

WORLD: CHINESE PEACEKEEPERS WIN KUDOS P.30 | BUSINESS: DOUBLE SUPPORT FOR ECONOMY P.40

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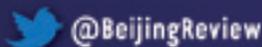
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Defending the International Order

Though 75 years have elapsed, the aspiration and founding mission of the United Nations—world peace and development—must not change.

We recognize and commend the UN for its contributions to the cause of peace and development. It has set up an international order and system centered on the purposes and principles laid down in its charter, established a collective security mechanism, and advanced peaceful settlement of disputes. Many regional conflicts have been brought under control, and the world as a whole has maintained peace and stability.

Also, the UN adheres to the principle that all countries, big or small, are equal, and strives to carry forward the spirit of democracy.

Taking development as its goal and following the trend of economic globalization, the world body has mobilized global resources and implemented the Millennium Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Billions of people across the world are on the road to modernization, and a large number of developing countries have embarked on the fast track of development. The 193 member states of the UN are sharing the

fruits of that development.

However, major changes, unseen in a century, have begun to appear and the sudden outbreak of the novel coronavirus pandemic has accelerated their pace. With hegemonism, protectionism and unilateralism rising, some countries and political forces are advocating isolation and decoupling, undermining international cooperation.

It is also an attempt to provoke confrontation of ideologies and social systems that would put the world, which has already gone through two world wars, in danger again.

Therefore, in this period of great changes, the international community should concentrate on unity and cooperation to cope with the challenges and uphold global governance featuring multi-lateralism.

We should work together to build a community with a shared future for all and contribute to creating an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world with lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

China, as the world's largest developing country, will continue to fulfill its responsibilities as a major country under the new circumstances, and contribute its share to world peace and development. ■

WRITETOUS



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STEPPING OUT IN STYLE

Tourists watch a dance performance at the Yellow Crane Tower, a landmark in Wuhan, Hubei Province in central China, on October 1.

Top scenic sites in Hubei, once hard hit by the novel coronavirus disease, received over 2.07 million visitors during October 1-7, local authorities said.

This year, National Day, October 1, coincided with the Mid-Autumn Festival, as per the lunar calendar. So the annual week-long holiday was extended till October 8.



Cornucopia

A farmer harvests corn in Xituan, a village in Zhuozhou, Hebei Province in north China, on October 7.

Railway Tunnel

A tunnel on the new Chengdu-Kunming Railway was drilled through on October 7, marking another step toward the completion of the project.

The new railway, which runs almost parallel to an existing one between the two cities, is a key project linking Sichuan and Yunnan provinces in southwest China.

The tunnel is on the Emei-Miji section of the railway, the only section that has not been opened for operation yet, according to the China Railway No.5 Engineering Group, which participated in the construction of the tunnel.

With a designed speed of 160 km per hour, the new railway will greatly improve the passenger and cargo transport capacity in the southwestern region.

Organic Products

The number of organic product labels issued in China last year reached 2.12 billion, a marked growth from the previous year, according to the State Administration for Market Regulation, Xinhua News Agency reported on October 6.

In 2019, some 809,800 tons of labeled organic products were sold, while the total trade reached 67.82 billion yuan (\$10.03 billion).

From 2015 to 2019, the number of organic product certificates issued in China registered an average annual growth of 13.76 percent.

The most frequently purchased organic items include vegetables, fruit, grain and dairy products.

E-commerce platforms, supermarkets and farms have become the main channels to buy organic products.

Durian Festival

A four-day online durian festival was launched in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south China on October 5. The 2020 China-Malaysia (Guangxi) Online Durian Festival started in a duty-free store in the pilot free trade zone in Guangxi.

Following the ceremony, people bought 300,000 durians within 51 minutes.

Besides the main venue in Guangxi, two other venues for the festival were set up in Malaysia.

Hainan Transport

By 2025, the southern island province of Hainan will have a modern and comprehensive transport system, according to a report by Xinhua on October 4.

The network will comprise five

civilian airports with the Haikou Meilan International Airport, Sanya Phoenix International Airport and Qionghai Boao International Airport as its core and the other airports supplementing them, according to a plan released by the National Development and Reform Commission.

The plan targets 40 million passenger trips a year for Hainan's high-speed railways and 40,000 km of highways in the province.

It will enhance Hainan's role as a free trade port (FTP), an ecological civilization pilot zone and an international tourism and shopping center.

On June 1, a master plan was issued for the Hainan FTP. The province will be developed into a globally influential, high-level FTP by the middle of the century.

Registration Reform

China has accomplished in advance a plan to settle about 100 million people in towns and cities thanks to its fast-paced household registration reform, Xinhua reported on October 7.

The proportion of people who have a *hukou*, or household registration status, in towns and cities, reached 44.38 percent by 2019, up from 35.93 percent in 2013, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

A guideline on the *hukou* reform issued in 2014 set a goal to help around 100 million people obtain the status in towns and cities by 2020.

Policies for rural dwellers and other permanent residents to get household registration status in urban areas have been relaxed.

An open and transparent household registration system based on the points applicants earn has been implemented in megacities like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

Established in the 1950s, the *hukou* system classified the population into rural and non-rural categories to control the movement of people between areas. Household registration, tied to one's place of

residence, is needed to access basic welfare and public services.

Elderly Care

China Development Bank plans to issue 100 billion yuan (\$14.7 billion) of loans for elderly care services over the next five years, Xinhua News Agency reported on October 8.

The loans will support 300 leading elderly care service providers and the development of senior care systems in 300 cities to cope with population aging.

By the end of August, 38.6 billion yuan (\$5.7 billion) had been lent to support senior care programs in 30 provincial-level regions.

The bank said it will continue to provide financial aid to such programs while strengthening risk control.

Cruise Ship

The largest roll-on/roll-off cruise ship in Asia set out for its maiden voyage from the coastal city of Yantai, Shandong Province in east China to Dalian in Liaoning Province in the northeast, on October 7, according to the local authorities.

The *Zhonghuafuxing*, meaning rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, is 212 meters long and 28.6 meters wide with a gross tonnage of 45,000 tons. Its 461 guest rooms can accommodate 1,689 passengers while its three-deck hold can park over 300 vehicles.

The passenger ship, independently developed and built by

Chinese companies, has the largest tonnage and capacity among ships of its kind in Asia.

Animation Festival

The 16th China International Cartoon and Animation Festival in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province in east China, concluded on September 27. The six-day event attracted 10.86 million visitors online and offline.

The event, originally planned to be held from April 30 to May 5, was postponed due to the novel coronavirus epidemic.

Despite the impact of the epidemic, over 5,800 industry insiders and 2,600 enterprises and institutions from China and 65 foreign countries and regions participated in the event.

During the festival, more than 1,500 letters of intent for cooperation were signed and more than 100 new animation films were screened. The contractual investment signed during the festival exceeded 250 million yuan (\$36.8 million).

Remote Surgery

A medical team has performed a remote radical cystectomy—removing the bladder—on a patient 3,000 km away with the help of a domestically developed surgical robot using 5G technology, Xinhua reported on October 6.

Professor Niu Haitao with the Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao

University in Shandong Province in east China successfully completed the operation on a patient in the Xixiu District People's Hospital in Anshun, a city in Guizhou Province in southwest China, through a surgical robot.

The robot accurately removed the lesions in the targeted area. At the same time, holographic

projection technology enabled Niu to interact with the patient and medical staff with almost no time lag.

The patient was diagnosed with bladder cancer three months ago and was in dire need of surgery after the condition suddenly exacerbated. The entire operation was carried out smoothly with no apparent bleeding or other complications.



Bookworms

Children read at a bookstore in Hohhot, capital city of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in north China, on October 5, during the National Day holiday.



Scenic Village

Tourists visit Niu Huang, a village in Chongqing in southwest China, on October 6. The village has improved its infrastructure, created signature landscapes, and renovated residential houses to boost tourism.

Bond Connect Trade

The trading volume under China's Bond Connect program in September reached 419 billion yuan (\$61.7 billion), according to a monthly report released by the Bond Connect Co. Ltd.

The program saw a total of 5,270 trade tickets, with an average daily turnover of 19 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) in September, the report said.

By the end of the month, the program had 2,171 approved investors, including 74 of the top 100 global asset management companies.

The Bond Connect program, launched in July 2017, is a mutual market access scheme that allows overseas investors to invest in the Chinese mainland's interbank bond market using financial institutions on the mainland and in Hong Kong.

Tax Cuts

Tax and fee cuts totaled 1.88 trillion yuan (\$276.06 billion) in the first eight months of the year, according to the State Taxation Administration.

The preferential tax and fee measures unveiled in 2020 to support economic development and novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) containment saved 1.17 trillion yuan (\$172 billion).

The remaining 706.2 billion yuan (\$103 billion) was reduced as a result of the large-scale tax and fee cuts rolled out last year.

These policies have boosted market vitality and achieved notable results, Cai Zili, an official with the administration, said.

Around 92 percent of over 50 million small taxpayers were exempt from value-added tax. For the remaining 8 percent, the tax

rate was lowered from 3 percent to 1 percent, Cai said. The tax was exempted in Hubei, the province badly affected by COVID-19.

In July and August, the number of new market entities handling tax-related business increased by 15.9 percent and 21.2 percent year on year, respectively, surging from the 7.1-percent growth in the second quarter. Meanwhile, the measures reduced the labor costs of enterprises and ensured the stability of employment, Cai said.

Besides, the purchase of hi-tech equipment and services by 330,000 enterprises that enjoy preferential tax policies on research and development (R&D) rose by 24 percent in the first eight months.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, the authorities have unveiled a slew of new tax and fee relief measures.

Taxation services have also improved. Corporate taxpayers can currently conduct more than 90 percent of tax-related business online.

Online Payments

The number of online payment service users reached 805 million by June, up 37 million from March, according to a statistical report on China's Internet development.

The report, released by the China Internet Network Information Center on September 29, said June's number accounted for about 85.7 percent of China's total Internet population.

The number of mobile payment users expanded to 802 million, or 86 percent of mobile Internet users, according to the report.

The first half of 2020 saw the total amount of online payments increasing by 18.61 percent year on year to nearly 197 trillion yuan (\$29 trillion), it added, citing data from the People's Bank of China.

The report also found new growth potential for the online payment market. The proportion of online payment users aged 40 and above grew by 4.5 percentage points from March to June, while the proportion of rural online payment users increased by 2.7 percentage points.

Foreign Debt

There was a steady rise in outstanding foreign debt in the first half of this year amid government measures to facilitate cross-border financing, data from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange showed.

Outstanding foreign debt stood at \$2.13 trillion by the end of June, up \$75.1 billion from the end of 2019, an increase of 3.7 percent.

The increase came as a raft of measures were issued to facilitate cross-border financing to support COVID-19-hit enterprises.

Among the measures, the government adjusted a key parameter in its macro-prudential management



Growth Points

Villagers place beds for growing edible fungus in a greenhouse in Luannan, a county in Hebei Province, north China, on October 7. The county's annual edible fungus output surpassed 10,000 tons, boosting local farmers' income.



Weaving a Better Future

Workers make rattan furniture at a resettlement site in Yuping Dong Autonomous County, Guizhou Province in southwest China, on October 7. Poverty-relief workshops provide a steady income for over 2,600 people from nine resettlement sites in the county.

in March to allow domestic firms to take on more foreign debt while cutting administrative red tape to save time and costs for companies.

The increase in foreign debt is the combined result of continued opening up, policies to facilitate cross-border financing as well as bullish sentiment among international investors toward the Chinese market, according to the administration.

It said the scale of foreign debt is reasonable while the structure has seen improvement, stressing that the risk of foreign debt is generally controllable.

Investment Catalyst

Infrastructure investment will lead China's recovery from the COVID-19 epidemic, as policy support continues to boost growth over the next two to three years, according to a report released by credit rating agency Moody's in September.

To boost economic growth through infrastructure investment,

the government has announced stimulus policies to reduce financing costs, broaden funding channels and ease fiscal constraints on regional and local governments and state-owned enterprises, Ivy Poon, Moody's Vice President and senior analyst, said.

While innovative and green infrastructure investment is a new focus, traditional infrastructure projects, such as those targeting major transportation and water conservancy, will continue to be a key driver of infrastructure spending, according to the report.

Guo Qingqing, Moody's analyst and co-author of the report, expected transportation to steer infrastructure development over the next three to five years, as urbanization continues and passenger numbers and freight demand increase.

"Investments will be mainly focused on railway infrastructure in central and western regions, together with the expansion of high-speed rail, road and metro networks," Guo said.

Tech Rebound

Beijing's tech hub Zhongguancun has reported a robust economic rebound, with the total revenue of its major hi-tech enterprises surging by 9.9 percent year on year to 4 trillion yuan (\$589.2 billion) in the first eight months of this year.

Zhongguancun, dubbed China's Silicon Valley, is home to some leading Chinese information technology companies as well as startups. The electronic and information sector's total revenue rose by 17.5 percent year on year to 1.93 trillion yuan (\$284 billion) from January to August, according to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics.

Other major sectors that contributed to the rebound included bioengineering and new medicine, which reported total revenue of 158.2 billion yuan (\$23.2 billion), up 7 percent year on year.

The total R&D expenditure of the major hi-tech enterprises in the

area surged nearly a quarter year on year to 182.8 billion yuan (\$26.8 billion).

Poverty Relief

An e-commerce platform selling products from China's poverty-stricken areas has seen its sales exceed 3.1 billion yuan (\$455.2 million).

Fupin832.com was co-founded by the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives, the Ministry of Commerce, and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development. It sells products from 832 counties that are or were on the state list of poverty-stricken areas. Over 68,000 agricultural products are available on the website launched on January 1.

To support poverty relief through the consumption of products from poor areas, the platform has integrated online display, trading, logistics tracking and payment.



Festive Spending

Consumers shop at a duty-free store in Haikou, capital of Hainan Province in south China, on October 4.

Hainan increased its annual duty-free shopping quota from 30,000 yuan (\$4,419) to 100,000 yuan (\$14,730) per person on July 1. Duty-free sales in the province topped 8.6 billion yuan (\$1.27 billion) in the following three months, an increase of 227.5 percent year on year.

THIS WEEK WORLD



SERBIA

Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure Zorana Mihajlovic and Zhang Xiaoyuan, Director of China Road and Bridge Corp. Serbia, sign an agreement to build the Fruska Gora Corridor, watched by President Aleksandar Vucic and Chinese Ambassador to Serbia Chen Bo in Belgrade on October 6. The \$715-billion project entails a 47.7-km multi-lane road, a tunnel and a bridge across the Danube River



EUROPEAN UNION

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announces legal action against the United Kingdom in Brussels, Belgium, on October 1, alleging that the latter's Internal Market Bill breaches the Brexit deal reached in January



ITALY

People wear masks at the Piazza Venezia in Rome on October 6. The government announced that the national state of emergency, first declared on January 31, would be extended for at least one year





AFGHANISTAN

Security forces inspect a car bomb explosion site in Shinwar District, Nangarhar Province, on October 3. At least 15 people were killed and 42 others wounded in the blast, blamed on the Taliban, and ensuing gunfight



NEW ZEALAND

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern casts her advance vote at a polling station in Auckland on October 3. The general election will be held on October 17 as well as two referendums on assisted dying for the terminally ill and legalizing cannabis use



SWEDEN

The Nobel Committee for Chemistry announces the two winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm on October 7. Emmanuelle Charpentier with the Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens in Germany and Jennifer A. Doudna from the University of California, Berkeley, were chosen for their work on genome editing



↓ YOUNGEST WINNER OF XPLORER PRIZE 2020

Huang Qianqian, a 30-year-old assistant professor at the Department of Microelectronics, Peking University, has become the youngest winner of the Xplorer Prize, an annual public-interest award that recognizes inspirational Chinese scientists younger than 45 working full-time.

Huang, a PhD, spent over nine years researching microelectronics and solid-state electronics. In 2017, she became a doctoral supervisor at Peking University. Two years later, she was named in the 30 Under 30 China list by *Forbes*, highlighting 30 high-achievers under 30 in different fields.

The Xplorer Prize was instituted in 2018 by Tencent CEO Pony Ma, Professor Rao Yi of Peking University, and other scientists. Tencent Foundation provides 3 million yuan (\$439,800) to each award-winner in five years.



Boosting New Consumption

People.com.cn

September 23

The General Office of the State Council has recently issued a guideline on accelerating new consumption based on new business forms. It says related institutional mechanisms and policy systems will be improved within five years.

By 2025, the government will foster several demonstration cities and leading enterprises for new types of consumption. At the same time, online retail sales of physical goods will be increased, promoting new

types of consumption, such as Internet Plus services.

Domestic demand is a driving force for China's economic growth, where consumption plays a vital role. New forms of consumption, such as live-streaming shopping, have achieved significant performance amid the prevention and control period of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The guideline, calling for fostering market competitiveness, cultivating new growth points, lowering tax burdens and improving the business environment, provides details for the long-term development of new consumption.

It will help create a new development pattern where the domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay.

Physical Education

Beijing Youth Daily

September 24

In the future, schools should reduce students' academic burden and leave time for physical exercise, a Ministry of Education (MOE) official said at a press conference on September 22. He said teachers should assign physical activity-related homework to make sure students acquire sports skills.

According to the conference, physical education reform in schools should prioritize health knowledge and basic sports skills. Like math and foreign languages, students should also practice what they learn in physical education classes after school.

The General Administration of Sports of China and MOE will collaborate to boost physical education and improve students' health at all levels. The two departments will organize events for students, further reform sports schools, and build sports teams at colleges and universities to select and cultivate sports talent.

The health of students in China has improved in recent years, with physical education in school playing a significant role in that process. But the situation could be better if resources from the sports administration and MOE could be integrated.

To make it happen, the two departments released a document on September 21, reaffirming the idea of

“It is very hard to separate out these particular actions against TikTok and WeChat from the fact that they are taking place in the context of President Trump’s trade war with China, as well as the president’s history of anti-Chinese rhetoric and xenophobia.”

Hina Shamsi, Director of the National Security Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, at a webinar on September 24

“The goal is not a quantitative indicator of GDP, but more importantly, a quality-based indicator, which includes [economic] structural upgrading, coordinated development, innovation-driven growth and productivity improvements in all aspects.”

Liu Wei, President of Renmin University of China, in an interview with *China Daily* on September 28, saying it is entirely possible for China to achieve the goal of building a well-off society in an all-round way by the end of the country's 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period



YIP HING

Students play a game in a physical education class in Changchun, Jilin Province, northeast China, on September 5

“health comes first” and agreeing to develop physical education and students’ health.

Schools should ensure physical education teachers prepare lessons that are scientifically organized. Also, they need to give feedback with incentives. Parents should cooperate with schools and help students finish their sports homework.

Slow Employment

China Comment

September 22

The COVID-19 epidemic is slowing down the pace of young people seeking employment. Many graduates are not in a hurry to take up jobs unless it is an ideal job offer, and these are much fewer due to the epidemic. This is creating a trend of slow employment among young people.

Also, a secure job, such as civil servants’, has become the preferred option.

Parents’ financial support and tolerance of young people taking time to find a suitable career have led to a lack of pressure and impetus for them to get a job immediately.

In addition, as more new job designations, such as online shop owners and live-streaming anchors, are being accepted as proper jobs, graduates are less eager to take up traditional occupations.

Though it might show a more mature perspective of modern youth on employment, this slowdown in their getting employed may cause new problems. Graduates should have a clear plan for their career development. It is reasonable for graduates to expect a job with a good pay and a promising future, but they might miss the best job while waiting for the ideal offer.

In the worst case, the slowdown may develop a reluctance to work and evasion of employment.

NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Jiang Xiaoyan, a former counselor of the Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been named its deputy director general. She has also worked as spokesperson at China’s mission to the European Union and counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Suriname.

The appointment makes Jiang the third new deputy director general in 2020. Now, there are four deputy directors general with Hua Chunying, spokesperson and director general, heading the department.

The Information Department is responsible for releasing information on major diplomatic events in China and stating the Chinese foreign policy. It guides overseas diplomatic missions and provides service to the permanent offices of foreign media organizations and foreign journalists in China. It also covers public diplomacy and information collection and processing.



“Overseas investors have been purchasing more Chinese bonds this year with a decent return amid the global zero-rate environment, ongoing global reserve diversification and inflows as a result of the two prior bond index inclusions.”

Candy Ho, global head of renminbi business development for global markets at HSBC, commenting on the inclusion of Chinese Government bonds on the FTSE World Government Bond Index starting in October 2021

“It’s the one time where both Chinese and Western companies can come together, showcase their innovation, provide their lessons learned and make more connectivity. I think it’s a terrific platform.”

Shane Tedjarati, President of Honeywell Global High Growth Regions, commenting recently on the coming 2020 China International Import Expo

Editor's Note: Given the sheer magnitude of the UN's mission, it is a tall order to present a panoramic review of the world body's journey over the past 75 years. In this issue, we therefore focus on a few aspects of the UN's work through the eyes of officials and academics. We hope their insights into issues that remain pertinent even today will inspire and inform more deliberations on the UN's evolving role and the enduring value of the fundamental principles it upholds.





RECOVERING BETTER, RISING STRONGER

It is critical that the UN spearheads efforts to build partnerships through a networked multilateral system By Liu Zhenmin

The importance of the development of societies gained global attention in the aftermath of World War II. The need for economic recovery and the birth of many nations as a result of decolonization emerged as cornerstone issues that would guide succeeding deliberations at the United Nations.

As early as the 1960s, with the first UN Development Decade (1961-70), and currently with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN has made promoting development a central pillar of its work.

This prevailing development agenda has evolved in close connection with the need for international cooperation. As early as the late 1950s, the UN argued that development required a sustainable approach to policy formulation, and that policy decisions had to help bring about the structural and institutional changes needed to advance socioeconomic development.

Rather than merely identifying and adopting certain policies, the coordination of policies is a central challenge for policymakers. For this reason, international cooperation is considered the foundation for development, and progress requires political will and policy coherence at national and international levels.

The connection between international cooperation and development thus embodies how the UN has approached development challenges throughout the last 75 years.

The European Recovery Program (better known as the Marshall Plan) implemented after the end of World War II helped Western European countries reconstruct their economies and recover financial stability. The solidarity shown under the first UN Development Decade and under the Millennium Development Goals (2000-15) led to success in reaching key development outcomes, including poverty reduction. And today, the global coordinated effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 is integral to country efforts to address their social, economic and environmental challenges.

Even as the UN reflects and inspires international cooperation and development, the economic turbulence of the last decade is evidence that global mechanisms must be continually strengthened if they are to protect the most vulnerable countries and populations from the effects of crises.



Liu Zhenmin

Under Secretary General,
UN Department of
Economic and Social
Affairs

The global financial crisis in 2008-09 and subsequent global economic turbulence in financial and economic markets ushered in an era of low growth, low investment, low inflation and low interest rates in developed countries. Anemic growth continues to challenge countries and the international community to achieve sustained and robust growth and an enabling environment for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The macroeconomic concerns are compounded by large-scale trends such as population growth and population ageing, urbanization, technological change, inequality and climate change.

UN response to COVID-19

As the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic spread rapidly across countries, the UN mobilized a system-wide response, which is documented in its report, the UN Comprehensive Response to COVID-19.

The UN continues to provide support to countries around the world in tackling the compounding challenges emerging from the pandemic. The response has been motivated by the overriding objectives to reduce vulnerabilities to future pandemics; build resilience to future shocks including climate change; address systemic inequalities that have been exposed by the pandemic; and leave no one behind.

In pursuing these objectives, the UN's strategy is based on three pillars. The first pillar entails the delivery of a large-scale, coordinated and comprehensive health response. Guided by the World Health Organization, the UN is supporting measures to address the global health crisis, including accelerating efforts toward a COVID-19 vaccine, and expanding access to affordable diagnosis and treatment.

The second pillar involves the adoption of supportive policies to address the devastating impact of the crisis on socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights conditions in many countries. The UN's humanitarian response to the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable countries has helped to save many lives.

In addition, the UN has called upon the Group of 20 members and the international financial institutions for debt relief and restructuring for the most vulnerable



COVID-19 control materials donated by the United Nations Children's Fund are ready in Shanghai to be sent to Hubei, the hardest-hit province in China, on March 1

countries, particularly the least developed countries. It has also emphasized the need to prevent and respond to the increased violence against women and girls during this period.

The third pillar seeks a process that recovers better from the pandemic. Instead of returning to unsustainable practices, the world needs to step up efforts toward promoting more equal, inclusive and resilient economies as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda.

To achieve this, the UN is renewing calls for addressing key sustainable development issues, including the transition to renewable energy, sustainable food systems, gender equality, stronger social safety nets, and better preparedness for health emergencies.

The UN continues to stress the importance of creating an international cooperation architecture that can effectively address the problems and challenges of today.

Leveraging its experience and expertise, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs has made significant contributions to the UN COVID-19 response, providing real-time assessment of the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic and identifying policy options for the member states to enhance resilience, manage the fallout of the crisis and recover better.

UN role after COVID-19

In the post-COVID-19 world, the UN will continue to play its central role in implementing the SDGs, facilitating dialogues and decision-making and supporting countries to translate intergovernmental consensus on sustainable development into actions on the ground.

The UN must also remain instrumental in facilitating the collection and sharing of development knowledge and data, which is critical in guiding the policy responses to the pandemic at every step, from response to recovery.

Yet, for the world to truly recover better, the international community must reexamine many longstanding assumptions about development and recalibrate the development paths that are not fully compatible with



One key lesson from the COVID-19 crisis is that establishing robust universal healthcare and social protection systems must no longer be treated as objectives to be achieved in distant future, but rather as immediate goals

sustainable development. The UN can work with countries to pursue the development approaches that best fit the post-COVID-19 world.

For example, one key lesson from the COVID-19 crisis is that establishing robust universal healthcare and social protection systems must no longer be treated as objectives to be achieved in distant future, but rather as immediate goals.

We are at a historical juncture where there are immense opportunities to advocate policies that put people and the planet at the center. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the UN has been mobilized to conduct an impressive range of policy work. Not only has the UN system acted in a concerted manner, but we also act with a great sense of urgency. Indeed, policy actions taken now will determine how the world can transition to a fair and sustainable one that is capable of effectively managing future crises.

The UN also needs to work with the international community to reimagine the way countries cooperate. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of multilateral cooperation, as diseases know no boundaries. As the pandemic continues to inflict significant damages globally, the world needs a more inclusive and effective multilateralism—one that is based on the ideals and objectives enshrined in the UN Charter and other intergovernmental agreements, and built on trust that is based on international law.

It is critical that the UN system spearheads the efforts to build and maintain partnerships through a networked multilateral system, in which multilateral and regional organizations, civil society, businesses, academics, scientists and governments of all levels work together. The multilateral system must respond to the hopes, fears and insecurities of the people we serve. And only with that, the future we want can be secured. ■

Copyedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
Comments to yanwei@bjreview.com

UN Action: 11 Facts

The UN



Combats pandemics: leads the global response to the unprecedented COVID-19

Provides food and assistance to

86.7 mln
people

in **83 countries**



Supplies vaccines to **50%** of the world's children,

helping save **3 mln** lives a year

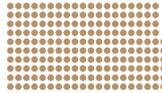
Assists and protects

82.5 mln
people

fleeing war, famine and persecution



Works with **196 nations**



to keep the global temperature rise below 2°C/3.6°F

Keeps peace with 95,000 peacekeepers



in **13 operations** around the world



Tackles the global water crisis affecting over



2.2 bln people worldwide

Protects and promotes human rights globally and through



80 treaties/declarations



Coordinates \$28.8 billion appeal for the humanitarian needs of

108.8 mln
people

Uses diplomacy to prevent conflict and

assists some **50 countries** a year with their elections



Helps over

2 mln women a month

overcome pregnancy and childbirth complications



UN Peacekeeping

Since 2008, the UN has reduced the cost per troop by **17 percent**

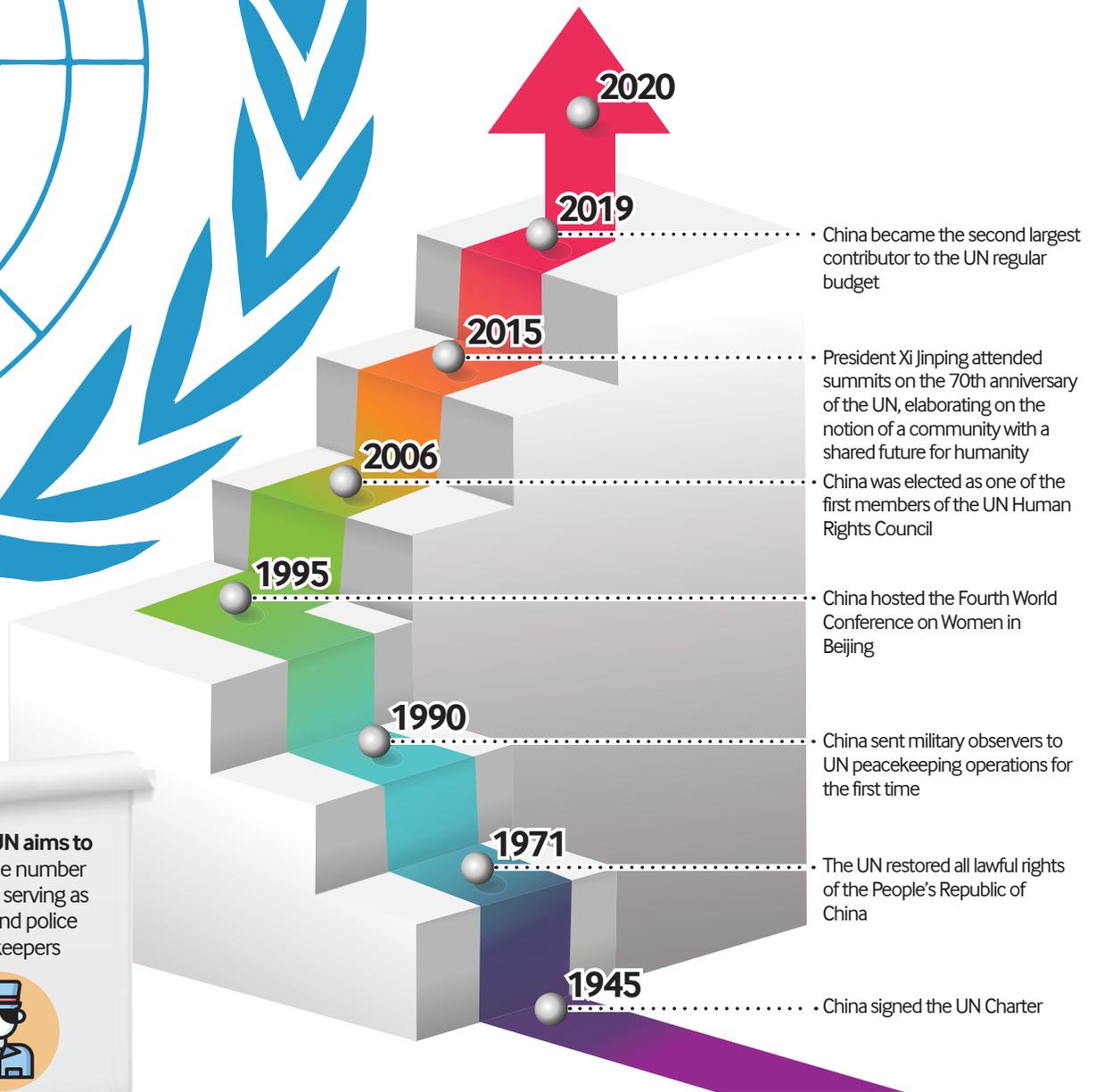


The annual budget is less than **0.5 percent** of global military spending





Milestones in China's Participation



By 2020, UN aims to **double** the number of women serving as military and police peacekeepers



(Sources: Xinhua News Agency, official website of the United Nations; designed by Pamela Tobey)

A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL

Beate Trankmann, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in China, tells *Beijing Review* about the cooperation between the UNDP and China and what the results mean for the world. This is an edited excerpt of the interview:

Beijing Review: What is going to be the focus of development in the post-novel coronavirus pandemic period?

Beate Trankmann: The world that emerges post-novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) will be very different and how we respond and adapt during this period will impact the future direction of our planet. As such, it is absolutely essential that we take advantage of this moment to reemphasize the growing urgency of shifting to a low-carbon economy.

The costs of ignoring the rules of climate science were laid bare by COVID-19. A warming climate damages the natural environment, shrinking wildlife habitats and forcing animals and humans into closer contact. This makes it more likely that viruses will jump across species.

If climate change increases, the risk of future pandemics increases with it. As we recover from the pandemic, we must also heed the warnings of our warming world for greater resilience from future shocks stemming from a changing climate.

The most effective way to do this is to adopt a “new normal” that is compatible with the boundaries our planet has set. This calls for ideas, solutions, and models that are both sustainable and comprehensive, connecting the social, ecological and economic aspects of development.

The unprecedented global response to COVID-19 has already proven that this new normal is possible. The habits that quickly developed during the pandemic—such as working from home, contact-free services, and reduced travel—demonstrates that we can operate under a low-carbon, green model. For the first time in world history, we even saw a virtual Group of 20 summit.

We should build upon these habits and mainstream them into government and organizational policies, as well as our own behavior. Such changes should be accompanied by further incentives for renewable investments, ensuring a future that is low-carbon, resource efficient, socially inclusive and less vulnerable.



Beate Trankmann

Resident
Representative of
the United Nations
Development
Programme in China

China is well-positioned to provide global leadership in this effort. The country is at the forefront of solar technology and low-carbon transportation, including high-speed rail, bike sharing, and electric vehicles. It has one third of the world’s wind power, a quarter of its solar capacity, six of the top 10 solar panel manufacturers and four of the top 10 wind turbine makers.

During the pandemic, China has shown the benefits of embracing digital technology. Indeed, its digital economy has been a major factor in its ability to shield citizens and companies against the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns, while bolstering the economy.

In the push to adopt green models, we must also remember to support the most vulnerable and make sure to leave no one behind. For example, while the development of digital infrastructure and online services shows great potential for lowering emissions without sacrificing economic growth, not everyone has equal access to technology, nor are they equally capable of using it.

Despite China leading the world in installed bandwidth thanks to massive investments into information technology infrastructure, a digital divide remains between rural and urban citizens. Internet penetration in Chinese urban areas is 76.5 percent while that in rural areas is 46.2 percent. Reducing these types of inequalities will be critical to ensure that everyone can enjoy the long-term benefits of a greener, digitized economy.

The transition to a green economy must be as inclusive as it is environmentally conscious.

How is the UNDP working with China to tackle climate change?

During the last 10 years we have implemented 15 projects in China. Our climate change-related work is mainly funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), one of the biggest multilateral trust funds to address global environmental issues. Our work also encompasses projects funded by international development partners, the private sector, and through Chinese local government co-financing.

A prime example of the UNDP and China working together to tackle climate change is our provincial climate change program (2010-14), which assisted in the establishment of climate change divisions within the provincial development and reform commissions in 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions across China.

Other initiatives that have been contributing to fighting climate change seek to transform industries and sectors, such as our project on phasing out energy-inefficient incandescent lamps. It introduced energy-saving lamps and helped transform local lighting manufacturing to produce energy-efficient appliances for public spaces, such as LED lamps, resulting in reductions of carbon dioxide emissions by 4.4 million tons.

We have also been engaged in transforming the construction sector and introducing energy-efficient building materials and production methods. In

particular, we introduced energy-efficient bricks and production technologies to rural brick-making plants that supply rural housing projects. By better insulating houses, not only did the efficiency reduce people's heating bills, it also led to a cumulative reduction in carbon dioxide emissions amounting to 1.6 million tons.

For almost two decades, the UNDP has promoted hydrogen-based clean energy solutions in China. Together with the Ministry of Science and Technology, the UNDP is currently supporting the development and commercialization of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles in partnership with the GEF.

The UNDP also assisted in the creation of China's national emission trading system, which is the largest emission trading scheme in the world. In Zhejiang, home to some of the largest logistics companies, we have furthermore worked to green the logistics industry, combining operational efficiency, environmental friendliness and energy efficiency for more sustainable logistics operations.

How has the UNDP contributed in poverty alleviation work in China?

Since the early beginning of establishing our office here in 1979, the UNDP has been a partner in China's development and poverty alleviation has been central to our cooperation with China.

Our contributions fall under three main categories: i) providing technical and policy advisory services, ii) scaling up sustainable solutions for development, and iii) sharing the best practices with China as well as between China and other developing countries.

For example, the UNDP has supported China in transitioning from economic growth-centered measurements of development to a multifaceted system to measure developmental progress that includes dimensions such as social protection and environmental sustainability. As a result, China's 12th Five-Year Plan



While every country context is different, China's targeted, bottom-up approach to poverty alleviation does offer valuable lessons for the global fight against poverty

(2011-15) included 23 development indicators that were developed with technical advice from the UNDP.

Our technical task force program is an example of co-creating a blueprint for a sustainable development solution that subsequently can be adopted by the government to take it to scale. This was established to propel farmers into the 21st century by linking them with environmentally friendly and locally relevant technologies, thereby not only increasing their income, but also connecting them to markets. Since 2008, 1 million farmers have benefited each year, with a 10-percent average annual increase to their incomes.

Finally, to facilitate international exchanges of best practices, the UNDP has helped establish the International Poverty Reduction Center in China aimed at creating a global knowledge hub on poverty reduction. The center has provided government officials and experts from developing countries all over the world with training and expertise on poverty reduction and sustainable development.

What does the eradication of absolute poverty in China mean for the world?

China's size and scale mean everything that it achieves also has global ramifications. This applies to the progress made domestically on human development. China's success in eradicating poverty over the last 40 years has been historic and is making a significant contribution toward the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1—ending poverty worldwide.

While every country context is different, China's targeted, bottom-up approach to poverty alleviation does offer valuable lessons for the global fight against poverty. Importantly, it has taken a long-term perspective with sustained political commitment over decades across all levels of government and systematic investments both in terms of financial and human resources.

Based on a detailed assessment of local conditions, China identifies down to the household level where the poor are, what they lack, and what they need—region by region, village by village. This has informed the design and implementation of tailor-made interventions specific to each county and village.

China is also increasingly engaging on the international scene and becoming an important source and driver of connectivity-related infrastructure investments and lending in many other developing countries. As a funder of development overseas, it is critical that it moves in a way that safeguards global public goods, is well aligned with the SDGs and context fit for the needs of developing partner countries.

One particular aspect in this regard is to apply harmonized standards compatible with SDGs to development financing. This then can assist in bringing in investments to the Belt and Road and other South-South cooperation countries that are environmentally sustainable while also being inclusive. ■



Michelle Yeoh (front center), a UNDP Goodwill Ambassador, poses for a photo with embroidery workers in a project focused on women's empowerment in Yunnan, southwest China, on January 20, 2018

Comments to yanwei@bjreview.com

BRINGING NATIONS TOGETHER

During a recent exclusive interview with *Beijing Review*, former French Prime Minister **Jean-Pierre Raffarin** shared his view on the role of the United Nations and China-France cooperation within its framework. He also stressed that France and China have a common understanding that the UN must reform. An edited excerpt of the interview follows:

Beijing Review: How do you evaluate the UN's work in the past 75 years?

Jean-Pierre Raffarin: The UN, established in the wake of World War II, was the splendid manifestation of an exceptional will for peace. The supreme body for dialogue among all nations, it has enabled the longest period of peace in modern history. The UN Security Council, peacekeeping operations... there have been many peace initiatives during this period.

However, the world has changed a lot since its establishment 75 years ago. Africa is no longer the same, Asia has changed, the rules and the balance of power continue to change. To save multilateralism, the UN must reform and adapt to the new world situation.



Jean-Pierre Raffarin

Former French Prime Minister

How do you view the importance of the UN, the World Health Organization (WHO) in particular, in coordinating global response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)?

During the COVID-19 crisis, nations have generally played the national protection card rather than that of international cooperation. This is unfortunate because by definition, viruses know no borders. As far as vaccines, treatments and prevention programs are concerned, international solidarity is more relevant than ever. Efforts must be made to strengthen WHO rather than weaken it. France and China have a common understanding in this respect.

Facing new challenges such as pandemics and climate change, what reforms should the UN undertake?

The priority must be to bring nations together. It is not acceptable that when a nation encounters difficulties, it decides to slam the door on multilateral organizations. This is what has happened with the

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and this year with WHO, and to some extent, with the World Trade Organization (WTO). Multilateralism does not make sense without the U.S., nor would it make sense without China.

The UN must ensure the representativeness of its bodies. The Security Council should also review certain of its aspects to improve its functioning and regain its referee function.

The UN should have the means to strengthen its partnership with regional organizations. This is par-



Patients at the Sanaa International Airport, Yemen, board a UN plane to go abroad for treatment on February 3

ticularly true with regards to African organizations. We must always seek to strengthen the legitimacy of the UN.

Against the backdrop of U.S. unilateralism and trade protectionism, will the globalization and multilateralism represented by the UN continue to move forward? What is the future of humankind—globalization, partial globalization, or a retreat to isolation?

The importance of the UN correlates with dialogue in global governance. By attacking cooperation and dialogue, unilateralism attacks multilateral institutions such as the UN, WTO, UNESCO, WHO... Isolationist, inward-looking attitudes lead straight to the most severe tensions, even to war. International cooperation promotes peace. Exchanges enrich nations, by creating value.

Of course, global governance can be complex, and a balance must be found between sovereignty of various countries and the need for cooperation. It is normal that every nation seeks to protect its independence, but the best way to do that is certainly not by isolation or protectionism. Only by sharing common rules can we strike a balance, the source

The priority must be to bring nations together. It is not acceptable that when a nation encounters difficulties, it decides to slam the door on multilateral organizations



of international harmony. A peaceful future depends on our ability to invent “regulated globalization.”

The past decades have witnessed China’s rapid growth and its increasing participation in the UN. How do you assess China’s role in the UN?

China has played a major role at the UN for the past seven decades. Everyone has noticed the country’s commitment to peacekeeping operations and also President Xi Jinping’s visits to the UN headquarters in New York City (2015) and Geneva (2017), and in particular, to Paris (2014) to deliver an important speech on cultural diversity at UNESCO.

China has also often stepped up to make up for certain countries’ failure to respect their commitments, notably the case of the U.S. at the UN, UNESCO and WHO.

The UN is the home of multilateralism. This is where the survival of world governance based on a charter of values is at stake. Major causes such as peace, the fight against poverty, respect for diversity and protection of the planet are areas of convergence that can make it possible to overcome differences and create a bright future for humankind.

China and France are both founding members of the UN. How do you evaluate their cooperation within the UN framework on issues such as climate change?

France and China both speak in favor of multilateralism. But are they talking about the same sort of multilateralism? Since we have to invent multilateralism for the 21st century, it seems to me that joint French-Chinese efforts regarding new multilateralism must be a priority in our cooperation.

We have demonstrated our capacity for action by working together on the Paris Agreement on climate change. We must build on this common will in a concrete way.

France and China have participated in major international aid initiatives. The delivery of Chinese medical goods to France has been particularly appreciated. Our current cooperation within the UN could be strengthened in several areas such as Africa’s development, investment rules, conflict prevention, the revival of WTO, public health issues, the fight against poverty, promoting the UN Children’s Fund... The main thing is to cooperate for peace. ■



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THE GOLDEN KEY

China remains committed to multilateralism for global peace and development

By Li Jie

Admitted by many and reviled by others, the United Nations has had a bumpy ride over the past three quarters of a century. With both advantages and limitations, no one can deny that the UN has evolved into the most representative, authoritative and full-fledged cooperation platform that is the centerpiece of global governance and the international system.

It has made indelible contributions to maintaining world peace and promoting sustainable development and made possible the wide acceptance of a people-centered philosophy, and a broad consensus on the need for mutually beneficial cooperation. It has driven home that in an era of intertwined traditional and non-traditional security threats with interconnected interests of all countries, the world is increasingly an indivisible community with a shared future.

Building a stronger UN

Now the world has seen profound shifts, accentuated by the enormous impact of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Economic globalization faces unprecedented headwinds. Protectionism and bullying are resurging. Deficits in governance, trust, peace and development are widening. International rules and multilateral mechanisms are under attack, and the international landscape is filled with uncertainties and destabilizing factors. The road to common prosperity remains tortuous.

That said, we must recognize that peace and development are the prevailing trend of our times. Globalization and multi-polarization are moving forward despite twists and turns, a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is gathering momentum.

To build a stronger UN, it is crucial to adhere to multilateralism. The contemporary international order, which is based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, is virtually made possible by the vision and practice of multilateralism.

To uphold multilateralism in the new era, the following principles need to be followed:

Adhering to international law and universally recognized norms governing international relations. Practicing multilateralism is, first and foremost, about



Li Jie

Counselor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China

upholding the UN Charter. Past experience shows that adherence to the charter brings tranquility. When its principles were flouted, put aside or applied selectively, the results were catastrophic: conflict, chaos, death, disillusion and mistrust.

At a time when the world is wrestling with the COVID-19 pandemic, rising geopolitical tensions and growing climate disruption, the charter points the way to the solidarity we need today and across generations. Our shared challenge is to do far better in upholding the charter's values and principles, adhering to the framework that has kept us together.

State-to-state relations, therefore, should observe the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, honor agreements, and be based on credibility, not impulse or willful revocation of commitments.

China opposes any acts of arbitrary distortion of international law. A selective or utilitarian approach, which smacks of hegemony, can never be accepted. Bullying tactics like long-arm jurisdiction and unilateral sanctions are rejected.

Promoting peace and development. No matter what approach they take, all acts of multilateralism should lead, as their ultimate objective, to the promotion of world peace and development.

If the West enjoys prosperity and progress while the rest are mired in backwardness, multilateralism can never be truly implemented and the common progress of humanity would never be possible. In a globalized era, the circle of development beneficiaries will be extended. Only when more countries get to develop can the international community be empowered and there be more partners in our joint response to challenges.

China respects the choices of Western countries, and will draw on the experience of developed countries to work for shared prosperity. The West also needs to eschew its subconscious belief in the superiority of its civilization, and abandon its prejudices and anxieties against China.

It needs to respect the choices of the Chinese people, and accept the growth of a major country in the East, for China's development and rejuvenation is an important part of human progress and embodies the colorful diversity brought by multilateralism.



Chinese COVID-19 control experts visit a clinic run by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in Ramallah on June 15

Living up to the overarching principles of fairness, justice and win-win cooperation. Equality and mutual respect are important tenets of multilateralism. We must abandon ideological prejudices and the outdated Cold War mentality, respect other countries' choice of development paths, and oppose imposing one's own values on others.

As artificial intelligence, 5G, bio-tech and other advanced technologies shape the development of the global economy, countries are duty-bound to provide a fair, equitable and non-discriminatory environment for foreign businesses to invest, operate and pursue cooperation.

The new round of scientific and technological revolution should provide fresh driving force for common development and better opportunity shared by all countries. We need to encourage innovation cooperation to foster new drivers of growth, reject technological monopoly, digital hegemony, and the attempt to create technological divide.

We must resolutely fight against any self-



We must resolutely fight against any self-claimed supremacy, abuse of national power to suppress innovative enterprises from other countries, interference in business operations and the distortion of the global market

claimed supremacy, abuse of national power to suppress innovative enterprises from other countries, interference in business operations and the distortion of the global market. We must work to create a fair, just, and non-discriminatory environment for international scientific and technological cooperation and enterprise innovation.

Acting to deliver real results. Multilateralism is not about making empty rhetoric. It must be pursued to solve problems. Efforts must be targeted, results-oriented, and measured by visible progress. It is imperative that we work together to uphold the international system with the UN at its core as well as the multilateral trading system centering on the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Beneath states and nations, ideas and languages, lies the fate of individual human beings in need. Success in tackling challenges not only lies in diplomacy, but also comes from the empathy and responsibility we feel toward people in need.

China's role

The People's Republic of China has been upholding the international order and multilateralism. Though once kept out of the UN for 22 years, it has never wavered in its commitment to multilateralism and the UN Charter.

It stayed true to its commitment throughout the negotiation process on its return to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and then accession to the WTO, negotiations that lasted 15 long years and were concluded at a certain price. It fulfilled its promise and integrated itself into the world economic system.

After the international financial crisis broke out, China chose not to stand by idly but to work together with other countries to tide over rough times. For years, China has contributed over 30 percent of global growth. It has played its part in helping restore global recovery.

China has all along been a promoter of world peace, injecting positive energy into the evolving international architecture. It has been a defender of the international order, bringing stability to the global governance system, and a facilitator of globalization, making major contributions to building an open world. China has all along been a contributor to world development, providing sustained driving force for global growth.

In the new context, China will continue to shoulder its responsibilities and make its contribution as a major country, provide more global public goods and play its part to promote world peace and development. ■

A CROSSROADS FOR THE UN

The world body needs to reflect new global realities **By Josef Gregory Mahoney**

The recent speeches by world leaders to the UN General Assembly were by in large notable for three reasons. First, most countries acknowledged the 75th anniversary of the international organization, praising its good work while recognizing the need for reforms. Second, most also expressed a commitment to multilateralism in global affairs, citing the ongoing novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as a compelling justification for international cooperation. Third, the U.S. administration, however, as expressed by President Donald Trump himself, used the venue to denigrate the organization and attack China in particular.

In a typical U.S. presidential election year one can expect normal niceties and diplomacy to be sacrificed for whatever wedge issue candidates are using to shave votes from each other given perpetually tight races and polarization. U.S. presidents are most powerful in terms of their almost unchecked power in foreign policy, and when a president is struggling domestically like Trump is presently, it's not uncommon to resort to shows of strength in foreign affairs.

The only problem is that American power isn't what it used to be, comparatively. Sure, the United States is still the most powerful country in the world, but COVID-19 and increasing evidence of a broad and deep systemic failure in governance that has accelerated during the pandemic have seen a large number of leading figures conclude that the greatest existential dangers facing the country are those it has created for itself.

Meanwhile, Trump's attempt to export America's problems by blaming and holding others responsible accounts for his near constant attacks on strategic competitors and allies alike, and his increasing abandonment of international organizations and international law has made his rhetoric a tired echo, particularly in a speech to the world's leading multilateral organization.

A new era

Chinese President Xi Jinping has repeatedly signaled a "new era," one in which China is transitioning from being a major country to a major power, but he has also used the description more broadly.

While almost everyone would now agree that the pandemic alone is a clear threshold signaling a new era, multilateralism has reached a critical threshold as well.



Josef Gregory Mahoney

Professor of politics at East China Normal University in Shanghai

This was made clear in Xi's speech to the UN General Assembly on September 22 where he reaffirmed China's support for the UN and other international organizations, called for global cooperation to resolve the pandemic, offered Chinese assistance for a global vaccine strategy, and called for more South-South cooperation and equal treatment for developing countries.

In 2009, Yu Keping, one of China's leading intellectuals, observed that China typically joined international organizations as a means of building, not surrendering autonomy. What's most interesting of course is that other countries, particularly the United States, allowed China to join these groups with the understanding that it would in some way help contain China's rise and preserve above all American power.

That American power has declined despite these efforts and that China has sustained and reinforced sovereignty and autonomy while becoming more integrated globally signal that Beijing's strategy has worked while Washington's hasn't. So while we might ascribe Trump's anti-multilateralism, xenophobia and racism and so on as being symptomatic of a man out of step with the times, it's not surprising the United States has become less enchanted with a system it can no longer manipulate for its own national interests.

This brings us to one of Trump's most incredible criticisms in his speech, namely, that the UN is too susceptible to authoritarian governments. Is it not the case that the U.S. Government historically has been authoritarian in its foreign policy?

Is it not the case that the United States has historically manipulated the UN by hook or by crook to advance its own agenda? Is it not the case that the U.S. presidency—which historian Arthur Schlesinger described critically as the "imperial presidency" given its power in foreign affairs—has operated in authoritarian ways during the Cold War era following the establishment of the UN, and more so after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and even now, with an unabashed recourse to unilateralism?

Is it not therefore strangely fitting if not ironic that Trump's criticism, which he obviously directed at China, was in fact more a truism of the United States' own history with the UN?

Yu's observation of why China joins and supports international organizations remains valid in part but the

sometime criticisms from other quarters that China has not taken an active leadership role in international organizations no longer are.

It's clear that China is embracing a leadership role in the absence of the same from the United States, offering to be a bulwark for multilateralism and the international system, including the UN.

Additionally, China has asserted the need for more justice for developing countries in these organizations. As the only developing country among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, as one of the new global health powerhouses, as a leading source of new tech and innovation and outbound foreign direct investment, and as the home of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, China's willingness to both play by the rules and contribute to global post-pandemic recovery and development needs ought to appeal to most countries in the world while also standing in stark contrast with what is coming now from the United States.



The need for reforms

The need for reforms in the UN and other international organizations is compelling. The UN itself was created under very different geostrategic circumstances that existed at the end of World War II, and while the United States eventually became the world's sole superpower, that position is eroding. This is to say that the system needs to be substantially reformed in order to reflect new global realities, including new dangers like global warming and the reemergence of great power competition, as well as the ongoing danger of a global pandemic and likely more to come.

As a rising major country committed to multilateralism, it's clear that China has many important roles to

China has the capacity, opportunity and responsibility to help lead reforms

play in reforming these organizations. On the negative side, a key objective must include organizing international resistance to U.S. reform proposals that either are disingenuous, as we have seen with U.S. proposals for the World Health Organization, or aim to twist the UN and other organizations once again in ways that privilege its own interests above others.

On the positive side, China needs to take a global leadership role helping reform these organizations for better global governance, peace and security. To do this, it needs to prioritize these efforts in its foreign policy, study and share with others how these organizations should be reformed, join working groups with other nations for consultation and consensus building, then help push the results through the international organizations diplomatically and democratically and ensure they are implemented effectively.

And it should do this above all because no other country in the world is more experienced with the challenges of reforming large organizations and bureaucracies than China is. China is literally the global leader of reform.

If we look at the Chinese experience over the course of reform and opening up—no other country has demonstrated a similar capacity for that kind of work. Conversely, other leading countries, including above all the United States and to a lesser degree others including Japan, have become stuck in declining positions because they are unable to reform even themselves. So in this sense, China has the capacity, opportunity and responsibility to help lead reforms. ■

Comments to yanwei@bjreview.com



YIHHKX

Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly, opens the general debate at the UN headquarters in New York City on September 22

THE U.S. ROLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS

It remains to be seen if the shift to less global engagement is an aberration or the new normal for U.S. foreign policy By Jon Taylor

As the 75th anniversary of the UN, perhaps this is as good a time as any to discuss the United States' role in the organization—particularly in light of President Donald Trump and his administration's efforts to de-emphasize multilateral relations and global governance mechanisms.

The U.S. played a pivotal part in the founding of the UN in 1945. Much of the world's rules-based structure for international law, regional security arrangements, trade agreements, immigration rules and cultural exchanges has been profoundly influenced by the U.S.

For decades, the U.S. has provided one of the largest financial contributions to the UN's overall budget. It hosts the UN headquarters in New York City and sits as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

While they have had many disagreements over the past decades, until 2017 the U.S. supported both the UN's multilateralism and its role in enhancing the rules-based international order. Much of the United States' involvement in the UN was because it often served to support U.S. power interests.

'Principled realism'

However, since 2017, under the Trump administration, the U.S. has chosen to take a different approach to both multilateralism and the rules-based international order. By abandoning decades of U.S. foreign policy consensus, the Trump administration has taken a less predictable, more business-like transactional approach to bilateral and multilateral relations, and advocates neo-mercantilism, nationalism, and less interest in broad alliances.

Therefore, it should come as little surprise that Trump sees the United States' relationship with the UN as, at best, a net negative—one that he believes impedes U.S. interests. In fact, Trump himself described this approach during a speech to the UN General Assembly in 2018 as "principled realism."



Jon Taylor

Professor of political science and chair of the Department of Political Science and Geography at the University of Texas at San Antonio

The current U.S. approach to the UN might best be characterized as a form of aggressive neglect, highlighted by funding cuts to the UN Secretariat, a number of UN agencies including the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization (WHO), and less interest in engagement. This is in line with Trump's approach to foreign policy that is more nationalistic and confrontational. The result is that his isolationist "America First" diplomacy is diminishing U.S. influence at the UN, most recently symbolized by formal letters from 13 of the 15 Security Council members who opposed the Trump administration's attempts to extend the economic embargo on Iran.

Rather than taking a more globalist and multilateral approach to foreign relations like China or its closest allies, the U.S. is increasingly using the UN—particularly the Security Council—as a venue to air political grievances and make threats. One only has to recall then U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley's threat to other nations who failed to support the U.S. decision to move its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Less global engagement

Since taking office, Trump has pushed for major funding cuts by the U.S. to UN agencies. Such cuts will likely force the UN to undergo significant structural changes that may or may not all be to the United States' liking. While Trump has pressed for both monetary cuts and withdrawal from a number of UN agencies and commissions, it should be noted that U.S. support of the UN has not been a high policy priority for quite some time now.

Currently, the U.S. has opted out of major international agreements and owes the UN over \$1 billion in outstanding dues. In early July, the Trump administration gave a one-year notice to the UN officially advising their intention to withdraw the U.S. from WHO. It's notable that this action by Trump is in violation of a U.S. law that requires approval of the Congress.



YINHX

A meeting of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action Joint Commission reaffirms its commitment to preserving and implementing the Iran nuclear deal in Vienna, Austria, on September 1

But because any withdrawal cannot take effect until July 2021, if Joe Biden becomes the new U.S. president, he could simply revoke the withdrawal upon taking office.

The Trump administration's withdrawal from UN organizations and its monetary obligations reflects an increasing exhaustion and cynicism with global affairs among a significant minority of the American public, fueled by years of war and now by a pandemic. While it often opposes multilateralism and cooperation with international organizations, it's ironic that American unilateralism could actually impede needed reforms within the UN and its various agencies. If the U.S. wants to improve the UN's accountability, the Trump administration would do well to use its substantial financial clout to press for reform.

Currently, an important question for both the UN and the global community is if the shift to less global engagement during the Trump administration is an aberration or the new normal for U.S. foreign policy. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, it serves U.S. interests to be a fully engaged member on multilateral issues. Unfortunately, the last four years have seen a reversal of decades of U.S. engagement



As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, it serves U.S. interests to be a fully engaged member in multilateral issues. Unfortunately, the last four years have seen a reversal of decades of U.S. engagement with the UN and the world

with the UN and the world.

Trump's recent speech to the UN underscored his pursuit of disengagement, confrontation, and scapegoating. Rather than being globally focused, Trump appeared far more interested in scoring some domestic political points during a highly contentious presidential election by focusing the bulk of his speech attacking China, describing COVID-19 as the "China virus"—a term widely considered to be xenophobic. He even accused China of allowing people to leave China in the early stages of the outbreak in order to infect the world while shutting down domestic travel.

Contrast Trump's bombastic railing against China with President Xi Jinping's speech, which pressed for enhanced global governance, multilateralism, and cooperation. Unlike Trump's speech that exaggerated his achievements and blamed China for a host of tendentious offenses, Xi urged a global effort to defeat COVID-19, rejected any attempt to politicize the pandemic, and called on WHO to take a leading role in the fight. The contrast between the two leaders and the state of current China-U.S. relations and U.S. global engagement couldn't have been clearer.

The UN's effectiveness as a global organization depends on the leadership of the U.S., China and the world's other great powers. Consistent American engagement with the rest of the world, including the UN, is essentially needed. The United States' involvement in the world body advances America's strategic goals while also promoting global economic prosperity and humanitarianism. ■

Comments to yanwei@bjreview.com

Recovered



The 2030 Agenda

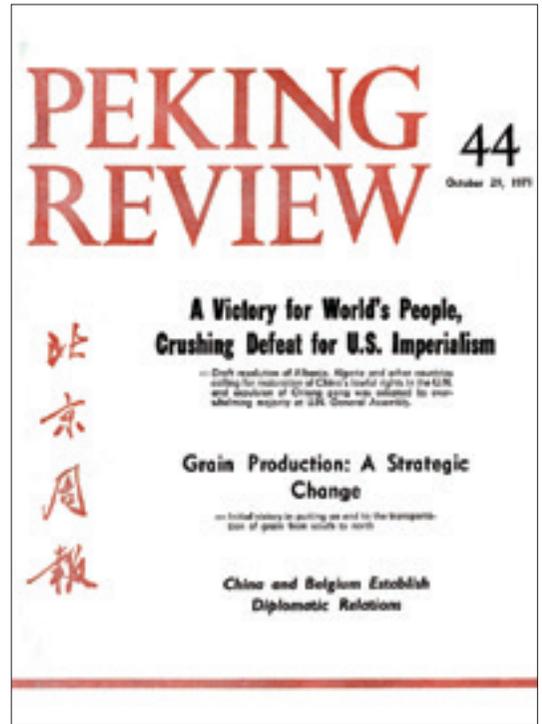
**Issue No.42,
October 15, 2015**

The 70th anniversary of the UN was one for the history books. At the UN Sustainable Development Summit on September 25, 2015, UN members adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. *Beijing Review's* cover story was on this, highlighting the urgency of the SDGs and how to achieve them.

Lawful Seat Restored

**Issue No.44,
October 29, 1971**

On October 25, 1971, the UN General Assembly adopted a historic resolution to restore all lawful rights of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the UN after an overwhelming majority of votes in its favor. It marked "a victory for world's people," the magazine, then called *Peking Review*, noted. This issue presented the text of the resolution and the voting results.



The UN's 50th Anniversary

**Issue No.31,
July 31-August 6, 1995**

The cover story reviewed 50 years of the UN with the cover images recording some unforgettable moments of China's participation in UN activities: Dong Biwu, a member of the Chinese delegation, signing the UN Charter in San Francisco on June 26, 1945; Vice Foreign Minister Qiao Guanhua and Huang Hua, the PRC's first permanent representative to the UN, at the 26th UN General Assembly on November 15, 1971; and Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping attending a UN special session on April 10, 1974, where he declared China would never seek hegemony.



CHINA MOSAIC

Weekly video commentary direct from Beijing

中国3分钟



Blue Helmets for Peace

China's contribution to UN peacekeeping changes lives around the world

By Ma Miaomiao

When the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) hit the mission area of the UN peacekeeping force in Mali, the first confirmed cases were reported in the eastern sector on April 16. A Chinese peacekeeping medical unit responded quickly to set up isolation wards and carry out detection, quarantine and other protective measures.

The area is on the southern rim of the Sahara, characterized by prolonged droughts and high temperatures. The Chinese medical personnel had to change shifts every hour due to the harsh working conditions, with the thick protective suits obstructing their breathing, layers of masks chafing their faces and ears, and dripping sweat stinging their eyes behind goggles.

Zhu Siqiang, Commander of the Seventh Chinese Level 2 Hospital in the UN

Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), said among the three such hospitals in the area, the Chinese facility was the only one that not only maintained normal operations during the epidemic, but also reported no in-house infections.

In addition to treating COVID-19 patients, the hospital also set an example for the local community in preventing and controlling the virus, and helped strengthen residents' confidence in defeating it. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and head of MINUSMA, sent a letter to Zhu on June 25, speaking highly of the Chinese medical team's role in the COVID-19 response in Mali.

A key force

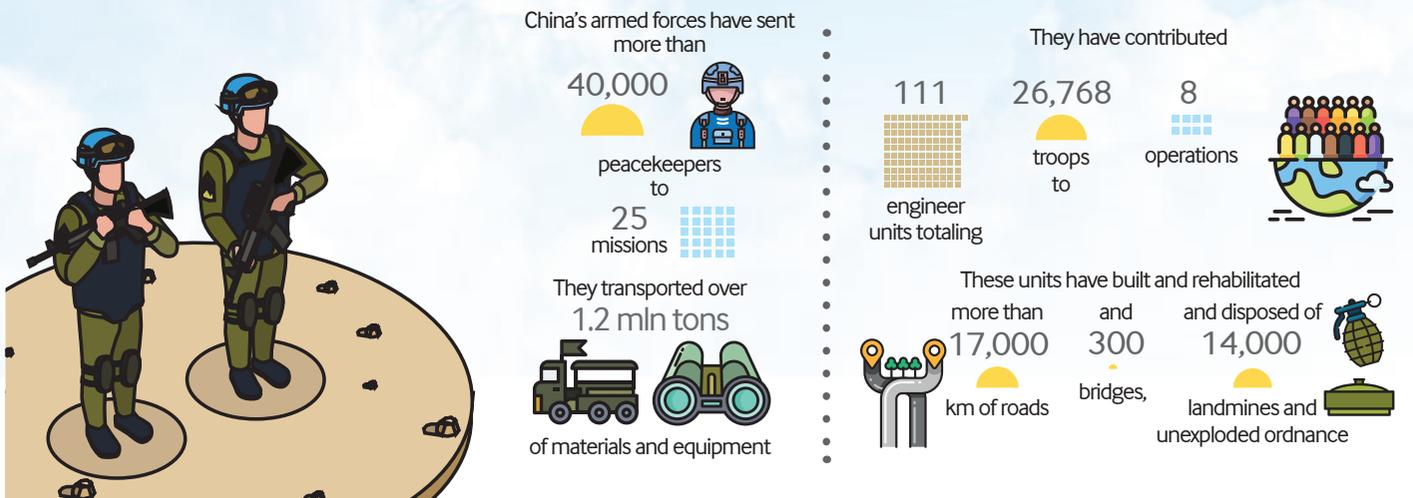
According to a white paper released by the State Council Information Office on

September 18, Chinese peacekeepers have made a tremendous contribution to facilitating the peaceful settlement of disputes, safeguarding regional security and stability, and promoting economic and social development in host nations.

In April 1990, five Chinese military observers were dispatched to the UN Truce Supervision Organization for the first time, marking the start of China's participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

Since then, more than 40,000 Chinese officers and soldiers have taken part in 25 UN peacekeeping deployments, serving in engineering, medical, transport, helicopter, force protection and infantry units, and as staff officers, military observers and seconded officers. This makes China the largest source of peacekeeping troops among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council,

China's Participation in UN Peacekeeping Missions





overtaking Britain, France, Russia and the United States. It is also the second largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget, with its share reaching 15.22 percent for 2019-21.

Gao Chaoning, Commander of the 18th Chinese Multifunctional Engineering Company in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, told *Beijing Review* that Chinese peacekeepers have participated in demining operations with zero casualties over the past 14 years. "We have set the record of fastest speed, highest quality, and lowest cost and casualties in completing the demining mission assigned," he said.

Demining operators need to wear protective suit weighing at least 5 kg, and work in a kneeling position for hours. Gao's team cleared 10,427 square meters of minefields and disposed of 1,577 landmines and unexploded ordnance near the UN-demarcated Blue Line

border between Lebanon and Israel from May 2019 to August this year.

The Chinese blue helmets have left their footprints in over 20 countries and regions including Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia, Sudan, Lebanon, Cyprus, South Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic.

In March 2017, intense conflicts broke out in Yei, a border town in South Sudan. Seven UN civilian staff were trapped in the area and 12 Chinese soldiers were assigned to the rescue immediately.

"Despite threats and dangers, they outmaneuvered the militants, defeated three interception attempts and successfully evacuated the trapped personnel. This timely and efficient operation was hailed as an exemplary model of rescue operations by members of the UN Mission in South Sudan," Mi Xiugang,

Company Commander of the Third Chinese Infantry Battalion to South Sudan, said.

According to the white paper, more than 1,000 Chinese military women have served under the UN flag. They work in medical support, liaison, coordination, demining, explosive ordnance disposal, patrol, observation, gender equality promotion, protection of women and children, and other fields.

Guan Zhumiao went to Mali in 2015, working as an interpreter for the Chinese Level 2 Hospital. The country is afflicted by frequent suicide attacks, roadside bombs and other terrorist assaults. The hospital's staff had to hide in bunkers at midnight during the Christmas holiday in 2015 while the local situation deteriorated. Guan said she never turned off her mobile phone during her tenure in case of emergencies.

On May 28, 2016, Guan returned to China ▶▶

They have provided medical services to over



sick and wounded people

In September 2017, China completed the registration of a UN peacekeeping standby force of



China-UN Peace and Development Fund financed

52

peace and security projects to a total value of

\$33.62 mln

from 2016 to 2019

In the past five years



from more than 60 countries

China's due fiscal obligations to the UN as a developing country in 2020

\$336,780,502

accounting for

12%

In 2018, China's share of the UN peacekeeping budget for 2019-21 was raised



(Source: *China's Armed Forces: 30 Years of UN Peacekeeping Operations*; designed by Pamela Tobey)



Chinese peacekeepers donate supplies to a primary school in South Sudan on August 26, 2015

after completing her mission. Four days later, Shen Liangliang, a 29-year-old Chinese peacekeeper, was killed in a terrorist attack when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated at the UN camp where she had stayed. "We should work hard to maintain peace and stability around the world," she said.

Over the past 30 years, 16 Chinese peacekeepers lost their lives on duty.

Showered with praise

Far from home, Chinese peacekeepers have participated extensively in humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction operations in their mission areas, making concrete efforts to bring peace and hope to war-afflicted peoples.

Cai Hui, an associate professor at the National University of Defense Technology and senior instructor at the Peacekeeping Affairs Center under the Ministry of National

Defense, told *Beijing Review* that Chinese peacekeepers have a clean discipline record. "It is a good tradition that we have followed consistently," he added.

Sudan's Darfur region, which lies on the edge of a desert with complex geology, is one of the regions afflicted by the nation's most severe water shortages. From 2007 to 2013, Chinese peacekeepers drilled 14 wells in the most difficult circumstances, alleviating the water scarcity for the locals.

In April, Uvira in east DRC was devastated by a rare flood. A Chinese peacekeeping engineering unit rushed to assistance, helping reinforce the levees and restore damaged bridges, ensuring the safety and security of the affected population.

Liu Yong, Commander of the seventh batch of the Chinese peacekeeping force in Mali, has participated in peacekeeping in Sudan's Darfur, South Sudan and Mali. For

him, there were many touching moments during his missions.

In 2015, a clash between government troops and the rebels broke out only 1,000 meters away from Liu's camp in South Sudan. The Chinese team provided timely protection and assistance for the refugees who came for help. "A paralyzed woman spent more than an hour crawling to our camp to seek refuge. It showed her trust in Chinese peacekeepers and a hope for peace," Liu said.

Chinese medical units in the DRC ran a twinning project in an SOS Children's Village in Bukavu. Touched by their love and care, children in the village called the female members their Chinese mothers. The consistent efforts of the Chinese peacekeepers over the past 17 years have won widespread praise from local people.

Gao said the Chinese blue helmets have helped locals build roads and bridges in Lebanon.



A nurse of the medical detachment of the 18th Chinese peacekeeping force to Liberia treats a villager near Zwedru, Liberia, on November 1, 2015



A Chinese peacekeeper defuses a mine in Lebanon on January 17

"We have also assisted schools to open football fields and basketball courts," he said, adding that many of the students were eager to learn simple Chinese words to say thanks.

In the Chinese hospital in Mali, Zhu often saw local patients. In many cases, he could treat conditions that were beyond the local doctors. The surgeon was always ready to offer help and was nicknamed "miracle doctor" by the patients.

"When we were on the way back to China after completing our mission, many locals gave us a thumbs-up, which I will never forget," Zhu said. ■



Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Mali and chief of the UN mission in the African country, presents medals to the seventh Chinese peacekeeping contingent to Mali in Gao on February 26

An Enduring Bond

Educationists stay optimistic about China-U.S. academic exchanges in the long run

By Wen Qing

Pan Qingzhong, Executive Dean of Schwarzman College of Tsinghua University, has witnessed many of his U.S. students' transformation—from knowing little about China to introducing China to others.

"Once, a student said before he came to China, he had thought China was much smaller than Viet Nam," Pan said at a China-U.S. educational exchange webinar on September 12.

The dean was incredulous. He found it hard to believe that even in this information and Internet era, a U.S. university graduate didn't have any clue about the size of one of the biggest countries in the world. China's territory is over 30 times that of Viet Nam's.

Then he realized that it could be because many Americans are more familiar with Viet Nam due to the Viet Nam War, which lasted for decades, inspiring many Hollywood films. On the other hand, many young Americans, like his students, know hardly anything about China.

Discovering real China

That made Pan determined to see that the students get more opportunities to learn about China, the real China, rather than the one depicted by the U.S. media and politicians.

"We took them to Shenzhen in the southern province of Guangdong to show them what the most developed Chinese metropolises are like. They also visited villages in the northwest and observed first-hand people's lives in such underdeveloped regions," Pan said.

After such journeys of discovery, Pan's students say they now understand China and Chinese policies better. "Knowing each other is a good start to building a sound relationship, and that's what we pursue," Pan said.

Every year, Schwarzman College enrolls about 200 students from China, the U.S. and other countries. It is an example of China-U.S. educational exchanges, and

promotes U.S. students' understanding of China.

Educational exchanges between the two countries have been an important part of the China-U.S. relationship since their diplomatic relations were established in 1979. However, they have faltered due to recent restrictions by Donald Trump's administration, and especially now, due to escalating smear campaigns against China ahead of the looming presidential election. But many Chinese and U.S. scholars still remain optimistic about future educational cooperation.

United against pandemic

At the webinar, Susan Sclafani, former Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education in the U.S. Department of Education, talked about the effects of the novel coronavirus pandemic on universities in the U.S. They were shut down in spring and summer, and she said it might be difficult to reopen them even in autumn.

"Unlike in China, where you were able to offer online education for all students working with your administration, we left it to the states, and many states left it to each school district to try and provide the technology and curriculum resources," she said. "Some students did not respond actively during online learning, some did not participate at all."

As early as April, she said a colleague at Beijing Normal University shared with her plans for ensuring quality education during the pandemic. Sclafani then shared them with other educators and policymakers in the U.S. in the hope they would emulate some of the good practices.

With the pandemic contained in China, Chinese universities reopened in September and students returned to classrooms. For international students unable to return to U.S. universities, the authorities said some could continue their studies on Chinese campuses.

For example, students of Georgia Institute of Technology could continue their

fall classes through remote learning or at the Shenzhen campus. New York University students can attend classes on the Shanghai campus.

How to develop a stronger relationship between Chinese and U.S. universities is another matter of concern for educators in both countries. John Delaney, Dean of the Kogod School of Business, American University, thinks one good way is for American universities to open more campuses in China or joint campuses with Chinese higher-learning institutions.

Results of exchange

"In spite of the current unfavorable political environment, the presidents of many prestigious American universities such as Harvard, Yale and Stanford have all reiterated their welcome and support to international students and scholars, including Chinese students," Li Li, deputy head of the Sino-American Friendship Association, said.

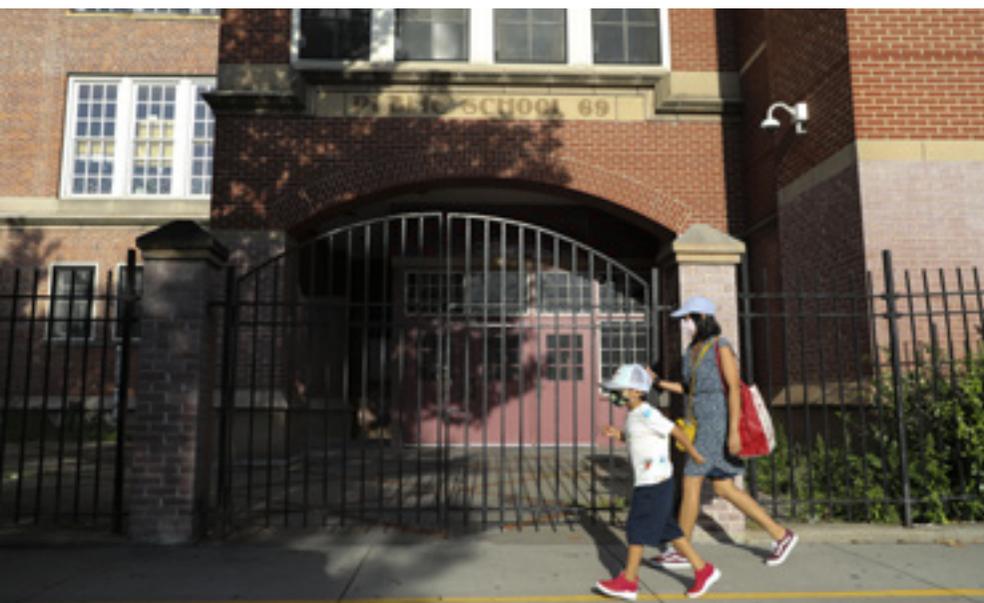
The Trump administration has imposed some restrictions on Chinese students and scholars, especially in technology areas, out of what it called security concerns. However, the participants at the webinar rejected the excuse.

"Without Chinese students, we will lose a level of the international dialogue that has been such a healthy part of innovation in both the U.S. and China," Sclafani said. "If we did not have this continued collaboration of ideas, it will be difficult to do the level of science, the level of engineering that is currently being done because we have such excellent students from both the U.S. and China working collectively to come up with new ideas, new theories that they could further explore."

According to a *New York Times* report, nearly one third of the top artificial intelligence researchers in the U.S. are from China. Most of them finished their undergraduate degree in China, went to the U.S.



Children from China and the U.S. and organizers pose for a group photo at the end of a bilingual speech convention at the California State University, Long Beach, the U.S., on July 13, 2019



People walk past a public school in New York City, the U.S., on September 1. The city's plan to reopen schools on September 10 was postponed due to a resurgence of coronavirus infections

to continue their studies, and then worked for U.S. research institutions. When they go back to China, they take ideas with them and the knowledge of doing things differently, which has a positive impact on Chinese society, Sclafani said.

Many Chinese students who had studied in the U.S. returned and became successful in their fields.

Ding Zeming, a renowned Chinese scholar on U.S. history, is one of them.

In 1947, Ding enrolled in Washington

University to study U.S. history. After graduation, he returned to China, became a professor, and contributed tremendously to promoting Chinese people's understanding of the U.S. Through his writing and teaching, he passed on what he had learned in the U.S. to younger generations.

One of his students, Yuan Peng, followed in his mentor's steps and went to study in the U.S. He became a reputed researcher on U.S. studies and dean of the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

Such people brought back first-hand knowledge of the lifestyle and culture in the U.S., which accelerated Chinese understanding of the U.S., according to observers.

"Educational communication and cooperation between China and the U.S. is a strong connection between the two countries," Li said. "Young people are the future of China-U.S. relations. We firmly believe that the current obstacles are temporary. This is just a small episode in the political and social development of the U.S." ■

Copyedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
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Homecoming At Last

Remains of volunteer soldiers returned from the ROK By Yuan Yuan

It was a sunny morning in Shenyang, capital of Liaoning Province in northeast China, on September 27. Soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) rehearsed for a special event at the airport—to welcome the “return” of the Chinese martyrs from the Republic of Korea (ROK) long after the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea (1950-53).

One day before that, the remains of the 117 martyrs were casketed in the ROK. It was the seventh batch of martyrs' remains handed over according to an agreement signed by the two countries in 2013. Between 2014 and 2019, the remains of 599 soldiers were brought back to China.

Unlike the previous six years when the handover was organized before the Tomb Sweeping Festival, which falls in early April, this year, it was postponed to September due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. But it was still managed before September 30, China's Martyrs' Day.

It was also the first time the Y-20 aircraft, the largest and most advanced domestically developed transport aircraft, had been used to carry out the task. The serial number of the plane, 01, indicated high respect for the martyrs. Previously, the Russian-made Ilyushin-76 was used.

Long separation

In the early 1950s, at the request of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV), totaling 2.9 million, crossed the Yalu River, the border between China and the DPRK, and fought alongside the DPRK army against the ROK army and U.S.-led “UN forces.” Despite their less-developed weapons, the Chinese soldiers eventually drove the U.S. army back to the 38th Parallel in

1953. For decades, China had been seeking to bring their remains home. It was not until 2013 that China and the ROK settled this issue.

On September 27, the plane carrying the remains arrived at the Taoxian International Airport in Shenyang. A ceremony was carefully designed to show respect to the martyrs. Two fire engines sprayed water to form an arch over the plane, implying “washing all the dust off from the trip.”

Chinese Vice Premier Sun Chunlan spoke at the ceremony, saying this year marks the 70th anniversary of the CPV's participation in the war. The Chinese have always kept in mind the feats of the CPV in safeguarding justice and opposing aggression.

She also called for cherishing the hard-won peace, following the path of peaceful development, striving for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and making greater contributions to safeguarding world peace and promoting common development.

“Why did we win the war? It was because our brave soldiers were not afraid of making sacrifices, and we fought for justice and peace,” said 89-year-old CPV veteran Wang Liping, who was present at the airport.

Liu Bo, a professor at the China PLA National Defense University, interviewed some CPV veterans. He recalled that during an interview with a veteran, a young student in his team asked, “Did you ever think your mother would be very sad if you died in the war?”

She replied, “My mother would only have been proud of me. We never thought of coming back. Every soldier was ready to sacrifice his or her life.”

Wang Guobin, a 92-year-old CPV veter-



an who also spoke at the ceremony at the airport, remembers clearly the date he set off for the war—October 19, 1950. He was relieved to see the martyrs finally come back to the motherland. Yet he also cried because this return took about 70 years. “They must be proud to see the development of China,” Wang said. “Hope they rest in peace in the motherland.”

Zhu Jiangbo, whose father died in the war, also went to the airport and attended the ceremony. “I don't know whether my father's remains are there but seeing the remains of these soldiers return is like seeing my father,” Zhu said.

Hero, a shared name

“Many CPV soldiers were under 20 years when they died in the war so they did not have any children,” Chen Qiubo from the Academy of Military Sciences of the PLA, who has worked on recording the names of the martyrs in the war, told China Central Television (CCTV). “This has increased difficulties in finding their relatives.”

Information about the martyrs was recorded to the extent possible, including their full names, ranks, and the time they joined the army and died. The names can



A funeral is held in Shenyang, Liaoning Province on September 28 for 117 Chinese volunteer soldiers whose remains were returned to China from the Republic of Korea on the previous day

be found on a memorial wall at the CPV martyrs' cemetery in Shenyang, which was built in 1951.

This time, personal seals of three martyrs were found, providing clues for confirming their identities and finding their relatives. Within hours of the launch of a nationwide hunt, their families were found. The three were born in the 1920s and died when they were in their 20s. Cemetery staff have registered the items returned in electronic files.

The caskets were taken to the Shenyang CPV martyrs' cemetery. Many local residents lined the roads to show their respect.

A senior couple from Jinzhou, another city in Liaoning, traveled to Shenyang specifically for this event. "A soldier from my hometown in Jinzhou died in the war," the woman told CCTV. "I heard about it when I was a kid. I just know his surname is Dong and don't know whether his remains have already been returned. We will never forget how they fought to safeguard peace."

On September 28, a funeral was held at the martyrs' cemetery, amidst wreaths of yellow and white chrysanthemums.

"May the martyrs rest in peace and their fighting spirit be forever remembered," Sun



Chinese soldiers carry the remains of martyrs to a plane at the Incheon International Airport, Seoul, on September 27

Shaocheng, Minister of Veterans Affairs, said at the ceremony. He called on compatriots to inherit the spirit of the martyrs and contribute to the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Shu Jun, a student from Beijing-based

Renmin University of China, watched the live-streaming of the ceremony online. "We will keep them in mind," Shu said. ■

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Comments to yuan@bjreview.com

book design MULTILINGUAL

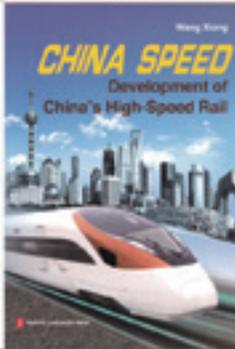
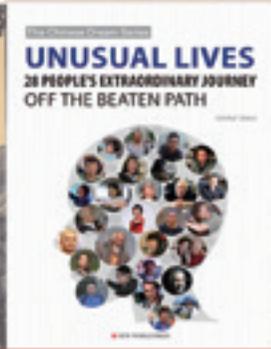
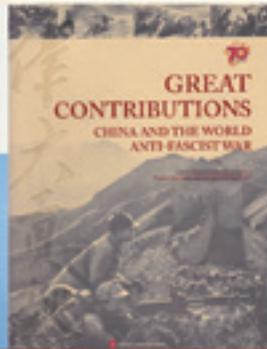
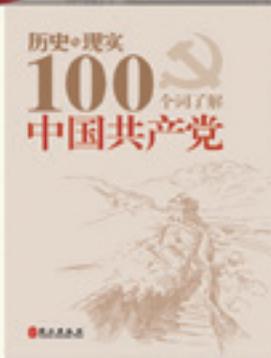
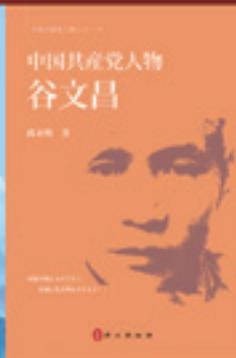
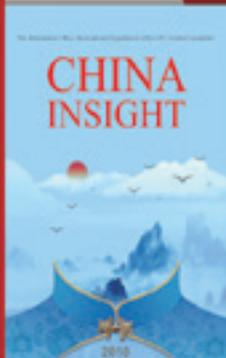
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Pumping Up Growth Together

Dual circulation strategy is based on full integration of domestic and overseas resources **By Lu Yue & Tian Jilin**

How many steps are needed before a Tesla car is ready for sale? According to the design and research and development process at the electric carmaker's U.S. headquarters, first, the vehicle is fitted with its core part, the battery, which comes from Chinese manufacturer Contemporary Amperex Technology. Next workers assemble other parts at Tesla's Gigafactory in Shanghai, after which it is handed over to sales channels such as retail stores.

Also, its official website puts up information about the new car to disseminate the details and sales globally.

This is a typical example of dual circulation, which has become China's new design for economic development. It means the domestic market is developed as the mainstay of the economy while the domestic and foreign markets complement and reinforce each other. Since a key meeting of the Communist Party of China in July proposed this new growth pattern, it has become a buzzword in China.

The origin

The new pattern did not come out of the blue. It is a strategic policy adjustment against the backdrop of the situation at home and abroad at large.

The world economy is undergoing unprecedented changes with the spread of the novel coronavirus disease, China-U.S. trade frictions, the downturn in the global economy, and a shrinking market demand.

According to the International Monetary Fund, the global economy is expected to shrink by 4.9 percent in 2020. The instability in foreign supply chains and the prevalence of protectionism have created an extremely complex and severe external environment for China. It faces huge challenges from trade and investment protectionism. Therefore, for sustained and healthy growth, the Chinese economy must rely more on the domestic market.

In the course of trade frictions, the U.S. has been continuously trying to suppress Chinese hi-tech companies to weaken their competitiveness. The chip industry is an example.

For high-end chips, China depends on imports from the U.S. To cope with the restrictions imposed by the U.S. as well as other countries in the hi-tech field, China has turned to independent technological innovation to create alternatives.

Since reform and opening up started in 1978, China has actively participated in the division of labor in the global value chains and adopted an export-oriented strategy to achieve rapid economic development. However, excessive reliance on exports and investment also caused some side effects.

The dependence on foreign trade increased rapidly from 50 percent in 2003 to 64.24 percent in 2006. Domestic consumption was insufficient and its contribution to GDP growth was only 40 percent in 2007, compared with the average 60 percent in other economies in 2008. In addition, the lack of proprietary core technologies hindered industrial transformation and upgrading.

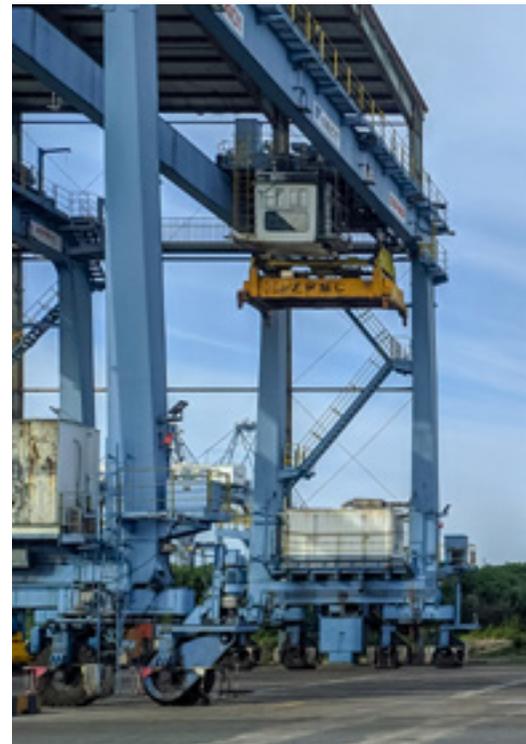
Since the global financial crisis of 2008, China's economic development strategy has gradually shifted to tapping both domestic and overseas resources and markets. Its dependence on foreign trade was reduced to 31.8 percent in 2019. However, it is still high compared with other major economies, for example Japan, which recorded 28 percent. The ratio of final consumption to GDP has increased year by year, remaining above 50 percent since 2012.

Since dual circulation has proved its merit in recent years, it is the best choice in the current situation.

The history

The U.S. too has gone through this process in three stages. During 1800-70, it exported cheap raw materials and imported expensive industrial products. This became the main force driving the development of the U.S. economy.

When the U.S. industrialization made great strides during the Second Industrial Revolution and its products were welcomed in the international market, external circulation played a prominent role in boosting the economy,



The Waigaoqiao Port area in Shanghai on March 19

reaching its historical peak around 1913.

After World War I, the Great Depression and World War II, the U.S. began mass production to promote industrial upgrading and invested heavily in expanding consumer spending. These efforts propelled the domestic circulation both from the supply and demand sides and finally reshaped its international circulation, laying foundation for the strong U.S. economic growth.

After World War II, Japan embarked on export-led growth, which produced good results. However, in the 1980s, trade frictions between Japan and the U.S. escalated. The U.S. imposed sanctions on Japan in areas such as automobiles, semiconductors, telecommunications and finance. Due to the excessive reliance on the U.S. market, Japan was forced to compromise and voluntarily restrict exports.

In response, Japan shifted its policy priority from expanding trade to supporting technological innovation, and adopted a new economic pattern where the internal circulation played a leading role, supplemented by external circulation.

It can be seen from the history of developed countries such as the U.S. and Japan that after an economy reaches a certain stage in development, internal circulation will overtake external circulation as the primary source of growth momentum.

There have been many misunderstandings as some people interpret the domestic circulation simply as transforming exports into

domestic sales and think China may therefore close its doors to the outside world. However, in reality, this is not the case.

On July 21, at a symposium with entrepreneurs in Beijing, President Xi Jinping answered these doubts. He stressed the need to pool resources and concentrate on managing domestic affairs well, utilizing the advantage of the huge domestic market so that a new development pattern is created. In this pattern, while the potential of the domestic market is utilized to the full extent, the domestic and foreign markets will boost each other.

Therefore the new pattern is not a halt to international circulation; it supplements and upgrades it. China has one of the world's largest markets and a complete industrial system. Meanwhile, many industries in China rely on imports for raw materials, components and technology. China and the world economy are inseparable.

The future

The dual circulation pattern is an economic globalization strategy based on domestic demand with opening up as an essential part. It means not only to open up to the outside world, but also to the domestic market.

A strong domestic market needs to be built to break institutional obstacles. It means, people-wise, government agencies delegating more power to the people for them to have a greater say in economic activities.

Enterprise-wise, it means making laws and

regulations to equally protect the property rights and autonomy of both state-owned and private enterprises, ensuring equal competition.

Region-wise, it means breaking down administrative divisions, for instance in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta, and the Chengdu-Chongqing city cluster, and build regional industrial chains.

Innovative solutions based on artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, cloud computing, big data, network security and integrated circuits technologies should be introduced to accelerate replacement of old machines and promote upgrading of traditional industries.

Efforts should be made to step up the construction of new infrastructure including 5G and promote the use of new-energy vehicles. It is essential to cultivate innovation chains led by emerging industries and strengthen them through facilitating the consolidation of enterprises involved.

In addition, a focus should be put on the demand side through reform of the national income distribution system. While implementing the minimum wage regime, it's crucial to impose high progressive tax on high-income earners. Enterprises should be encouraged to distribute a certain proportion of profits among employees. Public investment in housing, education and medical care facilities should be increased to alleviate the expenditure burden and future worries of the middle- and low-income groups, and increase their propensity to consume.

At the same time, more policies should be rolled out to expand China's participation in bilateral, regional and global cooperation, relax market access, protect the legitimate rights and interests of foreign investors, and create a market environment in which domestic and foreign companies are treated equally. Other significant measures should include building platforms to facilitate the urbanization process and introducing global talents and technologies.

Enterprises should be more active in undertaking outsourcing, participating in joint ventures or mergers and acquisitions of foreign companies, and implementing localization strategies in host nations of their investment projects. They should establish an extensive exchange network, using global resources to innovate development approaches and enhance their competitiveness. ■

Lu Yue is a professor at the Beijing Open Economy Research Institute, University of International Business and Economics. Tian Jilin is a PhD candidate with the institute

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Greater Media-Tech Integration Post-COVID-19 Comes With Caution From Experts

Live-streaming, real-time app push notifications, video meetings... under the impact of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), both media outlets and technology developers have gained a deeper awareness of the new ways people are acquiring and exchanging information.

At a forum last month, leading media providers and tech firms in China underlined the importance of further cooperation to cope with the changes taking place in the two industries.

Experts and representatives from the industries and the government shared their insights on media-tech integration during the two-day 2020 China Internet Media Forum held in Shanghai.

During the COVID-19 epidemic, media outlets in China acted rapidly to provide information, offering access to real-time COVID-19 dashboards, sending health tips via mobile phones, and sharing stories of those fighting COVID-19 on the frontline via live-streaming and short-video apps.

Using new technologies, online media platforms fought the virus in their own way, helping with the scientific and targeted nature of the COVID-19 response, Baidu CEO Robin Li said at the forum.

Baidu and other Internet companies forecast a trend of deeper integration between the media and newer technologies.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and 5G will reshape relations between audiences, media and information, Tencent CEO Pony Ma said in a pre-recorded speech.

By developing information infrastructure for 5G, AI, big data and cloud computing, China has provided a sound environment for the Internet media industry, Liu Liehong, Vice Minister of Industry and Information Technology, said. China now has over 500,000 5G base stations, with 130 million terminals.

New technologies will help media collect, transmit and process information, and diversify their methods to convey information, Liu said.

When people stayed at home during the epidemic, they spent more time online.

Tencent launched online visiting services for the Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes, a renowned UNESCO World Heritage Site in Gansu Province in northwest China. The services led to nearly 20 million e-visits in six months.

With the evolution of technologies, online retailing has also embraced new changes.

According to a report released by the China



Visitors watch a virtual reality movie at a film and TV expo in Qingdao, Shandong Province in east China, on September 26

Internet Network Information Center in April, the number of live-streamers in China hit 560 million by March, accounting for more than 60 percent of Chinese netizens. The number of e-commerce live-streamers was 265 million, higher than the numbers of game-streaming, sports-related live-streaming, or live concert viewers.

Xiaohongshu, an Instagram-like Chinese fashion- and lifestyle-sharing platform with about 120 million monthly active users, has developed a new business model through live broadcasting.

"Live-streaming on our platform enabled many physical stores to access customers online during the epidemic," Miranda Qu, co-founder of Xiaohongshu, said.

During a shopping festival held in Shanghai in May and June to stimulate spending, Xiaohongshu launched a live-streaming campaign to help stores in Shanghai showcase their products online. As a result, the customer traffic of shops in TX Huaihai, a shopping mall in central Shanghai, increased 400 percent on average.

Over 10 million live-streaming shopping events were held during the first half of 2020, with more than 400,000 influencers taking part, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Yet alongside the increasing popularity of Internet media, there were new worrying

signs too.

Li warned of the risks of relying too much on technologies, which might lead users into "a narrower world" of information. Algorithms should interpret users' higher-class demands, rather than simply following people's likes, he said.

After COVID-19, tech firm Sina adjusted its algorithms to ensure that more reliable and useful epidemic-related information could reach its users.

People are eager to get reliable information from the authorities during public emergencies, Sina's Wang Wei said, stressing that those managing algorithms must practice social responsibility.

A healthy Internet should be an ecosystem that combines the aspirations of netizens, the concerns of the government, the responsibilities of the platforms, as well as societal participation, Ma said.

"If media platforms seek only profit and try to attract views by hook or by crook, they will never go far," Zheng Yongnian, a scholar with the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen), said. ■

This is an edited version of an article published by Xinhua News Agency

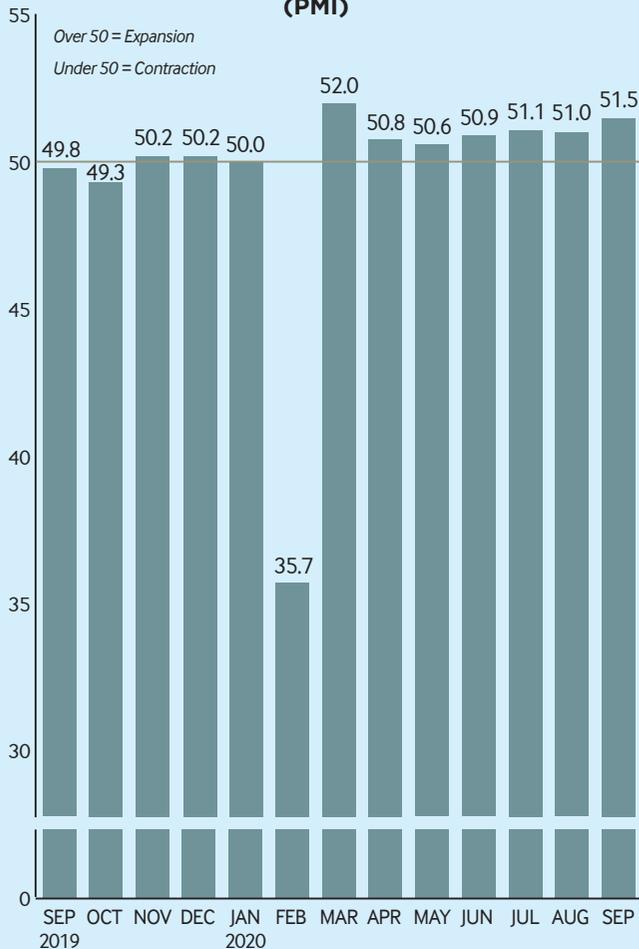
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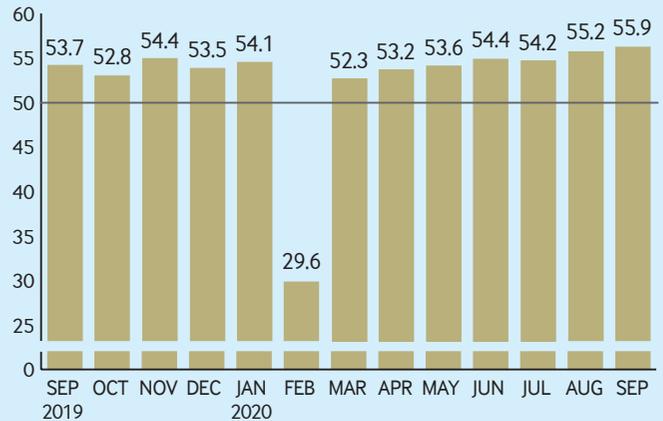
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China's Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



China's Non-Manufacturing PMI



China's Comprehensive PMI



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

The Business Climate Index, an indicator of entrepreneurs' sentiment toward the overall operating conditions of their enterprises, came in at

49.4 percent

in Q3, according to a central bank report. The reading was up 6.6 percentage points from the previous quarter, though 4 percentage points lower than the level in the same period last year.

In H1, China's securities market saw net inflows of overseas funds totaling

\$64.3 billion

up 4 percent year on year. Overseas holdings of Chinese securities have seen a steady increase in the past few years as the country rolled out measures to broaden capital market access.

China's current account surplus reached

\$110.2 billion

in Q2, as compared with a deficit of \$33.7 billion in Q1. The State Administration of Foreign Exchange expected a moderate current account surplus for the whole year, with a stable goods trade surplus and narrower service trade deficit.

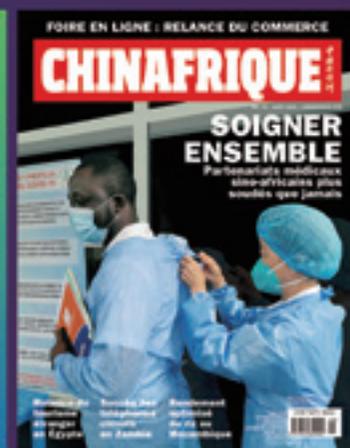
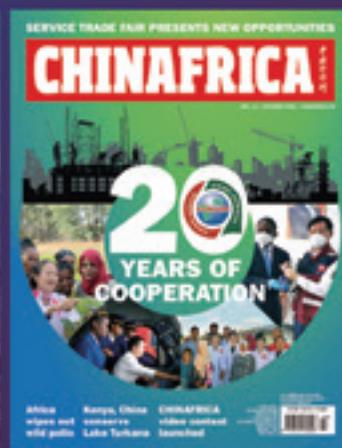
(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

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Should Tutors Have Discretion Over Students' Graduation?

Recently, the Ministry of Education (MOE) responded to a proposal put forward by a member of the National People's Congress that tutors of graduate students and doctoral students should be given decision-making power over whether the students should be allowed to graduate. MOE plans to fully adopt this idea and will issue details later this year on tutors' rights and obligations.

This news has taken academic circles in China by storm. Some applaud the new policy, believing it will help tutors play a more effective role in nurturing their pupils. Also, they can deny graduation to students who are not qualified until they meet the necessary standards. Meanwhile, others have expressed concerns that tutors might abuse their power as they already have huge discretion and a big say on students' graduation. The worry is that if tutors are given the absolute right to

decide whether or not a student can graduate, the process will be totally dependent on their moral code and professionalism, without input or oversight from universities or other academics, putting graduate students at a disadvantage.

Excessive power of tutors

Wang Tianding (*The Beijing News*): Stories about tutors and their students have become a trending topic within the Chinese academic community, and also among the general public in recent years, with frequent negative reports. For example, some graduate students became depressed due to their inability to graduate, eventually leading to suicide. Some of these students were used as free labor in their tutors' private businesses.

While these terrible outcomes were brought about by a number of contributing factors, the most striking is misbehavior by tutors, with extreme cases sparking public indignation. These cases point to one question: Are there any restrictions on tutors' rights?

Graduate students tend to be at a disadvantage in almost all cases, particularly within science and engineering disciplines, due to the high cost of the research they undertake at the postgraduate level. Some graduate students refer to their tutors as their bosses. This is not said jokingly, but is a helpless reality. Worse still, some tutors enjoy being the boss. They make their students do work unrelated to their academic development, such as housework and accounting. Some tutors have their own off-campus businesses in the name of combining scientific research, study and production, where graduate students are used as cheap labor.

Students refrain from complaining even in extreme circumstances. This is already quite common among graduate students.

In these circumstances, without proper checks and balances an expansion of tutors' current powers is likely to make fair graduation more difficult for postgraduate students. The kind of discretion being

granted to tutors is not based on a set of established and standardized rules, but rather depends on tutors' personal moral code and professionalism.

Tutors do need some independent decision-making power on whether a student should graduate, but there must also be relevant mechanisms to rein in this power when necessary. The power to make independent decisions is by no means equal to tutors' absolute power over their students' graduation.

Wang Pan (*new.qq.com*): MOE's reform smacks of taking the side of tutors, trying to strengthen their power, instead of promoting a kind of dynamic balance among students, tutors and universities. In most cases, students are a vulnerable group, incapable of coping with incapable or miscreant tutors. A reasonable reform is supposed to better empower graduate students to challenge their tutors in cases of unfairness. More importantly, students should enjoy the right to be independent, even in conducting research.

A number of recent tragedies resulting from students being bullied by their tutors has exposed the faults in the current tutorial system.

Of course, students are not necessarily in the right, and tutors are not automatically guilty. However, the harm caused by a student who does not devote himself to academic work is no match for the harm caused by a morally flawed tutor. But the latter is always protected by the system. In cases where a conflict arises, it is far easier to expel a graduate student than dismiss a tutor. Reforms are supposed to improve the relationship between the two groups, instead of further tipping the scale in favor of tutors. In particular, graduate students must be empowered to defend themselves against unreasonable demands from their tutors.

Power-rights balance

Dai Xianren (*Jinan Times*): Discretion over students' graduation is an expansion of tutors' rights. In some disciplines and universities, tutors' power and rights are

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strictly contained. As the ones directly responsible for a graduate student's nurturing, if tutors' power is restricted, they will not be able to fully tap into students' potential, thus dragging down the overall quality of graduate programs.

Meanwhile, given that graduate students are usually in an unequal or disadvantageous relationship with their tutors, it is understandable that tutors have excessive power. In some cases, tutors' academic prowess affords them the authority to exercise their rights over students without supervision or restriction by third parties.

Should tutors be given more rights, or should their rights be contained? On one hand, if the rights concern academic research, tutors should be given more rights to better nurture their students. On the other hand, restrictions must be established for other rights. Students should have the right to report unsatisfactory aspects of their postgradu-

ate studies, and tutors who are unable to fulfill their professional obligations, or who are unable to adhere to the moral code, should be removed from their positions in order to protect students. Only in this way can students' legitimate rights be protected, allowing them to truly devote themselves to academic research and produce quality research.

Ran Yu (guancha.gmw.cn): Most tutors are morally and professionally reliable. But frequent reports of extreme cases relating to tutors have left a deep impression on the public. Thus, in this context, the proposal to expand tutors' rights is doomed to never draw wide support.

Many postgraduate students believe their tutors enjoy too much power. To avoid offending their tutors, students must agree to assist in tutors' private businesses, often providing free labor.

The supposedly pure relationship between a teacher and a student is becoming something that puts graduate

students at the mercy of their tutors.

There are often complaints from tutors that their power is so limited that even the current tutorial system cannot be sustained. These new reforms will bring them unprecedented power. While tutors' powers and rights are being increasingly protected, it's important that a mechanism is established to resolve conflicts between students and tutors. At all times, the protection of students should take precedence.

Tutors have to take corresponding responsibility while enjoying powers. Their moral standards should also match the rights at their disposal. Without certain mechanisms to check the power of tutors, in the long run, graduate students' education will be severely undermined. ■

Fighting Three Viruses

By Ding Zhitao

In 1945, after two world wars, most countries were in ruins and the survivors craved an end to the dark days of pain, hunger and humiliation.

The UN was founded to address these challenges and for three quarters of a century, the world in general has been free from the scourge of war. More countries have gained national independence and economic prosperity, and more than 1 billion people have emerged from poverty. The vision of the founders of the UN has become a reality.

However, on September 21, when the 193-member world body commemorated its 75th anniversary, the celebrations were muted. Nobody felt cheerful and no place was safe for gathering together or shaking hands. Three kinds of rampant viruses stood in the way.

First, the novel coronavirus.

The severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, the virus causing the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), had infected more than 36 million and killed more than 1 million people all over the world as of October 9, according to the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 dashboard.

The numbers continue to rise at a rate of more than 200,000 infections and thousands of deaths daily. These are no mere numbers to add or curves to flatten. Behind every victim, there are families suffering pain and sorrow.

Besides the health and humanitarian crisis, what is happening is also a social and economic crisis. Prolonged lockdowns have set people and nations apart. Society has yet to resume normal functioning.

For the less advantaged groups, such as women, children and those living in underdeveloped areas, the blow is harsher. Many of them are woefully underprepared for the virus and risk sliding into deeper poverty and violence. The pandemic has aggravated all the challenges the UN faces in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 to address worldwide social, economic and environmental challenges.

Second, the political virus.

The finger-pointing, blame game and cover-ups are equally deadly. Some politicians in the U.S. keep calling the virus the "Wuhan virus" or "China virus," trying to shift the responsibility for failing to respond to the pandemic effectively.

This political virus kills too. The time, energy and resources invested in the shame-and-blame approach could have been put to better use—in saving lives. Reports released by the U.S. House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis indicate that

If you want to walk fast, walk alone; if you want to walk longer, walk together. A long walk requires an all-society, all-government and all-world approach driven by compassion and solidarity

some politicians deliberately covered up the truth of the pandemic.

Third, the virus of unilateralism, bullying, racism, populism, nationalism and more.

Populism and nationalism have failed to address COVID-19. Those approaches to contain the coronavirus have provenly made things manifestly worse. Breaking commitment and stepping back from international organizations do not help either. These attempted remedies are actually another form of virus. This form of virus turns people against people, nation against nation, and reintroduces the law of the jungle in the world.

Bullying others and always putting oneself ahead will not make any nation great, nor help to survive this existential COVID-19 crisis of the humankind. Like the proverb said, if you want to walk fast, walk alone; if you want to walk longer, walk together.

A long walk requires an all-society, all-government and all-world approach driven by compassion and solidarity. To confront the virus in all forms, people around the globe are looking up to the UN to take a leading role and collective action to address the pandemic, besides the other common challenges of climate change, regional conflicts and unbalanced development.

The World Health Organization is working closely with governments and its partners to protect public health and prevent the spread of the pandemic. In addition, UNICEF, the UN World Food Program and other UN bodies have adjusted their operations based on the development of the pandemic and are playing their respective roles in humanitarian support.

China has been a staunch supporter of the UN, taking pride in its role as a builder of world peace, contributor to global development and keeper of international order. To support the UN role in leading the global effort to contain COVID-19, China made a new pledge on September 23 to provide funds and support in other forms to fight the common enemy.

The coronavirus, as well as the other forms of virus, have driven home the value of multilateralism to address our collective challenges. United, not divided; cooperative, not confronting; and all-win, not zero-sum game represent the trend of the time. It is the UN and it is multilateralism that we count on to lead humanity on the right path and chart a way out of our own "1945 moment" together. ■

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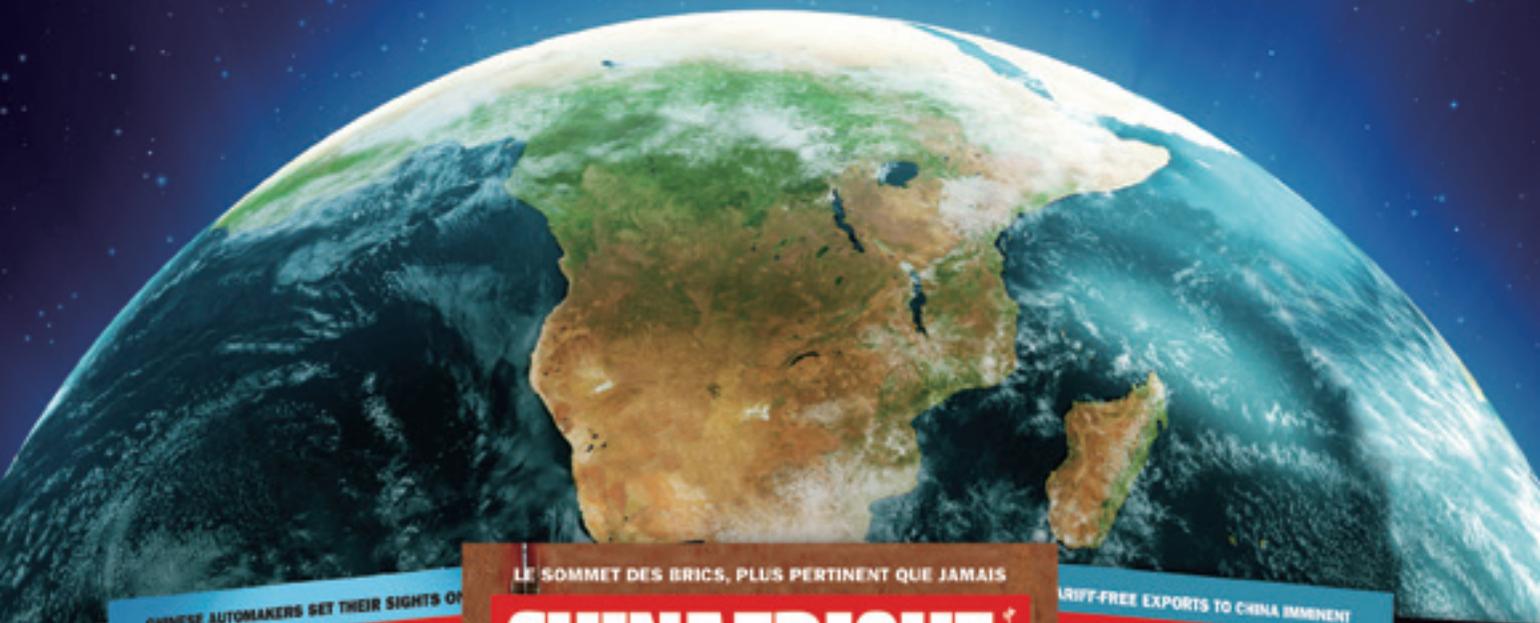
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