

Caring for 'mother river'

Yellow River guardians fulfill their protection duties

VISUAL, PAGE 6



US military aid to Taiwan strongly deplored, opposed

TOP NEWS, PAGE 3



Fostering development

Closer cooperation in logistics to lower costs, improve efficiency

BUSINESS, PAGE 8

CHINA DAILY

GLOBAL EDITION 中国日报 MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2024

Private sector gaining strong legal support

Draft law expected to further optimize business environment, bring vitality to market

By LIU YUKUN liuyukun@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese lawmakers are deliberating a draft of the country's first law specifically focusing on the private sector's development and protection, with the aim of bolstering the private economy through legal norms amid strategic reforms to optimize the business environment.

The draft, which comprises nine chapters and 78 articles, covers eight main aspects, including fair competition, improving the investment and financing environment, and scientific and technological innovation. It was submitted to an ongoing session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the country's top legislature, for deliberation on Saturday.

Upon approval, the draft, which elevates crucial measures for promoting private sector growth with legal norms, will be conducive to creating a law-based environment that is favorable for economic growth, including the growth of the private sector, said He Rong, minister of justice.

The official drafting process began in February, when the Ministry of Justice, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee jointly organized a legislative seminar on the formulation of the law, gathering opinions and suggestions from representatives of private enterprises and experts.

The issuance of the private economy promotion law was also mentioned as a key task for 2025 during the Central Economic Work Conference held earlier this month.

Bi Jiayao, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research, said: "It is important to improve the business environment and offer more opportunities for entrepreneurs in the private sector to boost their confidence. This, in turn, will play a proactive role in stabilizing economic growth and ensuring stable employment."

China has consistently been refining its legal frameworks to boost private economic development since the start of the year, with a focus on attracting investment, promoting equitable market access and strengthening financial support across various regions and departments. Officials

and experts said that these policy adjustments have started to yield tangible results, bolstering the resilience of China's private enterprises and fostering a noticeable trend of market recovery.

Data from the State Administration for Market Regulation shows that as of the end of September, the total number of registered private enterprises nationwide surpassed 55 million, representing 92.3 percent of all enterprises. In the first three quarters of this year, 6.19 million private enterprises were newly registered across the country, the administration said.

Lin Song, dean of the Business School at the Central University of Finance and Economics, said the increasing numbers of newly registered private enterprises, patents and research and development expenditures serve as evidence of the overall favorable business environment for private enterprises.

"Still, we need to improve a high-quality fair competition system, transform the regulatory approach toward the private economy sector, integrate the private economy into the overall regional development ecosystem, further stimulate private investment vitality and promote the sustainable development of the private economy," Lin said.

The draft law emphasizes the implementation of a nationwide unified market access negative list system, saying that aside from areas on the negative list, various economic organizations, including private entities, will have equal access in accordance with the law.

It also noted that bidding and government procurement must not restrict or exclude private entities.

Meanwhile, as the ongoing technological revolution and industrial transformation are spurring a wave of emerging technologies, industries and business models, the draft law supports the active participation of private economic entities in national scientific and technological projects. It also supports empowering capable private entities to spearhead major technological advancements.

The draft also advocates including private economic entities in major national scientific research infrastructure, and promoting collaboration across industry, academia and research institutes, while strengthening the protection of their intellectual property rights.

Outpouring of grief



Mourners lay flowers on Saturday near the site of Friday's deadly attack when a car was driven into a crowd at a Christmas market in Magdeburg, Germany, killing four women and a boy and injuring over 200 people. Local police reported on Sunday that the suspect, a 50-year-old man from Saudi Arabia who has lived in Germany for almost two decades, has been remanded in custody and faces charges of murder and attempted murder. RONNY HARTMANN / AFP See story, page 10

UN envoy urges equitable AI tech access to bridge North-South divide

By MINLU ZHANG at the United Nations minluzhang@chinadailyhysa.com

China's ambassador to the United Nations said on Thursday that artificial intelligence technology is not a pie to be divided among a small group of people, nor should its global governance be determined by just a small number of countries.

Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the UN, told a Security Council briefing on AI that China "firmly opposes discriminatory barriers based on ideological differences."

Such measures undermine the right of all countries, in particular developing countries, to use emerging technologies on an equal footing, Fu said.

"China firmly opposes the practice of imposing on others the rules formulated by a small number of countries or creating small circles targeting certain countries."

"Only by learning from each other, implementing joint governance for good and for all, seeking the greatest common denominator, and expanding cooperation, can we embark on the right path," he said.

Pointing out that the AI divide between the North and the South is widening, he said, "It is important to uphold cooperation, enhance the representation and voice of developing countries, and implement the Global Digital Compact, so that AI technology can benefit developing countries." The Global Digital Compact is a

framework proposed at the UN to ensure responsible digital technology use and benefit of all.

Fu said it is imperative to abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, observe the basic norms governing international relations and ensure that AI technology does not become a tool for waging wars and pursuing hegemony.

Relevant laws, rules and regulations must be in place, he said, adding that education and training for practitioners must be strengthened. "Prevention on both the human front and the technological front must go hand in hand to prevent systemic risks brought by hacker attacks or data fraud, among others, and reduce the proliferation risk of AI's military use," he said.

China has introduced a series of laws, regulations and initiatives within its domestic and the UN's framework to address AI governance.

In 2017, China issued a development plan for the new generation of AI, indicating the need to address the double-edged attributes of AI, Fu said. In 2021, China released the code of ethics for the new generation of AI, integrating ethics into the entire life cycle of AI. Last year, the Chinese government issued the world's first legislative document on generative AI.

China proposed the Global AI Governance Initiative last year, illustrating its position on AI. In June, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proposed by China and co-sponsored by more

than 140 countries on strengthening international cooperation in AI capacity-building. Then China proposed the action plan on AI capacity-building for good and for all, and promoted the establishment of the Group of Friends for International Cooperation on AI Capacity-Building at the UN.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken chaired Thursday's meeting, as the United States holds the rotating presidency of the Security Council this month.

Blinken said the US agreed to make the benefits of AI more accessible, in part by closing the digital divide that still exists around the world. That is something the US highlighted in a resolution drafted by China and adopted by the UN in June, he said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the meeting that rapid developments in AI are outpacing human ability to govern it, raising important questions about accountability, equality, safety and human oversight in decision-making.

"The fate of humanity must never be left to the 'black box' of an algorithm," Guterres said, emphasizing the importance of human control over decisions involving the use of force.

"No country should design, develop, deploy or use military applications of AI in armed conflict that violate international humanitarian and human rights laws. That includes relying on AI to select or engage targets autonomously," he said.

WORLD WATCH By Khalid Taimur Akram

Constructive engagement benefits China, US and world

United States President-elect Donald Trump said last week that Beijing and Washington could work together "to solve all of the problems of the world," a surprising statement barely a month before he returns to office.

While the new administration is widely expected to adopt a harsh stance against China, including a potential steep increase in tariffs on imports from China, Trump's latest gesture shows that even the US has realized the importance of communication and cooperation between the two largest economies in meeting the many challenges the world is facing.

Trump's message is in line with what President Xi Jinping said in his congratulatory message to him on his election as the 47th president of the United States in November. Xi emphasized China's commitment to constructive engagement

See Relations, page 3

Hunger in Gaza



Children struggle to collect food being distributed by local charities on Saturday at Khan Younis, Gaza. Palestinians who escaped Israeli attacks have taken shelter in the area, located in the south of the Gaza Strip. Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip overnight and into Sunday killed at least 28 Palestinians, said the local civil defense agency. DOAA ALBAZ / ANADOLU VIA GETTY IMAGES

CULTURAL SHIFT SEEN IN PARENTS' CHOICE OF CHILDREN'S SURNAMES

Rise in gender equality reflected in greater compromise on allocation of family names

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

When Zhao Wen was born in Shanghai in 1988, her extended family was more than disappointed she was a girl.

Her father had a brother and sister, and his parents — in the



era of the one-child policy — were hoping for a male grandchild to carry on the family name.

Two years later, the family was

again angst-ridden when the wife of Zhao's uncle gave birth to a daughter.

In Chinese, there is a phrase, "cutting off the incense of a family", to describe such a situation, a bleak forecast of a family's destiny.

See Surnames, page 2

TO OUR READERS Due to the Christmas holiday, China Daily will not publish on Dec 25-27. We will resume publication on Monday, Dec 30.

www.chinadailyglobal.com Member of ANN ASIA NEWS NETWORK China Daily Global ©2024 All Rights Reserved Reserved Newsstand prices: US \$1 Canada C\$1 UK/EU £1.2 Kenya 50 Kenya Shilling Asia Pacific: Thailand 120 thb; Philippines 120 php; Myanmar 2000 kyat; Japan 210 yen; Dubai 10 dirham; Pakistan 300 rupee

PAGE TWO

Surnames: Changes reflect progress in modern families



ART BY LU PING / CHINA DAILY

From page 1

However, compromises can reverse fate. In 2023, Zhao, who chose not to give her full name for this story, gave birth to her second child, this time a baby boy.

The infant was given Zhao's family name ensuring it would continue on. The practice of a woman passing on her surname to a boy is a major challenge to Chinese tradition. Zhao said she reached an arrangement with her future husband on this decision before they tied the knot, adding they both love children. "My own understanding of this matter is that for the generation of only children like me, there no longer exists a clear difference for their families," said Zhao.

"For a couple, it is no longer a relationship where the wife is attached to the husband. It's a combination of two independent, equal individuals. So it's perfectly fair for our offspring to carry on our respective surnames," said Zhao, a finance professional.

Changing attitudes

As a rising number of young women have a stronger awareness of gender equality, some no longer believe it should be taken for granted that children carry their father's surname, especially at a time when couples are allowed to have two children.

Last year, 3.64 million second children were born in China, after implementation of the second-child policy in 2016.

Shen Yang, an associate professor from Shanghai Jiao Tong University who specializes in the sociology of gender and family as well as public policy, said the number of families that have a second child with the mother's surname is on the rise. This is especially true in a number of big cities, such as Shanghai, and Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces, where traditional concepts of marriage and a

wife's status and duties are changing.

Situations such as a woman living with her husband's family, and children having the father's surname are part of a fading patriarchy, Shen believes. "The former is rarely seen in big cities like Shanghai anymore, and cases challenging the latter are happening one after another," she said.

Parents are now sparing no effort pouring their savings, time and energy into helping their child, irrespective of his or her gender. Their support ranges from purchasing an apartment to make married life easier for the child, to helping raise grandchildren when necessary.

This non-discriminatory attitude is totally different from the past. Back then, all family resources were used to help the son succeed in matrimony so a daughter-in-law ensured the family name continued.

"The rising awareness of gender equality among young women today, is one factor that is driving some couples to share the right of passing on their respective surnames to their children. ... some women want to give something back to their parents when they see them enormously involved in helping with child-raising," said Shen, author of the *New Era of Child-bearing*, published in October.

The book researched 41 Chinese families, including 33 with two children, and highlighted seven cases where the second child takes the mother's last name.

"A precondition to having a second child with the mother's last name is that the woman's family must dedicate a lot to the woman's nuclear family, both financially and in bringing up the grandchildren," Shen said.

Since 1980, the Marriage Law has allowed a child to take either the father's or the mother's surname. Research published in 2021 by Xu Qi, a

A precondition to having a second child with the mother's last name is that the woman's family must dedicate a lot to the woman's nuclear family, both financially and in bringing up the grandchildren."

Shen Yang, associate professor from Shanghai Jiao Tong University

professor at the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Nanjing University, showed that only 1.4 percent of those born between 1986 and 2005 took their mothers' surnames.

Independence, fairness

Zhao's first child, a girl, was born in 2015. In the following years, many of her friends and acquaintances had second children, some of whom took their mother's surname.

In 2018, one of Chen's close friends gave her second child her own surname "for the sake of fairness".

"I understood this as a type of social progress. As a woman pursuing independence and freedom, I thought it was therefore natural for me to have a second child that has my last name," said Zhao.

Her 36-year-old husband, surnamed Liu, said he did not think too much about his son not having his surname. "If there is something that I can give my wife, and it doesn't affect me much, I'm more than willing to give it to her," said Liu. Interactions with his first-born daughter have helped him view things from a female perspective, he added.

"As a female, my daughter will observe a woman's position and role in the family and in society through her mother, which will have an impact on her entire life. I definitely hope my daughter



and the couple took the tough decision of terminating the pregnancy. Liu was in the hospital, and watched the baby gradually lose signs of life before signing the medical documents. "After that process, I felt women give too much to families," he said.

After their son was born in 2020, the families on both sides hoped that the boy would carry their surname, but Liu refused to waiver from his commitment.

He gave his father a straightforward reason. "I'm the child's father ... please allow me to make my own decision," Liu told him.

Liu said his decision did not change his father's love for his grandson, even though they did not have the same surname.

The family of four lives with Zhao's parents, who share a lot of the child-raising duties. Liu's parents see the grandchildren once or twice a month, and cherish each chance to do so.

Despite being happy with his decision, Liu said he knows of no instances among his friends and acquaintances of a child taking the mother's family name. He said most men are unwilling to take the initiative in such matters.

Family pressure

In some cases, having a child that bears the mother's surname is not the will of the woman herself.

Chen Rujin, 38, is originally from Jiujiang city, Jiangxi province. After graduating from university, she married and settled down in Shanghai and gave birth to a son in 2010, and a daughter in 2014.

Her second child's birth was largely due to pressure from her own family.

Chen's father has five sisters, and is the only male sibling. Her grandmother had always wished for a male descendant. One of Chen's aunts fulfilled the grandmother's hopes and fell pregnant at an advanced age.

The family matriarch was pleased, and promised to financially support the child's upbringing. But the baby died three days after being born.

Chen said she was upset after learning the news. "I told my grandmother that I could do something for the family if she insisted on having a child surnamed Chen," she said.

Her second child, a girl, was given her surname, but Chen's father was disappointed about the newborn's gender.

Chen said her husband thought was like a dream come true, and shouldn't lead to any unpleasantness. However, the husband added that if they had another son he'd be reluctant "to let go of the baby's last name", Chen said.

Although the girl does not have her father's last name, Chen said she has not observed any bias from her mother-in-law against the child.

"During my daughter's early childhood, my mother-in-law took care of her in the night and they shared a bed. I think women's bonding with a child arises from taking care of the child day after day, while men's may be more related to whether the child takes their surname," Chen said.

Zhao said her grandfather was delighted when he saw his great-grandson for the first time, especially after learning the boy was surnamed Zhao.

Shen, the professor, said in some cases, it is another form of oppression of women when they have another child to fulfill expectations about carrying on the family name. In these instances, the woman's will is overshadowed by the family's wishes, she said.

"In such cases, although these women have taken the initiative in their reproductive decisions, they are heavily influenced by traditional reproductive culture, population policy, and the patriarchy," Shen said.

TOP NEWS

Health and harmony



The People's Liberation Army Navy's hospital ship *Peace Ark*, currently on Mission Harmony-2024, arrives at Colombo Port in Sri Lanka on Saturday. The ship will remain in Colombo for a week to provide medical services. WU YUE / XINHUA

US arms sales strongly deplored

China reiterates that Taiwan question, as its core interest, is a redline that can't be crossed

By WANG QINGYUN
wangqingyun@chinadaily.com.cn

China has lodged serious protests with the United States following the most recent US military assistance and arms sales to the Taiwan region, urging the US to stop undermining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

A Foreign Ministry spokesperson made the remarks in a statement on Sunday, after the White House announced military assistance worth \$571.3 million to Taiwan on Saturday, and the US Department of Defense announced on the same day that the State Department has approved \$295 million worth of arms sales to the region.

The spokesperson said China "strongly deplores and firmly opposes" these moves.

"The decision is a severe breach of the US leaders' commitment of not

Any attempt to use the Taiwan question to contain China is doomed to fail, and China will take all measures to defend national sovereignty"

Zhu Fenglian, spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office

supporting 'Taiwan independence', and sends a gravely wrong signal to 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces," the spokesperson said.

By once again approving military assistance and arms sales to China's Taiwan region, the US has seriously violated the one-China

principle and the three China-US joint communiques, especially the August 17 Communique of 1982, as well as China's sovereignty and security interests, the spokesperson said.

To aid "Taiwan independence" by arming Taiwan is "like playing with fire and will get the US burned," the spokesperson warned, emphasizing that the Taiwan question is at the core of China's core interests and is the first red line that cannot be crossed in China-US relations.

Any attempt to use the Taiwan question to contain China is doomed to fail, and China will take all measures necessary to firmly defend its national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, the spokesperson said.

Also on Sunday, Zhu Fenglian, a spokesperson for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said that "Tai-

wan independence" separatist activities and foreign interference are the greatest threat to peace in the Taiwan Strait.

"We require the US to immediately stop arming Taiwan, and deal with the Taiwan question with utmost caution," Zhu said. "We warn the Democratic Progressive Party authority that seeking 'Taiwan independence' by relying on the US or military buildup is a dead end."

China has consistently and clearly opposed military connection between the US and the Taiwan region, and on various occasions has called for the US to stop emboldening "Taiwan independence" separatist forces.

Earlier this month, China sanctioned 13 US military companies and six senior executives as a countermeasure to US sales of weapons to Taiwan.

Relations: Mutual interests of both propel collaboration

From page 1

between Beijing and Washington. In his message, Xi underscored China's readiness to reinforce communication, manage differences effectively and forge a relationship that benefits both nations as well as the international community as a whole.

Xi's message resonated deeply within the international community, particularly as it emphasized principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

These foundational ideals have been the bedrock of China's foreign policy and are now pivotal as both nations confront pressing issues, including economic growth, technological advancement, climate change and global security.

The message encapsulates China's viewpoint that cooperation is far more beneficial than rivalry, and sustainable bilateral ties could be a driving force for global stability. Maintaining a stable, healthy and sustainable China-US relationship aligns with the broader aspirations of the international community, fostering global peace, prosperity and development.

The mutual interests of the two countries are many and include collaboration on pressing global issues like climate change, trade, technological advancement and regional peace. The US should approach China with an eye toward common goals and mutual benefits rather than unilateral advantage. Communication can allow both countries to see that their overlapping interests outweigh their differences and that disagreements can be constructively managed.

For these two nations, establishing a stable partnership is not simply a matter of bilateralism but a responsibility toward the global community, as they collectively contribute to the world's stability and growth. The effects of this partnership, through the lens of cooperation and mutual benefit, underscore the importance of cultivating a cooperative dynamic.

China has never been interested in major-power competition for dominance but rather in building a framework for cooperation that is open, respectful, and geared toward a shared future. These ideals reflect China's pursuit of modernization and a better quality of life for its people, balanced with a dedication to global cooperation and reform.

The reality is that shared economic growth amplifies opportunities for both countries and enhances global market stability.

This interconnectedness also emphasizes the need for a balanced approach in managing trade and technological exchange, as well as reconsidering restrictive policies, such as the semiconductor embargoes. From a broader perspective, China's strides in independent innovation can complement the US market, provided there is a climate of trust and reciprocity.

As the world undergoes changes "unseen in a century", it is imperative for China and the US to find ways to coexist peace-

fully. The international community widely believes that the actions and policies of these two countries have direct ramifications on global issues, from economic stability to humanitarian aid and international security. The two countries hold a shared responsibility to act as pillars of global peace, contributing to international development and unity.

China and the US can jointly address issues that neither can resolve alone, like pandemics, transnational security threats and climate change. This viewpoint resonates with a growing global consensus that collaborative leadership is essential for a more stable and interconnected world.

A balanced approach rooted in cooperation rather than rivalry has the potential to yield mutually advantageous outcomes. The development paths of China and the US are not necessarily competitive but can be complementary, with both countries benefiting from each other's successes.

Maintaining a stable, healthy and sustainable China-US relationship aligns with the broader aspirations of the international community, fostering global peace, prosperity and development.

With a new administration in Washington, the time is ripe for constructive engagement that focuses on long-term cooperation built on a foundation of mutual respect, acknowledging that each side has unique needs and perspectives that must be addressed thoughtfully.

China remains committed to establishing a constructive, mutually beneficial relationship grounded in the principles of peaceful coexistence and respect. China's policy toward the US has consistently embraced mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

The global community has expressed considerable interest in China-US relations due to the profound impact they have on international peace, security and development. In today's interconnected world, both countries have a shared responsibility to foster a stable international environment. China and the US must align their efforts in ways that benefit both countries and the world, upholding a shared commitment to peace and prosperity.

As history has shown, a collaborative approach between China and the US is a recipe not only for their prosperity but also for global stability and development.

The author is the executive director of the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future in Islamabad. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

Importance of international studies highlighted

By SONG PING and LIU XIA

China has emerged as a pivotal force in shaping the global order, and its actions are not only crucial for its own development but also have a profound bearing on the future of the world, experts said.

While speaking at a seminar, titled "The Dynamic Global Landscape and China in the New Era", held on Friday to mark the 60th anniversary of the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, the experts added that given today's complex global landscape, it has become increasingly important to strengthen international studies in the country.

Zhao Zhimin, secretary-general of the CASS, said: "Compared with

60 years ago, China has increasingly moved to the center of the world stage, becoming a vital driving force in maintaining world peace and promoting common development."

As the country enters a critical phase of advancing modernization and national rejuvenation, strengthening international studies is crucial for understanding the complexities of a rapidly changing world, he added.

Stressing the need for global governance research to adapt to shifting international dynamics, Wang Lei, deputy director of the IWEP, said: "We must account for the profound impact of technological advancements on national development and major country competition, ensuring that we

grasp the overarching trends in this complex global situation."

Yao Zhizhong, director of the Bureau of International Cooperation at the CASS, said the world order is becoming increasingly chaotic, with established rules being undermined and the future growing more uncertain. For example, the World Trade Organization is no longer functioning effectively. "Some countries impose tariffs at their own will, leaving disputes unresolved," he said.

Ren Lin, a senior researcher of IWEP, said the geopolitical competition triggered by some major countries has significantly contributed to the instability of international order.

"Today, some major powers, like the United States, are 'weaponizing' international mechanisms, weakening their credibility and destabilizing the US dollar-based international financial system," Ren said, adding that this trend has intensified global uncertainty, posing significant challenges to achieving sustainable progress in governance.

Despite these challenges, experts agreed that China's commitment to multilateralism provides a viable path to fostering global stability and addressing pressing uncertainties.

Chen Bo, president of the China Institute of International Studies, elaborated on China's broader vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind. "China remains committed to openness, opposes decoupling, and focuses on overcoming obstacles to global economic development," she said. She advocated the importance of exploring new growth areas, such as low-carbon transitions and

moves to combat climate change, which require strong international collaboration.

Yi Xiaozhun, former deputy director-general of the WTO, highlighted China's openness as its greatest advantage. "While the US hesitates to open its markets, China's willingness to share benefits and maintain openness unites the majority of nations," Yi said. He added that in the face of rising protectionism and unilateral actions, China should strive to adhere to multilateralism and comply with global trade rules to gain broader international understanding and support.

The forum also emphasized the growing importance of the Global South. Wu Haitao, China's former deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, noted that interdependence is now a defining feature of international relations. "The rise of the Global South is an important trend, and while it cannot immediately rival Western powers, its political and economic influence is steadily growing, contributing to building a more balanced and equitable global governance system," Wu said.

Hu Wenli, vice-president and director-general of the United Nations Association of China, said that fostering stronger cooperation between the UN and platforms like the G20, BRICS, and ASEAN+3 is essential for addressing global challenges and creating a more equitable and sustainable international order.

Contact the writer at
songping@chinadaily.com.cn

Rage of the people



Farmers in their tractors are held back by the police as they attempt to stage a protest near President Yoon Suk-yeol's residence in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on Saturday. YONHAP

Horror crash



A truck lies atop a car on Saturday after a horrific road accident near the city of Teofilo Otoni in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. The mishap involving a car, a truck and a bus, killed at least 38 people. MINAS GERAIS FIRE DEPARTMENT / AFP

CHINA

Hawking hanfu

Salespersons dressed as giant girl-shaped lantern sell "Lakeside Yuhe" sell hanfu costumes similar to the one the lantern is wearing during a livestreaming event at Daming Lake scenic area in Jinan, Shandong province, on Saturday. The newly built 12-meter-tall lantern has quickly become a popular tourist attraction, drawing large crowds of visitors. WANG FENG / FOR CHINA DAILY



Fallen tower crane arm obstructs Shanghai Metro train

By LIANG SHUANG
liangshuang@chinadaily.com.cn

A train running on Shanghai's Metro Line 11 hit an arm of a tower crane that had fallen onto the track on Sunday morning, causing a delay in service, the city's metro operator said, adding that no one was injured in the incident.

The incident occurred at around 8 am on an above-ground section of the line between Malu and Wuwei Road stations. Shanghai Metro said a construction project involving a tower crane had invaded the metro line, damaging the train and other metro facilities.

It apologized for the service delay and said repairing the facilities would take some time. Services in five affected stations were suspended, while the rest of the line remained operational. Five bus routes were arranged to transport affected people.

A witness told local media Xinhua Evening News that the train came to an emergency stop after a huge bang. Some windows near the front of the train were shattered, and passengers had to walk on foot on a path next to the track to the nearest station, the witness said.

China's Ministry of Emergency Management contacted local fire and rescue squads and first responders and sent a working group to the site to oversee their efforts. It also required related industries in the city to conduct safety checks, analyze the cause of the incident and punish those responsible.

Qingcheng Palace opens to the public

Another area within the Altar of the God of Agriculture available to citizens

By CHENG YUEZHU
chengyuezhu@chinadaily.com.cn

The Qingcheng Palace complex, located within the Altar of the God of Agriculture, opened to the public for the first time on Saturday.

It is the second area within the altar — part of the "Beijing Central Axis: A Building Ensemble Exhibiting the Ideal Order of the Chinese Capital", which is on the UNESCO World Heritage List — to open to the public this year, following the Divine Granary on April 18.

First constructed in 1458 during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the palace was initially named Zhaigong (Temple of Abstinence), where emperors conducted ritualistic fasting before worshipping the God of Agriculture.

In 1755, during the reign of

Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), the complex was refurbished into its current layout. It was renamed Qingcheng Palace and served as a celebratory venue where emperors convened with officials after worship ceremonies.

"The Qingcheng Palace is the highest-ranking complex within the Altar of the God of Agriculture," said Xue Jian, director of the Beijing Ancient Architecture Museum, which manages the altar.

"It features a four-sided hipped roof, the highest-grade form in imperial architecture," he added. "The roof uses green glazed tiles, second only to yellow glazed tiles in the hierarchy. The dragon patterns painted below the eaves further signify the structure's elevated status."

According to Xue, the complex only recently opened because the

area has become a residential neighborhood. Conservation efforts for the Beijing Central Axis, especially since 2023, have helped relocate residents, demolish non-heritage buildings and restore the site, allowing the complex to be brought back into public view.

Visitors to the Qingcheng Palace can enjoy an exhibition showcasing the preservation efforts of the Beijing Central Axis, which led to its World Heritage List inscription on July 27. Additional exhibitions highlight the history and architectural features of the palace and include a digital display introducing the rituals of worshipping the God of Agriculture.

As the Qingcheng Palace is located in the outer area of the altar and is temporarily not connected to the inner area where the Beijing Ancient Architecture Museum is situated, visitors with museum tickets can access the Qingcheng Palace complex following a separate ticket check.

Zhang Lixin, director of the Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau, stated that the palace's opening marks a new milestone in the altar's history. The Beijing government has mandated that heritage sites along the Beijing Central Axis make maximum efforts to open to the public, enabling more people to experience the beauty of ancient architecture and traditional Chinese culture.

"Now, the palace serves as a demonstration of the preservation achievements of the Beijing Central Axis, with active participation and support from the public," Zhang said. "In the future, the palace will become a cultural reception hall for Beijing, fostering cultural exchange and mutual learning."



Tourists visit the Qingcheng Palace located within the Altar of the God of Agriculture in Beijing on Saturday. JIANG DONG / CHINA DAILY

Tianjin commemorates its 620th anniversary

By YANG CHENG in Tianjin
yangcheng@chinadaily.com.cn

Foreign celebrities, entrepreneurs and overseas students will participate in a unique event in the coastal city of Tianjin on Monday to commemorate its 620th anniversary.

Tianjin is widely recognized as the only city in China with an exact founding date — Dec 23, 1404 — making it the sole Chinese city that marks its establishment, according to Xu Fengwen, a distinguished Tianjin historian and the author of *Tianjin: The Biography*.

"Emperor Yongle (1360-1424) of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) designated Beijing as the capital in 1402 and established Tianjin, just 130 kilometers from Beijing, as Tianjin Wei to serve as a strategic defense post for Beijing. Thus, Tianjin Wei was founded in 1404," explained Xu, who will deliver a lecture on the city's history to the foreign participants during the event.

Historical records from some Western countries also refer to Tianjin as "the passage to Beijing", underscoring its significant historical role.

Bruce Connolly, a Scottish freelance writer and photographer who has resided in China for over 30 years, will participate in the event via online video.

Although Connolly returned to Scotland last year, he continues to passionately document Tianjin, a city he deeply cherishes, through his writings for China Daily and his personal social media platforms. In his video message, he says he will extend his birthday wishes to Tianjin.

Reflecting on his first encounter with the city in 1996, Connolly expressed admiration for its unique

character and architectural heritage, which inspired him to capture its essence through photography.

He emphasized the historical relationship between Britain and Tianjin in the 19th century, noting the city's pivotal role in China's history.

"Over the years, through study and considerable exploration, I steadily developed an understanding of Britain's 19th-century relationship with both China and Tianjin. The city became a focus of Britain's desire to gain both a foothold and a presence in China," he said. "Tianjin is a city I hold in deep affection."

Xu noted that Tianjin frequently appears in Western historical records due to its geographical location and role as a port connecting East and West.

Today, Tianjin continues its legacy of openness and development, exemplified by the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area, which has led China in hosting multinational corporations for over four decades.

Recent news highlighted a Singaporean investment milestone in Tianjin. Singapore-based Perennial Holdings Private Limited successfully obtained a license for Perennial General Hospital, making it China's first wholly foreign-owned tertiary general hospital.

This achievement follows China's decision in September to allow such hospitals to operate in select cities, including Beijing and Tianjin.

"The Tianjin government's comprehensive and highly efficient support across various departments and bureaus during the rigorous approval process provides foreign companies with first-class service, which is extremely conducive to business," said Pua Seck Guan, executive chairman and CEO of Perennial Holdings.

Celebrating the arts



Mo Yan, a Chinese author and the 2012 Nobel laureate for literature, signs autographs for his fans during a seminar at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing on Sunday. The seminar was part of an arts festival celebrating the 17th anniversary of the NCPA's establishment. JIANG DONG / CHINA DAILY

Guangzhou's delivery bikes to get special license plates

By ZHENG CAIXIONG in Guangzhou
zhengcaixiong@chinadaily.com.cn

Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, plans to roll out specialized license plates for electric bicycles used in the delivery industry in the first half of 2025, officials said Tuesday. The move aims to standardize management in the rapidly growing sector.

Ding Wen, head of the traffic police detachment with Guangzhou's public security bureau, said the plates will be available exclusively to delivery companies and their employees.

Speaking on a public hotline, Ding said the initiative is part of broader efforts to address challenges posed by the city's burgeoning delivery industry, which often strains urban infrastructure.

Home to over 18 million residents, Guangzhou has built 2,966 kilometers of non-motorized vehicle lanes and installed dedicated signal lights at 259 intersections. However, gaps remain.

"The city faces significant limitations in road infrastructure. Many non-motorized vehicle lanes are either missing, narrow or disconnected in some sections," Ding said, adding that addressing these issues is a priority for 2025.

Despite dedicated lanes, some electric bike riders still use motorized vehicle lanes, prompting authorities to enhance enforcement. Ding said traffic police had deployed both on-site and off-site surveillance

systems, including over 200 electronic devices, to detect violations.

For riders who obscure license plates to avoid penalties, Ding said new plates will feature embedded electronic devices to prevent tampering. Authorities are also tackling illegal motor vehicle parking on non-motorized lanes, deploying additional surveillance cameras and increasing patrols.

Guangdong has registered over 9,400 e-bike-related traffic accidents this year, resulting in 1,195 fatalities. While the death toll has decreased by 11.2 percent year-on-year, the number of accidents has risen by 2.7 percent, according to provincial traffic management officials. In an effort to curb accidents and congestion, Guangzhou will implement a 15-kilometer-per-hour speed limit for e-bikes in non-motorized lanes starting Dec 30. Ding said the measure aligns with national road traffic safety laws.

Authorities are also working with delivery platforms to improve operations, including optimizing algorithms and relaxing delivery time.

"Guangzhou's 10 major delivery platforms have established daily communication and coordination mechanisms with traffic police," Ding said.

Local delivery riders have welcomed the planned changes. "Specialized license plates will help regulate the industry and improve conditions for riders like us," said a delivery worker surnamed Li.

Chinese scientific journals become more impactful

By CHINA DAILY

China's scientific journals have made significant strides in their academic influence and quality improvements over the past decade, according to the Blue Book on China's Scientific Journal Development (2024), which was recently published by the China Association for Science and Technology.

The Blue Book, the eighth in an annual series, offers a detailed analysis of the current state of Chinese science and technology journals. It reports that the total number of scientific journals in China rose from 5,163 in 2022 to 5,211 in 2023, with 48 new titles, most in English.

In terms of academic influence, the report highlights a steady rise in citation frequency and impact factors over the past decade, with annual growth rates of 4 percent

and 8 percent, respectively.

The association attributes this upward trend to the implementation of the Science and Technology Journal Excellence Action Plan, launched in 2019. The initiative is designed to raise the global profile of Chinese journals through funding, resource support, personnel training and the piloting of journal clusters.

Staff qualifications in China's scientific journals have also improved. According to the Blue Book, about 81.07 percent of English-language journal staff members hold master's or doctoral degrees, compared with roughly 47.19 percent of workers at Chinese-language journals.

The report notes that English-language journals have seen an increase in both publications and academic impact. In 2022, the average number of papers pub-

lished per English-language journal in China rose 3.27 percent to 101 papers. The citation frequency per journal also grew 10.37 percent year-on-year, while the average impact factor increased 15.83 percent.

However, the report also reveals a significant gap between the volume of Science Citation Index papers published by Chinese scholars globally and the number published in domestic SCI journals. In 2023, Chinese scholars contributed 728,700 SCI papers, or about one-third of the global total. Yet, only 33,400 papers were published in SCI journals in China, accounting for less than 5 percent of the global total.

The proportion of papers in China's SCI journals classified in the top 25 percent of their respective fields (Q1 category) has risen sharply, from 6.28 percent in 2014 to 65.7 percent in 2023, with more

than 60 percent of Chinese journal papers now falling into this elite category.

Despite these gains, the report highlighted the disparities between Chinese- and English-language journals regarding academic quality. The 4,556 Chinese-language journals, which make up 87.43 percent of the total, continue to lag behind their English-language counterparts in terms of policy support, funding and academic resources.

Gao Fu, academician at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and editor-in-chief of the journals *Science Bulletin* and *hLife*, called for continued efforts to foster innovation, address bottlenecks in research, strengthen intellectual property protection and promote science communication to the public.

Xu Nuo contributed to this story.

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

By **PALDEN NYIMA** and **DAQIONG**
in Nagchu, Xizang

Nagchu city, in the northern part of the Xizang autonomous region, is the origin of many major rivers in Asia, including the Yangtze, the Nujiang and the Lancang rivers, making it a core area for building a water ecological security barrier in Xizang and a strategic guarantee base for water resources in China.

With joint efforts made by the government and the public in Nagchu, Xizang's largest and the country's second-largest prefecture-level area, the city reflects a beautiful picture of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

The Yangtze River's main source is the Jangchu Diruk Glacier in the Amdo section of the Three-River-Source National Park. To protect the ecological environment of the river source area, a regular working mechanism has been established by the local government and residents. Currently, the construction work in the Northern Tanggula Mountains area of the park, where the glacier is located, is 90 percent complete.

Nagchu has effectively shouldered the political responsibility for the ecological protection of the river park. It has promoted the construction of the Northern Tanggula Mountain area, implemented ecological protection and restoration in the source areas of rivers and comprehensively established protective measures for river sources, among many other duties.

Hu Chunyu, deputy head of the Nagchu water conservancy bureau, said the primary measures Nagchu has taken to protect the river are the implementation of a strict water management system, controlling total water usage and ensuring efficiency.

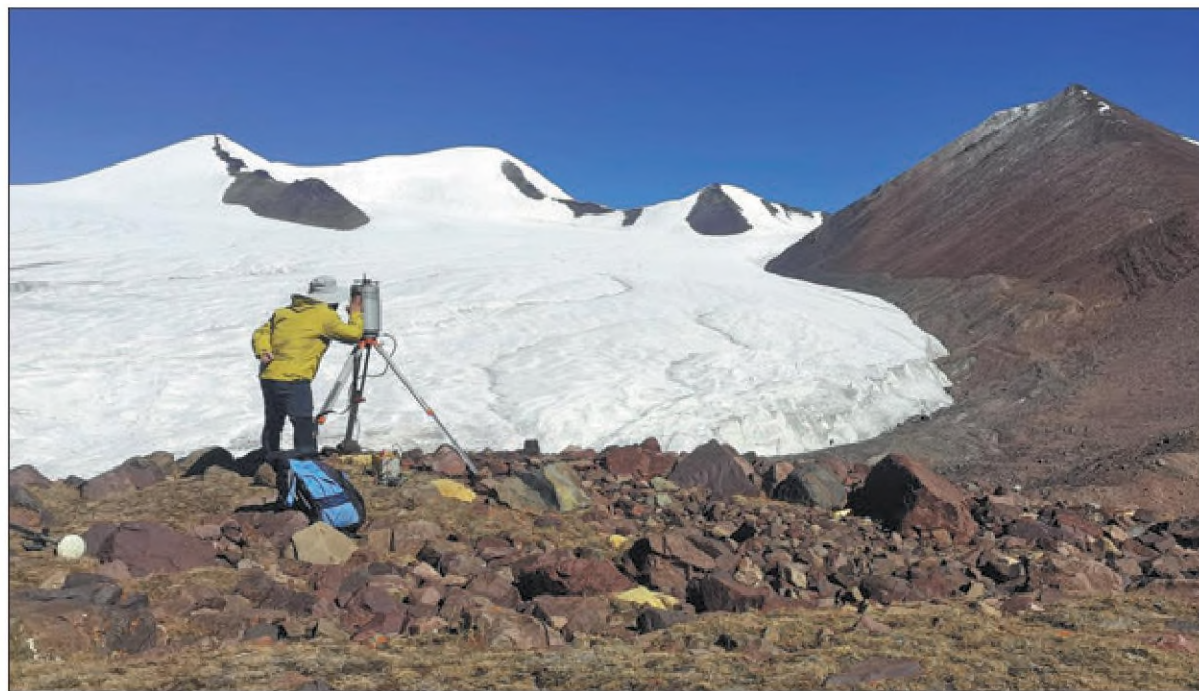
Hu said the city has also cracked down on activities that encroach on river and lake areas, including sand mining, garbage dumping and unauthorized construction, and has widely promoted ecological protection through educational campaigns to raise public awareness.

"Through governance, illegal activities that harm water ecology have been effectively curbed, leading to a significant improvement in the water quality of rivers and lakes," said Hu, adding the city has laid a good foundation for creating an ecological civilization, but it still faces some difficulties and shortcomings.

Ecological civilization is a concept promoted by China's central leadership for balanced and sustainable development that features harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature.

"The water quality management system in Nagchu is not yet perfect. Soil erosion is severe, and effective wetland protection and restoration measures are lacking," Hu said.

"This year, the measures we have taken mainly focus on strengthening supervision and law enforcement,



Xu Qiangqiang, an assistant researcher at the China Academy of Sciences' Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources, measures the size of the Dongkemadi Glacier using a laser radar in Nagchu, Xizang autonomous region, in October. **PALDEN NYIMA / CHINA DAILY**

Nagchu champions glacier protection on plateau

City making big efforts to guard source of major rivers on Roof of the World

establishing a sound water environment monitoring system and intensifying the overall monitoring and evaluation of the water environment," he added.

According to the Xizang Department of Natural Resources, the glacier resources in Nagchu cover approximately 6,800 square kilometers, almost 2 percent of its administrative area.

The general volume of water in the glaciers stands at about 8.8 billion cubic meters.

Painstaking efforts

As central and regional authorities attach increasingly greater importance to the glaciers, Nagchu may realize a more improved ecological aquatic environment.

Over the past few decades, Chinese researchers have been strictly monitoring the changes in the glaciers on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and they work together with the local government to resolve environmental issues such as glacier melting.

Since its establishment in 2005,



Scientists check video footage taken by a drone during an aerial survey of glaciers in Nagchu in August. **PALDEN NYIMA / CHINA DAILY**

researchers at the Tanggula Mountain Cryosphere and Environment Observation and Research Station of the Xizang Autonomous Region, part of the China Academy of Sciences' Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources, have been

working hard in the icy environment, walking on glaciers and in snowfields at an altitude of over 5,500 meters.

They conduct long-term observations and make continuous recordings of the geological, hydrological,

meteorological and permafrost conditions in the source area of the Yangtze.

Xu Qiangqiang, an assistant researcher at the institute, said his team has regularly conducted comprehensive assessments and health checkups of the glaciers in the area using advanced observation and mapping techniques in Nagchu over the past few years.

Xu said Nagchu is implementing an integrated protection strategy, adhering to the systematic management of mountains, waters, forests, fields, lakes, grasslands, sands and ice.

"The approach of prioritizing natural restoration and combining natural recovery with artificial restoration in the system management has proved to be very effective. They are upholding ecological protection redlines, including large ice caps and small-scale glacier clusters, and designating them within the ecological protection red line," he said.

Xu also said for important snow-capped glaciers, they are imple-

menting protection measures to curb human disturbances.

"Additionally, Nagchu is restricting tourism and mountaineering activities in certain glacier areas such as the Ganglung Changmar Glacier," he added. "Aside from necessary scientific research and resource surveys, all tourism activities are prohibited, and checkpoints have been set up on roads leading to the glaciers to advise tourists to turn back."

According to Xu, there are about 200,000 glaciers worldwide, with the largest located on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, which has roughly 100,000 glaciers.

Knowledge to share

"The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is known as the water tower of Asia, because the melting ice feeds the major rivers in South Asia and Southeast Asia. If these glaciers continue to shrink, the upstream regions will face water shortages," said Xu, adding this will have a significant impact on downstream areas, including water for hydroelectric power stations, residential use and farm irrigation.

Xu noted that the methods used by the Chinese government to protect the nation's waters are worth sharing with the rest of the world, and he outlined four specific points.

First, China is a global leader in emissions reductions and green energy, and is committed to achieving carbon neutrality. Second, scientists and local agencies are collaborating to artificially increase snowfall to replenish glaciers and reduce losses. Third, China has been restoring grasslands for many years to improve the surrounding ecological environment of glaciers because grasslands reduce the impact of light-absorbing impurities as glaciers melt. Finally, the country is carefully managing the development of glacier tourism, recognizing the importance of water protection and implementing restrictions as needed.

In a move to protect glaciers in Xizang, the region's legislature adopted a law dedicated to the effort in late July.

The law, which took effect on Oct 1, provides specific guidelines for governments and relevant departments in glacier areas. It introduced a responsibility system and performance evaluation mechanism for glacier protection goals, and established punitive measures for violations.

"The regulation will effectively protect glacier resources, ensure the ecological safety of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and contribute to the preservation of the plateau's flora, fauna and landscapes," said Zhao Guiying, deputy director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Xizang.

Xinhua contributed to the story.

Contact the writers at palden_nyima@chinadaily.com.cn



From left: A stele that says "Yangtze River's first drop of water" sits near the Jangchu Diruk Glacier in Amdo county of Nagchu, Xizang autonomous region. **PALDEN NYIMA / CHINA DAILY** Sitting on the junction of Sog and Drachen counties in Nagchu and Dengchen county in Chamdo, Xizang, glaciers stemming from the Bugyai Kangri mountain are popular attractions among hikers and tourists. **PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY** Streams from the Jangchu Diruk Glacier area join to become the source water of the Yangtze River. **KUNGA LESANG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE**



Residents working hard to help secure water ecology in Xizang

By **PALDEN NYIMA** and **DAQIONG**
in Lhasa

Thousands of local residents have been making contributions to the water ecology protection and restoration work in Nagchu, Xizang autonomous region, guided by efficient official governance.

The city hires them to patrol natural environments, including lakes, rivers and forests.

According to the city's water conservancy bureau, over 90,000 of the city's 505,400 people have been employed as ecological protectors, including more than 14,000 working

as water ecological protectors.

Most of these residents engaged in ecological protection work receive subsidies from the government. By the end of this year, all 90,000 will have collectively received 32 million yuan (\$4.4 million) as compensation for their efforts.

Tsega, an ecological patrolman in Marchu township of Nagchu city's Amdo county, said he has been participating in water ecology protection work for decades. His village, called Lothe, is located more than 5,000 meters above sea level and is the home of the Jangchu Diruk Glacier — the main source of the Yangtze River, often

dubbed as China's "mother river".

Tsega said his fellow villagers have understood the importance of ecological protection for generations, and they regard it as a good tradition, as the snow-capped glaciers are the fundamental source of their water.

The Marchu township government has designated more than 300 ecological caretakers to regularly conduct cleanups along the rivers, the wetland, the grassland and the environment near the glaciers.

Tsega said during every cleanup, villagers pick up plastic bags and beverage bottles in the rivers and on the grassland, and they also advise

residents and tourists not to litter while traveling in the wilderness.

"The rivers and streams that flow from here not only become drinking water for countless residents downstream, but also serve as drinking water for all the wildlife inhabiting the river basins," Tsega said.

"This is why the pastoral communities in our places place great importance on protecting clean water sources. Throughout the year, the villagers, regardless of age or gender, will participate in the cleaning of the environment."

Sodrub is another ecological caretaker from Lhegan village in Nag-

chu's Nyanrong county. His village has more than 60 ecological caretakers, whose main responsibility is to protect the rivers, lakes, wetlands and grasslands.

"Every seven days, we conduct patrols and pick up litter in the wilderness. We protect all the wildlife around the lake, check for any injured or dead animals and ensure a pollution-free environment," Sodrub said.

"This way, both humans and livestock will be healthy, diseases can be prevented, and both humans and livestock will thrive," he added.

More than 2,700 patrol personnel have been hired within the area of

Three-River-Source National Park in Nagchu's Drachen county, according to the county's grassland and forestry bureau.

Nyima Kelsang, head of the bureau, said these environment patrolmen are responsible for protecting river sources, clearing garbage and conserving wildlife on a regular basis.

Pema, Party secretary of Sershong-lag village in Drachen, said that protecting the environment is the responsibility of each of his fellow villagers, and local people attach great importance to the protection of the environment.

"Like what we do now, in the future, we will continue to protect the mountains and rivers of our hometown as always," Pema said.

VISUAL



Editor's note: This year, the People's Republic of China celebrates its 75th anniversary, marking a crucial year for achieving the goals and tasks outlined in the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25). China Daily is publishing a visual series focusing on the high-quality development of various fields, capturing the process of Chinese-style modernization through photographic images. This week, we are highlighting a herder's family who lives at the source area of the Yellow River.



From left: Family members of Karchug (right) get together every evening for a chat at his home at the source area of the Yellow River in Qumarleb, Qinghai province, drinking boiled water from the Yellow River. Karchug's niece Drolma (right) and nephew Rinchen Dorje tend to one of their yaks. Karchug's elder sister Sodnamkyi holds a glass of boiled Yellow River water. PHOTOS BY ZOU HONG / CHINA DAILY

HERDER ENSURES 'MOTHER' IS SAFE

'First guardian' protects environment at Yellow River source in Qinghai



Karchug and his family salute at the source area of the Yellow River.

By ZOU HONG in Qumarleb, Qinghai and LIANG SHUANG

Often referred to as a "mother river" by Chinese people, the Yellow River frequently impresses sightseers with its grandeur.

Yet at its source area in Qumarleb county, Qinghai province, the scene looks vastly different. Here, the water that feeds the mighty Yellow River is just a creek, where streams gurgle through the ground.

This is the place where Karchug resides.

The 37-year-old Tibetan herder's family has lived a mere 3 kilometers away from the river's source, at Yoigilangleb Basin, for generations. At 4 am each day, Sodnamkyi, Karchug's



Watch the video by scanning the code.

elder sister, goes to the river to collect water for the family and their yaks.

Apart from being a herdsman, Karchug has a more significant role — serving as the river's "first guardian". At his house, a stone pillar is inscribed with the characters "Yellow River's first outpost", and he devotes himself to fulfilling his protection duties.

Riding his motorcycle, he carries rations with him as he embarks on his daily patrols,

recording the activities and major changes among the wildlife, plants and snow line.

Karchug told China Daily that ever since he was young, his parents have instilled in him the importance of taking care of the environment, as life along the river would suffer if the river was polluted at its source.

He has passed on this duty to his children. These days, whenever they have school holidays, he takes them to pick up garbage in the area. He said he will continue to promote this responsibility to them so that they will continue this work in the future.

Contact the writers at zouhong@chinadaily.com.cn



Karchug and his family at a stele inscribed with the words "Yellow River Source".



Family members of Karchug, dubbed "the first family at the Yellow River source", take a photo by the river.



From left: Karchug and his family patrol the Yellow River and pick up garbage around it. His family lives by a stream that eventually becomes the Yellow River.

GLOBAL LENS



Aerial views of Rahmatullah mosque in Lhoknga of Indonesia's Aceh Province, on Jan 14, 2005, following the Dec 26, 2004 tsunami, and on Nov 27 two decades later amid greenery. AFP



Above: A motorist looks at boats on a street in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on Jan 8, 2005, and a view of the same street on Nov 25. AFP



Left: Views of a tsunami-hit beach in Chennai, India, on Dec 26, 2004, and on Nov 9 with residents in the area. AFP

BEING PREPARED

Indonesia better able to deal with disasters 20 years after devastating tsunami

When Ahmadi, a resident of the Indonesian island of Simeulue, sings a lullaby to his 1-year-old grandson, the song is not one about fairies and angels but rather about the precautions to take for a potential tsunami.

The lyrics include references to an earthquake, a massive wave, and land submerged under water.

"When there is an earthquake and a tsunami, you are in panic, you cannot be expected to think. This is why the emergency drill must be ingrained and be second nature. This has to start from an early age," Ahmadi said as quoted by UN News.

Tsunami-hit nations began commemorating the victims, about

220,000 people, who perished on Dec 26, 2004, after a 9.3-magnitude earthquake off Indonesia's western tip generated a series of massive waves that devastated coastlines from Indonesia and Thailand to Sri Lanka and Somalia.

Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone areas. The archipelago nation lies on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates collide and many of the world's volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur.

UNESCO experts say the world is much safer today from the threat of tsunamis due to early warning systems that were lacking in 2004.

But the agency has also warned coastal communities to stay alert. "While we have made significant

strides, the nature of this hazard requires us to remain vigilant," said Vidar Helgesen, executive secretary of UNESCO's intergovernmental oceanographic commission.

Knowing the drill

Hundreds of Indonesians fled for higher ground in November as they ran through disaster drills in the region worst hit by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami ahead of its 20th anniversary.

Children ran down the stairs in a rush for safety from the second floor of a school near Aceh's provincial capital Banda Aceh, where more than 60,000 were killed in the tsunami.

As school bells rang, dozens of

children ran to the road covering their heads, following marked escape routes as volunteers shouted "evacuate".

"With exercises, we can prevent, rather than cure," said 34-year-old participant and local village official Rizky Firmansyah.

"It's better like that I think, because it's better for us to anticipate than to have things that we don't want to happen."

Indonesia's meteorology, climatology and geophysics agency also took part in the exercises meant to test operating procedures, communications and evacuation preparedness.

AGENCIES VIA XINHUA



Tsunami survivors walk along a road amid debris in Aceh, Indonesia, on Jan 9, 2005; the same location on Nov 15. AFP



People walk past cleanup efforts on a street in tsunami-hit Phuket, Thailand, on Dec 28, 2004; the same street on Nov 18. AFP



Above: Aerial views of tsunami-hit buildings at Koh Phi Phi, Thailand, on Dec 28, 2004, and on Nov 22 two decades after the disaster. AFP



Left: A resident walks past a tsunami-hit railway track in Seenigama, Sri Lanka, on Dec 29, 2004; boys walk in the same area on Dec 1. AFP

BUSINESS

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

Supply chain ties foster shared development

Nation enhancing global cooperation in logistics sector to lower business costs, improve yield efficiency

By ZHONG NAN
zhongnan@chinadaily.com.cn

In early December, Meng Xiangyu, a manager at Liaoning Chengzhi Trading Co Ltd, a Shenyang-based freight forwarder, was standing next to a cargo train at the Shenyang assembly center for the China-Europe freight train services in Northeast China's Liaoning province and directing workers to load containers filled with ski boots and skis onto the train with 45 freight cars.

Four hours later, at the sound of a whistle, the long-haul train bearing the logo of CR Express (China Railway Express), departed for Europe via the Manzhouli railway port located in Inner Mongolia autonomous region.

Upon arrival in Duisburg, Germany, the winter sports equipment and accessories will be distributed to retailers and ski resorts across Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden and Norway within three days.

"This service ensures that our clients' ski products can efficiently and reliably reach over 20 European countries and more than 30 cities," Meng said.

From January to November, Liaozhong Customs, a branch of Shenyang Customs, had supported the export of winter sports economy-related goods, including ski equipment and down jackets worth 27.51 million yuan (\$3.78 million).

Over 3,000 kilometers away, at the Pingxiang land port in Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region in southern China, long lines of trucks, heavily loaded with raw materials, intermediate goods, parts and accessories, drive into and out of Vietnam each day.

These shipments, destined for factories of local and international companies in Vietnamese provinces like Binh Duong and Bac Ninh, originate from suppliers in South China's Pearl River Delta region.

These are just a few examples of how China's proactive measures and advanced industrial system have contributed to global supply chain collaboration, stimulated foreign trade and assisted neighboring countries in accelerating their pace of industrialization.

In the face of sluggish global economic growth, challenges posed by protectionist policies and geopolitical tensions, enhancing global supply chain cooperation has proved to be a pragmatic approach in lowering business costs, improving production efficiency and promoting shared development, said Yu Jianlong, vice-chairman of the Beijing-headquartered China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

In recent years, certain Western countries have actively pursued strategies aimed at decoupling and disrupting supply chains, while promoting the "anti-globalization" and "de-globalization" agenda.

These actions have significantly



People visit CITIC Group's exhibition stand at the advanced manufacturing chain exhibition area during the 2nd China International Supply Chain Expo in Beijing on Nov 27. ZHANG CHENLIN / XINHUA



Left: A visitor checks out a Tesla robot during the 2nd China International Supply Chain Expo in Beijing on Nov 26. WANG JING / CHINA DAILY



Right: Two officers from Shenyang Customs use digital tools to inspect a container bound for export at the Shenyang assembly center of the China-Europe freight train service in Liaoning province in early December. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

disrupted the efficient global flow of production factors, impeded the optimal allocation of resources, and undermined the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains, said Yin Xiaopeng, dean of the Research Institute for Global Value Chains at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

With China entering a new era of green and innovation-led growth, Yin said that the country's well-developed industrial system, logistics-related infrastructure and talent pool, free trade agreements with various partners, peaceful and huge market, will attract global companies to strengthen their supply chain in China.

For instance, European aircraft manufacturer Airbus has signed cooperation agreements with several domestic and foreign suppliers for production facilities in China this year, covering items from raw materials to equipment, in an effort

to expand its supply chain in the country.

"The Chinese supply chain is an integral part of the global aviation industry, showing great resilience and competitiveness," said George Xu, Airbus' executive vice-president and CEO of Airbus China. At present, approximately 200 suppliers in China support the production of Airbus' commercial aircraft.

Brian McNamara, CEO of British multinational consumer healthcare group Haleon Plc, expressed a similar view.

"Innovations and capabilities developed in China can often extend to other countries, positioning China not only as a critical market for local success but also as a strategic hub for driving growth and competitiveness in international markets," he said.

The Weybridge, United Kingdom-headquartered group plans to complete the acquisition of all equity interest in Tianjin TSKF Pharma-

ceutical Co Ltd, its joint venture in China, from its local partners next year, after it raised its stake in Tianjin TSKF from 55 percent to 88 percent through an investment of 4.47 billion yuan earlier this year.

"This is our largest single investment in China to date, aimed at upgrading and modernizing our supply chain system within the country," said McNamara.

Backed by the most comprehensive range of industrial categories and the most complete supporting systems, China's manufacturing industry, based on United Nations standards, has maintained its position as the world's largest by scale for 14 consecutive years. The country accounts for over 30 percent of global output, according to information released at the second China International Supply Chain Expo by the CCPIT.

The grand event, held in Beijing in late November, attracted over 620 Chinese and foreign companies,

such as China Baowu Steel Group, Rio Tinto, Siemens AG and Honeywell International Inc, marking a 20 percent increase in the number of exhibitors compared with the first edition. The proportion of overseas exhibitors climbed from 26 percent to 32 percent.

The second edition of the CISCE witnessed the signature of over 210 trade deals and tentative agreements totaling more than 152 billion yuan, up 1.3 percent from the inaugural expo, according to its organizer CCPIT.

Lin Meng, director of the modern supply chain research institute at the Beijing-based Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, stressed that ensuring the stability of global supply chains is crucial for tackling challenges faced by businesses worldwide, including rising costs, geopolitical tensions and increasing protectionism. These factors could exacerbate global inflation.

"As China climbs up the value chain, it has increasingly transitioned into an exporter rather than an importer of intermediate goods for manufacturers in other regions. This evolution boosts connectivity and further enhances the competitiveness of global supply chains," said Lin.

Echoing the sentiment, Poh-Yian Koh, senior vice-president of FedEx Express and president of FedEx China, said her company will continue to expand its service network into second- and third-tier cities in China while enhancing its portfolio of e-commerce solutions by providing services that combine competitive speed with attractive prices for Chinese e-tailers.

"Multilateral trade and economic globalization will continue to empower the growth of China's foreign trade and the internationalization of Chinese companies," she said.

As the world continues to emerge from unprecedented economic and supply chain challenges in recent years, working together for multilateral trade and inclusive globalization is vital to catalyzing progress, she added.

According to data from the National Bureau of Statistics, China contributed an average of 24.8 percent annually to global economic growth from 1979 to 2023, ranking first globally, with its economic dividends benefiting all countries.

Driven by surging demand for China's electromechanical products in overseas markets and ongoing improvements in trade structure and quality, China's foreign trade expanded by 4.9 percent year-on-year to 39.79 trillion yuan in the January-November period of 2024, statistics from the General Administration of Customs showed.

To further enhance its role as a key link in the global supply chain, facilitating the timely delivery of raw materials, intermediate goods and finished products to international markets, China adopted 16 measures in early December to optimize the business environment at its ports and streamline customs clearance processes for foreign trade companies.

The government aims to cultivate new drivers of foreign trade growth and explore new opportunities. These measures will sustain the development of new foreign trade formats such as cross-border e-commerce and bonded maintenance, said Lin Shaobin, deputy director-general of the GAC's general operations department.

Lin said that the new measures also include facilitating faster Customs clearance for businesses, assisting companies in fully utilizing tax incentives and helping them reduce operational costs.

Currently, more than 630,000 domestic and foreign-invested companies in China are involved in import and export activities, serving as the driving force behind the country's efforts to expand its presence in international markets, said the GAC.

Drawn by China's key location in the Asia-Pacific regional market and robust supply chain capacity, about 51 percent of German companies plan to increase investments in China within the next two years, according to a survey published by the German Chamber of Commerce in China in early December.

Value of attending trade shows in China? Priceless

REPORTER'S LOG

By Zhong Nan

In China, nearly every product has a city that tells its story. Seeking the pulse of speakers and headphones manufacturing? Head to Shenzhen, Guangdong province, where innovation thrives in audio tech. Need fire-fighting trucks? Suizhou, Hubei province, roars with specialized vehicles, always ready for action.

For tents and camping gear that equip the wildest adventures, Ningbo, Zhejiang province, is the outdoorsy haven. And if it's the spark of

a lighter you are after, Shaodong, Hunan province, flickers to life with a flame that fuels more than half the world's ignition needs.

With many Chinese manufacturers making efforts to upgrade the technology content and appearance of their products, a large number of foreign importers have become regular visitors to big-ticket trade shows and expos such as the China International Supply Chain Expo in Beijing and China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair) in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, to seek the right items and build partnerships.

Instead of using business-to-business e-commerce platforms like Alibaba and Made-In-China, why do global buyers still travel thousands of miles to attend these trade fairs?

The answer is straightforward — China provides a powerful supply chain and abundant business opportunities. At these fairs, buyers can meet suppliers face-to-face, gaining firsthand insight into product features and benefits. They can negotiate prices in real time, express specific requirements and compare offerings to secure the best value.

Leveraging the extensive industrial and supply chain networks in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta region and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, buyers can seamlessly follow up their discoveries with on-site factory visits, boosting the efficiency and success of their purchasing decisions.

These trade fairs aim not only to help overseas buyers close deals, but

also to expand their businesses and enhance their competitiveness. In recent years, showcased products have evolved from traditional export products such as clothing, home appliances and furniture, to electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and solar panels.

Additionally, many cutting-edge innovations like humanoid robots, smart devices and autonomous driving products have also made their debut in many expos in cities like Guangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing and Chengdu, Sichuan province, in recent years.

These fairs not only highlight Chinese manufacturers' innovation strength, but also provide global businesses with a broader platform to experience cutting-edge technology, stay ahead of industry trends

and seize market opportunities.

To better conduct business with China, foreign buyers have been flocking to the country in large numbers in recent years. For example, you can easily find and visit many authentic Indian, Turkish and Greek restaurants in Yiwu, Zhejiang province; elevator floor signs written in Arabic in numerous hotels in Guangzhou; a German-style street in Taicang, Jiangsu province; as well as more language versions on the service website of the Shanghai municipal government.

In addition to the benefits foreign buyers have gained, for many multinational corporations, thriving in China's huge market relies on an innovative, resilient supply chain and smooth coordination across the entire value chain. These factors are essential for achieving sustainable growth and long-term success.

Leveraging China's strengths in advanced supply chains — from

robust logistics infrastructure and large-scale production capabilities to competitive pricing strategies — many global companies are ramping up their investments in the country. This trend is especially notable in research and development, high-tech manufacturing and service trade sectors.

In this context, for these efficiency-driven multinational companies, the areas with the densest networks become their top priority for strategic deployment. This is closely tied to factors such as industry connectivity, complementarity and accessibility.

Strong connectivity is certainly not established overnight. It develops through sustained cooperation, mutual reliance and shared interests. China's commitment to openness has been instrumental in integrating itself within global supply, industrial and value chains. This openness remains a vital strategy for navigating the rapid reshaping of global supply chains and securing future growth.

BUSINESSINSIGHT



Work meeting lays out clear policy direction

EAGLE EYE

By Yu Xiang

The Central Economic Work Conference, held on Dec 11-12, has outlined China's key economic policy priorities for 2025, emphasizing stability as the guiding principle amid mounting internal and external challenges.

The highly anticipated annual meeting, often seen as a signpost of policy direction, acknowledged that the adverse effects brought about by changes in the external environment have deepened and that the country's economy still faces many difficulties and challenges.

In response, the conference set forth policy goals of stabilizing growth, prices, employment and people's livelihoods. Key areas of focus include a more proactive fiscal policy, moderately loose monetary policy and efforts to expand domestic demand.

Stronger fiscal spending

The conference provided clear guidance on adopting a "more proactive fiscal policy" as a buffer against domestic and external pressures. The government plans to raise the fiscal deficit ratio, issue more ultra-long-term special treasury bonds and expand local government special bond issuances.

Over the past two years, consumption and investment demand in the private sector has been relatively weak, while external demand has faced uncertainties. The spending power of many local governments has been constrained by debt management pressures. To restore the demand-supply balance and escape deflationary risks, the central government must take on more debt.

Therefore, we predict the deficit-to-GDP ratio will rise to around 4 percent in 2025, signaling a stronger commitment to fiscal stimulus as China has historically been cautious about exceeding a 3 percent deficit ratio.

The annual quota of special treasury bonds is projected to reach 3 trillion yuan (\$411.8 billion) next

year, including 1 trillion yuan to replenish commercial bank capital and 2 trillion yuan for major national projects and consumption subsidies.

New local government special bonds are expected to exceed 4 trillion yuan in 2025, with a shift in focus toward debt risk resolution as well as idle land and housing purchases to address liquidity pressures on real estate developers and local governments.

Additional fiscal resources may come from activating unused national debt quotas, carry-over funds and vitalizing State-owned assets. Our calculations show that, at the end of 2023, unused national debt quotas stood at \$28.2 billion yuan, which could be deployed under special circumstances to supplement fiscal spending.

Overall, we anticipate that in 2025, the quotas for various fiscal tools supporting the real economy will be increased significantly, leading to a marked improvement in the government's disposable financial resources.

The government is expected to allocate more of its spending to bolster household consumption, which can improve living standards and amplify policy potency in driving economic growth. Part of the fiscal resources may be directed toward industrial upgrades, including new infrastructure and advanced manufacturing.

Bigger rate cuts

After 14 years of implementing a prudent monetary policy, the conference called for shifting toward a moderately loose stance, making us believe that interest rate cuts in 2025 will come in at a greater margin than this year.

It is anticipated that the seven-day reverse repo rate — a key policy interest rate benchmark — may be reduced by 40-50 basis points, while the loan prime rates — the market-based lending benchmarks — may see a reduction of over 50 basis points, with the first rate cut likely in early 2025.

The People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, is also expected to cut the reserve requirement ratio — the proportion of deposits banks must keep as reserves — further. Following a reduction in September, the average RRR stands at 6.6 percent, com-

pared with a minimum RRR of around 5 percent that we believe is required for stable bank operations. A 50-basis-point reduction may be carried out this month, leaving room for an additional 100 to 125-basis-point cuts in 2025.

To provide long-term liquidity, the PBOC is expected to normalize the use of government bond purchases and sales. This approach will help offset the pressure of increased government debt issuance while maintaining stable liquidity conditions.

As for the projections of major monetary indicators in 2025, we anticipate that aggregate social financing and M2 — the measure of broad money supply — are projected to grow at around 8 percent annually. This is because the conference stated that the growth of social financing and money supply should match the expected targets for economic growth and price levels, which may come in at around 5 percent and 3 percent in 2025, respectively.

In terms of the foreign exchange market, it is worth noting that the yuan could face significant weakening if the incoming US administration imposes a 60 percent tariff on Chinese goods as threatened.

During the 2018-19 trade disputes, the yuan depreciated from 6.3 to 7.0 against the US dollar while the dollar index and the Chinese economy posted a generally steady performance.

Demand in spotlight

The conference placed "expanding domestic demand" at the forefront of its 2025 economic agenda, with a focus on vigorously boosting consumption and improving investment efficiency. We expect relevant policy efforts to be advanced in greater intensity and scope.

Household consumption demand will be stimulated to address the prominent issue of insufficient domestic demand. Key measures will include expanding consumer goods trade-in programs, launching a special campaign dedicated to stimulating consumption, increasing the incomes and alleviating the burdens of low- and middle-income groups, raising pension payouts and increasing subsidies for medical insurance.

The government also plans to

innovate consumption scenarios, expand service consumption and promote the development of cultural tourism, debut economy, ice and snow economy and silver economy while ratcheting up work to reverse the downturn and stabilize the real estate market.

Since the incremental countercyclical policies were initiated in September, the expansion of consumer goods trade-in programs has played a very significant role in driving retail sales. Looking at 2025, the ultra-long-term special treasury bonds to support consumption may double from this year to 200-300 billion yuan, with consumer electronics and home furnishing and decoration likely to be added as goods available for subsidies in the trade-in programs.

Meanwhile, we are now still in the period when additional policies are expected to be implemented to realize the clear policy objective of stabilizing the real estate market. The government plans to advance the renovation of 1 million shantytown units in cities and dilapidated houses, which could directly boost real estate investment.

On the demand side, monetized resettlement policies could stimulate sales, in addition to measures such as further easing credit policies of housing provident funds and commercial mortgages and relaxing restrictions on home buying. On the supply side, the government is likely to increase efforts to purchase idle land and commercial housing units to correct oversupply.

As 2025 marks the final year of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), the Central Economic Work Conference has laid out a clear policy direction, and the success of these measures will hinge on effective implementation.

We expect policymakers to act decisively and proactively to ensure that policy tools are deployed as early as possible and with sufficient force. If executed effectively, these policies will help China navigate a turbulent economic environment and position the economy for steady growth in 2025.

The writer is chief policy analyst at CITIC Securities. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

Creating more changes for foreign investors

MAIN STREET

By Han Bing

The current accelerated reconfiguration of global production and value chains has made foreign investors more cautious. A report released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development shows that global FDI has lagged behind the pace of global GDP and trade growth, falling by more than 10 percent for two consecutive years.

With the lack of momentum in the global economy, China — as a major developing country absorbing and utilizing FDI — is also facing challenges in attracting investment. According to the Ministry of Commerce, in the first 10 months, China's actual utilization of foreign investment amounted to 693.21 billion yuan (\$95.14 billion), down 29.8 percent year-on-year. Against this backdrop, the policy to deepen reform of the foreign investment management system announced during the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China is being implemented at an accelerated pace, and a series of new regulations to optimize the level playing field and expand foreign investment access have recently been introduced.

First is the introduction of new government procurement regulations to optimize the level playing field and give foreign enterprises equal opportunities to participate. According to the decision made during the session, foreign-funded enterprises shall be guaranteed national treatment in terms of access to factors, qualification licenses, standard setting, government procurement and other areas, and shall be encouraged to participate in upstream and downstream supportive collaboration in the industrial chain.

On Dec 5, the Ministry of Finance issued the notice on matters relating to the standards and implementation policies for domestic products in the field of government procurement (draft for public comments) to implement the requirement. The document clarifies the specific standards for domestic products in government procurement. The provisions of the domestic products are divided into two categories:

General products — as long as they are produced in China and the cost of domestically produced components reaches the prescribed proportion of the requirements.

Specific products — in addition to meeting general product requirements, they must also meet the requirement that key components be produced in China and key processes be completed in China.

Domestic products enjoy a 20 percent preference over nondomestic products in government procurement. In terms of scope, it mainly applies to the procurement of goods involved in government procurement of goods and services. In terms of scope of application, this includes goods and services involved in government procurements themselves.

Previously, some foreign-funded enterprises in China had suggested that relevant government authorities clarify the definition of "domestic products" so that they would not miss out on business opportunities when participating in government procurement activities due to the unclear definition of "domestic products". The introduction of this policy fully demonstrates the Chinese government's commitment to ensuring equal participation and national treatment for domestic and foreign enterprises in government procurement.

Also, China has eased restrictions on foreign investment in telecommunications and healthcare, allowing greater foreign participation. This year, China has accelerated the pace of orderly market access liberalization in telecommunications, medicine and other sectors. In April, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology began pilot programs to expand the opening-up of value-added telecommunications services to the outside world, taking the lead in Beijing, Shanghai, Hainan province, and Shenzhen, Guangdong province, to implement pilot programs to remove foreign ownership restric-

tions on internet data centers, content distribution networks, internet service providers, online data processing and transaction processing services.

In the medical field, after the issuance of the circular on the pilot work of expanding opening-up in the medical field in September, the National Health Commission, in conjunction with the Ministry of Commerce, the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and the National Disease Control and Prevention, issued the pilot program for expanding opening-up in the field of wholly-owned hospitals on Nov 1, which makes specific provisions on the conditions of the pilot program for the establishment of wholly-owned foreign hospitals (except for traditional Chinese medicine hospitals) in Beijing; Tianjin; Shanghai; Jiangsu province's Nanjing and Suzhou; Fujian province; Guangdong province's Guangzhou and Shenzhen; and Hainan province.

Moreover, wholly foreign-owned hospitals are able to become designated institutions for basic medical insurance and conduct clinical trials of drugs if they meet the conditions stipulated in the law. According to the Statistical Bulletin of FDI in China 2024, the amount of China's actual use of foreign investment in the field of health and social work in 2023 was \$300 million, accounting for just 0.2 percent of the total, suggesting great growth potential.

China's medical services market is one of the most dynamic and potential markets in the world, and opening-up to foreign investment is conducive to China's ability to meet the increasing demand for multilevel medical services, and help achieve the goal of a "Healthy China". The nine provinces and cities in this open pilot program not only have large populations, high demand for medical services and a good base of medical facilities, but also have a better business environment.

Finally, China issued the first central-level document on the market access system, providing more opportunities for foreign investors to participate in the domestic market. On Aug 21, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued the opinions on improving the market access system. This is the first time that China has issued a policy document on the market access system at the central level.

China has fully implemented its market access negative list system since 2018, and so far, after three revisions, the market access negative list items have been reduced from 151 in 2018 to 117 at present, with a reduction of about 23 percent in prohibited license items. With the gradual reduction of the market access negative list exclusively for foreign investors, for example, the number in the manufacturing sector has been reduced to zero. The national version of the negative list applies equally to both domestic and foreign investors. Therefore, the "one list" system for national market access promoted by the new regulations will further enhance the transparency of China's market access and create more opportunities for foreign investors to participate in the Chinese market.

On the international front, the global economic environment remains complex and volatile. The overlapping effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, trade protectionism, geopolitics, climate change and other factors have exacerbated the fragmentation of the international business environment and increased the operational uncertainty of multinational enterprises, making it necessary for multinational enterprises to consider more risk factors when choosing investment locations.

At the domestic level, the government's new foreign investment regulatory policy still faces the problem of striking a balance between maintaining national security and promoting economic development in the implementation process, i.e. realizing a benign interaction between high-quality development and high-level security.

The writer is a senior research fellow at the Institute of World Economics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

WORLD

Ground prepared for China's steady growth

Proactive policy displays unwavering resolve to tackle challenges, experts say

By **JIANG XUEQING** in Tokyo
jiangxueqing@chinadaily.com.cn

China's steadfast commitment to addressing dynamic risks in crucial sectors is paving the way for steady growth in the coming year, according to economists.

At the Central Economic Work Conference held recently, the Chinese government identified stabilizing securities and real estate prices as among its priorities for the coming year, marking an unprecedentedly clear commitment to supporting both markets. This was highlighted by Yangheon Kwak, a professor at Rikkyo University's College of Economics.

Kwak said the conference employed the term "moderately accommodative" to describe the monetary policy.

"This signifies a shift toward more proactive fiscal policies and monetary easing, coupled with an enhanced focus on nontraditional countercyclical adjustments. These measures illustrate the Chinese government's deep understanding of dynamic risks in key sectors and its unwavering resolve to tackle these challenges in the year ahead," he said.

Regarding concerns about deflation stemming from the bursting of the real estate bubble, Kwak said the Chinese government has implemented robust intervention measures not typically seen in capitalist nations.

These include expanding shareholder returns for publicly listed companies and mandating real estate developers to complete unfinished housing projects. While the effects of these actions may not be immediately visible, Kwak expects its impact to become apparent by next year.

Simultaneously, the Chinese gov-

ernment is advancing a significant debt restructuring plan to address local government debt issues, securing fiscal resources to support growth through this initiative.

The Chinese economy is projected to grow by around 5 percent this year, contributing nearly 30 percent to global economic growth, according to Han Wenxiu, executive deputy director of the Office of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs.

Hidetoshi Tashiro, chief economist at Japan's Infinity LLC, observed that China's stock indexes recently have signaled that the economic downturn has been contained.

The new home price index of November shows a rise in Shanghai compared with the corresponding period last year, suggesting that the decline in the city's real estate market has been halted. However, prices continue to fall in some smaller cities.

Tashiro cautioned that while the pace of the real estate market's downturn has slowed, it has not been fully resolved. Consequently, the risk of defaults among smaller financial institutions, including local financing platforms, still remains.

Revitalizing economy

Tashiro underscored the necessity of transitioning from a macroeconomic policy centered on moderate monetary easing to an active policy mix that combines fiscal and monetary measures. This shift is essential for revitalizing the economy by reducing unemployment and stimulating consumption.

"If China continues to develop its private economy domestically and promotes free trade internationally, its economy is expected to sustain

growth over the medium to long term," he said.

Tetsuro Homma, representative director and executive vice-president at Panasonic Holdings Corp, said: "The Chinese government is taking a proactive approach to addressing the challenges facing its economy."

On Sept 24, China introduced a series of policies aimed at promoting high-quality economic growth. Panasonic has benefited from initiatives like home appliance trade-in programs.

"Panasonic views China not only as a major manufacturing and consumer market but also as a global hub for innovation and engineering talent. As such, we foreign companies are actively expanding our business operations in China," Homma said.

He highlighted that there are currently over 17,000 Japanese companies operating in China, with substantial and diverse investments across the market.

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China conducts quarterly surveys to assess the economic environment and business conditions. According to Homma, over half of the Japanese companies surveyed said they are either maintaining or increasing their investments in China this year.

Xiong Yi, chief China economist at Deutsche Bank, said in a recent report that the Central Economic Work Conference underscored plans to promote the stabilization and recovery of the real estate market, including to "vigorously implement urban renewal projects" and "step up efforts to renovate urban villages".

On the supply side, the government will deal with existing housing inventories and reasonably control new land supply. The pace at which the government will be able to deliver on these commitments will be crucial for the housing sector, Xiong added.

Balloon festival



Hot air balloons rise in the sky during the Qatar Hot Air Balloon Festival in Doha on Saturday. The festival is experiencing a rise in global interest, with organizers receiving a record number of applications for its fifth edition, the Gulf Times reported. KARIM JAAFAR / AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Germany mourns market attack victims

BERLIN — A memorial service was held Saturday evening in the German city of Magdeburg to mourn the victims of a tragic attack at a Christmas market on Friday night, where a car rammed into a crowd, killing at least five people and injuring 200 others.

The service took place at the city's cathedral and was intended primarily for the victims' relatives, emergency responders, and invited guests, including President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Outside the cathedral, mourners gathered to lay flowers and light candles in remembrance of the victims.

To mark the tragedy, church bells tolled across Magdeburg at 7:04 pm — the exact time the attack occurred.

A nine-year-old child is among the five people killed, confirmed Horst Walter Nopens, head of the local public prosecutor's office, without disclosing further details about the other four adult victims.

He said about 200 people suffered injuries, many of them serious. Authorities warned the death toll could rise.

According to German media, the attack lasted roughly three minutes. The emergency route used by the perpetrator was not secured with barriers, raising concerns about safety measures.

Condemning the act, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz described the incident as "a terrible tragedy to harm and kill so many people with such brutality".

A 50-year-old doctor, Taleb al-Abdulmohsen, originating from Saudi Arabia, was arrested at the site and taken into custody for questioning. Police searched his home overnight, and authorities assume he acted alone. He has lived in Germany since 2006 and worked in a nearby town.

His motive remained unclear. Nopens said one possible factor

could be the suspect's frustration with Germany's handling of Saudi refugees.

News magazine Der Spiegel, citing security sources, said the Saudi secret service had warned Germany's spy agency BND a year ago about a tweet in which Abdulmohsen threatened Germany would pay a "price" for its treatment of Saudi refugees.

Die Welt daily reported, also citing security sources, that German state and federal police had carried out a "risk assessment" on Abdulmohsen last year but concluded that he posed "no specific danger".

Scholz and other top officials, including Minister of the Interior Nancy Faeser, arrived in Magdeburg on Saturday. Faeser ordered Saturday morning that all flags at all federal buildings be flown at half-mast nationwide.

XINHUA—AGENCIES

Beijing's green efforts to benefit world

By **XING YI** in Madrid
xingyi@chinadaily.com.cn

China's further development of the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and the country's pursuit of green transition in economic growth model will benefit the world, especially the development in Africa, said Siddharth Chatterjee, the United Nations resident coordinator to China.

Chatterjee made the remarks on the sidelines of a forum in Madrid after Beijing concluded its Central Economic Work Conference on Dec 12. The meeting has set nine key tasks for the Chinese government to focus on next year, among which include solid progress in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

"I have seen firsthand the effects of the BRI and how it has transformed the infrastructure landscape in parts of Africa," said Chatterjee, who worked in Kenya for five years before taking office in China in 2021.

"I think it's very wise for China to invest in Africa, and I would say all countries should do the same. It is where the future of consumption and production is going to happen," he said, adding that China's experience of investment in human capital, infrastructure, and business environment can help Africa to achieve modernization.

Highlighting the fact that China has lifted around 800 million people out of poverty and feeding one-fifth of the world's population with just 9 percent of the world's arable land, Chatterjee said the potential for China-Africa cooperation is huge.

"What China has achieved in the last four decades is the kind of knowledge we need to share with other countries still grappling with poverty, with hunger, and with the issues on public health," he said, citing figures that Africa has 60 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land and its population is estimated to reach 2.5 billion in 2050.

"The investment that China is making now is absolutely excellent. I can vouch for the fact that I've seen the full effects of the Belt and Road initiative, as well as the Global Development Initiative," he added.

The green transition of China's social and economic growth was also highlighted in the tasks laid out by the Central Economic Work Conference, including deepening institutional reform for ecological conservation.

Chatterjee commended the green development initiatives launched by the government and said they also contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

Speaking of the prospect of China's economy in 2025, Chatterjee said: "I have full confidence in China's economic growth. I think the foundations are strong, and I believe that by next year, we will be seeing growth beyond 5 percent very easily. I'm very confident of it."



'Slick' operation

Volunteers collect oil-soaked beach sand during a cleanup operation after fuel oil spilled into the Black Sea by two storm-wrecked tankers that washed ashore, in Anapa, Russia, on Saturday. The oil fuel-laden tankers had been damaged in the Kerch Strait during a storm.

ALEXEY MAISHEV / SPUTNIK

CHINA DAILY USA

NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS

1500 Broadway, Suite 2800, New York, NY 10036

Telephone: 212-537-8888

Fax: 212-537-8898

editor@chinadailyusa.com
readers@chinadailyusa.com

Subscription: 212-537-8899

Advertising: 212-537-8916

Follow us on:

x.com/chinadaily

facebook.com/chinadaily

usa.chinadaily.com.cn

These materials are distributed by China

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

WASHINGTON

National Press Bldg, Suite 1108

529 14th Street NW

Washington, DC 20045

Tel: 202-662-7249

Fax: 202-662-7247

SAN FRANCISCO

235 Montgomery Street, Suite 900, San Francisco, CA 94104

Tel: 415-348-8288

Fax: 415-348-8388

SEATTLE

600 Fifth Ave, Suite 4100

Seattle, WA 98104

Tel: 206-922-2868

HOUSTON

1001 South Dairy Ashford Suite 100

Houston, TX 77077

Tel: 713-595-7660

CANADA | TORONTO

4711 Yonge Street, 10th Floor

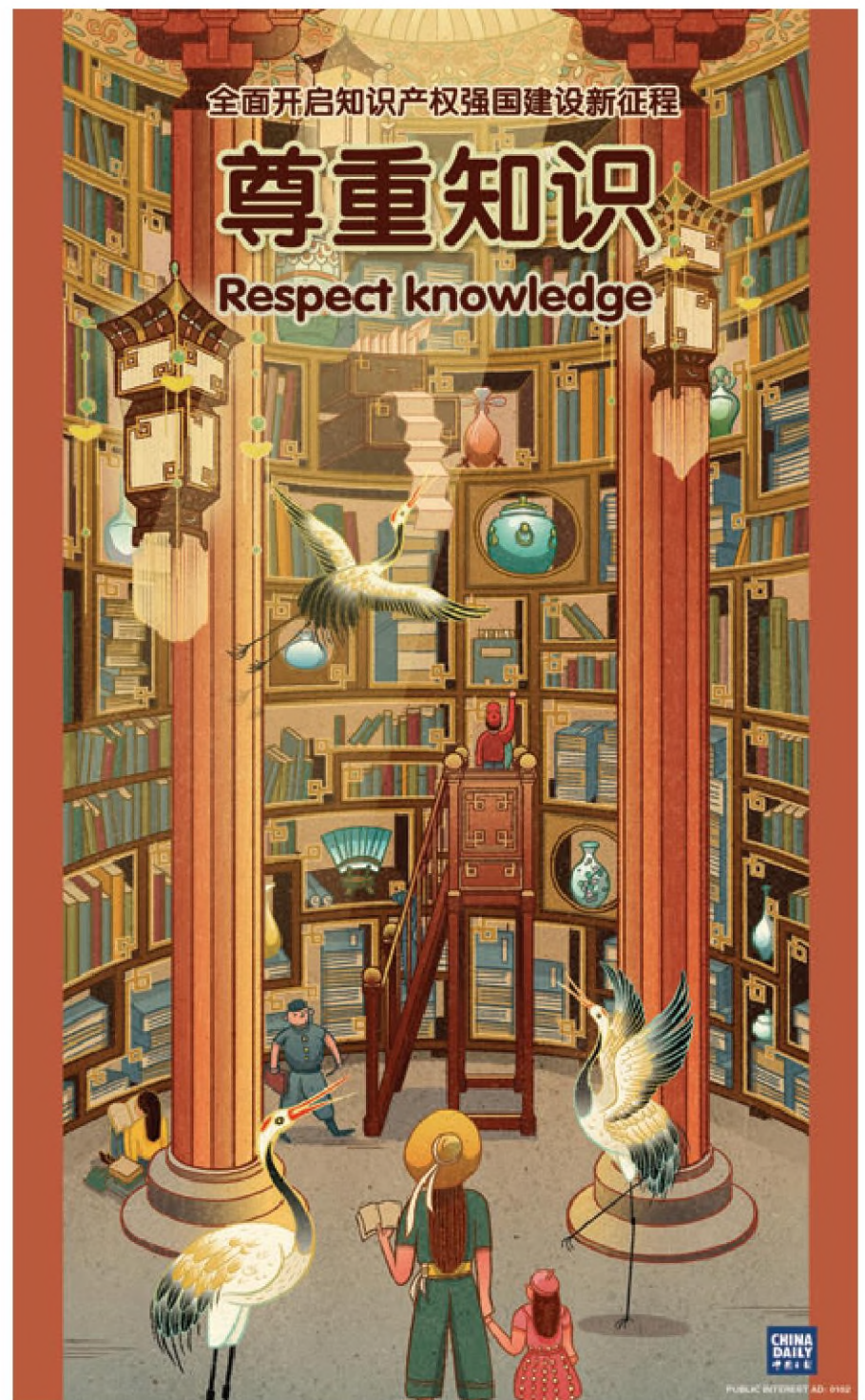
Toronto, Ontario, M2N 6K8

Tel: 416-481-5706

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CHINA DAILY USA, 1500 Broadway, Suite 2800, New York, NY 10036.

Vol. 38 - No. 1484



CHINA DAILY
PUBLIC INTEREST AD 0182

COMMENT

Editorials

Pentagon report hyping up 'China threat' deceptive, hypocritical scaremongering

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence constitute an unequivocal and effective code of conduct for all countries to follow in promoting the spirit of international rule of law and finding the right way to get along with each other.

These principles have been written into China's Constitution, and, as it forges ahead on its modernization journey, China continues to champion these principles as the framework for a community with a shared future for humanity.

However, to sustain its global hegemony and oil its lucrative arms industry, the United States needs to create enemies, and China has become the most recent country to be subject to a fabricated adversarial narrative. This is fully evident in the Pentagon's latest report on China's military and security development released last week.

The document is filled with nothing but bias, misperceptions and alarmist talk, all of which desperately slander the Chinese military and exaggerate the so-called military threat posed by China, as a spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Defense said on Saturday.

The US has at least 750 military bases in 80 countries so that it can enforce its will around the world by means of force. Yet it has no compunction about promoting what Defense Ministry spokesman Zhang Xiaogang rightly lambasted as "highly deceptive and hypocritical reports" featuring "exaggerated and sensationalized rhetoric" intended to provide the US with an "excuse for its own military development and to mislead public opinion".

The US has a long and well-documented history of leveraging its military strength to start wars, prolong conflicts, and impose regime changes, leaving chaos and severe humanitarian disasters in its wake, the spokesperson said.

Indeed, one can randomly pick any troubled spot around the world and somewhere on the timeline of its unfolding, the US will in all likelihood be found to have done some devil-made work.

Before pointing an accusing finger at China's military, the US should clarify why it needs so many US military boots tramping around the world and why it needs to keep such a huge nuclear arsenal.

Worse, the US not only adheres to a first-use nuclear weapons policy, it is also quickening its steps in developing new types of nuclear weapons and has adjusted its strategy for their use. It is also enabling the proliferation of nuclear weapons by transferring the needed technology and materials to its allies, most obviously in the case of its trilateral grouping with Australia and the United Kingdom.

China has repeatedly affirmed its military modernization is defensive in nature and aimed at safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and that it is committed to maintaining world peace and stability. Its defense buildup and defense budget increase are commensurate with its economic development and cater to its national defense and security needs.

But the US has an insatiable military-industrial complex whose appetite demands constant feeding. It accounts for about 15 percent of all federal spending and half of the discretionary spending, leaving tough decisions to be made about how the other half should be split between such things as education, transportation and health.

It was by no means an exaggeration for the Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman to call the US "war-addicted". Like any junkie it has no qualms about how low it has to stoop to get its next fix. Hence, China has become the subject of the Pentagon's "pacing" patter.

Despite what the Pentagon report would have people believe, it is the US, with its increasingly unconstrained roguish behavior, that is the biggest threat to global stability.

Not content with its recent machinations in Europe and the Middle East, the US also has its conflict-triggering sights set on Asia where it is usurping the regional maritime disputes to stir up trouble in the South China Sea and ramping up its interference in the Taiwan question by using "force to support independence", as China's Foreign Ministry said after the White House approved another arms sale to Taipei. It is also pushing for its regional allies to extend the aggressive posture of NATO into the region.

The US should stop peddling its military-budget bloating "China threat" theory as Gospel brought down on tablets from Capitol Hill and instead strive to value, inherit and promote the principles of peaceful coexistence. All it serves to do with its hyping up of a "China threat" is to show that the more things change, the more it will remain the same.

EU should beware Kallas' bias leading it astray

As both sides are apparently intent on striving for a favorable position in any future negotiations, which some believe may be on the cards with a new US administration due to take office next month, the fighting in Kursk has become another "meat-grinder" battle in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Despite the bloody engagement of attrition, and the huge loss of life already in the hostilities, some armchair fighters in Brussels seem hell-bent on insisting that there will not be peace unless it is won through victory on the battlefield.

Russian President Vladimir Putin left no room for doubt in his year-end meeting with the media last week that he is open to cease-fire talks with Ukraine. Yet the European Union's top diplomat Kaja Kallas seems intent on stymieing that possibility. Instead of welcoming a cessation of the hostilities in Europe and seeking to facilitate negotiations, the new EU high representative of foreign affairs and security policy has chosen instead to take a hard line insisting Putin is not sincere and trying to drag China into the fray.

Although the Ukrainian leader reportedly urged Kallas to restrain her criticism of China over the Ukraine crisis during her high-profile visit to Kyiv earlier this month after taking office, along with other senior EU officials, she apparently has no intention of toning down her blame-China rhetoric.

She seems to believe that China is a key the EU can use to unlock the incoming US administration's tariff threats, presumably with the notion that having the same "enemy" should naturally make the EU and US partners in arms.

But her approach of sacrificing the EU's relations with China to save the EU's economic and trade ties with the United States will, as Kyiv correctly warned, isolate the world's second-largest economy and do no party any good.

After his initial tariff threats toward the EU after winning the US presidential election last month, the US president-elect posted on social media last week: "I told the European Union that they must make up their tremendous deficit with the United States by the large-scale purchase of our oil and gas. Otherwise, it is TARIFFS all the way!!!"

While admitting there are no winners in trade wars, Kallas told reporters before a summit of EU leaders in which they discussed the 27-nation bloc's place in the world and its relations with the new US administration and China on Thursday, "If the US is looking at China, then we should stick together — Europe and the United States. If we have a trade war between the US and the EU, then who is laughing out loud? It is China."

If she admits a tariff war with the US hurts both sides' interests, how can she avoid an equally disastrous tariff war with China from hurting the common interests of the EU and China, something her policy necessarily leads to. Who will be laughing out loud then?

The EU has wrongly started imposing comprehensive sanctions on Chinese entities and individuals over the Ukraine crisis since Kallas took office. That's a dangerous sign that the EU is alienating an otherwise reliable partner it can work with for the same objectives of not only ending the Ukraine crisis as early as possible but also establishing a lasting, workable and balanced peace mechanism in Europe.

The US president-elect has demanded the NATO countries increase their defense spending to more than double the current target to about 5 percent of their gross domestic product, which is almost a mission impossible given their difficulties in fulfilling a 2 percent commitment, hinting that is a condition for the US continuing to stay in the organization. The EU should evaluate the rationality and feasibility of sacrificing China relations in the belief that it will put itself in the new US administration's good books.

The EU China hawks should also be reminded that the incoming US leader has recently said Beijing and Washington can work together "to solve all of the problems of the world".

CHINA DAILY WORLDWIDE

Contact us at:

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

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

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

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

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

Song Chen



Opinion Line

Focus of fiscal policy will be on boosting domestic demand

The Central Economic Work Conference pointed out that it is necessary to implement more proactive macroeconomic policies to expand domestic demand. To this end, China will increase the government deficit ratio, the quota of local government special bonds, and the issuance of ultra-long-term special bonds to expand domestic demand and stabilize the economy next year.

The highest deficit ratio of the Chinese government in recent years was 3.8 percent in 2023. The fiscal deficit ratio in 2025 may rise to about 4 percent. In addition, the quota of local government special bonds this year is 3.9 trillion yuan (\$534.5 billion), and the quota of new special bonds next year is expected to rise to more than 4 trillion yuan. The investment areas of the bonds may be expanded to localized bonds and real estate acquisition,

and the scope of their use as project capital is also expected to expand.

Allowing local governments to spend their revenues from the special bonds buying idle houses can help stimulate the demand of the real estate market and promote the stabilization of the real estate industry.

The increased ultra-long-term special bonds will be used for the implementation of major strategies related to new quality productive force, urban-rural integration, regional coordination, and people's livelihoods, and the construction of security capabilities in key areas.

The role of the equipment and consumer goods trade-in in driving consumption and investment growth is obvious. Next year, the ultra-long-term special treasury bond funds used to support the endeavors are expected to increase significantly.

The government will also increase the intensity of fiscal expenditure, optimize the structure of fiscal expenditure, and strengthen the guarantee of key areas of people's livelihoods. Only by increasing residents' income and stabilizing social expectations can the government effectively spur residents' consumption capacity.

In addition, the government should further optimize its expenditure structure to tilt more resources to the transformation and upgrading of key areas such as emerging industries and traditional industries.

To that end, the authorities need to further strengthen the coordination and cooperation among fiscal, monetary and industrial policies in various fields to form a policy synergy and ensure the actual policy effect.

— 21ST CENTURY BUSINESS HERALD

Milestone bill to protect rights of private sector

A draft law on promoting the private economy was submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for deliberation on Saturday, which is scheduled to last until Wednesday.

The draft, which had been published to solicit public opinions from Oct 10 to Nov 8, consists of nine chapters covering the following aspects: fair competition, investment and financing environment, scientific and technological innovation, rights protection, and legal responsibility.

The law, which is expected to be finalized and passed by the country's top legislature soon, will elevate the measures to promote the development of the private economy from government policies to legal norms.

The efficiency with which the draft has transformed from a proposal in February to what it is now, one step

away from becoming a law, speaks volumes of the authorities' recognition of its necessity and importance, as well as the broad social consensus on that.

Promoting sustained, healthy and high-quality development of the private economy is a major policy that the government has long adhered to. The draft stipulates that private enterprises can enter the fields outside the negative list of market access on an equal basis; and it is prohibited to restrict or exclude private enterprises in bidding and government procurement.

It supports private enterprises participating in national strategies and major projects, improves the market-based risk-sharing mechanism for the financing of private economic entities, and clarifies the investment and financing support measures for private companies.

The draft also supports private

companies' participation in national sci-tech projects and major national scientific research infrastructure, and encourages State research and development and technology platforms to serve private companies.

In particular, the draft strictly regulates the scope and procedures of compulsory measures such as restriction of personal freedom and freezing of personal assets clearly prohibits the use of administrative and criminal means to illegally intervene in economic disputes, and regulates law enforcement by the authorities from jurisdictions that enterprises are not registered in.

If these articles can be fixed as binding law, they will be of tremendous significance for further optimizing the development environment for private enterprises in the country.

— CCTV NEWS

What They Say

Lacking validity, human rights smears fail to stick

The United States Congressional-Executive Commission on China issued its 2024 Annual Report last week, which is supposedly intended to provide "a detailed account of the People's Republic of China's systematic abuses of human rights" in the Xinjiang Uygur and Xizang autonomous regions and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The commission has always made groundless accusations against China's internal affairs for political purposes, and has no credibility at all. The agency has fabricated reports like this one year after year, continuously slandering China's human rights situation and threatening to escalate sanctions against China, which fully exposes the ignorance, prejudice and arrogance of relevant US politicians.

Such a state-funded and organized systemic smear campaign smacks of "despicable political manipulation with ill intentions", as the Hong

Kong SAR government said in a statement released on Saturday refuting the US' report.

No matter how many such reports it releases, via whatever agencies, the US cannot shake China's social stability and national unity, cover up the fact that the rights and freedoms of the Chinese people, including all those living in Xinjiang, Xizang and Hong Kong, are fully protected, or halt China's development.

The series of sanctions the US has imposed on Hong Kong and Xinjiang have already affected local people's livelihoods. It is the US politicians that are violating the human rights conditions in these regions through illegal long-arm jurisdiction and weaponizing so-called human rights issues with sanctions. When local residents in these regions suffered tremendously from the turmoil several years ago, the US politicians lauded the instigators of the turmoil as "brave

fighters for democracy and freedom", irrespective of them being separatists, extremists or terrorists. Now that China has effectively put an end to the turmoils and restored social order in these regions, it is the same group of US politicians that are accusing China of "human rights violations".

In fact, what the US politicians call for is not the protection of the human rights of local residents, but to let the US' proxies have the means to advance the "pro-democracy" agenda of Washington in these regions.

The three regions have enjoyed good development momentum since the strict enforcement of the rule of law brought an end to the chaos orchestrated by the US.

Before lecturing other countries on their human rights affairs, the US should first address the ongoing humanitarian crises it has created in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Gaza.

— LI YANG, CHINA DAILY

COMMENT



China and the World Roundtable | 2025 Global Outlook

Editor's note: In 2024, the world witnessed further transformation and instability, which marked by protracted and intensified geopolitical conflicts. How will the world develop in 2025? Four experts share their views on the issue with China Daily.

Robert Lawrence Kuhn

A prescription for better Sino-US ties

It is a propitious moment to assess the state and prospects of Sino-US relations, the world's two largest economies as well as large military powers. It might seem clichéd, but nothing is more important for peace and prosperity in the world than cooperation between the US and China.

In the opinion of many Chinese people, the US is hyping the "China threat" theory and thwarting the country's historic, rightful development by coordinated policies of containment, through technological sanctions (particularly chips and AI); tariffs and threats of greater tariffs; foreign alliances, including the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, the US) and AUKUS (Australia, the United Kingdom, the US), and separate alliances with Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Philippines; and not least, of course, US support for and arms sales to the Taiwan island.

To many in the US, China has become more "aggressive" abroad and more "repressive" at home. What is especially disquieting to US elites is their perception that China is backing Russia in Ukraine.

With respect to US politics, Trump campaigned, in part, on a tough-on-China platform. One can usually forecast a US president's foreign policy by assessing the background of those whom he picks for top foreign policy positions — and Trump's Secretary of State-designate, Marco Rubio, and National Security Adviser-designate, Mike Waltz, are both historical hawks on China. Yet, going deeper, this truism is less true for Trump, who has a history of flouting expert advice and going with his gut instincts. In fact, Trump himself professes admiration for President Xi Jinping, prides himself on avoiding new wars, and loves to make new deals. This provides an opening for improving US-China relations.

With respect to China's economy, the readout of the Central Economic Work Conference is telling — using stimulus-signaling language not seen since the global financial crisis in 2009, implicitly recognizing that China's economy needs to "vigorously boost consumption, improve investment efficiency, and expand domestic demand on all fronts". It stresses "boosting domestic demand, especially consumer demand" and calls for adopting a more proactive



MA XUEJING / CHINA DAILY



The author is chairman of The Kuhn Foundation and creator/host of *Closer To Truth on science and philosophy*, and a recipient of the *China Reform Friendship Medal*.

fiscal policy, implementing a moderately loose monetary policy with reductions in the reserve requirement ratio and interest rates to ensure ample liquidity, and moves to stabilize real estate and stock markets.

China says that it still welcomes foreign investments and that it still will be the engine of global growth.

This provides a motivation, if not a necessity, for improving China-US relations.

With respect to the world, events overwhelm expectations. The toppling of the Syrian government, after five decades of al-Assad family rule, shocked almost everyone.

Assad had been backed strongly for over a decade by a powerful Russia and an ascending Iran. Then, in less than two weeks, Assad was gone, chased out by barely known, seemingly ragtag rebel groups. But actually, multiple factors were drivers, triggered by Hamas's horrific killing and kidnapping of some 1,500 Israeli civilians in October 2023 and subsequently Israel's furious, devastating and relentless attacks against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, and even against their backer, Iran. It says something about our chaotic

world when Israel, in 48 hours, destroys 80 percent of the advanced assets of the massive Syrian army and air force, from missiles, fighter jets and drones to munitions plants, research centers and chemical weapons — and sinks the entire Syrian navy in one night — and the astounding story wasn't even the main headline in the international press.

In Europe, there is deep concern over troops from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea having entered the Russia-Ukraine conflict and over China's perceived backing of Russia, despite China's repeated clarifications. There is also concern that low-cost, good-quality Chinese EV vehicles would undermine the European automotive industry.

Meanwhile, US allies in Europe and Asia worry about what Trump may do to them, from imposing stiff tariffs to demanding they spend more on their own defense.

While just about everyone in Washington advocates tough-on-China policies, Trump himself is not beholden to any of them. He is the boss and he is ready and eager to make deals that he perceives are good for the US and burnish his image. What others call Trump's policy flip-flops his ignorance of basic principles, and declare it a weakness, Trump himself calls his personal unpredictability, a strength. This is why when Trump says that he respects President Xi and that Xi is his friend, he is laying the groundwork for potential deals.

It takes no PhD in economics to know that everyone loses when global economies are decoupled.

We would best settle in for a period of uncertainty and volatility in China-US relations. My three-imperative prescription for China-US relations remains simple: First, avoid exacerbating areas of conflict or contention. Second, find common ground for joint action: interdicting dangerous drugs, planning for pandemics, mitigating AI risks, and controlling climate change. Third, give time a chance to lower the heat by passing quietly without incident.

Just three points to follow — for US citizens, for Chinese citizens, for the people of the world. If only it all worked this way.

The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

Tang Zhichao and Liu Xuejie

Hope for stability amid the turbulence in the Middle East

A prominent feature of the Middle East's development in 2024 is the increasing bifurcation of the Middle East, one marked by rising turmoil and unrelenting conflicts, and another characterized by stability, steady progress, and increasingly active international cooperation. This dichotomy urgently needs to be resolved. We hope for the disappearance of the turbulent and conflict-ridden Middle East and the expansion of the stable and developing Middle East, merging into a new, stable, and flourishing region.

Since October 2023, the Middle East has increasingly exhibited two opposing blocs: one led by the United States and Israel, and the other represented by Iran and its regional resistance axis. The outbreak of a new round of the Israel-Palestine conflict has been the primary trigger for this confrontation, while the conflict between these two axes has become the main source of widespread instability and violence in the region. In 2024, the confrontation between the two camps has intensified, with the conflict centered in Gaza spreading outward — from Lebanon to Yemen, from Syria to Iran — as clashes and hostilities escalate, expanding the scope of the turmoil in the Middle East.



Tang Zhichao is a researcher of the *Institute of West Asian and African Studies*, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.



Liu Xuejie is an associate researcher at the same institute.

Over the past year, a series of significant events have exacerbated regional instability and conflict. For instance, two rounds of direct military conflicts between Iran and Israel nearly sparked a regional war. Israel's killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has been the most prominent, but it has virtually eliminated the political and military leadership of both Hamas and Hezbollah. The Israeli military has continued to target locations in Lebanon and Syria, while the Bashar al-Assad government in Syria suddenly collapsed after the opposition forces launched a rapid offensive.

Over the past year, the trajectory of the Middle East's turmoil has increasingly deviated from old patterns and frameworks. The linkage between regional developments and the Israel-Hamas conflict is being progressively broken, and their interdependence is diminishing, showing signs of decoupling.

Hezbollah no longer insists on halting attacks against Israel only if there is a ceasefire in Gaza, having reached a ceasefire agreement with Israel on Nov 27. The overthrow of the Syrian government by opposition forces has removed Syria from the anti-Israel axis, if only temporarily.

The United States is finding it increasingly difficult to restrain Israel, whose increasingly bold and reckless military actions have not only created numerous challenges for the Joe Biden administration but also introduced uncertainty into regional developments. Notably, Israel's continued strikes against Hezbollah and Syrian targets have significantly weakened Hezbollah and the Syrian military, creating new variables in the situation in Lebanon and Syria.

The collapse of the Assad government in Syria and Hezbollah's retreat have also dealt a severe blow to Iran, leaving its regional resistance axis on the brink of collapse and forcing Iran to adopt a more defensive strategic posture. Meanwhile, the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham has unexpectedly taken control of Syria. The future trajectory of Syria under HTS leadership remains highly uncertain.

Between the two warring blocs exists a third camp, led by Arab nations such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. While they support the Palestinian cause, they do not align with the resistance axis, maintaining a largely neutral stance. This camp represents a pragmatic and stable Middle East focused on economic development and industrial transformation. Despite facing the challenges of a turbulent Middle East, this bloc has largely maintained stability. Moreover, the stable camp is expanding, with countries such as Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya witnessing improving political stability.

According to an October 2024 report by the International Monetary Fund, most of these Arab nations are sustaining economic growth. The UAE is projected to achieve a GDP growth rate of 4 percent, Saudi Arabia 1.5 percent, Algeria 3.8 percent, Tunisia 1.6 percent, and Qatar 1.5 percent in 2024. The Gulf Arab nations, in particular, are not only maintaining stability but also experiencing rapid economic development, increasingly positioning themselves as engines of growth in a stable Middle East. The international community is increasingly optimistic about the Gulf's economic prospects, with substantial foreign direct investment flowing into the region. Saudi Arabia, in particular, has attracted global investors' attention with sweeping reforms and large-scale investment projects. Standard Chartered Bank predicts that growing FDI inflows, along with public capital expenditures and private sector investments, will drive Saudi Arabia's economic growth, with FDI expected to reach \$24 billion in 2024.

The current state of the Middle East can be understood as "half is seawater, half is fire". The year of 2024 has been a year of dramatic ups and downs for the region, with major conflicts continuing to erupt and the ripple effects of the new round of the Israel-Palestine conflict gradually unfolding over time. At the same time, there are glimpses of hope for stability amid the turbulence. Examples include the temporary ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel, changes in Syria's political landscape, Iran's increasingly pragmatic foreign policy, and the ongoing ceasefire negotiations between Hamas and Israel.

It is anticipated that conflicts in the Middle East will likely persist into 2025, with turbulence and uncertainty continuing to plague the region. However, we hope that the scope of conflict gradually shrinks, the areas of stability continue to expand, and a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Middle East will emerge in the near future.

The views don't necessarily represent those of China Daily.

Zhao Huirong

Russia-Ukraine conflict freeze may be on horizon

Although United States President-elect Donald Trump has not spelled out a road map on how to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict, some of his advisers have proposed putting off NATO membership for Ukraine and establishing a demilitarized zone or an autonomous region in Ukraine. All of these suggestions require Ukraine to accept territorial losses. The purpose of denying Ukraine NATO membership is to force a freeze in the conflict, rather than end it.

In its first term, the Trump administration provided Ukraine lethal weapons and slapped sanctions on Russia. So why has he changed his attitude toward Ukraine now?

If the 2004 Orange Revolution — when the National Endowment for Democracy in the US provided \$65 million to the then Ukrainian opposition — was the US' successful experiment to establish a pro-Western and anti-Russian government in Ukraine, the 2014 revolution was one to eliminate political forces in Ukraine that were soft toward Russia.

Since the outbreak of the conflict in Donbas in 2014, NATO has adopted a stance in support for Ukraine's sovereignty. After 2021, the Joe Biden administration began assisting Ukraine, relaxing restrictions on Ukraine's military operations. It also increased sanctions on Russia, which ultimately led Russia and Ukraine to get embroiled in a war which neither side seems able to win, negotiate or retreat from.



The author is a researcher at the *Institute of Russian, Central Asian and East European Studies*, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Like Biden, even Trump sees in the Russia-Ukraine conflict as a chance for the US to maintain its global hegemony. But, unlike Biden, Trump prefers "freezing" the conflict by reducing strategic investment in Ukraine, thus shifting the responsibility and burden on its allies, and achieving the greatest benefits at the lowest cost.

In other words, Ukraine still has strategic value for Trump. If he can "freeze" the Russia-Ukraine conflict, he will be able to raise the territorial dispute, NATO membership and European security framework issues at a later stage to exert pressure on Russia, Ukraine and even Europe.

However, Moscow is not satisfied with the plan and said it would continue its special military operation until it achieves all its goals. There are reasons for Russia's tough response. First, it has a relative advantage on the battlefield as it controls 18 percent of Ukraine and has accelerated its advance into eastern Ukraine, forcing the latter to withdraw from some areas.

Second, there is uncertainty regarding Western countries' assistance to Ukraine. The US and

Europe's monthly support to Ukraine in 2024 is less than what it was in the same period last year. And Germany has decided to curb military support to Ukraine from about 8 billion euros (\$8.32 billion) this year to 4 billion euros next year.

Third, Russia has not yet recaptured the Kursk region. And some areas of the four regions in eastern Ukraine are still under Ukrainian control. Last, Russia's special military operation has not yet achieved its goals of "demilitarizing" "denazifying" and "neutralizing" Ukraine.

Moscow has said that it is open to resuming Russia-Ukraine negotiations. The possible agreement should take into account Russia's security interests and, most importantly, address the root causes of the conflict. As such, Russia does not reject the deal, what it values is the terms of the deal.

Russia is not only facing Ukraine but also NATO. It does not have an overwhelming advantage on the battlefield; at the current rate, it will take more than 1,000 days to occupy the rest of the four regions in eastern Ukraine, which means more investment and greater losses. That could break down the "barrier" between external conflict and internal peace in Russia.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict is zero-sum, complicated and long-term, because it is not only about Ukraine's territory, but also a geopolitical confrontation between Russia and the West. After Trump takes office next year, one possible prospect is that Russia accepts the US'

proposals and reaches an agreement. As the US reduces its aid to Ukraine, Europe's assistance will not be enough to help the country reverse the unfavorable situation and Ukraine will be forced to accept the "freezing" plan.

Another possibility is that Russia rejects the US plan, causing negotiations to break down. In response, the Trump administration may urge Europe to take on a greater role in supporting Ukraine and to impose additional sanctions on Russia, thereby preventing the conflict from coming to an end.

Because of the opposing positions, lack of mutual trust and the fact that neither Russia nor Ukraine has completely lost its will and combat capability, it is unlikely they will arrive at a ceasefire agreement in the short term.

In the long run, the conflict could become less intense and finally be "frozen", as the West is reducing its support to Ukraine and the two sides' losses are mounting. They will eventually reach a ceasefire agreement but may not sign a peace agreement that can completely resolve the territorial issues.

A ceasefire can "freeze" the conflict but will not completely end it. Sporadic conflicts will continue to erupt, while the US will use Ukraine as a "dagger" to control Europe and harass Russia. Even after the Russia-Ukraine conflict weakens, Trump's unilateral policy will have a significant impact on international politics.

The views don't necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

GLOBAL VIEWS

ENRIQUE DUSSEL PETERS

Fly in the face of reality

US threat of higher tariffs on imports from Canada, China and Mexico is indicative of Washington's blinkered vision

Throughout the year 2024, the Joe Biden administration has threatened to impose new tariffs on Mexico, particularly on imported electric vehicles produced in Mexico by Chinese companies. President-elect Donald Trump has ramped this up by threatening the imposition of a 60 percent tariff on Chinese goods and a 25 percent tariff on imports from Mexico and Canada. Mexico, Canada and China were the main trading partners of the United States in 2023, together accounting for about 43 percent of US imports that year.



What is behind these threats? First, the profound and increasing strategic distrust of China in the US. The slogan of "Make America Great Again" was popularized during Trump's presidential campaign in 2016, and the security-shoring process since 2022 reflect the continuation of strategies against China. The competition between the two largest economies is at the heart of the current confrontation, and particularly evident in the field of innovation and global technology chains.

Second, the US was the architect of the so-called Bretton Woods institutions established at the end of World War II, and was particularly interested in the liberalization of goods, services and capital. Institutions such as General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and its successor, the World Trade Organization in 1995, were functional to the fall of global tariffs. The US' tariffs on total imports fell continuously from 3.3 percent in 1990 to 1.23 percent in 2008, but they have increased since then, to 1.41 percent in 2017 and 2.35 percent in 2023.

Third, the US' tariffs differ by country. In 2023, China paid 10.4 percent, Canada 0.09 percent and Mexico 0.26 percent. That is, Trump's aforementioned threats account for tariffs six times higher for China, around 280 times higher for Canada and

about 95 times higher for Mexico.

Fourth, as a result of China's increasing economic global presence, becoming the major exporter in 2017, China has become Latin America's second-largest source of imports since 2009, after the US. For several countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Peru, China is already the main source of imports.

Fifth, in countries such as Mexico, the recent trade relationship with the US and China reflects a "new triangular relationship"; that is, it is not a matter of the US or China, but rather a discussion on China and the US. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and its input-output tables reflect that Mexican gross exports to the US have increased significantly their Chinese value-added parts, from levels below 1 percent prior to 2001 up to 7.5 percent in 2020.

Nevertheless, the most important foreign source of Mexican exports is still the US. It is US companies established in Mexico that have been integrating, through imports, Chinese parts and components throughout the 21st century, acknowledging important benefits of Chinese technological upgrading in costs and in-time delivery. They are the main sources of the significant growth of Chinese value-added parts in Mexican exports to the US, and would also be the main affected companies in Mexico if the threatened tariffs are imposed in 2025. Another example is relevant: in 2023, cars fabricated in China accounted for 20 percent of new internal combustion engine car sales in Mexico, with levels below 1 percent just five years ago. Currently, most of the vehicles imported from China come from Western brands that have established manufacturing plants in Mexico, such as General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.

These results reflect that the political discussion in Washington does not sufficiently understand the profound new trade flows and integration between the US, China and Latin America, specifically in the case of Mexico. These processes have taken several decades and thousands of production lines



JIN DING / CHINA DAILY

and enterprises in these countries and will not be easy to substitute, in the best of the cases they will take several years and will be expensive for companies and consumers.

From a global perspective, however, the impacts will be much more severe and they could irreversibly damage the basis for current global trade flows, based on the most-favored-nation (MFN) clause of the GATT and the WTO, which requires countries to provide the same trading terms to all partners. The imposition of unilateral tariffs by the US — and possible countermeasures by China, Canada and Mexico — will lead to new discriminatory and unilat-

eral principles such as those employed before World War I, increase consumer prices and weaken these global institutions, as well as the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) signed in 2020 under the Trump administration. USMCA specifically integrates cases such as the ones discussed above — those that account for a regional value-added or not — but under significantly lower tariffs compared to those now being proposed by Trump. A review of USMCA might leave little left to be negotiated in 2026.

The new Trump administration will hopefully reconsider its political arguments in light of the existing industrial relation-

ships between Canada, China, Mexico and the US, and the interconnections globally. In addition, in China, Canada and Mexico, public officials should strengthen these arguments considering their important productive integration since the early 21st century.

The author is a professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and coordinator of the university's Center for Chinese-Mexican Studies. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.

ZHOU YINGXIN AND DONG YAN

Refit for purpose

WTO members are actively advancing reform of the global trade body to bring it in line with the times

Since its establishment over 30 years ago, the World Trade Organization has played a central role in the multilateral trading system by strengthening economic and trade cooperation among its members, maintaining the stability of the trade system and promoting global economic growth. However,



Zhou Yingxin



Dong Yan

with the recent rise in anti-globalization trends, the WTO faces a series of challenges, including the resurgence of trade protectionism, the accelerated restructuring of global supply chains after the COVID-19 pandemic and the intensifying geopolitical conflicts. At the same time, the WTO is adapting to the changes of the times, with its role and influence growing on emerging issues such as green development, digital transformation and the formulation of investment rules. To enhance its ability to address these challenges, WTO members are actively advancing its reform through negotiations.

The impact of the pandemic on global supply chains and trade flows has exposed the vulnerabilities of globalized supply chains. The enhanced security and importance of domestic supply chains have prompted many countries to re-evaluate and adjust their strategies, and to attempt to ensure national economic stability through "de-globalization" and "regionalization". The regionalization of supply chain policies poses the risk of undermining the effectiveness of the WTO multilateral system. The strategies proposed by countries such as the United States for supply chain restructuring and "friend-shoring" manifest as the repatriation of certain production processes to domestic markets or transferring them to their friendly nations, thereby weakening global integration. Additionally, the prolifera-



WANG XIAOYING / CHINA DAILY

tion of regional trade agreements has led to more complicated global trade rules. This not only increases the overall uncertainty of global trade but also undermines the application and supervisory functions of the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism.

The rising global trade protectionism and geopolitical conflicts have led to high trade barriers. Data from Global Trade Alert indicates that since the US launched its trade war against China in 2018, protectionist and restrictive trade measures have increased significantly, and such a trend has accelerated with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine cri-

sis; the number of restrictive measures such as tariffs, export restrictions and anti-dumping investigations implemented by countries worldwide has grown by more than 30 percent; in industries involving important resources such as semiconductors and rare earths, unilateral barriers have greatly increased. The US president-elect Donald Trump has shown a strong protectionist stance, claiming that he will impose a 10 to 20 percent tariff on all imported goods, and a 60 percent tariff on goods from countries such as China. If these trade policies are implemented in Trump's second term, they will trigger chaos in the global trade system.

These challenges indicate that the world has new demands for the WTO. The organization is actively reshaping its role in areas such as green development, transformation of new technology industries and investment rule formulation. It continuously advances its reforms through various negotiations toward an inclusive and multifunctional organization for global economic and trade governance. WTO negotiations have become an important means of promoting the re-globalization of the world economy.

First, the WTO is actively promoting green and low-carbon growth. In the 2023-24 period, the WTO focused on advancing the policy coordination of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism within a multilateral framework and exploring globally unified carbon measurement and reporting standards. The WTO has called for the reduction of tariffs on clean energy technologies, renewable energy equipment, and environmentally friendly products within a multilateral framework, or the zero tariff treatment for green goods, to promote the trade of green and low-carbon products, accelerate the global transition to a green economy, and provide its members with more options for green growth.

Second, the WTO is building a rule system that adapts to the industrial model transformation in the new wave of the technological revolution. In August, the WTO released a joint statement initiative on e-commerce, which is the result of negotiations involving more than 90 WTO members over the past five years. This agreement is balanced, inclusive and of commercial significance. Once incorporated into the WTO legal framework, it will become the foundation of global digital trade rules among WTO members. It will benefit consumers and businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, from both developed and developing countries involved in digital trade.

Third, the WTO is promoting the formulation of global investment rules. In February, 123 WTO members announced the formal adoption of the Investment Facili-

tation for Development Agreement. The document aims to simplify cross-border investment procedures, reduce business costs, create a better business environment for SMEs, attract foreign investment and develop their national economies, thereby promoting global investment liberalization. The WTO's multilateral investment agreement marks a significant advancement in global investment rule-making and provides a new path and model for the modernization reform of the international investment field. China played a crucial role in facilitating, harmonizing and concluding the agreement negotiations.

Fourth, the WTO is maintaining its primary status in addressing global trade issues. The reform of the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism faces challenges such as conceptual disagreements, legal and technical difficulties and the complex linkage of issues. Since the WTO Appellate Body became incapacitated in 2019, one of the core issues in the negotiations from 2023 to 2024 has been to restore its normal operation. The US opposes it but advocates for fundamental reforms to the dispute settlement mechanism. To break the current deadlock, some WTO members propose resolving disputes through more flexible negotiation models, such as allowing members to reach agreements through plurilateral negotiations and incorporating them into the WTO legal system, or allowing disputing parties to reach consensus through prior consultations without invoking the appeal process. Some members have already established the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement as an alternative to the interim appeal arbitration procedure.

Zhou Yingxin is an associate researcher at the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Dong Yan is a researcher at the IWEP at the CASS. 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.

LIFE



From left: Three signature dishes created by chef Liu Boda at the newly opened restaurant Suparnin in Guangzhou, Guangdong province — Shiqi Pigeon, Double Bay Flavor, and The Secret of Shijiuchong. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Chef Liu Boda is making his daily pilgrimage to Shijiuchong, a bustling seafood market tucked away in the southernmost tip of Guangzhou's Nansha district in Guangdong province.

Here, just miles from the South China Sea, he selects from what's freshest — an array of ocean treasures that he will transform into art at the newly opened restaurant he heads, Suparnin.

Shijiuchong is more than a market — it's a convergence of nature and commerce located on a part of a bird migration reserve that is also a hub for seafood. Local residents buy fresh shrimp, oysters and fish to steam or blanch nearby to preserve their flavors, but 29-year-old Liu, who trained in the United States, sees untapped potential in these ingredients.

At Suparnin, he's re-imagined classic dishes with bold pairings. His signature, The Secret of Shijiuchong, combines sea urchin from Nansha and oysters from Taiwan. They're elevated with a delicate cashew foam, then dressed in a rich pumpkin, pumpkin seed, and butter sauce, and finished with a touch of smoked red chili powder.

The result is a surprising harmony: the natural sweetness of the seafood, enhanced by the earthiness of the pumpkin, and the richness of the cashew foam, giving a taste of the sea that is both familiar and surprising.

The dish is more than just a highlight of Liu's first menu for Suparnin; it's also a reflection of months spent exploring the food culture of Lingnan, which describes the region mainly spreading across provinces of Guangdong and Hainan, and the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

He hopes that his menu will do more than impress — it's his invitation to residents and visitors to see Lingnan produce in a new light.

In a district dominated by casual, farmhouse-style eateries, chef Liu's vision for Suparnin is different, and is something that could, in time, become a signature of Nansha.

"We want to tell the world that Nansha is home to great seafood and excellent dining," he says. "We have something unique to offer."

The chef began his culinary journey in the US in 2016, training in Michelin-starred kitchens, including Alexander's Steakhouse in Cupertino, California. He returned to China in 2020, and this summer, became head chef at Suparnin, where he oversees a team of 14 young chefs.

Settling in Guangzhou, Liu immersed himself in Lingnan cuisine, learning from Michelin-starred Cantonese chefs in Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macao.

"When it comes to South China Sea ingredients, most people only know yellow croaker, but there are actually many other high-quality seafood options," he says.

The local preference is for simplicity, but Liu's approach is transformative.

"I try to give these ingredients a new identity — flavors people haven't imagined," he says.

He likes to think of premium ingredients as beautiful models, for which it is the chef's job to create the perfect outfit.

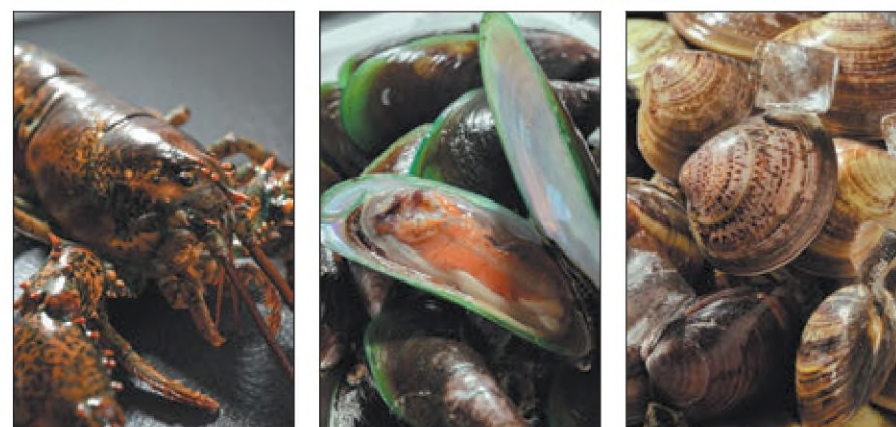
His signature lies in his sauces, which are made using techniques such as reduction and extraction to amplify flavor. The rich, complex results are central to his vision that blends local traditions with bold, unexpected twists to create dishes that defy expectations.

This month, he debuted a set menu that highlights Nansha ingredients. Sunflower chicken, yellowfin sea bream, and local small prawns are reinterpreted with modern flair, each dish defined by those signature



Treasures of the southern seas

New seafood restaurant in Guangzhou's 'backyard garden' Nansha, is raising local produce and ingredients to unprecedented heights, **Li Yingxue** reports.



Top: Liu wants to bring local ingredients to a wider audience. Lingnan is the collective name for the provinces of Guangdong and Hainan, and the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. Middle: The stylish dining environment at Suparnin. Above from left: Fresh lobsters, mussels and shellfish from Nansha.

sauses. Double Bay Flavor pairs tender Nansha lobster with two sauces: a rich Chinese curry, familiar in the Greater Bay Area, and a kale juice sauce inspired by his time in San Francisco.

The curry offers spicy, sweet warmth, while the kale adds a herbal freshness, creating a dynamic, layered flavor profile. Liu also garnishes the lobster with crispy shallots and red clover for an aromatic finish.

He adjusts his seasoning to suit local tastes. For instance, when preparing a sauce for yellowfin sea bream, he uses a white sauce made with Hakka wine, instead of the more traditional French white wine.

Another standout, From Coastal to Basin, is an inventive take on sunflower chicken, a signature Lingnan dish.

Raised on a diet of sunflower seeds and leaves, the chicken is prized for its golden skin, tender meat, and distinctive aroma.

Liu makes it three ways: Cantonese-style boiled sliced chicken with sand ginger, Shanghai-style chicken with scallion oil, and Sichuan-style chicken, slow-cooked with hand-fermented chili for a subtle heat.

Food critic Yan Tao says that while many restaurants serve standard sliced boiled sunflower chicken, Liu's rendition pushes boundaries. "He captures the precision of Cantonese cooking, but also challenges the palate with new, complex layers," Yan says.

"The dishes are visually cohesive, elegant without being ostentatious. A meal here flows like poetry, with each course harmonizing perfectly with cocktail pairings. It's a dining experience that sets a new standard for Guangzhou's culinary scene."

Liu's dedication to sustainability is reflected in his use of everything, even the scraps, in his dishes. Sauces for his main courses are made from seafood by-products, and fermentation techniques breathe new life into often-overlooked ingredients.

"I'm still a newcomer to South China Sea seafood," he says. "It took me four months to choose the right ingredients for this menu." The current menu will last through spring, with plans for seasonal updates, including dishes featuring specialties like Zhanjiang pig and Meizhou black pork once summer arrives and fishing season ends.

Xiao Yawen, the restaurant's 34-year-old founder, has lived in Nansha for five years and wants to highlight its exceptional seafood.

"Local ingredients like yellowfin sea bream and small prawns are unique but not widely known," she says. "Through chef Liu's innovative approach, I want to bring them to the forefront, and show people their potential."

Xiao says that the restaurant — work on which began last May — turns into a bar after 9:30 pm. The cocktail list, crafted by the team at Hope and Sesame, a bar based in Guangzhou, also highlights locally sourced ingredients, resulting in a truly regional experience.

Once seen as Guangzhou's quiet "backyard garden," Nansha is emerging as a vibrant Greater Bay Area hub, drawing attention from both tourists and businesses. "The energy here is growing. More companies are relocating to Nansha, and there's a real sense of vitality," Xiao says.

During the soft opening, a couple from Hong Kong told Xiao that Nansha needed a restaurant like hers.

For Xiao though, the ultimate reward is seeing diners enjoy quality regional ingredients and go home with a memorable experience.

"Creating a place where people can relax and taste something truly special is incredibly fulfilling," she says.

Giving girls a chance at education

GWADAR, Pakistan — Saiba Asghar Ali, an eighth-grade student at the China-Pakistan Government Middle School in Faqeer colony in southwest Balochistan province, has dreamed of becoming a doctor since she was a little girl. But due to financial hardships and the lack of education opportunities for girls in the area, it was a goal she feared she might never achieve.

"There was no proper school where I live, and many girls like me were sitting at home. If China had not supported my education, I may not have had the opportunity to receive one," Asghar Ali says.

One of eight children, Asghar Ali's parents could not afford to send their girls to school. However, the building of the school with Chinese donations in 2015 opened the door to her and her sisters.

"There aren't many female doctors in our city," the 14-year-old says. "I'm working hard in school because I want to serve my community and make their lives better the way the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has changed my life."

Launched in 2013, this flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative is a corridor linking Balochistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, and focused on energy, transport and industrial cooperation in its first phase, expanding to agriculture and other forms of making a living in later stages.

Initially established to provide primary education, the 1,600-square-meter school was expanded to include a middle school in response to requests from parents and teachers and now has two teaching buildings and several additional facilities.

With around 550 students, it has become a preferred choice for parents seeking quality education for their children, and the facilities, including a computer lab and modern furniture, set it apart from other schools in the area.

Headmistress Parveen Nawaz says the school has been transformative, adding that before 2015, there were no schools in this area which has a population of about 20,000, and children spent their days playing in the streets as many families were poor, and the cost of sending their children to schools outside the colony was unaffordable.

"Thanks to China's generous support, education in the area has significantly improved, and the lives of these children have changed dramatically," Nawaz says.

She adds that the Belt and Road Initiative has directly benefited the people of Gwadar through the school.

"It has provided these children with opportunities that were once out of reach due to poverty. Now, their dreams have a chance of becoming a reality," she says.

In addition, several teachers have been awarded scholarships to study in China, enhancing the quality of education.

Tahira Akhtar, an eighth-grade student and general secretary of the school's student body, says that after completing primary school three years ago, she feared that unless the school expanded to include middle school, her education would come to an end.

"I was so relieved upon hearing the news. I could continue my studies," Akhtar says.

"Thanks to China's support, my generation has experienced the real benefits of the corridor project, and we are determined to do our part in strengthening the friendship between Pakistan and China," she adds.

The school is a beacon of hope not only for Asghar Ali and Akhtar, but for all the girls of Faqeer colony, who now have the opportunity to pursue their dreams. As the school continues to expand and improve, it is a lifeline for students eager to break free from the limitations of poverty and lack of education.

Contact the writer at liyingsue@chinadaily.com.cn

XINHUA

LIFE

All Hazel Ying Lee wanted to do was fly.

Growing up in the United States in the early 20th century, she became one of the first Chinese American women to earn a pilot's license, despite the racial and gender stereotypes of the time.

Born into an immigrant family in Oregon in 1912, Lee was one of eight children, and helped run the family business in Portland's Chinatown.

Her life was defined by her courage and adventurous spirit — qualities that led her to the skies.

In *American Flygirl*, Susan Tate Ankeny tells the story of Lee's dedication to flying — a passion tragically cut short in a fatal runway collision in 1944.

"For me, it was so special to walk in her footsteps," Ankeny told China Daily in an interview. "I was just the luckiest person in the world to have Hazel come to me."

Like Lee, Ankeny is also a Portland native.

"I know the area very well. I know Chinatown ... I know Hazel's high school, I know where she played tennis," Ankeny says. "I also know where she was buried. So, it was just an incredible honor to be asked to write about her."

The daughter of a World War II bombardier, Ankeny had previously written *The Girl and the Bombardier*, an account of her father's experiences in France. After it came out, her publisher asked her if she'd be interested in telling Lee's story.

She spent the first five months sorting through information from archives, letters, photos, writings, photo albums, family pictures, newspapers, museums and other historical sources, and finished writing the book in eight months.

"In the beginning, when I was first asked, I raised the concern that I'm not Chinese American, so would I be able to write from that experience? Of course, I can't know that experience the way a person who has lived it would," she says.

"I looked everywhere, and of course, I contacted her family, and tried to find every single thing there was about her. I ended up using pretty much everything that I could find. I used a lot of firsthand accounts to tell this story."

Through extensive research, Ankeny was able to tell Lee's life in a vivid, cinematic style, writing a narrative that captures the pilot's story with flying experiences. Her use of dynamic verbs and scene-driven writing creates a filmlike experience, allowing readers to share the sensation of soaring through the sky, making forced landings on farms, and escaping from bombing during the war.

Lee worked as an elevator operator after graduating. She discovered her passion for flying when she was 19 and joined the Chinese

Fearless about flying

First female Chinese American pilot honored in new book about her short but eventful life, **Mingmei Li** reports in New York.



Hazel Ying Lee reviews her performance after a session on a Link trainer, a mechanical flight simulator used to train pilots in navigation and instrument flying. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



Lee, the first Chinese American woman to receive a pilot's license, stands beside a Student Prince aircraft in Portland, Oregon, in 1932.

Flying Club of Portland, which had been founded in 1932 in response to the Japanese invasion of China.

At the time, China needed pilots to combat the Japanese, and many branches of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, a group made up of local merchants and businessmen, funded people who wanted to help China by becoming pilots.

Portland, which was home to the second-largest Chinatown in the US, wasn't unique in establishing a Chinese flight school — similar schools opened across the country in cities like Boston, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Many Chinese Americans, born and raised in the US as citizens, chose to join the schools, pledging, as Ankeny writes, that dying for China would take precedence over any personal relationships that might develop.

"But I also think that Hazel con-

sidered herself mostly American. She was clearly Chinese American, but remember how young she was? She was a teenager, and she did all the things that American teenagers do. But after school, she went to Chinese school, and learned to speak Cantonese," Ankeny says, adding that she could feel Lee's attachment to her parents' country of origin.

Chinese American pilots were rare, and female pilots were even rarer — but Lee was both.

"Hazel raised her hand to block the blinding glare. Her khaki coveralls — men's size 42, the only size available — enveloped her small frame. Even with the sleeves and pant legs rolled up and a belt cinched tight around her waist, the one-piece suit engulfed her ..." Tate wrote in the prologue of the book, illustrating the issue female pilots faced with the lack of properly fitting gear.

Despite this, Lee earned herself a place as a pilot.

"The fifth floor of the H. Liebes & Co department store was not high enough for Hazel Lee, 20, and an elevator operator there, so she got up early each morning to learn to fly," says a clip in the archive of the Oregon Journal. At a time when elevator operator was one of the few jobs available to women, Lee's accomplishments were celebrated.

"She drank whiskey, she gambled, she smoked cigars, and yet people loved her. She loved dog fights. The adventure, the daring — that's what fed her soul," Ankeny says.

Lee wasn't the kind of girl who fit expectations; instead, she was entirely herself.

"She just stood her ground and asked questions like, 'Why can't I do this because I'm a woman? Why can't I do that because I'm Chinese

American?'" Ankeny says.

Lee left for China with the rest of the team in October 1932, a year after Japanese forces invaded and occupied northeastern China. In addition to flying, she also wanted to visit her half-siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins who lived in her father's hometown of Taishan in Guangdong province.

However, as a woman, Lee was not permitted to fly in the Chinese Air Force. Instead, she was commissioned as an officer, and took on administrative roles, occasionally flying for commercial and private airlines.

In 1937, when Japanese forces began invading the rest of China, she was in Guangdong with friends and was forced to take shelter during bombing. She returned to the US to continue her journey as a pilot, while also working for the Chinese government as a wartime supplies buyer in New York.

When the US entered World War II following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Lee joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots, a division of female pilots who flew noncombat missions. From February 1943, she was busy transporting military planes, undertaking ferrying and administrative flights, and pursuing her dreams.

Because they were classified as civilian noncombatants, even though they flew under military command, WASPs did not receive military benefits.

"She wanted to serve China, and then she wanted to serve with the United States military," Ankeny says. "She was showing us an example of how it doesn't matter what you look like, what you believe, where you come from. This is what's so great about this story — proving that you can be patriotic to more than one country. You don't have to pick."

Throughout her book, Ankeny mentions that Lee faced a significant degree of racism, and would likely have had a very different experience in China.

"You don't have to be Chinese American or any nationality or gender to know what it's like to be told you can't do something. It doesn't matter who you are. It doesn't matter — your color, your gender, your religion," says Ankeny. "She never let anybody say, you can't do that. And at that time in our country, that was even way braver than it is now."

"I was able to find few resources in China," Ankeny says, explaining that the war had interfered with record-keeping at the time. "But I hope I opened this up for Asian Americans. There's a lot more to research about Lee, and also about China."

Contact the writer at mimgmei@chinadailyusa.com

US donor of Japanese war crime photos enjoys China visit

Standing in Tiantan Park in central Beijing, location of the Temple of Heaven, Evan Kail opened a copy of an old photo album, and tried to figure out how much things have changed over the past 90 years.

Dating back to World War II, the album contains photos of China at the time, including ones that document the atrocities committed by Japanese invaders. The US citizen, who manages a pawnshop, donated the album to China in 2022. Two years later, he decided to embark on a monthlong visit.

"I am where all these photos were taken, and to be physically present at the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven and many other sites in China over the next month," he said excitedly at the beginning of his visit.

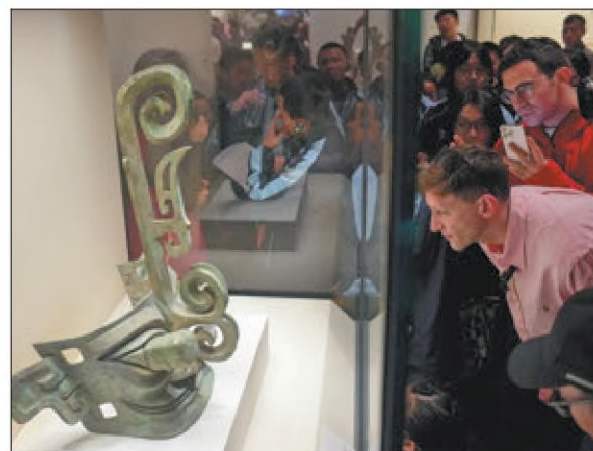
A month on, Kail says that China is different to the way it is portrayed in the media in the United States. "I recommend people from the US to come and check it out," he says.

The famous album

Before he arrived in Beijing on Nov 16, the news of his visit went viral on Chinese social media, with web users expressing their welcome, and inviting Kail to different parts of the country to have a look.

"The album is a record of the real situation of the Japanese invasion of China, and provides more historical details. In this sense, Kail deserves the respect of the Chinese people," wrote netizen Lu Xixin.

"Thanks to Kail for what he did, which will be remembered by the



Left: Evan Kail looks at a bronze mask from Sanxingdui at Beijing's National Museum of China on Nov 19. Right: Kail poses with a Chinese tourist in front of the Zhengyangmen Gate on Tian'anmen Square in the capital. PHOTOS BY JU HUANZONG / XINHUA

Chinese people," wrote another netizen nicknamed Haishangyilanghua. "Welcome to feel the warmth of the Chinese people."

The 35-year-old likes sharing his experiences on TikTok. Two years ago, he was given the photo album by one of his followers.

"They had vaguely mentioned a photo album of World War II from Asia, but they didn't provide many details, and only noted that the contents were disturbing."

Kail's first impression upon viewing the photos was that they were "gut-wrenching". He made a video about the album on TikTok two days after he received it, which attracted a great deal of public attention, particularly among Chinese.

"One of my rules when handling artifacts related to WWII is that if an item has any direct connection to a war crime, or holds potential historical significance, it doesn't belong in private hands. Instead, it belongs in a museum or a place where it can be studied and preserved for the public," Kail says. "I also wondered if the photos, if previously unknown, could have historical value beyond my means to assess."

He says he believes the album is part of Chinese history and could be of immense value to scholars, so he reached out to the Consulate General of China in Chicago and made the donation.

Japanese troops committed countless atrocities in China, the

most notorious of which was the Nanjing Massacre, which took place when they captured the then Chinese capital on Dec 13, 1937. In the space of six weeks, the Japanese killed approximately 300,000 Chinese civilians and unarmed soldiers in one of the most barbaric episodes of WWII.

People have praised Kail for shedding more light on that part of history and some have even visited his store to express their gratitude.

Kail was overwhelmed by the response. "I was fortunate enough to attend good schools, and WWII was discussed in class countless times. But to see all these Chinese people expressing such emotion was a surprise," he says.

Building connections

Kail's interest in WWII began before school. His grandfather was a captain in the US military in the Pacific. "The history of WWII was extremely significant to both my grandparents, and to my upbringing," he says.

The war deeply shaped his grandparents' lives, but like many in the US, his knowledge of China and its people, history and culture was limited. "Over the past two years, I have dedicated time to learning as much as I can about China," he says. "I've been reading books about Chinese history and culture, and studying Mandarin."

"I believe that many people in the US still know very little about China, often only bits and pieces from the

news. We should take the time to know more about this populous country and its long history," Kail says. "I have made a lot of progress, and I am looking forward to making even more on this trip."

Kail began his trip in Beijing, and spent time in Tianjin, Shanghai and Nanjing, Jiangsu province — where he visited the Memorial Hall of the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders.

"I am expecting this trip to be one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life. After studying China, I am excited to finally see it with my own eyes," Kail says. "Most importantly, this trip marks the beginning of my lifelong journey as a representative of peace, friendship and unity between two great nations."

During his time in Beijing, the American managed to glimpse the real China, which he says is different from what he learned in the US. "To be honest, there seems to be some bias in US media," he says.

He gives an example to back up his statement. "Beijing is a very clean city," he says, adding that it is often portrayed in US media as dirty and polluted.

This year, Kail has made it his mission to foster understanding through cultural exchange between China and the US.

"I believe that the key to peace is communication, and the key to communication is understanding. The best way for the two peoples to understand each other is through the medium of culture. I am excited to build upon this vision," he says.

XINHUA

SPORTS



TRACKING SUCCESS

Tracking Success delivers the inside story for global sports fans, exploring what makes elite performers tick, and providing insight into their biggest and most intriguing moments on and off the field of play.

ATHLETICS

CATCHING UP WITH KIPCHOGE

Kenyan marathon legend offers insights into his philosophy for running, and life, during his latest visit to China

By LI YINGXUE
liyngxue@chinadaily.com.cn

After celebrating his 40th birthday, legendary Kenyan marathon runner Eliud Kipchoge recently embarked on his fifth visit to China, where he embraced local culture, indulged in eating dim sum, and experienced Chinese kung fu.

His journey also took him to major cities such as Beijing, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, where he connected with local runners, shared his experiences, and offered insights into his training philosophy. "The plan is to meet as many Chinese as possible before I conclude my tour," Kipchoge explained.

Wherever Kipchoge goes, runners naturally flock to join him. This trip was no exception, as fans gathered to train alongside him, eager to glean wisdom from one of the greatest athletes of all time.

During his time in China, Kipchoge explained the driving forces behind his training regime, and spoke about the discipline that has powered his marathon success. His goal is clear: to inspire a new generation of runners in China. With his remarkable journey as a backdrop, Kipchoge hopes to encourage more people to take up running, and believes China is poised to become a powerhouse in the marathon world.

"I trust that, if I don't get to meet the Chinese runners, then they will follow me on social media to know that we have been in China, to know what I've been doing here and my philosophies. And I trust what I'm doing will actually help them," he said.

During this visit, Kipchoge also sat down for a conversation with Zhang Chaoyang, founder and CEO of Chinese internet company Sohu. Zhang observed that Kipchoge's extraordinary achievements are a reflection of his serious, disciplined approach to life.

"Enduring high-intensity training every day for months — not just physically, but mentally — presents a unique challenge," Zhang remarked. "It's a matter of strength and belief; no amount of talent alone could achieve this."

Kipchoge shared that his ambition extends beyond simply winning races. His true goal, he explained, is to push the limits of human endurance and inspire others in the process.

Zhang noted that Kipchoge's pursuit has transcended mere passion or interest, becoming a fundamental part of his values and beliefs. It is this profound inner conviction, Zhang suggested, that propels Kipchoge to run faster and continually break his own boundaries.

Road to superstardom

Kipchoge was born in Kapsisiywa,



Clockwise: Eliud Kipchoge celebrates after winning the gold medal in the men's marathon at the Tokyo Olympics on Aug 8, 2021; At the finish line of a special course in Vienna, Austria, where he became the first person to break the two-hour barrier in a marathon on Oct 12, 2019; Warming up with a group of Chinese children during his recent visit to China in November. AGENCIES

Kenya, and raised on a farm. As a child, he would often ride his bicycle to sell milk, and run to and from school each day.

In 2002, he began focusing on running, initially specializing in the 5,000 meters, a discipline he pursued for 11 years. In 2013, Kipchoge transitioned to marathon running, embarking on another 11-year journey that would redefine the sport.

With a remarkable "10 consecutive wins" record, he cemented his place as one of the greatest marathoners of all time.

He has frequently remarked: "Marathons are like life, because both are full of challenges." From his debut marathon in 2013 to breaking world records twice, winning Olympic gold twice, and famously breaking the two-hour marathon barrier, Kipchoge has not only achieved extraordinary personal milestones, but also inspired a global community of runners.

"I enjoy running marathons. I enjoy training for marathons. I love to run long distances — to feel that exhaustion, to feel the effort," he said.

Looking back on his career, Kipchoge attributes his journey to a deep love for running and a desire to showcase his talent on the world stage.

"My original dream was just to compete and represent Kenya. And

Fact Box

Name: Eliud Kipchoge
Birthdate: November 5, 1984
Nationality: Kenyan
Sport: Long-distance running, specializing in marathons
Olympic medals:
2004 Athens Games: Bronze, 5,000m
2008 Beijing Games: Silver, 5,000m
2016 Rio Games: Gold, marathon
2020 Tokyo Games: Gold, marathon
World records:
Held the marathon world record multiple times
Awards: IAAF Male Athlete of the Year 2018, 2019
Motto: "No human is limited"



Legendary Kenyan marathoner Eliud Kipchoge (left) was keen to experience different elements of Chinese culture during his recent visit to China in November, where he also trained with local running enthusiasts. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

make life good," he said. "Then life changes, and my thinking changes, and I got a new idea of pushing the limits — that's what I've been doing since."

At this year's Paris Olympics, Kipchoge withdrew from the marathon at around the 31-kilometer mark, missing the chance to secure a historic third consecutive Olympic gold.

Struggling with physical discomfort, he slowed to a pace that saw him alternating between running and walking. As runners passed, many offered words of encouragement to the legendary Kenyan.

After stepping off the course, Kipchoge chose to pass on the support he had received. He stopped on the track to wait for the last-place finisher, Mongolian runner Ser-Od Bat-Ochir, offering words of encouragement as he completed the race in two hours, 42 minutes and 33 seconds.

Around 300 of Kipchoge's dedicated fans walked alongside him for the final two kilometers, staying with him until he exited the race. As a gesture of gratitude, Kipchoge gave away his race gear — his uniform, socks, shoes and race number — to the supporters who had cheered him on.

After the race, Kipchoge said it was the worst marathon he had ever participated in, noting that he had never before retired from a race. He

drawed a comparison with boxing: "Five months of training, then knocked out in two seconds."

Love of the sport

Following his Olympic setback, Kipchoge opted to take a break and rest, a much-needed pause after a remarkable career marked by dominance and resilience. "There are things you can't prevent, what has happened has happened. One way (to deal with things) is to convince my mind to move on and try to fulfill what has been on my bucket list," he said.

With a running career spanning over two decades, Kipchoge attributes his enduring drive to a profound love for the sport. "The inspiration that I am still into, the general humanity in this world, is what motivates me to wake up early every morning and go for a run," he said.

Among his many milestones, Kipchoge views his sub-two-hour marathon as his most significant achievement. "I aim to shift the mindset of the running community, to show it that we are not limited — neither in our minds, nor in our pain, nor physically," he reflects.

For Kipchoge, the greatest reward in marathon running is not the competition or the records, but the fulfillment that comes from completing the race. "It's not just about running to win or breaking records. It's about the satisfaction you feel after finishing a marathon — knowing that you can run anything, that you can accomplish anything in this world."

For years, Kipchoge has adhered to a strict daily routine. His day begins at 5 am, when he rises for a morning run. Afterward, he returns home for a tea break, followed by some light exercise before lunch. In the afternoon, he heads out for another run, then spends the rest of the day focusing on recovery and relaxation before preparing for bed.

"Repetition is making your mind adapt to what you have been doing every day. Repetition means making a muscle adapt to training every day," he said.

To avoid injuries, Kipchoge keeps his approach simple: consistency in training. He stresses the importance of not missing a session whenever possible. "Even if you miss running for 20 kilometers, just run for five kilometers to keep the momentum in your muscles and your mind. Make sure that your practice, your mind, and your muscles endure for running every day — this is the easiest way to keep away the injuries," he said.

"The more you run, the fitter you will become. The more you run, the more your mind will work, more vividly and faster than that person who is not running."



Online
Watch the video by scanning the code.

