

OPINION: PROMISING CHINA-ASEAN FUTURE P.24 | FEATURES: FOOD LOSS REDUCTION P.36

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GREATER INTEGRATION

New plans enhance Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao cooperation



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Cover Photo: A view of Macao from Hengqin Island (VCG)

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Faster and Greater

The Chinese Government has launched new moves in its development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council jointly released, on September 5 and September 6 respectively, the Hengqin plan and Qianhai plan, outlining the development of the Guangdong-Macao in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin and that of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone. The upgraded strategies will lead the integration of the Greater Bay Area into a new phase of more in-depth and detailed practice.

For both Hong Kong and Macao, geographic size is an important factor restricting their development. Consequently, the two plans will first expand the scopes of the two cooperation zones.

For instance, according to the Qianhai plan, the Qianhai cooperation zone will grow from 14.92 square km to 120 square km. Following the expansion, the Qianhai cooperation zone will be able to deliver larger plots of land to the purpose of industrial progress, enabling Hong Kong to better play up its advantages as well as boost cooperation with Shenzhen.

Furthermore, both plans will ensure the

better integration of Hong Kong and Macao into the country's overall development.

The two plans also provide Hong Kong and Macao's younger generations with both the convenient resources as well as incubation services of business startups. Their incentives intend to encourage the regions' residents, especially college graduates, to seize the opportunity to develop their careers in cities of the Greater Bay Area by facilitating study, work, residence and startup dealings.

When China adopted its reform and opening-up policy four decades ago, Hong Kong and Macao contributed more to the economic development of the mainland. Today, however, those roles shall be reversed and the mainland will contribute more to the economy of Hong Kong and Macao. Therefore, the firm implementation of the new plans will have a positive influence on the Hong Kong and Macao economies, as well as the economy of Guangdong Province—and even that of the mainland overall. In the future, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area will not only be a world-class city cluster brimming with cooperative vitality, but also a model of high-quality life and development. **BR**



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LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Torchbearers Su Bingtian (left) and Zhang Yufei at the opening ceremony of the 14th National Games in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, on September 15. President Xi Jinping officially declared the games open during the ceremony.

The quadrennial athletic extravaganza features an Olympic-style program plus *wushu*, or Chinese martial arts. More than 12,000 athletes from all over China will compete in this year's event, which will run until September 27.



YINHEX

Maritime Rescue Operation

A helicopter transfers a “person on the verge of drowning” during an unscripted maritime search and rescue drill in Hebei Province on September 13. The event, organized by the National Maritime Search and Rescue Center and Hebei Maritime Safety Administration, simulated an emergency of fishing boats sunk by strong winds to test and improve maritime search and rescue capabilities.

Human Rights

A latest human rights action plan was published on September 9, outlining the objectives and tasks of respecting, protecting and promoting human rights from 2021 to 2025.

Titled Human Rights Action Plan of China (2021-25), the document was released by the State Council Information Office.

China has formulated and implemented three action plans on human rights since 2009. During this period, the Chinese people have prospered, their rights have become better protected, the policies and legal measures protecting the rights of

particular groups have improved, and the legal protection of human rights by large, has been strengthened, read the plan.

The action plan lists a range of targets for the 2021-25 period. China will promote the free, well-rounded and common development of all individuals as the general goal, it said.

China has also fully participated in global human rights governance, making a major contribution to the international cause of human rights, it added.

China will engage itself in all work relating to the UN human rights mechanisms, propel the international community to

establish a more just, reasonable and inclusive governance system, and work together to build a global community with a shared future for humanity, it added.

Legislative Election

The election of the seventh Legislative Assembly of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) wrapped up on September 13, with preliminary results showing 14 candidates have won the directly elected seats; about half of these are new faces. Another 12 won the indirectly elected seats.

Voting took place on September 12, with over 100,000

people casting their votes.

The SAR government said that the legislative election took place in a lawful, fair and open manner.

Si Ka Lon, who won the most votes in the direct election, said that he would try his utmost to push the government to implement the Central Government’s plan for constructing the Guangdong-Macao in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin of Guangdong Province, taking advantage of the new space in Hengqin and speeding up industrial diversification.

In line with the Basic Law, the new legislature is composed of 33 seats, including 14 directly elected seats, 12 indirectly elected seats, and another seven which will be appointed by the SAR chief executive.

The term of office for the seventh Legislative Assembly is four years, starting in October.

Internet Conference

The 2021 World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit is scheduled to take place from September 26 to 28 in Wuzhen, Zhejiang Province.

Themed Toward a New Era of Digital Civilization—Building a Community With a Shared Future in Cyberspace, the summit will be hosted both online and offline this year, according to Zhao Zeliang, deputy head of the Cyberspace Administration of China.

Nearly 2,000 representatives from governments, international organizations, industry associations, leading global enterprises, universities and research institutes from over 80 countries and regions, will attend the conference in person or online.

This year’s event will feature 20 sub-forums to discuss new digital-technology trends such

as 5G, artificial intelligence and open-source ecology, as well as major topics of cyberspace governance and development, including data management, Internet-enabled charity, poverty alleviation and global anti-pandemic efforts.

The three-day event will also feature a global Internet competition, an Internet expo and a ceremony to announce this year's leading Internet scientific and technological achievements, along with a section showcasing excellent projects on jointly building a community with a shared future in cyberspace.

Two reports, namely the World Internet Development Report 2021 and the China Internet Development Report 2021, will also be released during the event.

Drone Test Base

China's first professional test base for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) has been put into service in Jingbian County, Shaanxi Province, filling a gap in the UAV industry chain.

Construction of the base, also known as the Jingbian general aviation airport, started in 2015. The airport has passed the aviation authority examination

and has been issued an airport use license.

The base also serves for UAV scientific research, appraisal, product display, emergency maintenance and rescue as well as UAV operation and maintenance personnel training.

As the undertaker and operator of the UAV airbase, the UAV Research Institute at Northwestern Polytechnical University has vowed to develop the base into a world-class UAV test and flight service center.

Archaeological Discovery

More than 500 relics have been discovered in recent months at the legendary Sanxingdui Ruins site in Sichuan Province.

The remnants, discovered at the ruins' six new sacrificial pits, include gold masks, jade and ivory artifacts and bronzewares that were exquisitely crafted and uniquely shaped, said the Sichuan Provincial Cultural Heritage Administration on September 9.

The new finds bring the total number of items discovered at Sanxingdui to nearly 2,000 after excavation of the No.3 to No.8 sacrificial pits began in October last year.



Robot Conference

A surgical robot is exhibited at the World Robot Conference, running from September 10 to 13 in Beijing. More than 110 enterprises and scientific research institutions brought over 500 products to the exhibition.

Tang Fei, chief of the Sichuan Provincial Cultural Relics and Archaeology Research Institute, said that the excavation of the new pits has entered a critical stage, with more items yet to be unearthed.

Originally discovered in the late 1920s, the Sanxingdui Ruins have been dubbed one of the

world's greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century.

Located in the city of Guanghan, around 60 km from the provincial capital of Chengdu, the ruins covering an area of 12 square km are believed to be the remnants of the ancient Shu Kingdom, dating back some 4,500 to 3,000 years.



Tourism Festival

Dancers perform at the opening ceremony of a cultural and tourism festival in Shannan, a city in Tibet Autonomous Region, on September 13. The festival, running from September 13 to 16, promotes the exchanges between different ethnic groups and aims to attract more visitors to the city.

Economic Data

China's economy maintained its trend of recovery throughout August despite disruptions from the COVID-19 epidemic and natural disasters, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on September 15.

The value-added industrial output, a key indicator reflecting industrial activities and economic prosperity, expanded 5.3 percent year on year, NBS data showed. The figure was up 11.2 percent from its August 2019 level.

In the first eight months, the value-added industrial output gained 13.1 percent year on year.

Output of the hi-tech manufacturing sector jumped 18.3 percent year on year, accelerating 2.7 percentage points compared with the figure in July.

Retail sales of consumer goods went up 2.5 percent year on year, down 6 percentage points from the previous month.

The sporadic outbreaks of

COVID-19 and natural disasters such as floods hindered travel and held back consumption during the summer holiday, NBS spokesperson Fu Linghui said, adding that the high base factor also resulted in the steep year-on-year drop.

However, the cumulative growth for the first eight months showed that retail sales gained 18.1 percent year on year, according to Fu.

The job market remained generally stable, with the surveyed urban unemployment rate standing at 5.1 percent in August, unchanged from that in July. During the first eight months, 9.38 million new urban jobs were created, accounting for 85.3 percent of the annual target.

New Channel

A southbound channel of the Bond Connect program is set to launch on September 24, according to an announcement

jointly released by the People's Bank of China (PBC) and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) on September 15.

The new channel will enable mainland institutional investors to participate in the Hong Kong bond market through the connection between the mainland and Hong Kong financial infrastructure services institutions.

Serving as another important measure to deepen cooperation between the mainland and Hong Kong, the move is conducive to offering more investment channels for mainland institutional investors and pushing forward the two-way opening up of China's financial market, the announcement read.

It is also expected to enhance Hong Kong's competitive advantages, consolidate its role as an international financial center, and secure its long-term prosperity and stability.

Bond Connect is a program that allows investors both from

the Chinese mainland and overseas to invest in each other's bond markets through an infrastructure linkage in Hong Kong. The PBC and HKMA jointly rolled out the northbound channel of the program in July 2017.

To date, mainland bonds, held by overseas investors via the northbound channel, amount to about 1.1 trillion yuan (\$171 billion). The accumulated turnover of the northbound channel over the past four years reached 12.3 trillion yuan (\$1.9 trillion).

Waste Disposal

The country's first plant immobilizing radioactive waste in glass has officially started operating in the city of Guangyuan, Sichuan Province, according to the China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA).

A test run started on August 27 and the first tank of solidified glass was produced from radioactive waste liquid. Project headquarters stated that the plant facilities have

NUMBERS

Fixed Assets Investment Growth



met the applicable operating conditions and deemed it fit to go into formal operation starting September 11.

The plant can convert liquid nuclear waste with high-level radioactivity into a solid glass form suitable for long-term storage and disposal. China is one of the few countries in the world to have mastered this technology.

The project was designed jointly by China and Germany and approved by the CAEA in 2004.

Arbitration Report

The China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission handled 3,615 arbitration cases in 2020, up 8.5 percent from the previous year, according to its recently released annual report.

The commission was set up in April 1956 under the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and is one of the major permanent arbitration

institutions in the world.

The amount of money involved in last year's cases reached 122.13 billion yuan (\$18.99 billion), according to official accounts.

Of this total, 739 cases involved foreign countries, or China's Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, the report further read, adding that the year-on-year increase in the number of cases stood at 20 percent.

Chinese institutions for international commercial arbitration enjoyed increasing global influence in 2020, the report said.

Market Leader

Smart device maker Xiaomi has overtaken Apple as the top-shipping wearable band vendor in the second quarter of this year, according to a market research firm.

Xiaomi took the lead with shipments of 8 million units during the period, occupying nearly 20 percent of the market, data from technology market

research firm Canalys showed.

Apple closely followed with a shipment of 7.9 million units, whilst Huawei came in third with a shipment of 3.7 million units.

"Xiaomi made a wise move to accelerate the release of the Mi Band 6, a more compelling device than its predecessor," Canalys research analyst Cynthia Chen said. "Xiaomi's quick pivot to basic watches also helped the company boost its wristwatch shipments by 1.3 million units this quarter."

In the second quarter, the global wearable band market shipped 40.9 million units of devices, up 5.6 percent from a year ago, according to Canalys.

Bond Holdings

By the end of August, China's central government bonds held by foreign investors surpassed 2.2 trillion yuan (\$342.1 billion), up 17.3 billion yuan (\$2.69 billion) from the previous month, according to data from the China

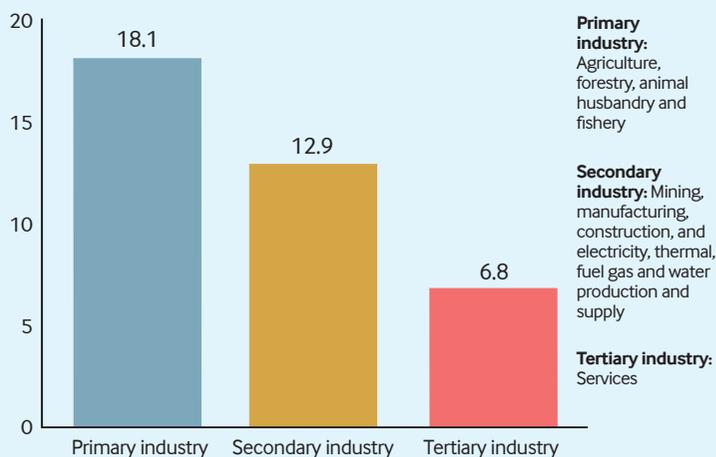
Central Depository and Clearing Co. Ltd. (CCDC).

Foreign investors' holdings of bonds issued by the country's policy banks topped 1.05 trillion yuan (\$163.27 billion) during the period, while their holdings of local government bonds stood at 9.45 billion yuan (\$1.46 billion), data further demonstrated.

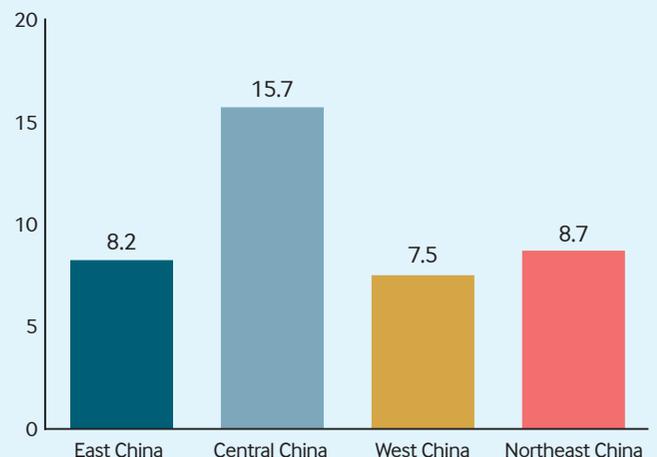
The outstanding bonds held by overseas institutional investors reached nearly 3.41 trillion yuan (\$530.25 billion) as of the end of August, 2.48 trillion yuan (\$385.64 billion) of which was under depository via the Global Connect program and 921.63 billion yuan (\$143.31 billion) via the Bond Connect program, according to the CCDC.

Currently, overseas institutions may access China's inter-bank bond market through the Global Connect (direct holding) or the Bond Connect (multi-tiered custody) schemes.

Fixed Assets Investment Growth by Sector
January-August (% y.o.y.)



Fixed Assets Investment Growth by Region
January-August (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)



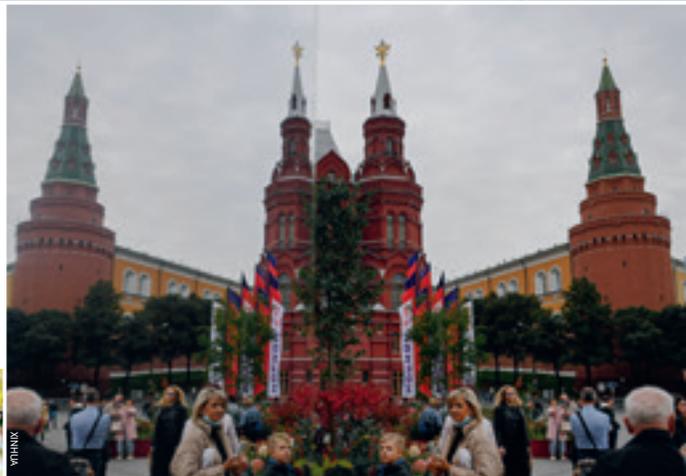
EL SALVADOR

Airplanes take part in the bicentennial celebration of Independence in Central America in San Salvador on September 15. Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica also commemorated the anniversary



UNITED STATES

Residents mourn the victims of Flight 93 in the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2011 at a memorial park in Union City in the Bay Area, California, on September 11



RUSSIA

People walk across Manezhnaya Square during the Moscow City Day celebrations on September 11. Moscow celebrated the 874th anniversary of its founding that day





UNITED NATIONS

During the closing meeting of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly, its President Volkan Bozkir (right) hands over the gavel to Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th Session, in New York on September 14



ITALY

The movie *L'Événement* by French filmmaker Audrey Diwan wins the Golden Lion for Best Film at the 78th Venice Film Festival, which came to a close in the Italian city on September 11



SERBIA

President Aleksandar Vucic (center) attends the groundbreaking ceremony of Europe's first Chinese COVID-19 vaccine factory, currently under construction in Belgrade, on September 9



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ LAUREATE IN LIFE SCIENCES

Yuen Kwok-Yung, a 65-year-old professor at the University of Hong Kong, won the Future Science Prize in life sciences on September 12 for his discovery of SARS-CoV-1 as the causative agent of the global SARS outbreak in 2003. He shares the honor with his colleague Sriyal Malik Peiris.

Yuen's team treated the first SARS patients in Hong Kong and managed to isolate SARS-CoV-1 from their clinical specimens in 2003, proving critical to the design of diagnostic tests and disease characterization.

In addition, Yuen's continued studies on SARS-like viruses predicted the potential re-emergence of a SARS-like epidemic and stressed the importance of public health preparedness.

The Future Science Prize is a privately funded science prize established by a group of renowned scientists and successful entrepreneurs in 2016.



Consumption Centers

Economic Daily
September 13

As Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin and Chongqing take the lead in developing into international consumption centers, many cities have adopted new measures to achieve the same goal.

In 2020, per-capita consumption expenditure of China stood at 21,210 yuan (\$3,300), nearly double that of 2010. From 2013 to 2019, spending on services increased from 39.7 percent to 45.9 percent of the country's total consumption.

On the one hand, the five aforementioned cities all have a relatively solid

consumption base. For instance, retail sales of consumer goods in Beijing and Shanghai have exceeded 1.37 trillion yuan (\$212.7 billion) and 1.59 trillion yuan (\$250 billion), respectively. On the other hand, featuring service consumption, these cities managed to rapidly upgrade their consumption structure.

It is estimated that service-related spending will reach 55 to 60 percent of China's total consumption in the next five to 10 years. The country will adapt to digitalization, strengthen digital empowerment and tighten supervision on new consumption models.



Digital Agriculture

Outlook Weekly
September 6

Digital agriculture, the practice of integrating advanced technology into farming, is driving China's rural vitalization. Unmanned transplanters and harvesters and intelligent irrigation control systems are examples of technologies central to smart agriculture.

Equipped with a self-driving system based on the BeiDou Navigation Satellite

“The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership would add new vitality to East Asia economic integration because the agreement integrates and optimizes both the region's economic and trade rules.”

Huang Xilian, Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines, during an online forum on China-ASEAN relations on September 15

“If we compare China-U.S. relations to a giant ship, then economic and trade cooperation has been its ballast and propeller. When the ship sails against heavy winds and huge waves, we need to add more strength to the ballast and propeller.”

Qin Gang, Chinese Ambassador to the U.S., during a virtual meeting with board members of the U.S.-China Business Council on September 13

System, smart transplanters can independently finish the transplanting of rice, dodge obstacles, and turn around automatically when necessary. There is also a digital agriculture platform in China that gathers information on environmental factors, soil fertility and crop growth along different stages, offering scientific guidance for agricultural field management.

The 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) proposes that China improves its agricultural science and technology innovation system and employs new ways to promote agricultural technologies and develop smart agriculture by large.

Intelligent technologies have become an essential part in the push for agricultural modernization, freeing up manpower, improving production efficiency, and increasing farmers' income to facilitate the transformation of traditional agriculture.

Compared with the forecast of 200 billion yuan (\$31.06 billion) in 2020, it is estimated that by 2050, the agricultural digital economy will reach some 1.26 trillion yuan (\$200 billion), accounting for 15 percent of agriculture's added value. Online sales of agricultural products will reach 1 trillion yuan (\$155.3 billion) by that time.

Restricting Excessive Packaging

People's Daily
September 9

Recently, a new national standard, entitled Requirements for Restricting Excessive Packaging—Food and Cosmetics, was released to address excessive packing and support green development.

Research has indicated that packaging waste accounts for 30 to 40 percent of urban waste in China. Nowadays, some food and cosmetic items still come with too many packaging layers and high costs.

This standard will take effect on

September 1, 2023, so that relevant enterprises will have sufficient time to adjust their production lines. Enterprises should meet its requirements as soon as possible, provide green, high-quality and low-carbon products and grab hold of more market opportunities in green consumption.

Food and cosmetics are closely related to daily life. This standard makes it easier for consumers to assess the material, layers and volume of their packages and see if these are excessive or not.

Moreover, the newly revised guideline, Prevention and Control of Environment Pollution Caused by Solid Waste, proposes that producers adhere to the compulsory standard of restricting excessive packaging.



U.S. OPEN WINNER

Zhang Shuai won the U.S. Open women's doubles title together with Samantha Stosur of Australia on September 12.

Zhang, 32, started playing tennis at 5. Alongside Li Na, Zheng Jie, Peng Shuai, and Wang Qiang, Zhang, ranking No. 49 in the world, is one of only five Chinese tennis players in history to have reached the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam tournament.

She contemplated retirement at the start of the 2016 season. It was Stosur who encouraged her to carry on—leading to Zhang's first Grand Slam breakthrough in the Australian Open quarterfinals that same year.

Their intermittent partnership reached the semi-finals at the 2018 U.S. Open ahead of their best grand slam finish, winning the 2019 Australian Open.



“Huawei has designed this program so that we can help the nation materialize the ‘Digital Bangladesh’ dream by facilitating the youth with the necessary skills and leadership qualities.”

George Lin, President of the Enterprise Business Group with Huawei Technologies (Bangladesh) Ltd., during the virtual inauguration of Seeds for the Future 2021 Bangladesh on September 13

“There’s never been a more urgent time in history for the U.S. to look inward and resolve its growing socioeconomic and political contradictions which threaten to spiral out of control if they aren’t addressed as soon as possible.”

Andrew Korybko, an American political analyst, in an article on the CGTN website on September 15



Workers at the construction site of a transaction center in Qianhai, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, on September 8

COVER STORY

TAPPING INTO NEW POTENTIAL

Cooperation zones facilitate development and life at large across the Greater Bay Area By Lu Yan