

BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.63 NO.46 NOVEMBER 12, 2020

北京周報 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM



CELEBRATING VICTORY

Zuoquan County's rise to prosperity through local culture and resources

RMB6.00
 USD1.70
 AUD3.00
 GBP1.20
 CAD2.60
 CHF2.60
 JPY188

ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914208

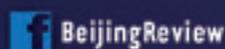
邮发代号2-922 · 国内统一刊号: CN11-1576/G2

Follow BEIJING REVIEW



And get in on the conversation

For over 60 years, *Beijing Review* has presented contemporary news and views of China to the world in English and other languages. Targeting an African audience, *ChinaAfrica*, an English and French monthly published by *Beijing Review*, brings news, views and analysis on hot topics related to China, Africa and China-Africa relations over the past 30 years. Find out about the world from a Chinese perspective. You will discover in-depth analysis, special columns and comprehensive reporting by professional journalists and editors from China and around the world. Follow us on our Twitter, YouTube and Facebook accounts and keep up with the latest developments.



EDITOR'S DESK

02 Partners in Poverty Reduction

THIS WEEK

COVER STORY

16 On the Same Page

A media house's hands-on work to support villagers

18 A Welcome Note

Tourism becomes a driver of rural vitalization

20 Moving for Improving

Relocation for a better life

21 Valley of Gold

Afforestation means a new lifeline

GOVERNANCE

24 The Making of a New Blueprint

Key goals of 14th Five-Year Plan

WORLD

26 The Thought That Counts

Sheep diplomacy between China, Mongolia

NATION

30 A Bigger Playground

Efforts to develop sports and fitness



12 COVER STORY
Cracking a Tough Nut
A county's way out of poverty

NATION

P.28 | Pillars of a Promise
How China can meet its carbon neutrality pledge

BUSINESS

P.38 | Restorative for Global Growth
Chinese economy's role in global recovery

BUSINESS

36 The Fourth Growth Pole

New strategy to address imbalances in west China

40 Market Watch

CULTURE

44 The Art of Reality

Chinese documentaries win acclaim

FORUM

46 How Can China Cope With an Increasingly Aging Population?

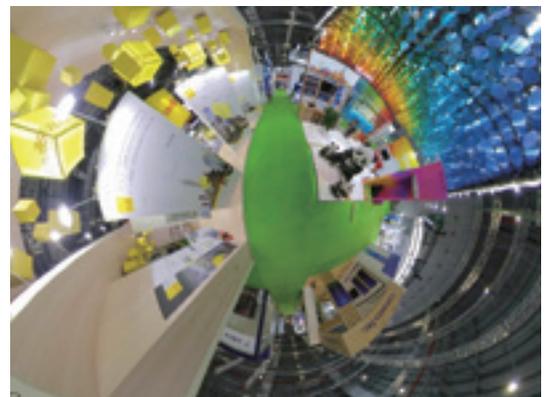
ESSAY

48 Stop Playing With Fire

U.S. arms sales to Taiwan a blatant provocation

Cover Photo: Traditional handicraft figurines depict a folk song performance in Zuoquan County, Shanxi Province (CHEN JIAN)

©2020 Beijing Review, all rights reserved.



BUSINESS

P.34 | An Accessible Market
Expo brings cheer with new opening-up measures



www.bjreview.com



Follow us on



YouTube

BREAKING NEWS » SCAN ME » Using a QR code reader



EDITOR'S DESK

北京周报

BEIJING REVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine
Published Since 1958

President: Li Yafang
Associate Editors in Chief: Li Jianguo, Ding Zhitao
Associate President: Yan Ying

Executive Editor: Yan Wei
Associate Executive Editors: Zan Jifang, Liu Yunyun, Ding Ying
Production Director: Yao Bin

Editorial Administrators: Zeng Wenhui, Hou Beibei

Assistant Executive Editor: Li Fangfang

Commentator: Lan Xinzheng

Opinion/Culture Editor: Ding Ying

Nation Editor: Wang Hairong

Web Editor: Li Nan

Editorial Consultants: Sudeshna Sarkar, Madhusudan Chaubey

Staff Reporters: Tang Yuankai, Wang Jun, Pan Xiaoqiao, Yuan Yuan,

Wang Hairong, Ji Jing, Lu Yan, Wen Qing, Li Qing, Li Xiaoyang,

Ma Miaomiao, Zhang Shasha, Tao Xing, Tao Zihui

Visual Director: Pamela Tobey

Photo Editor: Wang Xiang

Photographer: Wei Yao

Art: Li Shigong

Design Director: Wang Yajuan

Chief Designer: Cui Xiaodong

Designer: Zhao Boyu

Proofreading: Ma Xin

Distribution Director: Hu Kejiang

Human Resources: Zhang Yajie

Legal Counsel: Yue Cheng

North America Bureau

Chief: Yu Shujun

Tel/Fax: 1-201-792-0334

E-mail: yushujun@bjreview.com

Africa Bureau

Chief Correspondent: Ni Yanshuo

Tel: 27-71-6132053

E-mail: casa201208@hotmail.com

General Editorial Office

Tel: 86-10-68996252

Fax: 86-10-68326628

English Edition

Tel: 86-10-68996250

Advertising Department

Tel: 86-10-68996280

E-mail: ad@bjreview.com

Distribution Department

Tel: 86-10-68310644

E-mail: circulation@bjreview.com

Published every Thursday by

BEIJING REVIEW, 24 Baiwanzhuang Lu,

Beijing 100037, China.

Overseas Distributor: China International Book Trading

Corporation (Guoji Shudian), P. O. BOX 399,

Beijing 100044, China

Tel: 86-10-68413849, 1-416-497-8096 (Canada)

Fax: 86-10-68412166

E-mail: tp@mail.cibtc.com.cn

Website: <http://www.cibtc.com>

General Distributor for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan:

Peace Book Co. Ltd.

17/FI, Paramount Bldg, 12 Ka Yip St, Chai Wan, HK

Tel: 852-28046687 **Fax:** 852-28046409

Beijing Review (ISSN 1000-9140 USPS 2812) is distributed weekly in

the United States for US\$64.00 per year by Cypress Books,

360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080

News Postage Paid at South San Francisco, CA 94080

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Beijing Review*,

Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48,

South San Francisco, CA 94080

Partners in Poverty Reduction

China's model of poverty reduction includes a partnership assistance program in which a poverty-stricken area is paired with more developed places, government agencies, public institutions and state-owned enterprises to assist it with their skills and resources.

All the 592 key impoverished counties have designated partners. Altogether 310 agencies affiliated to the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council have participated in such partnership assistance.

The China International Publishing Group (CIPG) is one of the public institutions incorporated in this model. Since 2002, the veteran media house has partnered with Zuoquan, a county in Shanxi Province, north China, helping it shake off poverty through educational programs, special livelihood projects and funding infrastructure.

CIPG sent 27 of its employees to Zuoquan in 11 batches. There, they have served in various positions according to their expertise. Their work varies from formulating targeted measures for economic and social development while keeping in mind the local conditions, helping kickstart promising projects, and explaining to the people the policies created for their benefit and how they can avail of them.

The partnership assistance model

mainly focuses on reducing poverty via industrial development, relocating the poor from inhospitable locations and training the local officials and labor force. After 18 years of work, heartening progress has been achieved with Zuoquan officially taken off the list of impoverished counties in 2019.

The model reflects China's political and institutional advantages. Those appointed in temporary positions in poverty-stricken counties are skilled and promising people who bring to poor areas new ideas, mindsets and skills. They also learn from the experience. They learn about the conditions in rural China, which provides food for the nation, and become more aware of how they can contribute to nation-building. Some of the temporary appointees decided not to go back to their cities after their tenure was over but to stay on to add their strength to the last-mile battle.

The partnership assistance model has taken more officials to the grassroots. They have better understood the real conditions and improved their work style, which has improved the engagement between the Party and the people and between the government and the people. It is a process of training for the trainers themselves and is a win-win way to shake off poverty. ■

WRITETOUS



Send an e-mail: editorsoffice@bjreview.com

Please provide your name and address along with your submissions. Submissions may be edited.

CHINA.....RMB6.00 U.S.A.....USD1.70 AUSTRALIA.....AUD3.00 UK.....GBP1.20 CANADA.....CAD2.60 SWITZERLAND.....CHF2.60
JAPAN.....JPY188 EUROPE.....EURO1.90 TURKEY.....YTL5.00 HK.....HKD9.30 NEPAL.....RS40

主管单位：中国外文出版发行事业局

主办单位：北京周报社

地址：北京市西城区百万庄大街24号 邮编：100037

编委会：李雅芳 李建国 丁志涛 闫颖 曾文卉

社长：李雅芳

总编室电话：(010) 68996252 发行部电话：(010) 68310644

印刷：北京华联印刷有限公司

北京周报 英文版2020年 第46期 ISSN 1000-9140 国内统一刊号：CN11-1576/G2 邮发代号：2-922

广告许可证0171号 北京市期刊登记证第733号

国内零售价：人民币6.00元



NATIONAL HEADCOUNT UNDERWAY

Census takers register a family's information in Qicun Town, Shandong Province in east China, on November 1, the day the seventh national census kicked off. This year, about 7 million workers are going from door to door to document demographic changes in the world's most populous country.

The census has been held every 10 years in China since 1990. The last one found the population had increased to 1.37 billion.



Fruit Time

A villager dries persimmon in Cixian, a county in Hebei Province in north China, on November 3. Dried persimmon, a popular treat known as *shibing* in Chinese, has become a distinctive local industry.

Religious Freedom

The Islamic Association of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China on November 3 released a report on freedom of religious belief in the region.

It said some anti-China forces from the United States and other Western countries had recently made fallacious statements that freedom of religious belief was restricted in Xinjiang and mosques were demolished.

They are groundless claims that have severely hurt the feelings of Muslims in Xinjiang and aroused indignation and opposition, the report said.

The right to freedom of religious belief is fully guaranteed in Xinjiang and normal religious activities are carried out in an orderly way. Muslims' dietary habits, festivals, wedding and funeral practices, and other customs and rituals are also respected.

Thanks to the strong government support, the condition of mosques has improved. They now have running water, electricity, heating and communications facilities. Roads to mosques have been improved to make access easier, the report added.

Internet Conference

The Seventh World Internet Conference will be held in the river town of Wuzhen in the eastern province of Zhejiang on November 23-24, the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) said at a press conference on November 2.

The conference will be themed "Digital empowerment to create a better future: jointly build a community of shared future in cyberspace."

Focusing on artificial intelligence, cloud computing, big data, 5G, the industrial Internet, cyber security and e-business, the

conference will have one main forum, five sub-forums, and other activities both online and offline.

The World Internet Development Report 2020 and the China Internet Development Report 2020 will be released during the conference.

CAC Deputy Director Zhao Zeliang said against the backdrop of the novel coronavirus disease pandemic which has profoundly changed the international situation, it is more important than ever to uphold the vision of a community of a shared future in cyberspace.

Global cyberspace should be developed in a more inclusive, balanced and win-win way.

Three Gorges Project

The Three Gorges project, which manages the Yangtze River's water flow, has been officially certified as complete and fully functioning, the

authorities announced on November 1.

The Ministry of Water Resources and the National Development and Reform Commission officially announced full completion of the construction, saying it has met all design requirements, has a good overall performance, and fulfills the key roles of flood control, electricity generation, shipping and water-resource utilization.

The Three Gorges project, which began construction in 1994, is a multi-functional water-control system, consisting of a high dam and 34 turbo-generators with a combined power generating capacity of 22.5 million kilowatts.

The project has played a key role in flood control along the Yangtze River Basin. Since it first began operation until August this year, the dam held back 180 billion cubic meters of water during flood seasons.

It has also reduced flood peaks by about 40 percent, greatly easing flood-control pressure in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze.

This has been particularly important along the Jingjiang River, a section of the Yangtze that saw severe flooding in the past.

Great Wall Plan

Gansu Province in northwest China will initiate a conservation plan for the Great Wall, according to the Gansu Provincial Administration of Cultural Heritage.

Preparations for a national park management system to protect the Great Wall sections in Gansu are underway. Ma Yuping, director of the administration, said on November 1.

The Gansu section of the Great Wall measures 3,654 km. The Jiayuguan Pass, located 6 km southwest of Jiayuguan City in Gansu, makes it the Great Wall's western end. Construction on the Jiayuguan Pass began in 1372 and was completed in 1540. It was listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1987.

The plan involves emergency rescue and reinforcement of the Great Wall itself as well as

maintenance and repair of flood control and drainage facilities around the relic sites.

At the planned national park, the Gansu section of the Great Wall will have three exhibition gardens.

They will display the ramming technology in the construction of the Great Wall in northwest China, the history of the ancient Silk Road, and the culture of the Great Wall.

Reading Festival

Shenzhen, the tech hub in south China, opened its annual month-long reading festival on November 3. More than 2,200 cultural activities have been lined up, including lectures, book donations and celebrity recommendations for must-read books.

The Shenzhen Reading Month has been held each November for the past 20 years, causing UNESCO to name the city a global model for the promotion of reading. This year's event is promoting the city's development vitality and cultural charm.

The CITIC Press Group, a Beijing-based publisher and guest of honor at the event, is holding over 50 cultural activities and inviting well-known authors to meet and share their insights with readers in Shenzhen, according to Wang Bin, the company chairman.

Since the festival was launched in 2000, reading has become a part of everyday life in the city, thanks to persistent government promotion and local people's appetite for knowledge.

More than 160 million people

have participated in the festival, with over 8,800 reading and cultural activities held.

Sci-Tech Park

A sci-fi-based science and technology industrial park will be built in a reclaimed steel plant in western Beijing to boost the development of the sci-fi industry.

Fu Xiaoming, Deputy General Manager of Beijing Shougang Construction Group Co., announced on November 1 that the company will build a 160,000-square-meter sci-fi city in the Shougang Industrial Park in Beijing's Shijingshan District in 10 years.

He made the announcement at the China Science Fiction Conference, which opened in the industrial park that day.

The sci-fi city will have centers for international communication, technological empowerment and consumer experience, as well as a public service platform for graphic image rendering, copyright trading, and digital photography and production.

A sci-fi-themed amusement park is also expected to be set up in the park by the end of 2021.

Shijingshan will establish special funds and roll out policies to support the development of the sci-fi industry.

Founded in 1919, steelmaker Shougang has transformed its past production premises in Shijingshan into a new capital landmark featuring winter sports events, fairs and exhibitions.



Fully Prepared

A logistics park in Longli, a county in Guizhou Province in southwest China, braces up on November 3 for the Double Eleven Shopping Festival, held on November 11.

It has moved production to the coastal industrial zone of Caofeidian in neighboring Hebei Province.

Tibet Subsidy

Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China has provided 114,000 residents with minimum subsistence allowances in an effort to consolidate the region's accomplishment in poverty alleviation, reported Xinhua News Agency on October 29.

The subsidized residents include senior citizens, the differently abled, and children in rural areas, according to Yang Xiaorong, an official with the Department of Civil Affairs of Tibet.

The minimum subsistence allowance in Tibet has been raised to an annual amount of 4,713 yuan (\$693) per person in 2020, from 2,350 yuan (\$354) in 2015, according to Yang.

Konqung, 86, is one of the recipients of the allowance.

"I moved to an old people's home in the city last year, and now I receive an annual allowance from the government," he said. "I have nothing to worry about now."

Tibet has eradicated absolute poverty. By the end of 2019, 628,000 people and 74 county-level areas had moved out of poverty.



Autumn Tea

A farmer picks tea leaves in Yingde, a city in Guangdong Province in south China, on November 3. Yingde, with 10,000 hectares of tea plantations, is known as the hometown of black tea.

Trade Growth

Trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) accounted for one seventh of China's total imports and exports in the first three quarters of the year, reaching \$481.8 billion, Chinese Ambassador to ASEAN Deng Xijun said at the Third Jakarta Forum on November 2.

"It grew 5.6 percent in the second quarter and 7.7 percent in the third quarter, much faster than that between China and other trading partners," Deng said.

ASEAN became China's largest trading partner in the first half of the year, accounting for 14.7 percent of

its total foreign trade volume, amid upgraded free trade area protocol and supply chain cooperation.

This year, China has made \$10.7 billion of direct investment in ASEAN countries, up 76.6 percent. "The figures demonstrate the strong resilience and full potential of China-ASEAN economic relations," Deng said.

With measures to contain the novel coronavirus disease epidemic in place, China has established "fast lanes" and "green lanes" with Singapore, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia to facilitate the movement of personnel and resumed direct flights with several ASEAN countries.

Deng said the efforts will stabilize regional production and supply chains, develop new growth modes and thus inject stronger impetus into the economic growth of the countries.

Patent Benefits

Award-winning patents have generated massive economic benefits, boosting the high-quality development of intellectual property in China, the National Intellectual Property Administration (NIPA) said on November 2.

As of the end of 2018, projects related to the 40 top winners of this year's China Patent Award,

30 for invention and 10 for design, had created 660 billion yuan (\$98.7 billion) in sales revenue, 62.9 billion yuan (\$9.4 billion) in profit, and 136.3 billion yuan (\$20.4 billion) in exports, Lei Xiaoyun, a NIPA official, said at a press conference in Beijing.

The China Patent Award, the country's top award in the field, has been co-organized by NIPA and the World Intellectual Property Organization since 1989.

According to Lei, candidates for this year's awards reached a record-breaking 2,479.

"Of the 766 award-winning invention patents, 62 percent are in strategic emerging industries, and 83 percent in patent-intensive sectors," Lei said, adding that most award-winning patent projects involve key industries and core technologies.

Stronger Web Firms

China's Internet and related sectors registered double-digit growth in business revenue in the first three quarters of the year, official data showed.

Major Internet companies raked in 895.6 billion yuan (\$134.7 billion) in the period, up 13.7 percent year on year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).

The operating profit of the industry grew 13.6 percent year on year to 86.74 billion yuan (\$13 billion).

Its spending on research and development totaled 49.74 billion yuan (\$7.48 billion), up 11.2 percent over the same period last year.

MIIT statistics cover enterprises with annual revenue from Internet services of above 5 million yuan (\$752,000) in the previous year.

Smart Airports

During the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period, industry-wide efforts have been made to develop smart airports, highlighting data sharing, effective coordination and intelligent



Project in Progress

Construction of a one-stop aircraft maintenance base at the Haikou Meilan International Airport in Haikou, Hainan Province in south China, is in full swing on November 2. After completion, it will serve air companies from home and abroad.



Salt Harvest

Workers collect salt at a salt field in Qingdao, Shandong Province in east China, on November 4.

operations, Dong Zhiyi, deputy head of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), said at a conference in Xiamen, Fujian Province in southeast China. The conference was held on October 29-30.

China has set up big databases to sustain industry operations and put into use a range of new technologies in fields such as airport security management, flight management and operations control at airports, he said.

NEV Plan

A development plan for China's new-energy vehicle (NEV) industry in 2021-35 said the country will become an automotive powerhouse.

The plan, released by the State Council on November 2, lists five strategic tasks—improving technology innovation capacity, building new-type industry ecosystems, advancing industrial integration and development,

upgrading the infrastructure system, and expanding opening up and cooperation.

The targets include bringing the average power consumption of electric cars down to 12 kWh/100 km and raising the proportion of NEVs in new vehicle sales to 20 percent by 2025.

By 2035, electric automobiles are likely to become the mainstream in the new vehicle market, while all vehicles used in public transportation will be electrified, according to the plan.

Boasting the world's most sizable inventory of NEVs, China accounts for 55 percent of global NEV sales.

LNG Deal

The Shanghai Petroleum and Natural Gas Exchange (SHPGX) executed its first international liquefied natural gas (LNG) tender transaction on November 2.

According to the tender result, Chinese oil and gas giant CNOOC will purchase 65,000 tons of LNG to be delivered in March 2021 from Aramco Trading Singapore.

On October 30, SHPGX's online international LNG trading system launched purchase and sales tender services for international traders.

Sinopec and CNOOC announced purchase tenders through the system on the same day, seeking to purchase overseas LNG to be delivered in the subsequent months.

A number of foreign gas suppliers, including Total, Mitsui & Co., Glencore, RWE and Aramco Trading Singapore, were invited to participate in the tenders.

SHPGX said it is mulling the establishment of a group purchasing service for small and medium-sized LNG buyers in accordance with market demand.

Tibet's Economy

The GDP of Tibet Autonomous

Region in southwest China totaled 130.8 billion yuan (\$19.5 billion) in the first three quarters of the year, up 6.3 percent year on year, local authorities said on October 29.

Seven emerging sectors empowered the region's economy—plateau biology, tourism and culture, green industries, clean energy, modern services, border trade logistics, and the hi-tech and digital industry, according to the regional bureau of statistics and the Tibet survey office under the National Bureau of Statistics.

They achieved a value-added output of 28.9 billion yuan (\$4.3 billion) from January to September, with the hi-tech and digital industry surging 37 percent year on year and the plateau bio-industry up 31.6 percent.

The pharmaceuticals is another pillar industry in the region. Its value-added output soared 36.6 percent year on year in the first three quarters, compared with a 7.1-percent growth of all major industries.



Poverty-Relief Initiative

Shoppers select commodities at the China Western Consumption Poverty Alleviation Center in Chongqing, southwest China, on October 31. The 15,000-square-meter building has more than 40 pavilions, presenting products from impoverished areas.

THIS WEEK WORLD



TURKEY

Rescuers work at the site of a collapsed building after a 6.9-magnitude earthquake hit the western province of Izmir on October 31. The death toll exceeded 110



BRAZIL

Students and parents attend a preparation session at a school in Sao Paulo on November 3. In-person secondary school classes resumed in the city that day



JAPAN

A traditional Chinese opera performance at the closing ceremony of the China Film Week of the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival in Tokyo on November 1



AUSTRIA

Police officers on duty in Vienna on November 3. The government declared a three-day national mourning after a terror attack that left at least four people and one perpetrator dead in the capital on November 2



THAILAND

A woman wearing a mask prays for peace and luck before setting afloat a water lantern in the Chao Phraya River in Bangkok on October 31, the annual Loy Krathong Festival



UNITED STATES

People watch a live broadcast of the presidential election ballot counting at Times Square in New York City on November 3

↓ FATHER OF HYBRID RICE MAKES NEW BREAKTHROUGH

Yuan Longping, the father of hybrid rice, and his team have set a new record with the yield of their third-generation hybrid rice variety reaching 911.7 kg per *mu* (about 667 square meters) in an experiment in Hunan Province, central China.

Plus an early season rice yield of 619.06 kg, the same plot in Qingzhu Village, Hengnan County, produced 1,530.76 kg per *mu* in a year. The output is equivalent to 22.96 tons per hectare.

Last year, the same hybrid rice variety, Sanyou No.1, gave a single-cropping yield of 1,046.3 kg per *mu* from the same plot.

Yuan said he wants to ensure the variety can promote greener and more sustainable development of China's rice production with higher quality.

The 90-year-old, who developed the world's first hybrid rice in the 1970s, has set multiple world records in hybrid rice yields, making incalculable contribution to food security, both in China and elsewhere. His team is still working on third-generation hybrid rice combinations and conducting studies for simplifying the cultivation with less use of fertilizers.



A Helping Hand for The Elderly

www.banyuetan.org

October 29

Some universities in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province in east China, have recently set up modules to teach elderly people how to use smartphones. The classes include many basic applications, such as making e-payment, online hospital appointment registration and using the health code. These classes are popular among seniors who face inconveniences in their daily life as they lag behind electronic product knowledge.

Considering the situation, during this year's National Day holiday, October 1-8,

shops, hospitals, banks and railway stations waived the requirement for the elderly to show their health code. For seniors, staff service was provided. However, teaching them to use smartphones is the best way to help them adapt to the information era.

The popularity of the smartphone classes indicates that the elderly are willing to learn new things. But limited access has hampered their progress. Therefore, local governments, public service organizations and smartphone companies should create more opportunities for them to explore advanced technologies.

When this group becomes skilled at using smartphones, the consumption potential they would unleash would contribute to the dual-circulation development, where domestic consumption and indigenous technological development play an important role in driving China's growth.

Lifesaving Defibrillators

Guancha.gmw.cn

October 28

Beijing Subway has installed automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at 22 stations on its Line 1, its oldest line, and at five more stations with large passenger flows on Line 4, according to Beijing MTR Corporation Limited. By the end of this year, 104 stations on seven subway lines in the city will have the devices. The machines will be placed in prominent locations at the stations, with appropriate signage and detailed instructions for use.

The AEDs are portable, lifesaving devices designed to treat people experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest. They can help the heart re-establish its normal beat by administering an electrical shock. People without a medical background can also use the devices after training. They are an effective tool for saving lives.

According to a report released by the National Center for Cardiovascular Diseases in 2016, every year about 540,000 people die of sudden cardiac problems. But these devices can reduce the tragedies. Therefore their distribution in public places is a measure that will meet



“The U.S. has repeatedly pitted regional countries against one another, flexed its muscles and instigated tensions. It is becoming the biggest factor fueling militarization and the most dangerous factor jeopardizing peace in the South China Sea.”

Xiao Qian, Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia, in a statement on the embassy's website on October 31

“A new development blueprint is important not only for China but also for the whole world, as the Chinese Government can usually deliver on its development goals once they are set out.”

Carl Fey, a professor of international business at Aalto University School of Business in Finland, on China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency



An automated external defibrillator at the Xidan Station on Beijing Subway Line 4 on October 27

with social endorsement.

Beijing Subway said training would be provided to the staff to use the devices. By December 2022, more than 80 percent of the staff at Beijing's subway stations will be trained to use them. But since a heart attack victim generally requires assistance within four minutes, the authorities have asked more people to learn how to use the AED to save lives with prompt action.

In 2019, the State Council issued the Healthy China Initiative that asks people to learn lifesaving techniques in emergencies, such as a heart attack or near-drowning. Therefore, the authorities should accelerate the progress of promoting defibrillator training in schools and communities.

Strengthening Information Security

Beijing Youth Daily

October 28

Over 90 percent of respondents have used face recognition, generally for e-payment, according to a report by the Personal Information Protection Task Force on Apps on face recognition application on October 13. However, the report says over 60 percent of people think the technology has been abused, while 30 percent faced problems, including violation of privacy and property loss.

Risks usually happen in data storage and application. Unscrupulous companies can take advantage of science and technology and the market to collect and use private information excessively. Although China has strict regulation on those processes, personal information security is not guaranteed due to the lack of uniform industry standards.

Therefore, the authorities should improve policies and regulations related to personal data protection with a standard for the industry. Technology developers and app operators can help relevant departments crack down on illegal actions. Governmental supervision is vital to enhance information security.

Companies should adhere to ethics in science and technology, ensuring their business operations are legal. During research and development, users' privacy needs to be given the same importance as technological innovation. Also, people should strengthen their awareness of information security protection and avoid behaviors that carry risks.

↓ WORLD SAILING'S FIRST CHINESE PRESIDENT

Li Quanhai has become World Sailing's new president, the London-based global governing body for the sport of sailing announced on November 1.

Li, 58, is the first Chinese to hold the office. His term will end in 2024.

He topped the election with 68 votes ahead of former president Kim Andersen of Denmark.

Li, Director General of the National Olympic Sports Center, said he will work to make sailing more exciting, easier to participate in and a showcase of human power combined with the energy of nature.

Li had previously served on World Sailing's Board of Directors for eight years. Founded in 1907, World Sailing is recognized by the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee. Its principle members are the national governing bodies for sailing around the world and more than 100 class associations with different types of boats.



“For those unwilling to focus on containment, like the U.S., the long shadow of COVID-19 speaks volumes for the ever-present perils of a double-dip recession. The contrast with China’s self-sustaining recovery couldn’t be more striking.”

Stephen Roach, former Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, in an article for New Zealand’s financial news website *Interest.co.nz* on October 27

“Chinese companies remain the top-paying customers for UK intellectual properties (IPs). Additionally, having spent the last 20 years developing and protecting their own IPs, Chinese companies are now among the world’s largest patent applicants.”

Ting Zhang, Co-Vice Chair of the UK-China Tech Forum, in an article on the website of British newspaper *The Independent* on November 2



COVER STORY

CRACKING A TOUGH NUT

Old revolutionary base wins its battle on poverty with distinctive industries By Ji Jing

12 BEIJING REVIEW NOVEMBER 12, 2020

The county of Zuoquan in Shanxi Province in north China has gone through two transformations in the recent century. Originally called Liaoxian, its name was changed to Zuoquan in 1942 to commemorate General Zuo Quan of the Eighth Route Army, who lost his life there that year in the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45).

The second transformation took place last year when the inland county, which had grappled with poverty for over two decades due to its limited natural resources, was officially declared poverty free.

One reason for the poverty was the lack of arable land and growing wrong crops. Only 8 percent of the mountainous county is suitable for cultivation; the rest is largely covered by mountains and water. The farmers mostly planted corn since it

<http://www.bjreview.com>



A bird's-eye view of Zuoquan, a county in Shanxi Province in north China, on October 22

was a traditional crop and they didn't want to experiment with new ones and take risks. But corn fetched little money and was also laborious. Back then, farmers did not realize that walnut, also a local product, had better prospects.

Suited to the soil

Zuoquan has a long history of walnut planting. The earliest walnut trees in the county grew in the wild more than 500 years ago. The high altitude and considerable difference between day and night temperatures result in walnuts with plump kernels, rich in protein, fat and oil. Also, they are thin shelled and easy to crack.

Based on these considerations, eventually in 2012, the county authorities decided to develop Zuoquan as a walnut plantation base, growing varieties that would be hardy and drought-resistant.

Of the 129 villages in the county registered as poor, Lianbi was the poorest, with no enterprises or mines. The mountains made it difficult to grow crops, nor could cattle be raised on the slopes as they had little vegetation. The young people in the village mostly went elsewhere to seek a living, with only the elderly remaining behind.

In 2012, Guo Yinglin was the secretary of the Communist Party of China village branch. He decided to start walnut cultivation on the mountains. "There are only 120 hectares of arable land, but there are 1,000 hectares of mountains," he told the villagers. "We need to make good use of these mountains if we want to prosper." Providentially, a company had arrived in the village to prospect for natural gas and the money it paid as yearly rent, 340,000 yuan (\$50,932), was used to buy walnut

saplings and fertilizer. Then plantation on the mountains began. The drive inspired some of the elderly villagers. Guo Fulan, a farmer then in his 60s, decided to join in the work.

"It's difficult for people of my age to find work," Guo Fulan said. "Since the village has found a new way of making a living, I want to be part of it too."

The local government provided financial support to build roads in the mountains and the dogged perseverance finally resulted in a 200-hectare walnut plantation with around 81,000 trees. Today, the base pays over 500,000 yuan (\$74,900) in total each year to over 100 individuals from Lianbi as well as neighboring villages.

"In the past, I made very little money from growing corn and it was labor-intensive. Now I work at the walnut tree base ▶▶

and can make nearly 20,000 yuan (\$2,996) a year,” Guo Fulan said. “I don’t need to bother with buying seeds and fertilizer or selling the nuts.”

Currently, the entire county has 24,000 hectares of walnut plantations with an annual output of 15 million kg, worth 300 million yuan (\$45 million).

Emerging from seclusion

In Lianbi, farmers are growing organic herbs and grains, which are sold both in Shanxi and other provinces and have helped over 400 households. Guo, the Party chief, said in the past it took at least two days to go to the nearest township, though it was only 10 km away, since there were no roads. Now with the new roads and transport, it takes only 10 minutes.

With better roads, transport and penetration of mobile phones and the Internet, the once secluded village has opened up and also got to see the outside world. The technology-savvy farmers are selling their products such as millet online.

Though the village stepped out of poverty in 2016, Guo, the Party chief, was still not satisfied. After the mountains were planted with walnut trees and grain crops, he came up with the idea of developing stable and sustainable industries.

Zuoquan had applied for a photovoltaic (PV) project to develop the PV industry in impoverished villages as another targeted way of poverty alleviation.

Lianbi also decided to develop a PV industry. In 2017, the Jiayao PV Power Generation Co. Ltd. decided to build a solar power station in the village. After construction was completed in October 2018, it was connected to solar panels in 96 villages. Last year, the station generated 50 million kilowatts.

Besides the income from the rent paid by the company and the money paid to the owners of the solar panels, the project also generates jobs for villagers. They work as maintenance staff, clearing weeds in summer and sweeping snow in winter. The village earns nearly 1 million yuan (\$149,800) a year from solar power generation. In 2019, its per-capita annual income rose to 9,600 yuan (\$1,438).

Dou Haobin, deputy general manager of the company, is a Lianbi man. After graduation, he had gone to work outside the village but on learning a solar power station was going to come up there, the mechanical and electrical engineering major decided to return home. He said it was the correct decision because he witnessed the transformation of his hometown thanks to the targeted poverty alleviation efforts



Liu Yanzhong, a villager in Lichang, Zuoquan, at the duck farm where he works, on October 20

and rural revitalization drive and feels more motivated in his work and life.

Liu Aijun, who lives in Lichang, another village in Zuoquan, is also a beneficiary of the solar power project. He took a loan from the local rural credit cooperative, which was given to him interest free under a special poverty alleviation policy. Combining it with his savings, he installed solar panels on his house roof. They are connected to a power station and fetch him around 7,000 yuan (\$1,049) a year.

Liu said he will be able to pay off his loan by the end of the year. In the meantime, he has bought six cows with the money earned from his new venture and now has another income-generating business lined up.

Song Xianglin, Director of the Lichang Villagers’ Committee, said the money earned from the power station is used to improve village infrastructure. A daycare

center has been built for the elderly, where people above 65 are provided with three free meals a day.

Harnessing the sun

There are three kinds of solar power stations in Zuoquan. One is built and operated by professional companies. There is only one such station in the county. The second type is power stations run by the village collective with the profits distributed among villages. There are over 30 such stations. The third is the rooftop solar panels whose profits go directly to the owners.

As the local government allows arable and barren land, forests, collectively owned rural construction land and homesteads to be rented out to enterprises to develop industries, Lianbi is signing contracts with cooperatives. The Longxin Farmers’ Cooperative both buys grain from farmers



Apple orchards use drip irrigation in Shangwu, a village in Zuoquan, on October 21. The irrigation system was funded by the China International Publishing Group



Guo Yinglin, Secretary of the Communist Party of China branch of Lianbi, a village in Zuoquan, on October 21

at a slightly higher price than the market rate and rents land and hires the farmers to grow crops for a salary.

Cooperatives are part of a strategic campaign to improve farmers' incomes and the environment at the same time. In many villages they are involved in afforestation, hiring locals to plant trees. The planting is organized during the slack farming season when farmers used to be idle. Now they can work in this period to make more money.

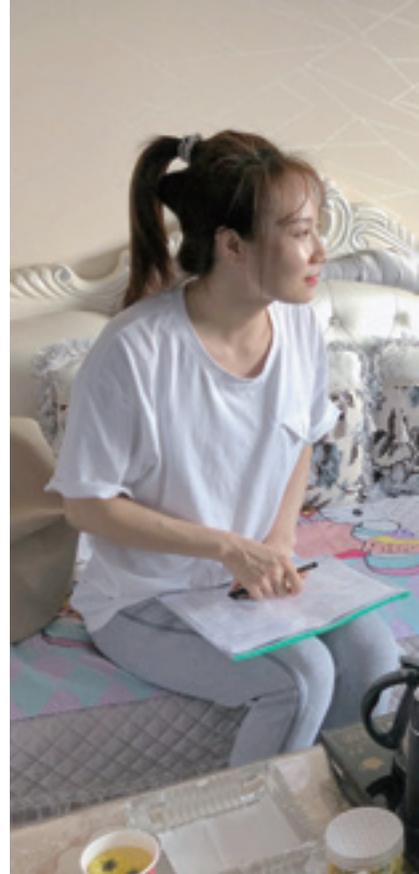
Such innovative contracts have seen the idle land in Lianbi and other villages fully utilized. When the trees and herbs are in flower, the once barren mountains come alive with colors. ■



Solar panels in Lichang Village, Zuoquan County



Wen Huixian checks vegetables in a greenhouse in Zuoquan, Shanxi Province in north China, on October 22



COVER STORY

ON THE SAME PAGE

Veteran publishing house's hands-on participation shows broad base of poverty alleviation drive **By Ma Li**

Wen Huixian, Deputy Mayor of Zuoquan County in Shanxi Province, north China, has been a busy man. He has not only visited poor villages in the county, coordinating poverty alleviation projects, but also traveled to trade fairs to market local specialty products.

Over the past two years, the three animal breeding projects and four planting projects he led have brought a stable income to more than 1,200 poor households in the county.

Wen was sent to Zuoquan to work temporarily as a deputy county mayor by *China Pictorial*, a monthly magazine of the Beijing-based China International Publishing Group (CIPG). Since 2002, the publishing group has been sending its employees to the impoverished county for hands-on participation in the poverty

alleviation drive.

The drive to end poverty across the country by 2020 has seen a wide spectrum of participants, including staff members sent by government departments, state-owned enterprises and social organizations.

The CIPG has been one of the supporters of the campaign. It has assisted in education for children and training for county officials, promoted local industries and funded solar panels for clean energy. A special CIPG fund has been established for projects.

Hands-on participation

For Wen, going to work in Shanxi was a homecoming since he was born there. Zuoquan, an old revolutionary base, had a population of over 49,000 poor people. One of Wen's tasks was to develop local

industries and promote their products outside.

The county had the potential to develop fruit orchards, especially apple orchards. However, the farmers lacked money to buy fertilizers and improve irrigation. In December 2019, a farmers' cooperative from the village of Shangwu asked Wen for help.

After an on-site investigation, Wen ascertained that fertilizers and drip irrigation could improve farmers' earnings by 30 percent. He obtained funds from the CIPG for the cooperative in under six months and the result proved his judgment correct. By October, the cooperative's apple orchards had produced nearly 40 percent more compared with the previous year.

Another village, Tianmen, had abundant forests, perfect for raising chickens.



Li Jin (left) visits a rural family in Zuoquan. The family relocated to a new home subsidized by the government



Wang Peng (left) with an elderly villager in Zuoquan on October 22

However, the farmers lacked funds to improve and expand poultry farming. With Wen's help, they received funding from the county government as well as a matching contribution from CIPG's special fund for poverty alleviation, with the pooled sum amounting to 600,000 yuan (\$89,702).

In two years, Wen had visited almost all the 129 impoverished villages in the county, helping to develop traditional agricultural and animal husbandry industries based on local conditions. Seven projects were started under his watch, funded by over 1.7 million yuan (\$254,000) from the CIPG poverty alleviation fund.

Two of the projects, raising ducks in Lichang Village and planting cherry in Shangkou Village, have become signature ones for poverty alleviation in Zuoquan, Wen said.

In April 2019, Zuoquan was officially declared to have shaken off poverty. However, though Wen's two-year tenure ended this year, instead of returning to Beijing, he has chosen to stay on till the end of the year, the deadline for the elimination of poverty, to help strengthen the results.

Going deeper

In May 2018, Wang Peng from CIPG's general editorial office was assigned to support poverty alleviation work in Lichang, a village in the same county with fewer than

400 people. Many young people had left the village to look for greener pastures elsewhere.

Wang's work in the village includes improving the life of village elders, especially those left behind by their younger family members who work in cities. A daytime care center was established in 2014 to provide three free daily meals to people over 65. Almost 45 elderly villagers dine in the center regularly. Also, every year, the elderly are given free clothing and entertainment activities are organized for them.

The village provides 160,000 yuan (\$23,922) annually to cover the center's expenses.

For many villagers, raising ducks is a major means of livelihood but initially, many ducklings died in winter as the duck sheds had no heating. Today, three modern and automated duck sheds with heating have been built. Machines do most of the work there, including feeding the birds and cleaning the sheds. A duck breeder can earn around 7,000 yuan (\$1,046) a month, which is more than what many villagers working outside as migrant labor make.

Nearly 2.08 million yuan (\$310,995) has been invested in building the duck sheds, including 730,000 yuan (\$109,147) from the CIPG and 840,000 yuan (\$12,538) raised through micro bank loans. The local government paid the rest.

Wang said this year the villagers also planted 2 hectares of apricots, which will benefit 30 poor households. When Wang's tenure in the village ends in December, another CIPG staff will take his place. "This will be continued to ensure long-term effects of the poverty alleviation work and further improve villagers' conditions even after absolute poverty is eliminated," Wang said.

Many more CIPG employees like Wang and Wen have taken part, first-hand, in the national initiative. Li Jin from China.org.cn, an online media outlet under CIPG, went to work in Liaoyang Town in the county a few months before her wedding after persuading both her and her husband's families.

A city girl, Li found it challenging at first due to her unfamiliarity with the rural environment and the poverty alleviation work, which for her includes explaining to the impoverished villagers the preferential policies available to provide them with benefits and how to access them.

Gradually, she has adapted to the new environment. "The work has enriched my life and experience," she said. ■

COVER STORY

A WELCOME NOTE

Folk song contests, fruit picking and birdwatching are innovative ways to boost village tourism

By Hu Fan

With the National Day holiday in October showing a remarkable surge in domestic travels, a sign of the revival of the tourism industry, Zhao Xia is looking forward to having lots of guests at her homestay.

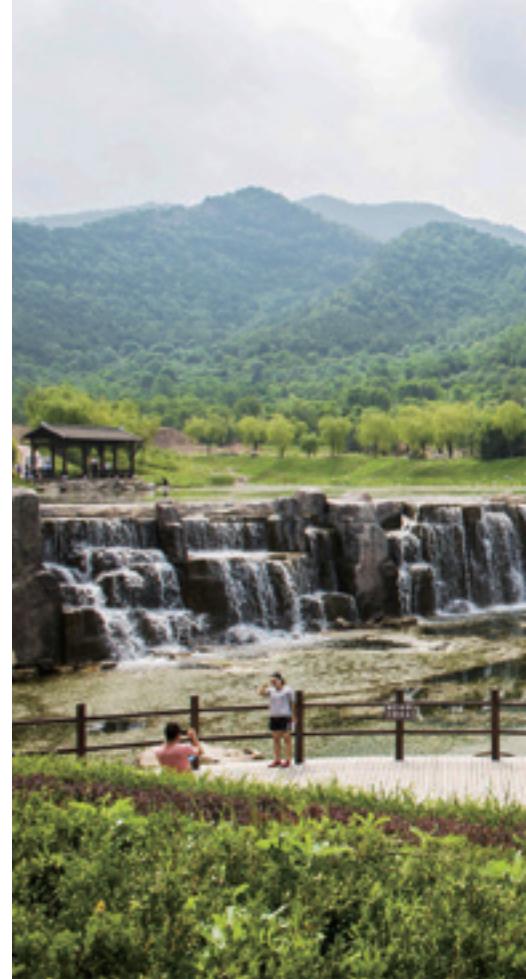
Zhao's old house in Zecheng, a village in Zuoquan County, Shanxi Province in north China, has recently been refurbished, funded mostly by the local government. Two rooms have been modified into guest rooms and the kitchen and toilet have been renovated.

It's part of the drive to develop tourism in the village. So far, 37 of the 400-odd houses

have been converted into homestays and two into restaurants. A reception center for tourists has come up and the streets have been beautified. A training center has just been built where people from other parts of the county come to attend sessions.

Zhao's homestay opened earlier this year and she is optimistic about its prospects, considering the efforts of the local government to transform the village into a tourist resort.

In the past, she and her husband used to depend on the meager income from the crops they grew on their barren land on the hills. Now she can earn money by running



the homestay while her husband works seasonally in a factory in Taiyuan, capital city of the province.

The village has carried out the ambitious plan initiated by the county in 2017 to develop ecology- and culture-oriented tourism for rural revitalization.



Zhao Xia at her homestay in Zecheng, a village in Zuoquan County, Shanxi Province in north China, on October 22



The grand finale of the second Zuoquan Folk contest in Zhaojiazhuang Village on August 24



Longquan Forest Park in Zuoquan in 2017

Ecological appeal

Zuoquan has rich resources for developing tourism. Located on the west side of the Taihang Mountains, one of China's most important mountain ranges, it offers breathtaking views and a cool summer. It also has



many historical and cultural sites.

To improve accessibility, the county started building a road network in 2018. So far, 168 km of main roads and branches have been paved or renovated, which connect over 280 tourist sites.

An afforestation project has been carried out to plant trees with golden leaves along the roads, creating a scenic belt known as the Golden Valley. The villagers already get an income from the project by renting their land and working as gardeners.

Agriculture is also being redirected to boost tourism. For example, fruit and vegetable gardens have been designed to provide tourists with both sightseeing and fruit-picking experiences.

As one of the few counties in Shanxi that have rich water resources, Zuoquan is also developing tourism along the rivers running through it. A project has been carried out to reinforce and beautify the banks of the Qingzhang River, a major river running through the county, and clear its bed of silt.

Zhaojiashuang Village is a direct beneficiary of the project. Located by a tributary of the Qingzhang, the village is famous as a bird habitat and attracts about 20,000 bird lovers each year. The 500-meter stretch of the river near the village has been spruced up.

In addition, the project has brought job

opportunities for the locals. By policy, at least 60 percent of the individuals working on the project have to be locals from poor households, according to Hou Xiuying, Director of Zuoquan's Bureau of Water Resources.

"They earn a minimum monthly salary of 3,500 yuan (\$524)," she told *Beijing Review*.

Cultural booster

Among the brand-building measures for local tourism, Zuoquan Folk, a folk song contest, is a highlight.

Thanks to a singing tradition that dates back to ancient times, the county has developed a unique school of singing with a repertoire of around 20,000 folk songs. The folk song contest was started in 2019 to leverage that resource and boost tourism. Singers from all over the world are invited to take part in it.

To host the event, a theater has been built as its permanent venue. Delicately designed and located among high rocks, the theater has become a landmark that attracts tourists as well.

At the final of the second Zuoquan Folk contest in August, the finalists were chosen from around 100 folk singers from seven countries. The judges were among China's top folk song stars.

Apart from the Zuoquan Folk contest, the county also holds monthly folk song contests to discover local talents. One hundred singers discovered in the contests have been hired as tour guides, who added color to the sightseeing with folk songs.

The contests and other measures for attracting tourists have already taken effect. So far, about 1,500 people across the county have made an average extra income of around 2,200 yuan (\$330) per year from operating homestays and other sites for experiencing rural living.

In Zecheng, the effect is not as immediate. So for now, Zhao's homestay depends on the trainees who come to the village to attend courses. But she remains confident about the future as the village is changing for the better. ■

COVER STORY

MOVING FOR IMPROVING

Relocation paves way for a better life By Ma Li

Zhou Xinfang considers 2017 to be a year of “earth-shaking change” for her family. It was the year the family moved from their remote village in Zuoquan County, Shanxi Province in north China, to a more hospitable area. From a draughty, adobe house they relocated to a modern apartment with all the amenities they had lacked before.

The old village, hidden in the mountains, lacked running water, transport, schools and

hospitals. But the new resettlement site, built in 2003, is more centrally situated.

“In the past, we had to get water from faraway places, but now we get water by turning on the tap,” Zhou said. “My grandson had to walk an hour to school, but now we have a kindergarten and primary school nearby; and it takes 10 minutes to go to the hospital.” The icing on the cake is the extra stable income. With her husband, son and daughter-

in-law working in the city, she had to struggle with the cattle. But now the animals have been handed over to a farmers’ cooperative and fetch a handsome extra income.

As the poverty alleviation campaign in the county accelerated, over 4,500 impoverished people from 32 villages had been relocated by the end of 2018, according to Ju Weirong, Director of the Poverty Alleviation Office of Zuoquan.

Bai Yanfang lives next door to Zhou. In the past, her four-member family struggled to live on the sparse income from her husband’s salary as a government employee and the little plot of land they had in the mountains, where they grew corn and potato.

Bai said they worried what would happen if someone fell ill as they had no savings to pay for medical expenses. “We would hope that one day we too could live like people in cities do. That in winter the children would have warm classrooms without freezing.” The relocation in 2007 brought good luck for Bai’s family. Her son got a good job in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in north China, married and is now a proud father with two children. Her daughter got married



A beaming Bai Yanfang with her granddaughter at her new house in Donggou Village in Zuoquan County, Shanxi Province in north China, on October 20

from the new house in October and to top it all, Bai's husband's salary has been raised. Also, they have medical insurance.

Last year, the per-capita income of Donggou, the village where they have relocated, was 8,600 yuan (\$1,287). This year, despite the novel coronavirus epidemic, it has crossed 10,000 yuan (\$1,497), Wang Zhiming, Secretary of the Communist Party of China Donggou Village Branch, said.

To ensure the villagers' livelihood after relocation, various programs have been started. The villagers grow walnuts, a specialty of the county, and multiple crops. Cattle raising is also a major household business. A waxberry industry is being developed with an investment of 2 million yuan (\$299,585).

Farmers are organized into cooperatives, which have greater investment capacity and find it easier to get bank loans. According to a Xinhua News Agency report in July, more than 90 percent of poor villages in China have set up farmers' cooperatives, which play an important role in the poverty alleviation efforts. Over 682,000 such cooperatives have helped nearly 22 million people shake off poverty.

The Donggou cooperative has raised funds from its members for the waxberry-growing project and undertaken to distribute its profit among them in proportion to their contributions. In 2019 and 2020, the cooperative distributed 36,000 yuan (\$5,393) each year among its members, Wang said.

The county government allocated 17.7 million yuan (\$2.7 million) in 2018-19 to establish solar power industries in 32 villages. This year, the county has invested 8.6 million yuan (\$1.3 million) to develop an animal husbandry industry that uses organic feed for the animals.

"In order to ensure people have an adequate income after their relocation, we have also created some public service jobs," Ju said. They include working as cleaners, security guards and landscapers.

With the help of these industries, Donggou became poverty-free in 2017. The entire county was officially declared out of poverty last year. However, that doesn't mean the end of the mission. "We have to innovate continuously to consolidate the hard-won results," Ju said.

The next step, according to Wang, is to develop agritourism in the village with homestays and developing more industries with special characteristics. ■

Copyedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
Comments to yanwei@bjreview.com

<http://www.bjreview.com>

COVER STORY

VALLEY OF GOLD

Afforestation sows seeds of prosperity in wasteland

By Ma Miaomiao



A farmer picks chrysanthemum in the Golden Valley in Zuoquan County, Shanxi Province in north China, on October 21

The Golden Valley is a dazzling 48-km belt in Zuoquan County in Shanxi Province, north China, named so after its variety of trees with bright yellow leaves that look like gold. They include the fast-growing Siberian elm, the Chinese scholar tree that is used in herbal medicine, and the evergreen golden euonymus. The adult trees were planted along the belt since the beginning of this year as part of the afforestation drive that has now created a uniquely enchanting scenery to boost the local tourism industry.

According to Zheng Rui, an official from the forestry bureau of Zuoquan, afforestation has been carried out in wasteland, on barren mountain slopes, and in ravines for ecological restoration. The afforestation project, covering over 65 hectares, has been implemented by 27 poverty alleviation afforestation cooperatives.

Afforestation contributes to poverty alleviation by producing timber and generating jobs. Feng Yanqing, 55, is a migrant worker from Longquan, a township in Zuoquan. He works as a forest guard to prevent illegal felling of trees and encroachment. He earns 3,000 yuan (\$451.3) a month from the job.

Longquan is one of the main seedling bases, covering 15 villages. According to Ju Xiaohua, Secretary of the Communist Party of China Longquan Township Committee, the area, due to its high altitude, suffers from long periods of frost, making agriculture difficult. So many farmers simply abandoned their land.

The project has rented the abandoned land from the farmers, which has boosted the income of more than 200 households in five villages. The bases have pavilions, platforms to view the surrounding scenery, and trails for sightseers.

In addition, orchards have been created in adjacent areas for agricultural tourism. Tourists can admire peach and apricot blossoms in spring, and pick apples, grapes and cherries in the harvest season. There are more scenic spots nearby, such as the Longquan Forest Park.

Wen Huixian, deputy head of Zuoquan, said the Golden Valley provides jobs for more than 1,400 villagers, creating an average per-capita income of about 6,000 yuan (\$902.5). ■

Copyedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
Comments to mamm@bjreview.com

book design MULTILINGUAL

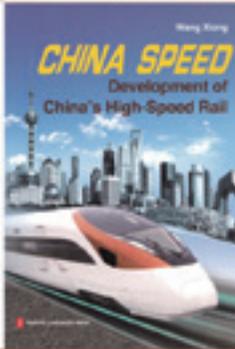
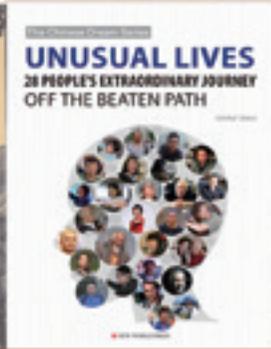
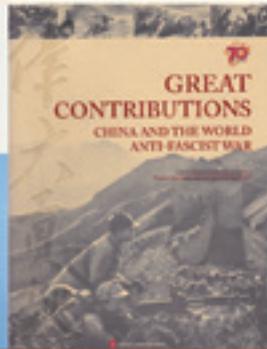
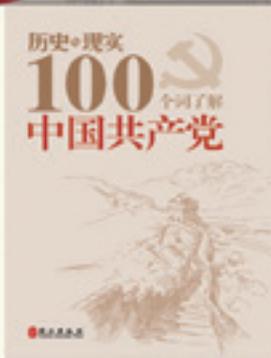
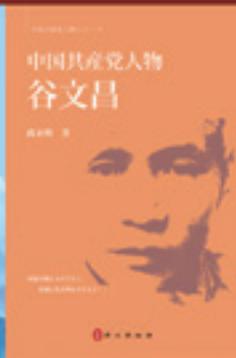
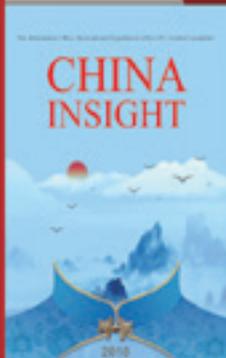
多 语 种 图 书 设 计

WE CAN DO BETTER

ALBANIAN
BENALI
CHINESE
CAMBODIAN
CZECH
DUTCH
DANISH
ENGLISH
FARSI
FRENCH
GERMAN
GREEK
HAUSA
INDONESIAN
日本語
한국어
LAOTIAN
MALAY
MACEDONIAN
MALAYSIAN
MONGOLIAN
PORTUGUESE
РУССКИЙ ЯЗЫК
SERBIAN
SLOVAK
SPANISH
SWEDISH
SWAHILI
ဘာသာစကား
TURKISH
UKRAINIAN
URDU
VIETNAMESE

Add: 24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Xicheng District, Beijing 100037, China

Tel: (010) 68995980, 68996325



BEIJING REVIEW 专业团队 倾心打造，重磅推出！



权威
严谨
实用



更有**套装回馈**



► 相关视频课程 敬请关注翻译之路官方网站：www.chinacatti.com

中国外文局北京周报社淘宝店

扫一扫，即可购买！

热线电话：010-68995808

The Making of A New Blueprint

CPC puts people first in outlining development goals for the next five years and beyond By Wang Hairong

As China will soon become a moderately prosperous society, what does it plan to do beyond that? The question was addressed at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held in Beijing on October 26-29, when the Party leadership mapped a new blueprint for the coming five years and set goals for another decade thereafter.

In recent four decades or so, the CPC Central Committee usually held five to seven plenary sessions during the five-year interlude between two CPC national congresses, including one focusing on proposals for the next five-year plan for national economic and social development.

This year's plenary session was historic. It was held at a time when China is going to enter a new development stage in the process of national rejuvenation, Wang Xiaohui, executive deputy head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, said at a press conference on October 30.

Meanwhile, the world is undergoing radical changes, such as the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and growing anti-globalization trends, he added.

The next five-year plan will be the first after China achieves its first centenary goal, that is, to complete building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by the time the CPC celebrates its centenary in 2021. It will also mark the beginning of a period when the country will strive to realize basic national modernization by 2035 and then its second centenary goal of becoming a modern socialist country by 2049, the centenary of the People's Republic of China. By the middle of this century, the country will become a prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful society.

The most important outcome of the plenary session was the adoption of the proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-

25) and the long-range objectives through the year 2035.

The meeting stressed the overall leadership of the Party. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period and beyond, China's development will face an extremely complex international situation, with risks and challenges, Jiang Jinqun, Director of the Policy Research Office of the CPC Central Committee, said. Hence, it is more important to uphold and strengthen the Party's overall leadership, he said.

New priorities

An outstanding feature of the proposals is that they address the principal contradiction facing Chinese society and put forward a series of strategic and innovative measures, Wang said. According to the report to the 19th CPC National Congress in 2017, the principle contradiction is between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life.



In the document, the CPC Central Committee redefines the Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy, a guiding principle for national governance introduced in 2014, as making comprehensive moves to build a modern socialist country in an all-round way, deepen reform, advance the law-based governance, and strengthen Party self-discipline. Previously, the first of the four components was to complete building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Understanding the new development stage, concept and pattern is important to understand the proposals, Han Wenxiu, Deputy Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Financial and Economic Affairs, said.

The goals to be achieved by 2035 have been set, such as enhancing comprehensive national strength and increasing per-capita GDP to the level of moderately developed countries.

The new development concept, namely promoting innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development, is stressed, and so is safe development.

In addition, the document underlines the

importance of following a dual circulation development pattern, where the domestic and foreign markets boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay. It is a strategic choice to raise the level of China's economic development, as well as to forge new advantages in global economic cooperation and competition, President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said in an explanatory speech on the proposals.

Promoting high-quality development, deepening supply-side structural reform, and pursuing scientific and technological self-reliance are also essential to the modernization drive.

To forestall and defuse various kinds of risks and proactively address challenges brought by external changes, Xi said China needs to focus on taking care of its own affairs and improving development quality.

There are three things that are particularly important: reform, opening up and innovation, according to Han.

Wang Zhigang, Minister of Science and Technology, said the country will strengthen independent innovation capabilities on one hand, and on the other hand, it will learn from other nations' experiences and share its own scientific achievements.

People first

The main objectives of China's economic and social development during the 14th Five-Year Plan period are to make new achievements in economic development, take new steps in reform and opening up, enhance social etiquette and civility, further promote ecological progress and improve people's livelihood and the efficiency of national governance, according to the proposals.

Key measures for improving the quality of life have been raised. In particular, common prosperity of society will be achieved by 2035.

Common prosperity is the shared aspiration of the people and the fundamental purpose of economic and social development, Xi said.

Ning Jizhe, Vice Minister of the National Development and Reform Commission, said in the next five years, the government will further boost employment and improve employment support for vulnerable groups, increase the income of urban and rural residents through multiple channels, and keep residents' income growth basically synchronized with economic expansion.

In the past few years, Chinese residents' income has continued to grow. From 2016 to 2019, their annual per-capita disposable income increased by 6.5 percent on average;

the income gap between urban and rural residents gradually narrowed; and the middle-income group increased from more than 100 million in 2010 to more than 400 million in 2019.

In response to the impact of COVID-19, the government has taken measures to increase income and expand consumption, leading to their gradual recovery of growth, Ning said.

The country will build a sound education system and promote mass cultural activities, and push forward the national fitness campaign and the Healthy China initiative, he said. The national fitness campaign promotes development of both recreational and competitive sports and the Healthy China initiative is focused on disease prevention, chronic disease management and high-quality treatment.

Strategies to cope with population aging will be implemented, and a fair, uniform and sustainable multi-level social security system covering all people will be established, he said.

Inclusive process

The CPC central leadership gives great importance to the proposals, which were formulated under the leadership of Xi.

Related research started at the end of 2019, Han said.

A drafting group headed by Xi was set up in March. From late July to late September, Xi hosted symposiums to hear the opinions of entrepreneurs, economists, scientists, community-level representatives, and experts in such fields as education, culture, health and sports.

The general public and various social sectors were also encouraged to make comments and suggestions. From August 16 to 29, opinions were solicited on the Internet and netizens left more than 1 million messages.

The drafting group studied the comments and suggestions sent, holding discussions and revising the proposals many times.

The proposals were drafted in light of the domestic and international situation and the Party's original mission of striving for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and the happiness of the people, and in adherence to the people-centered development philosophy, Han said.

The document will serve as a guide for action on economic and social development in the next five years and beyond, he said. ■



A press conference on the outcomes of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China takes place in Beijing on October 30



A freight train departs from Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province in east China, for Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia, on June 8

The Thought That Counts

The gift of 30,000 sheep opens a new door in Mongolia-China relations By Sarangua Tumor

On October 22, a ceremony was held to hand over the first 4,000 of the 30,000 sheep gifted by Mongolia to China at the border region of Zamiin-Uud-Erlian. They entered China eight months after Mongolian President Khaltmaa Battulga announced the measure to help China fight the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) epidemic during his visit to Beijing in February. Following the visit, the two countries agreed to have the delivery after the epidemic receded and the sheep gained weight in autumn.

During the ceremony, Tumen Tegshjargal, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Mongolian President, said, "It is an event that expresses the warmth of the Mongolian people to the Chinese people and brings a positive atmosphere to the relations between the two peoples."

Chai Wenrui, Chinese Ambassador to Mongolia, responded, saying "Chinese people will not forget this friendship of the Mongolian people. China and Mongolia have a long history of friendly neighbors linked by waters and mountains. The fact that we have understood and helped each other in our fight against the disease reflects the deep idea of the Mongolian old proverb that the lives and spirits of neighbors are the same."

The donated sheep were collected from herders in three eastern and southern provinces of Mongolia—Khentii, Sukhbaatar and Dornogobi, and received thorough veterinary examinations. Officials said that by the middle of November, the delivery would be concluded.

Sheep diplomacy

During his visit in February, Battulga was warmly welcomed by Chinese President Xi Jinping as the first foreign head of state to visit China since COVID-19 hit the country. The visit and the gift of sheep was reminiscent of ancient traditions and expressed the Mongolian people's support to the Chinese people to overcome hardship.

The gift expresses special considerations and friendship. Traditionally, for Mongolians the sheep is the first choice for giving gifts, implying sincerity and enthusiasm. Also, mutton is the best food for enhancing immunity and they hope that the Chinese can overcome the epidemic as soon as possible.

Mongolians say, "A needle in need is of greater use than a camel in prosperity" as it implies "adversity reveals the quality of friendship." In response to the remarks made by Battulga during his visit, Xi also quoted ancient Chinese proverbs. He said, "If you have



The sheep donated by Mongolia enter China on October 22

received a drop of beneficence from other people, you should return to them a fountain of beneficence.”

Both sides called the meeting at the time of a nationwide fight against COVID-19 in China proof that the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries had reached a new height and said it demonstrated ideal cooperation between neighboring countries to the world.

The Chinese also expressed their appreciation. The hashtag #Mongolian President Donates 30,000 Sheep to China received more than 100 million views on the Chinese social media platform Weibo.

Experts say the “sheep diplomacy” has helped solidify the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, improve political and economic relations, and deepen mutual understanding between Chinese and Mongolian people.

Dashdorj Bayarkhuu, an international affairs expert and former Mongolian diplomat, considered Battulga’s visit as a “diplomatic victory for a small state” and a “smart move to promote Mongolia’s positive image to the Chinese people.”

Another Mongolian independent international affair researcher Luguusharav

Byambakhand said the visit was a “soft power policy success for Mongolia in winning over the hearts and minds of the Chinese.”

Opportunity for trade

Currently, China buys almost 90 percent of Mongolia’s exports, mostly coal and copper. So the spread of COVID-19 in China posed particular challenges to Mongolia. During that difficult time, the export of commodities to China, Mongolia’s main source of revenue, was severely disrupted.

Mongolia has had to prevent the virus from spreading within its territory while keeping its economy afloat. After Battulga’s visit, coal transportation resumed with additional precautionary measures.

China and Mongolia plan to lift bilateral trade to \$10 billion this year. Trade between them reached \$8.9 billion in 2019, accounting for 64.4 percent of Mongolia’s total imports and exports, according to the Mongolian National Statistics Office.

In the coming years, Mongolia aims to increase exports to China—primarily its livestock. According to a census conducted in 2019, livestock animals in Mongolia totaled 70.9 million. The country has the potential to export 6 to 7 million livestock

animals or 174,000 tons of meat annually. However, due to Mongolia’s underdeveloped animal hygiene system and China’s customs regulations, China imports only frozen horse meat and a small amount of heat-processed beef from Mongolia.

In 2019, Mongolia exported 58,000 tons of meat, of which 30,300 tons went to China. It set a goal of exporting 7 million tons of meat to more than 15 countries in 2020, but due to the pandemic, food exports were suspended in the first half of the year.

Mongolia has identified agriculture as one of the pillars of its economic development and aims to become a “food exporter.” It is keen to take advantage of China’s opening-up policies and increase exports to its southern neighbor.

The fact that Mongolia successfully delivered live sheep to China for the first time indicates the potential for further supply of mutton to China and other meat. ■

The author is a Mongolian freelancer for China Focus, where this article was first published
Comments to yanwei@bjreview.com



Researchers collect data at the Saihanba National Forest Park, the world's largest man-made forest, in Chengde, Hebei Province, on July 12, 2017

YUNHONG

Pillars of a Promise

Measures beefed up for carbon emission reduction By Wen Qing

For years, spring was known as the sandstorm season in Beijing, when dust and sand whipped up from the Gobi desert in the north by high winds enveloped the city, blotting out sunlight and forcing people to stay indoors. But in recent times, the menace has receded with an afforestation project started in 1978 beginning to produce results.

A Great Green Wall has been built under the Three-North Shelter Forest Program, a project to create strips of forests in north, northwest and northeast China to curb desert expansion and control sandstorm. Today, it is the largest man-made forest on earth.

Besides breaking wind and halting the encroaching desert, the afforestation campaign has also created another intangible benefit—carbon sequestration. By reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the forests have contributed to the global battle against climate change.

The afforestation drive is one of the pillars based on which President Xi Jinping made the commitment at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly on September 22 that China would peak its carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

To lend further support to the pledge, a key meeting of the Communist Party of China

Central Committee in October laid down several new goals for sustainable development. The vision for 2035 includes promoting greener production methods and a green lifestyle in all sectors of society.

An undervalued role

The sequestration effect of carbon sinks in northeast and southwest China has been underestimated due to rapid afforestation, according to an article published in the British science magazine *Nature* on October 28. It notes that between 2010 and 2016, land biosphere carbon sinks in China absorbed about 45 percent of the country's estimated carbon dioxide emissions from domestic human activities during that period.

Carbon sinks are natural systems, mostly forests, water bodies and the soil, which absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it. Rapid afforestation in Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces in northeast China, Yunnan and Guizhou provinces in the southwest and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the south has enlarged the country's carbon absorbing capacity. The article states that taken together, these areas account for over 35 percent of China's entire land carbon sinks.

Though China is currently the largest emitter of carbon dioxide, it has also led the world in

both the area and speed of afforestation. From 2000 to 2018, the global forest area decreased by 170,000 square km, while China's forest area increased by 450,000 square km.

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is the result of excess emissions of greenhouse gases unabsorbed by terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Though the ecosystems contribute greatly to carbon neutrality, there is still uncertainty regarding how to quantitatively evaluate it.

The latest research, involving forestry records and satellite remote-sensing measurements of vegetation, indicates that the underestimated forest carbon sinks of China will provide a strong scientific basis for China's carbon neutral accounting.

"China is one of the major emitters of carbon dioxide in the world, but it is extremely uncertain how much of it is absorbed by forests," Wang Jing, a co-author of the article, said. The new study examines how much carbon dioxide is absorbed by all the new trees during their growth.

Carbon neutrality

Carbon neutrality or at least reduction in emissions has become critical due to the greenhouse gases' impact on the global climate. Besides rising global temperature, extreme

weather events have also been occurring with increasing frequency, posing a greater threat to human existence.

This year, south China suffered severe floods unseen in three decades while the U.S. faced one of its most active hurricane seasons on its southern and eastern coasts and record wildfires in its western states.

Carbon neutrality, or zero carbon dioxide emission, is a very ambitious target as most developed countries have a 50-70-year timetable to realize the state after their emissions peak.

For example, after years of emission reduction, the developed EU countries aim to be carbon-neutral by 2050. The largest economy, the U.S., has so far not set any such goal. President Donald Trump has even described climate change as a hoax and pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement on controlling global warming.

"The afforestation activities will play a role in achieving that [carbon-neutral] target," Liu Yi, another co-author of the article, said.

Accelerating the development of a national

carbon trading market is also important for reaching the goal of carbon neutrality, according to Wang. Technically, carbon neutrality can be achieved even if there are emissions. Globally, countries can neutralize their emissions by buying carbon credits from other countries that have less emission. Domestically, firms must either reduce their emissions or buy credits from those that produce fewer emissions.

"China's carbon market will evolve from regional pilot programs to a national trading scheme and expand from a single sector to multiple industries," Li Gao, head of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment's climate change office, said on October 28, indicating China plans to launch a nationwide emission trading scheme in the next five years.

However, "a massive change in energy production and also the growth of sustainable land carbon sinks" are essential for carbon neutrality, Liu said.

Reducing the use of fossil fuels, and improving the development of clean energy and the carbon trading market mechanism are three main approaches, Wang Ruibin, an associate research fellow with the China Institute of International Studies, told *Beijing Review*.

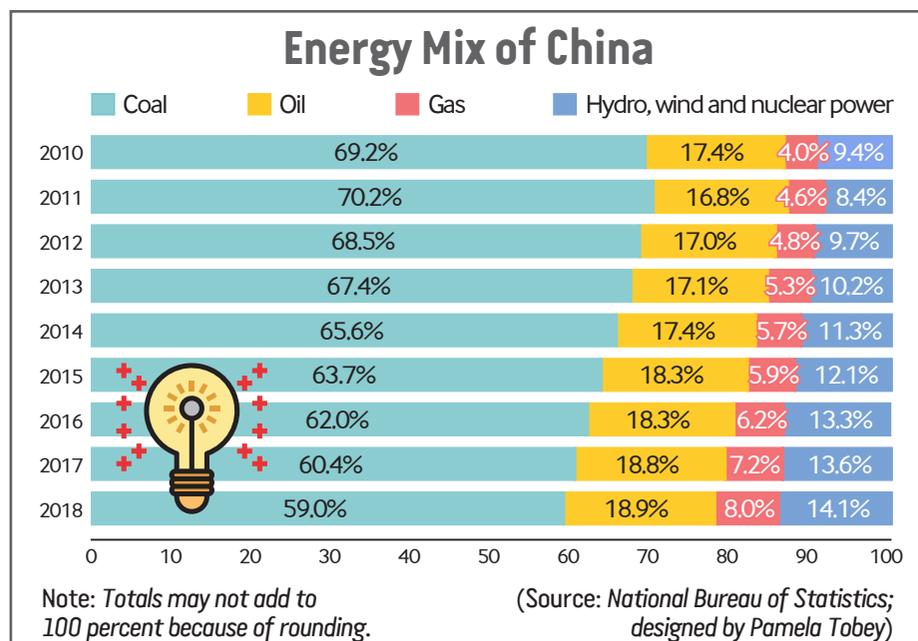
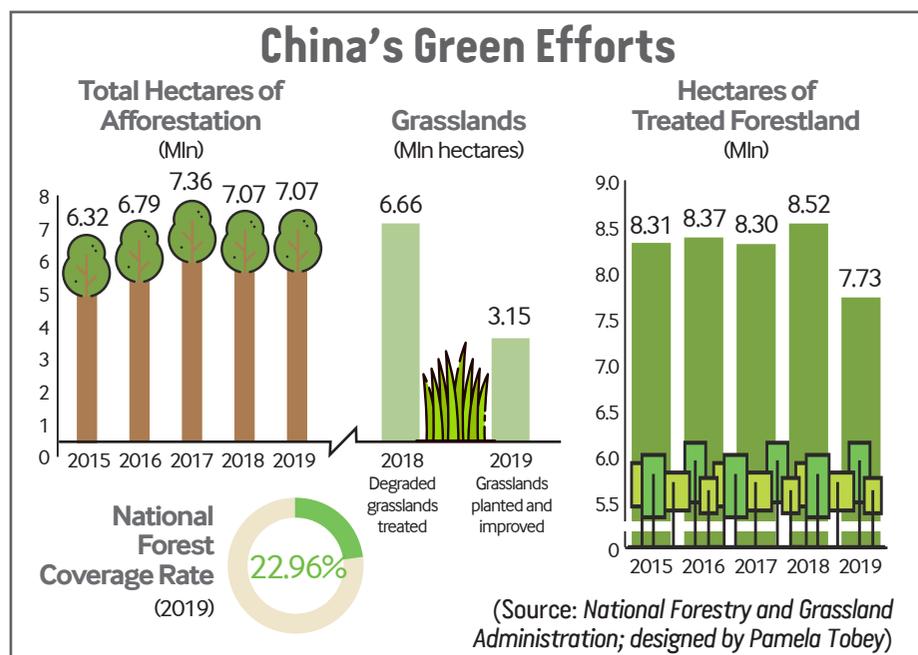
China, the largest consumer of coal, has painstakingly reduced its coal consumption in recent years. Coal's share in total energy consumption dropped from 70.2 percent in 2011 to 57.7 percent in 2019.

As for renewable energy, China has taken a lead and is now the world's largest producer, exporter and installer of solar panels, wind turbines, batteries and electric vehicles. From 2011 to 2019, the percentage of renewable energy in its energy mix increased from 13 percent to 23.4 percent.

To further increase the share of renewables, some technical issues have to be resolved, according to Wang Ruibin. For example, wind power suffers from fluctuations in generation, which depends on the strength of the wind. Short-term power variations can cause voltage fluctuations in the power grid, ultimately damaging sensitive electrical equipment.

Recycling solar panels is another issue to address. The International Renewable Energy Agency estimates that by 2050, up to 78 million tons of solar panels will have reached the end of their life. If not properly disposed of, they will cause an environmental hazard.

So going forward, Wang Ruibin's suggestion is that research and development as well as technological international cooperation be enhanced. ■



Copied by Sudeshna Sarkar
Comments to wenqing@bjreview.com

A Bigger Playground

More facilities come up to improve fitness By Lu Yan

In the past, football fan Zhang Chengyuan had to cycle quite a distance to the nearest football field from his home. But since the construction of a football field in his neighborhood in Chaoyang District in Beijing three years ago, it takes him only 10 minutes to go kick a ball around.

This football field used to be undeveloped land littered with the neighborhood's waste. "Every time I walked past this area before the renovation, I just couldn't stand the sight of it and would walk faster, whereas now it has become one of my favorite places in the community," Zhang told *China Sports Daily*.

In 2017, a local sports bureau, the sub-district office and a property developer joined forces to add free sports and recreational facilities for residents including the football field, a basketball court, several table tennis rooms, as well as chess and card rooms.

In recent years, China has been promoting a nationwide fitness campaign and building sports facilities. "Building sports facilities in residential areas ensures that residents can do sports without having to travel far, thus they are willing and glad to build up their strength," Li Jianming, Deputy Director of the General Administration of Sport of China (GASC), said at a press conference in October. "The campaign aims to promote people's health and enrich their lives."

Policy push

To enhance people's fitness and health and boost the development of the sports industry, China has implemented a number of policies, especially in the recent five years.

In July 2016, the GASC published the 13th Five-Year Plan for the sports industry. The plan sets the goal to increase the number of people regularly doing physical exercises to 435 million and the value added of China's sports industry to 1 percent of GDP by 2020.

The National Fitness Program (2016-20) and the Healthy China Outline (2030) were also issued that year. These documents encourage people to incorporate regular physical activities into their routines. They also call for the construction of public sports

facilities convenient for people to use.

Issued one year after Beijing won the bid for hosting the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, some documents promote winter sports on a large scale and the construction of such facilities.

In August 2019, the State Council released the Outline for Building a Leading Sports Nation, which set the goal to develop China into a strong sports country by the year 2050.

Nowadays, people in China engage in a wide range of physical exercises. Some 35 percent of the population took part in sports regularly, wrote Gou Zhongwen, head of the GASC, in an article published in 2019. That percentage translates to 4.7 million people, exceeding the target set in the 13th Five-Year Plan on the sports industry.

In the outline issued in 2019, the government set the goal to raise regular public participation in sports to above 45 percent by 2035 and have 92 percent of the people meet the national physical fitness standards by then.

Not only the sports and health authorities but also education authorities are urging

people to engage in physical exercises. In a bid to promote students' health and encourage them to strengthen their body, the Education Department of Yunnan Province in southwest China issued a plan in October to raise the full score in physical education in the senior high school entrance examination from 50 to 100 points, equal to that of major subjects such as Chinese, mathematics and English.

In the past, when the high school entrance examination was looming, it was common practice for a number of schools to cancel their physical education classes for students to take classes in the three major subjects instead.

Zhang Chunhua, Deputy Director of the Yunnan Provincial Department of Education, said the province's decision addresses the fact that an increasing number of students today suffer from shortsightedness, obesity and other physical and mental health issues, as a result of heavy school workloads.

"The purpose of the reform is to boost the students' well-rounded development and alleviate their coursework pressure," Zhang Chunhua said. The reform will be launched



Residents exercise in a residential community's fitness area in Tianjin, north China, on October 27



Parents play football with their children during a physical education class at a primary school in Chengdu, Sichuan Province in southwest China, on September 22

from this fall semester.

Liu Xinping, the mother of a middle school student in Shenyang, Liaoning Province in northeast China, likes the idea of more sports for students. "My son will not only become healthier through doing sports, but also grow his teamwork ability through group games like football or basketball. It's like killing two birds with one stone," Liu told *Beijing Review*.

As more people get into sports, more sports facilities are needed. In 2016, the National Development and Reform Commission and the GASC released a plan on popularizing public sports, which stated that the sports facilities available were not in line with people's demand.

The plan set specific targets to resolve these problems. For instance, it stated that by 2020, the per-capita sports area should reach 1.8 square meters. The coverage rate of primary-level sports and fitness facilities should be increased. There should be half of a football field per 10,000 people. Old residential areas must renovate and construct small venues and facilities that can support single or multiple fitness activities such as ball games, martial arts, gymnastics and swimming.

Such reforms are funded by the Central Government, the Public Welfare Fund of China Sports Lottery, local government funds plus donations from individuals, enterprises and other social forces.

And progress is well underway. Over 5,700 projects subsidized by the Central Government have been carried out. Many old

factory buildings, warehouses and unused land are being transformed into sports areas. For example, in Haizhu District in Guangzhou, capital city of Guangdong Province in south China, a piece of unused land gave way to an indoor swimming pool. The number of sports fields increased from 4,982 in 1949 to about 3.1 million in 2019, Gou said.

Booming industry

In 2015, together with his friends, Luo Da, a postgraduate student majoring in sociology at Beijing Sport University, started a WeChat account that posted news and other information about the sports industry. In five years, their WeChat platform has grown into a startup company called Ecosports which provides sports media and industry services and has an annual revenue of more than 10 million yuan (\$1.5 million).

"The sports industry is a sunrise industry, and as part of the industry, I have a sense of mission for its future development," Luo told Xinhua News Agency.

A document issued in 2014 by the State Council to develop the sports industry and promote sports consumption, also known as the No.46 Document, set the industry onto a fast track. The momentum has continued into the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period.

Liu Fumin, Director of the Department of Sports Economics of the GASC, said that during the 13th Five-Year Plan period, the growth rate of the value added of the sports industry is much higher than that of the GDP. "This shows a huge market potential and room for development," he said.

From 2015 to 2018, the value added of the sports service industry increased by 34.2 percent on average annually. Liu said a variety of new businesses are emerging, such as sports tourism, sports culture and creativity, sports advertising, sports media and sports exhibitions.

Large sports venues have sprouted up to meet the needs of the booming industry. The government encourages opening such venues to the public at low or no cost, and will improve subsidy policies to that end.

This is stated in a document released by the State Council this October, with opinions on strengthening the construction of fitness facilities and promoting sports for all.

Li said the utilization of large sports venues should be maximized when there's no large competition taking place. Nationwide community-based sports events and activities are encouraged to be held in such venues or small and medium-sized local venues. "Such events and activities are more inclusive in terms of participants and the range of sports," Li said.

"In its 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period, China will further push forward the optimization and upgrading of the sports industrial structure, and encourage innovation, making sports a pillar industry of the national economy," Liu said. In October, the GASC announced that 1,000 sports-themed parks will be built in the next five years. ■

CHINA MOSAIC

Weekly video commentary direct from Beijing

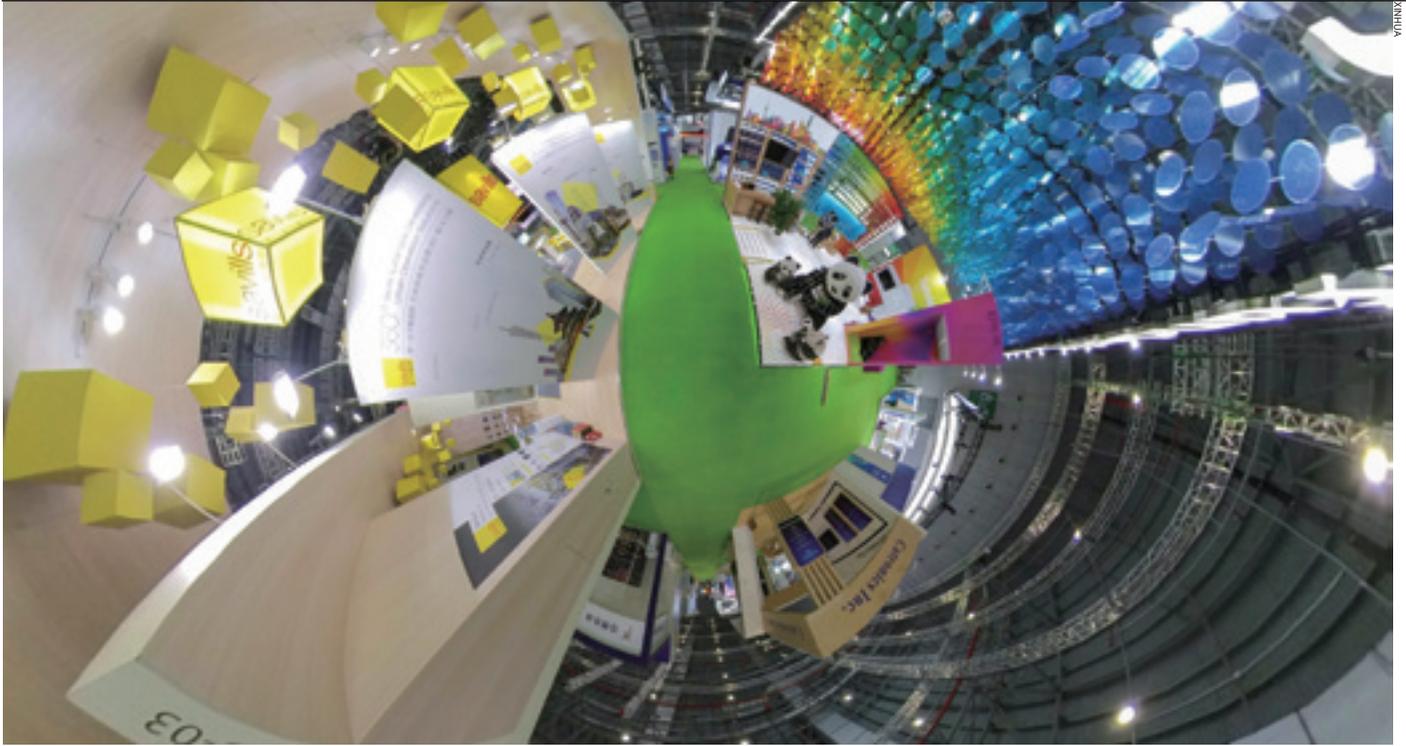
中国3分钟





BEIJING REVIEW IS NOW AVAILABLE IN FACTIVA

Beijing Review is now available as a source in Factiva, a leading, global collection of licensed news, Web content, and company data. Factiva has 32,000 sources from nearly every country worldwide, in 28 languages, and is owned by Dow Jones, publisher of *The Wall Street Journal*.



The trade in services exhibition area of the Third China International Import Expo (CIIE) on November 3

An Accessible Market

Trail-blazing Shanghai import expo continues to cement global trade links

President Xi Jinping gave another shot in the arm to the China International Import Expo (CIIE), a major platform he had initiated to bolster global trade, by announcing a fresh round of opening-up measures on November 4.

"Our aim is to turn the China market into a market for the world, a market shared by all, and a market accessible to all," Xi said while delivering a keynote speech via video link at the opening ceremony of the Third CIIE. The expo was convened as scheduled following China's successful containment of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Stronger impetus

To achieve such an aim, Xi stressed nurturing new pacesetters of opening

up, growing foreign trade innovatively, improving business environment, and deepening bilateral, multilateral and regional cooperation.

He said China will continue to leverage the pioneering role of pilot free trade zones (FTZs) and free trade ports in steering opening up, introduce a negative list for cross-border service trade and open still wider in areas like the digital economy and the Internet.

The catalog of technologies prohibited or restricted from import will be shortened, foreign-related legal framework will be more open and transparent, and intellectual property protection will be strengthened, Xi said.

He said China stands ready to sign high-

standard free trade agreements with more countries, and will work with related countries to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

Notwithstanding COVID-19, China's pace of opening up has not been hindered but quickened. The items on the national negative list for foreign investment have been cut from 40 to 33 and the number of pilot FTZs has increased from 18 to 21.

With the Foreign Investment Law taking effect on January 1, foreign investors' interests have better protection.

Growing appeal

At a time when the pandemic has added more uncertainties and challenges to the global economy, convening the import expo offline as scheduled shows China's major strategic achievements in containing COVID-19 as well as its economic resilience.

China is the first major economy to return to growth from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 epidemic with its economy expanding 0.7 percent year on year in the first nine months.

In the same period, its foreign trade of goods totaled 23.12 trillion yuan (\$3.46 trillion), up 0.7 percent year on year, and paid-in foreign investment rose 5.2 percent from a year earlier.

Multinational companies have gravitated toward the weeklong expo as a vote of confidence in the Chinese economy, with a lot of

them becoming regulars at the annual event.

Up to 70 percent of the world's top 500 companies that participated in the first two expos were seen this year, and the average exhibition area for the world's top 500 companies and industry leaders increased by 14 percent year on year.

This year's expo is believed to be one of the largest events across the world in 2020.

"China will be probably one of the only countries in the world where the market will be still growing," Jean-Paul Agon, CEO of L'Oreal, said, adding that the conglomerate's sales on the Chinese mainland grew by 30 percent in the second quarter.

Agon said L'Oreal is improving its performance in e-commerce in the rest of the world thanks to what it has learned in China.

With a total population of 1.4 billion and a middle-income group that exceeds 400 million, China has a tremendously huge market that is the most promising in the world. Its

goods import is estimated to top \$22 trillion in the coming decade.

Trade propeller

The expo is the world's first import expo held at the national level, an innovation in the history of global trade.

Since its debut, the platform for international procurement, investment promotion, cultural exchange, and open cooperation has evolved into an international public good.

The inaugural expo in 2018 drew more than 3,600 exhibitors from 172 countries, regions and international organizations, and attracted more than 400,000 buyers, who agreed on some \$57.83 billion of intended deals in six days.

The second expo was attended by exhibitors from a total of 181 countries, regions and international organizations, and attracted more than 3,800 enterprises who reached \$71.13 billion worth of tentative

deals for one-year purchases of goods and services.

Cecilia Qi, Vice President and General Manager of Pharma and Vaccines, GSK China, said the CIIE provides China with a platform to embrace openness and showcase innovative results, and also brings opportunities for mutual benefits and inclusiveness to the world.

The CIIE has generated a "spillover effect" that keeps accelerating the reception of many innovative products in China, she said.

Jerry Zhang, Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of Standard Chartered Bank (China) Limited, said, "China is transforming from a large trading country to a trading powerhouse, and has become an important engine of economic globalization and a stabilizing factor in international trade." ■

This is an edited version of a Xinhua News Agency report
Comments to yanwei@bjreview.com



The Third CIIE opens in Shanghai on November 4

The Fourth Growth Pole

Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle gets underway to accelerate development of western region

By Wang Jun

The assembly line of Chengdu Huachuan Electric Parts Co. in Chengdu, Sichuan Province in southwest China, presents a busy sight with robotic arms and intelligent devices operating in tandem with human workers to assemble various sophisticated components into alternators.

The five-decade-old firm, a leading manufacturer of electrical parts for the auto industry, is anticipating even better business thanks to a new national strategy announced in January, the Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle. The city cluster around Chengdu and Chongqing is a new growth driver for coordinated regional development as well as opening up west China.

It is a win-win for Huachuan as the auto industry is a focus in the fast-growing economic circle. The two places will pool in their strengths to develop an auto industry cluster.

According to Wan Bin, Executive Deputy General Manager of Huachuan, already over 20 percent of the company's suppliers are from Chongqing. "Chengdu and Chongqing are adjacent and have convenient transport connections, which not only improve efficiency but also save costs for us. Products delivered from our workshop will be on the assembly lines of automobile plants in Chongqing the next day," Wan told *People's Daily*.

Chongqing is about 270 km southeast of Chengdu. Previously part of Sichuan, it

became a provincial-level municipality in 1997. The Chengdu-Chongqing area has an aggregate population of 120 million and its GDP reached 7 trillion yuan (\$1.04 trillion) in 2019.

It serves as a junction of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Yangtze River Economic Belt, another integrated development blueprint for nine provinces, including Sichuan, and two municipalities, including



Chongqing. In the north, a train route leads to Central Asia and Europe; in the south is the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor to Southeast Asian countries. On both the east and west run transportation routes to South Asia and other Northeast



The workshop of an automotive electronics company in Chongqing on March 10



A Chengdu-Chongqing High-Speed Railway train on July 22

Asian countries, respectively.

The master plan for the Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle was reviewed at a meeting of Communist Party of China leaders in mid-October. The meeting proposed to build the Chengdu-Chongqing area into an important economic hub of nationwide influence, a center for science and technology innovation, a new spearhead for reform and opening up, and a location for a high-quality lifestyle, Xinhua News Agency reported.

New source of vitality

China's eastern coastal region has led the economic boom since reform and opening up started in 1978, thanks to its three powerhouse economic circles: the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region in the north, the Yangtze River Economic Belt that consist of several central and eastern provinces and Shanghai, and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the south.

According to official statistics, the three circles contribute 38 percent to the country's total GDP and house 18 percent of the population though they account for only 2.8 percent of the total land area. In contrast, the western region, covering 71 percent of the territory, accounts for just 20 percent of the national economy. Therefore it needs a powerful engine to pull it forward.

Yao Shujie, Deputy Director of the

Faculty of Social Sciences of Chongqing University, told *Outlook Weekly* that the Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle is intended to be the fourth growth pole of China. The strategy will address the problem of unbalanced and inadequate regional development and drive high-quality development in the entire country.

Chengdu, capital of Sichuan, and Chongqing already have a sound economic foundation. In 2019, they accounted for 33.25 percent of the total GDP of the western region. In the first three quarters this year, they achieved GDP growth of 2.6 percent and 2.4 percent, respectively, despite the impacts of the novel coronavirus disease, ranking among the top in the country, according to the *Outlook Weekly* report.

"Though the coronavirus does not result in an end of interconnection among different countries, a trend of countries increasingly relying on their domestic markets has already started," Tang Jiqiang, founder and chief researcher of SWUFE Institution, a think tank, told *Economic Information Daily*.

"While the Yangtze River Delta is considered the center of China's economic and trade cooperation with foreign countries, the Chengdu-Chongqing area is sure to play an important role in fostering the inherent growth momentum within the

Chinese territory," Yao said. A leading force for the development of the western region, a junction between the east and the west, and linking the north and the south, the Chengdu-Chongqing area can receive industrial transfers from the coastal provinces, thus stimulating domestic demand in the region, he added.

"Building the Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle into an important growth pole and a new source of vitality will help address challenges and uncertainties in and outside China and consolidate national strategic security," Tang said.

Competition to coordination

Chengdu and Chongqing have similar development levels and industries. With the Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle, the two cities' pillar industries will move from competition to coordination.

"The overlapping of the two cities' industries is also the foundation for them to cooperate and achieve integration," Zheng Bei, head of the Sichuan Provincial Development and Reform Commission, told *People's Daily*.

For instance, earlier this year Chongqing and Sichuan signed a memorandum of understanding on port and logistics cooperation and a one-stop service cooperation agreement on international trade. Their transport authorities have also signed an agreement on integrated development of transport services.

Zheng said the cooperation between Chengdu and Chongqing will be intensified to establish industrial and value chains of global influence. In the future, they will strengthen infrastructure connectivity, industrial coordination and sharing of public services.

He also said the two cities will improve the quality and level of urbanization and continue to upgrade urban infrastructure and public services. More attention will be paid to raising the primary-level capacity of governance, and making the region better able to support the concentration of industries and population. Rural-to-urban migration will be facilitated to advance economic restructuring and improve people's wellbeing. ■

Restorative for Global Growth

Why China's early work resumption means hope for world economy

By Han Liqun



The author is a researcher with the Institute of World Political Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations

China's economic recovery is stronger than expected, predicted to grow by 1.9 percent in 2020, according to the latest World Economic Outlook report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on October 13.

Compared with the earlier IMF report in June, this forecast on China's economic performance is up by 0.9 percentage point, indicating accelerating recovery and a growth rate for the entire year might be higher than the IMF prediction.

The IMF has also assessed that the world economy is showing a positive tendency, and revised the recession rate from its earlier 4.9-percent estimate to 4.4 percent. But according to its projection, most developed and emerging economies will still be in recession, with China the only major economy to register growth.

Policy priorities

The key to the Chinese economy taking the lead in recovery and maintaining its upward trend is taking the right policy priorities at the different stages of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Since the virus hit in January, the government spent three months on epidemic control and prevention with the most stringent measures. They included implementing strict quarantine rules countrywide, temporarily suspending economic operations, and shutting down Wuhan, capital city of the

central province of Hubei where infections were first reported in China.

In March, when the situation began to be brought under control, work and production resumed in monitored phases with areas where the epidemic was less serious taking the lead.

In May, the disease was mainly under control across the country. The following months have been devoted to fostering economic growth. The government overcame the pressure of economic stagnation during the epidemic control period and made every effort to facilitate production resumption.

Despite the suddenness and seriousness of the epidemic, the Chinese economy suffered less than two months of shock. Some regions maintained growth even in that period. Wuhan lifted the shutdown on April 8, which means its economy was in suspension for less than three months.

Earthquakes, floods and epidemics are exogenous shocks to the economic system and normally do not cause a structural shock if they are not prolonged. The economy will rebound to normal rapidly after a disaster; sometimes it bounces back even more rapidly.

China's GDP neared 100 trillion yuan (\$14.54 trillion) in 2019. It boasts a strong production capacity and a market with high potential thanks to its 1.4-billion population whose purchasing power is growing. Considering its economic vitality and resilience, the impact of COVID-19 will be mild from a long-term view.

In other words, the contraction of China's economy during the epidemic would be very small when viewed as an average in the next 12 or 24 months. The negative growth in the first quarter has been completely offset in the second and third quarters, and the first three quarters totally achieved a growth of 0.7 percent.

The Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China Central Committee in October rolled out the framework of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) and the new plan will further put the economy back on track.

Therefore, COVID-19 is not likely to produce substantial impact on the long-term growth of the economy. The situation is similar to that in 2003, when China was hit by the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Although the economy was hugely affected by SARS, the impact lasted no more than five months. And the annual economic growth in that year exceeded 9 percent. From 2003 to 2011, the average yearly GDP growth rate surpassed 10 percent.

World scenario

Currently, many economies are facing a resurgence of the pandemic, and some of them hit new records in daily new COVID-19 cases. That means we might live with the virus for a long time. A pessimistic outlook is that the pandemic may continue until 2022 or even longer.

In this scenario, the repercussion of COVID-19 on the world economy will turn into long-term hindrance. For example, if a large number of enterprises go bankrupt and a large workforce withdraws from the labor market, productivity would contract and the economic cycle would be directly changed long-term.

Some countries have adopted massive relief measures and continued to push up their capital markets, which sustained their prosperity statistics-wise but actually exacerbated capital mismatch and hurt the economy structurally.

The pandemic has hampered the movement of people and goods, the once booming aviation industry has been devastated, and the global industrial chain and



A newly opened shopping street in Shanghai bustles with buyers on October 19



Masks on display at the Guangzhou International Medical Protective Supplies Fair in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province in south China, on June 10

regional production network may have to be reconstituted. As the economies of various countries perform differently, changes in the economic strength may also accelerate changes in the global economic landscape.

So from an objective point of view, the Chinese economy's return to track is

crucial to the growth of the international community. When the pandemic fades out, market confidence will gradually return and people will look for new investment opportunities. The Chinese market will boost global investment expectations then as it was the first to recover and continue to

launch new opening-up measures and it will have both a higher rate of return and lower risks.

Increasing investment in the Chinese market will help promote a more optimal allocation of resources around the world and rectify the mismatch caused by the pandemic.

China's economic resumption is benefiting four types of countries. For countries exporting resources, resumption of the Chinese economy has enhanced the global demand for commodities and prompted the recovery of commodity prices. In the first nine months of 2020, China's iron ore, oil and rubber imports increased respectively by 10 percent, 12 percent, and 14 percent year on year.

China imports a large amount of technology and services, which will help technology- and service-exporting countries. Hi-tech companies with negative growth will return to profitability. Otherwise, many enterprises might be unable to maintain investment in research and development due to declining profits.

The third type is capital exporters since China will provide investment opportunities for global capital with a higher return rate.

Countries hit hard by the pandemic will see their demands for medical supplies met. China is a major producer of such supplies. With COVID-19 under control at home, its domestic demand for them has decreased. This along with production recovery means a decrease in the prices of personal protection equipment and other medical supplies.

China is also playing its part in global public health cooperation to fight against the pandemic, which is significant for promoting world economic growth.

The Chinese Government's most important principle in COVID-19 prevention and control has been to put people first. Only when people's safety is ensured can economic growth be resumed.

If economic growth is prioritized over people's safety, it will benefit only some people and groups. The Chinese principle holds good for the global community with a shared future as well. ■

Key Projects Boost Prosperity Over Past Five Years

As policymakers outlined the development roadmap for the next five years, a look at China's key projects over the past half decade may offer a hint at why the country has made tremendous advancement in economic and social development.

During the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period, China implemented 165 major projects, highlighting progress in technological advancement, infrastructure development as well as social and cultural improvement. These initiatives helped drive economic growth and brought tangible benefits to the people.

The last satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System was launched in June, marking the completion of the deployment of China's own global navigation satellite system.

As one of the four global navigation satellite systems in the world, BeiDou provides users with a range of services, including global short-message communication, basic navigation and international search-and-rescue assistance.

"BeiDou serves not only China but also the world," Wang Wenbin, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said.

The project is one example of scientific endeavors China has made in the past years to meet its development needs as well as to contribute to the benefit of humanity.

Other major achievements include the *Tiangong-2* space lab, *Jiaolong* deep-sea manned submersible and 500-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), and the launch of dark matter probe satellite *Wukong* and the quantum science satellite *Micius*.

In October 2018, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the world's longest cross-sea bridge, opened. The 55-km-long bridge connects China's southern province of Guangdong with its two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macao.

In addition, China has completed several infrastructure projects that connect people and facilitate opening up.

The Beijing Daxing International Airport, for instance, was built in less than five years and officially opened on September 25,



The last satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System takes off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province, southwest China, on June 23

2019. Hailed as the new gateway to China, the new airport has seen the total passenger throughput exceed 10 million a year after it began functioning.

By the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan period, the country's rail lines in operation will have reached 146,000 km, with high-speed rail lines totaling 38,000 km, topping the world.

At a recent State Council meeting on the formulation of the new five-year plan, Premier Li Keqiang called for efforts to start a new batch of projects for development, innovation and people's wellbeing, particularly in the fields of education, public health, as well as elderly and child care.

Over the past five years, China has also implemented a number of projects to help

those most in need, involving initiatives in poverty alleviation and vitalization of rural areas.

In Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in the northwest, 22.6 billion yuan (\$3.38 billion) has been invested to improve rural power facilities.

By the end of September, newly constructed or rebuilt rural roads had totaled 1.39 million km as part of efforts to vitalize the countryside. The number is expected to exceed 1.4 million km by the year-end. ■

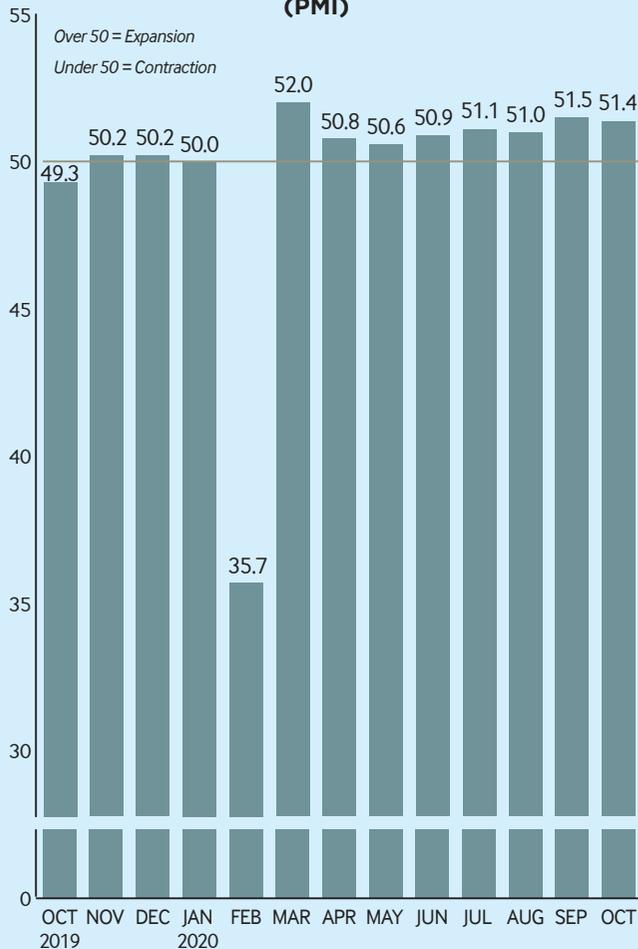
This is an edited version of an article published by Xinhua News Agency

Comments to yanwei@bjreview.com

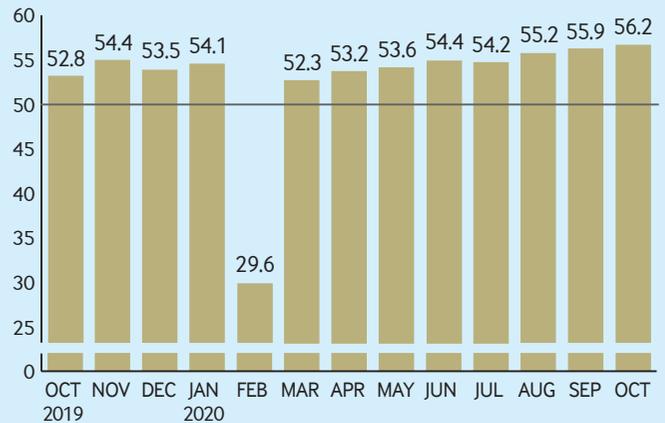
NUMBERS

(\$1=6.7 yuan)

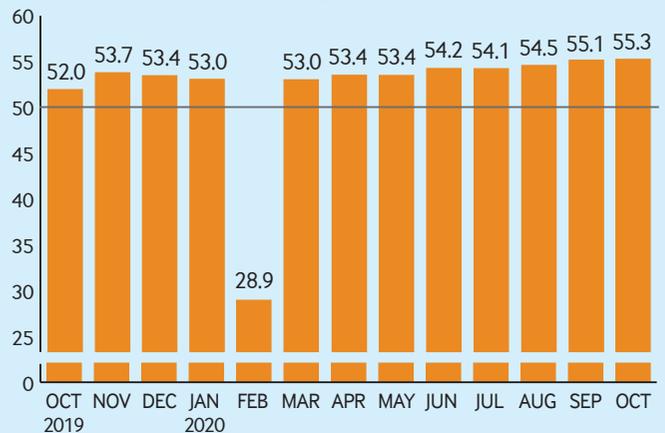
China's Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



China's Non-Manufacturing PMI



China's Comprehensive PMI



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

The services trade volume of Hainan Province in south China reached

2.49 billion yuan

in September, up 31.43 percent year on year. The emerging sectors in service trade, which include insurance, finance, telecommunications and business, all registered positive growth in the first three quarters of the year.

China's tax and fee cuts totaled 2.09 trillion yuan in the first three quarters this year. Of this,

1.37 trillion yuan

was credited to the measures to support economic development amid novel coronavirus disease containment.

Ningbo Zhoushan Port, China's busiest port in the eastern province of Zhejiang, saw its container throughput in sea-rail transport increase 22.9 percent year on year in the first 10 months of the year,

topping **812,000** TEUs. The service links the port by railway with parts of China and other countries.

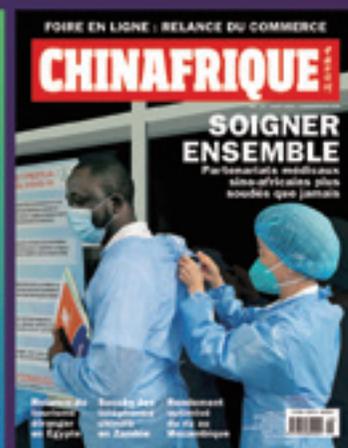
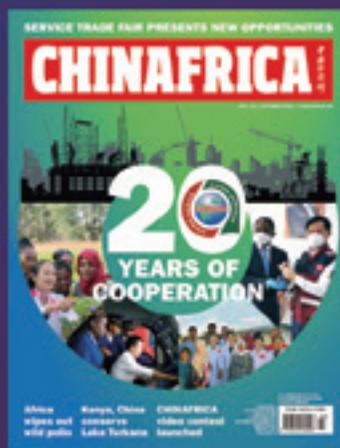
(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

BEIJING REVIEW CHINAFRICA

Presenting the Real China to the World

Beijing Review, China's only national English news weekly

ChinAfrica, China's only English and French monthly magazine featuring news, views and analyses for an African readership



Annual Subscription Rate 全年优惠订阅价

DOMESTIC

BEIJING REVIEW

RMB240

for 52 issues

Postal Subscription Code: 2-922

CHINAFRICA

RMB120

for 12 issues

Postal Subscription Code: 2-916

OVERSEAS

USD64

Discount rate for 52 issues

RAND360

Annual rate for 12 issues

AVAILABLE ON DOW JONES FACTIVA AND ZINIO



电话: 010-68995808, 68310644
地址: 北京市西城区百万庄大街24号



Overseas Distributor

China International Book Trading Corp.
P.O.Box 399

Beijing 100048, China

Tel: +86-10-68433078

E-mail: fp@mail.cibtc.com.cn

Subscription Line

Fax: +86-10-68420340

Subscription Line

For Europe-America areas

Tel: +86-10-68433186

E-mail: bk1@mail.cibtc.com.cn

For Asia-Africa areas

Tel: +86-10-68433109

E-mail: bk2@mail.cibtc.com.cn

The Art of Reality

New stream of well-crafted Chinese documentaries wins applause at home and overseas By Li Qing

When I close my eyes,
I see green wind.
Its touch turns the woods green,
gilds my calf gold,
kisses the white walls of the house,
dyes dad's corns yellow.
But I won't tell the secret why the wind changes color.

This is the first poem written by Shi Yingsuo, a 12-year-old in Yunnan Province, southwest China. Last year, Shi became a first grader at the Mangshui Middle School in a remote town in the province. The school has a compulsory poetry class. Like Shi, its students are mostly left-behind children—children of migrant workers who have been left home in the care of grandparents, other relatives or even on their own while their parents work elsewhere.

These children are more sensitive than others of the same age. Lacking parental presence, they tend to be introverts but in their poems, they can give free rein to their emotions, dreams and thoughts of their parents.

Shi's encounter with poetry was recorded in *The Firsts in Life*, a 12-episode documentary series produced by CCTV.com and SMG Documentary Center. The episode is titled *Love, Sorrow and Dreams in Poems*.

"I liked the story. It was the first time I saw a video about left-behind children from such a perspective. Their poems not only express their feelings about growing up but also take us into their world," a netizen said on entertainment reviewing platform Douban, where the documentary has been given 9.2 out of 10.

The 12 episodes are on 12 groups, including people with Alzheimer's, the differently abled, and migrant workers. Their experiences cover 12 firsts that resonate with almost everyone, related to birth, employment and farewell. One common element is the tenacity and optimism of the Chinese they show and pay tribute to.

Zhang Hao, executive producer of the series, told *Beijing Review* the team spent almost three years in preparation. After they decided on the 12 stories, they began to build connections with the protagonists, camping in the places where the latter lived. The left-behind children were the most challenging group. It took over a year to gain their trust.

The Firsts in Life, aired in January, has been viewed over 500 million times in China. The number indicates the public has accepted documentaries, a genre not as popular as films and serials.

In recent years, the domestic documentary industry has produced many well-crafted works with significant social influence. They have become a new highlight in the development of China's film and television industry.

A family album

Wunier, a documentary director, describes the genre as an audiovisual source of information: "They are easier to understand than books, so more people are willing to watch documentaries."

He attributed the progress of the industry to the diverse topics covered by documentaries. "We can tell stories about China's profound history, the 56 ethnic groups, various customs and traditions, and characteristics of different areas," he told *Beijing Review*.

His latest work is a documentary about the development of ice sports in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in north China. Its release

was delayed due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) epidemic.

The epidemic also became an important topic of documentaries. For instance, *COVID-19: Battling the Devil*, produced by Bilibili, a video-sharing platform, and China Intercontinental Communication Center, is about the efforts by people from all walks of life to battle the virus, embodying the country's united response to the epidemic.

With this year being the deadline for eradicating absolute poverty, poverty alleviation is also another predominant theme.

"Documentaries are like the family album of a country," Chen Xiaoqing, creator of the hit food documentary series *Flavorful Origins* and *A Bite of China*, told *Time* magazine.

A new height

According to a report on the development of the Chinese documentary industry by the Documentary Center of Beijing Normal University, in 2019, the industry had an investment of 5.04 billion yuan (\$710 million) as documentary production capacity in China



Wunier works on a documentary on the ancient Silk Road in Qinghai Province, northwest China, on June 12, 2019



A still from an episode of *The Firsts in Life* featuring Shi Yingsuo, a 12-year-old student in a remote town in Yunnan Province, southwest China

reached a new height.

In recent years, the government's support and better connection with the markets have invigorated the Chinese documentary industry, Zhang said. "As the industry integrates into the market, more and more outstanding young talents with inspiration and passion are joining the industry. Their contributions have led to significant progress in the subjects and varieties of documentaries."

More creative forces are now involved in documentary direction and production, which once used to be dominated by the state and was dependent on television stations, he said. Internet platforms have played a significant role in this. Major Internet platforms are seeking to develop the domestic documentary industry and the media's attention to the industry has increased.

The report says new media platforms are reshaping China's documentary industry, ushering in a new era of vigorous development. There is a rapid growth of new media companies in the documentary market. More and more documentaries are broadcast on the Internet, even only on Internet media.

This progress is inseparable from the production companies' efforts, Li Xiaowei, chief production supervisor of *The Firsts in Life*, told *Beijing Review*. "They have dispelled our stereotype of them being involved only in producing

documentaries. Today, they also undertake intellectual property research and development of new stories to build brands and attract more viewers."

Advanced technologies have also promoted the progress of domestic documentaries. Immersive, interactive and other new varieties have enriched traditional documentaries, she added.

Though Chinese documentary makers still need more experience in some production aspects, such as special effects, Zhang said an excellent documentary is not just about hi-tech. "It's not an assembly line product with a uniform standard," he said. "They are the fruits of unique and beautiful thoughts, the rich cultural heritage of a country and the passion of the documentary makers."

However, although the domestic documentaries are getting better and of higher quality, most cannot make as much money as films, TV dramas and variety shows do, Wunier said. It usually takes three to five years to finish a documentary. The production cycle restrains investment and the lack of investment makes the work more difficult for producers.

"There are many people who are passionate about creating an excellent documentary. How to help them achieve the balance between art and profit is a problem the industry needs to solve in the future," he said.

Speaking for China

Documentaries have become an important channel for the international community to understand Chinese society, Zhu Lexian, deputy director of documentary content management at Tencent Video, told *Southern Metropolis Daily*. Tencent is the producer of *Flavorful Origins*, the first documentary produced by a Chinese team for Netflix.

Chen wants to help the world better understand China and the Chinese through food. The series spotlighted the Chaoshan cuisine in the coastal province of Guangdong in south China, followed by the fresh, fragrant Yunnan Province spices in southwest China. The third season, set in Gansu Province in northwest China, will debut on Netflix soon.

The documentary has been broadcast in over 190 countries and regions on the platform with subtitles in 20 languages.

To create more documentaries that will taste success in the international market, their creators need to adhere to reality, Liu Changying, a producer with China Global Television Network, said in a forum during the Beijing Documentary Week in September. "Real people and their stories resonate with all people regardless of nationalities." ■

Copiedited by Sudeshna Sarkar
Comments to liqing@bjreview.com

How Can China Cope With an Increasingly Aging Population?

According to a recent release by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the number of people over the age of 60 in China is set to surpass 300 million during the period of China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), indicating that China will fall into the category of a moderately aging society. As a consequence of the one child policy, China's population growth is currently slowing, and the elderly are making up an increasing proportion of the population. At the same time, government statistics indicate China's working-age population has been shrinking since 2012.

In five to 10 years' time, the parents of those born in the 1980s will gradually pass the threshold of 70, and an increasing number of elderly people requiring extra nursing and care will be a tough test for the country.

An aging society also means increasing burdens on families, especially when urban families were allowed to have only one child

for so many years. Children of these families, who are now groaning under heavy housing debts and huge expenditures for their own children's education, have no siblings to share the burden of caring for aging parents. In most cases, these people often work far away from their parents, and are thus unable to directly participate in their care. So a well-developed social safety net for the elderly is particularly important. Nevertheless, China's national pension funds may not be sufficient to support so many elderly people and offer all of them a comfortable life.

For this reason, finding sufficient funding to support the pension system is an urgent issue. Worse still, a shrinking working-age population means lower productivity and less social wealth, in addition to overstretching the healthcare system and related services.

On the other hand, some argue that an aging society may boost the silver economy, thus adding to overall economic development. Others suggest technological progress may help to fill the labor gap caused by the loss of working-age people.

A safer safety net

Yang Ge (www.legaldaily.com.cn): An aging society is a test of the country's public finance and social safety net. In 2016, several provinces reported that their social security funds, or pension funds, were in overdraft. The problem was temporarily solved thanks to nationwide coordination and with the help of other insurance products. However, under the pressure of the economic downturn, pension funds may again fall into overdraft during the 14th Five-Year Plan period.

An aging population will also test the social welfare and healthcare systems, as well as community services. As an increasing number of parents of only children pass the threshold of 60 or even 70, the demand for social services for the elderly is certain to rise.

Community care for the elderly in China is lagging behind and unable to supplement or support home-based care for the aged. Many existing aged care facilities are unprofessional and unlicensed. Some nursing

homes find it hard to operate, depending on razor-thin profits, while others charge much more than ordinary people can afford.

Moreover, China's healthcare system is struggling to meet the demand of a moderately aging society. The aged have a huge demand for health resources and this unbalanced distribution of health resources, combined with a disproportionate concentration of quality resources in big cities further exacerbates the difficulties faced by the elderly in living a comfortable life in their later years.

Statistics show that when more than 17.5 percent of the population requires aged care support, the impact of demographic changes on the country's economic growth will become negative. According to data from the National Bureau of Statistics, this figure reached 17.8 percent in China in 2019. Therefore, it is urgent to prepare to cushion the future negative impact of an aging population. We must take advantage of opportunities created by technological innovation to upgrade services and industries relating to aged care. It is also necessary to continue reforming the social security system, so that the elderly may be more comprehensively covered by the safety net. Last but not least, a friendly social environment that respects and cares for the elderly is as important as these systems.

To cope with the aging population is by no means as simple as merely supporting the elderly. It is a serious issue closely linked to national economic management, social development, cultural heritage and even the nation's long-term prosperity.

Chi Fulin (www.sohu.com): Changes happening in China's demographic structure are bringing a series of deep structural conflicts and challenges. The problem facing us now is how to effectively cope with these challenges and provide a decent safety net to the elderly at a time when China is still working hard to grow its economy.

Actually, accelerated aging implies huge potential for the silver economy, which is expected to become an important driving force for China's economic growth. However, there is currently a shortage of

Dear Readers,

Forum is a column that provides a space for varying perspectives on contemporary Chinese society. We invite you to submit personal viewpoints on past and current topics (in either English or Chinese).

 dingying@bjreview.com

Please provide your name and address along with your comments



products and services designed for the elderly, as well as issues with quality and the range of products available. For example, currently, China requires at least 10 million nursing staff to assist the elderly in their daily life, but the actual number of available nursing staff is less than 1 million. If senior citizens' upgraded and expanded demand is successfully transformed into a promising industry, then the problem is likely to be effectively solved.

Demographic structural changes are also causing a dilemma. When the Chinese society is under the pressure of accelerated aging of its population, the flexibility of its macroeconomic policies is squeezed. For example, in order to stimulate market

vitality and spur economic growth, tax and fee reductions for businesses are necessary, including lowering pension premiums. However, accelerated aging demands ever-increasing expenditures for caring for elderly by both the government and the private sector.

To resolve the structural conflicts, the answer lies in structural reforms. China needs new policies and industries to lessen the impact of massive aging among its population.

A common problem

Cai Wu (www.ce.cn): Aging is an inevitable tendency of the world's population. The problem of aging and of appropriate responses to it concerns not only social and economic

development, but also cultural issues relating to human civilization.

The accelerated pace of aging poses a tough task for China, a country currently struggling in a critical transition period. China has to deepen its structural reforms so as to better cope with emerging problems in the new era.

While China has experience from its own successful development in the past four decades, it must also look to the rest of the world for experience and examples. In particular, it must absorb successful experiences from countries that are doing a good job of coping with an aging population, so as to enrich its own ideas and policies.

Meanwhile, given China's own national condition, we also need to turn to Chinese culture and tradition for solutions. Without making full use of China's own ancient culture on ways to care for the elderly, the problem of aging is difficult to solve.

Chinese culture requires society to respect and be kind to the elderly. Thus, to support the elderly is not simply a question of offering them enough food and clothes, it's also about satisfying their demands in other aspects. We need to identify a proper way to coordinate their demands with the overall social environment and economic development.

The government can help to develop social enterprises that are both public welfare-oriented and commercial, which offer healthcare services and entertainment, to the elderly. Public culture and educational institutions should also open to the elderly, providing them with continuous education and cultural activities. At the same time, more social organizations need to be set up to fill the gap not filled by the government and enterprises, so that the demands of the elderly can be adequately met. On the whole, the market mechanism needs to play a bigger role in the future than today.

The pace at which the Chinese society is aging in tandem with China's social and economic reforms, so the solution depends on policy improvement and continuous reforms. Meanwhile, aging is a global issue, so despite some unique features and national conditions, some problems are common to all. China can learn from other countries after comparing its own conditions with them to solve the aging problem effectively. ■

Stop Playing With Fire

By Lan Xinzheng



The United States' October 21 announcement of three arms sale deals with Taiwan, together worth over \$1.8 billion, has stirred up strong sentiments in China. While expressing its objection to the deal, the Chinese Government announced sanctions against individuals, firms and entities involved in the arms sales, including Boeing. The announcement of these three deals was followed by the announcement of a fourth on October 27: sales to Taiwan of Harpoon Coastal Defense Systems worth approximately \$2.4 billion. This frequency of arms sales to Taiwan is sure to push China-U.S. relations further on a downward spiral.

That Taiwan is part of China is a fact recognized by the international community, including the United States. For historical reasons, the reunification is yet to take place. The one-China principle and the three China-U.S. Joint Communiqués constitute the foundation of China-U.S. diplomatic relations, and also of normal exchanges between the two countries. U.S. arms sales to Taiwan violate this principle, violate the three communiqués, and will also instigate secessionist activities carried out by "Taiwan independence" separatist forces. By selling arms to Taiwan, the U.S. is interfering in China's internal affairs. The Chinese Government will not remain idle and do nothing. It will carry out actions to safeguard national sovereignty and dignity.

Why does the United States continue selling arms to Taiwan? It cites the Taiwan Relations Act as an excuse, arguing that it is trying to fulfill its commitment to Taiwan's security and to showcase the government's prioritization of strengthening Taiwan's defense capabilities.

However, its true intention: provocation intended to interfere in China's internal affairs through Taiwan as a means to contain China's continuing development. It is also likely that these acts were part of a strategy calculated to win votes for the Donald Trump presidency.

The United States sees China's continued rise as becoming a strategic rival, and this has spurred its efforts to derail Chinese development in multiple areas. Under the Obama administration, the United States frequently sent naval vessels to the South China Sea in the name of free navigation. In 2016, we saw the farce of the so-called South China Sea Arbitration. After Trump took office, the United States triggered a trade war by increasing tariffs on Chinese commodities. The U.S. is also using state power to suppress

Chinese tech companies, limiting the number of Chinese students allowed to attend U.S. universities, limiting the Chinese media's press activities in the U.S., and curbing cultural and people-to-people exchanges. It has also built up a clique of anti-China nations. Arms sales to Taiwan serve as part of this policy.

In carrying out these activities, however, the United States does not intend to spark direct conflict or a war with China, but is instead attempting to identify the best means to sap China's capacity to compete. This intention can be seen by piecing together the United States' recent behavior relating to Taiwan, including the visit of Alex Azar, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary, to Taiwan in early August, and the latest round of arms sales to Taiwan. The United States is like a child that is fond of playing with fire. But it too will be hurt if this fire goes out of control.

The Taiwan authorities and some public figures in Taiwan believe that U.S. arms sales to Taiwan will help to meet Taiwan's demand for strategic defense. This is another form of playing with fire. The Taiwan authorities take it for granted that purchasing arms from the U.S. will make the U.S. a backstop in Taiwan's confrontation with the mainland. However, this is just wishful thinking. The U.S. will not act as Taiwan hopes, but will only continue to use Taiwan as a pawn to curtail China's development. In the case of a cross-Straits war, the U.S. will definitely refuse to become directly involved, as direct involvement does not suit U.S. national interests.

The Chinese Government is still exercising restraint, urging the U.S. to stick to the one-China policy and the three joint communiqués, to stop arms sales to Taiwan, cancel all arms sale plans and sever military ties with the island.

This round of arms sales in particular focuses on offensive weaponry, conceivably fueling the ambitions of "Taiwan independence" separatists. The High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, Standoff Land Attack Missile-Expanded Response and Harpoon missiles are all capable of reaching the coastal cities on China's mainland. If separatists' misjudgment leads to reckless moves, whatever the United States chooses to do, it will inevitably damage its own interests. ■

The United States does not intend to spark direct conflict or a war with China, but is instead attempting to identify the best means to sap China's capacity to compete

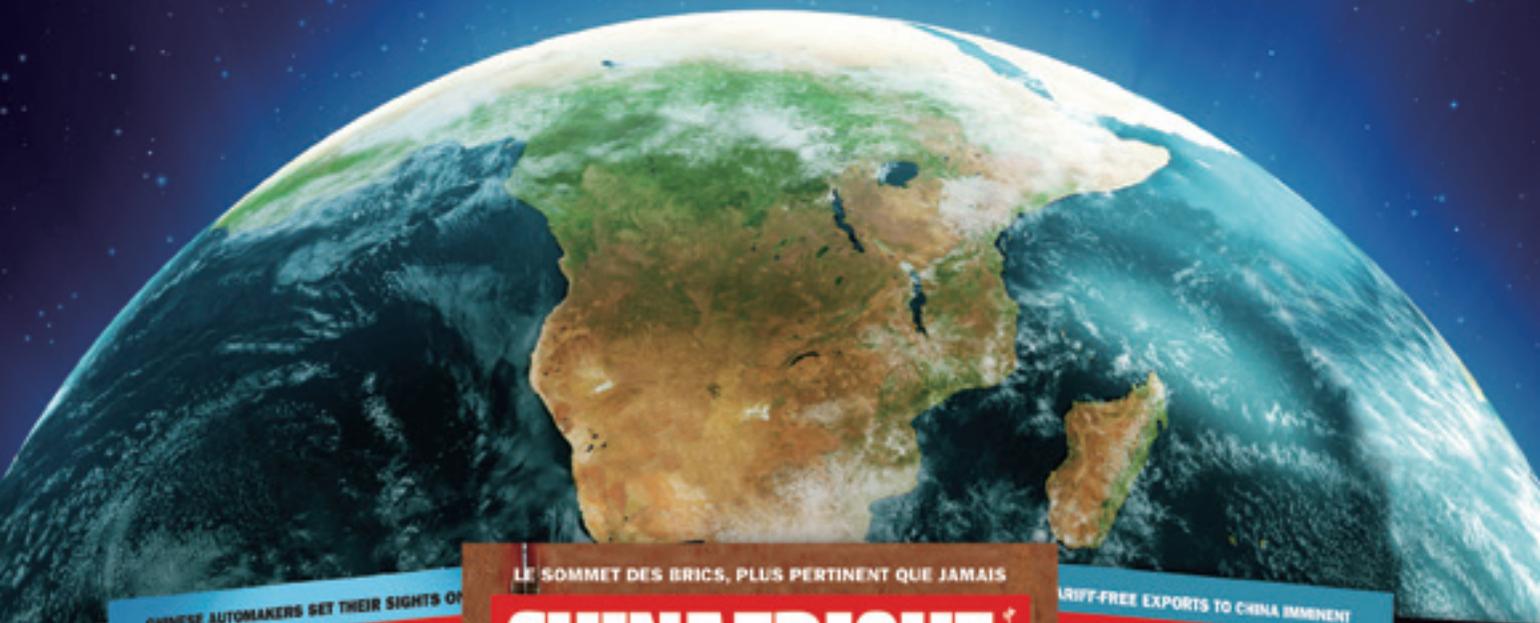
Planting The Seeds



Winning the battle against poverty in 2020

CHINAFRICA

中国与非洲



12 issues a year at a subscription rate of 180 RMB/R360

An Africa-oriented English monthly covering China and Africa published by BEIJING REVIEW,

ChinAfrica is the leading publication in China featuring news, views and analysis for an African audience.

SUBSCRIPTION HOTLINES: (8610) 6831 0644, +27 (0)71 613 2053 Email: circulation@bjreview.com.cn, cas201208@hotmail.com

WWW.CHINAFRICA.CN