors, another genre of South Korean literature — healing novels — has also been gaining traction in Western countries. The Economist has likened this



Welcome to the Hyunam-dong Bookshop is a beloved title in the genre of healing novels.
PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

trend to K-pop, dubbing it “K-healing”.

Healing novels typically focus on everyday life, with characters gathering in places like convenience stores, bookshops, and libraries to share their stories. They often feature traditional “healing elements” such as cats, ice cream, and coffee.

These novels have simple plots that allow readers to easily immerse themselves

and find comfort in the narrative.

Popular titles in this genre include *Welcome to the Hyunam-dong Bookshop* and *The Inconvenient Convenience Store*.

According to Jiemian News, some critics suggest that K-healing serves as a response to the stress of South Korea's competitive culture. Characters in these novels often struggle with work exhaustion or job setbacks before opting to liberate themselves from real-life pressures in search of more meaningful pursuits.

These works have become incredibly popular among South Korean readers in recent years, consistently dominating nearly half of the sales charts at major chain bookstores like Kyobo Bookstore.

Several well-known international publishers, such as Bloomsbury, Hachette, and HarperCollins, have also published or acquired K-healing novels.

GUI QIAN

Z WEEKLY

Wings of tradition

Young artisans are reviving traditional crafts by blending cultural heritage with modern innovation, making ancient arts accessible to today's youth.



By MENG WENJIE and LIU KUN in Wuhan

At 13, Huang Qian drew a picture of people flying with wings, titled *The Future*. With her father's help, she transferred it onto a piece of purple pottery, ensuring it would be preserved without fading.

Now 30, Huang has given wings to the future of her hometown's purple pottery in Jianshui county, helping it soar beyond the mountains of Yunnan province.

Huang comes from a long line of purple pottery artisans and is the seventh generation to carry on this ancient craft. Dating back to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Jianshui purple pottery was recognized as a State-level intangible cultural heritage in 2008.

The process of creating purple pottery is intricate, involving 12 main steps and 108 sub-steps. Instead of painting directly onto the pottery, artisans inscribe calligraphy and artwork onto the raw clay, carving them into grooves that are later filled with colored clay. After meticulous polishing, the pottery achieves a mirror-like shine, all without the need for glaze.

As Huang grew up, most of her peers in the family moved away from the tradition of making purple pottery. In 2015, while studying at Yunnan Arts University, she decided to take on the responsibility of preserving this ancient craft.

"My generation's task is to build a brand around this craft," she said. "I truly believe that consumption is the best way to preserve old traditions. I want everyone to own a piece of purple pottery."

In 2019, Huang began livestreaming the pottery-making process on social media platforms like Douyin (the Chinese version of TikTok). Through these

streams, she not only showcases the history and cultural significance of purple pottery but also engages with a younger audience.

Huang now has around 140,000 followers, with her livestreams attracting up to 100,000 viewers in a single day. About 25 percent of her audience is between the ages of 25 and 35.

Tradition meets trend

On Xiaohongshu, China's lifestyle-sharing platform, over 550,000 posts are tagged with "intangible cultural heritage", as young netizens express their love for traditional crafts.

"In the past two years, young people have shown increasing interest in intangible cultural heritage," said Zhang Dingjuan, 28, who regularly shares her bamboo weaving creations on the platform.

Hailing from Sichuan province in Southwest China, known for its rich bamboo resources, Zhang explained that bamboo weaving in the region, which dates back to the Neolithic era when it was primarily used for making practical tools, has since evolved into a complex art form.

After graduating from Chengdu University in 2019, Zhang returned to her hometown to work as a bamboo crafts designer. As her passion for the art grew, she traveled to Daoming county in Chengdu, renowned as the "hometown of bamboo weaving", where she apprenticed under a skilled master.

With a background in product design, innovation is central to Zhang's approach. She added a modern twist to traditional bamboo weaving by incorpo-

rating new colors and patterns.

One of her standout pieces, for example, uses shades of blue to dye the bamboo, creating a gradient effect that makes the patterns appear more lifelike.

Zhang also recalls collaborating with an art student who suggested using metal to replicate bamboo. This sparked new creative ideas, as traditional bamboo weavers have always used bamboo, but thinking outside the box offers broader possibilities.

Today, Zhang works with various designers and brands to craft diverse bamboo-woven products. One unexpected partnership was with a mechanical keyboard brand, which invited her to design for their panda-themed keyboard. Zhang created a fan featuring panda elements, with layered colors that produced a striking radial effect, blending classic elegance with a modern tech vibe.

"Traditional crafts may have faded, but now they're being revived with new energy and becoming part of our modern lives," she said.

Liu Qingwen, 34, explained that about 10 years ago, the focus was primarily on preserving traditional crafts. Today, with the growing cultural confidence among



From left to right: Huang Qian and her purple pottery creations. Liu Qingwen and her pile embroidery pieces. Zhang Dingjuan and her bamboo weaving works. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

young people, the emphasis has shifted toward innovating and developing these techniques.

Originally from Qinghai province in Northwest China, Liu is the heir to pile embroidery, a craft with roots dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907). According to her, this art form emerged when Princess Wencheng brought silk embroidery to Tibetan culture, blending it with local Buddhist traditions to create a unique artistic expression.

The craft involves intricately layering colored cotton, silk, and satin fabrics, which are shaped into designs and then embroidered with threads to achieve a sculptural effect.

Introduced to the craft at a young age by her mother, a national inheritor of pile embroidery, Liu's passion for preserving the art deepened during her time volunteering at the local Ministry of Culture and Tourism after university. In 2014, Liu opened her own studio.

According to her, some traditional pile embroidery techniques have been lost over time. One of her key goals is to rediscover and refine these methods, elevating the craft to new artistic standards.

Liu has also collaborated with universities in Hubei and Qinghai to drive innovation in the craft, incorporating new fabrics and developing cultural products.

From museum to market

It's true that intangible cultural heritage embodies the wisdom of artisans spanning thousands of years. However, with industrialization, many traditional crafts have lost their practical value and are now seen merely as "heritage".

"They end up displayed in museums — admired but not truly used," Liu said. "That's why we, as the current generation of inheritors, must make these crafts not only beautiful but also practical and relevant in today's world."

Liu has ensured that the themes in pile embroidery evolve to reflect contemporary life. For example, one of her stand-out pieces combines traditional patterns with depictions of eight wildlife species unique to Qinghai.

"Today, Qinghai is an international eco-tourism destination, home to many rare animals. I want to capture that through my art," she said.

Huang shares a similar vision, adapting purple pottery to appeal to a younger market. She has incorporated animation into her designs and expanded the product line to include bracelets, pendants, and vases, in addition to traditional teapots and teacups.

One of her most popular creations is a series of purple pottery teapots adorned with classic Chinese patterns like plum, orchid, bamboo, and chrysanthemum — four plants that symbolize integrity and virtue. With their minimalist design, easy maintenance, and affordable price of 399 yuan (\$55), these teapots are more accessible to younger consumers compared to high-end handmade purple pottery, which can cost thousands.

"While intricate traditional crafts deserve to be displayed in museums as examples of artistic excellence, they shouldn't be confined to admiration. They come from life and should be reintegrated into modern living," Huang said.

Contact the writers at mengwenjie@i21st.cn



Z WEEKLY

Young Peruvians foster Sino-Peruvian ties

Two Peruvian students in China share their experiences of cultural exchange, highlighting opportunities for deeper cooperation between China and Peru in education, tourism, and technology.

By LI XINRAN
lixinran@121st.cn

Rosa Isabel Neira Alvarez, 19, is a first-year business administration major at Shanghai University (SHU). Before coming to China, she spent three years taking online Chinese courses through a Confucius Institute in Peru.

Although there are four Confucius Institutes in Peru, the one closest to her hometown, located at the University of Piura in Piura, is still two hours away. Despite the distance, Alvarez's passion for learning Chinese remained strong, and the online courses allowed her to continue her studies.

"My teachers were all native Chinese speakers, and I was able to make significant progress in a short period of time," Alvarez said. "They were patient and encouraging, and they motivated me to apply for scholarships that eventually brought me to China."

While Alvarez's interest in China was sparked by learning the language, 32-year-old Jemuel Zarabia Hurtado, also from Peru, was drawn by the country's rich cultural heritage.

"I was eager to immerse myself in Chinese culture and experience a society vastly different from the Western world," said Hurtado, a second-year PhD student in the management, science, and engineering program at SHU.

Before arriving, Hurtado imagined China as more traditional and reserved. "However, after living here for some time, I realized it is a dynamic society — financially open and socially adaptable," he said. "It's not only a leader in science and technology but also a place where culture deeply influences people's actions and contributes to its development."

For example, Hurtado noticed how Chinese society is shaped by Confucianism, Taoism, and the philosophy of yin and yang, all of which influence personal behavior and core values in areas such as relationships, social harmony, discipline, and work.

Alvarez shares similar sentiments. Having spent time in both Nanjing in Jiangsu province and Shanghai, she was impressed by China's infrastructure, particularly its subway systems, which far exceed those in Peru in complexity. "I took the wrong direction the first time, but thanks to the subway announcements and signs in English, I quickly found my way," she said.



Left: Rosa Isabel Neira Alvarez poses for a photo in the Laomendong historic block in Nanjing, Jiangsu, last year. Right: Jemuel Zarabia Hurtado poses for a photo in Lili Ancient Town, Suzhou, Jiangsu, on Oct 17. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Hurtado observed notable differences in social norms and culture between China and Peru.

"Chinese culture emphasizes collective values, respect for authority, and a more formal approach to social life, while Peruvians tend to have a more relaxed and informal

way of interacting," he said.

For example, Hurtado explained that in Peru, people often greet each other with a kiss on the cheek or a hug, accompanied by cheerful expressions like "Hola, amigo". In contrast, greetings in China are typically more formal, with a slight bow

or handshake, and physical contact is usually avoided. Also, social gatherings in China are generally more planned and structured, while in Peru, they are much more spontaneous and flexible.

Despite these differences, Hurtado found common ground between

the two cultures. "Both societies place a strong emphasis on family values, and respect for elders is fundamental," he said.

Through conversations with his Chinese friends, Hurtado realized that many of them were unfamiliar with his homeland.

"They're often surprised when they first learn that I'm from Peru, as it's not as well-known in China as other countries, partly because it's so far away," he said.

Hurtado is always happy to introduce his country's culture to his peers in China because he believes that youth play a crucial role in strengthening the relationship between China and Peru.

"Young people have a deep understanding of contemporary issues and are more adaptable to social changes," he explained.

"By engaging in exchanges, supporting cultural initiatives, and advancing trade and diplomacy, we can foster collaboration in areas of mutual interest," he added.

This is why Hurtado once represented Peru as a student ambassador at SHU's cultural festival. "It helped both Chinese and international students better understand and connect with my home country. Events like this are essential for fostering cultural understanding," he said.

Hurtado is also involved in the Jiangsu-Latin America and the Caribbean University Cooperation Alliance, which focuses on promoting political, economic, scientific, and cultural exchanges.

On a broader level, Hurtado sees great potential in strengthening cooperation in technology and education.

"In the automobile sector, Peru has abundant natural resources, while China possesses advanced technologies that could benefit both countries," he said. "Academically, universities should collaborate more through exchange programs, joint research initiatives, and cultural projects."

Alvarez, on the other hand, highlighted opportunities for deeper cooperation in tourism, as both countries are home to ancient civilizations that honor traditional culture.

"In Peru, we have Machu Picchu, a symbol of Inca heritage, while China boasts iconic sites like the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, and the Palace Museum," she said.

Hurtado is optimistic about the future of Sino-Peruvian relations. "Trade and sustainable development will continue to drive growth," he said, citing China's plans to establish an electric vehicle assembly plant in Peru as an example.

"Young people should take an active role in promoting positive images of both countries through cultural, social, and commercial activities," he said.

Hearing-impaired teen's journey to university success

By LIU KUN in Wuhan
and MENG WENJIE

During the summer, Hu Miaokun, a 19-year-old diagnosed with congenital deafness at the age of two, experienced a life-altering moment: he received acceptance letters from seven universities. This achievement symbolizes more than a decade of unwavering determination in a world of silence.

Hu, born in 2005 in a village in Macheng, Central China's Hubei province, has faced various obstacles throughout his life — he lost his father at the age of five and moved in with his grandparents after his mother remarried.

Despite these difficulties, Hu's passion for learning never wavered. With the encouragement and support of his family, he enrolled in a school specifically designed for hearing-impaired children.

"Adapting to life in a group was tough," Hu signed. "I had to get used to the new environment, follow new

rules, and learn how to interact with others. But over time, these challenges became easier to manage."

Hu recalls how his teachers used various tailored techniques and tools to support student learning. These included multimedia lessons, hearing aids, speech recognition devices, and other assistive technologies, all designed to make learning more accessible.

After completing middle school, Hu continued his education at a specialized high school in Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province. The school offered a broader curriculum, including English.

However, for students with hearing and speech impairments, learning a foreign language can be particularly difficult. While many of his peers had some basic knowledge of the language and were exposed to English through songs, movies, and everyday conversations, Hu had no prior exposure, making the task even more daunting.

"For me, the key to learning



Left: Hu Miaokun practices painting at his grandparents' home in Macheng, Hubei. Right: Hu Miaokun (left) holds his university acceptance letter with his aunt, Hu Qiaoxia. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

English is through reading, writing, and translation," Hu signed.

He created a detailed study plan and adhered to it, learning to prioritize his tasks and manage his time effectively.

Alongside his academic pursuits, Hu has had a passion for painting since childhood. "Painting is a simple and liberating way for me to express myself; it helps me relax," he shared.

Throughout his artistic journey, his aunt, Hu Qiaoxia, has been a steadfast source of support.

When Hu Miaokun was in elementary school, his teacher informed his aunt about his interest in art. Despite concerns about the potential costs, Hu Qiaoxia decided to support her nephew, seeing art as a gateway to new opportunities in his life.

Since then, Hu Qiaoxia has made every effort to provide him with painting materials and access to education. In return, Hu Miaokun has shown deep gratitude, dedicating himself to diligent study and steadily improving his painting skills.

This year, Hu Miaokun took the national college entrance examination, or *gaokao*.

Due to the specialized nature of the exam for students with hearing impairments, which is custom-designed and organized by qualified universities, Hu had to travel to various regions across the country to

complete the tests.

His hard work paid off. Since May, Hu Miaokun has received acceptance letters from all seven universities to which he applied, including Tianjin University of Technology, Beijing Union University, and Changchun University in Jilin province.

Ultimately, Hu Miaokun decided to pursue product design at his dream school, Tianjin University of Technology.

With ambitions of becoming a 3D designer specializing in product modeling, he is now focusing on mastering various modeling software, such as 3ds Max and Adobe Illustrator.

"I'm deeply thankful to my aunt and everyone who has supported me," Hu Miaokun signed. "I will continue to work hard in my studies and, in the future, use my skills to inspire and assist others."

Contact the writers at
mengwenjie@121st.cn