

OPINION: TRUTH ON UYGUR BIRTH RATE P.28 | FEATURES: HAINAN EXPO DEBUT P.30

# BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.64 NO.20 MAY 20, 2021

北京周报 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM

## LIFE IS LONG

Takeaways from latest census data



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 Foundations for The Future**

## THIS WEEK COVER STORY

**12 Deciphering Demographic Data**

The results of the 2020 population census are in

**16 Solving a Population Puzzle**

Addressing the challenges of an aging populace

## OPINION

**20 America's Anti-China Human Rights Hype**

Lessons from the past contribute to the future of a nation

**22 True Multilateralism**

China and the U.S. at the UN, confrontation to cooperation

**24 Engaging With China Under President Biden**

Will the U.S. embrace the friend or challenge the foe?

**28 Does a Falling Birth Rate Equal 'Genocide'?**

Fact versus fiction, what is the rationale behind the drop in Uygur birth rates?

**29 Cyberspace Cleanup**

People's data should not all roam freely

## FEATURES

**30 Consumption Is King**

Hainan Expo displays Chinese market potential

**34 A Neighborly Act**

China rallies behind India's COVID-19 combat

**36 Flip-Flop on Climate Change**

Biden's carbon ambition may stretch beyond the achievable

**38 Intelligent Alterations**

Chinese textile manufacturers are getting greener

**40 Breaking Down Barriers**

Legal practitioners come to the defense of people with disabilities

**42 Island for Old Men**

One China Mobile office offers seniors more than a phone line

## CULTURE

**46 Toast With a Roast**

Raising a glass to the stand-up comedy boom

## FORUM

**48 How Will Knowledge Change Fate?**

Cover Photo: VCG

©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



Please recycle





## BEIJING REVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine  
Published Since 1958

**President:** Li Yafang  
**Associate Editor in Chief:** Li Jianguo  
**Associate President:** Yan Ying

**Content Director:** Liu Yunyun

**Executive Editor:** Yan Wei  
**Associate Executive Editors:** Zan Jifang, 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, Elisabeth van Paridon  
**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

**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:** 86-10-68995807  
**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

## Foundations for the Future

The seventh national population census, conducted in 2020, registered a population of over 1.4 billion, still the largest in the world. The results were released on May 11.

Compared with the sixth census carried out in 2010, the latest one shows several new features.

While the total population maintained a mild growth momentum in the past decade, the ethnic minorities grew at a higher rate. The national population increased by 72.06 million persons compared with 2010, with an average annual growth rate of 0.53 percent, down by 0.04 percentage point. While the Han population grew by 4.93 percent, the ethnic minorities increased by 10.26 percent, taking their presence in the national population up by 0.4 percentage point.

China still holds a demographic dividend. The 15-59 age group accounted for 63.35 percent of the population, indicating that a working-age population still makes up the majority of the demographic composition. Moreover, as people live richer lives with improved medical facilities, they are living longer. The 60-plus age group went up by 5.44 percentage points to 18.7 percent of the population, indicating there would be pressure to maintain the long-term balance of the population.

The 0-14 age group, hearteningly, was up by 1.35 percentage points, showing positive results after the government made adjustments in its family planning policy.

The educational attainment of the population has been improving. Compared with 2010, the average years of schooling for people aged 15 and above increased from 9.08 years to 9.91 years. For the working population aged between 16 and 59, the figure increased from 9.67 years to 10.75 years.

The population is increasingly moving to economically developed areas. The census data showed that 35 percent of the population lived in places other than where their households are registered. People continue to head for the coastal and riverside areas or urban areas in the inland regions. The population in major city clusters such as the Yangtze River Delta, the Pearl River Delta and Chengdu-Chongqing city cluster is growing rapidly.

The data will provide statistical support to the authorities to draw up targeted policies for long-term balanced population development. It has shown the results of earlier policies based on the past census statistics, like the comprehensive development of the ethnic groups. **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 杨琪 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20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733号  
国内零售价：人民币6.00元



## A SAFETY SHOT

A foreigner replies to a query about his medical history at a vaccination site in Hefei, capital of Anhui Province, on May 12. With the COVID-19 vaccination underway for foreign residents based on principles of voluntary application and informed consent, many people have voluntarily started getting the jabs and a large number have already received the two shots prescribed.



## Shoal Industry

An aerial photo of the shoal comprehensive development demonstration zone in Dongtai, Jiangsu Province, on May 12. The zone has created a development model combining wind plus photovoltaic power generation and aquaculture for efficient use of shoal resources and ecological development.

## Drug Control

China has become the first country to put all synthetic cannabis-related substances on the list of controlled drugs, the office of the National Narcotics Control Commission said at a press conference on May 11.

Another 18 kinds of psychoactive substances have also been newly added to the list.

As of now, the list contains 188 kinds of new psychoactive substances, all fentanyl-related substances and all synthetic cannabis-related substances, the office said.

There are 297 known kinds of synthetic cannabis-related substances worldwide, among which 103 were found to be in use in China.

## New Bureau

On May 13, China inaugurated a new national administration of disease prevention and control with five major functions, including formulating policies for the prevention and control of infectious diseases.

The establishment of the Beijing-based administration signals an expansion of the roles of disease prevention and control agencies from preventing and containing diseases to comprehensively safeguarding and promoting the health of the entire population, said an official statement.

## Preventing Myopia

A five-year campaign has been launched to prevent myopia

among young people, the Ministry of Education (MOE) said on May 11.

The government aims to reduce myopia in children and adolescents and improve the visual health of young Chinese by 2025, according to a work plan jointly released by 15 national agencies including the MOE.

Under the plan, the agencies will initiate special operations, such as reducing students' academic burden, limiting their exposure to digital appliances, and ensuring one hour of outdoor activities or physical exercise every day both during and after school. Also optical examinations will be conducted on all children and students to identify possible eyesight problems.

The MOE asked primary and junior middle schools not to rely heavily on digital gadgets in teaching and assigning homework, ordering a 30-percent cap on the total teaching time using electronic devices and calling for roughly all homework to be paper-based.

About 50.2 percent of children and teenagers suffered from myopia in 2019, a drop of 3.4 percentage points from the figure in 2018, an MOE survey showed.

Last year, 200 million students studied at home for months amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Myopia rates increased slightly in 2020, but remained lower than those in 2018.

## Subway 'Eyes'

An autonomous subway operation system has been developed to enhance connectivity between trains, according to the Qingdao Metro Group in Shandong Province.

Through wireless communication, the system enables trains to acquire information such as the position and speed of the train ahead, as well as the state of the subway line.

"With the system, it is as if the trains have been equipped with brains and sharp eyes," Luo Qingping, deputy chief engineer with Qingdao Metro, said.

The system can significantly reduce the impact of equipment failures in subway operations and help deal with emergencies such as fires, Fang Shaoxuan, an expert with the China Association of Metros, said.

The system was jointly developed by Qingdao Metro and other domestic firms.

## Tourist Routes

Recently, 300 rural tour routes were launched for tourists to have a better idea about the

achievements in the fight against poverty and aid rural vitalization, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The new routes are among the efforts to enrich rural tourism services and prepare for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China.

Featuring a combination of revolutionary history and lush ecological environments, they will provide a glimpse into poverty eradication and rural vitalization achievements.

A route in Xiadang, a township in Ningde in Fujian Province, for example, takes visitors through a remote hilly area. It has been receiving 200,000 tourists annually.

The first quarter of 2021 saw rural tourist sites receive a total of 984 million visitor arrivals, up by 5.2 percent from the same period in 2019, according to a rural tourism monitoring center.

## Medicine Program

Patients now have more channels to buy medicine under the medical insurance programs, a healthcare security official said on May 10.

Medicines covered by the healthcare security system's price negotiation program can be

purchased either at hospitals or in qualified drug stores, with both having the same reimbursement policies, Huang Huabo, an official with the National Healthcare Security Administration (NHSA), said at a press conference.

Medicines that have a high clinical value, high cost, low substitutability and are in urgent demand should be made available at hospitals and qualified drug stores on the same reimbursement terms, the administration said, adding that the specific list should be determined by provincial healthcare security departments.

The NHSA selected 19 drugs that were added to the price negotiation program in 2020 and released the list of designated hospitals and drug stores where they can be purchased.

## Domestic Violence

The Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) has made public six typical cases involving domestic violence to publicize the relevant law among the public and improve procurators' ability in handling such lawsuits, Xinhua News Agency reported on May 8.

Procuratorial organs are offering legal aid to relevant parties, among other efforts, to address domestic violence.

Since the Law Against Domestic



## Disaster Relief

An emergency rescue drill in progress at a lake in Huaibei, Anhui Province, on May 12, National Day for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

Violence was enacted in 2016, public awareness of family abuse and the need to curb it has significantly increased, an SPP official said.

Today, domestic violence is regarded more as a crime than a mere family dispute.

## Public AEDs

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has installed over 11,000 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in public places all around the country, officials said at a press conference on May 6.

The AEDs were used in 67 cases, and the treatment was successful in 35 of them, it said.

The installation of AEDs can increase the success rate of saving people with heart attacks in public places. However, further training is required to improve the public's capability to use them in emergency scenarios.

The RCSC is promoting the use of a package, which includes the AED, first-aid kits and an instruction video. It has also asked to have trained personnel stationed in public areas.



## Digital City

Residents use self-service computers to submit their applications for government services at the government affairs service center in Xiong'an New District, Hebei Province, on May 13. Since its establishment in 2018, the center has been promoting digital services.

## Foreign Trade

The import and export volume of China expanded 28.5 percent year on year to 11.62 trillion yuan (\$1.8 trillion) in the first four months of 2021, up 21.8 percent from the pre-epidemic level in 2019, data from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) showed on May 7.

Exports jumped 33.8 percent from a year earlier, while imports climbed 22.7 percent in yuan terms. Trade surplus increased 149.7 percent to 1.02 trillion yuan (\$158 billion).

Imports and exports totaled 3.15 trillion yuan (\$489 billion) in April alone. This marked a year-on-year increase of 26.6 percent and month-on-month growth of 4.2 percent.

In the month, trade surplus narrowed 12.4 percent from a year earlier, reaching 276.5 billion yuan (\$42.9 billion).

In the first four months, the Association of Southeast Asian

Nations remained China's largest trading partner, followed by the EU and the U.S., GACC data showed.

During the period, the growth rates of China's trade volume with the three trading partners stood at 27.6 percent, 32.1 percent and 50.3 percent, respectively.

Private enterprises accounted for 47.2 percent of the overall foreign trade volume in the January-April period, up 4.1 percentage points from a year earlier. Their imports and exports improved 40.8 percent, to 5.48 trillion yuan (\$850 billion) during the period.

## Logistics Growth

Logistics activities continued to pick up in April, according to data from the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP).

The logistics performance index, which tracks business

volumes, new orders, employment, inventory turnovers and equipment utility rates in the sector, came in at 57.3 percent in April, up 2.4 percentage points from March.

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

The sub-index for equipment utility rates rose by 1.8 percentage points from March to 55 percent.

The sub-index for new orders stood at 56.1 percent, while that for business activity expectations was 62.1 percent, showing that logistics activities will continue to expand in the future.

## Bulk Commodity

The China Bulk Merchandise Index, an instrument measuring the development of the domestic bulk commodity market, stood above the boom-or-bust line of 100 percent at 103.3 percent in April, according to the CFLP.

The index has risen for four consecutive months, indicating a stable and growing market, the federation added.

In April, the sub-index for bulk commodity supply rose 1.7 percentage points from March to 102.7 percent, while that for sales stood at 105.5 percent, up 1.9 percentage points from a month earlier.

The sub-index for bulk commodity inventory decreased to 99.1 percent, showcasing eased inventory pressure.

## 5G Factories

Hi-tech giant Huawei announced on May 8 its action plan to equip 1,000 smart factories with its 5GtoB solution to accelerate China's industrialization.

"After more than two years of research and development, 5GtoB has deciphered many breakpoints in technology and industrial ecology. We will cooperate with our partners across the

## NUMBERS

(\$1=6.5 yuan)

Producer Price Index Growth (%)



Consumer Price Index (CPI) Growth (%)



industrial chain to light up 1,000 5G smart factories,” Ryan Ding, Huawei’s executive director and President of its carrier business group, said.

Ding said earlier that building on its experience in connectivity, computing and industry digitalization, Huawei has worked with operators and other industry partners to develop the 5GtoB solution, a one-stop solution that covers sales, operations and services.

China has attached great importance to the development of its 5G Plus Industrial Internet strategy, which has been mentioned in the work report of the Central Government for four consecutive years.

According to the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, the country has more than 1,100 5G Plus Industrial Internet projects under construction, covering 22 industries, including cement,

automobiles, petrochemical, steel, mining and oil.

## Forex Reserves

China’s foreign exchange (forex) reserves expanded to \$3.1982 trillion at the end of April. The total went up by \$28.2 billion, or 0.89 percent, from the end of March, according to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) on May 7.

SAFE spokesperson Wang Chunying said the foreign exchange transactions had functioned steadily, with a basically balanced supply and demand in the market.

Due to the development of COVID-19 vaccines and monetary policy expectations, as well as new macroeconomic data from major economies, the dollar index witnessed a decline across global financial markets, Wang said, adding that the financial asset prices of major economies were generally rising.

She attributed the growth of the forex reserves to the

combined effects of currency translation and the change in asset prices.

Despite uncertainties in the international financial market amid the COVID-19 pandemic and an unbalanced global economic recovery, China’s forex reserves remain generally stable as its economy has got off to a good start this year with new achievements in high-quality development and a more flexible yuan exchange rate, Wang said.

## Cargo Service

The China-Europe freight train service will be upgraded to spur on the development of cross-border e-commerce, according to a three-year action plan released at the Fifth Silk Road International Exposition that opened in Xi’an, capital of Shaanxi Province, on May 11.

China will set up a green service mechanism for cross-border e-commerce firms via

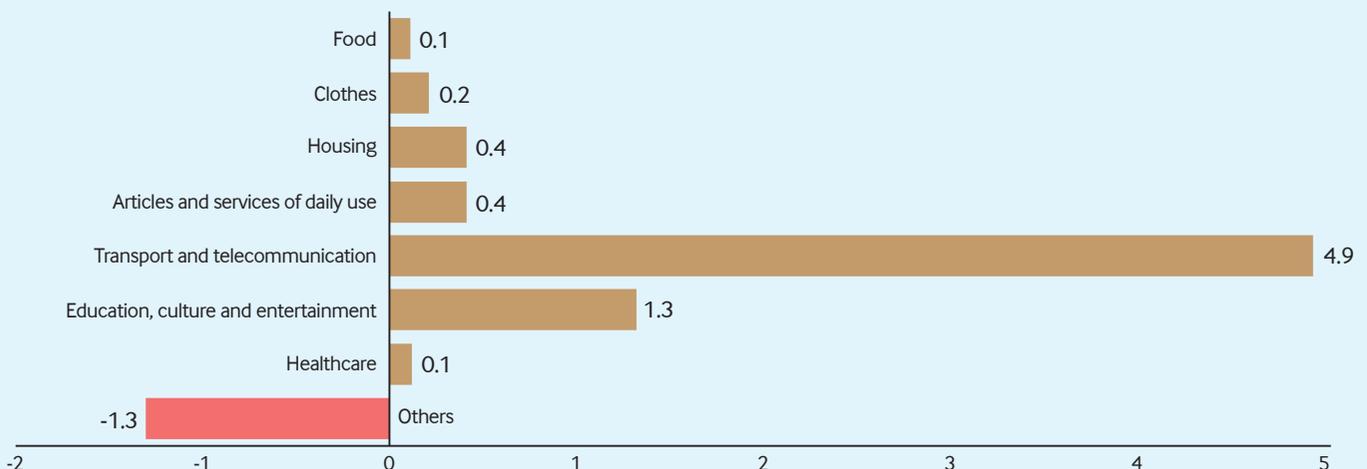
the China Railway Express (Chang’an), with more new routes established to facilitate international cargo flows, the plan states.

New efforts will support countries intending to construct pavilions for e-commerce products in Xi’an, while overseas warehouses will be established in a bid to help reduce the costs for enterprises, according to the plan.

China will leverage its domestic advantages in the cross-border e-commerce sector, providing vendors abroad with outsourcing business, including agency operation, intelligent logistics and distribution, and post-sales services.

Talent training bases will be created both in Xi’an and abroad to cultivate more capacity in the field for countries along the routes of the Belt and Road Initiative, the plan added.

CPI Growth by Type  
April (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)



## LAOS

Workers unload anti-COVID-19 pandemic supplies donated by the Chinese Government at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane on May 10



## UGANDA

President Yoweri Museveni holds up a copy of the Constitution after he was sworn in to serve his sixth five-year term in office in Kampala on May 12



## ROMANIA

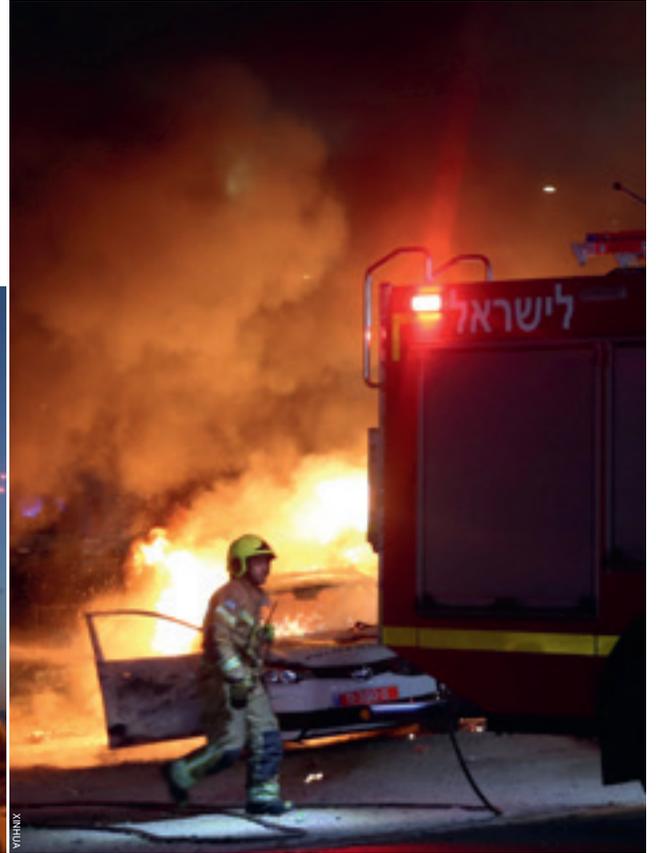
Romanian President Klaus Iohannis (left) and his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda review an honor guard during a welcoming ceremony in Bucharest on May 10. The visit took place amid the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of a defensive alliance convention between the two countries





## RUSSIA

People watch fireworks marking the 76th anniversary of the Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War in St. Petersburg on May 9



## ISRAEL

A firefighter works near a burning police car in Lod on May 12. That day, police imposed a curfew in the city where clashes between Arabs and Jews had been escalating for days



## THE PHILIPPINES

Nurses wearing protective masks take a group photo during an event marking International Nurses Day inside a hospital in Manila on May 12



## ↓ CHINESE TYCOON BUILDS NEW UNIVERSITY IN FUJIAN

The Heren Charitable Foundation, started by **Cao Dewang**, Chairman of Fuyao Group, recently announced a plan to invest 10 billion yuan (\$1.54 billion) to build the Fuyao University of Science and Technology in Fujian Province.

The 65-year-old initiated the group in 1987, which eventually became the world's second largest supplier of automotive glass. Cao and his wife decided in 2011 to donate 300 million shares of Fuyao Group, a market value of 3.5 billion yuan (\$544.2 million), for the creation of their own charitable foundation. The foundation, whose donation priorities include the educational sector, became the first privately held charitable foundation under State Council approval.



The program will focus on new ways of running a public university on the basis of being “high level, small scale, application-oriented, international and market-oriented.”

## Fitness Industry

People.com.cn

May 7

Ideas around fitness continue to undergo tremendous change. People's perceptions of body health and image, too, are constantly transforming along with the booming fitness industry.

According to the 2020 China Fitness Industry Data Report released in March, there were 44,300 fitness clubs and stores in place across the nation by the end of last year. The number of people participating in fitness-

related activities rose from 68.12 million in 2019 to 70.29 million last year.

But its evolution has been marked by complaints such as compulsory consumption, low entry thresholds for coaches, worries regarding protective measures, and gym operators running off with membership fees.

In addition, the prepaid mode of operation easily becomes unsustainable as soon as a drop in member attendance occurs, resulting in the consumer interest being compromised.

Both the fitness industry and the authorities need to adopt innovative ideas to manage the industry for further development.



## Who Will Join the Labor Force?

Lifeweek

May 3

China has maintained its position as the world's largest manufacturing country for 11 consecutive years with the industrial added value reaching 31.3 trillion yuan (\$4.84 trillion), according to data released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on March 1. The country's

“Despite current tensions, the U.S. and China have simply become too interdependent and connected to withdraw from each other or to engage in any kind of prolonged conflict... We must find ways to dial down the temperature to reduce provocative or inflammatory rhetoric.”

**Gary Locke**, former U.S. Ambassador to China, at a virtual media roundtable on the sidelines of a virtual conference on U.S.-China relations, on May 12

“This marks a new chapter for China's role in the global supply of public health goods, building on its R&D and manufacturing capacities, as well as its commitment to contributing substantially to global health.”

**Gauden Galea**, Representative of the World Health Organization in China, commenting on the organization's decision to grant emergency use listing to a China-produced COVID-19 vaccine, on May 10