

FEATURES: CHINA-EU INVESTMENT DEAL P.30 | FORUM: INNOVATIONS OR MONOPOLY? P.48

# BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.64 NO.2 JANUARY 14, 2021

WWW.BJREVIEW.COM



## GREEN PUSH

S&T advances sustainable agricultural development

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

ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914215

邮发代号2-922·国内统一刊号: CN11-1576/G2

# Follow **BEIJING REVIEW**

And get in on the conversation



BeijingReview



BeijingReview



@BeijingReview



Chinafrica-Magazine



@chinafrica1



# CONTENTS

## EDITOR'S DESK

**02 Rural Vitalization Charges Full Steam Ahead**

## THIS WEEK

### COVER STORY

**12 Wings of Technology**

S&T key to agricultural transformation

**16 Breeding Gains**

Seed security remains a priority

**18 The Field of Hope**

Chinese experts help Burundi build a profitable rice industry

**20 A Return to Eco-Agriculture**

China emphasizes sustainable rural development

## OPINION

**24 Building Synergy**

The Belt and Road Initiative expected to play more prominent role

**26 Make or Break?**

Post-Brexit trade deal not enough to solve UK's problems

**28 Vaccine Diplomacy vs. Vaccine Hostility**

## FEATURES

**30 Bond Ambition**

Closer China-EU economic cooperation in the works

**32 An Energetic Boost**

Oil, gas collaboration can help improve China-U.S. ties

**36 Continuing War on COVID-19**

China enhances prevention measures to contain new cases

**38 Faster, Closer and Smarter**

New rail service further integrates Beijing, Xiongan

**40 Fintech Supervision**

Oversight of Internet-based financial enterprises tightened

**42 Toys Turn Into Treasures**

Adults embrace designer toys

## CULTURE

**46 Farmer Olympics**

Township holds fascinating games

## FORUM

**48 Community Group Buying: Boon or Bane?**

Cover Design: Cui Xiaodong

©2021 Beijing Review, all rights reserved.



[www.bjreview.com](http://www.bjreview.com)



[amazon](#)

Follow us on



[YouTube](#)

BREAKING NEWS » SCAN ME » Using a QR code reader



北京周报

## BEIJING REVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine  
Published Since 1958

**President:** Li Yafang  
**Associate Editor in Chief:** Li Jianguo  
**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  
**Editors:** Wang Hairong, Li Nan  
**Editorial Consultants:** Sudeshna Sarkar, Madhusudan Chaubey  
**Reporters:** Tang Yuankai, Wang Jun, Pan Xiaoqiao, Yuan Yuan, 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 Keqiang  
**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 Yanshou  
**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:** fp@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

## Rural Vitalization Charges Full Steam Ahead

The annual Central Rural Work Conference held in Beijing on December 28-29, 2020, a milestone in China's work concerning agriculture, rural areas, and farmers, decided to double up on rural vitalization efforts, marking a historic focal shift after the nation's 2020 victory in extreme poverty eradication.

The recent conference made clear that from 2021 onward, the authorities will turn their focus to promote the modernization of the agricultural sector and rural areas with the goal of all-round rural vitalization.

China aims to develop itself into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful by the centenary celebration of the People's Republic of China in 2049. Agricultural modernization is one of the main preconditions.

Ensuring grain security, agricultural development and rural infrastructure are all important tasks, and by no means less arduous than the fight against poverty. Of them, ensuring grain security is of the utmost urgency. China must maintain 120 million

hectares of permanent farmland and prevent its urban construction from encroaching on farmland. It must develop high-standard farmland, able to withstand droughts and floods, to guarantee stable harvests. It must continue to advance agricultural science and technology and accelerate breakthroughs in key agricultural technologies such as the seed industry and soil management.

In the past, provincial governors were held accountable for their areas' grain security. The recent conference required that local Party committees and governments assume the same political responsibilities, and that Party secretaries of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, also be held accountable for grain security. This requirement raises the standard of China's grain security accountability system.

In addition, the country will speed up its rural industry development to reap more benefits for farmers.

It eyes rural areas alive with thriving businesses, an eco-friendly environment, social etiquette and civility, effective governance, and a prosperous population. **BR**



### WRITE TO US

Send an e-mail: [editorsoffice@bjreview.com](mailto: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 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2021年 第2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



# VACCINATION STARTS AMONG KEY GROUPS

A medical worker administers a novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine to a delivery man at a temporary vaccination site in Haidian District, Beijing, on January 6. Beijing started distributing COVID-19 vaccines among specific groups of people with high infection risks after January 1.

Nine groups of people, aged 18 to 59, are scheduled to receive the vaccine before the Spring Festival of 2021, which falls on February 12. These key groups include frontline customs inspectors of imported cold chain goods and personnel working in the overseas and domestic transportation sectors.



YIHNIX

## Bridge in Clouds

An aerial photo of the Heshandu Wujiang River Bridge in Guizhou Province, southwest China, on December 29, 2020. The bridge, spanning 2,000 meters, is a key part of the Meitan-Shiqian Expressway. It was completed on January 3 and will open to traffic in July.

## Telescope Sharing

China's Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), the world's largest single-dish radio telescope, will be available for global service from April 1.

The National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the operator of the telescope, confirmed on January 4 that scientists across the world can make online appointments to use the device for observational purposes starting from April 1. An allotted timetable will be available by August 1.

Jiang Peng, chief engineer of FAST with NAOC, said in the first year of the telescope's opening to the global scientific community, about 10 percent of observation time will be assigned to foreign scientists.

Located in a deep and round

karst depression in Guizhou Province, southwest China, FAST is believed to be the world's most sensitive radio telescope. It formally came into operation on January 11, 2020.

## New Landmark

Shanghai plans to construct a new landmark, a 480-meter-tall building on the extended shoreline of the Bund, Xinhua News Agency reported on January 3.

The new block will be the highest on the west bank of the Huangpu River. The tallest building in Shanghai, and in China at large, however, is the 632-meter-tall Shanghai Tower standing on the east bank of the Huangpu River.

The new building on the west of the Huangpu River and north of the Suzhou River is designed for

commercial purposes and office use with an above-ground floor area of some 350,000 square meters.

The building will drive the development of high-end industries and be home to the headquarters of multiple global enterprises.

## Carbon Emissions

China will beef up efforts to cut carbon emissions in the industrial sector and roll out plans for key sectors to reach a peak in carbon emissions, an official said on January 4.

Efforts will be made to strictly control new production capacities within the heavy and chemical industries, and to cut the output of crude steel to ensure a year-on-year drop, Minister of Industry and Information Technology Xiao Yaqing said in an interview.

China has put in place a green

manufacturing system, with 2,121 green factories and 171 green industrial parks built in the past five years.

The country will encourage industrial firms and parks to build green microgrids and prioritize the use of renewable energies, according to Xiao.

China previously announced that it will strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

All efforts now go into the formulation of a roadmap for the auto sector to meet these goals, to promote the development of electric vehicles, and to boost the recycling of batteries for new energy vehicles, the minister concluded.

## Frosty Tourism

Chinese tourists are expected to make 230 million trips featuring ice

and snow during the current winter season, a report released by the China Tourism Academy said on January 5.

According to the report, the current ice-and-snow tourism season, running from November 2020 into March 2021, is expected to generate more than 390 billion yuan (\$60 billion) in revenue.

China's ice-and-snow tourism business was hit hard by the epidemic. During the season from November 2019 to March 2020, the number of trips shrank by 130 million, resulting in a lost revenue worth 240 billion yuan (\$37 billion), compared with the previous season.

However, the report indicates that the people's support for the winter travel industry is on the rebound, with more than half of the interviewees saying they will maintain or even increase their budget for such trips.

Investment in ice-and-snow tourism expanded during the last three years, with the total volume reaching 900 billion yuan (\$139 billion).

## Cleaner Air

Beijing saw more days with good air quality and a record-low average PM2.5 density in 2020, the municipal environment authorities announced on January 4.

The average concentration of PM2.5 in the metropolis was 38 micrograms per cubic meter in 2020, a year-on-year decline of 9.5 percent and the lowest measurement since

the first data collection in 2013, according to the Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau.

The PM2.5 reading is a gauge monitoring airborne particles of 2.5 microns or less in diameter, which can penetrate deep into the lungs.

Liu Baoxian, Director of the Beijing Municipal Ecological and Environmental Monitoring Center, said that half of Beijing's 16 districts saw their PM2.5 density meet the national standard last year, up from only two in 2019.

In 2020, the city saw 276 days with good air quality (determined by the concentration of major air pollutants), up by 100 days from 2013, according to Liu.

However, experts say the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and the nearby areas now face the arduous task of further improving air quality as the region's air pollutant emission still exceeds its environmental capacity.

## Bullet Train

Fuxing bullet trains will run across Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China for the first time in June when a new rail line opens, China's railway operator said on January 4.

With the launch of the service, the Fuxing bullet train series will be available in all provincial-level regions on the Chinese mainland, the China State Railway Group Co. Ltd. said.

Track-laying work for the rail line connecting regional capital Lhasa and Nyingchi in eastern Tibet



## A Learning Spree

Tourists have fun at the snow-covered Xiannushan National Forest Park in Chongqing, southwest China, on January 2.

was completed on December 31, 2020. It will be the first electrified railroad in Tibet.

## Climate Study

Climate change could lead to more cryospheric hazards, posing extensive threats to society, states a recent study from Chinese researchers, Xinhua News Agency reported on January 5.

The cryosphere mainly refers to glaciers, permafrost, snow cover and sea ice as these components are continuously distributed below the freezing point with a certain thickness.

Storing more than 70 percent of

the world's freshwater resources, the cryosphere plays an important role in supporting key elements of the Earth's natural structure for life, such as water resources, energy, and food security.

These components are sensitive to climate warming, and changes in the cryosphere can lead to serious hazards affecting society. Though the threats attract much public attention, there is as of yet no synthetic review available addressing the changes in cryospheric hazards of the past decades.

Results of the study have been published in the academic journal *Earth-Science Reviews*.



## Epidemic-Hit City

Pedestrians in Hong Kong wear masks on January 2. The city reported 35 cases of the novel coronavirus disease on that day.

## Holiday Consumption

The consumer market remained buoyant during the three-day New Year holiday, with the average daily sales of key retail enterprises up 6.2 percent year on year, the Ministry of Commerce said on January 4.

The companies saw sales of food, clothes, home appliances and digital products, as well as jewelry rise by 3.5 percent, 22.8 percent, 9.9 percent and 10.3 percent, respectively.

Sales at seven duty-free stores in the southernmost Hainan Province soared 213 percent from a year earlier.

Service consumption also picked up, with takeout transactions jumping 17 percent year on year in Beijing, the ministry said.

## Bank Support

The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission released a guideline on January 5, urging major initiating banks to replenish capital for rural banks and help them

manage non-performing loans.

While calling for efforts to advance the reform and restructuring of rural banks, the guideline encouraged qualified strategic investors to offer help in purchases and capital increases.

To mitigate the mounting risks for some rural banks, the commission required local regulators to tailor risk management measures and stressed initiating banks' responsibilities.

It also pledged to guide financial institutions and non-financial firms to participate in the reform and restructuring of rural banks.

China had established 1,641 rural banks covering 71.2 percent of all county-level regions by the end of last September, the guideline said.

## NEV Subsidy Cut

Subsidies for new-energy vehicles (NEVs) were reduced on January 1 as part of the government's efforts to promote the healthy development of the industry.

Subsidies for NEVs in public

transportation, environmental sanitation, postal services and logistics and civil aviation airports, among others, were slashed by 10 percent compared to 2020. Other NEVs saw a reduction of 20 percent.

According to an earlier circular from the Ministry of Finance, the country will prevent over-expansion of NEV manufacturing.

In November 2020, a development plan for the NEV industry in 2021-35 was released. It said the proportion of NEVs in the sales of new vehicles is expected to rise to 20 percent by 2025, and vehicles used in public transportation will be completely electrified by 2035.

With the world's largest inventory of NEVs, China accounts for 55 percent of global NEV sales.

## Logistics Data

The logistics sector sustained steady expansion in December 2020, despite a slight slowdown from the previous month, the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing said on January 4.

The logistics performance index, which tracks business volumes, new orders, employment, inventory turnover, and equipment utility rates in the sector, came in at 56.9 percent in December 2020, down by 0.6 percentage point from November of the year.

A reading above 50 percent indicates expansion and below that mark, contraction.

With the Chinese New Year (February 12 in 2021) approaching, the logistics sector saw a seasonal contraction and the logistics performance index fell back accordingly, He Hui, Director of the China Logistics Information Center, said.

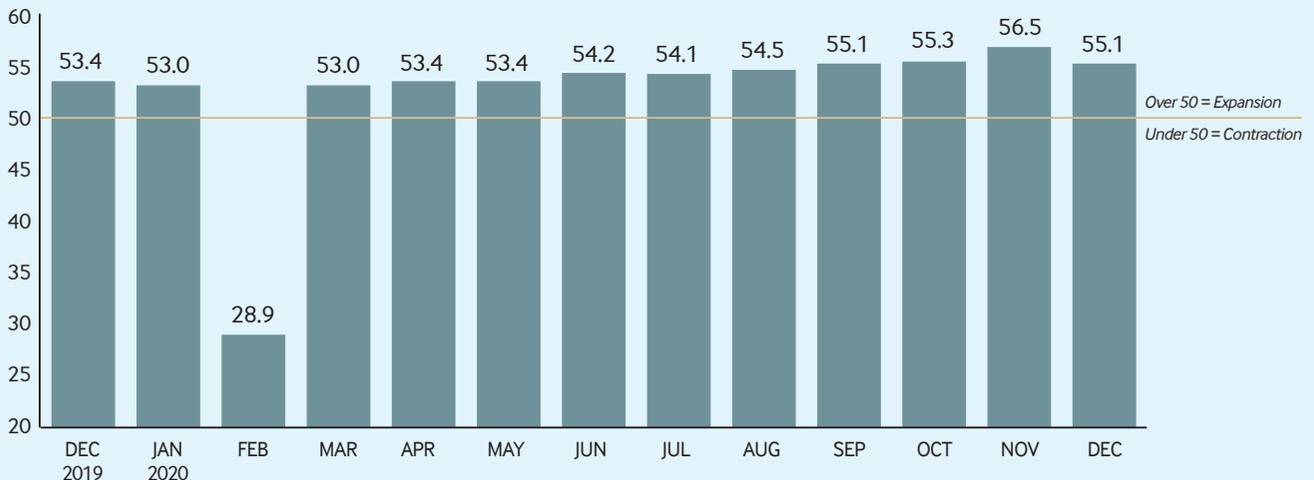
The sub-index for gross business volumes went down 0.6 percentage point to 56.9 percent, indicating business activities were less active. The sub-index for equipment utility rates lost 1.1 percentage points to 55.2 percent.

The sub-index for new orders stood at 55.8 percent, while that for business activity expectation was 53.4 percent, revealing enterprises' confidence in the market.

## NUMBERS

(\$1=6.4 yuan)

Comprehensive Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



## Negative List

A new negative list for foreign investment access in the Hainan Free Trade Port in south China was unveiled on December 31, 2020. It will come into effect on February 1.

The 27-item list, jointly released by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce, introduces measures to promote opening up in crucial areas, such as value-added telecommunication services and education, and to ease market access in the manufacturing and mining industries.

Restrictions on foreign investment access to online data processing and online transaction processing businesses will no longer apply when the list takes effect.

Prestigious overseas universities and vocational colleges specializing in science and engineering, agriculture, and medicine will be allowed to run on the island independently.

Foreign ownership limits for passenger car manufacturing will

be lifted. Regulations prohibiting foreign investment in the exploration, mining and ore dressing of rare earth, radioactive minerals and tungsten will be repealed either.

## E-Voucher Sales

Beijing distributed 39 million e-vouchers during a seven-month campaign in 2020 to spur consumption dampened by the coronavirus epidemic, according to local authorities on January 5.

The coupons, offered via online platforms such as JD.com and Meituan, helped generate sales volume totaling 13.52 billion yuan (\$2.1 billion), the Beijing Municipal Commerce Bureau said.

The campaign started last June after the epidemic had been largely contained. More than 1,000 activities covering catering, shopping, culture, tourism, entertainment, education, sports, fitness and other sectors were organized during that period to boost consumption.

An online live-streaming contest

was also held, attracting over 300 companies to participate.

## Rail Hubs

A record number of 9,679 inbound and outbound China-Europe freight trains passed through Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, north-west China, in 2020, according to China Railway Urumqi Group Co. Ltd. on January 2.

The number of trains traveling through Alataw Pass reached 5,027 last year, up 41.8 percent year on year, while those through Horgos Port totaled 4,652, up 37 percent.

The company said a large quantity of goods previously transported to Europe via air and sea shifted to the China-Europe freight train service last year.

Local railway authorities expanded the capacity of the Alataw Pass and the Horgos Port in 2020. Through better coordination among railway, customs and border control authorities as well as with Kazak authorities, the time a train needed to pass the border was reduced to

less than one hour from 10 hours, according to the company.

Currently, 22 lines run through Alataw Pass, reaching 13 countries including Germany and Poland, and 16 lines travel through Horgos Port to over 10 countries including Uzbekistan.

## Power Generation

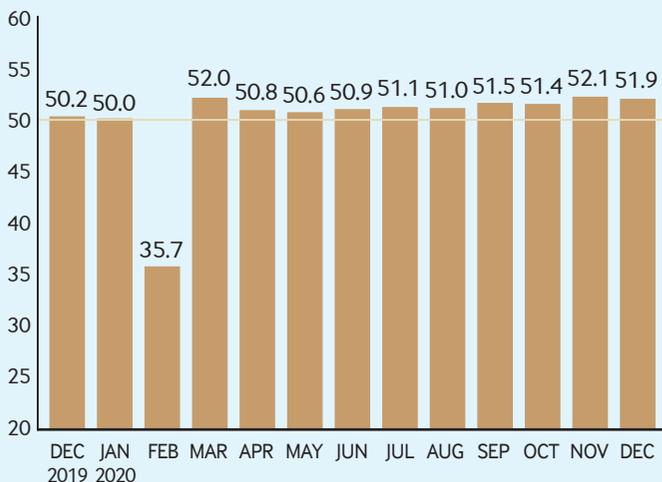
The Three Gorges Hydroelectric Power Station on the Yangtze River generated 111.8 billion kWh of electricity in 2020.

It beat the previous world record for hydropower generation of 103.098 billion kWh set by Brazil's Itaipu plant in 2016.

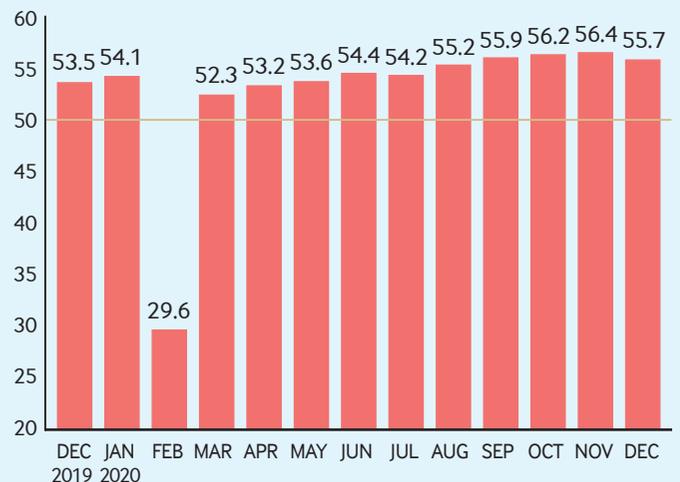
The clean energy produced by the Three Gorges project in 2020 is estimated to be equivalent to saving about 34.39 million tons of standard coal equivalent and reducing the emissions of carbon dioxide by 94.02 million tons.

With 34 hydropower turbo-generators, the Three Gorges project has a generating capacity of 22.5 million kw.

Manufacturing PMI



Non-Manufacturing PMI







## Chaos on Capitol Hill

Supporters of President Donald Trump gather near the Capitol in Washington, D.C., the U.S., on January 6. Pro-Trump protesters broke into the building that day, obstructing President-elect Joe Biden's certification process

## OFFICIAL PUNISHED FOR NEGLIGENCE IN COVID-19 PREVENTION

**Feng Zhiqiang**, Deputy Director of Gaocheng District in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province in north China, was given a disciplinary warning for lack of oversight in terms of arranging and supervising the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) prevention and control measures.

The city's top anti-corruption authority announced on January 6 that three officials in the district had received punishment for negligence in the epidemic intervention. They failed to prevent further transmission of the virus after a resident tested positive.



Feng was held responsible after one Liujiазuo Village resident went out to see a doctor after testing positive on January 3.

The district was designated a high-risk area for virus infection on January 6 after it had reported locally transmitted cases for four consecutive days.

## High-Standard Farmland

**Economic Daily**  
December 29, 2020

The annual Central Economic Work Conference, held from December 16 to 18, 2020, proposed to strengthen the development of high-standard farmland, the most important task in improving the quality of China's cultivated land.

The drought and flood resistant farmland is suitable for agricultural mechanization, and will increase grain production. The country also seeks to develop 100 million *mu* (6.67 million hectares) of such land in 2021 and achieve 1 billion *mu* (66.7 million hectares) by 2022 to guarantee food security.

As the creation of high-standard farmland involves such arenas as engineering and agronomy, the cost of time, materials and labor shall only go up in remote areas with inferior conditions. Without effective management and protection as well as continued supervision and punitive measures in place, the actual results of many initially well-structured projects shall be affected.

Except for an increase in government spending, the pursuit of developing high-standard farmland across China requires a variety of approaches to encourage the participation of private capitals, such as fiscal subsidies, investment subsidies, as well as the cooperation between government and private enterprises.



## Young Internet Influencers

**China Newsweek**  
December 28, 2020

The arrival of social media in China a decade ago, together with ever-increasing Internet access, has allowed many “everyday” youngsters to become online celebrities. In recent years, several newcomers across northeast China have rocked cultural circles with their art or influence built up through live-streaming and short videos published on online platforms such as Douyin and Kuaishou.

Data from consulting company iResearch prove that the commercialization of the short video industry has reached full maturity after years of development.

“Pakistan and China share a strong bond of friendship, which is also a factor [in Pakistan's] procurement of the vaccine from China, but the primary reason for the decision is the good quality of the vaccine offered by the Chinese company.”

**Chaudhry Fawad Hussain**, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Science and Technology, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency on December 31, 2020

“China firmly opposes the United States' acts of politicizing economic and trade issues, and abusing its state power and the concept of national security to groundlessly suppress Chinese companies.”

**Hua Chunying**, spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in response to the U.S. plan to delist three Chinese telecom companies on January 4

Overall income for said industry in China was expected to reach 211 billion yuan (\$32.64 billion) by the end of 2020. Furthermore, short video content has become one of the most affordable and effective channels for advertising.

Taking to the Internet in their local dialects and witty vernacular, they chose to share their life experiences online. The people of northeast China have long been regarded as both straightforward and optimistic, with the courage to embrace their own vulnerability—and turn it into comedy. These influencers' content has attracted even more viewers since the outbreak of COVID-19, when people had to stay indoors for the purposes of epidemic prevention and control.

According to the statistics of TalkingData, a mobile big data service platform, users with more leisure time in non-first-tier cities showcase stronger connections with short videos as of early 2019. A total of 56.6 percent of people residing in China's northeastern areas use such platforms. When those viewers find that the producing and sharing of short videos does not only connect them with others, but also increases their personal influence and generates some extra income, they happily enter the online business.

## New Professions

*People's Daily*

December 30, 2020

Bolstered by innovative business models, an onrush of new occupations, such as drone camera operators or community health assistants, have sprouted across China, bringing a new range of options to those scouring the job market.

However, certain surveys now show that many young employees in these new fields share a few concerns, such as a lack of stability in terms of future career development, the inadequate protection of labor rights and a lack of education and training. To some extent, these factors combined may weaken the professional

identity and capacity of those involved and limit the actual advancement of these new professions.

In light of China's booming new industry, a State Council executive meeting which took place in September 2020, stated that actions would be taken to extend social security coverage to individuals active in new business models, and reinforce the safeguarding of more flexible employment.

Authorities also issued policies on the multi-channel support of modern employment types, carrying out specific training, the optimization of human resource services, and the protection of the rights and interests of this emerging crop of professionals.

## FORMER HUARONG CHAIRMAN SENTENCED TO DEATH

**Lai Xiaomin**, former board chairman of China Huarong Asset Management Co., was sentenced to death on January 5 for accepting 1.79 billion yuan (\$275 million) in bribes, the Second Intermediate People's Court of Tianjin announced in a statement. The 58-year-old was also sentenced to 11 years in prison for embezzlement and one year in prison for bigamy. The court decided to issue the death penalty and confiscate all of his personal assets, according to the statement.



Lai took advantage of the different positions he held from 2008 to 2018, including serving as director of the general office of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, Party secretary and chairman of Huarong Asset Management, and as secretary of the Party committee of Huarong Xiangjiang Bank Co., to make illegal profits for both companies and individuals.

“I don't feel that China will be pulling back from the global market. I think they will be encouraging businesses to invest further into the China market, both in some of the provinces, but also nationally as well.”

**Steven Lynch**, Managing Director of the British Chamber of Commerce in China (BritCham China), in an interview with CGTN on January 1

“We would like this as a way of reminding for both our own people as well as the international community that we learn from past mistakes and we don't want to have any more of these sufferings.”

**Pansy Ho**, daughter of Macao billionaire Stanley Ho who bought a bronze horse head sculpture, one of 12 Chinese zodiac sculptures looted in 1860 from the Old Summer Palace and donated it to the country, in an interview with *China Daily* on January 3

A drone dusts green beans with pesticide at a farm in Wangmei Village, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south China, on September 20, 2020

