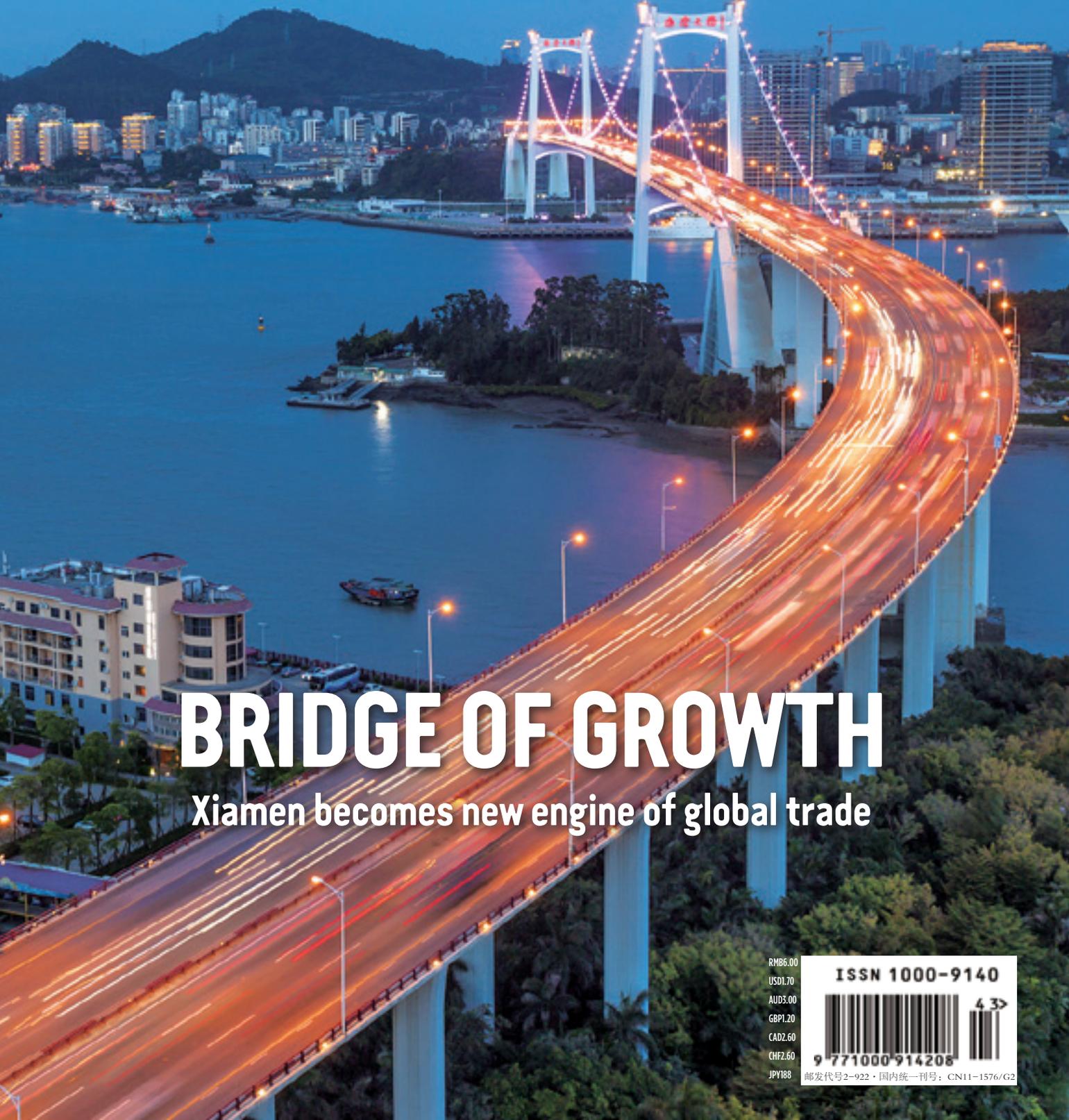


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BRIDGE OF GROWTH

Xiamen becomes new engine of global trade

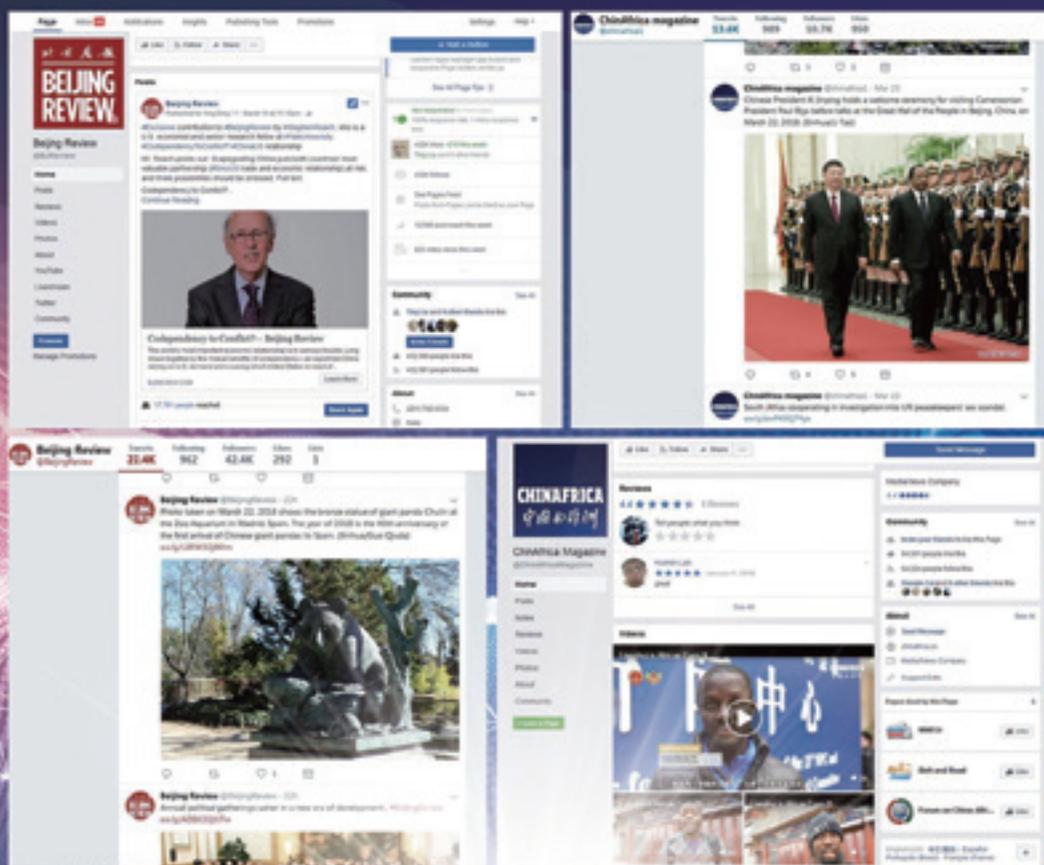
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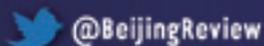
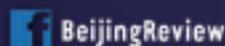
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Cover Photo: The Haicang Bridge, a landmark structure linking Haicang District on the mainland with Xiamen Island, Fujian Province in southeast China (VCG)

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Anchoring a Vision

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Xiamen Special Economic Zone (SEZ) since the State Council authorized the establishment of the first four SEZs in 1980. The 40-year development process of the city in Fujian Province, southeast China, also reflects China's growth after reform and opening up.

Each of the four SEZs, the other three being Shenzhen, Shantou and Zhuhai in Guangdong Province in the south, followed their unique development path.

Xiamen carried out the trans-island development strategy.

When the Xiamen SEZ was established, it had only an area of 2.5 square km on the main island. By March 1984, the SEZ was extended to the entire island but the resulting 131 square km was still not sufficient for the growing population and the ensuing economic development.

Ultimately in June 2010, the SEZ was expanded again to encompass the entire city, which meant the administrative districts outside the main island as well. Conceived by President Xi Jinping when he was governor of Fujian, the trans-island development strategy overcame the land limitation for Xiamen's development and provided space for the industrial clusters planned.

With this strategy, Xiamen has undergone an industrial transformation. The clusters of aviation, ocean shipping, culture and education as well as hi-tech and new technology-related industries that

have developed in its six districts have promoted high-quality development of the port city.

Besides the hardware, Xiamen's calling card is its efficient and fast business environment that has attracted global companies to invest there, including many of the global 500 enterprises. To create that business environment and improve its competitiveness, Xiamen was the first city in China to simplify the procedure for registering a new business. It did that by integrating three separate procedures for business registration, getting the company code and tax registration and saving time and trouble.

Since then, it has instituted many other firsts in the country and seen its business advantages grow with the creation of the Xiamen Area in the China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone approved in December 2014. This was followed by greater connectivity via new shipping routes and railways, especially with the China-Europe freight train service, built as part of the Belt and Road Initiative, passing through Xiamen.

Despite the rapid industrialization, Xiamen has maintained and improved its environment, paying special attention to greening the land and cleaning its water bodies. Certified as one of the most livable cities in the world, it will focus on green energy and sustainable industrialization with no pollution or high consumption of resources for its future development. ■

WRITETOUS



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COMPREHENSIVE TESTING

People wait to take the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) test at a square in Qingdao, Shandong Province in east China, on October 14.

Over 10.75 million people had their throat swabs taken for nucleic acid testing by October 16. Qingdao began city-wide COVID-19 testing on October 12 as the virus re-emerged in the city over the weekend. As of October 16, there were 12 confirmed cases, the municipal health commission said.



YINHX

Path to Progress

An aerial view of rural roads in the city of Zunyi in Guizhou Province, southwest China. The drive to build roads in recent years has resulted in all villages in the area getting hardened roads.

Conviction Age

Lawmakers are mulling lowering the minimum conviction age for offenders to 12 under specific circumstances.

The proposal was made in a draft amendment to the Criminal Law. The amendment was submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the top legislature, on October 13.

If a juvenile who has reached the age of 12 but is under 14 commits intentional homicide or inflicts an injury that leads to death under flagrant circumstances, he or she shall bear criminal responsibility upon attestation and approval of

the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP), according to the draft amendment.

Currently, minors under the age of 14 do not bear any criminal responsibility in China. However, some high-profile cases of violent crimes committed by underage youths in recent years have sparked a heated debate on the minimum age of criminal liability.

There has been a rebound in juvenile delinquency in recent years, according to a white paper issued by the SPP.

The draft amendment also adds provisions to strengthen the protection of minors from sexual abuse.

It stipulates that guardians and

those who adopt girls aged between 14 and 16 shall be investigated to see if they have engaged in criminal sexual activity with the adopted youngsters. Doctors and teachers for juveniles will also come under the ambit of investigation.

National Park

The Qinling Mountain nature reserve, a natural boundary between China's north and south, will be upgraded into a national park by 2025, Xinhua News Agency reported on October 13, quoting the forestry authority of Shaanxi Province in northwest China.

The Qinling National Park will

include the core ecological areas of the mountains.

Dang Shuangren, Director of the Shaanxi Forestry and Grassland Bureau, said the national park will highlight Qinling's role as China's central water tower.

The mountains, covering more than 50,000 square km, are known as China's gene bank of wildlife as they are home to a large variety of plants and wild animals.

Data from the bureau shows the mountain range is home to about 3,800 kinds of seed plants and over 500 wild animal species.

The giant panda, golden snub-nosed monkey, takin and crested ibis, the four most representative species in the Qinling Mountains, are all national first-class protected species.

Xinjiang Port

The Alataw Pass, a major land port in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China, has witnessed booming cross-border e-commerce, handling more than 30 million outbound parcels this year.

The parcels, mainly containing toys, furniture, clothing and daily necessities, were worth nearly \$100 million, according to the local customs authorities.

The cross-border e-commerce parcels have been sent to countries like Belgium and Germany, where they were delivered via local post offices or express services such as DHL and UPS.

With its geographical advantage and the China-Europe cargo trains passing through it, the Alataw Pass has seen booming cross-border e-commerce since January.

Major online shopping platforms including Alibaba and Amazon ship their parcels via the port.

Foreign Volunteers

The Memorial Hall of the Victims in the Nanjing Massacre in Jiangsu Province, east China, has recruited over 70 new foreign volunteers to

help inform people of the history of the massacre during World War II, Xinhua reported on October 13.

The volunteers from 17 countries, including the United States, the Republic of Korea and Iran, will work as docents and translators and contribute to international exchange activities.

"This place serves as a reminder for the future, a lesson that must never be forgotten, no matter how painful or sad it is to remember," Jonathan Grager, one of the volunteers from the U.S. who teaches at Hohai University in Nanjing, said at the oath-taking ceremony for volunteers on October 11.

The memorial hall started recruiting international volunteers in 2008.

Zhang Jianjun, the curator of the memorial hall, said the international volunteers will impart the idea of peace to visitors from around the world and become "guardians of harmony."

The Nanjing Massacre took place when Japanese troops captured the city on December 13, 1937. In six weeks, more than 300,000 people—both unarmed soldiers and civilians—were slaughtered.

Toilet Expo

An expo focusing on epidemic prevention in public toilets will be held in Shanghai, according to a Xinhua report on October 13.

The Sixth China Toilet Revolution and Innovation Expo will

be held from November 19 to 21, attended by enterprises producing sanitation products from across the country.

A forum on the importance of epidemic prevention and healthy sanitation habits will be held during the expo.

An online exhibition running since July has had nearly 130,000 visits so far.

Temple Ruins

Archaeologists have discovered the ruins of an ancient temple in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in north China, Xinhua reported on October 13.

The discovery was made in the city ruins of Shangjing, the political, economic, and cultural center of the Liao Dynasty (907-1125). The ruins, an area of about 5 square km, are in the city of Chifeng.

Dong Xinlin, head of the archaeological team, said the temple was massive.

According to archaeological evidence, after the Liao Dynasty ended, the temple was rebuilt during the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234), indicating it continued to be in use.

Water Quality

The Weihe, the longest tributary of the Yellow River, has seen its water quality improve in recent years, according to the Shaanxi provincial department of ecology and environment, Xinhua reported



Where There's a Wheel

The first direct high-speed train between Urumqi in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Xi'an in Shaanxi Province, both in northwest China, debuts on October 11. It takes 13 hours 22 minutes to travel between the two cities.

on October 13.

Official data showed that 73 percent of surface water at monitoring points in the Shaanxi section of the Weihe was graded Class I to III (good quality) last year, up 4.7 percentage points from 2018. In the first half of this year, the figure rose to 77.8 percent.

Surface water quality is divided into five classes in China, with Class I being the best.

The 818-km Weihe originates in Gansu Province and flows through major cities in Shaanxi.

The river became severely polluted from the 1980s as a result of the wastes discharged into it by paper mills and other high-polluting plants.

Over the past five years, Shaanxi has closed 33 polluting enterprises in the Weihe basin and set up 70 sewage treatment plants.



Pilgrims' Progress

Tourists flock to see the Giant Buddha in Leshan, Sichuan Province in southwest China, on October 4. The 71-meter statue was carved out of a stone cliff in the 8th century. The Leshan Giant Buddha scenic area, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, received 43,800 tourists that day, approaching its maximum capacity of 45,000.

Digital RMB

Shenzhen in the southern province of Guangdong issued 10 million yuan (1.47 million) worth of digital currency in a pilot program on October 12 to promote the application of the new form of currency.

The program, in collaboration with the People's Bank of China (PBC), the central bank, gave the money to 50,000 recipients via a random draw, each receiving 200 yuan (\$29.6).

It is an innovative move to spur consumption and domestic demand during the regular control and prevention of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and a routine test in the currency's research and development process, according to local authorities.

The Ministry of Commerce said in August that China would pilot the digital renminbi in select regions across the country, including the

Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and some locations in central and western regions.

The central bank began studies on a digital currency in 2014. It started R&D on digital currency and electronic payment, or DC/EP, at the end of 2017.

Top-level design, standard-setting, R&D of the DC/EP functions, and joint tests have been basically completed, according to Yi Gang, the central banker.

Public Firm Quality

With a new guideline aimed at improving the quality of listed companies, China is reinforcing efforts to better leverage the role of the capital market to support the real economy.

The guideline, recently unveiled by the State Council, provides comprehensive, systematic and

targeted arrangements for improving the quality of listed companies, Yan Qingmin, Vice Chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), said at a press briefing on October 12.

It details 17 measures in six areas including better corporate governance, perfecting the exit mechanism and raising penalties for illegal acts.

While non-financial listed companies account for half of the total profits of China's major enterprises, their quality still falls short of the mark, he said, adding that COVID-19 has affected the operation of some companies and posed new challenges.

As of October 9, there were more than 4,000 listed companies on the Chinese mainland, with a total market value of around 74 trillion yuan (\$11 trillion), official data showed.

As the cornerstone of the

capital market, listed firms now face some prominent issues such as share-pledging risks, fund misappropriation and irregular guarantee, according to Yan.

The guideline demands strengthening risk control mechanism, setting deadlines for addressing major problems and increasing policy support in response to major emergencies. It mandates higher penalties for fraudulent issuance of shares, illegal information disclosure, market manipulation and insider trading.

A campaign will be launched to enhance corporate governance of listed firms, promote best practices and increase transparency, Yan said.

Forex Rule Adjusted

The PBC scrapped the reserve requirement for forward forex trading, which was 20 percent, on October 12.

The move was made as the country's foreign exchange market operation has remained stable with balanced market supply and demand since the start of this year, PBC said in an online statement.

The exchange rate of the renminbi, or the yuan, has maintained two-way fluctuations based on market supply and demand, and demonstrated greater flexibility, according to PBC.

"China has seen stable market expectations and orderly flows of cross-border capital so far this year," it said.

"The adjustment will help the exchange rate of the yuan against the U.S. dollar remain at a reasonable equilibrium level," Wen Bin, chief analyst at China Minsheng Bank, said, adding that the currency has recently seen significant appreciation amid improving economic fundamentals of the country.

Wen said the adjustment can also help banks reduce the cost of forward forex trading and increase demand of this product among enterprises, so as to better use derivatives to manage exchange rate risks.



Bumper Harvest

Farmers harvest potatoes in Zhuozhatan Village, Huzhu Tu Autonomous County in Qinghai Province, northwest China, on October 10. The county has been developing the potato industry to improve the income of rural households.



Unmanned Taxi

Passengers take a self-driving taxi at an appointed location in Haidian District, Beijing, on October 14. They were participating in a month-long free trial of Internet giant Baidu's self-driving taxi service in the city starting from October 10.

The statement also pledged continued efforts to keep the renminbi's exchange rate basically stable at a reasonable and balanced level.

Power Grid Input

The State Grid Corp. is expected to invest more than 6 trillion yuan (\$885 billion) in power grids and related industries during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), Xinhua News Agency reported on October 9, quoting Mao Weiming, board chairman of the company, as saying.

The investments will focus on areas such as ultra-high-voltage power transmission, electric vehicle chargers and new digital infrastructure, he added.

Meanwhile, it is estimated that this year's electricity charges will be cut by 92.6 billion yuan (\$13.7 billion), reducing the cost of social energy use and helping industrial and commercial enterprises tide over difficulties.

In addition, multiple measures will be taken for clean energy development to ensure the annual

utilization rate of hydro, wind and solar power generation reaches more than 95 percent, Mao said.

Auto Sales

Auto sales rose 12.8 percent year on year to 2.57 million units in China in September as the market warmed alongside government policies to spur consumption, data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers showed on October 14.

The rise marked the fifth consecutive month of double-digit growth. The volume grew 17.4 percent on a monthly basis, according to the association.

In the first three quarters, auto sales totaled 17.12 million units, down 6.9 percent year on year.

In September, sales of passenger vehicles gained 8 percent year on year to 2.09 million units, while those of new-energy vehicles (NEVs) surged 67.7 percent to 138,000 units.

China's auto market, hit hard by COVID-19, began to recover in April due to unleashed pent-up demand and supportive policies.

To meet new demands generated by green consumption, the State Council recently approved a plan to boost the NEV industry, which underlined efforts to develop vital technologies, accelerate the construction of infrastructure including charging facilities, and expand international cooperation.

The data also showed China produced 2.52 million cars in September, up 14.1 percent year on year.

IC Market

China has become the world's largest and fastest-growing integrated circuit (IC) market, experts said on October 14 at the three-day IC China 2020 expo in Shanghai.

Its IC industry has seen an average compound annual growth rate of more than 20 percent. In 2019, the industry's size exceeded 700 billion yuan (\$103 billion), up 15.8 percent year on year, Yang Xudong, an official with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said.

Currently, the country accounts for nearly 50 percent of the global

market, Yang said, adding that foreign-invested enterprises contribute more than 30 percent of IC sales revenue on the Chinese mainland.

The semiconductor industry is a global one, and no country is isolated from the entire industrial chain, Keith D. Jackson, 2020 Chair of the Washington-based Semiconductor Industry Association, said. He stressed that the Chinese Government has honored by its commitments to opening up and stabilizing foreign trade and investment, which has bolstered the confidence of foreign enterprises.

Zhou Zixue, Chairman of the China Semiconductor Industry Association, said despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise in demand for telecommuting, video conferencing and online lectures brought new opportunities for the semiconductor industry.

"In the future, Chinese semiconductor enterprises will strengthen cooperation and communication with their foreign counterparts, expand opening up and share the fruits of the industrial development," Zhou said.



Safety Check

Maintenance staff work at a converter station in Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China, on October 12. The facility is part of an ultra-high-voltage line transmitting electricity from Xinjiang to Anhui Province in the east.



SRI LANKA

Students arrive at an examination site in Colombo to take the entrance exam of state universities on October 12



TAJIKISTAN

President Emomali Rahmon casts his ballot at a polling station during the presidential election in Dushanbe on October 11. He was re-elected with over 90 percent of the vote



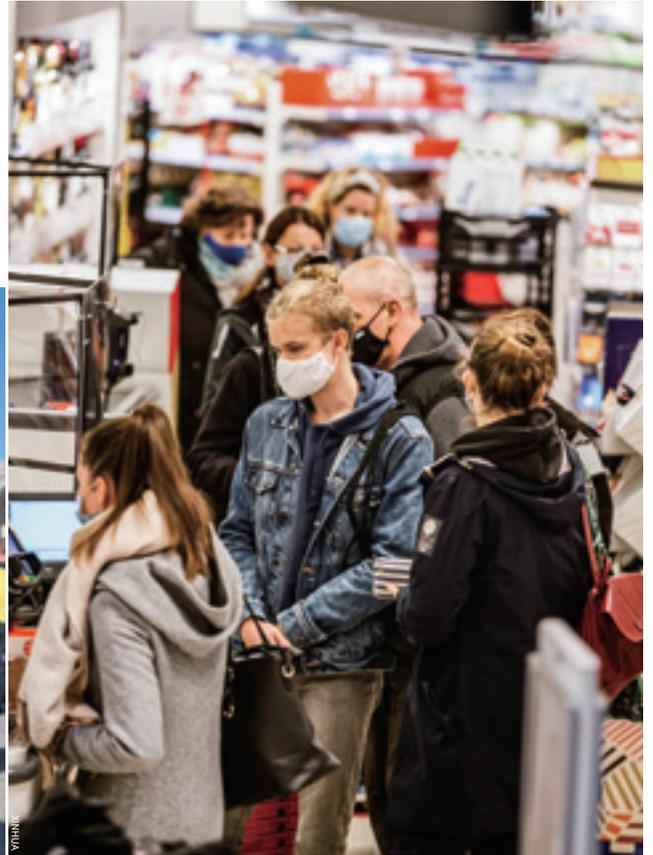
IMF

International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief economist Gita Gopinath speaks at a virtual press briefing in Washington, D.C., the U.S., on October 13. The global economy would contract by 4.4 percent in 2020, 0.8 percentage point above the June forecast, according to IMF's latest World Economic Outlook report



SPAIN

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) precautions remain as National Day is celebrated in Madrid on October 12



GERMANY

Shoppers queue up to pay at a store in Berlin on October 14. As COVID-19 cases exceeded 334,000 in Germany on October 14, Minister of Health Jens Spahn warned if the country was hit by a similarly severe flu season in addition to COVID-19, its healthcare system would reach its limits



DPRK

A military parade in Pyongyang on October 10 celebrates the 75th founding anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea



↓ CHINESE PHYSICIST HONORED WITH U.S. AWARD

Lu Chaoyang, a professor with the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), recently has won the Rolf Landauer and Charles H. Bennett Award in Quantum Computing of the Physical Society (APS) for his significant contributions to optical quantum information sciences, especially on solid-state quantum light sources, quantum teleportation and optical quantum computing.

Lu, born in Zhejiang Province, east China, in December 1982, was admitted to USTC in 2000 and earned his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Cambridge in 2011. He has made significant research with international influence on quantum light sources and quantum teleportation.

Founded in 1899, the APS is the world's largest not-for-profit membership organization on physics with more than 50,000 members from all around the world. It established the award in 2015 to recognize recent outstanding contributions performed by a scientist within 12 years post-PhD in quantum information science every year.



A man shows his portrait drawn by a smart robot during the INCLUSION Fintech Conference held in Shanghai, east China, on September 24

Commercial Application *People's Daily Online* October 9

Since the issuance of 5G licenses in June 2019, many cities across China have accelerated construction and application of 5G facilities and set goals for 5G rollout. At present, the total number of 5G base stations around the world has exceeded 800,000, of which the number in China has exceeded 546,000. By the end of this year, China is expected to have 800,000 5G base stations.

China has made notable progress on 5G network construction. In the next three years, its 5G network will become more robust, and innovative application of the technology will be expanded, while efforts are still needed on improving 5G infrastructure.

The 5G technology with higher requirements for bandwidth and wider application is far more complicated than previous mobile communication technologies. While the construction and operation of 5G network involves high costs due to diverse scenarios of application, it can take a long time to make profit. Therefore, the lack of sound business modes will affect the enthusiasm of participants in the industry.

In light of the challenges, more efforts are needed to conduct further research on 5G application in the industrial sector. The integration of 5G technology and industrial Internet can make industrial facilities intelligently connected to monitor machines, report problems and optimize control effectively.

Related departments also need to develop plans on talent training and drive digital transformation through the technology to boost urban development and improve people's life.

Innovation Breakthrough *www.gmw.cn* October 12

The prosperity and progress of a country lies in science and technology innovation. During the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period, China has steadily promoted sci-tech innovation and participated in the governance of global sci-tech innovation, further globalizing and improving international influence of its innovation products. It has become a key force in driving global sci-tech innovation cooperation.

As the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25) approaches, China needs to make further breakthroughs in sci-tech innovation for high-quality development. Technological innovation means

“The collaboration between Shenzhen and Hong Kong needs to be expanded to the field of new economy. The two cities will not be in direct competition because of the uniqueness of their respective advantages.”

Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, telling Shenzhen TV in an interview on October 14

“If the U.S. keeps competing with China with a vile containment strategy to assail its perceived weaknesses, there will be a greater need for China to develop a more robust crisis management mechanism. In this way, China can improve its weaknesses and control conflict risks or a larger war.”

Peng Shengyu, a research fellow at the Charhar Institute in China, in an article in *Global Times* on October 13

independent research and development instead of imitation. The key is to make major breakthroughs in core technologies to improve competitiveness of technologies in the global arena.

To that end, domestic scientific researchers need to focus on meeting practical demands and addressing problems in real life. The foundation of innovation lies in theoretical research. Due to weak research in some fields, the reliance on imported technologies is still limiting China's development. Therefore, more efforts are needed for researchers to improve independent theoretical research and promote technological application to drive economic development.

The new round of technological revolution has driven rapid development of the digital economy. Since new technologies including big data, cloud computing, the Internet of Things and artificial intelligence are supposed to improve the efficiency of resource allocation and generate new economic modes, the application of new technologies should be promoted to drive economic restructuring.

To unleash the potential of China's sci-tech innovation, it is also important to deepen reform of the sci-tech research system by making more flexible requirements about researchers' degree, work experience, publication of academic papers and awards and providing a favorable environment for them to work on innovation.

Facing blockade and suppression, China needs to focus on open and inclusive cooperation for mutual benefits, explore new channels and room for global technological cooperation and further participate in global innovation to increase its contribution to the global technological progress.

Better Services

Beijing Youth Daily October 10

The performance of China's tourism industry during the eight-day National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holiday has shown robust economic recovery. The effective containment of the novel coronavirus disease has helped restore confidence of domestic tourists and further unleashed the potential of the tourism industry.

The rapid growth of the postal industry has also attested to the resumption of consumption. According to the State Post Bureau, the growth rate of parcel volume turned positive in February and has remained at over 30 percent.

With the epidemic largely brought under control, Chinese consumers have resumed

requirements on the quality of not only products but services. Domestic tourists have begun to choose more diversified travel destinations and pursue personalized and comfortable experiences.

To attract tourists, many tourism platforms have cooperated with airlines to boost travel to less popular scenic spots through discounts during the holiday. Some tourist attractions have also introduced measures such as building temporary and mobile toilets to improve tourists' experience. The practices have provided a good reference for domestic tourist attractions on improving services to enhance appeal.

With consumption restored, restoring the economic growth to the previous level is far from enough. More efforts are needed to improve services to meet market demands and drive up consumption to boost economic recovery.

FORMER REAL ESTATE EXECUTIVE SENTENCED TO PRISON

Ren Zhiqiang, former Chairman of state-owned Beijing Huayuan Group, was sentenced to 18 years in prison by the Beijing Second Intermediate People's Court on September 22 for embezzlement, taking bribes, misappropriation of public funds and abuse of power. He was also fined 4.2 million yuan (\$627,000).

Ren, 69, was appointed general manager of Huayuan Group in 1993 and later became the group's chairman. He was also the chairman of Huayuan Property, a listed subsidiary of Huayuan Group, and Beijing Huayuan Real Estate, which is wholly owned by Huayuan Property.

The court said that Ren embezzled over 49.7 million (\$7.3 million) yuan of public funds. Due to the violation of regulations and abuse of power during his tenure, he caused over 116 million yuan (\$17.2 million) of losses for the state-owned holding enterprises, of which Huayuan Group lost 53.7 million yuan (\$7.9 million).



“The COVID-19 pandemic has brought renewed attention to the importance of strengthening disaster risk reduction. It has shown us that systemic risk requires international cooperation.”

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, urging for improving disaster risk governance in a message commemorating the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on October 13

“Exploring new markets in Africa is a promising pathway for Chinese enterprises to go global. Governments, enterprises and industry associations need to cooperate on building more platforms and launching supporting policies and measures.”

Wang Huiyao, President of the Center for China and Globalization, in an article for China Global Television Network on October 13



COVER STORY

OVERCOMING LIMITS

Xiamen grows through coordinated development By Lan Xinzen



A bird's-eye view of Haicang District, Xiamen, Fujian Province, southeast China, on September 10

the China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone.

All these are new growth points, achieved in less than two decades, thanks to Xiamen's trans-island development strategy that has integrated the development of the main island with the growth of its four districts on the mainland.

Growth across the sea

According to the Xiamen Development and Reform Commission, through trans-island development, especially accelerated coordinated industrial development on the main island and outside, Xiamen has transcended its geographical limitation for economic development, creating greater space for industrial transformation and upgrading. The production expansion is accompanied by better industrial structure, quality and profits.

The industrial layout is a good way to illustrate the trans-island development. Of Xiamen's 1,700-square-km area, the main island accounts for only 131 square km. In the past, when people talked about Xiamen, they referred to the two downtown districts on the island. But their limited area hampered the growth of industries at the outset of this century.

Today Xiamen has 12 industrial chains each worth over 100 billion yuan (\$14.9 billion). Of them five are on the island. By developing the other seven industries in the off-island districts, the space constraint has been removed. Without the trans-island development strategy, these may have never developed.

In 1980, two years after the reform and opening-up policy began to be implemented, the Central Government set up four special economic zones (SEZs) to encourage foreign investment. Xiamen is one of them. At first, the Xiamen SEZ comprised only 2.5 square km in Huli District on the island. In 1984, it was expanded to the entire island.

The trans-island development owes its conception to a visit in 2002. On June 14, Xi Jinping, then Governor of Fujian who had once worked in Xiamen, made an inspection trip. At that time, after several years of development and construction, the area on the main island was no longer sufficient to meet the economic and social development needs as the population and

The district of Haicang is to Xiamen what Manhattan is to New York City and Santa Clara to California. It is the star of the port city in Fujian Province, southeast China. Any investor, be they from home or abroad, visits Haicang to decide whether to invest in Xiamen, and almost all senior officials touch base with Haicang during their official inspection trips to Xiamen.

Haicang lies west of Xiamen Island, with the Haicang Bridge spanning 870 meters of the sea to link it with the island. Growing

in connectivity and strategic importance, it has a concentration of pharmaceutical, integrated circuits (IC), harbor transport and railway freight industries. Eastward and southward it is connected by sea around the world; westward and northward it links to Europe and Central Asia via the China-Europe freight trains. By virtue of this, it is a major distribution hub for import and export commodities in Xiamen, Fujian and even central and south China. And it hosts the Haicang Bonded Port, which is part of

Xiamen's economy were growing. It was essential to have more development space.

Xi proposed the idea of trans-island development, suggesting the off-island areas of the city be developed in coordination.

The next day, *Xiamen Daily* covered Xi's proposal on trans-island development in a front-page report. Xiamen would build clusters with different functions outside the main island and establish a multi-level and well-conceived urbanization pattern to promote the integration of areas on and off the island, as well as of urban and rural areas.

The existing infrastructure on the main island would be improved and new development projects implemented outside. The urban population of Xiamen and productivity would be distributed in a reasonable way, and construction of industrial zones and central towns outside the main island accelerated.

To promote this envisioned trans-island development, Xiamen has built five cross-sea traffic thoroughfares, including Haicang Bridge, Asia's first steel box girder continuous floating suspension bridge with three spans; the Xiang'an Tunnel, the first sub-sea tunnel in the Chinese mainland, as well as the first sea-view metro line in China. In future the number of cross-sea traffic thoroughfares will be increased to 13. In June 2010, the Xiamen SEZ was expanded to cover all the six districts of the city.

The districts outside the main island, which were badlands 40 years ago, are becoming new city areas with clusters of different industries such as aviation, hi-tech and new technologies and advanced manufacturing.

Rising soft power

"Creating an enabling environment for

investors" is an essential part of the trans-island development strategy, which has helped the city attract investment from industrial leaders at home and abroad, including U.S. computer maker Dell and Coca-Cola.

For instance, when Hangzhou Silan Microelectronics, specializing in designing chips and manufacturing semiconductors, inaugurated its workshop in Xiamen in August, the entire process—from getting project approval, building the workshop and starting production—took less than two years.

"We chose Xiamen because it offers the best possible services and business environment," Xu Jingfeng, head of the workshop, told *Beijing Review*.

It means when a company decides to invest in Xiamen, city officials offer help in the construction of factories and



An automated terminal in the Haicang Bonded Port area on September 10

production. Also, since Xiamen boasts complete industrial chains, an investor in any industry will find a ready support system.

When Xiamen decided to develop the IC industry in Haicang, the district government itself took the lead by setting up the Xiamen Semiconductor Investment Group with a team of experienced managers. These professionals advised Silan Microelectronics on its Xiamen project, which led to the company's decision to invest in Xiamen and facilitated the work.

After several decades of reform and opening up, there is not much difference between different regions across the country in terms of preferential policies for attracting investment and the business environment. Therefore a region must have something new to attract investors.

As a Chinese proverb says, to attract the phoenix, build the nest first. Sound services in Xiamen constitute the "nest" that attracts investors. This is the city's unique selling point.

Currently, altogether 41 industrial clusters have been formed in Xiamen. For example, outside the main island, a mechanical industry cluster has been set up in Jimei District; in Siming District on the main island, clusters in finance, software and information and headquarters economy have been formed. Many renowned multinationals, including the *Fortune* 500 companies, have set up business in Xiamen.

Future plans

In 2002, Xiamen had an urban area of only 94 square km. In 2019, this had been increased to 398 square km. In 2002, Xiamen's GDP was 64.8 billion yuan (\$9.59 billion), with only 14.9 percent of that coming from the four off-island districts. In 2019, the GDP jumped to 599.5 billion yuan (\$88.68 billion), with the four contributing 46.7 percent.

The 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period has set targets for further trans-island development. Measures will be taken to ensure the GDP contributions of the four account for 55 percent of the city's total. By 2025, Xiamen's core competitiveness will be improved in an all-round way to develop it into an international metropolis.

The city will not accept investment for projects indiscriminately. The main island will mainly develop science and technology innovation, high-end services and finance industries as well as culture and creative industries, tourism, convention and exhibition industries, and headquarters economy.



The Administrative Service Center of the Xiamen Area of the China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone on September 11



A bio-tech company's workshop in Xiamen in December 2017

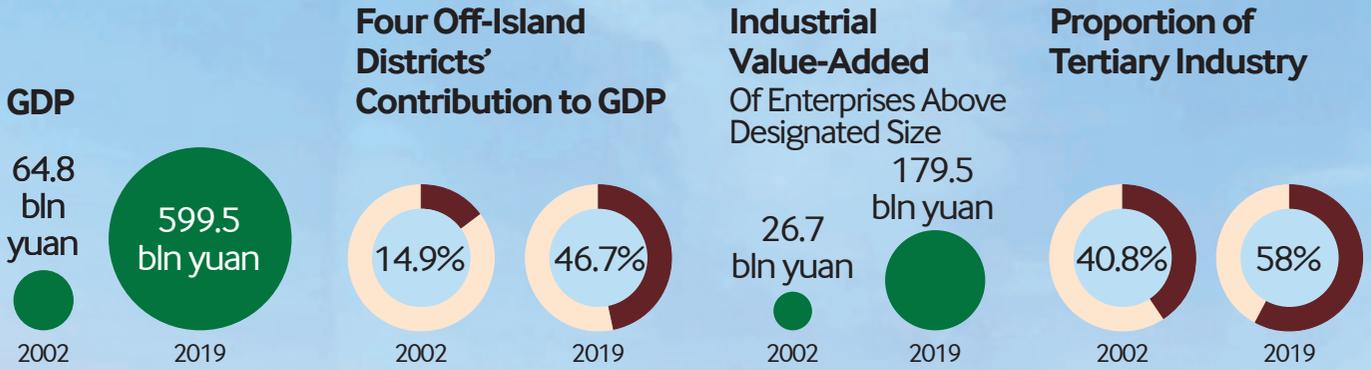
The off-island areas will mainly develop advanced manufacturing, electronic and information technology, shipping logistics, biomedicine and urban agriculture. Industries coming with high pollution, and high energy and resource consumption will not be allowed.

As a coastal city, Xiamen attaches great importance to the protection of the sea. Development both inside and outside the

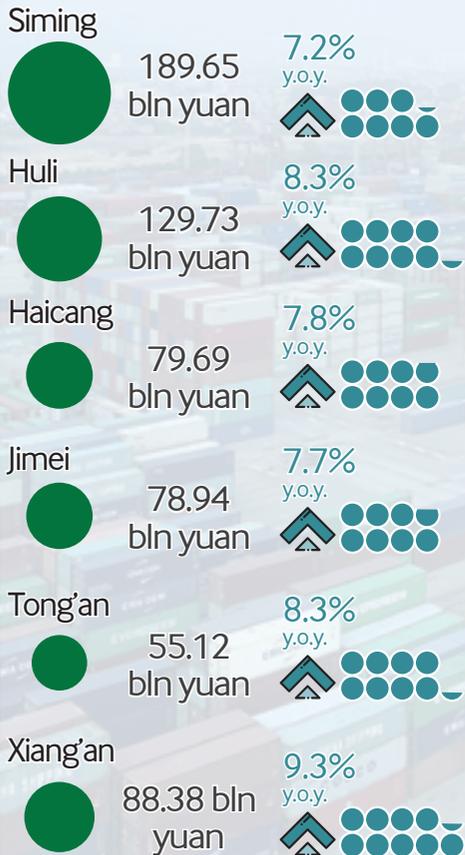
main island will be on the basis of ecological preservation. As Xiamen's official development plan envisions it, "Xiamen will attract people with its beautiful ecological environment, and then attract them to stay with quality services." ■

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Xiamen's Economic Indicators



Economic Growth by District (2019)



Industrial Chains

2019 Highlights

Xiamen has 12 industrial chains worth over 100 bln yuan



8 are located outside the main island:



Panel displays



Computers and communication equipment



Semiconductors and integrated circuits



Software and information services



Mechanical equipment



New materials



Bio-pharmaceuticals and healthcare



Urban modern agriculture

4 are located on the main island:



Tourism, convention and exhibition



Culture and creative industries



Modern logistics



Financial services



Xiamen hosts the 28th Golden Rooster and Hundred Flowers Film Festival

Average life expectancy is 80.89 years



The national average is 77.3 years



Permanent population 4.29 mln,

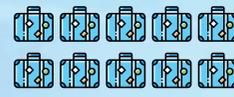


similar to the U.S. state of Kentucky

2.84%



Registered urban unemployment rate



100 mln tourists from home and abroad

1 icon = 10,000



Xiamen International Marathon is recognized as a Gold Label Road Race by the International Association of Athletics Federations for 12 years in a row



(Compiled by Beijing Review based on data from the Xiamen Bureau of Statistics and the Xiamen Development and Reform Commission; designed by Pamela Tobey)

COVER STORY

BUILDING A BRAND

Xiamen's land-sea logistics industry goes global By Ma Miaomiao

Xiamen has a long trading history. Since the Song Dynasty (960-1279), the ancient Tea Horse trade route had run through it and other cities in Fujian Province, southeast China. Caravans carried tea, seafood and other goods to sell them to distant places.

The port city was also a trade hub on the ancient Maritime Silk Road. Currently, it has become an important platform for Belt and Road cooperation and international exchanges.

Getting things started

In 1998, U.S. computer maker Dell chose Xiamen to establish its first factory in China. Later, BAX Global, a U.S.-based international shipping company, came to Xiamen as Dell's partner, providing delivery and vendor-managed inventory services.

Zhang Xiaobin, then an employee of

BAX, recalled that when BAX got registered in Xiamen in 1999, the concept of logistics was unknown in China. BAX had to use "warehousing" instead of "logistics" in its name.

It was Dell's arrival in Xiamen that introduced a series of unheard-of terms in China, such as zero inventory, modern logistics and electronic customs clearance, Wang Rong, former Vice Mayor of Xiamen, said in an interview in 2008.

Zhang is now director of DB Schenker's Xiamen branch. It is a division of German rail operator Deutsche Bahn that bought BAX in 2006. His company, a long-term partner of Dell and its suppliers, has enjoyed steady growth along with the booming logistics industry in Xiamen.

Modern logistics today is a 100-billion-yuan (\$14.9-billion) industry in Xiamen, according to the local government. The city

has been recognized as one of the national logistics hubs by the National Development and Reform Commission and Ministry of Transport.

It has become the most important stop for seamless connection between the overland Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, the two components of the Belt and Road Initiative, due to its unique location, Huang Qiang, Executive Vice Mayor of Xiamen, has said on many occasions.

New connectivity

On August 16, 2015, Xiamen flagged off its first China-Europe freight train for Lodz in Poland, marking a new chapter in the city's connectivity. Through the new transport route, it is now connected with Central and Southeast Asia and Europe.

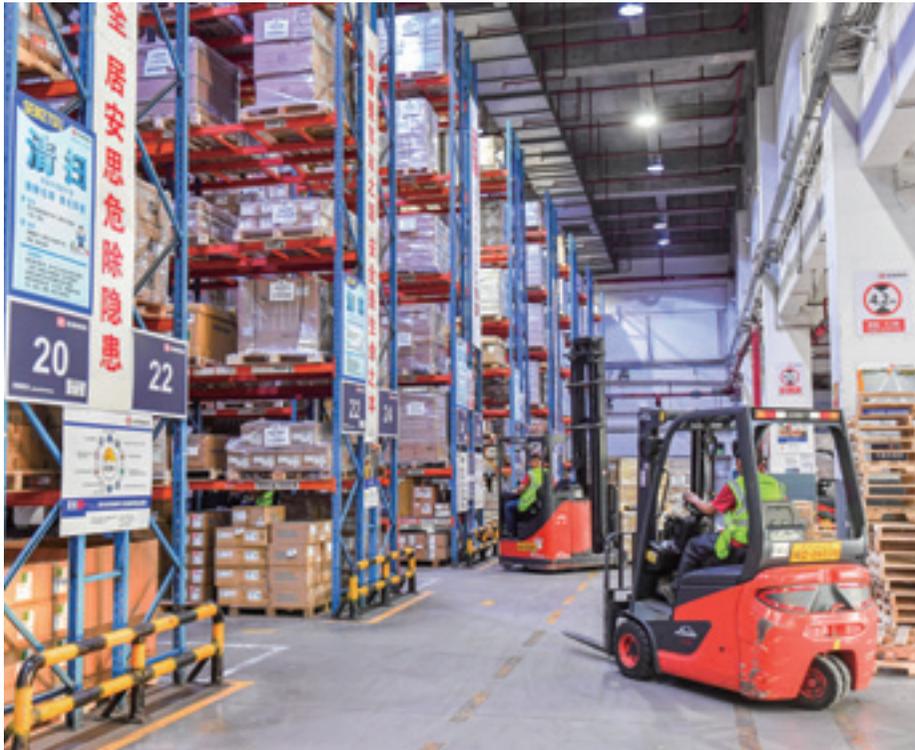
The China-Europe rail service today plays a pivotal role in land transport among different countries on different continents, indicated by the rising number of trains, new routes and the volume of goods, according to Lai Jinqian, Manager of the Business Department of Xiamen International Railway Service, which operates the China-Europe freight trains.

By August 31, after five years of operation, his company had run 816 trains with about 62,500 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of containers, carrying goods worth 16.85 billion yuan (\$2.48 billion) to Europe and Central Asia, Lai told *Beijing Review*.

In the early stages of the pandemic, as shipping and flights were suspended, the China-Europe freight trains were put to optimal use, he said.

The company also operates sea-rail intermodal transportation. According to Lai, the trains from Xiamen go to more than 30 cities in 12 countries. Goods from Japan and countries in Southeast Asia are transported by sea and rail to Xiamen, and then delivered to Europe. It cuts transportation time from 30-40 days to 20 days.

The service has also benefited exporters in Taiwan. Since April 2016, products from Taiwan arrive at the Xiamen Port by sea and are then loaded onto freight trains and forwarded to Europe.



A logistics company's warehouse in the Xiamen Area of the China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone on September 11

On October 27, 2019, a train from Novosibirsk, Russia, arrived in Xiamen, where its containers were shipped to the Port of Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, marking the start of a two-way transport logistics channel in Xiamen.

Though the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic disrupted international transport in 2020, Zhang said thanks to the sea-rail intermodal transportation system in Xiamen, his company was able to maintain stable operation.

Xiamen Ocean Gate Container Terminal (XOCT), a subsidiary of China COSCO Shipping Corp., has started constructing a railway section that will link the terminals of the company with the existing railway network to integrate different ways of transportation for greater efficiency and future expansion.

A global brand

In December 2018, three organizations came together to launch an international shipping logistics service brand. The brand, Silk Road Maritime, covers 62 shipping routes going to major ports in Asia, Africa and Europe. The three enterprises behind it are Fujian Provincial Communication Transportation, Xiamen Port Holding and China COSCO.

The brand, the first Chinese international shipping logistics service platform, also works to increase shipping routes and facilitate sea-to-sea and sea-to-land cargo transportation through collaboration with ports, railways and shipping companies both at home and overseas.

By the end of August, the brand had operated more than 3,400 voyages transporting more than 3 million TEUs.

Early during the epidemic, the brand's members launched measures to ensure safety and smooth operation of its industrial and supply chains. XOCT's automated terminal, for example, runs with zero contact, coordinated by a central control room.

"We have used electronic bills of lading, and container transportation rather than bulk cargo to ensure contactless ordering and delivery during the epidemic," Lin Jianxi, General Manager of the Information



A container is loaded onto a China-Europe freight train at the Haicang Station in Xiamen, Fujian Province in southeast China, on April 25

Department of XOCT, told *Beijing Review*.

The Silk Road Maritime has been followed by other platforms to strengthen exchanges and collaboration in trade and investment. At the Silk Road Maritime International Cooperation Forum held in Xiamen in September, Zhao Long, Vice Governor of Fujian, said the Silk Road Maritime Alliance, an outreach project of the brand, has attracted 183 global partners so far. They include companies from diverse sectors, from shipping and logistics to trade and manufacturing as well as research institutions and industrial associations.

The Port of Gdansk, Poland, is one of the new members. It is the largest deep-water container terminal in the Baltic Sea area and the last stop on the China-Europe sea route. Poland is also an important European gateway for Belt and Road cooperation. Eighty percent of the goods

shipped by the China-Europe freight trains enter Europe through Poland.

Mateusz Dawidowski, Port of Gdansk Authority's chief representative in China, told Xinhua News Agency, "We are more than happy to be part of the alliance, and we hope to increase our role in it. Our companies import a lot from China and export a lot to China. So the Silk Road Maritime will accelerate our recovery [from COVID-19]." ■



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COVER STORY

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Xiamen Airlines adds a feather to the city's development cap By Ma Miaomiao



Xiamen Airlines' Flight MF8095, the first flight to arrive in Wuhan after the city lifted travel restrictions due to COVID-19, is welcomed at the Tianhe Airport in Wuhan, Hubei Province in central China, on April 8

For Australian pilot Myles Bernard Weston, Thanksgiving started in October this year. His wife and two daughters, who had been stuck in New Zealand since the Chinese New Year holiday in January due to disruptions caused by the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), were finally able to come back home in Xiamen, Fujian Province in southeast China.

Weston has stayed on in Xiamen throughout, carrying on with his daily flights for Xiamen Airlines, with whom he has been working for two years. There were assignments even during the peak of the epidemic. In February, Xiamen Airlines delivered supplies to Wuhan, the city in central China then hardest hit by the virus, and Weston was the captain.

Anti-epidemic work

Along with medical supplies and food, the flight also carried eight doctors to Wuhan from

Xiamen to assist in the epidemic prevention work.

In fact, Xiamen Airlines' contribution to the anti-epidemic work started in January as it was part of the air channel that ferried medical personnel and cargo. It also flew medical experts to other countries, such as the Philippines, to support the anti-COVID-19 work there, Zhao Dong, President of Xiamen Airlines, told *Beijing Review*.

Also the first to bring back Chinese stranded overseas, it ran flights to Thailand, Malaysia and Ghana, transporting over 5,000 people by September 6.

Xiamen Airlines is one of the carriers to maintain flights to other countries and regions with prevention and control measures in place. On August 19, it was allowed to increase its four weekly round trips to the U.S. to eight as China reached an agreement with the U.S. As per it, their airlines can double the number of their passenger flights to each.

Xiamen Airline's contributions were officially recognized in September when at a ceremony held in Beijing to commend role models in the national fight against the epidemic, it was awarded along with others.

The company had a distinction right at its founding in 1984. Four years earlier, the government assented to creating four special economic zones (SEZs) to further reform and opening up and explore new economic development models. Xiamen was among the four cities chosen and the birth of Xiamen Airlines made the port city the first SEZ to have its own airline.

A matter of pride

When President Xi Jinping visited the Boeing assembly plant in Seattle during his state visit to the U.S. in 2015, he talked with pride about the growth of Xiamen Airlines, which uses Boeings. "In the initial stage, Xiamen Airlines

and the Xiamen Airport had to be developed with international loans, and the airline had only a few aircraft," he said. "Now, after 30 years of development, Xiamen Airlines has the world's most advanced Boeing 787 planes. This is the epitome of China's civil aviation development." Xi was vice mayor of Xiamen between 1985 and 1988.

Starting with two rented Boeing 737s, Xiamen Airlines now has 206 aircraft and operates on nearly 350 routes to major cities around the world. It ranks among the top 10 airlines in the world in terms of operating profit and is the only air carrier in China that has been profitable for 33 consecutive years, Zhao said.

On August 6, the company announced a new expansion plan. It would build a north China headquarters. This is a pragmatic move to utilize the Daxing International Airport, the new aviation hub in Beijing, and also be involved in the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. By March 29, all its flights to and from Beijing had been transferred to the new airport from the Beijing Capital International Airport.

"We are exploring an asset-light approach to shave off fixed assets and improve returns and resilience of Xiamen Airlines," Zhao said. The company will reform its business model in line with the dual circulation strategy, China's new design for economic development in which the domestic market is the mainstay and domestic and foreign markets complement and reinforce one another. It will also enter more industries such as new retail, logistics and healthcare.

Green growth

Xiamen Airlines was the first airline in the world to support the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On February 15, 2017, it signed a cooperation agreement with the UN at the world body's headquarters in New York City.

Since then, it has introduced more eco-friendly measures such as switching to bamboo pulp tissues and cups for passengers. It promotes digital self-service at the airports, from self-check-in and self-baggage drop to face recognition self-boarding.

Its United Dream aircraft, a Boeing 787-9 painted in a special blue livery that represents the SDGs, ran themed flights in 2018 to raise awareness of sustainable development among passengers.

John Bruns, then President of Boeing China, called the new Boeing aircraft an ideal fit for Xiamen Airlines and the SDGs. Based on in-service data, Boeing said the 787 family uses 20 to 25 percent less fuel and has 20 to 25 percent fewer emissions than the planes they replace.

In September 2019, the aircraft was used for Xiamen Airline's first passenger flight at



Alison Smale, then Under Secretary General for Global Communications at the UN Department of Public Information, and Zhao Dong, President of Xiamen Airlines, visit the company's Boeing 787-9 aircraft themed on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in Charleston, the U.S., on January 26, 2018

the Daxing airport. In July and August this year, it flew Chinese peacekeepers to Mali in West Africa to join UN peacekeeping operations.

Today Xiamen Airlines operates one of the world's youngest fleets, with the average age of its aircraft being six years. Its fuel consumption per ton-kilometer has dropped by 14.8 percent over the past five years, surpassing the global average improvement in fuel efficiency.

Zhao said the company has been able to achieve its commitment given to the UN that it would reduce its annual emissions by 300,000

tons. This will contribute to China's commitment made at the UN in September that it will efface its entire carbon footprint by 2060. ■



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THE BEST IS YET AHEAD

Pioneering port city embodies Chinese dream of national rejuvenation coming true

By William Brown

When our family moved to Xiamen in the southeastern province of Fujian in 1988, it was hard to believe that only a century earlier many Westerners had claimed that Xiamen boasted the wealthiest square mile on earth.

For centuries, Xiamen had been famed for both its deep natural port and “a kindlier spirit, a more generous feeling, predominant at Amoy [Xiamen], toward foreigners, and traders, and visitors, than at other parts of China,” as authors Thomas Allom and George Wright wrote in their 1843 book *China in a Series of Views, Displaying the Scenery, Architecture, and Social Habits of That Ancient Empire*.

Xiamen was not only rich but also talented, producing pioneers such as Dr. Lin Qiaozhi, mother of modern obstetrics and gynecology in China, John Ma, father of modern Chinese sports, Lu Zhuangzhang, the first Chinese to propose a system of spelling for the Chinese languages, astronomer Yu Qingsong, and dozens of others who influenced not just the nation but the world.

But by 1988, the thousands of once elegant Amoy Deco villas on Gulangyu, the tiny island off the coast of Xiamen called Kulangsu locally, which would later become a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site, were in disrepair. The villas, combining traditional Chinese and Western architecture, had been converted into apartments and dorms. Xiamen’s roads were narrow and potholed. We had daily power outages, and the foreign expert building’s water outages sometimes lasted for three or four days.

Public transport was so poor that I tried to buy a pedicab but was told, “Foreigners can’t buy commercial vehicles!”

“It’s for family use, not for profit,” I argued.

“How would I know?” the clerk retorted. “I’ve heard America’s economy has problems.”

After a month of arguing, Xiamen University leaders finally stamped an official document promising I’d not pedal for profit. I had ridden my new pedicab only 200 meters when a youth with his girlfriend yelled, “How much to Zhongshan Park?”

Contagious confidence

Although we weren’t happy with the living conditions, we fell in love with Xiamen’s warm-hearted and hospitable people. In spite of problems, they were cheerful and optimistic because life was already better than it had been in half a century and they were confident things would get even better. Their contagious confidence so captivated us that I agreed to help Xiamen University’s fledgling MBA program for a year or two—and we’re still here three decades later, and have no plans to leave.

As I learned about Chinese history and culture, and the pragmatism and efficiency of Chinese governance, I too began to share the locals’ confidence in the future, yet none of us dreamed that the transformation would be so rapid and complete. I thought we were simply planting trees for future generations to enjoy the shade, but within two decades we were enjoying life in a town that the UN had recognized as one of the planet’s most livable cities.

What most impressed me about Xiamen was the leadership’s holistic and long-term vision. Hong Yongshi, Xiamen’s mayor in the 1990s, declared the city would not grow at the expense of the environment and then try to restore it, but balance growing and greening. As a result, Xiamen was grown and greened over a 20-year period. Its unique mix of rich business opportunities coupled with a garden island environment made the city a magnet for investors from all over China and abroad.

Yet even though I had witnessed Xiamen’s impressive changes, I had no idea of the sophistication of the visionary and holistic urban planning that had made those changes possible until 2002, when I spent eight months helping Xiamen prepare for the international competition for livable communities in Stuttgart, Germany.

After eight months of research, I was confident that our city would do well, but never imagined the six international judges would not only vote Xiamen but also admit that theirs were far behind. After my presentation, many leaders from other countries bombarded me with such questions as, “How could a city change so rapidly and completely?” “How did they grow without sacrificing the environment?” “How do you get so many volunteers for everything?” “Do you believe Xiamen will continue improving?”



Zhongshan Road, a main commercial street in Xiamen, Fujian Province in southeast China, on September 7

Art of governance

In 2004, Xiamen also received the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honor Award as a tribute to its contributions to developing housing. Our city has improved to this very day, thanks to visionary leadership and a capable populace. But much of Xiamen's success is also due to the support of a national system of governance that even centuries ago astonished Western observers.

In 1731, British politician Eustace Budgell said China had many great inventions but the entire world recognized that its greatest achievement was its "art of government." Great thinkers such as Voltaire even urged European monarchies to adopt China's governance principles and to choose leaders based on competence, not connections or heredity.

Chinese leaders today, like their forebears centuries ago, have continued to demonstrate their competence in engineering and the sciences as they've provided a foundation for not just Xiamen but for the entire nation. Over the years I helped a dozen cities enter the international livable cities competition and all but one won the gold because Chinese cities have what most foreign cities do not—a system of government in which all levels, from township to national, are integrated to efficiently pursue a common goal grounded in pragmatic economics, sciences and engineering to meet the needs of one fifth of the world's population.

In 1994, I drove 40,000 km around China, even to Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in the north and Tibet Autonomous Region in the southwest, to see the extent of changes, and retraced that trip in 2019. I saw firsthand that not just Xiamen but even remote cities in the west no longer endure power and water outages because of such historically unparalleled projects as the Three Gorges Dam, built for flood control, irrigation and clean electricity production, the West-to-East Electricity Transmission Project to divert electricity from the power-surplus west to the densely populated east, and the South-to-North Water Diversion Project to bring water to the drought-prone north.

And not just Xiamen but even remote mountain towns and villages are connected by the world's most extensive high-speed railway and highway networks. These transport facilities are benefiting the rest of the world through the Belt and Road Initiative.

In October 2019, I thought it was ironic when India, which has opposed the Belt and Road Initiative, cut shipping costs by routing their cargo through Xiamen. India's largest container port, Nhava Sheva on the western coast, sent cargo to Uzbekistan in the north via Xiamen, far to the east. Politics notwithstanding, even India has no efficient alternative to the initiative.



William Brown and his wife Susan Marie Brown pose for a photo at a pedestrian path connecting major scenic spots in Xiamen on October 2

Dream coming true

Today, Xiamen is worlds apart from the backwater town we moved to in 1988. Our beautiful garden island not only attracts business and hi-tech innovation but also tourists, often ranking first or second in China as a holiday destination. But where most people must travel to Xiamen and stay in hotels, my wife and I enjoy a Xiamen holiday 365 days a year, and we never tire of it. We also never take it for granted because we remember too well how much Xiamen has changed thanks to visionary local, provincial and national leadership.

In spite of the great changes in Xiamen and the rest of the country, we are confident that the best is yet ahead. As American missionary Mary Gamewell, who worked on girls' education

in China for over a decade, wrote a century ago, "China is not like ancient Egypt, whose greatness has departed though she still lives on. China is a vital force whose largest possibilities of development lie before and not behind her. A new fresh life is beginning to course through the nation's veins."

Her words are even truer today. I believe that China has achieved the Chinese dream. My dream is that the world can learn from China and make it the world's dream. ■

The author is OneMBA academic director at Xiamen University School of Management and ambassador of the New Channel International Education Group
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Honest and Applicable

Targeted and practical policies, outlined in Xi's book, remain relevant even in turbulent times **By George N. Tzogopoulos**



The author is director of the EU-China Program at the Centre International de Formation Européenne

One of the most challenging tasks for Western scholars is understanding China. The differences in their cultures overshadow the interpretation of China in Western discourse. As a result, China is regularly portrayed according to Western expectations or standards.

China's progress in the last decades has been the result of hard work, systematic action and careful planning. *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China* Volume III offers a valuable account of Chinese political thinking and the priorities in the governance of the country structured around 19 thematic units.

China finds itself at a crossroads due to the volatile international environment. President Xi Jinping is leading the country during a period of unprecedented challenges, which had been apparent even before the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). As he says, "One should be mindful of possible danger in times of peace, downfall in times of survival, and chaos in times of stability."

China created a miracle in the past and now it needs to patiently sustain it. What deserves attention, particularly from the Western perspective, is that this miracle was created with a different governance model

China created a miracle in the past and now it needs to patiently sustain it. What deserves attention, particularly from the Western perspective, is that this miracle was created with a different governance model. Xi's book explains this model, socialism with Chinese characteristics, and how it is being played out in the political, economic, cultural, societal and international spheres.

In the final count, what matters is leadership. A leader should solve problems instead of hiding them. Xi acknowledges the reality. He says, "We must be clear: There are still many inadequacies in our work."

Some difficulties, for example, have been caused by "unbalanced and inadequate development." Xi is well aware that meeting the fundamental interests of the people is the ultimate yardstick for judging the work of the Communist Party of China.

It is rare for a leader to talk about problems instead of glossing over the situation. But that's what Xi does. In the book, for instance, he refers to weaknesses in China's scientific and technological development. Although data from the U.S. National Science Foundation recently showed that China surpassed the U.S. in the number of science and engineering articles published in peer-reviewed journals in 2018 and the publication growth was double the world average, Xi pushes for improvements.

He argues that some enterprises did not pay attention to basic research and sees shortcomings in fields such as machine tools, high-end microchips, basic software, development platforms and basic algorithms. And he employs a similar argument about environmental protection and eco-conservation.

Xi Jinping: The Governance of China Volume III informs about different Chinese policies. More importantly, it sketches out Xi's determination to succeed in China's avowed goals.

One of the maxims inscribed in the forecourt of the Temple of Apollo in Delphi, Greece, laying down the foundation of ancient Greek philosophy, was "Know thyself." It has echoes in the writing of Chinese philosopher-poet Han Yu, who wrote, "It is most pitiful that one does not know one's mistakes, and those who know but do not change have no courage."

Xi learns lessons from history and charts policies for the future accordingly. The policies are not general or theoretical but practical and targeted. This explains China's progress even in turbulent times.

By October, a few months after the publication of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China* Volume III, China has controlled the novel coronavirus disease at home, and pledged to have carbon dioxide emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

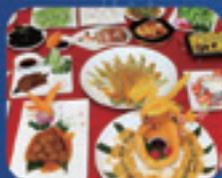
Xi reiterates early Ming Dynasty poet Lin Hong's words that "there is no use in reading 10,000 books if we cannot even put one of their words into practice."

This is what makes the book special: its honesty and applicability in day-to-day domestic and international politics, even under extreme circumstances. ■

CHINA MOSAIC

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High Stakes

All players must rise above differences for a prosperous global village **By Li Jie**



The author is Counselor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China

Seventy-five years ago, our fathers' generation won the epic victory of the World Anti-Fascist War through years of heroic struggles. The ensuing decades witnessed the founding of the United Nations on October 24, 1945, the best hope of humankind to facilitate international cooperation and coordination and establish a new international order to avoid a third world war following two such cataclysms.

From organizing peacekeeping missions to implementing the Millennium Development Goals and then the Sustainable Development Goals, from promoting South-South and North-South cooperation to implementing its Development Program, World Food Program and Environment Program, and from offering humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers through its Children's Fund to recognizing World Heritage Sites by its Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the UN has been the guardian of international peace and security, the promoter of human progress, the protector of international law, and the engineer of socioeconomic development.

Over the past 75 years, the ideals, values and objectives of the UN have been endured: the peaceful settlement of disputes; the equal rights of men and women; non-intervention, self-determination and the sovereign equality of member states; and the clear rules governing the use of force. The purposes and principles of the UN have formed the bedrock of international relations, and remained the touchstone we all refer to and rely upon to uphold our shared responsibilities and achieve our global commitments.

In short, the UN shoulders the aspirations of the world for a better future. It has

done a good job contributing to peace and development of the world, and deserves a big thumbs-up.

Practitioner of multilateralism

In the 2015 summit meetings commemorating the 70th anniversary of the UN, President Xi Jinping announced a host of important initiatives and measures in support of the work of the UN. All of them have been delivered on the ground.

China is now the second largest contributor to the UN's regular budget and peacekeeping assessment, the largest contributor of peacekeepers among the five Permanent UN Security Council members. China has registered a standby force of 8,000 troops and a police squad of 300 troops for UN peacekeeping missions, and elevated six of its standby contingents to Level Three in the four-level UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System. As such, China now has the biggest standby force and most varieties of contingents among all UN member states.

The China-UN Peace and Development Fund has provided a total funding of \$67.7 million to over 80 projects. These projects have facilitated the UN's efforts in different areas like peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, energy, agriculture, infrastructure and education.

China has assisted other developing countries with 180 poverty reduction projects, 118 agricultural cooperation projects, 178 trade facilitation projects, 103 projects on ecological conservation and climate change, 134 hospitals and clinics and 123 educational and vocational training institutes. The South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund has supported over 80 projects in more than 30 developing countries, injecting impetus for global sustainable development.

China has donated \$10 million to UN Women, making it the largest contributor among developing countries. China has completed 133 health projects for women and children and invited over 30,000 women from developing countries for training programs. By doing so, China has made an important contribution to women's devel-

opment in the world.

To promote international cooperation against the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), China has launched the biggest global humanitarian operation in its history. It has provided assistance to over 150 countries and international organizations and ensured stable global production and supply of anti-epidemic materials. COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China, when available, will be made a global public good. This will be China's contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries. Also, China has joined COVAX, an international initiative aimed at ensuring equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines, becoming the largest economy to support the initiative so far.

A community with a shared future

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the UN, the essence of the current international situation is that each and every country's future is closely linked. We must, as President Xi put it at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly on September 22, rise above ideological disputes, preserve the environment and make Mother Earth a better place for all.

In the global fight against COVID-19, the vision's features have fully manifested themselves, and given insight to the future orientation of global cooperation in the UN:

A people-centered commitment. At a time of frequent humanitarian crises, building a community with a shared future for mankind calls for delivering care and hope to people in dire situations, and protecting women, children, the elderly, the physically challenged and other vulnerable groups with humanity, charity and dedication. The world shall stay committed to putting the life of the people front and center, uphold humanitarianism and take effective measures to stem the global spread of COVID-19.

A multi-pronged and coordinated approach. A community with a shared future for humanity is a multi-dimensional concept that covers politics, security,

development, civilization, ecology and all other fields. Having taken a toll on the world economy, global governance, social development and public health, COVID-19 has created multiple crises and requires a multi-pronged response. Guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity, we need to conduct international cooperation against the virus at bilateral, regional and global levels, and take targeted measures in healthcare, economic growth, people's livelihoods and national governance. We need to seek parallel progress in epidemic control, economic and social development, domestic response and global public health governance.

An unwavering belief in science.

A community with a shared future for mankind prioritizes concrete practices, follows scientific thinking and embodies the philosophy of dialectical materialism and historical materialism. The unexpected and ferocious virus will exploit loopholes if science is ignored. Guided by the vision, we must base our conclusion on facts. We must not allow politics to trump science and reason. We must not let the politicization of COVID-19 distract from science-based prevention, control, treatment and research. The global narrative about COVID-19 should reflect reason and conscience. History should be written with facts, not tainted by lies. We have an obligation to leave behind an objective and truthful account as part of our own collective memory.

The UN has an irreplaceable role to play in forging a community with a shared future for humanity. It should instill the sense that we all live in the same community and therefore should work together in solidarity and look out for one another in tackling risks and challenges. It should promote partnerships at the regional and global levels and envision a common goal of building an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

Looking ahead, the world needs a stronger UN to meet challenges and turn crises into opportunities. A stronger UN that regenerates its capacity for mobiliz-

ing global cooperation, and adjusts to new situations and reshapes the zeitgeist of our time. A stronger UN that safeguards world peace and security, champions common development, safeguards the international order, supports greater democracy in international relations, advocates harmonious coexistence across different races, systems and cultures, calls for solidarity and cooperation, and keeps abreast of the times and responds to global challenges.

A stronger UN underlines the need to reform, especially in the three critical areas of peace and security, economic development and internal management. The UN reform should be led by member states, prioritize concerns of developing countries, and aim at a more efficient UN with enhanced oversight and accountability to reach its full potential.

Multilateralism or unilateralism

The differences and contradictions between China and the United States are not a struggle for power, status, or social system, but the persistence of multilateralism or unilateralism, and the advocacy of win-win cooperation or zero-sum game.

The current China-U.S. relationship has become a source of concern for many in the international community. The fundamental reason for this is that some extreme hawkish politicians in the U.S., driven by the need to lift campaign prospects and maintain unipolar hegemony, are going all out to negate the history of China-U.S. relations and suppress China on every front, instigating renewed ideological confrontation and misleading the world into "a new cold war."

The U.S. is the absolute solo maker of these regressive moves, which is against the willingness and aspiration of China and the whole world. The reckless provocation of confrontation and division is out of touch with the reality of the intertwined and integrated interests between China and the U.S.

In the era of globalization, it is impossible to divide the world into two or three camps again, for all countries have been interwoven with each other and become a community with a shared future. Should

such conspiracy theories be allowed to have their way, not only will China-U.S. relations fall into the abyss of confrontation, but the entire humankind's future will be dragged into peril.

Fundamentally speaking, the U.S. has made a strategic mistake by taking China as its adversary, for China is not the Soviet Union. It has no interest in replacing America, nor is it interested to be "America the second."

The reason is crystal clear: China is committed to development. Its aim is to bring happiness and wellbeing to the Chinese people, and peace and development to the world. It does not seek to export its system or model of development, nor is it intended to engage in ideological confrontation.

In response to the U.S. words and actions that undermine China's core and major interests, China has taken, and will continue to take, firm and necessary countermeasures. It will never allow a few anti-China elements to overturn decades of successful exchanges and cooperation between China and the U.S., nor will it allow ideological prejudice to undermine the future development of China-U.S. relations. The Chinese side must clarify the facts and make necessary responses.

In the meantime, the door to China-U.S. dialogue is open. China is ready to have a candid and in-depth exchange of views with the U.S. side on issues of common concern at any time and through equal communication and exchanges.

As President Xi put it at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly, "It is natural for countries to have differences. What's important is to address them through dialogue and consultation."

In a world fraught with challenges and mounting risks, if the UN is to survive and prosper, those who represent it must bolster it, those who advocate it must submit to it, and those who believe in it must fight for it.

China will continue to stay on the right side of history and human progress. ■

Cybersecurity By All, For All

Chinese initiative calls for peace, security, openness, cooperation and order in the Web world **By Lu Chuanying**



The author is secretary general of the Cyberspace International Governance Research Center with the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies

On September 8, China proposed the Global Initiative on Data Security to meet the new challenges emerging in global digital governance. State Counselor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced the proposal while addressing the International Seminar on Global Digital Governance via video link.

Besides the eight points (see box) the initiative is based on, Wang highlighted a few other issues. The response to the novel coronavirus pandemic has seen digital technologies play an important role in keeping society and the economy running. Wang

likened the ensuing explosive growth of data to the discovery of oil, providing a new source of energy for economic growth and industrial transformation.

However, since different countries have different data laws and regulations, it is pushing up the compliance costs for global businesses. Therefore collective governance of cyberspace with unified rules will benefit everyone. The initiative is meant to be a start to that process.

Individual efforts

In recent years, many countries have been making laws on their own data use and protection. For example, the EU introduced the General Data Protection Regulation, which came into effect in 2018. It is the 27-member bloc's primary law now, regulating companies' protection of EU citizens' personal data.

The United States' Clarifying Lawful Overseas Use of Data Act enacted in 2018 can compel U.S.-based technology companies to hand over any data the government wants, regardless of whether it is stored on servers in the U.S. or on foreign soil.

China has nearly 900 million Internet users, and a massive amount of data is generated every day. The security of data is vital for the privacy of the users, the intellectual property rights of enterprises, and national security. The Chinese Government has in recent years stipulated multiple laws to guarantee data security, including the Cybersecurity Law, Intelligence Law and Anti-Terrorism Law. A data security law and a personal information protection law are under consideration.

But even as states enhance their own data security and sovereignty, concerted global efforts are hard to implement due to lack of coordination of their policies. The absence of international rules has increasingly become a stumbling block for the development of the global digital economy and international cooperation.

Acting together

China's legislation can be viewed as being exploratory since data security protection is a new area. But some of its efforts have been misinterpreted by the international community. So the initiative, as an official statement of China's position on data security, responds to those concerns.

For example, some countries have recently accused China of being non-transparent in its data protection policies and forcing Chinese enterprises to transfer their overseas data back home. The initiative says states should not request domestic companies to store data generated and obtained overseas in their own territory.

It is also a response to the U.S. administration's Clean Network program, which calls for clean carrier, clean store, clean apps, clean cloud and clean cable. However, its critics regard it as an initiative to upgrade American containment and suppression of Chinese technology companies such as Huawei and digital products like TikTok on the ground of so-called national security concerns.

This, besides violating China's national security, also affects the security of global supply chains and the innovation environment in cyberspace. In the long run, such unilateral actions will further split cyberspace and pose serious threats to global economic growth and people's wellbeing.

On the other hand, the initiative proposed by China is not unilateral. It upholds multilateralism, fairness and justice, and calls on all



A cybersecurity lab of Chinese tech firm ZTE in Brussels, Belgium, on July 10, 2019



Representatives of Chinese cybersecurity solutions provider Qi-Anxin pose for a photo at the 2020 RSA Conference in San Francisco, the U.S., on February 25. The company received two awards from *Cyber Defense Magazine*, an American e-magazine, at the conference

countries, international organizations and other stakeholders to participate in the rule-making process on an equal basis to forge a community with a shared future for all in cyberspace. Wang said China is open-minded to good ideas and suggestions from all.

If governments, international organizations, information technology companies, technology communities, civil organizations and all other actors join the discussions, the ensuing extensive consultations will lead to joint contributions and shared benefits.

China has already given its inputs on digital governance at multilateral forums like the UN, Group of 20, BRICS and the ASEAN Regional Forum. It should continue the diplomatic drive on more international platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Forum on China-Africa Cooperation to seek wider international support for the initiative.

In addition, it can be promoted through bilateral cooperation dialogues with other countries. A consensual global initiative will contribute to cybersecurity and the development of the global digital economy. ■

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Key Points of the Global Initiative on Data Security

- States should handle data security in a comprehensive, objective and evidence-based manner, and maintain an open, secure and stable supply chain of global information and communications technology (ICT) products and services.
- States should stand against ICT activities that impair or steal important data of other states' critical infrastructure, or use the data to conduct activities that undermine other states' national security and public interests.
- States should take actions to prevent and put an end to activities that jeopardize personal information through the use of ICTs, and oppose mass surveillance against other states and unauthorized collection of personal information of other states with ICTs as a tool.
- States should encourage companies to abide by laws and regulations of the state where they operate. States should not request domestic companies to store data generated and obtained overseas in their own territory.
- States should respect the sovereignty, jurisdiction and governance of data of other states, and shall not obtain data located in other states through companies or individuals without other states' permission.
- Should states need to obtain overseas data out of law enforcement requirement such as combating crimes, they should do it through judicial assistance or other relevant multilateral and bilateral agreements. Any bilateral data access agreement between two states should not infringe upon the judicial sovereignty and data security of a third state.
- ICT products and services providers should not install backdoors in their products and services to illegally obtain users' data, control or manipulate users' systems and devices.
- ICT companies should not seek illegitimate interests by taking advantage of users' dependence on their products, nor force users to upgrade their systems and devices. Products providers should make a commitment to notifying their cooperation partners and users of serious vulnerabilities in their products in a timely fashion and offering remedies.

Acts of Remembrance

Efforts continue to identify Chinese volunteers missing in Korean War and honor their spirit **By Yuan Yuan**

When the Memorial Hall of the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, the only museum in the country on Chinese volunteers' participation in the Korean War (1950-53), reopened in the border city of Dandong, Liaoning Province in northeast China, in September, it triggered widespread reminiscences, especially this year being the 70th anniversary of the war.

Beijing resident Sun Yuhong's father and uncle took part in the war. Finally, her father came back but her uncle didn't. She began trying to find out what happened to him in 1979, due to her grandparents' concern over their missing son. He was 20 when he went to the war as a member of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV).

In 2014, along with others who too were searching for relatives missing in the war, she formed a group to share informa-

tion about the missing ones. The group members, who are from different parts of the country, share the list of names and images from their local cemeteries in an online chat group.

The team has evolved into the largest organization nationwide helping relatives looking for their CPV kin. So far, they have helped 1,780 families find their relatives.

"It is a really hard task," Sun told *Beijing Review*. "It was wartime and there was great chaos." Also, many volunteers may not have recorded their full names. Over 90 percent of them were illiterate and couldn't write their name.

A total of 2.9 million Chinese volunteers fought in the war. So far, 197,653 of them have been officially registered as martyrs by the Ministry of Veteran Affairs. Detailed information is available about the age,

birthplace and exact date of death of the recorded fallen. "But there are still many other unknown heroes who sacrificed their lives in the war but the deaths were not recorded due to various reasons," Sun said. "Their family members never stopped looking for them."

Sun was lucky to have more information about her uncle. She found a veteran who was in the same corps with him and confirmed he was killed in 1953. Then someone from Shenyang, capital of Liaoning, shared a photo of the CPV martyrs' cemetery and on the wall, where the names of those buried there were inscribed, she found her uncle's name.

A farewell journey

In June 2018, she embarked on a trip to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to "visit" the uncle she had never met. As she passed the China-DPRK border by train, taking the route her uncle had, she tried to picture the scene when he had passed the same border in 1951.

She was accompanied by four CPV veterans and two relatives of those who had died in the war. The purpose of the trip was to sweep the tombs of the men buried in the DPRK. Sun was not sure about the location of her uncle's tomb but it was the closest she would be to him. When they reached their destination, she bowed in the direction of the battlefield where he was killed and cried for him.

Jin Jinhua, a 72-year-old from Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in east China, made the same trip in August 2017 with his family. His father was killed in the war. A literate man, he had left a diary, a precious record of the war.

The death was confirmed right after the war and Jin learned he was buried in the DPRK. "It was my mother's lifelong wish to visit my father's tomb but it was not realized when she was alive," he told Xinhua News Agency. Jin found a DPRK student studying at Zhejiang University



A relative of a Chinese volunteer finds the name on the wall of the martyrs' cemetery in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, northeast China, on September 29, 2019

in Hangzhou, east China, and the student eventually helped to find the location of the grave.

When they visited the tomb with flowers and traditional last rites objects, Gu Duyan, a documentary maker, followed them for the entire trip to make a documentary. "The government allocates fund and arranges for people to go to the DPRK to maintain the cemeteries there every year," Gu said. "The motherland has not forgotten them."

Piecing identities together

In September 2019, a ceremony was held in a Shenyang cemetery to identify six CPV members by DNA technology, the first time the technology was used. Following the identification, a database was set up.

The work has been undertaken by a People's Liberation Army team. It was a challenging task to extract a valid DNA sequence from the remains, which were either buried or exposed for a long time. Then the team had to find close relatives of the volunteers to match the DNA. Many of the volunteers had died at a very young age and had no children to help with the identification. The parents and siblings of few were still alive.

The researchers finally found a new DNA sequencing technique so that even distant relatives' DNA can be used to find a match. This technique has also been used to identify the volunteers' remains repatriated from the Republic of Korea (ROK). An agreement between China and the ROK in 2013 has resulted in 716 volunteers' remains being returned to China.

"It is very necessary for more people, especially young people, to know more about this part of history and how hard our ancestors fought for peace," Sun said.

The Memorial Hall of the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea is an effort to ensure that.

First opened in 1958, it was closed in 2014 for massive refurbishment and expansion. The renovated museum has an exhibition hall five times the size of the original, with the number of memorabilia increased from 700 to 1,600. ■



A staff member puts flowers before a tomb at the CPV martyrs' cemetery in Shenyang on April 3



Accompanied by young pioneers and docents, veterans visit the Memorial Hall of the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea in Dandong, Liaoning, on September 19

Coming Out of The Shadows

New public and private initiatives started to bring down rising depression By Ji Jing

Three years ago, when Zhang Chen was a university sophomore in Wuhan, Hubei Province in central China, she started forgetting things and feeling drowsy all the time.

"I could never remember what happened the day before, and in the afternoon I would forget what I did in the morning. I would fall asleep during class and my classmates couldn't wake me up," she told ThePaper.cn.

Then she was diagnosed with depression. Thunderstruck at first, she gradually traced her symptoms of depression to her high school years. She recalled that at that time she was bullied by other students but the teachers and her family ignored it. She often felt a sharp pain in her chest, especially during exams. She still managed to

finish high school and go to university. But this time she felt so awful that she decided to take a break.

Zhang is part of a rapidly rising community of people in China and elsewhere in the world who suffer from depression. Depression is a growing global phenomenon. According to a news release by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2019, about 54 million people in China suffer from depression and another 41 million from anxiety disorders, while globally more than 264 million people of all ages suffer from depression.

Rising incidence

Mental disorders have been on the rise for three decades, according to the China Mental Health Survey, the first nationwide

survey of the kind, whose findings were published in 2019 in health journal *Lancet Psychiatry*. The survey was funded by the National Health Commission (NHC) and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

More than 16.6 percent of the adults surveyed said they experienced mental illness at some point in their lives. Anxiety disorders were the most common among the disorders, with nearly 7.6 percent of respondents saying they had suffered anxiety disorders, while cases of depression too had increased.

The survey, conducted from 2013 to 2015, was led by Huang Yueqin, Director of the Division of Social Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at Peking University's Institute of Mental Health. Over 32,000 people in 31 provincial-level regions were interviewed for mood, anxiety and alcohol- and drug-use disorders, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, eating disorders, impulse-control disorder and dementia.

The report warned "rapid social change is likely to bring about a general increase in psychological pressure and stress." Also, with a rapidly aging population, mental healthcare for the elderly will come under serious strain.

People are most susceptible to depression during three periods in their life: when they are between 20 and 30 years, between 50 and 60 years, and when they become senior citizens, Qu Shan, an associate senior physician with the psychiatry department of Peking University People's Hospital, told China News Service.

Depression can cause the affected person to suffer greatly and function poorly at work, at school and in the family. At its worst, it can lead to suicide. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people aged 15-29 years old, according to WHO.

WHO also noted that a majority of people affected by mental disorder in low- and middle-income countries receive no treatment because of inaccurate assess-



A nurse cuts a patient's hair in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Psychiatric Medical Center in Hohhot, the regional capital, north China, on October 10

ment, social stigma, and a lack of resources or trained healthcare providers.

COVID-19 effect

This year, depression, anxiety and other mental illnesses have been compounded by an unexpected factor, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) epidemic. There have been several studies on the mental conditions of the people in Wuhan and Hubei, where the disease was the most severe, and on the frontline medical workers.

Many COVID-19 survivors and frontline healthcare professionals are struggling with depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder, while the general public faces the psychosocial impacts, ranging from the effects of the lockdown to the effects on the economy.

A report titled Epidemic of COVID-19 in China and Associated Psychological Problems, published in the *Asian Journal of Psychiatry* in June, said a sudden outbreak of a disease always poses a threat to the mental health of those affected and their close contacts, including their families and medical personnel. A similar situation arose during the outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome in 2003 too.

Some of the key findings of the study were a higher rate of anxiety, depression and lower mental wellbeing among the respondents. Depression and harmful alcohol use were higher in Hubei residents while people aged 21-40 were more affected mentally.

The study noted that the NHC has introduced guidelines for emergency psychological crisis intervention and an online counseling platform.

Tackling challenges

For those with depression, it is important to have other people's understanding, especially from their families. But understanding does not come easily. One month after Zhang went back home from her university in Wuhan, her condition deteriorated. She couldn't read or think and found it hard to communicate with other people. It would take her a long time to say a simple sentence. She said her parents didn't believe she had depression and told others she had come home to rest.

Yao Zhijun, a psychologist specializing in psychological counseling for university students, told ThePaper.cn some parents don't accept the diagnosis that their children have depression and don't agree that



A couple in Mayu, a township in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province in east China, live-stream themselves dancing on June 1. After the husband suffered depression, his wife helped him recover by dancing with him

they should take medicines. As a result, medical treatment is delayed.

Shi Shen, Director of the psychiatry department of Huashan Hospital Affiliated with Fudan University in Shanghai, added that while depression can be controlled through standard treatment, only 20 percent of the people with depression get treated. Although the treatment rate has improved with the dissemination of information and education among the public, it's still not very high.

There is also a shortage of professional doctors for mental disorders. According to the Mental Health Atlas 2017 published by WHO, there were only 2.2 psychiatrists for every 100,000 people in China.

The geographical distribution of medical resources is also uneven. Of the 10 best psychiatry hospitals in China, seven are in the east. The 11 provinces and cities in east China have nearly half of all psychiatry medical institutions, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses and hospital beds.

The government has stepped up measures to address the challenges. The Healthy China 2030 Initiative published by the NHC in 2019 has set a goal: The

percentage of those suffering from depression that receive treatment will increase by 30 percent by 2022, and by 80 percent by 2030.

It also targets ensuring the number of psychiatrists per 100,000 people is at least 3.3 by 2022 and 4.5 by 2030.

Besides, a community mental disorder rehabilitation and service system will be built, involving psychiatrist institutions, community rehabilitation institutions, social organizations and families.

The NHC released a plan on prevention and treatment of depression on September 11, focusing on students. It said high schools and colleges should include screening for depression in students' checkups, evaluate students' psychological health, and pay special attention to students identified with psychological problems.

It also set the target of increasing the public's awareness of depression prevention and treatment knowledge. ■

Weatherwane in the Sky

In its 50th year, Fengyun meteorological satellite program plays a global role By Lu Yan



The *Fengyun-2H* satellite is launched on a Long March-3A rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province, southwest China, on June 5, 2018

Professor Xu Jianmin is a proud man today. The academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fengyun meteorological satellite program as the designer of its general ground system architecture.

Over the five decades, the program launched 17 satellites in space, seven of which are in orbit today. The data they provide have improved global weather forecasting and helped diverse sectors like ocean, agriculture and ecology.

In an interview to mark the 50th anniversary, Xu told *China Meteorological News* that the satellite data is used by more than 100 countries or territories, making significant contributions to international disaster prevention and mitigation, climate monitoring and protection of life.

The Fengyun satellites are an important space infrastructure for China and a symbol of the modernization of the country's meteorology, Premier Li Keqiang said at a symposium on October 10 to mark the 50th anniversary.

The genesis

Fengyun means wind and cloud in Chinese. Work on the first meteorological satellite in this series started in November 1977 and *Fengyun-1A* was launched 11 years later. However, due to altitude control problems, it disappeared after 39 days. Some satellites launched later on also encountered technical issues but they provided valuable lessons for scientists and engineers.

For instance, *Fengyun-3A* launched in 2008 represented an upgrade in China's polar-orbiting meteorological satellite,

signifying the technology had entered the world's advanced ranks.

The *Fengyun-4A* satellite, a geostationary satellite launched in 2016, features world-leading technology. It carries a payload that can make high-precision observation of the atmosphere over China and neighboring region, and other advanced devices including radiometers and detecting instruments. It can capture lightning images with its imager. In addition to enhanced imagery scanning capability, the satellite also has an extended lifespan.

The satellite system and its applications have been developed entirely through independent innovation.

"Behind the brilliance of Fengyun satellites is the hard work of thousands of scientific and technological workers in our country," Yang Jun, chief designer of the Fengyun Meteorological Satellite Project and Director General of the National Satellite Meteorological Center, told Xinhua News Agency.

As the chief engineer of the Fengyun-2 Geostationary Meteorological Satellite Space Project, Sun Jiadong has witnessed the development of the national meteorological satellite program since the 1970s.

"We faced a number of difficulties at the beginning due to limited technical level and poor conditions," Sun, then 89, told *China Space News* in an interview. However, it was through numerous trials and errors that the program has made solid progress step by step. He was delighted at how it has changed people's lives and work.

Serving the people

Typhoon *Maria* that landed on Fujian Province in southeast China in 2018 is an example. The Fengyun satellite data forecast the typhoon's 24-hour path and intensity with greater precision, helping in providing early warning that protected lives and property.

Tang Shihao, deputy chief designer of the Fengyun Meteorological Satellite Project, said the satellites play an irreplaceable role in typhoon monitoring. The Fengyun-2 satellites had monitored 566 typhoons in the Western Pacific and 165 typhoons that had landed in China by August this year.

Fengyun-4A is one of the most advanced weather satellites in China, monitoring the weather once every 15 minutes. If necessary, it can conduct local regional monitoring once every 5 minutes. It has reduced the average error in 24-hour typhoon path forecasts from 95 km to 71 km, reaching global advanced level.



A visitor views a model of the *Fengyun-4* satellite at the 2019 China International Industry Fair in Shanghai on September 17, 2019

The *Fengyun-3* polar-orbiting satellite inspects major river basins and lakes six times a day to provide data support for weather forecasts, as well as decision-making on flood fighting and rescue.

In June, south China suffered severe floods, as the average rainfall along the Yangtze River reached the highest level since 1961. The Fengyun satellites closely followed key water bodies and provided a scientific and reliable basis for rescue and disaster relief.

The satellites are also used to monitor natural disasters such as fires, playing an important role in disaster prevention. Equipped with infrared imaging equipment, the satellites can quickly detect forest and grassland fires. In March, a forest fire ravaged parts of Liangshan Yi Prefecture in Sichuan Province in southwest China. Satellites were used to monitor the fire in the remote mountains, providing information for firefighting and early warning.

The Fengyun satellite ecological remote sensing services also play an outstanding role in ecological protection. The satellites can comprehensively monitor the Earth environment, enabling accurate understanding of environment changes and providing services for sustainable economic and social development. For instance, the vegetation images captured by *Fengyun-3* show that in 2018, north China became greener than in 2000, demonstrating the achievements of afforestation efforts.

The satellite data and products are widely used in diverse industries, from

marine, agriculture and forestry to transportation and aviation. The China Meteorological Administration (CMA) provides massive data for various industries every day through various means such as satellite broadcasting and the Internet. There are more than 2,700 domestic users in nearly 100 industries who receive and use the data.

Going global

The Fengyun satellites also contribute to global weather observation and disaster preparedness. The satellite data and products are provided to 115 countries and regions. Personnel from over 100 countries have received special training on Fengyun satellite applications.

In 2019, CMA provided satellite services to Mozambique to cope with floods triggered by the tropical cyclone *Idai*. This year, the World Meteorological Organization listed Fengyun monitoring products as one of the major tools for strengthening monitoring of meteorological hazards, like floods in Iran, desert locust invasion in Pakistan, and cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal.

"The Fengyun satellites will play a greater role in building an international meteorological disaster prevention, mitigation and relief system, and a community with a shared future for humanity," Yang said. ■

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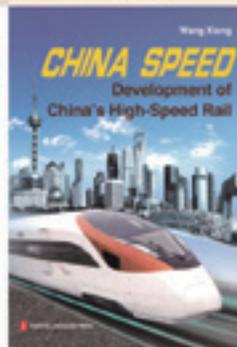
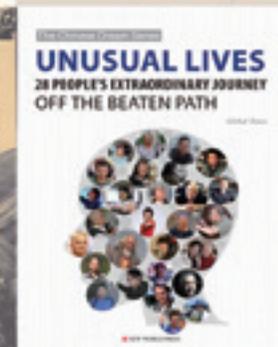
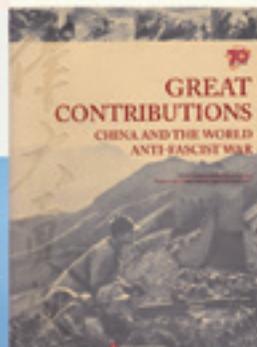
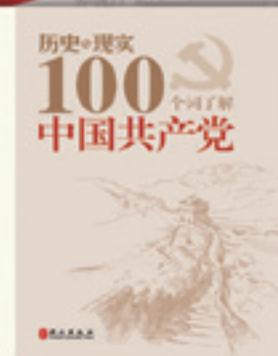
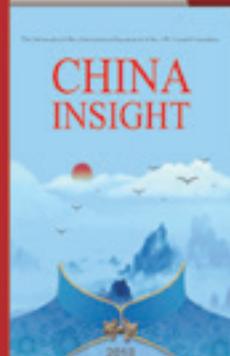
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Urban Without Carbon

Carbon-neutral-by-2060 pledge to lead to overall quality development By Wang Jun

S&P Global Market Intelligence is anticipating an upsurge in green bonds from China, which was already the third largest issuer of the bonds in the first half of the year, following the U.S. and France. Its report on October 12 showed market analysts thinking in that vein.

"I believe China will continue to boost investment in environmentally friendly and infrastructure projects," Arthur Lau, head of Asia excluding Japan fixed income at New York-based PineBridge Investments, told the agency. "Hence, I would expect some of these investments will be funded through the new issuance of green bonds."

The expectations are coming fast and furious after President Xi Jinping announced at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September that China will achieve carbon neutrality—net zero carbon emission—before 2060.

"China will scale up its intended nationally

determined contributions by adopting more vigorous policies and measures. We aim to have carbon dioxide emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060," Xi said, the first time China announced to the world its timetable for achieving a carbon-free state.

Carbon neutrality refers to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emission by balancing carbon dioxide emissions with carbon removal or eliminating emissions altogether.

Energy sector revamp

Xi's announcement has put the power sector squarely in the limelight. Coal-fired plants produce over 50 percent of electricity and cause the most pollution. For carbon neutrality, investment has to be upped in nuclear, hydro, wind and solar power and other forms of clean renewable energy.

In the national energy plan for 2016-20,

coal consumption in the energy mix is expected to fall to 58 percent by end-2020 from 64 percent at the end of 2015. The share of renewable energy sources will rise to 39 percent from 35 percent. Carbon emission per unit of GDP is also targeted to be reduced by 18 percent. An updated energy plan for 2021-25 will be released next year.

From peaking emissions in 2030 to achieving a net zero carbon footprint by 2060, China needs to get rid of the over 10 billion tons of net carbon emissions it produces annually. According to Wang Lining, chief engineer with the market research department of CNPC Economics and Technology Research Institute, that would require reducing 300-350 million tons a year.

He told *21st Century Business Herald* in the current energy mix, fossil fuels account for more than 80 percent of the energy consump-



A liquefied natural gas station in the China (Zhejiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone in Zhoushan, Zhejiang Province in east China, on September 29

tion, with coal accounting for as much as 55 percent. "To achieve carbon neutrality, the proportion of fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas) must be less than 30 percent in the energy mix in 2060, with natural gas accounting for the highest proportion," he added.

Zhang Lei, chief executive officer of green technology firm Envision Group, sees the target ushering in accelerated development of the renewable energy industry. In the 40 years to come, the average annual installed capacity of renewable energy will be more than 200 million kilowatts.

"What is needed next is a more concrete roadmap," he told *21st Century Business Herald*.

Roadmap to energy revolution

It will be a short road, according to He Jiankun, Deputy Director of the National Expert Committee on Climate Change. At a Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) policy briefing last month, he said while developed countries have 60 to 70 years from peaking carbon emissions to leaving no carbon footprint, China will have only 30 years to complete the process.

"Therefore China must transform its energy mix and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases

much faster and more intensively," he said.

He outlined a four-way path to achieve the goal: increasing the intensity of industrial restructuring and advancing low carbon consumption through digitalization; saving resources and developing a circular economy; preparing for energy substitution and building an energy system with near-zero emissions; seeking nature-based solutions in agriculture, forestry, grassland and wetland to ensure an annual absorption of 800 million tons of carbon dioxide.

The Institute of Energy, Environment and Economy at Tsinghua University in Beijing has already come up with a roadmap. It forecasts carbon emissions would peak between 2025 and 2030, energy demand begin to decline around 2035, and a rapid transition after 2035. Coal-fired plants would be phased out by 2050, by which the energy mix would have seen a sea change.

On the face of it, the ambitious plan is aimed at reducing carbon emission. But according to Li Gao, Director of the Department of Climate Change at MEE, it is a major driving force for China's high-quality development and overall economic and social progress.

"China must significantly reduce its carbon dioxide emissions, which will force constant re-

adjustment and improvement of its energy mix and industrial structure, stimulating powerful growth of green industries," he said. To reach the peak of carbon emission at an early date while maintaining sustained economic growth, the readjustment of the energy mix must be given top priority. Li pointed out that the cost of photovoltaic power has fallen by 90 percent in the past decade, creating a competitive advantage in price over thermal power.

Xu Huaqing, head of the National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation, said at the MEE briefing that the target will promote the transformation of the energy mix, upgrade the industrial structure and create multiple synergies in economic competitiveness, social development and environmental protection.

The 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) will not only set energy consumption targets but also make better use of market tools as well as policies on science and technology, fiscal and taxation and environmental protection to promote high-quality development.

The renewable energy industry has created almost as many jobs as the traditional coal industry has. This means the impact on traditional industries can be offset by the growth of emerging industries. "In the future, renewable energy and related industries will create more and better job opportunities," Li said.

Where it all began

At the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris, China committed to peaking carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and expected rapid reduction after that. It also vowed to cut its carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 60-65 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.

Since then, China has promoted ecological progress in the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) and in 2018, the Constitution was amended to add protection of the environment to the duties of the State Council, which included building an ecological civilization. Vigorously developing clean energy and advancing energy transformation have become China's long-term strategy.

Carbon neutrality in China means more than a clean environment for the Chinese. It is a step in the global action needed to combat the fallouts of climate change.

"Especially in recent two years, extreme weather events have occurred more frequently across the world," Wang said. "Climate change has become a common challenge faced by people all over the world. So it needs to be solved through global solidarity." ■



Workers install a battery in an electric vehicle at a BYD plant in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province in south China, on September 23

Copied by Sudeshna Sarkar
Comments to wangjun@bjreview.com

DIGITAL DIVIDEND

The Third Digital China Summit, held in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, south-east China, from October 12 to 14, was a kind of closing ceremony for an initiative that started three years ago. After the first summit was held in 2018, the city authorities announced a three-year action plan (2018-20) for building a digital Fuzhou.

It was a throwback to a concept two decades ago. When President Xi Jinping was governor of Fujian, he had mooted building a digital Fujian by harnessing digital, Internet, video and intelligent technologies. This idea is the prototype of the digital China initiative. The digitalization of the city's economic and social life has advanced since then, presenting useful experiences for the national digitalization drive.

The summit aimed to build platforms for industry exchanges and cooperation. Exhibitions and forums were held on the development and application of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, big data and blockchain. Tech giants such as Huawei, Alibaba and Tencent exhibited their cutting-edge products.

An easier life

By the end of 2001, seven pilot communities for information technology in Gulou District of Fuzhou had access to broadband network services. Opening a Web page was as fast as opening a book. What's more, people who never expected to download a movie from the Internet could do it with ease. At that time, people's perception of "digital" was only faster download speed.

Twenty years later, digitalization is no longer limited to surfing the Internet. It has saturated every aspect of people's life.

Digitalization has made it easier for people to see a doctor. Zhang Mulan, in her 70s, would have a hard time in the past when she went to hospital. She and her husband both have chronic diabetes and high blood pressure and need checkups regularly. She would have to stand in three to four queues at the hospital and feel worn out when she returned home.

But now those draining visits are a thing of the past. They make appointments with the doctors using messaging app WeChat, and the doctors examine them via video link and prescribe medicine. The couple buys the medicine online and has them delivered home. Doctors can check patients' digital records for the past three months, which makes diagnosis and treatment more accurate.

Digitalization has made shopping more convenient. Payments can be authorized through face scans.

In May 2019, Dongjiakou, a commercial street in Gulou District, adopted face scan as part of its transformation into a digitalized street. Buyers can pay through facial recognition, and make restaurant reservations or buy film tickets using Alipay, a mobile wallet. They can also pay for parking using Alipay.

Digitalization has made it more convenient to take public transport. eFuzhou, a public service app, can be used to pay the fare on buses or the subway. It can also be used for diverse other things, from paying tuition fees to accessing government services. By September, the app had over 7 million registered users.

"Turn to 12345 for government services when you need help." This catchphrase was originated in Gulou, which launched the 12345 service platform in January 2003. Residents and enterprises can file a complaint on the platform or consult it when they have any problems. In 2006 the platform was upgraded into the city's service platform and in 2012 the practice was promoted province-wide.

The platform also has a public account on WeChat and an app, which makes it more convenient for citizens to file their complaints. The messages are forwarded to the relevant government departments automatically.

A digital urban management platform launched in 2013 combines management of public facilities, transportation and the urban environment. Digitalization is



also playing a key role in preventing traffic congestion and floods, becoming an important engine for modernizing social governance.

Intelligent traffic lights

The traffic police division of the Fuzhou Public Security Bureau has developed an intelligent platform for controlling traffic lights. Traffic lights at multiple crossroads are centrally remote-controlled. This way, traffic lights can be controlled so that vehicles can pass a road without interruption.

Fuzhou owes its prosperity to maritime trade. However, water was also the cause of its woe due to floods. To improve the water management, an intelligent water monitoring platform has been established to check the water level of reservoirs and lakes and issue early warning so that measures can be taken in time.

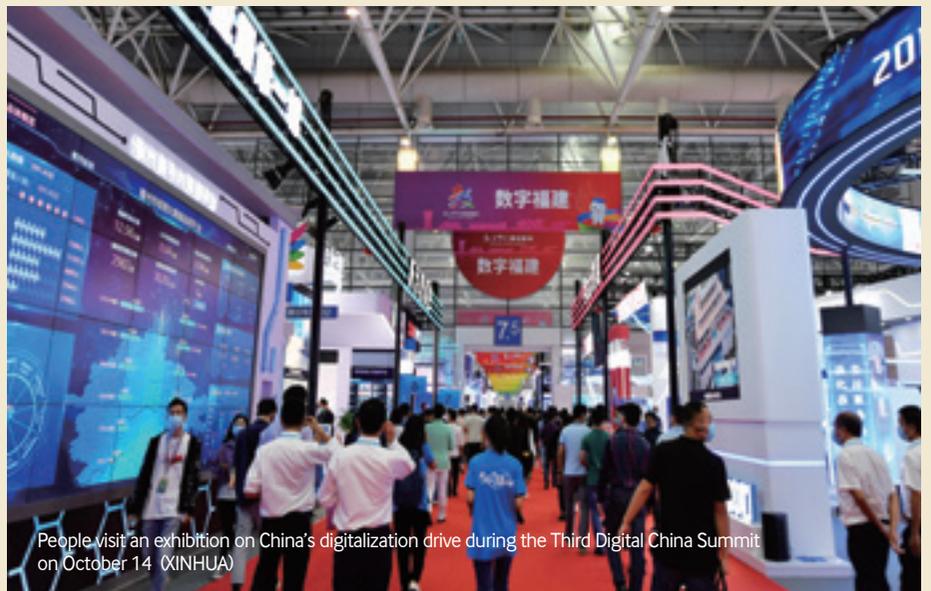
Fuzhou has strengthened innovation



The Fuzhou Strait International Conference and Exhibition Center, the main venue for the Digital China Summit, in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, southeast China, on October 8 (YE CHENG)

in digital technologies and won recognition for its smart city infrastructure and software industry. The city government has policies to boost the development of big data, blockchain and other digital industries. In June, at an industrial development conference, digitalization was listed as one of the major directions of Fuzhou's industrial development, followed by favorable finance, technology and land policies for the development of digital industries.

At the Third Digital China Summit, Zhuang Rongwen, head of the Cyberspace Administration of China, called for the construction of a digital Belt and Road. He also said the domestic core information technologies need to be improved. For that, the government will give greater support to the research and development and application of key hardware, including high-end chips and servers, operating systems and databases.



People visit an exhibition on China's digitalization drive during the Third Digital China Summit on October 14 (XINHUA)

New Consumption Trends Shine in Golden Week Holiday



People dine at a restaurant in Shanghai on October 8. The sales of major commercial businesses in the city rose 13.7 percent during the National Day and Mid-Autumn Day holidays year on year

China has seen new consumption patterns during the eight-day Golden Week holiday as pent-up demand unleashed amid effective containment of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

From October 1 to 8, sales of key retail and catering firms monitored by the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) totaled 1.6 trillion yuan (\$236 billion), with daily average sales climbing 4.9 percent compared with the National Day holiday last year, data from the ministry showed.

This year's Golden Week was the first long holiday after authorities lifted most of the domestic travel restrictions amid effective control of the epidemic, and was widely seen as a barometer of China's consumption vitality and growth potential.

As more people are getting accustomed to placing online orders for groceries, takeaways and other services, this year's Golden Week featured more Internet-powered consumption.

In Mayang Miao Autonomous County of Hunan Province in central China, local agricultural products were marketed to the rest of the country via live-streaming, which helped the county rake in a revenue of 450,000 yuan (\$66,994) on a single day.

The Internet has changed the flavor of traveling. During the holiday, more travel essentials, including personal care products and charging cables, were ordered online and delivered to

hotels and scenic spots, a report by the Internet company Alibaba showed.

During the holiday, the Chinese spent more on high-end, expensive products. Sales of organic food, automobiles, smart home appliances and jewelry saw notable increases, MOFCOM data showed.

Duty-free consumption, meanwhile, gained momentum in Hainan Province in south China thanks to favorable policies.

Data from Haikou Customs on October 9 showed that Hainan's four offshore duty-free shops received some 146,800 customers and sold 998,900 duty-free items during the holiday, with total sales jumping 148.7 percent year on year to reach 1.04 billion yuan (\$155 million).

Starting on July 1, Hainan increased its annual tax-free shopping quota from 30,000 yuan (\$4,466) to 100,000 yuan (\$14,887) per person. The range of duty-free goods has also expanded from 38 categories to 45, while the previous tax-free limit of 8,000 yuan (\$1,191) for a single product has been lifted.

As people's income continues to rise and the number of high-net-worth individuals increases, China's consumption will continue to upgrade, Guotai Junan Securities said in a research note.

The COVID-19 outbreak disrupted the past Chinese Lunar New Year, a time for family reunions. It, however, seemed that Chinese have

taken advantage of the long October holiday to make up for the lost time.

Air tickets purchased by groups of three or more people soared compared with the Dragon Boat Festival holiday in late June, while more people turned to recreational vehicles for traveling. Besides, the recovery of the box office was supported by family spending. Film tickets bought by groups of three or more accounted for a larger share of the box office, the Alibaba report showed.

As people living in small towns in China are becoming more affluent, they are spending more on traveling. The Alibaba report said travelers from third-tier or smaller cities accounted for 60 percent of all travelers during the holiday, with their average spending rising 50 percent year on year.

More than 50 percent of the commercial electrical appliances such as popcorn poppers and sausage grill machines sold during the holiday flowed to county-level markets, manifesting confidence of shop owners in the small-town economy, according to the report.

The trends indicate that China's small towns still have huge consumption potential, Guotai Junan Securities said. ■

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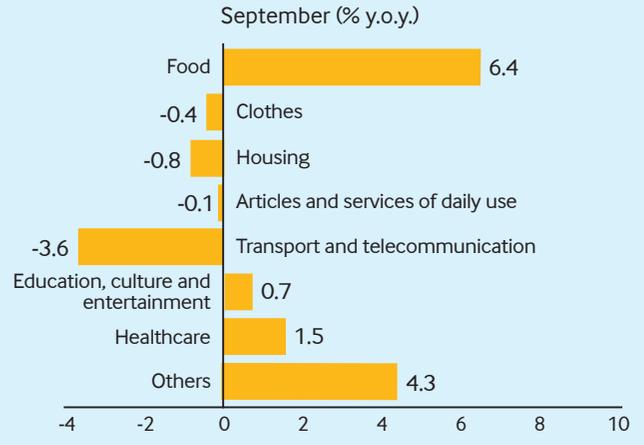
NUMBERS

(\$1=6.7 yuan)

China's Consumer Price Index (CPI) Growth



China's CPI Growth by Type



China's Producer Price Index Growth



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

China's courier sector saw fast expansion in September, with business volume standing at around

7.6 billion

parcels, up 35.7 percent year on year. The growth hit a four-year high.

The civil aviation sector continued to recover in September. Airports throughout China handled a total of

375,300

outbound flights in the month, down 6.86 percent compared to the same period last year but up 1.6 percent month on month.

Beibu Gulf Port in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, south China, saw its cargo throughput rise

21.68

percent year on year to about 181.67 million tons in the first three quarters. The robust growth was primarily due to the accelerated construction of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor built by western Chinese provinces and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

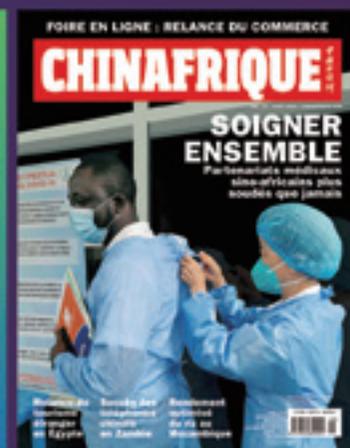
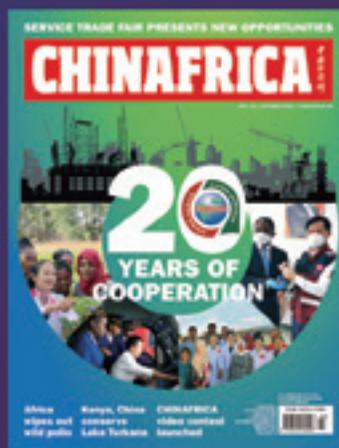
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The Sanxingdui site in Guanghan, Sichuan Province, southwest China

On the Trail of a Mysterious Culture

New discovery leads to fresh excavation at ancient archaeological site in southwest China By Li Qing

Guo Hanzhong, an expert restorer of cultural relics, traces his interest in his work to Sanxingdui, an archaeological site in southwest China that was a treasure trove of Bronze Age culture artifacts.

The site in Guanghan, Sichuan Province, was accidentally discovered in 1929 by a local farmer while digging a ditch, when he unearthed a piece of bright jade. An official archaeological excavation started decades later and in 1986, archaeologists uncovered two pits whose treasures changed the historical belief that the central plains of the Yellow River were the sole birthplace of Chinese culture.

The two pits were used for sacrificial ceremonies, proved by the presence of more than 1,000 priceless objects that had been ritually broken and burnt. They included gold masks,

bronze ware, jade tablets and ivory items.

The two pits were filled up and became tourist attractions.

In December 2019, during regular maintenance, the existence of a bronze artifact was confirmed, indicating there could be a new pit.

The tourism facilities were dismantled and a survey started, showing the existence of six new pits between the previous two and it was decided to start fresh excavation in early September.

Ancient enigma

The 12-square-km Sanxingdui site, the largest of its kind in southwest China with the oldest history, verifies the existence of an ancient kingdom recorded in literature, the Shu Kingdom. It is speculated to have been a vassal state during the Shang and Zhou dynasties (about 1600-

256 B.C.).

The Sanxingdui bronze and gold masks, including several giant ones, became the face of the enigmatic Sanxingdui culture. Distorted with protruding eyes and giant ears, they are similar to modern-day concept of aliens. The artifacts, showing advanced workmanship, especially in bronze, are the relics of a civilization that estimatedly emerged, prospered and then vanished roughly between 3,000 and 5,000 years ago.

Guo's family lived near the pits. Some members of the Sichuan Provincial Cultural Relics and Archaeology Research Institute who were part of the excavation team, rented rooms from them and interactions with the researchers triggered the little boy's interest in archaeology, especially in the study of Sanxingdui culture.



A visitor looks at a cultural relic from the Sanxingdui site at an exhibition held in Rome, Italy, on March 25

Today, he is a master restorer at the Sanxingdui National Archaeological Park in Guanghan.

Guo hopes the work he and his team are doing will one day help find the answers. One of the restorations he is most proud of is a bronze tree, a sacred object. It is nearly 4 meters high, the largest bronze item ever found in the world.

It took the team six years to put together the colossal tree though its top parts are still missing. The tree is divided into three sections, with dragons encircling it while nine birds perch on the branches.

The mainstream view in the academic world is that the Sanxingdui bronzes are similar to the Shang Dynasty (about 1600-1046 B.C.) relics from the central plain civilization. They are all sacrificial objects.

For instance, Shi Jingsong, a researcher at the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told *Life Week* that one of the pits had bronze heads and gold scepters, which were probably symbols of royalty.

The other had sacred trees and birds, and a bronze item shaped like the sun. It probably represented worship of the sun.

"So, theocracy and aristocracy ruled the early state of Sanxingdui together," Shi said.

New expectations

Since the discovery of Sanxingdui, there have been numerous questions about it. How long did the culture exist? What caused its end? Why are its relics so unique?

Due to the lack of written records, it had been difficult to find out more about the culture. However, the more sacrificial pits leading

to a new phase of excavation since September 8 are anticipated to provide more information.

Sanxingdui is speculated to have disappeared around 1200 B.C. Around the same time, a similar civilization sprang up in Jinsha, nearly 50 km away. Relics of the Jinsha site that can be dated back to over 3,000 years ago prove that it also belonged to the ancient Shu Kingdom.

"It is hard to imagine a civilization that created such a work of art for a sacrificial ceremony," Cui Cui, a visitor at the Sanxingdui Museum, said.

During that period, the vassal states in the central plains were upgrading their weapons. However, people in the fertile Sichuan Basin were making exquisite ritual items, including jade objects. That indicated the characteristics of the culture and people in the Shu Kingdom, she said.

She hoped the museum would display more relics. If Sanxingdui is shown to have had links with the Jinsha site, it would be easier to understand the ancient Shu civilization, Cui said.

"The ancient Shu civilization and its ancestors are an important part of the original Chinese civilization," Lei Yu, Director of the Sanxingdui Workstation of Sichuan Cultural Relics and Archaeology Research Institute, told CCTV. "Some of their bronze designs as well as dragons and jade objects are common elements in the Chinese culture."

Lei hopes future discoveries will promote research on the site and its culture.

His team plans to complete the excavation in three months.

The Sanxingdui period marks the most prosperous period for the ancient Shu Kingdom, Lei said. "It also demonstrates the



The giant sacred bronze tree discovered in Sanxingdui

diversity of Chinese civilization in its early stages. Its emergence proves that the upper reaches of the Yangtze were also a cradle of the Chinese civilization as well as the Yellow River basin."

"The new discovery is hoped to create a new upsurge in Sanxingdui research," Sun Hua, professor of the School of Archaeology and Museology, Peking University, told *Life Week*.

"Although we don't have any written documents from the pits, their contents tell us about the status of the people the sacrifices were meant for," Sun said. ■

Copiedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
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Why Reducing Food Waste Matters

By Lan Xinzhen



Recently, placards with slogans of stop wasting food and “Clear Your Plates” have been popping up on tables in restaurants across the country, where waiters are now gently notifying diners when they’ve ordered more than enough food. Public service announcements featuring Chinese celebrities have also appealed to Chinese citizens to reduce food waste, as part of a waste reduction movement that is sweeping the nation.

The movement is part of a long-term campaign, initiated in 2013 by President Xi Jinping, and gets new energy from the president’s recent emphasis on preventing food wastage. In August, Xi highlighted the importance of food security awareness, even in times of plentiful harvests. His message centered on taking the impact of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on food security as a call for vigilance.

The anti-waste campaign is now a much-talked about topic among Chinese. Most people see it as a campaign to save food and reduce food waste. But the significance of the campaign goes far beyond.

This campaign in fact reveals how Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era draws upon the fine Chinese tradition of frugality. The thought covers not only issues of state governance, such as politics, the economy, society, culture, the military and diplomacy, but also social issues such as housing and food. It is an ideological system based on China’s national conditions that are inseparable from the traditional Chinese cultures that have existed for thousands of years.

The Chinese nation has always cherished the virtues of diligence and thrift. Xi himself grew up amid traditional Chinese culture and experienced years of food shortage. Thus he has a deep understanding of the importance of saving food. By launching the anti-food waste campaign, he is practicing and advocating this tradition in new forms, embodied by campaigns such as Clear Your Plates and Half-Portioned Dishes.

These slogans, as well as the campaigns, shed light on the fact that the Chinese are now materially rich. Most of those who were born before the 1980s have the experience of starvation. In those days, to have enough food was not easy, and thus the problem of food waste did not exist. Today, the

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picture is totally different. Many Chinese are rich and many of them are developing expensive tastes. The problem of wasting food follows. For example, people tend to provide a lot of food to show their hospitality to guests. If all the dishes on the table are consumed by the end of a meal, it traditionally indicates insufficient hospitality. Rarely do people bring leftovers back home from restaurants. Food waste is occurring on a massive scale every day across the country, and has reached a point where something must be done to prevent it.

The campaign is also setting up a dieting code of conduct for a moderately wealthy society. This year will see China’s transition into a moderately prosperous society, or *xiaokang* society, in all respects. One important criterion for such a society is “enough food for the population.” Societies at every stage of development have certain rules of social conduct. How should the Chinese conduct themselves after reaching the *xiaokang* stage of development? Should they waste food or be careful about food? Saving food and refraining from wasting food should become a fashion in a *xiaokang* society.

The campaign also draws attention to the widening gap between China’s grain output and its annual population growth. As the world’s most populous country, China has only 0.09 hectare of arable land per capita, shy of 40 percent of the global average. Feeding 1.4 billion people with such limited arable land seems like an almost miraculous achievement, but in reality the achievement is the result of extraordinary efforts in the face of extraordinary hardships.

While China is now capable of providing enough food for its population, monitoring food security remains vital. China depends on imports for some commodities such as soybean and corn, and the import of these commodities has been affected this year by the coronavirus pandemic. Reduced availability of these key commodities draws attention to the issue of food security, and highlights the importance of the nation-wide campaign to ensure food security. ■

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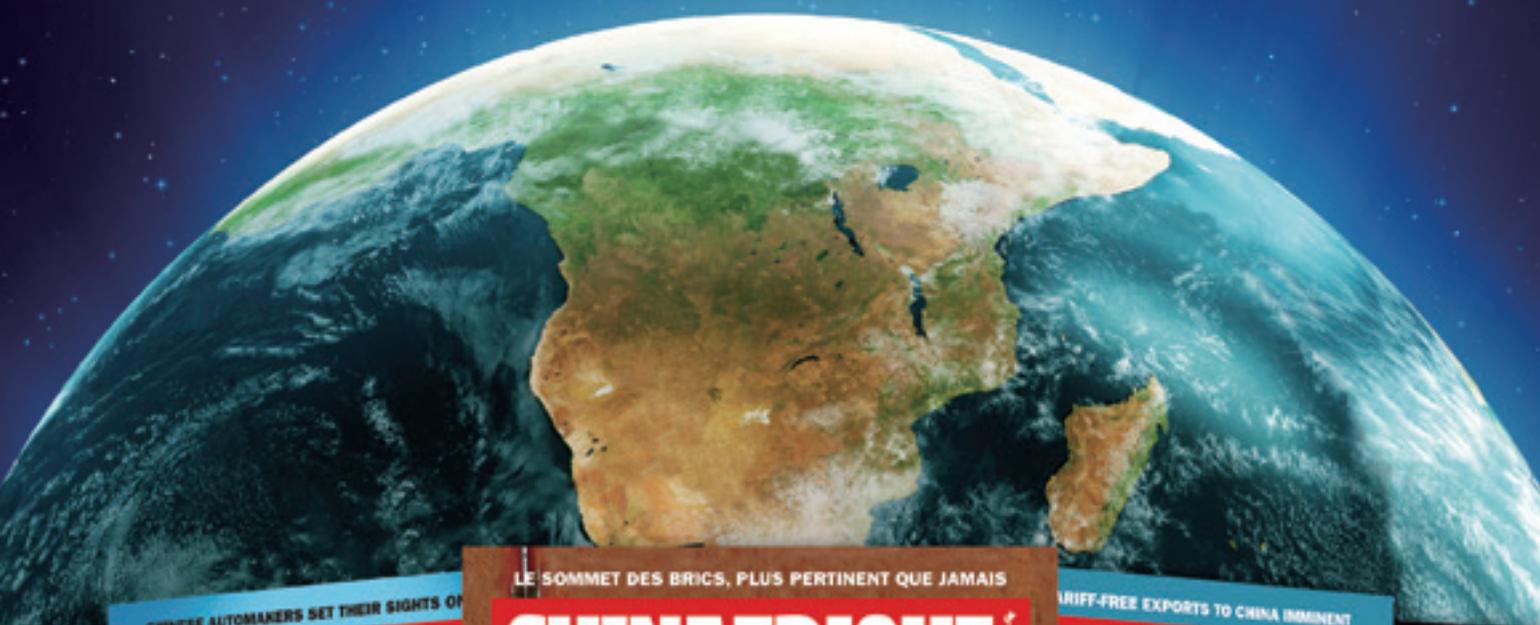
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