

G20 BRASIL 2024

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XI OFFERS EIGHT ACTIONS TO SUPPORT GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

'If China can make it, other developing nations can make it, too,' he tells G20 leaders



GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY

RIO DE JANEIRO - 2024

President Xi Jinping and other leaders attending the 19th G20 Summit take a group photo at the launch of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday. LI XUEREN / XINHUA

By XU WEI in Rio de Janeiro
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President Xi Jinping unveiled China's eight major actions to shore up global development at the first session of the G20 Summit on Monday morning, calling for more "bridge for cooperation" and less "small yard, high fences" to support the modernization of developing nations.

Speaking to a roomful of world leaders at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, the president stressed the need to channel more resources to fields such as trade, investment and development cooperation, as well as to strengthen development institutions, in order to build a just world of common development.

The session, chaired by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, also marked the launch of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, which Lula said has been endorsed already by 81 countries, 25 international organizations and nine

financial institutions.

"China will always be a member of the Global South, a reliable long-term partner of fellow developing countries, and a doer and go-getter working for the cause of global development," Xi told the session on the first day of the two-day summit.

As part of the eight actions outlined by the Chinese president, China will pursue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and implement the Global Development Initiative, with the advancement of the multidimensional Belt and Road connectivity network and proper development of its Global South research center.

Beijing has so far added 700 billion yuan (\$96.73 billion) into financing windows and injected another 80 billion yuan into the Silk Road Fund to support Belt and Road cooperation, with more than 1,100 development projects put in operations to support the GDI, Xi said.

He also reaffirmed the nation's pledge to help with the development of Africa, includ-

ing a funding commitment of 360 billion yuan for partnership actions with the continent on the modernization drive.

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, according to the president.

He also extended support to the G20 in carrying out pragmatic cooperation for the benefit of the Global South and the implementation of the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

He added that the nation will continue with its high-standard opening-up, and unilaterally open its doors wider to the least developed countries, noting that China's imports from other developing countries are likely to top \$8 trillion from now to 2030.

Xi rallied greater support to developing countries in building a just world of common development, including heightened efforts in facilitating their green development and establishing an open, inclusive and nondis-



President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the first session of the G20 Summit on Monday. LI XUEREN / XINHUA

crimatory environment for international economic cooperation.

"We should promote a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, energize sustainable development with new technologies, new industries and new business forms, and support developing countries in better integrating in digital, smart and green development to bridge the North-South gap," he stressed.

The Chinese president made a strong case for upholding multilateralism, highlighting the need to remain committed to the United Nations-centered international system, the international order underpinned by international law, and the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

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Xi notes China's compatibility with Mexico

By XU WEI in Rio de Janeiro

China and Mexico should continue to enhance exchanges, carry forward their bilateral friendship and take advantage of the highly complementary nature of their economies to advance pragmatic cooperation, President Xi Jinping told Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on Monday.

The talk between the two leaders, on the sidelines of the 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, was their first meeting since Sheinbaum was sworn in as the first female president of the Latin American nation in October.

During the meeting, Xi congratulated Sheinbaum on her election success and described his visit to Mexico in 2013 as a "memorable experience".

He called for the comprehensive development of China-Mexico relations in the new era.

Highlighting the shared perspectives and aligned concepts of the two nations on various international issues, the president underscored both sides' mutual commitment to a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

He stressed China's readiness to work with Mexico to uphold multilateralism, promote international fairness and justice,



President Xi Jinping meets with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on the sidelines of the 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday. LI XUEREN / XINHUA

and inject positive energy into global economic growth.

President Sheinbaum noted that, although Mexico and China are geographically distant, they are closely connected.

She acknowledged the significant presence of Chinese companies in Mexico, including their participation in critical infrastructure projects in Mexico City.

She extended her gratitude for China's sincere and substantial support during challenges such as hurricanes, support that she described as a testament to the enduring friendship between the two peoples.

Sheinbaum reaffirmed Mexico's commitment to multilateralism and expressed her willingness to work with China to unlock potential and expand cooperation across various fields.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China is Mexico's second-largest trading partner, while Mexico ranks as China's second-largest trading partner in Latin America.

According to the General Administration of Customs, trade between the two nations reached \$100.2 billion in 2023.

President calls on G20 to advance global governance

By MO JINGXI in Rio de Janeiro
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President Xi Jinping has urged the G20 to continue to act as a force to improve global governance and move history forward, as this main forum for international economic cooperation is now confronting a more fragmented world economy than it was in 2008.

Xi made the call while attending the second session of the G20 Summit on Monday afternoon. The session was a platform for discussions about reforming global governance.

"It has been 16 years since the G20 Summit was launched. Over the years, we have worked in solidarity to tackle the global financial crisis, promoted cooperation on

global economy, finance and trade, and steered the world economy onto the track of recovery," Xi said.

Consisting of 19 countries and two regional bodies of the African Union and the European Union, the G20 represents around 85 percent of the world's GDP, more than 75 percent of world trade and around two-thirds of the world's population.

To improve global trade governance and build a world economy characterized by openness, the Chinese president said development should be placed at the center of the international economic and trade agenda, and trade and investment liberalization and facilitation should be steadily advanced.

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XI'S VISIT

Building a
Just World
of Common
DevelopmentRemarks by H.E. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
On Fight Against Hunger and Poverty
At Session I of the 19th G20 Summit
Rio de Janeiro, November 18, 2024Your Excellency President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva,
Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to attend the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. I thank President Lula and the Brazilian government for the warm hospitality extended to the Chinese delegation.

Today, transformation of a scale not seen in a century is accelerating across the world. Humanity faces unprecedented opportunities and challenges. As leaders of major countries, we should not let our vision be blocked by fleeting clouds. Rather, we must see the world as one community with a shared future, and shoulder our responsibility for history, take historical initiative and move history forward.

I pointed out at this forum that prosperity and stability would not be possible in a world where the rich become richer while the poor are made poorer, and countries should make global development more inclusive, beneficial to all, and more resilient. At the Hangzhou Summit, China placed development at the center of the G20's macroeconomic policy coordination for the first time, and the Summit adopted the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa and Least Developed Countries. The Rio Summit this year has chosen the theme "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet." It places fighting hunger and poverty at the top of the agenda, and decides to establish a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. From Hangzhou to Rio, we have been working for one and the same goal, that is, to build a just world of common development.

To build such a world, we need to channel more resources to such fields as trade, investment and development cooperation, and strengthen development institutions. There should be more bridges of cooperation, and less "small yard, high fences," so that more and more developing countries will be better off and achieve modernization.

To build such a world, we need to support developing countries in adopting sustainable production and lifestyle, properly responding to challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution, enhancing ecological conservation, and achieving harmony between man and nature.

To build such a world, we need an open, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for international economic cooperation. We should promote a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, energize sustainable development with new technologies, new industries and new business forms, and support developing countries in better integrating in digital, smart and green development to bridge the North-South gap.

To build such a world, we need to stay committed to multilateralism. We should uphold the UN-centered international system, the international order underpinned by international law, and the basic norms of international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Colleagues,

China's development is an important part of the common development of the world. We have lifted 800 million people out of poverty, and met the poverty reduction target of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ahead of schedule.

This achievement did not just fall into our laps. It is the fruit of the strenuous, unified efforts of the Chinese government and people. Everything China does, it always places the people front and center, and it solemnly declares that "not a single poor region or person should be left behind." To tackle poverty, we have targeted policies tailored to each village, each household and each person; we facilitate growth by vigorously channeling talent, funds and technologies to underdeveloped regions; we help localities generate growth by fostering industries with distinctive features and upgrading infrastructure, all in light of their own conditions; and we promote common prosperity by pairing up well-off regions with less developed ones. I have worked from village to county, city, provincial and central levels. Poverty alleviation has always been a priority and a major task I am determined to deliver.

China's story is proof that developing countries can eliminate poverty, and that a weaker bird can start early and fly high, when there is the endurance, perseverance, and striving spirit that enables water drops to penetrate rocks over time and turns blueprints into reality. If China can make it, other developing countries can make it too. This is what China's battle against poverty says to the world.

Colleagues,

China will always be a member of the Global South, a reliable long-term partner of fellow developing countries, and a doer and go-getter working for the cause of global development. A single flower does not make spring. China wants to see a hundred flowers in full blossom and will go hand in hand with fellow developing countries toward modernization. Today, I wish to outline China's eight actions for global development.

First, pursuing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. On top of RMB700 billion yuan added financing windows and an additional RMB80 billion yuan injection into the Silk Road Fund, China is moving ahead with the development of the multidimensional Belt and Road connectivity network, one that is led by the building of a green Silk Road and will empower a digital Silk Road.

Second, implementing the Global Development Initiative. On the basis of over 1,100 development projects already in operation, we will make sure the Global South research center that is being built is fit for purpose, and the 20 billion U.S. dollars of development funds will continue to be put to good use to support developing countries and deepen practical cooperation in areas such as poverty reduction, food security and the digital economy.

Third, supporting development in Africa. At the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in September this year, I unveiled ten partnership actions on joining hands with Africa to advance modernization over the next three years and, in this connection, a commitment of RMB360 billion yuan in financial support.

Fourth, supporting international cooperation on poverty reduction and food security. China has decided to join the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. We support the G20 in continuing to convene the Development Ministerial Meeting, and will stay a committed host of the International Conference on Food Loss and Waste.

Fifth, 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.

Sixth, supporting the G20 in carrying out practical cooperation for the benefit of the Global South and using such outcomes as the Roadmap to Increase Investment in Clean Energy in Developing Countries and the High-Level Principles on Bioeconomy to good effect. China supports the work of the Entrepreneurship Research Center on G20 Economies based in Beijing, and supports cooperation on digital education and the digitization of museums and ancient archives.

Seventh, implementing the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan. We are strengthening cooperation with fellow developing countries in fugitive repatriation and asset recovery, denial of safe haven, and anti-corruption capacity building.

Eighth, China is pursuing high-standard opening up, and unilaterally opening our doors wider to the least developed countries (LDCs). We have announced the decision to give all LDCs having diplomatic relations with China zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines. From now to 2030, China's imports from other developing countries are likely to top 8 trillion dollars.

Colleagues,

The Chinese often say, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." China is ready to take steps together with all parties to build a just world of common development, leave poverty in the past, and turn our vision into reality.

Thank you.

XINHUA



President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the second session of the G20 Summit on Monday. LI XUEREN / XINHUA

Working Together for a Fair and
Equitable Global Governance SystemRemarks by H.E. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
On Reform of the Institutions of Global Governance
At Session II of the 19th G20 Summit
Rio de Janeiro, November 18, 2024Your Excellency President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva,
Colleagues,

It has been 16 years since the G20 Summit was launched. Over the years, we have worked in solidarity to tackle the global financial crisis, promoted cooperation on global economy, finance and trade, and steered the world economy onto the track of recovery. We have worked in concert to face global challenges head-on, be it climate change or the COVID-19 pandemic, spearheaded technological transformation, and kept renewing the G20's responsibilities and missions. We have worked in unison to improve global governance, strengthened macroeconomic policy coordination, pressed ahead with reforming the international financial institutions, and championed international cooperation in the spirit of equal consultation and mutual benefit.

Proceeding from a new starting point, the G20 needs to build on its past achievements and continue to act as a force to improve global governance and move history forward. We should keep in mind that mankind lives in a community with a shared future, see each other's development as opportunities rather than challenges, and view each other as partners rather than rivals. We should observe the basic norms of international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and defend the international order based on international law. In light of the G20's mandate, we could build greater international consensus in the economic, financial, trade, digital and eco-environmental fields, among others, to improve global governance and promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

First, we need to improve global economic governance and build a world economy characterized by cooperation. We have developed the G20 comprehensive growth strategies and established a framework for strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. We should stay committed to strengthening global economic partnerships, reinforcing macro policy coordination in fiscal, financial, monetary and structural reform policies, cultivating new quality productive forces, and raising total factor productivity, in a bid to open up more possibilities for the global economy. It is important to make good use of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meetings, let them serve as a ballast for macro policy coordination, and foster an open, inclusive, and nondiscriminatory environment for international economic cooperation. As main creditors, international financial institutions and commercial creditors need to take part in debt reduction and suspension for developing countries. It is also important to create a clean business environment by upholding a zero-tolerance stance against corruption, stepping up international cooperation on fugitive repatriation and asset recovery, and denying safe haven to corrupt officials and their assets.

Second, we need to improve global financial governance and build a world economy characterized by stability. To increase the voice and representation of developing countries, the World Bank should carry out shareholding review and the International Monetary Fund should carry out quota share realignment in line with the agreed timeframe and roadmap. Joint efforts are needed to keep the international financial market stable and prevent negative spillover of domestic monetary policy adjustments. Developed countries should fulfill their responsibilities in this regard. It is important to enhance the systems for financial risks monitoring, early warning and handling, reinforce cooperation in such areas as digital currency and taxation, and strengthen the global financial safety net. The G20 Sustainable Finance Roadmap should be implemented at a faster pace to better meet the green financing needs of developing countries.

Third, we need to improve global trade governance and build a world economy characterized by openness. We should place development at the center of the international economic and trade agenda, and steadily advance trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. We should press ahead with reforming the World Trade Organization (WTO), oppose unilateralism and protectionism, restore the normal functioning of the dispute settlement mechanism as soon as possible, include the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement into the WTO legal framework, and reach early consensus on the e-commerce agreement. We should work actively to keep the WTO rules relevant, both addressing long-pending issues and exploring the formulation of new, future-oriented rules, to enhance the authority, efficacy and relevance of the multilateral trading system. It is important to avoid politicizing economic issues, avoid fragmenting the global market, and avoid taking protectionist moves in the name of green and low-carbon development. Two years ago, China and Indonesia, together with some other countries, launched the Initiative of International Cooperation on Resilient and Stable Industrial and Supply Chains, calling for industrial and supply chain partnerships that are more equal, inclusive and constructive. We stand ready for closer cooperation with all sides on this initiative.

Fourth, we need to improve global digital governance and build a world economy characterized by innovation. We should strengthen the function of the G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting, and let it play a leading role in digital transition, the deep integration of the digital economy and the real economy, and rules-making in emerging areas. We should step up international governance and cooperation on artificial intelligence (AI), to make sure that AI is for good and for all, not a game of the rich countries and the wealthy. China hosted the 2024 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance, and issued the Shanghai

Declaration on Global AI Governance. Together with other parties, China promoted the adoption of a UN General Assembly resolution on enhancing international cooperation on AI capacity-building. China will hold another world AI conference in 2025 and welcomes the participation of fellow G20 members.

Fifth, we need to improve global ecological governance and build a world economy characterized by eco-friendliness. We should honor the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and fully and effectively implement the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for the sake of man's harmonious coexistence with nature. Developed countries should provide developing countries with the necessary funding, technology and capacity-building support. The recently concluded UN Biodiversity Conference produced important consensus. We should jointly support the ongoing and upcoming UN conferences on climate change and desertification in achieving positive outcomes. Energy transition and energy security is a major issue. We should follow the approach of "establishing the new before abolishing the old," and replace traditional energy with clean energy in a stable and well-ordered way, as we expedite the green and low-carbon transition of the world economy. China stands ready to continue to deepen international cooperation with all sides on green infrastructure, green energy, green mining and green transport, and will provide support to developing countries to the best of its ability.

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. To deescalate the Ukraine crisis and seek a political settlement, we should follow the principles of no expansion of the battlefields, no escalation of hostilities and no fanning flames. China and Brazil, together with some other Global South countries, launched the group of "friends for peace" on the Ukraine crisis, with the goal of bringing together more voices for peace. The fighting in Gaza has inflicted deep suffering on the people. It is urgent for all sides to stop fighting, end the war, and provide support for easing the humanitarian crisis in the region and for postwar reconstruction. The fundamental way out of the cycle of Palestinian-Israeli conflict lies in the implementation of the two-State solution, the restoration of Palestine's legitimate national rights, and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine.

Colleagues,

Let us renew our commitment to the founding mission of the G20, and make a fresh start from Rio de Janeiro. Let us carry forward partnership, practice true multilateralism, and usher in a better future of common development and prosperity.

Thank you.

XINHUA

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XI'S VISIT

Xi emphasizes pursuit of common development

President meets with British, Australian prime ministers on sidelines of G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro



President Xi Jinping shakes hands with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer during their meeting on the sidelines of the 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday. PHOTOS BY WANG ZHUANGFEI / CHINA DAILY



President Xi shakes hands with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during their meeting on the sidelines of the 19th G20 Summit on Monday.

China, UK urged to deepen mutual trust

By ZHANG YUNBI
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Beijing and London should realize mutual benefits and win-win results, and jointly write the next chapter of China-UK relations featuring healthy and stable development, President Xi Jinping said when meeting with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

They met on the sidelines of the 19th G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday, marking their first face-to-face meeting since Starmer took office as prime minister in July. Xi said that the two sides "should keep defining each other as strategic partners" and stick to mutual respect, openness, cooperation, exchanges and mutual understanding.

He emphasized that the two countries "share a wide range of common interests despite their differences in history, culture, values and social systems".

The two sides should look at each other's development in a rational

and objective way, strengthen strategic communication, enhance political mutual trust, and ensure that China-UK relations advance in a stable, practical and far-reaching manner, Xi said.

He added that the two countries should continue to expand the space for cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, clean energy, financial services, medical care and people's livelihoods, in order to better benefit the two peoples.

Starmer said a strong and enduring UK-China relationship is important for both countries and the world.

London hopes to uphold the spirit of mutual respect, equality and frankness, and work with Beijing to strengthen dialogue and enhance mutual understanding, he said.

Starmer said he hopes that the two sides will carry out exchanges and cooperation in a wide range of areas, including trade, science and technology, finance and economy, health and medical care, education and climate change response.

Xi held his first phone conversation with Starmer in August.

Observers noted that in recent months, China and the UK have seen good momentum in exchanges at various levels, as senior officials from the two countries, including ministers, have held talks or made phone calls covering areas such as foreign policy, the economy, finance and energy.

Speaking on the relations' global influence on Monday, Xi cited the common identity of the two countries as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and major world economies.

Both countries shoulder "the great duty of driving their own development as well as the responsibility of addressing global challenges", he noted.

The two sides should facilitate the political settlement of hot spot issues, strengthen global governance of artificial intelligence, and contribute to boosting world economic growth and realizing the common development of various countries, he added.

Beijing, Canberra to bolster cooperation

By CAO DESHENG
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President Xi Jinping expressed on Monday China's willingness to work with Australia to build a more mature, stable and constructive comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries to inject greater stability and certainty into the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

Xi made the remark during a meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the sidelines of the 19th G20 Summit.

Noting that there are fundamentally no conflicts of interest between China and Australia, Xi emphasized that as long as both sides respect each other, treat each other as equals and seek common ground while shelving differences, bilateral relations will certainly develop well.

China has been Australia's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years, with bilateral trade

reaching around \$230 billion last year. Bilateral relations were severely damaged in the past few years due to the negative policies adopted by the previous Australian government toward China. The two countries have broken the ice since Albanese took office in 2022.

During Monday's meeting, Xi praised the progress achieved in the past year, and noted that a record high of more than 250 Australian companies participated in this year's China International Import Expo. This shows the "vote of confidence" that Australian businesses have given the Chinese economy and bilateral cooperation, he said.

Both sides should remain committed to expanding the dynamics of mutually beneficial cooperation, Xi said, adding that China is willing to import more high-quality Australian products and encourage Chinese companies to invest and expand their businesses in Australia.

He expressed the hope that Australia will provide a fair, transparent and

nondiscriminatory business environment for Chinese enterprises.

Noting that both China and Australia are supporters and defenders of economic globalization and free trade, Xi called on the two countries to strengthen coordination and cooperation, oppose protectionism, and promote the sharing of opportunities and benefits among countries through opening-up, in order to achieve common development.

Albanese commended the encouraging progress made in bilateral relations and reiterated Australia's commitment to adhering to the one-China policy, opposing economic decoupling and advocating the advancement of economic globalization.

He praised China's contributions to the long-term stability and development of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as its significant role in multilateral mechanisms, and said Australia is willing to strengthen communication with China to promote regional peace, stability and prosperity.

Summit: G20 urged to improve governance

From page 1

He stressed the need to press ahead with reforming the World Trade Organization (WTO), oppose unilateralism and protectionism, restore the normal functioning of the dispute-settlement mechanism as soon as possible, and reach an early consensus on an e-commerce agreement.

"It is important to avoid politicizing economic issues, avoid fragmenting the global market, and avoid taking protectionist moves in the name of green and low-carbon development," Xi told the participating leaders.

The Chinese president made the appeal at a time when the WTO's principle of free and fair trade has been challenged by certain countries' politicization of trade and investment for geopolitical reasons. The global market also is fragmented by such acts as the imposition of high tariffs, experts said.

"For example, while the US turns to Mexico and other countries for trade from China on the pretext of national security, the European Union is more focused on its domestic market in the name of diversification," said Shi Shiwel, a senior research fellow at the University of International Business and Economics' Research Center for China-EU Economic Cooperation.

Shi said that as a result, trade between countries has become more difficult, steering the world economy away from globalization.

Xi noted in his remarks: "We should keep in mind that mankind lives in a community with a shared future; see each other's development as opportunities rather than challenges; and view each other as partners rather than rivals."

He also urged the G20 members to build a greater international consensus in the economic, financial, trade, digital and eco-environmental fields, among others, to improve global governance and promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

"China stands ready to continue to deepen international cooperation with all sides on green infrastructure, green energy, green mining and green transport and will provide support to developing countries to the best of its ability," Xi said.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva also defended on Monday the reform of global governance during the second session. "The answer to the crisis of multilateralism is more multilateralism. It is not necessary to wait for a new world war or an economic collapse to promote the transformations that the international order needs," he said.

Noting that global security governance is part and parcel of global governance, Xi said that the G20 should support the United Nations and its Security Council in playing a greater role and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises.

"To de-escalate the Ukraine crisis and seek a political settlement, we should follow the principles of no expansion of the battlefields, no escalation of hostilities and no fanning flames," Xi said. He also stressed the urgency of all sides to stop fighting in Gaza, to end that war, and provide support for easing the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East region and for postwar reconstruction.

The G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration was adopted at the summit.

Presidential welcome



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva greets President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday. LI XUEREN / XINHUA

Xi: Taking action to aid global development, fight hunger

From page 1

Xi also announced Beijing's decision to join the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, saying that the nation will remain a committed host of the International Conference on Food Loss and Waste.

The Chinese president shared with other leaders China's key experience in lifting 800 million people out of poverty and meeting the targets for poverty reduction in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ahead of schedule.

"This achievement did not just fall into our laps. It is the fruit of

the strenuous, unified efforts of the Chinese government and people," he explained.

Everything China does, it always places the people front and center, and it solemnly declares that "not a single poor region or person should be left behind", he said.

"China's story is proof that developing countries can eliminate poverty, and that a weaker bird can start early and fly high," Xi told other leaders. "If China can make it, other developing countries can make it, too. This is what China's battle against poverty says to the world."

President Lula highlighted the shared responsibility of the G20 economies, which account for around 85 percent of the world's GDP, 75 percent of the global trade, and two-thirds of the world population, in putting an end to malnourishment across the globe.

"We coexist with a contingent of 733 million people still undernourished, as if the populations of Brazil, Mexico, Germany, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Canada were all suffering from hunger combined," he said at the opening of the session.

"Those who have always been

invisible will be at the center of the international agenda," he said.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, whose country is set to assume the G20 presidency in December, also urged redoubled efforts to eliminate hunger and poverty.

He cited figures showing that of the nearly 700 million people currently living in extreme poverty, 67 percent are in sub-Saharan Africa.

"It is only through an integrated and comprehensive system of social support that we will be able to assist the most vulnerable in society," he said.

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XI'S VISIT

China, Brazil
make progress
on 7th satelliteLong-term collaboration offers benefits
of space technology to developing worldBy ZHAO LEI
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Spacecraft designers and engineers from China and Brazil are working to develop a remote-sensing satellite that will obtain data and images for public services and economic development.

The CBERS-6 is under research and development at the China Academy of Space Technology in Beijing and Brazil's National Institute for Space Research in Sao Paulo, and will become the seventh satellite of the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite program.

According to the China National Space Administration, the 800-kilogram satellite will use a Brazilian structure and will be equipped with Chinese microwave imaging instruments such as an X-band synthetic aperture radar.

It is scheduled to be launched around 2028 by a Chinese Long March 2C or 2D carrier rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi province, and will work in a sun-synchronous orbit, the administration said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called the CBERS program a good example for high-technology and space cooperation among developing countries.

Researchers from both space bodies have held several meetings to discuss technical issues and have reached agreements on major arrangements. Meanwhile, the two sides have begun to work on the conceptual design for the CBERS-5, which will be followed by the CBERS-6, it noted.

The basis for space cooperation between China and Brazil was established in May 1984, when both countries signed a complementary agreement to the cooperation framework agreement on science and technology.

Four years later, they commenced their cooperation in the

satellite field by signing a protocol establishing the joint research and production of the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellites.

After several years of painstaking work, CBERS-1, the first satellite created by the joint endeavor, was launched in October 1999. The second and third satellites — CBERS-2 and CBERS-2B — were launched in October 2003 and September 2007.

All of the first three satellites have been retired.

The fourth, CBERS-3, was lifted in December 2013 but failed to enter its preset orbit due to rocket malfunctions.

The fifth satellite, CBERS-4, which was launched in December 2014, and the most recent in this fleet, CBERS-4A, which was deployed in December 2019, are still operating.

All six CBERS satellites were launched by Chinese rockets from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center.

The CBERS program has generated and distributed millions of images to users in China and Brazil. Data products made by the program have served a wide range of public services in the two countries, including land resources surveys, environmental inspections, climate change research, disaster prevention and agricultural forecasts.

Rafael Lopes Costa, a Brazilian space engineer in the CBERS-4A program, said the satellite and its predecessors have enabled his country to be more independent on remote sensing data, adding that products generated by CBERS satellites "are very important for monitoring our large national area and environmental preservation and other applications".

The two nations have also offered a large amount of CBERS images to other developing countries and regions to help with their socioeconomic development.



The CBERS-4A satellite jointly developed by the China Academy of Space Technology in Beijing and Brazil's National Institute for Space Research in Sao Paulo is launched by a Chinese Long March carrier rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in Shanxi province on Dec 20, 2019. ZHENG TAOTAO / XINHUA

Complementary trade gains growth momentum

By ZHONG NAN
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With strengthened business ties and closer supply chain collaboration, China and Brazil, two strong advocates of economic globalization, will have broader opportunities to expand trade, investment and employment, said experts and company executives.

"Even though both countries have faced slowing global demand for goods in recent years, the interdependence between them remains strong, with a stable cross-industry trade relationship," said Ren Lin, a researcher at the Institute of World Economics and Politics, affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing.

Brazil's reindustrialization and its New Growth Acceleration Program will deepen collaboration in traditional areas such as agriculture, energy, minerals, infrastructure and aerospace, and expand collaboration in emerging fields such as interconnectivity, healthcare, green growth, the digital economy and artificial intelligence, Ren said.

The New Growth Acceleration Program, set up last year, aims to bolster economic expansion and national competitiveness. The initiative involves large investments from the federal government and the private sector, focusing on construction, sanitation, energy, transportation and logistics, the Brazilian government said.

Trade between China and Brazil was worth \$181.5 billion last year, 6.1 percent more than in 2022. China has been Brazil's largest trading partner for the past 15 years, and Brazil is China's largest trading partner in Latin America, according to China's General Administration of Customs.

This momentum continued in the first nine months of this year, with the value of bilateral trade rising 10.1



A Brazilian chef serves barbecued beef to visitors at a stall for Brazilian agricultural products during the 7th China International Import Expo in the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai on Nov 9. JIA TIANYONG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

percent on an annual basis to \$146.23 billion.

China's exports to Brazil include manufacturing equipment, electronics, textiles and garments, household appliances, construction machinery, trains, trucks, bulk vessels and oil tankers.

In addition to mining products and crude oil, Brazil supplies China passenger aircraft, timber, paper pulp, steel, organic chemicals, soybeans, cotton, coffee, corn and beef.

"China will keep exporting consumer goods in exchange for Brazil's mining and agricultural commodities," said Zhang Weiqi, director of the Center for Brazilian Studies at Shanghai International Studies University. "The majority of imports between the two countries are complementary rather than competitive."

That sentiment is in line with the latest figures. In each of the six years

to 2023 the value of bilateral trade between China and Brazil exceeded \$100 billion, China's Ministry of Commerce said.

While commodity trade is central to their economic ties, Zhang said Brazil's rising demand for modern services and infrastructure upgrades, including smart city and agricultural projects, power plants, bulk and container ports, has also created new opportunities for Chinese construction project providers and manufacturers.

In addition to consistently importing raw materials from Brazil, Chinese companies have played a key role in Brazil's infrastructure development market over the past decade, particularly in traditional and clean energy power generation projects, construction machinery and automobile manufacturing.

State Grid Corporation of China,

for example, secured a concession agreement for a big-ticket project to export new energy power from northeastern Brazil to other regions in April.

The project will include building a 1,468-kilometer power transmission line, a converter station, phase-shifting transformers and supporting facilities. It is designed with a rated transmission capacity of 5 million kilowatts, said Sun Peng, chief executive of State Grid Brazil Holding, a subsidiary of State Grid, a Beijing-based State-owned enterprise.

The power transmission line, stretching through the states of Maranhao, Tocantins and Goias, will take clean energy such as wind, solar and hydroelectric power from northeastern and northern Brazil to areas such as Brasilia, meeting the demands of 12 million people, Sun said.

Decades of bilateral fossil study unearths discoveries

By YAN DONGJIE
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Despite being nearly 20,000 kilometers apart and on different continents, over the past 20 years Chinese and Brazilian scientists have worked together to find many similarities in the pterosaur fossils found in either country.

Since 1997, Wang Xiaolin and his team from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences have discovered numerous pterosaur fossils in the western part of Liaoning province, dating back around 125 to 120 million years ago within the Jehol Biota period.

"*Sinopterus* (a pterosaur fossil found in China) is very similar to *Tapejara* found in Brazil, belonging to the Tapejaridae family, marking the first discovery of this pterosaur group outside Brazil," Wang said.

Pterosaurs, flying reptiles, share close evolutionary ties with dinosaurs and crocodiles, with their scientific name meaning "winged lizard." Pterosaurs are one of the most representative groups of vertebrates from the Mesozoic Era, roughly spanning from about 230 million years ago to 66 million years ago, and there have been discoveries in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, Liaoning and Hebei provinces and other regions of China.

"Because both China and Brazil are crucial sites for pterosaur fossil discoveries worldwide, and fossil morphology comparison is vital in



Paleontologists from China and Brazil inspect a pterosaur fossil site in Hami, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, in 2017. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

paleontological research, scientists from both countries started in-depth collaboration in 2003 to enhance pterosaur research," Wang said.

"This collaboration allows both sides to efficiently observe specimens and gather research data, facilitating a more comprehensive study of pterosaurs," he added.

Chinese and Brazilian scientists have identified 17 species of pterosaur fossils, publishing numerous academic papers on pterosaurs and dinosaurs in top international journals like *Nature*, *Science*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Last year, based on research on pterosaur fossils from the Jehol Biota in western Liaoning, Chinese and Brazilian scientists jointly established a new genus and species within the Chaoyangopteridae family, naming it

Amizade Beauty Dragon, or *Meilifeilong Youhao* in Chinese, symbolizing the 20-year-long friendly cooperation between scientists from both countries in the field of pterosaur and other paleontological research.

In 2004, a Brazilian pterosaur research team visited China for the first time. Wang led Brazilian Academy of Sciences academicians Alexander Wilhelm Armin Kellner and Diogenes de Almeida Campos to survey major fossil sites in Liaoning province and Inner Mongolia. Since then, Kellner has visited China multiple times, conducting field surveys in Xinjiang, Shandong and other regions alongside Chinese scientists.

In 2018, during an academic conference in Hefei, Anhui province, Kellner, who is also director of the National Museum of Brazil, shared the news of the devastating fire at the

museum. The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology of China subsequently issued a proposal urging support for the reconstruction of the National Museum of Brazil, leading to donations of specimens from Chinese museums, universities and research institutions.

"Over the past 20 years, scientific and cultural exchanges have built a bridge for collaborative research between Brazil and China," said Kellner, who is also a professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Chinese scientists have identified over 50 species of pterosaurs, accounting for nearly a quarter of all known pterosaur species worldwide. Wang and Kellner have become the two scientists with the most named pterosaurs in the world.

Wang said that after the discovery of the *Hamipterus* and its eggs and embryos, the research findings of Chinese and Brazilian paleontologists were hailed as the most exciting discovery in pterosaur research in over 200 years.

Paleontological experts Wang and Zhou Zhonghe have posited that western Liaoning is the origin and radiation center of several pterosaur groups in the Cretaceous Period. As research progresses among scientists from both sides, this viewpoint has been further supported.

Due to the outstanding contributions made by the two Chinese scientists to pterosaur research in Brazil, Wang and Zhou were elected Corresponding Members of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences in 2013 and 2015, respectively.

Expert: Summit could bring positive outcomes on climate issues

By XING YI in London
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China's pro-environment growth model and its advocacy for sustainable development echo Brazil's agenda for the G20 Leaders' Summit, and meaningful action to tackle climate change could be expected as a result, a Latin American expert said.

Francisco Dominguez, a former head of the Centre for Brazilian and Latin American Studies at Middlesex University in London, said Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has made clear on several occasions that he wants to address the issue of climate and environment.

"Brazil under Lula is a very progressive country. When it comes to climate change and international conflicts, Brazil has significant weight," said Dominguez.

It is the first time that Brazil, marking 50 years of diplomatic relations with China this year, has hosted the G20 Summit.

"Given that China has taken pro-environment policies in all sorts of ways, and it is a significant part of G20, the partnership between the two countries in protecting the environment will be strengthened at this summit," he added.

With an area of 6.7 million square kilometers, the Amazon is sometimes referred to as the lungs of the

planet, but Dominguez pointed out that the deforestation of the rainforest has already reached 17 percent, and if it reaches 20-25 percent, a tipping point will be passed, and the largest rainforest on Earth could become a dry grassland.

"It is decisive that countries should do something about it," he said, adding that eight Amazon nations convened in Brazil last year to discuss the deforestation issue, and at this year's G20 Summit there will be lobbying for funds that developed countries, such as the United States and European countries, have pledged but haven't fulfilled.

During a G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank govern-

ors earlier this year, China's Finance Minister Lan Folan called for all parties to adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in climate actions, asking developed countries to implement their climate finance commitments.

Brazil has already proposed creating a \$125 billion global fund, the Tropical Forest Finance Facility, that borrows from wealthy countries' governments, multilateral organizations and institutional investors to invest in high-yielding portfolios and then uses the investment's income to compensate countries for conserving tropical forests worldwide.

To conserve doesn't mean zero development, and to achieve sustainability needs a social-economic dimension, said Dominguez, who has taught world economy and development studies in the past three decades, citing China's modernization as one based on a pro-environment growth model.

According to China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China has planted trees over an area of 1.12 million sq km in the past decade, which is bigger than the area of the whole island of Ireland.

"China has made huge reforestation projects in the desert, adopted a vigorous policy of reduction of

carbon emissions, developing renewable energy such as solar panels and wind turbines, building high-speed trains and promoting electric vehicles ... and it has also pulled more than 800 million people out of extreme poverty," said Dominguez, who first visited China in 2013.

Earlier this year, Dominguez went with a delegation to visit five Chinese cities, including Beijing, Hangzhou and Changchun, during which he said he noticed the omnipresence of electric vehicles on the roads, the significant reduction of air pollution and an efficient public service system.

"That's the concept when we talk about sustainability. If you have the right combination of policies, it can be done in Brazil and everywhere else as well," he said.

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Journalists work at the G20 International Media Center in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Sunday. The 19th G20 Summit is being held in Rio on Monday and Tuesday.

CLAUDIA MARTINI / XINHUA



Chinese e-commerce giants make their way into Brazil

Cross-border online marketplaces help facilitate trade ties with Latin America

By FAN FEIFEI
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Chinese e-commerce platforms are making a beeline for Brazil to cultivate new customers and rev up sales, as cross-border online marketplaces have become an important new driving force for bolstering the growth of China's foreign trade and promoting economic and trade cooperation with Latin America.

Online discounter PDD Holdings, the parent company of Chinese e-commerce platform Pinduoduo, launched its cross-border e-commerce platform Temu in Brazil in June. This is the 70th country that Temu has entered since its debut in September 2022 in the United States, and the step is considered the most important in the company's expansion plans in the Latin American market.

To attract local consumers in Brazil, Temu is offering an array of favorable policies including shopping discounts and coupons, as well as free home delivery.

According to global research firm Statista, Brazil remains the leader in Latin America's e-commerce space. In 2023, the country's online shopping revenue amounted to nearly 186 billion Brazilian reais (\$32 billion), more than double the figure in 2019.

Temu's online retail business in Latin America already covers Chile, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Uruguay, Ecuador, Dominica and Panama. The platform offers a wide selection

of merchandise, including apparel, consumer electronics, jewelry, shoes, cosmetics and baby products at competitive prices. Most of these products are shipped directly from factories or warehouses in China.

Chen Lei, chairman and co-chief executive officer of PDD, said the company hopes to leverage the supply chain capacity it has accumulated over the years to create a new channel that enables consumers in different countries and regions to directly purchase products from factories, providing more flexible and personalized supply chains and more cost-effective shopping experiences.

Online fast-fashion retailer Shein has been investing in Brazilian garment manufacturers to support local manufacturing and enhance competitiveness. Founded in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, Shein is known for its affordable and large selection of fashionable clothing and accessories — features that allow it to gain traction among overseas shoppers.

The company has announced that it will initially invest \$150 million to establish a network with thousands of textile manufacturers in Brazil, which is expected to become a manufacturing and export hub for the rest of Latin America. It plans to partner with 2,000 local manufacturers, creating around 100,000 new jobs over the next three years.

The investment will be used to provide tools and training in factories to upgrade traditional opera-

tions to match Shein's on-demand production model. This will enable local manufacturers to better manage orders, reduce waste and lower excess inventory, the company said.

"The key to our growth strategy is leveraging our global scale and operational excellence to support and contribute to local economies and ecosystems," said Marcelo Claire, chairman of Shein in Latin America.

With growing consumer demand, the company saw the opportunity to localize more of the supply chain to benefit consumers, small businesses and the wider economy, he said.

By the end of 2026, local manufacturers and vendors are expected to account for almost 85 percent of all transactions made in Brazil, according to Shein. The company also announced the launch of a local marketplace with third-party Brazilian sellers supporting small and medium-sized entrepreneurs.

Felipe Feistler, general manager of Shein Brazil, said the country is an important market for the company, which is committed to continuing its support for Brazil's economic growth and success.

"Our goal is to support Brazilian manufacturers and suppliers so that they can increase their growth and reach within the region, as well as act as a building block for future global opportunities," he added.

Market consultancy Mordor Intelligence predicts that the size of Brazil's e-commerce market will reach \$52.87 billion in 2024, and stand at \$125.68 billion in 2029, with a compound annual growth rate of 18.91 percent between 2024 and 2029.

Younger generations are increasingly comfortable with online shopping and are driving e-commerce growth in Brazil, while the adoption of contactless payment and the increasing penetration of internet and smartphone use have significantly influenced the development of the e-commerce market, it noted.

Chen Tao, an analyst at Beijing-based internet consultancy Analysys, said the Brazilian e-commerce market is witnessing robust growth and has become a leading player in Latin America's digital commerce landscape.

"Price, quality and service are the most important factors consumers consider when buying products, and cost-effective commodities have shown obvious advantages amid the downward pressure the global economy is facing," he said.

Looking ahead, the competition among cross-border e-commerce platforms will be focused on supply chains, Chen said, adding that for Shein and Temu, one of their core competitiveness factors lies in products that offer competitive prices and fast delivery services, which are again highly dependent on the establishment of efficient supply chains.

Cui Lili, director of Shanghai University of Finance and Economics' Institute of E-commerce, said that Chinese online retailers who are making inroads into overseas e-commerce markets should quickly capture demand in overseas markets, learn more about relevant laws, regulations and quality standards in these countries, and adjust supply chains to make products that meet local requirements.

New electric sharing alliance to promote low-carbon energy

By MAY ZHOU in Rio de Janeiro
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The China-Brazil Electric Innovation and Sharing Alliance, created as a platform for sharing information and technological innovation for the development of the power sectors in both countries, was officially launched on Sunday on the eve of the 19th G20 Summit.

Led by State Grid Brazil Holding and the Brazilian Ministry of Mines and Energy, the EISA will initially comprise 15 members, including businesses, research institutes, universities and government agencies from both countries.

"The new round of technological revolution in green, low-carbon and intelligent energy is pushing forward energy transformation," said Sun Tao, chairman of State Grid Brazil Holding. "As an active participant in Brazil's power transmission sector, we are committed to building low-carbon, clean, efficient and safe energy equipment for both China and Brazil."

While China has helped Brazil develop its power transmission system, the transformation to green energy requires both countries to work together to meet the new challenges, Sun said.

Sun added that the group will first focus on how to better integrate renewable energy into the grid to meet complex future demand. Members of the alliance hope to share resources to jointly establish international standards for the sector.

Thiago Barral, national secretary of energy transition and planning at Brazil's Ministry of Mines and Energy, said that to reach the level of a developed country, Brazil needs to more than triple its production and use of electricity.

"Meeting this growth in demand while maintaining the highly sustainable and renewable characteristics of our electricity grid is a challenge of our time," Barral said. "We also need

As an active participant in Brazil's power transmission sector, we are committed to building low-carbon ... and safe energy equipment."

Sun Tao, chairman of State Grid Brazil Holding

to address and ensure that our systems can adapt to extreme weather events and climate change, in addition to ensuring cybersecurity."

He said that advanced technological innovation and the planning of public policies are necessary to meet the challenges.

Barral said that China and Brazil share many of the same challenges. "That is why the Ministry of Mines and Energy reinforced and reiterated its support for the creation and launch of the alliance," he said.

Thiago Prado, president of the Energy Research Office, said that within the framework of the EISA, representatives from his organization and the Ministry of Mines and Energy will visit China, focusing on high-voltage direct current technologies in the near term.

Prado said that to implement Brazil's plans for expansion in the energy sector, a large amount of money will be invested, providing opportunities for organizations such as the EISA to develop required technology.

Jin Wei, deputy general manager of State Grid Corp of China, said the platform will support technological and scientific research to ensure innovations in the power sectors of the two countries.

"China and Brazil have important responsibilities, especially in the operation of large-scale and renewable energy development," Jin said.



Attendees reveal the logo for the China-Brazil Electric Innovation and Sharing Alliance on Sunday in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

MAY ZHOU / CHINA DAILY

Peking Opera company returns after 68 years to captivate Brazilian audiences

By CHEN NAN
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After 68 years, the China National Peking Opera Company has returned to Latin America with four shows, a workshop and an array of cultural exchange programs in Brazil to promote the rich legacy of a traditional Chinese art form that boasts a history of more than 200 years.

The last time the company visited Latin America was in 1956, when it toured Chile, Uruguay and Argentina along with Brazil.

This year's tour, which started on Friday and runs through Thursday, covers the Brazilian capital of Brasilia and the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. The 44-member delegation, led by Wei Liyun, the company's Party secretary, aims to reintroduce Brazilian audiences to the highly stylized artistry of Peking Opera, which combines music, dance, drama, acrobatics and martial arts.

"The tour not only seeks to share the beauty of this traditional art form, but also serves as a cultural exchange initiative, celebrating the

The tour not only seeks to share the beauty of this traditional art form, but also serves as a cultural exchange initiative, celebrating the themes of loyalty, heroism and love."

Wei Liyun, Party secretary of the China National Peking Opera Company

themes of loyalty, heroism and love. We hope to build connections with new audiences and inspire an appreciation for the distinctive aesthetics and emotional depth of Peking Opera," Wei said.

Peking Opera, also known as *jingju* in Chinese, can be traced to 1790 but formally began taking shape in 1840, growing rapidly during the reign of Empress Dowager Cixi (1835-1908), a fan of Chinese opera.

Thereafter, the art form went from strength to strength, with troupes being formed in Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai. In 2010, it was declared an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

Star performers of Peking Opera have been popularizing the art form across the country as well as

abroad. One of the best-known Peking Opera masters was Mei Lanfang (1894-1961), who performed in *nandan* style, or a male actor playing a female role. He was the first actor to present Peking Opera outside China, touring the United States in 1930.

One of the shows being staged during this year's Brazil tour is the classic piece *San Cha Kou*, or *At The Crossroads*, which follows Ren Tanghui, a warrior escorting Jiao Zan, a Song Dynasty (960-1279) general, on his way to exile after Jiao was framed for a crime.

Both Ren and Jiao spend the night at an inn owned by Liu Lihua, who mistakes Ren for an assassin sent to murder Jiao. At the same time, Ren has a similar suspicion

about Liu. In darkness, they fight fiercely.

Zhu Lingyu, a young, talented and diligent *wusheng*, or male martial arts performer, said this piece showcases the traditional "virtual" performance style, where actors vividly depict actions such as navigating darkness through choreographed movements. The fight scenes are a visual highlight, with seamless flips and acrobatic moves demonstrating the agility of the actors.

"When people go to watch a Peking Opera show, they expect to witness a show like no other and they never walk away disappointed," Zhu said. "It is the first time I am traveling with the company to perform in Brazil, a beautiful country. I am very excited to see the reaction of the audiences, many of whom may have never watched or heard of Peking Opera."

This sophisticated art form is the essence of Chinese culture, which shows traditional Chinese values such as loyalty, modesty and honesty, Zhu said.

"Even for professional performers, who spent years learning and

practicing, the art form is much more than the primary appeal of brilliant costumes and jaw-dropping skills," Zhu added.

For Peking Opera actress Jiang Meiyi, it will also be her first time performing in Brazil. She will play the leading role of Mu Guiying, a female warrior in the play *Female Generals of the Yang Family*. It is a tale about the legendary female warriors of the Yang family defending their nation in a time of peril.

"We are presenting a youth revival edition, emphasizing the patriotic spirit of the female warriors of the Yang family, combining powerful music, dramatic storytelling and visually arresting battle scenes," Jiang said.

Mu Guiying is a household name in China. She was the leading character in Peking Opera master Mei's last stage appearance in 1959.

"We have held a series of events to guide the audiences in Brazil to better understand Peking Opera," Jiang said. "*Female Generals of the Yang Family* is themed on courage, loyalty and sacrifice, which is resonating well with the audiences.

"The combination of martial arts,

acrobatics and expressive singing is captivating the audiences, along with the elaborate makeup, costumes and stage decor, creating a visually stunning experience," Jiang said, adding that the struggles and triumphs of the characters always evoke strong emotional responses.

Another play, *Goddess Scattering Flowers*, once a staple in the repertoire of Peking Opera master Mei, is noted for its elegant dance sequences and lyrical singing, evoking the graceful movements of a celestial being.

Peking Opera actress Guo Xiao has been trained to keep the performing style created by Mei. "Unlike Peking Opera pieces with stunning marital art scenes, *Goddess Scattering Flowers* is known for its fluid structure and musical arrangement, which reflects the beauty of the goddess' journey through the clouds," Guo said.

"It features intricate choreography, expressive singing and beautiful costumes, showcasing Mei Lanfang's exceptional talent in portraying female roles. The theme of love, beauty and nature is prominent," she added.

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TCM winning hearts and minds of Brazilians

By MA JINGNA in Lanzhou and WANG XIAOYU in Beijing

Despite knowing that language barriers and distinct eating habits would create troubles during his stay in Sao Paulo, Brazil, traditional Chinese medicine specialist Zhou Qiang did not hesitate to travel to the country for the third time this October, aiming to bring affordable and effective TCM services to local people.

"We have managed to communicate with local people, who speak Portuguese, via interpreters and portable digital translators. My two other co-workers could not tolerate local cold meals at the beginning and experienced diarrhea and abdomen pain, but thankfully, we have brought pills with us and are gradually getting used to food here," he said.

Zhou, from the hospital affiliated to Gansu University of Chinese Medicine in Lanzhou, Gansu province, said he drew strength to cope with challenges linked to living and practicing in a foreign country from local people's recognition of TCM therapies.

"We often say that there are four characteristics of TCM treatment — simple, convenient, effective and low cost, and it turns out these strengths also apply in this foreign land," he said.

"Brazilians trust effects of acupuncture, massage and TCM concoctions and they have found our price to be reasonable and sometimes even lower than that in local major hospitals," he added.

Zhou is among three TCM experts dispatched to a TCM international cooperation center in Sao Paulo this year. The center was jointly established by the hospital and a Brazilian company in September 2018 and began operation about a year later.

The facility offers more than 20 types of TCM therapies and also rolls out training programs for local medical staff and TCM enthusiasts.

So far, the hospital has sent seven healthcare workers to the center for assignments lasting about a year, as well as 14 workers for short-term medical aid or teaching programs.

Qin Jing, a nurse at a community health clinic in Lanzhou that has partnerships with the hospital, was sent to the TCM center in

late 2019. She was mainly responsible for collecting medical records, directing patients to proper doctors, processing payments and drug distribution and organizing lectures and free diagnosis events.

To this day, she can easily recall compliments and smiles from patients in Brazil who were satisfied with TCM treatment outcomes.

"There was a Brazilian patient suffering from severe periarthritis, or frozen shoulder. Through a combination of acupuncture, massage, cupping therapies as well as teaching her to do therapy exercises, her pain was significantly relieved," she said.

Another patient that left a lasting impression on her was an elderly relying on a wheelchair to move around. He regained the ability to stand up and even picked up his old hobby of swimming thanks to the joint efforts of several TCM doctors at the center.

"Our doctors have also used TCM concoctions and medicines, in combination with acupuncture, moxibustion and infrared therapies to treat gynecological diseases, which were common due to local climate and lifestyles," she said. "A lot of patients sought services from us by word of mouth."

Wu Bing, Party chief of the hospital, said that the center plans to devote more efforts to tackling common and major medical conditions locally as well as rolling out more training targeting local medical staff.

In June, the hospital signed an agreement with authorities of Duque de Caxias, a city in the Rio de Janeiro metropolitan area in southeastern Brazil, aiming at deepening exchanges in the development of TCM medicines, training and education on TCM skills and knowledge.

Wu Zhendou, head of the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine's international cooperation department, said that China has signed cooperation agreements with more than 40 foreign authorities and international organizations, and established at least 30 high-quality overseas centers for TCM.

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Zhou Qiang (second from left), a traditional Chinese medicine specialist, trains local doctors in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 2019. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Students from Hubei University and Sao Paulo State University, wearing traditional Chinese-style outfits, pose for a photo in a Spring Festival celebration event in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Feb 5, last year. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

University programs yield fruitful results

Enrollment for newly founded Chinese language major will begin next year

By ZHOU LIHUA in Wuhan and PENG CHAO

As China-Brazil relations continue to deepen, the cooperation over a decade between Hubei University in China and Sao Paulo State University in Brazil is yielding more fruitful results.

The two universities and the Center for Language Education and Cooperation under China's Ministry of Education have recently signed an agreement at the opening ceremony of the Second World Chinese Language Conference in Beijing, to jointly set up a Chinese language major.

Deng Xiaoming, director of Hubei University's international exchange and cooperation office, said the enrollment will begin next year, with an initial intake of about 20 students per year. The two universities will jointly design the curriculum and teach for the new major, with students studying in Brazil for two years and at Hubei University for another two years. Students who fulfill the graduation requirements of the two universities will obtain degrees from both.

"After graduation, they can pursue further studies for a master's degree in international Chinese language education at Hubei University and undertake an internship at the Confucius Institute at the Sao Paulo State University," Deng said.

Their cooperation dated back to 2008, when they jointly established Brazil's first Confucius Institute.

"The reason for co-establishing the institute with Hubei University

is because we realize that Brazilian students learning Chinese are key to nurturing a new generation of researchers and professionals who can contribute to strengthening bilateral relations between China and Brazil," said Luis Antonio Paulino, the Brazilian director of the Confucius Institute.

Over the past years, the institute has provided Chinese language courses to more than 34,000 students, with nearly 1,000 students participating in Hubei University's Chinese language study and short-term exchange programs in-person or online. It also organizes numerous Chinese cultural activities every year, serving as an important window for local residents to understand Chinese society and culture, Paulino said.

"As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Brazil, the cultural activities celebrating the anniversary include a Chinese film exhibition, a Chinese percussion music concert and a Sino-Latin American academic forum," he said.

Paulino said the institute also hosted the sixth edition of a recruitment fair in April, with over 30 Chinese-funded enterprises offering more than 300 job positions, attracting a record number of over 1,500 applicants.

He said Chinese films and literature are gaining popularity in Brazil, and the Brazilian people are showing a growing appreciation for Chinese dance and music, as well as a greater interest in learning Chinese language. Additionally, all major Brazilian universities are

actively seeking to establish cooperation with Chinese universities.

"The greatest charm of Chinese culture lies in its unique combination of a 5,000-year-old heritage with vibrant and innovative modernity, which is unparalleled in human history," Paulino said.

Ye Dan, Chinese director of the Confucius Institute, said Hubei University has sent over 180 international Chinese language teachers and volunteers to the institute over the years.

Currently, 13 Chinese language teachers and eight volunteers are working at the Confucius Institute, along with 20 teachers providing remote classes, she said.

Ye said the institute organized nearly 40 students from different provinces, cities and industries in Brazil to travel to Hubei in July for exchange programs lasting from one to four weeks. In addition, 20 students who have earned the International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarships for one semester or one academic year have commenced their studies at Hubei University this year.

Thanks to the institute's efforts, the two universities signed a letter of intent for the joint establishment of a Chinese language major and a memorandum of understanding for scientific research cooperation in March, she added.

The friendly ties have also facilitated the cooperation and exchanges between cities in the two countries, with Wuhan, capital of Hubei, having established friendly exchange relationships with the Brazilian cities of Sao Paulo and Sao Luis, Deng said.

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XCMG solidifies economic cooperation

By CANG WEI in Nanjing cangwei@chinadaily.com.cn

Since Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group's inaugural entry into the Brazilian market with its first wheel loader in 2000, XCMG's subsidiary in Brazil stands as a shining example of economic cooperation between China and Brazil, embodying a profound testimony to the enduring friendship between the two nations.

XCMG Brazil Manufacturing Co Ltd, the pioneering wholly-owned overseas subsidiary of the Chinese heavyweight manufacturer based in East China's Jiangsu province, has emerged as the largest manufacturing hub for the Chinese construction machinery industry in South America.

It is also China's premier overseas industrial park dedicated primarily to construction machinery.

Positioned with a mission to "strengthen Brazil, expand in South America and support Central and North America", XCMG Brazil, spanning 800,000 square meters, integrates research and development, production, sales, service, spare parts and financial services.

In May 2011, the XCMG Brazil manufacturing base project was signed, with construction commencing at the end of 2012 and officially starting production in 2014.

The first phase of the base project, with a total investment of \$200 million, has completed the construction of four manufacturing plants covering 140,000 square meters.

800,000 square meters

Land area of XCMG Brazil manufacturing base

Li Hanguang, general manager of XCMG Brazil Manufacturing, said that since the start of operations in 2014, XCMG Brazil has achieved a compound annual growth rate of 41 percent in operating income.

"In 2023, sales increased by 20.52 percent year-on-year while revenue grew by 29.62 percent, and profits reached a historic high," said Li. "In the first half of this year, despite a more competitive market environment, XCMG Brazil's income increased by an additional 27 percentage points."

Currently, XCMG products are widely used in various projects in Brazil including road construction, port upgrades, hydroelectric projects, agricultural development and urban infrastructure construction. XCMG equipment can be found in major venues such as those for the Olympics and the World Cup.

"XCMG has developed over a dozen products tailored to the Brazilian market, offering customers a choice from over a hundred engineering machinery products," Li said. "In response to the booming wind power industry, XCMG Brazil has introduced multiple large-tonnage lifting equipment, delivering the largest 650-ton all-terrain crane in South America, showcasing XCMG's advanced technologies and innovation."

XCMG Brazil has rapidly entered the new energy market, with over 600 new energy devices arriving in Brazil, providing strong support for Brazil's green economic development.

In XCMG's international workforce, an increasing number of individuals from various countries and ethnic backgrounds are joining. With nearly 4,000 foreign employees, including those at the Brazilian factory, XCMG's employee localization rate in Brazil has reached 96 percent.

"People are the most important element of XCMG's internationalization," said Wang Yansong, president of XCMG Import and Export Company, emphasizing the vital role of employee localization in XCMG's development.

In recent years, XCMG Brazil has conducted more than 100 charitable activities, including earthquake relief, educational support and poverty alleviation, with a financial commitment exceeding a million Brazilian reais.

Guo Jun contributed to this story.

Collaboration to help create future math teachers

By ZHAO YIMENG zhaoyimeng@chinadaily.com.cn

China and Brazil will deepen educational ties and open new avenues for collaboration in mathematics education through teacher exchanges, working together within BRICS and G20 framework to contribute to the rise of Global South.

The two countries are establishing a sustainable collaboration in math education following a 9-day training program launched in Shanghai in September for Brazilian top math teachers.

The 2024 Shanghai Training Program for Brazilian Gold Medal Math Teachers, hosted by UNESCO's Teacher Education Center, marks China's first major step in introducing its math education methods to Latin America.

Huang Xingfeng, a professor at the center and one of the organizers of the program, said the program has focused on classroom observations and lesson study, emphasizing cross-cultural exchange and advancement of high school mathematics educa-

tion for top talent.

The program brought 17 Brazilian educators and officials to Shanghai for a 9-day intensive exchange.

The teachers engaged in high-level dialogues, mathematics education seminars and visited top high schools, where they observed exemplary math lessons and participated in cross-cultural teaching activities.

The Brazilian educators, who were strictly selected from a national math competition, witnessed innovative applications of digital technology in Shanghai's math classrooms, observing lessons such as "Matrix Transformation with a Graphing Calculator" and "Angles Between Lines and Planes".

They reflected on Shanghai's math teaching methods through workshops, while also collaborating with Chinese teachers on STEM curriculum and student career planning, said Huang, who is also a professor from Shanghai Normal University.

"A unique feature of the program was a structured lesson

study centered on the concept of power functions," he said.

The lesson on power functions, which was not included in the high school math curriculum of Brazil, was taught by Brazilian teachers to Chinese students, he explained.

A team of Brazilian and Chinese participants worked together to bridge the language gap, translating Portuguese into English and then into Chinese, enabling smooth collaboration and successfully engaging students.

Throughout the program, Chinese educators also shared international teaching resources with the Brazilian team to deepen their understanding of Chinese high school math instruction. "This engagement provided inspiration for both sides, enriching the teaching approaches of everyone involved," Huang said.

The interactions offered the Brazilian teachers a direct look at Shanghai's innovative approaches to math education, particularly in nurturing top-performing students, he added.

Professor Jose Antonio Puppim

de Oliveira, the initiator of the program and a visiting professor at Fudan University, said the goal of the program went beyond merely exposing Brazilian teachers to China's teaching methods, but also amplifying these experiences upon their return to their home country.

After completing the training, all participating teachers and math competition committee members will attend the Symposium of the National Association of Mathematics Teachers at the State University of Campinas in Brazil to share what they have learned.

"This annual event, attended by university educators who train future math teachers, will serve as a platform for spreading China's educational approaches to a broad academic audience in Brazil," Puppim said.

Additionally, each teacher from the program has been tasked with extending these learnings by integrating a teaching method they learned in China in their classrooms and sharing their experiences with at least five other local schools, he said.

G20
BRASIL 2024

XI'S VISIT

EFE CAN GÜRCAN

Rio de Janeiro pivot point

Brazil's G20 leadership can help shape a more just, greener future for all

With the theme "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet", Brazil's G20 presidency provides a unique chance to shape the global agenda at a pivotal time. This role is far from ceremonial — unlike organizations with a permanent secretariat or founding charter, the G20 relies on the country holding the presidency to set priorities, coordinate initiatives, and drive forward discussions. This time, Brazil's leadership will steer this global forum, which represents over 85 percent of the world's GDP, three-quarters of international trade, and two-thirds of the global population.



The G20's history is rooted in responses to the crises of Western-led global capitalism. It emerged initially as a meeting of finance ministers in 1999. The G20 was a response to the devastating 1998 Asian financial crisis, which underscored how global economic turbulence could cascade across borders — especially impacting the developing world. Although the concept of a forum like the G20 emerged within Western circles, G7 leaders initially resisted it, preferring smaller, more private summits to maintain focus and control. Yet, the global call for a more inclusive cooperation mechanism grew louder in 2008, when the US-triggered global financial crisis exposed the limits of Western countries' ability to stabilize markets and respond to crises alone. Holding its first summit of heads of state in 2008, the G20 ultimately evolved into a "crisis steering group", which convenes the world's largest economies, including emerging players that can no longer be sidelined in addressing global problems. As such, the G20's purpose has expanded beyond finance to encompass pressing global issues such as climate change, economic inequality and sustainable development. Brazil, a key actor in Latin America's historic "Pink Tide", a leader in South-South cooperation and champion of multipolarity, is positioned to make the G20 more inclu-

sive and effective in addressing these global challenges.

While the G7 — a smaller, more exclusive club of the wealthiest Western nations — was originally conceived to steer global governance, its legitimacy has waned over time. Its elitist composition, reflective of narrow Western interests, has led to criticism that it excludes key emerging economies. The G7's exclusive nature was further cemented when it expelled Russia following the 2014 Ukraine crisis, reinforcing its status as a Western bloc rather than a truly global coalition aligned with the common destiny of humanity. The G20, on the other hand, includes a broader array of voices, providing a necessary balance and inclusivity in tackling today's complex, borderless challenges, such as climate change and inequality.

Brazil's leadership could produce a pivotal transformation in the G20, placing stronger emphasis on Global South perspectives and potentially transforming it from a North-South platform into a more democratic South-North forum. Brazil's commitment to inclusive, sustainable development has been formalized in Brazil's Ecological Transition Plan, which has garnered global attention for its ambitious goals and strongly resonates with China's shared vision of an ecological civilization. In 2023, Brazil generated an impressive 91 percent of its electricity from clean sources, far surpassing global averages and even its own target of 84 percent by 2030. It also reduced Amazon deforestation to a six-year low, making strides in preserving the planet's largest rainforest.

Beyond environmental leadership, Brazil is advocating for progressive reforms to reduce inequality and increase global governance inclusivity. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has proposed a 2-percent billionaire tax to combat global inequality and will likely renew his call for reforms to the United Nations, pushing for a more effective and representative Security Council, especially in light of recent failures to address urgent global crises, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The propos-

als exhibit a striking synergy with China's Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative.

Meanwhile, Brazil's continued economic stability and leadership status are closely tied to its relationship with China. China is Brazil's largest export destination, and from 2007 to 2023, Chinese foreign direct investment in Brazil totaled \$73.3 billion, with significant investment in Brazil's electricity sector, which is crucial given Brazil's recent energy challenges. China is also one of Brazil's top agricultural export destinations, vital for an agribusiness sector that makes up almost 25 percent of Brazil's GDP. President Xi Jinping's upcoming visit to Brazil during the G20 summit is an opportune moment to further enhance these economic ties and potentially encourage Brazil's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. Indeed, recent developments ahead of President Xi's visit, such as Brazil's offer to allow Shanghai-based satellite manufacturer SpaceSail access to a space base in the northeast of the country, hint at Brazil's increasing openness to closer cooperation with China. Despite Brazil's new tariffs imposed on Asian imports of iron, steel and fiber optic cable in October, this gesture toward collaboration shows Brazil's recognition of China's strategic importance.

The collaboration potential of the two countries strongly resonates in broader Latin America, where inadequate infrastructure and weak connectivity remain significant obstacles to regional development. The infrastructure gap in Latin America is vast, requiring an estimated \$250 billion in investment annually. Brazil, as Latin America's largest economy, has historically led efforts to promote infrastructure connectivity through the now-defunct Initiative for the Integration of the Regional Infrastructure of South America within the Union of South American Nations. However, sustaining Brazil's own growth and supporting regional development will require more resources than Brazil currently has due to economic and political challenges that have affected its capacity since



MA XUEJING / CHINA DAILY

the mid-2010s. Chinese cooperation through the BRI could be key in meeting these infrastructure needs. Brazil's hesitance to formally join the BRI risks stalling not only its infrastructure progress but also its role as a regional leader and its economy's competitiveness on the global stage.

One cannot but notice a strong synergy between Brazil and China's foreign policy objectives. Both countries, as BRICS members, share similar positions on major international issues, including the Palestine and the Ukraine crises, and both advocate for a multipolar world based on fairness and justice. This alignment complements Brazil's G20 agenda, reinforcing its com-

mitment to South-South cooperation and to building a community with a shared future for mankind. By engaging more closely with China, Brazil could amplify its role in shaping a just, multipolar world order and in bringing the Global South's voice to the forefront.

The author is an associate professor of international relations and a visiting senior fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

WANG XINWEI AND ZHAI KUN

Innovative development should champion true multilateralism

Scientific and technological cooperation cannot be disguised as the export of major countries' value to the Global South

Currently, Global South cooperation is in full swing, and innovation cooperation has become a key driving force. At the 16th BRICS Summit held in Kazan, Russia, from Oct 22 to 24, President Xi Jinping pointed out that "as the latest round of technological revolution and industrial transformation is



Wang Xinwei



Zhai Kun

advancing at an accelerated speed, we must keep pace with the times and foster new quality productive forces". The Global South is deepening high-level cooperation in innovation and promoting green and low-carbon transformation. But it can be seen that the Global South is weak in innovation foundation and innovation investment, and still needs the support of developed countries to strengthen scientific and technological cooperation.

As a bloc of world's leading economies, how does the G7 regard international scientific and technological cooperation? There are two different narratives. In October, the G7 held the Competition Authorities and Policymakers Summit in Rome, focusing on competition issues arising from rapid developments in the field of artificial intelligence. Dialogues and knowledge sharing among the G7 members were emphasized for strengthening international cooperation. And, the G7 science and technology ministers' meeting in Bologna and Forli in July focused on scientific communication and open collaboration. While explaining the concept of promoting open science, it further described the broad framework of the G7 cooperation with the international community, including the Global South such as Africa. However, when it comes to international scientific and technological cooperation, the G7 focuses only on a small bloc, lacking an open and inclusive approach to the Global South and public spirit for the international society.

The G7's approach to scientific and technological cooperation with the Global South is complex. Its relevant initiatives

require the Global South to share innovation costs. Under cost-benefit consideration, the G7 is willing to promote some specific scientific and technological cooperation with the Global South. However, it calls for the formation of a common system in scientific and technological cooperation, attaching great importance to the security and integrity of scientific research. It emphasizes the cooperation needs to have a common technical foundation, so as to enhance interoperability. Shared values are also regarded by the G7 as a key condition for the cooperation.

Because of such a threshold, the G7 can carry out some cooperation with the Global South on specific issues to promote the G7's expansion in the global market, and to establish a stable supply chain. But in high-tech sectors, the G7 wants to maintain its technological edge. Thus, in many mechanisms dominated by the G7, it is still exclusive. It can be seen that the G7's technology is for its own good.

In fact, the main purpose of the G7 inter-



SONG CHEN / CHINA DAILY

national scientific and technological cooperation is to integrate the Global South into its system. The G7's initiatives not only strengthen the synergy of small groups through cooperation and lead to the setting up of specific innovation agendas, but also aim to acquire the broader support from the international community. In this context, the G7's scientific and technological cooperation follows a process — some issues are discussed internally, and then the scope is expanded, cooperating with other regional or international mechanisms. The G7 wants to create such an order by promoting standard-setting, data flows and

technology cooperation from inside to outside.

Take data governance as an example. It was high on the agenda of the G7 science and technology ministers' meetings both in 2021 and 2022. And in 2024, a set of the findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (FAIR) data principles was proposed, making the G7 have the upper hand in the rule-setting in global science and technology governance.

Due to the lack of public spirit, the G7 cannot naturally and effectively interact with the Global South in international scientific and technological cooperation. The G7's initiative covers extensive scopes, but actual open sharing is barred by the high threshold, which is difficult to implement. For example, if the initiative on cooperation with Africa was pragmatically advanced, it would help promote the development of the Global South. However, poor public spirit and lack of fairness make it difficult to achieve effective results.

According to Science and Technology Indicators 2024, released by the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy

of Japan in August, two different plates have formed in terms of the structure of highly cited papers. One is about the G7 and OECD countries, another about China and the Global South countries. There are many reasons for this, notably insufficient factors of science communication. It is clear that effective and pragmatic international scientific and technological cooperation is of great significance in strengthening communication and removing barriers.

With respect to opening-up and cooperation in science and technology, the international society should work together, jointly building a truly open and inclusive environment. In short, technological cooperation should be for the common good of all.

First, international cooperation in science and technology should respect different countries' choice of development paths. Scientific communication cannot be disguised as the export of major countries' value to the Global South. Under the United Nations' framework, the views of all sides should be taken into consideration to form a fair framework for science and technology cooperation.

Second, international cooperation in science and technology should be inclusive, truly benefiting people of all walks of life and responding actively to urgent issues in global governance and the specific development needs of the Global South. It should jointly help solve governance problems through pragmatic innovation cooperation, project practice and personnel exchanges by improving the development environment.

Third, international cooperation in science and technology should not come with strings attached. Especially, the cooperation of infrastructure projects in the Global South should not become the arena of major country rivalry.

In a word, innovative development should champion true multilateralism.

Wang Xinwei is an assistant researcher at the Beijing Academy of Science and Technology. Zhai Kun is a professor at the School of International Studies and deputy director of the Institute of Area Studies at Peking University. 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.

COMMENT

Editorials

G20 Summit can provide momentum for sustainable development and a just world

With the international community increasingly at risk of being torn apart by the centrifugal force generated by the black hole at its center, Brazil making "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet" the priorities for the G20 Summit it is hosting in Rio de Janeiro on Monday and Tuesday is a timely attempt to refocus the attention of the participating leaders on the common challenges countries are facing and what should be common goals.

With the attainment of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the objective, it is essential to forge a truly global partnership so as to make global development more resilient and inclusive.

That requires the G20 countries to honor the principles of mutual respect, equal-footed cooperation and mutual benefit, as Chinese President Xi Jinping wrote in a signed article published by Folha de S. Paulo on Sunday.

To build a fairer world, it is important to press ahead with the reform of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization so that they do not disadvantage the Global South.

The G20 members should be the standard-bearers for reforms of these international organizations and the United Nations so that they embrace true multilateralism and uphold fairness and justice.

With most major stakeholders among them, the G20 members are obliged to take advantage of the Rio summit to coordinate macroeconomic policy to create an open, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for international economic cooperation.

As a grouping consisting of both developed and developing countries, the G20 Summit provides major players on the world stage with a good platform to seek breakthroughs in advancing international cooperation in such areas as the elimination of poverty and hunger, and realizing worldwide green and low-carbon development.

Whether or not the G20 members can play their due roles to the full will have a direct bearing on whether a just and sustainable future is secured.

That's why UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday urged the G20 leaders gathering in Rio de Janeiro to rescue the stalled UN climate talks in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku by showing "leadership" on cutting emissions, urging them to set aside their geopolitical disputes and self calculations for the common good.

They should also step up to the plate and push for a quick de-escalation of the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. To make that happen, they need to join hands to try and create the conditions conducive to achieving comprehensive and sustainable cease-fire and ease the humanitarian crises.

The harsh challenges faced by the world should prompt the G20 members to lay aside their disputes, practice a bottom-line thinking and bear the big picture in mind to make the Rio summit a solution-oriented gathering, demonstrating true leadership, responsibility and vision.

China is willing to work with all G20 members to build an equal and orderly multipolar world, and promote economic globalization that is inclusive, balanced and sustainable.

It highly commends and will actively support Brazil's initiative of placing fighting hunger and poverty high on the summit's agenda and its proposal for the establishment of a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. That China has also supported the African Union becoming a member of the G20 grouping shows its commitment to that cause.

As President Xi wrote in his signed article, 32 years ago, the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro produced important outcomes such as Agenda 21. Let's join him in hoping that the G20's Rio summit will "provide stronger momentum and greater confidence for global sustainable development".

China-Brazil global governance reform bid

The complementary nature of the Chinese and Brazilian economies has paved the way for the two countries to achieve fruitful outcomes in their cooperation over the years in areas such as agriculture, infrastructure, energy, natural resources, green development and technological innovation, which have greatly spurred economic and social progress in both countries.

That both countries are forging ahead on the path of modernization and striving to accelerate economic development means it is natural that they should seek to broaden the scope of their existing cooperation while breaking new ground.

President Xi Jinping's ongoing visit to Brazil, which started on Sunday, is therefore expected to usher in another "50 golden years" for China-Brazil relations following the two countries' remarkable progress in mutually beneficial cooperation since the establishment of diplomatic relations five decades ago.

China has remained Brazil's largest trading partner for 14 consecutive years, with the bilateral trade volume reaching \$181.5 billion in 2023, a 6.1 percent increase year-on-year.

Brazil, the first developing country to establish a strategic partnership with China, and also the first nation in Latin America to upgrade it to a comprehensive strategic partnership, remains China's largest source of agricultural imports, and is among the few countries that have a trade surplus with China.

Head-of-state diplomacy has been one of the key factors behind this fruitful win-win cooperation. The first presidency of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, from 2003 to 2010, witnessed booming bilateral trade and investment, as the Brazilian leader sought to strengthen ties with the world's second-largest economy. Lula visited China four times during that period, which saw China overtake the United States to become Brazil's largest trading partner in 2009, which it has remained ever since.

President Xi, meanwhile, has visited Brazil four times prior to his current ongoing state visit, underscoring the importance he attaches to broadening cooperative dimensions with the Latin American country. Upon his arrival in Rio de Janeiro on his current trip, Xi, in a written statement, called the two countries "like-minded friends with the same aspirations and good partners forging ahead hand-in-hand", and expressed the hope that they will continue to deepen political mutual trust and expand practical cooperation in all fields.

Lula visited China for the fifth time in April last year shortly after he was elected president of Brazil for the third time. Since then, the top leaders of the two countries have reached a broad consensus on opening up new prospects in China-Brazil relations in the new era and promoting the building of a China-Brazil community with a shared future.

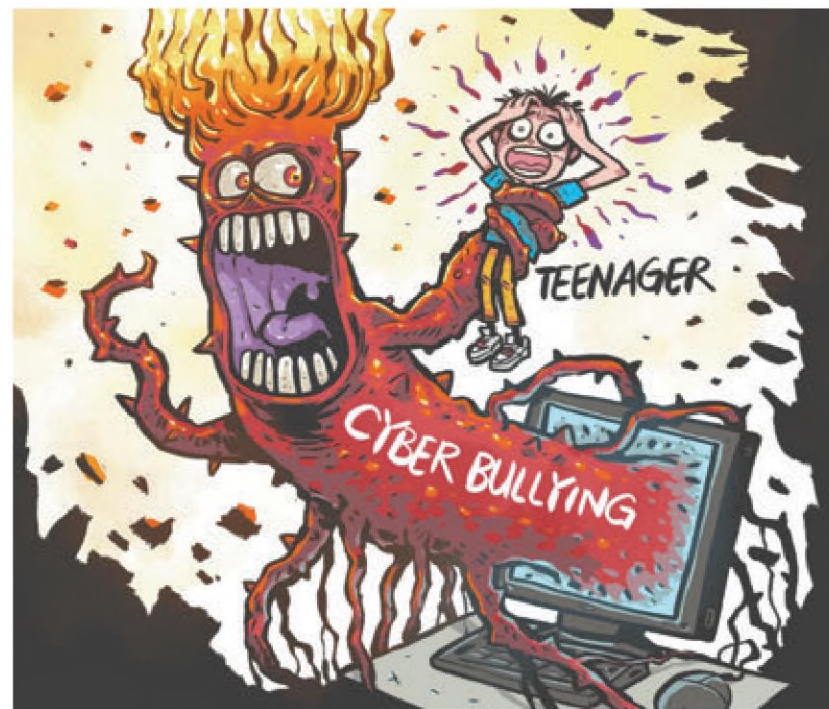
The all-round strategic cooperation between the two major developing countries in the Eastern and Western hemispheres has often been hailed as a good example for coordination of countries in the Global South. Their friendly bilateral relationship has been built on mutual respect, as the two countries treat each other as equals, and appreciate and support each other's choice of development path. With aligned development strategies, it is hoped that the two countries will fully leverage the cooperation mechanisms they have in place to build a stable, sound and sustainable relationship in the years to come, and work together to balance the global governance system so that developing countries get a fair deal.

The two countries signed an agreement in March 2023 to settle all trade in their respective currencies rather than in US dollars, and pledged to work together for the building of a multipolar world order as well as a more just and effective global governance system.

Those tasks have gained a sense of urgency given that there is still a long way to go for the Global South to have its voice fully heard in the existing international governance system.

As two major developing countries, China and Brazil share the common responsibility to safeguard the developing nations' interests and address global challenges through cooperation. They are doing exactly that.

Cai Meng



Opinion Line

Stock Connect mechanism benefits both mainland and HK markets

Sunday marked the 10th anniversary of the capital market connectivity mechanism established between the Chinese mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

With the launch of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect, investors could entrust local brokerages to buy and sell stocks in other stock markets, creating a new capital market-opening model on the mainland. Since then, the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, Bond Connect, Swap Connect and other mechanisms have been launched, advancing the connectivity mechanism in coverage and flexibility, and making it a vivid embodiment of the successful practice of "one country, two systems".

In the first three quarters of 2024, the average daily turnover of northbound and southbound transactions through the Stock Connect links

between the mainland and Hong Kong reached 123.3 billion yuan (\$17.03 billion), respectively, a 21-fold and 40-fold increase in 10 years. In the past 10 years, cross-boundary transactions through this mechanism have reached 177 trillion yuan, bolstering the stability and prosperity of capital markets on the mainland and in Hong Kong.

Behind the massive turnover is the ever-increasing maturity and improvement of the connectivity mechanism, enabling more investors to participate and providing more investment products. As of September, more than 260 Hong Kong brokers had participated in the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock connect business, and more than 100 mainland securities companies had launched their HK Stock Connect businesses.

The past decade has also seen how

the mainland's capital market has become attractive globally by promoting the inclusion of the mainland's A-shares and government bonds in major global indexes. As of September, the total amount of mainland securities assets held by overseas investors was nearly 7.6 trillion yuan, 4.7 trillion yuan more than in June 2018, when the MSCI indexes first included A-shares.

The capital markets of the mainland and Hong Kong have experienced fluctuations in the past 10 years, but the northbound and southbound capital flow channels were a source of stability.

The connectivity mechanism proves Hong Kong remains an important link between the mainland's capital market and the world, and that the mainland remains a valuable long-term investment destination for overseas investors.

— ECONOMIC DAILY

Airshow in Zhuhai has taken off in a big way

The six-day 15th China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, concluded on Sunday after seeing participation by 1,022 companies from 47 countries and regions. Around 285.6 billion yuan (\$39.42 billion) worth of deals were signed at the airshow.

The participating companies brought a feast of new technologies for

the visitors' eyes. Artificial intelligence and new energy were behind most of the new attractions. New technologies have helped the domestic aerospace industry remain competitive as they are heavily dependent on rapid technological iteration, innovation capability, and the speed of product updates. The introduction of new technologies from various industries lit up the airshow,

providing new momentum for the aerospace industry.

The airshow demonstrates the world's confidence in China's development in aerospace. It will hopefully push reform in this field, driving domestic companies to improve their technologies and strategies to better compete in the international market.

— ZHANG ZHOUXIANG, CHINA DAILY

What They Say

Parties to COP29 should focus on matter at hand

The 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP29, kicked off in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Nov 11. But the negotiations in the 12-day conference, which aims at seeking a new climate change funding goal to replace the existing collective target of mobilizing and providing \$100 billion annually by developed countries in support of developing countries, are still at a technical level after a week.

Some countries believe that China should become a contributor to the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance. But this is nothing but a deliberate diversion by some developed countries to mislead the negotiations.

The common position of China and the Group of 77 is clear, which is that developed countries should propose new financial assistance targets in the NCQG, which is stipulated in the Paris Agreement, according to which developing countries can provide some financial support in light of their capabilities.

As a developing country, China cannot participate in the NCQG, which should be the responsibility of developed

countries, though it will continue to provide assistance to other developing countries through various South-South cooperation channels.

It should be borne in mind that it is China's hub position in the global industry and supply chains that has greatly increased its emissions, considerable amounts of which are actually generated when producing products and providing services for the developed markets. The latter enjoy cost-effective products and services, but the emissions cost is not actually reflected in the price.

Despite this, China has never given up its efforts to reduce its emissions. The country has built the world's largest and most complete new energy industry chain, and its total installed capacity of wind power and solar power generation has achieved the goals promised to the international community more than six years ahead of schedule. China's industrial structure has been continuously optimized and upgraded, and it has built the world's largest and most complete new energy industry chain. For instance, green buildings now account for more than 90 percent of China's new buildings; the annual output of new energy vehicles in the country has exceeded 10 million this year; and China's main

resource output rate has increased by about 60 percent in the past decade.

COP29 is being held under the shadow of serious global geopolitical division and confrontation. In particular, some European Union member states worry about whether the next United States administration will participate in implementing the NCQG if it is fixed this time. That increases the difficulty and uncertainties in the negotiations.

In addition, a few European countries have had some disputes due to differences with the Azerbaijani government over some geopolitical issues. That has also created a bad atmosphere for this meeting. The EU members should regard COP29 as a conference of the 198 parties to the UNFCCC, not a meeting of the host country, and climate issues should not be politicized. It is thus hoped that parties can put aside political disputes and concentrate on the negotiations in the remaining few days of the meeting.

In the next round of negotiations, all parties should reduce the form and add the content, so that the outcome of the negotiations will be concise and to the point, having substantive content that can produce results.

— LI YANG, CHINA DAILY

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COMMENT

Jose Pio Borges

50 years of developing Brazil-China trade

Brazil and China share a successful relationship which is deeply rooted in complementarities, mutual respect and mutual benefit. What we see today, especially after the record \$105 billion bilateral trade in 2023, is the result of the progressive building of mutual trust and strategic understanding.

In our (Brazilian Center for International Relations') interactions with Chinese scholars and businesspeople, it has become clear that there is complementarity between the two economies, manifested in crucial sectors such as agriculture, energy and technology.

Chinese investment in Brazil has been significant and strategic over the past decade, contributing to industrial and technological development. The presence of Brazilian companies and interests in China is also strong, as attested to by the size of the delegation of more than 200 people from different sectors that accompanied Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's visit to China in 2023.

The last few years have been particularly transformative for the bilateral relationship. At the Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI), we have witnessed an increase in high-level visits and have led discussions around new opportunities and frontiers for cooperation, specifically in the technology and sustainability fields.

What makes the cooperation even more relevant is its multifaceted nature — the robust trade relationship is coupled with collaboration in areas such as space science and technology, 5G and renewable energy.

The relationship has the potential to deepen. On the one hand, Brazil faces a significant infrastructure deficit, currently representing only 1 percent of GDP invested, when it should be 3 to 4 per-

cent. That hinders economic development and raises costs.

Given that China seeks foreign investment opportunities, Brazil's infrastructure development is a priority that could act as a lever to enhance efficiency. That improvement would particularly benefit the logistics of agricultural products and commodities exports and could be one of the benefits of Brazil joining the Belt and Road Initiative.

Another priority for the bilateral partnership is to support diversification and add value to Brazilian exports. The Brazilian Minister of Agriculture's announcement of the unprecedented qualification for export to China of 38 Brazilian meat-packing plants in a single round shows that there are significant recent developments in the trade relationship.

Brazil, however, with China's support, needs to be able to sell a wider range of products, not only agricultural and commodity goods but also industrial and manufactured products with higher value added (steel rather than iron ore, for example). So it is important to invest in the industrial sector and cooperate more on technology and research and development.

Moreover, Brazil and China have aligned interests in multilateral forums, especially on issues related to sustainable development and global governance reform. Experts from both countries discussed these issues recently at an event organized by CEBRI's China Analysis Group, demonstrating not only the maturing of the 50-year-old diplomatic relations but also the opportunities that can further arise.

President Xi Jinping's ongoing visit to Brazil could be a pivotal moment for Sino-



Brazilian relations. The visit is taking place in a year when the two sides are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Brazilian relations, and Brazil is hosting the all-important G20 Summit and has been selected to hold the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) and the BRICS+ Summit.

The country's role as a leader in the provision of sustainable energy sources, food and bioeconomy products, carbon compensation mechanisms and critical goods such as minerals becomes more and more apparent.

Earlier this year, CEBRI organized, in conjunction with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the "50 Years of the Brazil-China Relationship: Cooperation to a Sustainable World" conference, in which Brazilian Vice-President Geraldo Alckmin and the Chinese Ambassador to Brazil Zhu Qingqiao participated. The event showed the high potential for cooperation in the future.

The sustained diplomatic and stakeholder consultations we organized show there are key issues on which we should further collaborate, particularly in transformative sectors such as energy transition, digital transformation and investments in critical infrastructure and low-carbon agricultural practices.

And, as I stressed previously, investments in infrastructure, technology and innovation for industrialization are a requisite to tap into that potential.

As co-organizer of the Think 20, a major G20 engagement group, we have spoken with our Chinese counterparts and provided complementary insights for this partnership.

The Rio G20 Summit will be a forum for both nations to advance their shared vision for reforming global economic governance architecture. Discussions on challenges such as multilateral system

renovation, development finance innovation, and technology-driven sustainable growth are particularly relevant in this context, as the India-Brazil-South Africa troika within the G20, and China's active engagement could strengthen the BRICS+ and emerging countries' influence on the global order.

The convergence of Brazil's BRICS+ presidency and the upcoming COP30 in Belém do Pará create business and cooperation opportunities that are not to be missed.

We have rarely seen such a favorable alignment of agendas. Brazil now has the chance to position itself as a leader in sustainable development, which I see as increasingly appreciated by our Chinese partners.

The synergy between Brazilian and Chinese priorities on issues such as environmental protection, technological development and poverty eradication opens up space for transformative initiatives on a global scale.

The current moment requires a strategic vision that goes beyond traditional trade relations. There is enormous potential for cooperation that has yet to be explored.

Looking ahead, working together on increasing the value added of the products that are traded will be key, as well as investing at different levels of the value chain, including in the infrastructure needed to raise competitiveness.

This is a moment that demands pragmatism in the bilateral relationship, but also boldness in building a common agenda that benefits both countries' development and international projection.

The author is chairman of the board of trustees of the Brazilian Center for International Relations. The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.



Kang Bing

The author is former deputy editor-in-chief of China Daily. kangbing@chinadaily.com.cn

Hope G20 members join hands to build a better future

The past few weeks have seen a flurry of diplomatic activities, from the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, in late October to the just-concluded APEC Leaders Meeting in Lima, Peru, to the ongoing G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Chinese leaders, along with those of other countries, have been shuttling between international and regional meetings, which indicate the world's progress toward multilateralism and the efforts of the leaders of different countries — big or small, rich or poor — to gain a greater say in regional and global issues.

Many countries were largely denied their rightful say in regional and global affairs by the global powers for decades since the end of World War II. During the Cold War era, when the world was divided into two blocs, the "less significant" countries were forced to take sides. Any attempt to build a neutral or nonaligned group of countries or uphold multilateralism was seen as a challenge by the two big brothers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

My early school-year memories of international organizations were NATO, the WTO and the Group of Seven. But the WTO is not the abbreviation of the World Trade Organization but the Warsaw Treaty Organization, a political and military organization led by the Soviet Union to counter NATO. (In fact, the World Trade Organization didn't exist then; its predecessor the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ruled over international trade.) With the disintegration of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, the Warsaw Treaty Organization too became history. NATO, too, should have dissolved with the demise of the WTO, but it continues to thrive because of the US' strategy to maintain its global hegemony.

The rise of trade protectionism and unilateralism, and major powers increasingly resorting to sanctions are hindering the progress of the global economy and making sustainable development difficult.

The end of the Cold War created the space for the rise of multilateralism. The European Union, in its current form, except for the exit of the United Kingdom, came into being in 1993. The same year saw the first APEC Leaders Meeting. The ASEAN+3 cooperation mechanism began its journey in 1997, followed by the establishment of the African Union in 2002.

Apart from these groupings, economic, trade and political interests linked many countries together, giving birth to a number of international organizations, unofficial dialogues and summits. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization was established in 2001, BRICS held its first summit in 2009, and the Belt and Road Initiative was launched in 2013.

While dozens of influential international organizations, forums, dialogues and summits have been promoting multilateralism, the G20, which came into being in 1999 and held its first consequential summit in 2008, initially played a significant role in taking the multilateral trend forward. Before that, the G7, headed by the US, had largely decided the global economic and trade issues. With its combined GDP then making up about two-thirds of the global GDP, the G7 was the club of the rich in the true sense of the term and its authority was unchallengeable.

By the time the G7 member states initiated the G20, just before the turn of the century, their combined economic strength had started dwindling and emerging economies, especially China, were growing at an unprecedented speed. The G7 member states probably realized that without the help of the emerging economies, they could not find solutions to the global economic problems. In that sense, the establishment of G20 was the world's recognition of the emergence of new economic powers and multilateralism.

The G20 leaders now assembled in Rio de Janeiro are expected to discuss how to build a fairer and more just world order and pursue sustainable development. With hundreds of people losing their lives in conflicts each day and millions of people still suffering from hunger or facing shortage of food and other basic necessities, the world is far from being just and fair. The rise of trade protectionism and unilateralism, and major powers increasingly resorting to sanctions are hindering the progress of the global economy and making sustainable development difficult.

Despite their disputes and differences on some issues, I hope the G20 leaders gathered in Rio de Janeiro will join hands to tackle burning global issues, because it is necessary for building an egalitarian world and a better future.

Giuseppe Carbone

Rehabilitation robots awaiting large-scale use

Thanks to the rapid development of technology, robotic devices are transforming healthcare, showing promise especially in rehabilitation. Robotic rehabilitation devices offer targeted, repetitive movement therapy, helping patients to recover from stroke, injuries or surgery. However, despite remarkable innovations, widespread adoption of robotics in healthcare remains elusive. To bring these tools from laboratories to mainstream healthcare, increased research funding and strategic policy shifts are essential.

Robotic rehabilitation devices vary in design and function, from exoskeletons for limb support to smaller end-effectors aiding wrist and finger movements. These devices offer personalized, high-precision exercises, allowing patients to perform repetitive, controlled motions crucial for recovery. They also give real-time feedback, track progress and, unlike human therapists, never tire. For patients recovering from conditions such as a stroke or spinal cord injuries, robotic devices have the potential to accelerate their rehabilitation process and reduce dependency on healthcare workers.

In China and other parts of Asia, universities such as Tsinghua University and Beijing Institute of Technology are exploring advanced robotic systems to serve specific rehabilitation needs. Yet these promising technologies are largely confined to research centers, with access limited to elite healthcare facilities.

The question is: What will it take to see robotic rehabilitation on a larger scale, making it accessible for ordinary patients? And what is holding back large-scale adoption?

Despite their potential, robotic rehabilitation devices face significant barriers. The key challenges include high costs, technological limitations, lack of regulatory frameworks, and limited evidence of long-term benefits.

Robotic devices are often prohibitively expensive, with costs driven by complex components, materials and sensors. Hospitals and clinics may hesitate to invest in such devices, especially because traditional physiotherapy, while less efficient, is effective and affordable. For instance, a basic exoskeleton can cost upwards of tens of thousands of dollars, making it financially unfeasible for most facilities and out-of-reach of patients. Without funding support or financial incentives, the market is unlikely to grow at a pace that would allow cost reductions through economies of scale.

Rehabilitation needs vary widely from patient to patient, complicating device design. For example, robots must accom-



SONG CHEN / CHINA DAILY

modate different body sizes and movement ranges, requiring frequent and precise adjustments.

Control systems struggle to account for human biomechanics, limiting the robot's ability to adjust movements dynamically. Innovations like shape memory alloy actuators, which allow variable stiffness for customized support, are promising but still in the early stage of development. Technical challenges related to durability and usability further hinder the chances of their adoption.

Although initial studies indicate that robotic rehabilitation can improve motor skills, the data often come from small trials. For large-scale adoption, healthcare providers and insurance companies require strong, large-scale evidence to prove it yields long-term benefits. Robust data are also needed to establish standard treatment protocols, which are currently lacking, making it difficult for hospitals to justify investment in these devices.

Besides, robotic rehabilitation devices



require specialized training, but healthcare curriculums rarely include robotics in therapy training. Therapists not familiar with these tools may mistrust their efficacy or feel uncomfortable operating them, hindering patient acceptance. This gap between innovation and application hinders mainstream adoption, particularly when caregivers and patients question the technology's value.

One way to accelerate the adoption process of robotic rehabilitation is to allocate more funds to dedicated research. Europe is leading the charge, recognizing that without sustained financial support, even promising technologies risk hitting the wall at the prototype stage. European initiatives such as the "Agewell" project, coordinated by this author at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca's CESTER Laboratory in Romania, are pushing the boundaries of what robotic rehabilitation can achieve. Agewell is focused on creating adaptive robotic solutions to aid stroke patients to regain daily life skills, directly tackling the challenges associated with aging populations.

To move robotic rehabilitation from labs to everyday use, we must address both

technological and economic barriers.

To begin with, cost reduction is essential. Mass production of standardized components and shifts toward cost-effective materials, like flexible robotics, could make devices more affordable. Also necessary is exploring bio-inspired designs to increase functionality without driving up costs.

Artificial intelligence (AI) can play a significant role in making rehabilitation robots smarter and more adaptive. AI allows devices to analyze real-time patient data and adjust exercise intensity, frequency, and support levels. By customizing therapy, AI minimizes the need for manual adjustments, easing the burden on therapists. A robotic device that continuously learns and tailors itself to each patient's progress could maximize rehabilitation outcomes, even in high-demand settings.

To bridge the knowledge gap, robotic rehabilitation should become an integral part of medical and physiotherapy training. Certification programs and continuing education courses can equip healthcare workers with the skills to operate and maintain these devices, giving therapists confidence in their use and patients confidence in their effectiveness.

Tele-rehabilitation offers new possibilities for remote care, especially in regions with limited access to physical therapy services. Robotic devices that patients can use at home, under the remote guidance of a therapist, could bring professional rehabilitation to rural and underserved areas. Tele-rehabilitation also supports continuity of care, as patients can continue therapy from home, enhancing outcomes and reducing hospital readmissions.

Government-backed initiatives can dramatically increase the availability of robotic devices. Subsidies, tax incentives, and regulatory support could make it financially feasible for healthcare centers to adopt robotic rehabilitation. Policies that promote the use of medical robotics in public healthcare settings would improve accessibility, especially in countries with large populations and varying levels of healthcare access, like China.

The author is chair of the Technical Committee on Robotics and Mechatronics of the International Federation for the Promotion of Mechanism and Machine Science, member of the board of directors of the International Society of Bionic Engineering, a professor at University of Calabria, a visiting distinguished professor at East China Jiaotong University, and editor-in-chief of Robotica. The views don't necessarily represent those of China Daily.

WORLD

Xi's remarks at APEC event draw praise

President's speeches reflect China's firm belief in multilateralism: Analysts

By XU WEIWEI in Hong Kong, CHEN WEIHUA in Brussels and WANG XIAODONG in Nairobi, Kenya

Chinese President Xi Jinping's speeches at the APEC CEO Summit and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting reflect China's firm belief in multilateralism and people-centered development, addressing imbalances and fostering shared prosperity, analysts said.

They said his call for building a green and digital Asia-Pacific exemplifies China's forward-thinking approach to fostering a sustainable future while continuing its role as a major engine of global economic growth.

Tahir Farooq, editor-in-chief at Daily Itihad Media Group and Pakistan Economic Net, described the speeches as a bold and visionary road map for advancing inclusive and sustainable economic globalization.

"His emphasis on innovation as a driving force highlights China's unwavering commitment to leveraging science and technology for the collective benefit of humanity," said Farooq.

"By championing the principles of shared planning, mutual benefit, and equal representation, President Xi is calling for a reformed global economic governance system that empowers the Global South and ensures equal opportunities for all nations," he added.

Erik Solheim, former executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, said the president emphasized win-win opportunities in the Asia-Pacific, noting green development and open trade will benefit Peru, China, and the entire region.

"The opening of the new mega port in Chancay turns political visions into ground reality, drastically reducing travel time for goods between Latin America and Asia," he said.

Jasim Husain, a Gulf analyst and former member of Bahrain's parliament, said Xi's remarks at the summit are an extraordinary recognition of the importance of economic globalization.

"There is no space in this global economy for blocking trade and economic expansion under different pretexts, and no space for backpedaling on sharing advances in technology and science," he said.

Khalid Taimur Akram, executive director of the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future in Islamabad, said Xi's speeches showcased his visionary leadership in shaping economic cooperation.

"His vision reinforces a commitment to fostering a balanced global economic system where prosperity is shared rather than concentrated," Akram said.

Akram added that the commitment to building an open, high-standard economic system reflects

China's ambition to lead in fostering a stable, inclusive, and green regional economy.

"Xi's emphasis on peace, multilateralism, and open regionalism aligns with the (APEC) forum's goals, advancing the idea of an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future."

Luigi Gambardella, president of ChinaEU, a Brussels-based international association promoting digital and high-tech cooperation between Chinese and European companies, said upholding the multilateral trading system is essential to ensure stability, fairness, and opportunity for all.

Shared prosperity

"The call to tear down barriers to the free flow of trade, investment, technology, and services is not just a call for economic efficiency, it is a call for resilience and shared prosperity," he said.

Gambardella said the emphasis on building an interconnected Asia-Pacific and reactivating APEC's role as a platform for advancing regional economic integration and connectivity can serve as a model for how international cooperation can address common challenges effectively.

Stephen Ndegwa, executive director of South-South Dialogues, a Nairobi-based communications development think tank, said Xi called for balanced and forward-looking globalization.

"Addressing pressing issues of fragmentation and unilateralism in global economic systems, Xi positioned China as a steadfast advocate for multilateralism, equity, and innovation-driven growth," he said.

His focus on reforming global economic governance to reflect the growing clout of the Global South was particularly significant, he said.

"Ultimately, Xi's address was both aspirational and pragmatic, offering a framework to navigate turbulent times. By championing mutual respect, inclusivity, and sustainability, Xi calls on the world to embrace a globalization that empowers humanity."

Adhere Cavince, a scholar of international relations with a focus on China-Africa development cooperation, said that China, like many developing countries around the world, has experienced the impacts of unequal, unjust, and less inclusive global governance systems.

"It is for this reason that many countries, particularly in the Global South, identify with Beijing's advocacy for the reforms of global economic governance frameworks," he said.

Jan Yumul in Hong Kong contributed to this story.

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View from top



Hot air balloons fly over a park during the International Balloon Festival in Leon, Mexico's Guanajuato state, on Saturday. The festival, which started in 2002, is currently one of the most renowned balloon festivals in Latin America. HENRY ROMERO / REUTERS

China's efforts in free trade highlighted

By WANG MINGJIE in London wangmingjie@mail.chinadailyuk.com

China's role in promoting free trade, renewable energy, and global governance reform is pivotal against a backdrop of intensifying geopolitical tensions, experts said, as the 19th G20 Leaders' Summit kicked off on Monday in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The two-day summit will provide a crucial platform for dialogue and cooperation among major economies, with experts anticipating that China will prioritize these issues to help stabilize international trade and advance global sustainability.

Lawrence Loh, director of the Centre for Governance and Sustainability at the National University of Singapore, emphasized the summit's importance in the current geopolitical landscape.

"The G20 will be relevant more than ever," he said, highlighting the opportunity for leaders to address issues, including the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. But "a singularly most critical priority" for China is free trade, he noted.

Ben Cavender, managing director of the China Market Research Group, echoed the sentiment, emphasizing the G20's role as a consensus-building forum.

"Given the current tensions, the G20's importance in fostering multilateral cooperation cannot be overstated," he said.

China's commitment to renewable energy and sustainable development is another area where experts foresee a strong emphasis.

Cavender pointed out that open trade and export growth are crucial for China's renewable energy sector. "China needs to drive growth in exports, particularly in renewable energy technology," he said, predicting that these themes are likely to feature in China's agenda.

Tom Harper, a lecturer and researcher specializing in China's international relations at the University of East London, agreed. "China's G20 focus will likely include bolstering its green credentials and promoting sustainable development," Harper said, adding that China's experience

could serve as a model for developing countries.

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative "demonstrates how China can take the lead in advancing global energy transition, showing its commitment to environmental sustainability both at home and abroad," he added.

Experts agree that the G20 presents an opportunity to push for reforms in global governance institutions and strengthen multilateralism.

"It is important to maintain mutual respect between countries," Loh said. "While standing firm on principles of international diplomacy such as fostering the collective good of the world, areas of common interests can be forged for a pro-business world."

Christopher Bovis, a professor of international business law at the University of Hull, highlighted the G20's role as a platform for addressing divergent global policies. "China should emphasize its commitments to free trade, energy transition, economic growth, and investment."

Collective action on climate finance urged

By YANG HAN in Hong Kong kelly@chinadailyapac.com

Asia needs collective and sustainable action to meet its green finance needs, experts have said, as negotiations at the COP29 UN climate change conference get underway to set a new global financing target for supporting related mitigation and adaptation.

"The fight against climate change is going to be won or lost in Asia," said Gulshan Vashista, a climate change and sustainable finance expert based in Seoul.

As Asia has a high potential to address both mitigation and adaptation needs, the key areas that need funding in the region's climate transition include renewable and clean energy, with countries looking at adaptation and resilience in a stronger manner, Vashista said, adding that innovative financing mechanisms are also important.

As representatives of countries from around the world have gathered at the 29th session of the Con-

ference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku, Azerbaijan, the draft text for the New Collective Quantified Goal, one of the main deliverables of the meeting, was published as a workable basis for discussion on a new climate finance goal.

COP29 is also called the "climate finance COP". The draft came as the previous annual financing goal of \$100 billion will expire in 2025.

An independent high-level expert group said in a report on Nov 14 that the targeted annual figure would need to rise to at least \$1.3 trillion a year by 2035.

Ambitious target

Simon Stiell, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, said at COP29 that setting an ambitious new climate finance target is crucial for the well-being of all nations.

"Asia is lining up in a big way on sustainable finance, which is issuing green bonds and issuing sustainability bonds and social

bonds," said Vashista, pointing out that areas such as urban planning and sustainable transportation also require collective action.

Noting that countries at COP29 also endorsed the global carbon market framework, a key step toward launching a UN-backed mechanism that will allow countries to trade on carbon credits to realize their climate goals, Vashista said such mechanisms will be key to bridging the gap between investments and quality climate projects.

The endorsed standards are a significant advancement that will boost transparency and accountability to attract investor confidence, said Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary, associate professor of economics and finance at Tokai University in Tokyo.

"Establishing both an international carbon market and a global carbon taxation system is essential for achieving net-zero emissions," said Taghizadeh-Hesary, who is also chief economist of Hong Kong-based sustainable finance consultancy Climate Finance Asia.

Let win-win results define bilateral ties, envoy says

By MINGMEI LI in New York mingmeili@chinadailyusa.com

China and the United States need to let dialogue and win-win results — not confrontations or a zero-sum mentality — define interactions, China's top envoy to the US said.

Ambassador Xie Feng, who served as commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from 2017 to 2021, made the comments in a speech at the US-China Hong Kong Forum on Friday.

Hosted by the China-United States Exchange Foundation in partnership with the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, the forum was the first global event centered on the bilateral relationship since the US presidential election on Nov 5.

This year's theme, titled "Reflection and Forecast," emphasized the need to review past progress and set a forward-looking agenda for bilateral cooperation on shared challenges between the two countries.

"History, if not forgotten, can serve as a guide for the future. Over the years, the China-US relationship has traveled an extraordinary journey, bringing tremendous dividends of peace, stability and development to both countries and the world," Xie said.

"History tells us that when China and the US work together, we can make a big difference; if we confront one another, turbulence, division and disaster would ensue."

As the world's two largest economies, permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and nuclear powers, China and the US should "sit down and talk it through," the envoy said.

"Conflict or confrontation would have consequences neither side can afford," he said.

"While China and the United States each have our own concerns, we can well put the issues on the table, have candid communication and find a solution through equal-footed consultation."

Xie said dialogue needs to be enhanced at various levels and in various fields to eliminate "misunderstanding and miscalculation, expand common interests, and foster closer ties between our two peoples, so as to inject fresh impetus into China-US relations."

"We hope the US side will also move with us in the same direction," he said.

"Past tragedies of major country conflicts should not be allowed to repeat. It is important to ensure the giant ship of the China-US relationship will not lose direction or speed, still less have a collision," he said.

Xie said that China-US relations should be approached with a strategic, long-term perspective.

"China has no intention of overtaking the US, and we hope the US similarly avoids efforts to contain China. Both sides should prioritize common interests over differences, respect each other's core concerns, and manage disagreements constructively to minimize negativity," he said. Both sides should work to expand mutually beneficial cooperation and bilateral relations are not a zero-sum game or a one-sided arrangement, Xie said.

South Africa expects G20 to facilitate cooperation

By NDUMISO MLILO in Johannesburg, South Africa ForChinaDaily

The G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro is expected to facilitate international trade and address challenges facing the world, including strengthening global governance and multilateralism, South African officials and experts said.

Ronald Lamola, South Africa's minister of international relations and cooperation, made the remarks while briefing the media in Pretoria on Nov 12 about the implementation of South Africa's foreign policy.

Lamola said it is expected that the heads of state and government approve the agreements negotiated throughout the year and point out ways of dealing with global challenges. "The G20 is a preeminent

forum, on whose stage, global economic cooperation is facilitated. Thus, supporting emerging and developing economies to achieve sustainable development is vital for global stability and security: reducing resource pressures, population movements and the risk of conflict. This is especially important for the African continent," Lamola said.

South Africa is playing an enhanced role as a member of the G20 in support of one of Brazil's priorities on the reform of global institutions of governance, Lamola said. South Africa would like to see "renewed institutions and a reformed governance" that is more representative, effective, transparent and accountable, reflecting the social, economic and political realities of the 21st century, he said.

Sizo Nkala, a senior research fellow at the University of Johannesburg's Centre for Africa-China Studies, said African countries expect the summit to address fair trade, climate change and peace and security.

The African Union will promote the African Continental Free Trade Area at the G20, taking into account the role of bigger economies, Nkala said.

Nkala said many areas in the African continent are debt-stressed and are likely to ask for some debt forgiveness or suspension at the summit.

Infrastructure investment

The African free trade area needs investment in infrastructural development, manufacturing plants and the agricultural supply chain, he said. Africa is also expected to dis-

cuss peace and security with the G20 partners, as well as climate change funding issues, Nkala said, adding that the Brazilian summit is taking place when multilateralism is under threat.

Mikatekiso Kubayi, a senior researcher at the Institute for Global Dialogue think tank, said South Africa and the African continent expect the G20 to address issues confronting the globe, particularly the Global South. He explained that the G20 summit is expected to address the reform of the global financial architecture and ensure stability in the global economy.

"It is expected that the G20 would discuss the funding for climate change, particularly funding for loss and damage," he said.

"Countries in the Global South lack finance and technical expert-



The Ginga Tropical Dance Group performs on the eve of the 2024 G20 Meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Sunday. BUDA MENDES / GETTY IMAGES

ise for transition to cleaner energy," he said, adding that discussion should also cover areas such as dispute resolutions and reform of the World Trade Organization, World

Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The writer is a freelance journalist for China Daily.

WORLD

Rare call signals shift in reality in Europe

Scholz-Putin talks on Ukraine reflect change in political fortunes: Experts

By CHEN WEIHUA in Brussels
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The talks between German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Russian President Vladimir Putin, first in nearly two years, are a reflection of shifting political and economic reality in Europe and the leadership change in the United States, experts say.

In Friday's hourlong phone talk, Scholz urged Russia to end the conflict in Ukraine, withdraw troops and be prepared to negotiate with Ukraine with the aim of achieving a just and lasting peace, according to a German government statement.

The Kremlin said that in the call, initiated by the German side, Putin told Scholz that any agreement to end the special military operation in Ukraine "should take into account the security interests of the Russian Federation", and should "proceed from the new territorial realities and, most importantly, address the root causes of the conflict".

Ivona Ladjevac, deputy director at the Institute of International Politics and Economics in Belgrade, said the European Union's decision to impose sanctions on Russia has caused Germany to "decline in every sense", citing its worsening economy and living standards as well as complicating domestic politics.

"Given to such circumstances and faced with the falling apart of the ruling coalition, it seems that Scholz decided to approach Putin hoping that he could entice him to talks

which eventually would lead to cease-fire and peace," Ladjevac said.

"Such a scenario would benefit Scholz, improve his image and possibly lead him to another mandate," she said, referring to the Feb 23 snap election called by Scholz following the collapse earlier this month of his three-party coalition over budget disagreements.

A YouGov poll for the German Press Agency last month showed that 59 percent of Germans were in favor of Scholz and Putin having a phone conversation, while 26 percent opposed the idea and 15 percent did not express an opinion.

Dilemma for Germany

He Zhigao, a researcher at the Institute of European Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, said the Russia-Ukraine conflict is a dilemma for Germany.

"The prospect of Donald Trump reducing aid to Ukraine will force Europe to tackle the crisis alone while Germany has to sustain the assistance to save face," he said.

Tuesday marks the 1,000th day of the conflict. Germany is the second-largest source of assistance to Ukraine, trailing only the US.

Scholz's phone call was based on the hope of finding a peaceful solution and especially the widespread support among his Social Democratic Party for no escalation in the conflict, He said. "So Scholz made the first move to avoid more dilemma for Germany and Europe."

A July study by the European Council on Foreign Relations revealed that Europeans tend to believe that Ukraine will not defeat Russia on the battlefield, with roughly one-third to half of those surveyed believing the conflict will end in a negotiated settlement and up to 31 percent seeing a Russian victory as most likely.

Andrew Korybko, a US political analyst in Moscow, agreed, saying Scholz's call was likely influenced by Trump's election victory.

"(Trump) promised to prioritize ending the Ukrainian conflict, with many expecting that he'll propose a compromise," he told China Daily.

"It makes sense for Scholz to directly explore Putin's flexibility toward a compromise, which can enable him and his country to better prepare for that possibility."

From Russia's perspective, Scholz's call broke the ice with the West and could pave the way for more official dialogue with other leaders who have thus far refused to speak to Putin, he said.

"This could in turn help (Putin) explore the West's flexibility toward a compromise, thus facilitating an eventual deal with time."

Scholz has vowed unwavering support for Ukraine, but he has been cautious not to approve the delivery of long-range Taurus cruise missiles to Ukraine for fear of a major escalation.

German Economy Minister Robert Habeck, the Green Party chancellor candidate for the Feb 23 election, told ARD television on Sunday that he would approve the delivery of German missiles if he wins the election.

Woolly procession



Shepherd Thomas Gackstatter (right), accompanied by his children and helpers, leads a flock of about 700 sheep through the city center of Nuremberg, Germany, on Sunday, en route to their winter pastures. DANIEL VOGL / AP

Briefly

CHINA Samoa prime minister to pay official visit

Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa Fiame Naomi Mata'afa will pay an official visit to China starting from Wednesday. Leaders of the two countries will have in-depth discussion on bilateral ties and other issues of shared concern during Fiame's nine-day visit, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said on Monday. Ties between China and Samoa, one of the first Pacific island countries to have established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, have enjoyed sound and steady development over the past five decades, no matter how the international situation has changed, Lin said. Noting that next year marks the 50th anniversary of

bilateral diplomatic relations, Lin said China hopes to take the visit as an opportunity to deepen political mutual trust and expand practical cooperation with Samoa.

INDIA New Delhi smog over 60 times WHO limit

Residents of India's capital New Delhi choked in a blanketing toxic smog on Monday as worsening air pollution surged past 60 times the World Health Organization's recommended daily maximum. The level of deadly PM2.5 pollutants peaked at 907 on Monday morning, according to IQAir pollution monitors, with a reading above 15 in a 24-hour period considered unhealthy by the WHO. Authorities in New Delhi shut schools, halted construction and banned

nonessential trucks from entering the city on Monday.

MIDDLE EAST Israeli strikes kill 20 in Gaza, children included

Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed 20 Palestinians on Monday, including six people who were killed in attacks on tents housing displaced families, medics said. Four people, two of them children, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a tent encampment in the coastal area of Al-Mawasi, designated as a humanitarian zone, health officials said. At least 43,922 Palestinians have been killed by Israel's military campaign in Gaza, the Palestinian territory's health ministry said on Monday.

CHINA DAILY—AGENCIES

Kremlin warns US over missile decision

WASHINGTON — The Kremlin said on Monday that any US decision to allow Ukraine to fire US missiles deep into Russia would mean it was directly involved in the conflict, which it accused Joe Biden's administration of escalating.

Russia has been telling the West for months how it would interpret such a decision, and that it would raise the risk of a confrontation with the US-led NATO alliance.

When asked about reports by The New York Times and Reuters that Biden's administration had made the decision on long-range strikes, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the reports were not based on any official statement.

"If such a decision was indeed formulated and brought to the Kyiv regime, then this is a qualitatively new round of tension and a qualitatively new situation from the point of view of US involvement in this conflict," Peskov said.

President Vladimir Putin had expressed Russia's position clearly when speaking in St. Petersburg in September, he said.

Putin said on Sept 12 that Western approval for such a step would



Kyiv residents shelter at a subway station amid a Russian airstrike on Sunday. TANYA DZAFAROWA VIA GETTY IMAGES

mean "the direct involvement of NATO countries, the United States and European countries" in the conflict, because NATO military infrastructure and personnel would have to be involved in the targeting and firing of the missiles.

"It's obvious that the outgoing administration in Washington intends to take steps to continue fueling the fire and provoke a further escalation of tensions," Peskov said.

Reuters reported the Biden administration's decision on Sunday, citing two US officials and a source familiar with the decision. The New York Times also reported the decision.

The move comes before US President-elect Donald Trump takes office on Jan 20 and follows months of pleas by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to allow Ukraine's military to use US weapons to hit Russian military targets far from its border.

Zelensky said on Sunday the mis-

siles would "speak for themselves." "Today, many in the media are saying that we have received permission to take appropriate actions," he said. "But strikes are not made with words. Such things are not announced."

Vladimir Dzhaharov, first deputy head of the Russian upper house's international affairs committee, said Washington's decision could lead to "World War III".

In Washington, it is not clear if Trump will reverse Biden's decision when he takes office. Trump has long criticized the scale of US financial and military aid to Ukraine and has vowed to end the conflict quickly, without explaining how.

One of Trump's closest foreign policy advisers, Richard Grenell, criticized the decision. "Escalating the wars before he leaves office," he said on X, responding to the news.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA

Philippines cleans up after typhoon hit

MANILA — Filipinos cleared fallen trees and repaired damaged houses on Monday after the sixth major storm to batter the Philippines in a month smashed flimsy buildings, knocked out power and claimed at least eight lives.

The national weather service had warned of a "potentially catastrophic" impact from Man-yi, which was a super typhoon when it hit over the weekend, but President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said on Monday it "wasn't as bad as we feared".

Packing maximum sustained wind speeds of 185 kilometers an hour, Man-yi slammed into Catanduanes island late on Saturday, and the main island of Luzon on Sunday afternoon.

It uprooted trees, brought down

power lines, crushed wooden houses and triggered landslides.

The death toll from the typhoon has risen to eight.

It includes a 79-year-old man who was killed in Camarines Norte after his motorbike was caught in a power line, police said.

Seven people died and three were injured when a landslide buried their house in Nueva Vizcaya Province in Luzon, Kristine Falcon of the provincial disaster agency told AFP.

Power outages across the island province of Catanduanes could last for months after Man-yi toppled electricity poles, provincial information officer Camille Gianan told AFP. "Catanduanes has been heavily damaged by that typhoon—we need food packs, hygiene kits and con-

struction materials," Gianan said.

"Most houses with light materials were flattened while some houses made of concrete had their roofs, doors and windows destroyed."

In the coastal town of Baler in Aurora Province, cleanup operations were underway to remove felled trees and debris blocking roads and waterways.

"Most of the houses here are made of light materials so even now, before the inspection, we are expecting heavy damage on many houses in town," disaster officer Neil Rojo said.

"We've also received reports of roofs that went flying with the wind last night ... it was the fierce wind that got us scared, not exactly the heavy rains."

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA



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Continued mkt opening-up assured

More pragmatic measures to further reform bourses, facilitate investment

By SHI JING in Shanghai
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China's ongoing capital market opening-up, with the connect programs between the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong markets serving as one good example, will be further advanced to inject more vitality into the markets and facilitate the country's high quality economic growth, said officials and industry experts.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission, the country's top stock market watchdog, is advancing a new round of deepened and comprehensive reform and opening-up of the Chinese capital market at a

faster pace, CSRC Chairman Wu Qing said on Monday.

Wu made the comments during a forum which was held in Hong Kong on Monday to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the connectivity programs.

More pragmatic measures will be introduced to further open up the market and facilitate cross-border investment and financing, he added.

By firmly adhering to market-based and internationally accepted practices, as well as the rule of law, the CSRC will create a better environment for international investors to further tap into the Chinese market, Wu said.

During the same forum on Mon-

day, CSRC Vice-Chairman Li Ming said that efforts will be made to further optimize and complete the connectivity programs between the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong markets. The investable targets included in the stock connect mechanism linking the Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hong Kong bourses will be expanded, Li said.

Amid the steady increase in trading value, the connect programs have effectively improved market liquidity and buoyed trading volume. The markets' appeal has also risen significantly. The connect programs have helped the A-share market to be included into well-established international indexes such as the MSCI, attracting more overseas long-term capital to increase their exposure to A shares, said Li.

The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, said foreign institutions and individuals held 3.13 trillion yuan (\$430 billion) of Chinese onshore stocks as of the end of September. It was the first time for this indicator to exceed the 3-trillion-yuan level since October 2023.

Bonnie Y Chan, CEO of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd, said at the Monday forum that nearly 77 percent of participating foreign investors have held A shares via the stock connect mechanism.

The trading value of the south-bound and north-bound legs of the stock connect program reached HK\$280 billion (\$36 billion) and 510 billion yuan, respectively, in October, both hitting record highs. This has proven the reliability of the stock connect mechanism, said Chan.

Meanwhile, the connectivity mechanism has increased the Hong Kong market's attraction as a listing venue for quality Chinese mainland companies and foreign enterprises. More capital, institutions, talent and information have been further accumulated in Hong Kong, said Li.

As of Sunday, a total of 40 Chinese mainland companies had gone public on the Hong Kong bourse so far this year, outnumbering the 34 such IPOs recorded during the same period in 2023, according to market tracker Wind Info.

The CSRC will support the launch of more cross-border exchange traded fund products and help expand the connect programs for depositary receipts. The mutual recognition of funds between the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong markets

should be optimized, said Li.

Meanwhile, the CSRC will support more foreign institutions to make industry-related investments in China. Qualified domestic institutions will also be encouraged to make more outbound investments and conduct cross-border business, he said.

The coordination mechanism for the supervision of overseas listing should be further completed to support technological innovation and the development of new quality productive forces. Meanwhile, overseas listing channels for Chinese mainland companies should be further explored. Further opening-up in the futures market should be advanced, Li added.

As China advances its opening-up progress in an orderly fashion, the connectivity mechanism should further expand in terms of included product categories, participants, derivatives trading and green finance, said Yan Yueheng, chairman of BOCOM International Holdings Co Ltd.

Alibaba to continue investments in core tech

By FAN FEIFEI
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Alibaba Group Holding Ltd's core business segments maintained steady growth in the third quarter, and it will continue to invest in advanced technology and artificial intelligence infrastructure while optimizing operational efficiency, the Chinese tech heavyweight said.

Experts said AI technology is playing a vital role in improving user experience, and speeding up its integration with a wider range of fields to bolster transformation and upgrade traditional industries.

Alibaba reported late on Friday a 5 percent year-on-year revenue increase to 236.5 billion yuan (\$32.7 billion) for the July-September period, while net income reached 43.5 billion yuan, up 63 percent year-on-year.

For the quarter ended Sept 30, revenue from Alibaba's core e-commerce business, or its Taobao and Tmall platforms, rose 1 percent year-on-year to 99 billion yuan.

"This quarter, we continued to invest in the user experience and strengthen product offerings to serve our consumers. We entered into long-term collaborations with industry peers to broaden payment and logistics services on Taobao and Tmall platforms, which we expect will accelerate our overall growth," said Wu Yongming, CEO of Alibaba Group, in a statement.

Online gross merchandise volume, or GMV, growth was supported by double-digit order growth year-on-



A view of Alibaba's booth during a recent expo in Guangzhou, Guangdong province. LIU DAWEI / XINHUA

year in the third quarter, the company said, adding that during the recently concluded Singles Day shopping festival, Taobao and Tmall achieved robust growth in GMV and a record number of purchasers.

A total of 589 brands saw their sales surpass 100 million yuan during the Double 11 promotional gala, surging 46.5 percent from the same period last year, and hitting a record high, according to Alibaba.

"We're optimistic about the government's macro stimulus policies and are confident in their positive long-term economic impact. While e-commerce competition remains intense, we'll continue to invest in core user groups and product categories, increase investment in new users and improve user retention," Wu said in an earnings call with investors.

Moreover, revenue from Alibaba Cloud Intelligence Group rose 7 percent year-on-year to 29.6 billion yuan during the period. It will continue to invest in anticipation of cus-

tommer growth and in technology, particularly in AI infrastructure, to capture the increasing trend of cloud adoption for AI.

Wu said growth in Alibaba's cloud business accelerated from the prior quarters, with revenue from public cloud products growing in double digits and AI-related product revenue delivering triple-digit growth.

In September, Alibaba Cloud introduced significant upgrades across its AI-powered large language models, including the release of the open-source Qwen 2.5 series, which industry experts said is expected to bolster the large-scale commercial application of fast-developing generative AI technology.

"We are more confident in our core businesses than ever and will continue to invest in supporting long-term growth," Wu said, adding that the company's other businesses continued to improve their operating efficiency, with most of them continuing to increase their profitability or reduce losses.

Jiang Han, a senior analyst at market consultancy Pangoal, said the Taobao and Tmall platforms have adopted a more open strategy for payment and logistics service providers, which not only improves the shopping experience of consumers, but also enhances the operating efficiency of merchants, thus driving high-quality growth in Alibaba's core business.

For instance, consumers purchasing products on Alibaba's online marketplaces can now use Tencent's WeChat Pay for transactions, and sellers on Taobao and Tmall can choose JD Logistics as the delivery method.

Noting that cloud computing has become an important segment in Alibaba's business landscape, Jiang said the triple-digit growth of AI-related product revenue for five consecutive quarters indicates that Alibaba has made major breakthroughs and achievements in the research and development, and application of AI technology.

China, Saudi JV project starts construction

By ZHENG XIN in Beijing
and HU MEIDONG in Fuzhou

The new integrated refining and petrochemical complex in Fujian — the province's largest industrial investment to date that kicked off construction on Monday — underscores the deepening ties between China and Saudi Arabia in the energy sector, said industry experts and company executives.

The second phase of the Fujian Gulei integrated refining and petrochemical project, a collaboration between China Petroleum & Chemical Corp (Sinopec), Saudi Arabian Oil Co (Saudi Aramco) and Fujian Petrochemical Co Ltd (FPCL), is expected to be fully operational by 2030, said Sinopec.

The facility, a significant milestone in China-Saudi energy collaboration, aims to have a 16 million ton-per-year (320,000 barrels per day) oil refining unit, a 1.5 million ton-per-year ethylene unit, 2 million tons in paraxylene and downstream derivatives capacity, and a 300,000-ton crude oil terminal, it said.

An analyst said the project aligns with Saudi Aramco's strategy to expand its downstream footprint in key markets like China while bolstering China's energy security by ensuring a stable supply of crude oil and feedstock for its domestic industry.

"By integrating refining and petrochemical operations, the partnership enhances mutual economic interdependence, positioning Saudi Arabia as a long-term supplier of crude oil to China's rapidly growing petrochemical industry," said Wang Lining, director of the oil market department under the economics and technology research institute of China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC).

"For China, the project supports its ambitions to transition its petrochemical industry toward higher value-added products and greener, more sustainable operations. The integration of advanced technologies and large-scale infrastructure will strengthen the competitiveness of the petrochemical base in Fujian, elevating it as a model for high-end industrial

clusters," Wang said.

"As Fujian's largest industrial investment, the project is expected to act as a catalyst for local economic development. It will create jobs, attract downstream investments and enhance the regional supply chain, contributing to Fujian's broader industrial transformation."

Wang added that China and Saudi Arabia are expected to further tap potential for bilateral cooperation, strengthening collaboration in areas such as energy, infrastructure construction, digital economy and green development.

Economic ties between Saudi Arabia and China have been growing stronger over the past few years, with both sides stepping up efforts strengthening multilateral cooperation to enhance the global economic governance system.

Figures released by the General Administration of Customs show that Saudi Arabia has been the largest trading partner of China in the Middle East since 2001, with bilateral trade reaching \$107.23 billion in 2023.

China and Saudi Arabia have maintained positive cooperative communication under the framework of the Economic and Financial Subcommittee of the High-level Chinese-Saudi Joint Committee, with many practical outcomes achieved, said Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan, adding that the Saudi side looks forward to enhancing the alignment of development strategies with China to realize mutual development and prosperity.

Mohammed Y. Al Qahtani, Aramco's downstream president, said the project would further expand Saudi Aramco's growing downstream investment portfolio in China.

"We will supply in excess of 1 million barrels per day of our crude oil to these high chemical conversion assets in China, reinforcing Aramco's role as a reliable and long-term partner in China's development," he said.

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Briefly

Central bank conducts reverse repos

China's central bank conducted 172.6 billion yuan (\$24 billion) of seven-day reverse repos at an interest rate of 1.5 percent on Monday. The move aims to keep liquidity in the banking system adequate at a reasonable level, the central bank said. A reverse repo is a process in which the central bank purchases securities from commercial banks through bidding, with an agreement to sell them back in the future.

Yuan strengthens against greenback

The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, strengthened 85 pips to 7.1907 against the US dollar on Monday, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trade System. In China's spot foreign exchange market, the yuan is allowed to rise or fall by 2 percent from the central parity rate each trading day. The central parity rate of the yuan against the dollar is based on a weighted average of prices offered by market makers before the opening of the interbank market each business day.

XINHUA — CHINA DAILY

L'Oreal optimistic about 'boundless potential of Chinese market'

By LIU ZHIHUA
liuzhihua@chinadaily.com.cn

With a resolute stance on China's integral role in the company's future, L'Oreal believes that "the next China is China" and "Investing in China is investing in our future," a senior executive of the French multinational told China Daily in an exclusive interview during the recently concluded 7th China International Import Expo in Shanghai.

Vincent Boinay, president of L'Oreal North Asia and CEO of L'Oreal China, highlighted the country's robust economic fundamentals, pointing out that consumption remains the principal driver of China's economic growth.

This, combined with the nation's resilience and rapid technological advancements, have bolstered L'Oreal's confidence in the Chinese market, he said.

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed that consumption contributed to 82.5 percent of China's GDP growth in 2023. Retail sales, a key measurement of consumer spending, grew by 4.8 percent year-on-year in October, up

from the 3.2 percent growth in September.

"I am optimistic about the boundless potential of the Chinese market in the medium to long term. My optimism roots in China's core strengths, remarkable resilience and amazing technological development, among other factors," said Boinay.

Chinese consumers, according to the executive, are at the forefront of global trends, particularly in the beauty sector. Their increasing sophistication and demand for high-quality, effective and trendy products have positioned China as a global influencer. L'Oreal's current reach of 100 million Chinese consumers is poised to expand, with ambitious plans to cater to more than 500 million, including seniors, men and Generation Z.

"L'Oreal strongly believes that 'the next China is China' and has never ceased investing in the country," he said, adding that L'Oreal's strategic focus in China is threefold: beauty tech and innovation, consumer experience enhancement, and sustainability.

The company has a research and

innovation team of 400 researchers in Shanghai, and China has emerged as a key innovation hub for L'Oreal's beauty tech, inspiring global initiatives. Leveraging technology and data to create highly personalized products and immersive and seamless interactions, the company aims to provide good experience for consumers, the executive said.

Sustainability, too, is a priority, with L'Oreal committing to using 100 percent renewable energy in its Chinese factories and warehouses.

Regarding the restructuring of global industrial and supply chains, L'Oreal's recent establishment of Suzhou Smart Fulfillment Center in Jiangsu province, its very first of the kind, exemplifies the company's faith in China's growing role, Boinay said.

This center, integrating cutting-edge automation technologies, advanced digitalization systems and firm sustainability commitments, reflects China's call for developing new quality productive forces and sets a benchmark for operational innovations in the beauty sector, he added.

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CHINA

Giant panda Ying Ying at Ocean Park in Hong Kong in September, 2022.
LI ZHIHUA / CHINA NEWS SERVICE



Birth of panda twins brings double joy

Bonds between Hong Kong, Sichuan province strengthened through animal exchanges, post-earthquake support

Giant panda An An, who was sent to Hong Kong on Sept 26, is earlier seen playing at the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda in Sichuan. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

By FANG XUE in Hong Kong
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If anyone is happy about giant panda Ying Ying successfully giving birth to twin cubs in August after years of futile mating attempts and a miscarriage, it's Janet Long Shun-kwan.

Long began looking after Ying Ying in 2009, and was close by during the giant panda's decade-long efforts to give birth, which started in 2011.

Ying Ying and male panda Le Le were gifted by the central government to Hong Kong in 2007, but several mating attempts had failed to produce cubs.

In 2015, Long accompanied Ying Ying to the Wolong Shenshuping Base of the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda in southwest Sichuan province, where the giant panda was to take part in a natural breeding program.

Long and Ying Ying stayed at the base for six months. The giant panda was able to conceive, but miscarried.

However, the trip was romantically fortuitous for Long. At the base she met Dong Chao, a senior caretaker involved in giant panda breeding since 2003, who later became her husband.

Long returned to Hong Kong, but the budding romance with Dong grew stronger, with their shared passion for giant pandas bringing them closer together.

In 2018, Long, after much soul searching, resigned from her job in Hong Kong and moved to Wolong to start a family with Dong.

Close connections

The marriage of Long and Dong, thanks in no small part to Ying Ying, embodies the strong bonds between Hong Kong and Sichuan developed through panda connections.

Before Ying Ying and Le Le's arrival, the central government sent the first pair of pandas — An An and Jia Jia — to the city in 1999 to mark the two-year anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

The 8.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Wenchuan region of Sichuan on May 12, 2008, also brought Hong Kong and the province closer together.

The quake severely damaged the Wolong National Nature Reserve, located less than 20 kilometers from the epicenter of the tremor in Yingxiu town.

He Yongguo, director of the Shenshuping Base in Wolong, recalled that the base was almost completely destroyed. Most of the animal enclosures had collapsed, the giant pandas were extremely frightened, and all roads connecting to the outside world were cut off.

In no time, Hong Kong raced to provide aid to reconstruct Wenchuan, including the heavily-damaged Shenshuping Base. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government provided HK\$10 billion (\$1.28 billion) for 190 projects over eight years. A total of 151 projects were handled by the HKSAR government, and 32 by nongovernmental organizations.

Twenty-three of the reconstruction projects were in the Wolong National Nature Reserve. The flagship projects were Dujiangyan Base and Shenshuping Base — the two panda bases of the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda. The reconstruction efforts were jointly headed by seven well-established architects from Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland. The reconstructed bases received the highest three-star rating from the China Green Building Label system, and became important facilities for international panda conservation and research exchanges.



A caretaker feeds An An in September at the Dujiangyan Base of the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Vital breeding base

The rebuilt Shenshuping Base is the world's largest giant panda breeding, rearing, and research base.

It is also the only training center in the world for the reintroduction of pandas into the wild.

The base covers an area of about 150 hectares, and has 30 panda habitats, a panda hospital, labs and a science education center. Hong Kong committed just over 226 million yuan (\$31.28 million) to the project.

In recognition of Hong Kong's contribution, when the two bases reopened in May 2016, they announced that all of the city's residents could enter free of charge with their ID cards.

However, He, who witnessed the entire reconstruction process, said the support from Hong Kong was more than just material. Hong Kong contributors also helped locals repair their mental state, by organizing community meetings and exchanges.

This played a role in promoting the economic recovery of the region and also advanced the sustainable development of

Wolong district, he added.

Hong Kong's Ocean Park had a significant role in the reconstruction of Wolong. The theme park's conservation arm, The Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, established the Giant Panda Base Rebuilding Fund, which offered financial support for recovery work at 12 panda reserves in Sichuan.

Paulo Pong Kin-ye, chairman of the Ocean Park Corporation, said in a recent interview with China Daily, that the birth of Ying Ying's twin cubs was further testament to the collaboration between teams in Sichuan and Hong Kong.

When Ying Ying began showing signs she was ready to give birth in late July, the giant panda center in Sichuan promptly arranged for breeding expert Dong Li and cub-rearing expert Zhang Yuhui to travel to Hong Kong. With the support of the park's animal care team and the center's experts, Ying Ying gave birth to the panda cubs on Aug 15, after a difficult five-hour labor.

Pong said that the park has always maintained a close partnership with Sichuan on panda breeding and conservation. Experts from the giant panda center visited Hong Kong around March each year, during the giant panda mating season — to check on Ying Ying's condition and share panda breeding knowledge with the park's caretakers.

Prime opportunity

With the arrival of the twins, Ocean Park now has six pandas, which Pong described as "unprecedented" and a major drawcard to bring in large crowds, especially overseas tourists.

The stories behind the giant pandas can also attract more foreign visitors to Hong Kong, and showcase the city's and country's latest developments in ecological protection, Pong added.

Meng Ying, an associate professor at Guangming School of Journalism and Communication at China University of Political Science and Law, suggested that Ocean Park should start posting short videos



Students greet giant panda Ying Ying at Ocean Park in Hong Kong in 2022.
LI ZHIHUA / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

about the giant pandas to capture greater public attention.

Following that, livestreams, which are more interactive and require higher audience engagement, could help deepen affection for the creatures and enable broader dissemination of content, she said. Meng said Hong Kong's media could also serve up content on the animals that is suitable for a global audience.

The most important aspect, however, is to focus on the "undisturbed and natural" daily lives of the pandas, she said. This includes disclosing interesting details about the animals, such as how the keepers prepare their food. These details can transcend different cultures and be appreciated and loved by international audiences, she said.

A good way to drive home the message of China's giant panda conservation efforts would be by giving full play to the idea of "family bonds", with Hong Kong having six pandas living in Ocean Park, Meng said.

Animal conservation is a universal language that could draw an international audience, she said.

Anthony Fung Ying-him, professor of the

Chinese University of Hong Kong's Journalism and Communication School, said the natural resources of Hong Kong Island's southern district — where the park is located, could be leveraged to create green tourism projects. Such projects could integrate conservation content about giant pandas and other animals at Ocean Park.

The recent birth of the cubs also offers an opportunity to present immersive internet content about their growth, and convey conservation concepts to a broader audience, especially young people, Fung said.

Advanced technologies like virtual reality, for instance, could showcase their natural habitats, living habits, reproductive processes, and survival challenges. This not only generates economic benefits, but also raises public awareness about the importance of the natural environment and the need for wildlife protection.

Pong said Ocean Park is considering livestreaming and is in contact with various domestic and international organizations.

However, the primary consideration for livestreams and other social media is ensuring that they do not affect the giant pandas' health and quality of life. The park will not be swayed by online attention and traffic in this regard, Pong said.

Improving understanding

Shenshuping Panda Base said protection of the giant pandas is the primary goal, rather than using them for entertainment value.

He, the base director, said its primary aim is to promote scientific understanding through various channels — such as official media and popular science videos — to enhance the public's understanding of giant pandas and the conservation efforts surrounding them.

Having worked in panda-related fields for many years, He said he is pleased to see ardent fans of the animals become ambassadors for them by voluntarily disseminating knowledge. These supporters are deeply engaged in the panda online community and the giant panda base, and help correct misunderstandings about the animal, He added.

The iPanda channel, China's first giant panda livestreaming platform, has more than 100 fixed cameras that showcase the daily lives of giant pandas around the clock.

Launched in August 2013, the channel quickly built an online panda community, amassing over 56 million active users worldwide including in Germany, Spain, France, Russia and Japan.

Guo Yanan, deputy director of iPanda, credited the success of the channel to the media operations team and the giant panda caretaker team, which have been involved since the channel's inception.

The team has established detailed guidelines that must be followed when installing livestreaming cameras in panda enclosures. For example, power cables and network cables must be positioned carefully to ensure there are no safety risks to the pandas.

The placement angles of the cameras also need to be adjusted regularly, given the varying conditions at each base.

Hong Kong's new giant panda twins are expected to meet the public in the first quarter of next year when they will be about six months old, Ocean Park caretakers said.

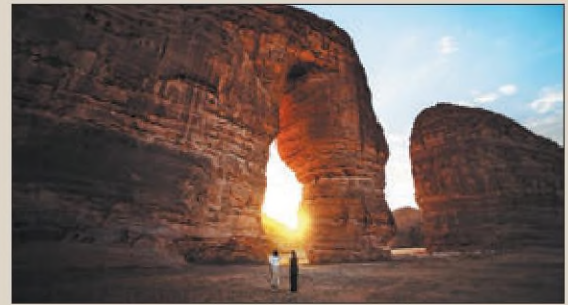
The two have not been officially named yet, but the female cub, is nicknamed Gaje, "elder sister" in Cantonese, and the male Sailou, or "little brother".

The birth of the twins has cemented the strong bonds between Hong Kong and Sichuan, which are expected to grow and strengthen along with the two cubs.



Ocean Park staff hold up signs and wear panda headgear to welcome the arrival of the third pair of giant pandas An An and Ke Ke gifted by the central government to Hong Kong on Sept 26. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

LIFE



From left: AlUla, Saudi Arabia, was once home to powerful ancient kingdoms and civilizations. It's now a popular destination where tourists can experience local culture, enjoy stargazing under clear skies and visit heritage sites. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

An oasis of new experiences

Saudi resort offers adventure and culture as it makes its mark on the global tourist map, **Xu Lin** reports.

The lush oasis valley seems strangely at odds with the common perception of Saudi Arabia. Make no mistake, the desert is here, but so too are enchanting vistas. Over millions of years, sun, wind and water have shaped the sandstone around here into striking rock formations. This is a landscape where the imagination can run free. Even the area's spelling is unusual and enchanting — AlUla. This part of northwestern Saudi Arabia was once home to powerful ancient kingdoms and civilizations.

It was a key stopping point on the Incense Route, which linked southern Arabia to the Mediterranean, and also a point along the branch of the Silk Road that extended into the Arabian Peninsula. Around 1000 BC, AlUla emerged as a hub for the camel caravans transporting spices and aromatics across the deserts.

Commerce, art, languages and ideas have been evolving in the region, making it an ideal destination for cultural and historical sites. In AlUla, besides the ancient city of Dadan, tourists can visit Hegra, Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, and home to monumental Nabataean rock-cut tombs with ornate facades decorated with epigraphs.

"In AlUla, our Chinese customers, ranging in age from their 20s to 70s, consist of a diverse group including both young trav-

elers and retirees seeking new adventures," says Zhou Dongni, managing director of Talia Travel and Tourism agency, based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. "They like to enjoy authentic Arabian cuisine, luxury accommodation and the blend of modern and tradition."

She adds that while promoting Saudi Arabia in the Chinese market, it's important to ensure that tourists are aware of the local traditions.

In 2023, AlUla welcomed 263,000 visitors, 3.1 percent from the Asia-Pacific region, including China. It aims to attract 292,000 tourists by the end of 2024 and 1.1 million by 2030 through intensified marketing, according to official data.

"While this percentage remains small compared to other regions, there is significant potential for growth," says Rami AlMoallim, vice-president of destination management and marketing at the Royal Commission for AlUla. He recently visited Beijing for the Saudi Tourism Festival, an official promotional event for the kingdom.

"The Chinese market is crucial. To boost tourism from China, we plan to ramp up marketing in the country."

The tourism authority of AlUla is working with local partners to strengthen its presence in China, including by participating in travel fairs and organizing promotional events.

AlMoallim has noticed that many Chi-

“We've adopted a varied strategy, to meet the needs of Chinese tourists, that emphasizes cultural, historical and luxury experiences.”

Rami AlMoallim, vice-president of destination management and marketing at the Royal Commission for AlUla

nese visitors to AlUla are young couples, travel groups and solo travelers. They value culture and history, and delight in exploring cities with historical significance.

He says that AlUla targets affluent Chinese tourists by offering a blend of luxury and authentic cultural experiences.

"We're striving to create immersive experiences that connect visitors with AlUla's landscape, culture, history, art and outdoor adventure," AlMoallim says.

Tourists can enjoy hot air balloon rides

with a tour guide sharing the landscape's history from above, take a private tour to ancient heritage sites in a vintage vehicle, or enjoy stargazing under clear skies and learn how ancient Arabs used the stars for navigation, to name but a few activities.

"We've adopted a varied strategy, to meet the needs of Chinese tourists, that emphasizes cultural, historical and luxury experiences," he says.

The commission is promoting the destination on Chinese social media platforms, showcasing experiences, such as exploring ancient tombs and enjoying luxury desert stays, and is also teaming up with influencers, who showcase the beauty of AlUla through travel vlogs and livestreamed tours.

Last year, *Divas Hit the Road*, a popular Chinese traveling reality show based around celebrities, chose AlUla as one of its destinations, boosting its reputation as a luxury and cultural destination for local tourists.

Earlier this year, *AlUla, Wonder of Arabia*, an exhibition at the Palace Museum in Beijing, presented an overview of the area's history through 236 artifacts, attracting 275,000 visitors and industry professionals.

"It's a pivotal step to promote the region's key heritage sites to Chinese tourists, sparking cultural curiosity among them," says Abdulrahman AlSu-

haibani, vice-president of culture at the Royal Commission for AlUla, and the curator of the exhibition.

"With over 30,000 archaeological sites in AlUla, being in the region feels like living in an open museum," AlSuhaibani says. He stresses that AlUla is dedicated to making its cultural offerings available to a diverse audience and says that they have put more efforts into enhancing the experience for Chinese visitors, while preserving the region's rich cultural heritage.

"We're actively balancing tourism with the preservation of its cultural heritage through strategic partnerships and sustainable tourism practices," he says. "For example, we've worked with Chinese museums to focus on areas like archaeology, cultural heritage preservation and research."

AlUla's tourism authority offers Chinese audio guides and is hiring Chinese-speaking tour guides to help visitors understand the stories behind its heritage sites.

Moreover, it's also possible to pay through China UnionPay for greater convenience.

At the AlUla Language Institute, founded in 2021, Saudis can learn Chinese, among other languages, smoothing communication with tourists.

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One of AlUla's must-visit areas is Hegra, Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, home to monumental Nabataean rock-cut tombs with ornate facades decorated with epigraphs.

Chengdu's retail landscape bags luxury brands

By **LI YINGXUE**
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In a sleek corner of Chengdu's bustling commercial complex Yintai Centre in 1999, a new presence has emerged, quietly bold yet unmistakably refined. Set against a deep-black, double-striped backdrop, Fendi Casa's cloud-white logo gleams through wide glass windows, hinting at elegance within.

The store, featuring an eclectic furniture collection, which opened last month in the capital of Sichuan province, unfolds as an interplay of light, Italian craftsmanship and luxurious materials, creating a space where nature and design converse in hushed tones.

This two-story, 600-square-meter flagship, the first in Southwest China and the brand's second in the country, invites visitors into a carefully curated realm, where contemporary style meets Italian heritage.

"Stepping into the store feels effortless. It really aligns with the refined lifestyle that's becoming popular in Chengdu," says Huang

Ling, a Chengdu-based lifestyle influencer known as Feixi Feixi.

Surrounded by the brand's signature furnishings — sleek beds, sofas, coffee tables and soft lighting — Huang was drawn to the clean, striking interior. "It looks simple but carries a strong sense of design," he notes.

This October, Chengdu's retail landscape was further transformed by an array of high-profile openings, with Fendi Casa's new flagship only the beginning.

On Oct 18, the sprawling 100,000-square-meter Chengdu Poly Time Edition officially debuted, marking a new landmark, while Montblanc launched its first concept retail space in China, a flagship nestled in the upscale Taikoo Li Chengdu on the same day. The German footwear brand Birkenstock also deepened its commitment to China by opening its first Southwest concept store in the same vibrant area.

For Huang, 36, who has more than 400,000 followers on social media platform Xiaohongshu, it is clear that Chengdu is evolving into a

luxury hub. Over the past decade, upscale destinations, such as Chengdu International Finance Square and Taikoo Li Chengdu, have attracted a steady influx of luxury brands to the city. Now, its unique dynamism continues to draw high-end brands while prompting them to open larger, more versatile stores.

"About 10 years ago, major luxury brands started setting up in Chengdu and the trend has only accelerated," Huang observes.

"People think of Chengdu as laid-back — when it's sunny, everyone is outside enjoying coffee, tea or a game of mahjong," he says, smiling. "But there's a deep appreciation here for a refined, comfortable lifestyle and love for beautiful, high-quality things."

"In Chengdu, you also see visitors from nearby regions like the Xinjiang Uyghur and Xizang autonomous regions and Gansu province, who come here for the shopping," he says, speaking about the city's growing draw across Southwest China.

The Chengdu Retail Business Association, in collaboration with

Data Quest China, a big data application service provider for commercial real estate, released a 2023 Chengdu first-store economy development report, highlighting a new high for the city — 813 first stores of numerous brands that opened in Chengdu in 2023, marking a five-year peak.

This achievement secures Chengdu's position as the nation's third-leading city for new-store openings, trailing Shanghai and Beijing, and underscores its appeal and vibrancy as a major consumption hub in western China.

With Chengdu's retail sector continuing to fuel investments and expectations for first-store openings, this "first-store economy" is fast becoming a driving force, tapping into the city's consumption potential and invigorating its market vitality.

With the opening of its Chengdu store, Fendi Casa has solidified its presence in China's strategically vital market, CEO Alberto Da Passano remarks.

"After the success of our Shanghai flagship, Chengdu represents an



Fendi Casa's flagship store in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, its second such retail space in China. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

exciting new destination; it's a key location for the entire central and western China market," he says.

Da Passano, who visited Chengdu to select the location, chose a prime spot in the city's financial district, featuring expansive floor-to-ceiling windows and a prominent corner layout.

"We have the opportunity to connect with a wider audience here that values Fendi Casa's philosophy of blending contemporary creativity with historical heritage."

He notes that the brand's strategy is not about maximizing store numbers but rather showcasing the brand in key cities, with current locations in Shanghai and Chengdu, while also recognizing the importance of prominent locations such as Beijing and Shenzhen, Guangdong province.

"Chengdu is a truly modern city with abundant green spaces," Da Passano adds, remarking on the city's commitment to helping people maintain a work-life balance.

LIFE

The winners of 21 awards at the 37th China Film Golden Rooster Awards, one of the most prestigious industry honors in the country, were announced on Saturday night in Xiamen in East China's Fujian province.

The Best Feature Film Award went to *Article 20*, a film about how prosecutors and ordinary people come together to fight for social justice.

Directed by Zhang Yimou, the film takes its name from Article 20 of the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China, which focuses on the legal concept of justifiable self-defense. Drawing from such real-life cases, the film explores the conflicts and equilibrium among human nature, morality, and the law. It has captured broad interest, and won praises from the jury for showcasing the country's legal progress.

Lei Jiayin won the Best Actor Award for his role as a prosecutor in the movie. Back in September, also in Xiamen, Lei received the Outstanding Actor Award at the 34th Flying Apsaras Awards for his performance in the TV series *A Lifelong Journey*.

During his acceptance speech for the Best Actor Award, Lei thanked Lyu Xiaohu, a veteran in the film industry who won the Best Actor Award at the fifth Golden Rooster Awards for his role in the movie *Wreaths at the Foot of the Mountain* (1984).

"When I was 16 and didn't know what to do after graduating from junior high, Lyu asked me if I wanted to learn acting with him. That changed my life," Lei says with emotion.

"At 16, all I knew was that I was a kid who got noticed by a Golden Rooster Best Actor. That's when I first learned about the award."

Li Gengxi, 24, clinched Best Actress for her moving portrayal of Ling Min, a 25-year-old battling severe uremia in *Viva La Vida*.

The movie narrates the story of Ling and Lyu Tu, a young man suffering from a brain disease, played by 30-year-old actor Peng Yuchang, who was nominated for Best Actor.

The production unit and cast of the film *Viva La Vida* received a whopping eight nominations, including Best Feature Film, Best Director, Best Scriptwriter, Best Actor, Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress, making it the most nominated film at this year's Golden Rooster Awards.

Chen Kaige secured the Best Director Award for *The Volunteers: To the War*, the first part of his war trilogy. This marks his second win in this category.

The Best Supporting Actor Award was bestowed upon Wang Xiao for his role in the crime thriller *Endless Journey*.

Wang says that the award is his first major accolade: "The trophy feels very heavy. This win is a great encouragement to me, my family and my working partners."

Endless Journey follows the story of a former group of police officers who reunite post-incarceration to



Left: Li Gengxi (middle) wins Best Actress at the 37th Golden Rooster Awards for her performance in *Viva La Vida*. Right: Wang Yibo (third from left) and the cast of film *One and Only* at the ceremony in Xiamen. Wang is nominated for the Best Actor Award. PHOTOS BY MA WENYI / FOR CHINA DAILY



Film talent shines as awards honor galaxy of stars

Prestigious accolades are given to tellers of outstanding stories through motion pictures, **Xing Wen** and **Hu Meidong** report in Xiamen, Fujian province.



Chen Kaige (middle) claims Best Director for *The Volunteers: To the War* at the 37th Golden Rooster Awards in Xiamen, Fujian province, on Saturday. MA WENYI / FOR CHINA DAILY

pursue a murderer who had eluded their capture years earlier.

During an investigation involving a series of escalating crimes, an accidental death of a suspect lands the officers in prison.

Six years later, when the squad's leader Cheng Bing is released, he rallies his former squad members to track the killer across various

hardships and locations.

Wang portrays Ma Zhenkun, a squad member who, driven by familial responsibilities, ultimately abandons the pursuit of the culprit.

Wang praises scriptwriter Zhang Ji for crafting a compelling and intricate story.

"When I got the script, each character vividly leapt off the page.

Though I've often played police roles before, portraying an officer who becomes downtrodden after an accident is a rarity for me," Wang says.

"In this richly developed role, as an actor, I merely bring it to life. Audiences can see the subtle glimmers of ordinary individuals in the struggle for survival and justice," he adds.

The award for Best Documentary was presented to *The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru*, a film depicting the courageous rescue of British prisoners of war by Chinese fishermen during World War II.

In October 1942, while transporting approximately 1,800 British POWs from Hong Kong to Japan, the ship was torpedoed by a United

States submarine off the coast of China's Zhejiang province.

The prisoners were trapped in the holds and left to perish, with some managing to escape only to be met with gunfire from Japanese soldiers.

Hearing of the tragedy from the shore, Chinese fishermen from nearby Dongji Island rushed to save 384 British soldiers. Tragically, the ship sank, resulting in the loss of 828 POWs who were either shot or drowned.

Inspired by this story, filmmaker Fang Li decided to locate the shipwreck in 2014 and search for survivors and the victim's relatives to share this heroic and heartbreaking story with a wider audience.

After the award ceremony in Xiamen, Fang recounted a touching anecdote from his travels across the United Kingdom while seeking out victims and their families.

In August 2019, when Fang visited the family of a British soldier named John Weaver who perished in the tragedy, Weaver's family members revealed a cherished black-and-white photo of a young Chinese woman from an old fabric wallet.

Inscribed on the back of the photo was the name "Goldy" handwritten by Weaver. Weaver's nieces, Lindsey Archer and Jean Cassidy, had known since childhood about their Chinese aunt named Goldy.

They were aware that she hailed from Xiamen and later moved to Hong Kong, where she met and fell in love with Weaver in 1940 and later married him. After the war, instead of accepting compensation, she left the money to Weaver's family in the UK.

Archer and Cassidy longed to find and meet their aunt.

Following the documentary's release, a search notice was issued in September based on the photo and marriage registration information bearing the name Leung Sou Kam, hoping to locate the woman.

Local media in Xiamen responded actively and within just two days, valuable information was provided. It was discovered that the woman's actual name was Liang Xiujin. In the Minnan (south of Fujian) dialect, "Kam" is equivalent to "Jin", which translates to "gold" in Chinese.

"That's why Weaver called her 'Goldy'! It suddenly made sense to me," Fang recalls.

Liang had passed away. Fang then arranged an online meeting on the night of the Mid-Autumn Festival, a festival for Chinese family reunions, to introduce Liang's daughter to Weaver's nieces.

"War destroyed this love story. However, this film has connected the descendants of these two individuals," Fang says. "It's a heart-warming tale from Xiamen."

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From left: Wang Xiao clinches the Best Supporting Actor Award, as Zhang Yimou's *Article 20* wins Best Feature Film. Fang Li accepts the Best Documentary Award for *The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru* and Lei Jiayin displays the Best Actor Award. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Performances sing of strengthened cultural exchanges between China and Italy

ROME — An Italian conservatory plans to stage *Turandot* by the renowned Italian opera composer Giacomo Puccini in China with Italian singers and stage artists alongside Chinese orchestras, revealed Giorgio Albani, the internationalization delegate of the Luigi Cherubini Conservatory of Florence.

China, is an iconic example of how music can unite different cultures, Giovanni Pucciamati, the conservatory's director, tells Xinhua. Other collaborations are also taking shape among Chinese and Italian music institutions.

Earlier in November, a performance of the opera *Marco Polo* was staged in Hangzhou, capital city of

East China's Zhejiang province. The opera was jointly produced by the Zhejiang Conservatory of Music, the Benedetto Marcello Conservatory of Music in Venice, the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice and the La Fenice Opera House Foundation.

The partnership between the music conservatories has been strengthened by a newly signed

memorandum of understanding, which aims to foster exchanges such as teacher visits, joint student training and artistic creation.

Fabio Moretti, president of the Venetian conservatory, expresses optimism for the future of this partnership, noting that it will provide a unique platform for mutual growth in musical arts.

Such collaborations are essential for enriching the education and experience of students from both nations, he adds.

In addition to partnerships in higher education, Italian artists are also boosting their engagement with Chinese audiences.

The Balletto di Roma completed its third Chinese tour this year,

performing the modern ballet *Juliet and Romeo* in cities including Shanghai, Chongqing and Hainan province's Haikou.

"Music is a profound language that not only bridges cultures but also offers unique interdisciplinary potential," says Albani.

XINHUA

LIFE



Erhu player Zhang Ning (front) from the China National Opera and Dance Drama Theater and his students perform in the Colegio Peruano Chino Juan XXIII school in Lima, Peru, in July. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Teachers tune into Peru music experience

Erhu players on a mission to show Peruvian students how to play the traditional instrument, **Chen Nan** reports.

Erhu (a two-stringed fiddle) player Li Ting embarked on a trip to Lima, capital of Peru, in September. After a flight of around 30 hours, she arrived at her destination: the Colegio Peruano Chino Juan XXIII school.

All these three months, she has been teaching students how to play the traditional Chinese musical instrument.

Often referred to as the "Chinese violin", the erhu has a history spanning more than a thousand years. Known for its expressive sound, the instrument is capable of conveying a wide range of emotions, making it a staple in Chinese folk and classical music. Traditionally made from a wooden body and snake skin, its haunting melodies often evoke themes of nature, love and longing.

Li is a member of the China National Opera and Dance Drama Theater, who, in a vibrant exchange of cultures, is among the Chinese erhu players of the company accepting the mission of introducing the traditional instrument to students in Peru. She is among the third group of artists of the company taking on this initiative which not only fosters an appreciation for Chinese traditional art but also creates a unique blend of cultural understanding and artistic expression.

"As a performer, I toured South America with the company. As a teacher, it's a first-time experience for me, which is exciting and fresh," says Li.



Dou Shibin (left) and Li Ting (right), erhu players from the China National Opera and Dance Drama Theater, instruct their students at the school in Peru.

“Through the sounds of the erhu, students are not only discovering a new instrument but also ... fostering a deeper understanding of each other's cultures.”

Zhang Ning, erhu player, China National Opera and Dance Drama Theater

"The students work very hard to learn the instrument and many of them started from zero, which is a very challenging and rewarding experience for them," she says. "Feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive. Many express a newfound respect for Chinese music and a desire to explore further. The connection established through the shared language of music transcends cultural barriers, creating friendships and understanding among participants."

The program, starting early this year, emphasizes not only technical skills but also the cultural significance of the erhu, Li adds.

Students learn traditional Chinese music pieces alongside contemporary adaptations, allowing them to connect with the music on multiple levels.

On Sept 15, marking the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Li and students of the Colegio Peruano Chino Juan XXIII played the erhu together at the embassy of China in Lima. Joint performances showcased a fusion of musical styles, blending traditional Chinese melodies with Peruvian rhythms.

Li says that thanks to the erhu courses offered by other musicians of the company, the stu-

dents have made progress and are capable of playing many music pieces.

Erhu players Dou Shibin and Zhang Ning are also among the members of the China National Opera and Dance Drama Theater, who gave the erhu training to students in Peru. They have established workshops and classes aimed at both beginners and those with some musical experience. They also taught music teachers of the school to play the erhu, which, as they say, will establish teaching of the instrument when they leave Peru.

"Students in Peru come from diverse backgrounds, each bring-

ing their own musical influences and experiences to the learning process. The erhu classes have attracted many young students, reflecting a broad curiosity about Chinese culture," says Dou, who taught the erhu in Peru early this year.

"The teaching method often incorporates storytelling, where the Chinese instructors share tales about the origins of the erhu and its role in traditional Chinese music. This context enriches the learning experience, helping students appreciate the instrument beyond mere technicality," he says.

Dou also notes that the school founded in 1962 has a deep connection with China and Chinese culture, from language and dance to martial arts, which are also taught in the school.

In July, 21 students and teachers of Colegio Peruano Chino Juan XXIII came to China, led by Zhang, who spent three months in Peru teaching them to play the instrument from May to July.

"They came to Beijing to experience Chinese culture and most importantly, showcase their erhu skills by playing traditional Chinese music pieces. Through the sounds of the erhu, students are not only discovering a new instrument but also bridging the gap between two rich musical traditions, fostering a deeper understanding of each other's cultures," says Zhang.

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Book takes author back into the warm embrace of Uygur traditions

In 1965, renowned writer Wang Meng went to the Ili Kazak autonomous prefecture in Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region for work. He ate and lived with the farmers, learning to use iron tools, mastering the Uygur language, and deeply adapted to the Uygur way of life.

Based on this six-year experience in Ili, Wang wrote the In Ili series of works between 1983 and 1984. This book was originally released by The Writers Publishing House in 1984 and was republished by the same publisher in July.

"I deeply appreciate the republication of *In Ili*. It felt as though time had rewound back 40 years, and I was recounting memories of my 30s. It was a special time of youth and the prime of my life," Wang said at the launch of the new edition in Beijing on Oct 29.

In Ili comprises nine stories and is narrated from the perspective of the writer Lao Wang, who records his encounters with the local people of Xinjiang. The narrative depicts scenes of people from diverse backgrounds playing together, working in unison, and confronting life's challenges hand in hand. Through a prose-style portrayal of daily life and destinies of individual characters, the work provides readers a glimpse into the personalities of people of the Uygur ethnic group.



Left: Writer Liang Xiaosheng (right) congratulates Wang Meng at the launch of the new edition of his book *In Ili* in October. Liang shared his insights into the book during a forum that followed. Right: The new edition of *In Ili*, republished in July. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

This new edition includes a fresh preface Wang wrote in 1981 upon his return to Bayandai town in Ili, nearly two years after his departure. In this preface, he recounts a heartfelt reunion with his Uygur farmer friends, offering valuable insights into the characters and inspirations behind *In Ili*.

In the eyes of the local people, individuals who fluently speak two languages are labeled as "two

tongues", a term that suggests wit and is one of respect within the community.

One reviewer, Gulnar Obul, a member of the Party leadership group and vice-chairman of the Xinjiang Association for Science and Technology, says, "Because Lao Wang can speak both Mandarin and the Uygur language, he is a typical 'two tongues' person. Through his bilingual ability, I always sense

the presence of two Lao Wangs, and this way of telling stories navigates between two cultures, showcasing dialogues and contemplation within Uygur culture."

Furthermore, Gulnar also highlights that the book unveils several distinct ethnic characteristics that may be unfamiliar to readers. There are many cultural differences between northern and southern Xinjiang. For example, women in

Ili, located in northern Xinjiang, prefer to tie their headscarves at the back. Conversely, people in southern Xinjiang lead a more traditional lifestyle, tying their headscarves under the chin. Wang captures these subtle details of Xinjiang residents' lives, vividly portraying the images of the Uygur ethnic group.

Wang, born in October 1939, was honored with the title of People's Artist by the country in 2019. His notable

works include *Qingchun Wansui* (Long Live Youth) and *The Butterfly and Other Stories*. Celebrating his 90th birthday recently, Wang's passion for writing spans seven decades, with a total character count exceeding 26 million. Reflecting on the republication of *In Ili*, he reaffirms his continued exploration of the theme of happiness.

Recalling his time in Ili, Wang comments, "Though my circumstances in Ili could be deemed challenging, I ventured there by my own choice, driven by a desire to immerse myself in the local culture and language."

"How to understand the pain is a vital topic of literature. The problem is that many people feel too much pain, even heavier than the actual pain itself," he adds. "From my point of view, experiencing happiness is a responsibility for everyone, at all times. During my days in Ili, I couldn't envision the future that lay ahead, but I didn't feel depressed. I simply drank copious amounts of milk tea, laughed and enjoyed the moment. Together with my Uygur friends, I embraced unity, contributing to the vibrant tapestry of the Xinjiang community."

Tu Jiayi contributed to this story.

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