

OPINION: A WHOLE-PROCESS DEMOCRACY P.29 | FEATURES: FIT AS A FIDDLE P.40

# BEIJING REVIEW

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## KEEPING THE PEACE

A proactive path toward global harmony



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**Cover Photo:** A Chinese peacekeeper poses in Huizhou, Guangdong Province, in May 2017, before embarking on a mission to Lebanon (VISUAL PEOPLE)

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## An Anchor for Peace

September 21 is the International Day of Peace. On that day, this unanimous United Nations resolution established in 1981 calls on people everywhere to commit to peace above all differences for 24 hours. The 2021 theme of Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World is highly relevant as human society still strives to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The international community today is more than ever eager to create a peaceful setting for development.

China has long adhered to the mindset of peaceful development and devoted itself to promoting the sustainable and inclusive development of the world. All the well-known international initiatives or organizations the country has rolled out, including the Belt and Road Initiative, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Boao Forum for Asia, demonstrate that China upholds the safeguarding of world peace as one of its primary missions.

China's development in itself is a powerful force for peace. Fulfilling the poverty reduction targets, the country maintains social stability and economic prosperity and sticks to the path of peaceful development, in turn a major contribution to the world.

China has also taken an active part in the handling of major international affairs,

facilitating the peaceful settlement of international disputes and offering constructive solutions to global and regional peace. It has pushed for development to be placed at the core of the global frameworks of macro-policies and worked toward the formulation and implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The country has persistently facilitated South-South cooperation and a North-South dialogue, so as to narrow the development gap and help countries achieve economic independence and diversified development.

China has been active in participating in UN peacekeeping operations. It is the second largest contributor to both the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets, and the largest supplier of troops among the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Since 1990, China has sent some 50,000 peacekeepers on 25 missions, and the Chinese army has become a key force in UN security operations.

Despite the increasing traditional and non-traditional risks and challenges facing the international community, peace and development remain the themes of the times. China was, is and always will be a promoter of world peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of the international order. **BR**



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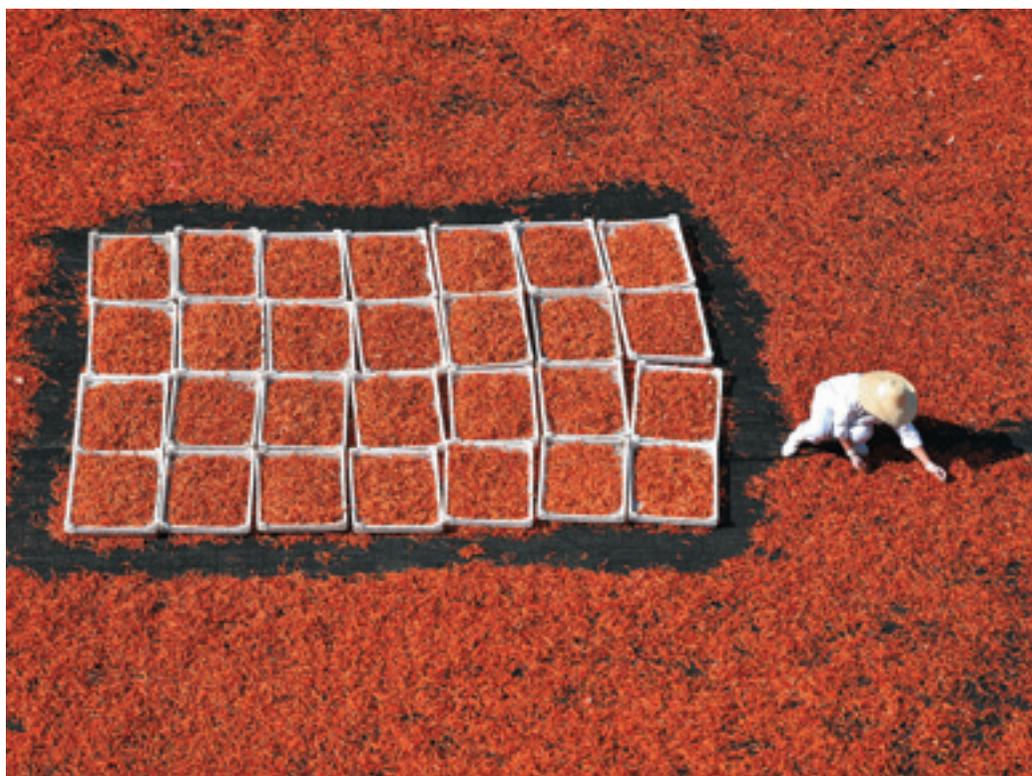
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# MENG WANZHOU RETURNS HOME

Meng Wanzhou, technology giant Huawei's Chief Financial Officer, arrives in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, on September 25, after having been detained in Canada illegally for nearly three years on a U.S. extradition request.

Meng did not plead guilty or pay any fines. She thanked all relevant departments for their support. "They have firmly safeguarded the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese corporations and citizens," Meng said.



## Celebrating Harvest

Farmers dry peppers in Wuji, a township in Hengyang, Hunan Province, on September 22, ahead of the fourth Farmers' Harvest Festival, which fell on September 23.

## Cultural Expo

The Fifth China Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo and the 10th Dunhuang Tour-Silk Road International Tourism Festival kicked off on September 24 in Dunhuang, a major hub of the ancient Silk Road in Gansu Province. The three-day Expo and Festival featured summit conferences, cultural fora, exhibitions and art performances.

Zhang Xu, Vice Minister of Culture and Tourism, said at the opening ceremony that by holding these two events, China hopes to further strengthen both official and non-governmental

cooperation on people-to-people exchanges between countries along the Belt and Road, so as to contribute to building a community of shared future.

More than 200 officials, diplomats and experts, representing countries and regions, as well as international organizations, attended the events online or in person. This year's guest country of honor was the Republic of Korea.

## Synthesized Starch

In a global first, Chinese scientists have developed an artificial method of synthesizing starch from carbon dioxide.

The study, conducted by the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was published in *Science* journal on September 24.

Many studies have been carried out globally on starch synthesis, but little progress had been made before.

The structure of the synthetic starch was proved to be the same as that of natural starch, according to Ma Yanhe, Director General of the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology, who is also the corresponding author of the study.

According to Ma, preliminary tests show that the new method

is about 8.5 times more efficient in producing starch than conventional agriculture.

The current results show that the annual starch production of a bioreactor with the size of 1 cubic meter is theoretically equivalent to that of approximately 0.3 hectare of cornfield in China, without considering the energy input.

## Vocational Training

China will promote the vocational training of migrant workers as part of its efforts to alleviate poverty, an official said on September 25.

According to Liu Xiaoshan of the National Administration for Rural Vitalization, 30.85 million migrant workers had been brought out of poverty by the end of August.

The expanded training will focus on skills for professions that are in urgent need of employees, Liu said, adding that the country will also sharpen these migrant workers' skills for establishing their own businesses.

Liu also said that, in addition to providing training, the government will host various types of vocational skill competitions to help increase workers' professional skills in order to increase their income.

Local governments should spare no efforts in helping poor workers secure jobs through measures such as launching online recruitment platforms and providing face-to-face guidance for jobseekers, he said.

## Research Output

Beijing now ranks first in the world for research output relating to the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to data compiled between 2015 and 2020 by *Nature* science

journal. The results were revealed in the Nature Index 2021 Science Cities, a *Nature* supplement released on September 25 at the ongoing 2021 Zhongguancun Forum, a national platform facilitating global exchanges and cooperation on hi-tech innovation.

The supplement explores SDG-related research output by leading science cities and metropolitan areas in the 82 selected natural sciences journals tracked by the Nature Index.

Beijing had the highest output related to SDG7 (affordable and clean energy) during the 2015-20 period, almost three times higher than that of the San Francisco Bay Area. The city also ranked first in research output related to SDG13 (climate action) and SDG14 (life below water) for the same period.

David Swinbanks, founder of the Nature Index, said these local priorities reflect the different local challenges each city is facing and actively responding to.

## Higher Standards

Chinese authorities have issued guidelines on promoting fairer and better enrollment practices for high-level sports teams in higher education institutions.

The guidelines, jointly issued

by the Ministry of Education and the General Administration of Sport (GAS), propose higher academic standards and eligibility requirements for student athletes admitted to high-level university sports teams.

According to the guidelines, starting from 2024, only individuals listed as national top-level or higher-level athletes will be eligible to apply for high-level university sports teams. Additionally, starting from 2024, admission decisions will be based on academic performance in China's college entrance exams and on unified national professional assessments organized by the GAS.

## Rare Diseases

A project initiated by the Chinese Red Cross Foundation (CRCF) has invited experts and physicians to discuss methods of improving the diagnosis and treatment of patients with rare diseases.

As part of the project, experts have proposed utilizing medical insurance, medical assistance, commercial insurance, charity and other resources to establish mechanisms for ensuring the supply of affordable drugs targeting rare diseases. They also called for concerted efforts



## Art Performance

Artists perform at the closing gala of the Sixth Ethnic Minority Art Festival in Beijing on September 24. The festival, which lasted nearly one month, showcased the distinctive cultures of different ethnic groups through folk music and dance performances.

across disciplines to treat patients with rare diseases.

According to the CRCF, the project will also offer training for clinicians to help them better diagnose and treat rare diseases, according to the CRCF.

China has more than 20 million people with rare diseases who typically face misdiagnosis and have limited access to appropriate medication.

A slew of policies has been

rolled out to better meet the needs of these patients, and an information system has also been launched by the National Health Commission to register the treatment of rare diseases.

A collection of drugs targeting rare diseases have benefited from the country's value-added tax reduction policy, which aims to lower patient costs and boost the development of the pharmaceutical industry.



## New Cub

A panda cub is seen at the Chongqing Zoo in Chongqing Municipality on September 23. A captive giant panda gave birth to a pigeon pair of cubs at the zoo on September 13, after a successful natural mating with a male panda at the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda in late April.

## Services in Africa

By the end of 2020, seven Chinese banks had set up 15 branches in Africa, according to the China-Africa Economic and Trade Relationship Annual Report (2021) released on September 25.

A variety of services have been offered in Africa by Chinese financial institutions at all levels, including state-owned, policy-oriented, and private banks.

By the end of 2020, China's top banking and insurance regulator had signed memoranda of understanding on regulatory cooperation with seven African countries to promote information sharing, strengthen regulatory cooperation, and constantly optimize cross-border financial supervision, the report said.

## Stable Growth

The electronic information manufacturing industry maintained stable growth in the first eight months of the year, data from the Ministry of Industry and

Information Technology (MIIT) showed.

The value-added output of electronic information manufacturers with annual operating revenues of at least 20 million yuan (\$3.09 million) expanded 18 percent year on year. The growth rate went up 11 percentage points from the same period a year ago, MIIT said.

According to the MIIT data, the electronic information manufacturing sector raked in 413.9 billion yuan (\$64 billion) in total profits in the first seven months, surging 43.2 percent year on year. Its operating revenues totaled 7.41 trillion yuan (\$1.14 trillion) in the period, up 19.3 percent.

## Top Firms

On September 25, the China Enterprise Confederation and the China Enterprise Directors Association jointly released their list of the top 500 Chinese enterprises for 2021. According to data used to compile the list, the

combined operating revenues of the companies reached 89.83 trillion yuan (\$13.89 trillion) in 2020, up 4.43 percent year on year. Their profits amounted to 4.07 trillion yuan (\$629.6 billion), up 4.59 percent compared to that of the companies on the 2020 list.

The State Grid Corp. of China topped the list, followed by the China National Petroleum Corp. and the China Petroleum and Chemical Corp.

The revenue threshold to make the list increased by 3.28 billion yuan (\$507 million) from a year ago to 39.24 billion yuan (\$6.07 billion), the data showed.

The number of companies whose revenues exceeded 100 billion yuan (\$15.47 billion) rose to 222, with eight of them reporting revenues of over 1 trillion yuan (\$154.7 billion).

This year's list also showed an improved industrial structure, as more hi-tech and modern service companies such as communication equipment makers

and logistics firms were included.

## Aircraft Demand

The resilient Chinese aviation market will create new commercial aircraft demand valued at \$1.47 trillion over the next 20 years, according to Boeing's latest market forecast, released in Beijing on September 23.

China's economic vitality and recovering air travel demand will enable the country's airlines to purchase around 8,700 new aircraft over the 2021-40 period, according to the China forecast, which is part of Boeing's 2021 Commercial Market Outlook.

The U.S. aircraft manufacturer's annual long-term demand forecast for commercial airplanes and services showed that, over the coming 20 years, the Chinese market will receive some 6,500 single-aisle planes and 1,850 widebody aircraft.

"The rapid recovery of Chinese domestic air travel highlights the country's eco-

## NUMBERS

(\$1=6.5 yuan)

### Research and Development (R&D) Expenditures in 2020

#### Total expenditures

2.44 tln yuan



#### By type

Basic research

146.7 bln yuan

Applied research

275.7 bln yuan

Experimental development

2.017 tln yuan

#### Ratio of R&D expenditures to GDP



Up 0.16 percentage point y.o.y.



conomic vitality and resilience. Notably, the underlying demand from international long-haul travel and air freight transport will boost the widebody deliveries,” Richard Wynne, Managing Director of China Marketing at Boeing Commercial Airplanes, said.

The widebody deliveries, including passenger aircraft and freighters, account for 44 percent of the Chinese market demand by value, Wynne added.

Over the next 20 years, China is also expected to create a commercial aviation services market valued at around \$1.8 trillion, the forecast showed.

China’s aviation sector has remained the world’s second-largest in terms of passenger trips for 15 years.

## BMW Investment

German carmaker BMW will invest a further 25 billion yuan (\$3.87 billion) into its facilities in Shenyang, Liaoning Province.

Oliver Zipse, Chairman of the Board of Management of BMW AG, made the announcement on September 24.

The new investment comes in addition to BMW’s total investment of over 64 billion yuan (\$9.9 billion) in Shenyang since 2009, Zipse said.

Shenyang is home to one of BMW’s largest production bases and a massive research and development center of the carmaker.

BMW, which has had a presence in Shenyang for more than 18 years, has achieved fruitful results with its localization strategy. Its China joint venture BMW Brilliance Automotive Ltd. has been the city’s largest taxpayer for years.

## SOE Profits

The combined profits of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) surged 75 percent year on year to over 3.12 trillion yuan (\$483 billion) in the first eight months of this year, according to data released

by the Ministry of Finance on September 24.

During the period, the SOEs saw their operating revenues up 24.9 percent to more than 47.4 trillion yuan (\$7.33 trillion).

Profits of the centrally administered SOEs increased 72.9 percent to 2.08 trillion yuan (\$321.7 billion), and their operating revenues totaled 26.62 trillion yuan (\$4.11 trillion), up 23.3 percent.

At the end of August, the debt-to-asset ratio of SOEs stood at 64.3 percent, down 0.2 percentage point from the level seen in the same period last year.

## Green Bonds

The Agricultural Development Bank of China (ADBC) launched the country’s first carbon-neutral bonds on September 23.

The two-year bonds, worth 3.6 billion yuan (\$556 million), will be used to finance forest carbon sink projects including afforestation and reforestation.

Greater financial support will be provided to promote the green development of agriculture, and efforts will be intensified to channel funds into the sector, the ADBC said.

## Reform Plan

The People’s Bank of China (PBC), the central bank, will reform the operation mode of its standing lending facility as part of efforts to better meet reasonable liquidity needs, Vice Governor Liu Guoqiang said on September 23.

According to Liu, the reform, which is referred to as empowering the whole process with electronic technology, will improve efficiency and better stabilize market expectations.

The PBC will also enhance the stability of liquidity in the banking system and maintain the smooth operation of money market interest rates, Liu said, adding that efforts should be made to guard against liquidity risks.

### By sector

Companies

1.867 tln yuan

Government-run research institutions

340.88 bln yuan

Universities

188.25 bln yuan



### Top eight regions

Guangdong	347.99 bln yuan
Jiangsu	300.59 bln yuan
Beijing	232.66 bln yuan
Zhejiang	185.99 bln yuan
Shandong	168.19 bln yuan
Shanghai	161.57 bln yuan
Sichuan	105.53 bln yuan
Hubei	100.53 bln yuan

(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)



## UNITED NATIONS

A high-level meeting to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action, a political document to carry forward the fight against racism and racial discrimination, takes place at the UN headquarters in New York on September 22



## SAUDI ARABIA

Children sit on the roof of a car to watch a National Day airshow at the Um Aijlan Park in capital city Riyadh on September 23



## UNITED STATES

Students at the entrance of the campus library of the University of California, Los Angeles, on September 23. Following an academic year during which all classes and other operations were conducted remotely, students have once again set foot on campus as the new semester kicked off



## RUSSIA

People visit the Chinese section of the 34th Moscow International Book Fair in the Russian capital city on September 24. The event took place from September 24 to 27



## JORDAN

Dancers perform at a theater located on the Jerash archaeological site on the opening night of the annual Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts in Jerash on September 22



## SPAIN

People watch the spectacular eruption of the Cumbre Vieja volcano on the island of La Palma on September 23. The Vulcanology Institute of the Canary Islands estimated the process could last 24 to 84 days, starting from September 19

# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## NEWLY ELECTED KMT CHAIRMAN

**Eric Chu** won the Chinese Kuomintang (KMT) election in Taiwan on September 25. He said he would strive to resume exchanges with the Chinese mainland, highlighting the importance of cross-Straits relations at a press conference inside KMT headquarters in Taipei.

Upon completing his Ph.D. in accounting in New York University, Chu returned to Taiwan and started working at Taiwan University in 1985. His political career started 13 years later.

The new KMT chairman is expected to lead the party through the 2022 local election and the 2024 election for the regional leadership.

Chu, a former New Taipei City mayor first elected in 2010 and stepping down in 2018, said he remains committed to the spirit of seeking common ground while shelving differences on cross-Straits issues. "Actions are more important than words and let's wait and see," Chu said.



## Cultural Tourism Industry

**Beijing Youth Daily**  
September 20

Tickets for Universal Beijing Resort, the world's largest Universal Studios-branded theme park, went on sale on September 14 and sold out within half an hour for September 20 and 21. The tickets vanished like vapor on the resort's own app and with authorized tourist agencies.

Back in the 1990s, Beijing was exploring the diversified development of its tourism industry. After 20 years of planning and construction, building of the Universal Beijing Resort officially started in July 2018.

The resort will promote the development

of the capital sub-center and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region at large. With more than 10,000 job opportunities across 70 industries, it has forged a complete cultural tourism industrial chain. Around 115 manufacturers related to its construction and 60 percent of ticket buyers hail from the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

As a major foreign-investment project in Beijing's service industry, the resort demonstrates the country's further progress in the opening up of its service sector. It is expected to boost the establishment of Beijing as an international consumption hub and strengthen the tourism industry amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



## Common Prosperity

**China Newsweek**  
September 20

At the 10th meeting of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs on August 17, President Xi Jinping stressed efforts to promote common prosperity in pursuit of high-quality development and coordinate work on forestalling major financial risks.

With over 40 years of reform and

"A fundamental misunderstanding is to define America's relations with China as democracy versus authoritarianism, and to stoke up ideological confrontation, which has led to serious difficulties in China-U.S. relations."

**Qin Gang**, Chinese Ambassador to the U.S., during an online conversation hosted by the Carter Center and the George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations on September 23

"The promotion of renewable energy is a major trend in the next decade. Only through improving input in the research and development of green technologies can countries turn challenges brought on by climate change into opportunities."

**Xie Zhenhua**, China's Special Envoy for Climate Change, at the 2021 Zhongguancun Forum on September 25

opening up, the Chinese economy has developed rapidly, but more efforts should target raising the income of urban and rural residents, narrowing the income gap, and preventing wealth polarization.

According to statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics, the Gini coefficient, one of the most utilized measures of economic inequality and the higher the figure the greater the inequality, for China's per-capita disposal income was 0.465 in 2019, much higher than its warning line of 0.4.

In addition, from the perspective of structure, the gaps between urban and rural areas and between different regions remain large. In 2019, per-capita income of urban residents was 2.64 times that of rural residents. This figure in the country's eastern areas was 1.47 times that of its northeastern region, 1.39 times that of the western region and 1.37 times that of its central region.

Highlighting the importance of how to appropriately manage the relationship between efficiency and fairness, more efforts should see to it that the middle-income group expands and the income of lower-income groups increase. Furthermore, newfangled regulations should rationally adjust higher income in order to enhance social fairness and promote people's all-around development.

## Credit Payments

*Economic Daily*

September 24

Huabei or Ant Credit Pay, a consumer credit product of Alibaba's Ant Financial Services Group, has been integrated into the Chinese central bank's credit reporting system. Many users have already received a notice to upgrade their Huabei services and sign an authorization form to have their information transferred to China's financial credit information database.

Some users are concerned the move might affect other loan applications once the changes to the Huabei platform are

finalized. Huabei said this will not happen if the platform is used under normal circumstances and users adhere to on-time repayments, according to the guidelines.

China has put a strong emphasis on establishing a social credit system since the State Council issued a first guideline in 2016 and went on to establish the world's largest credit system in 2019. With the national social credit system improving, it, in uniform format, creates credit files for almost all people and enterprises involved in credit activities nationwide.



### HNA GROUP CHAIRMAN FACES PROBE

HNA Group Chairman **Chen Feng** was placed under compulsory measures according to law by the police in Hainan Province on September 24. According to a statement issued by the company on the same day, Chen is suspected of committing criminal offenses.

The measures were taken against Chen just days after HNA, one of China's largest private conglomerates, was broken down into four separate businesses as part of its bankruptcy restructuring.

Chen co-founded HNA Group in 1993, and had served as chairman of board of the group since 2000. The 68-year-old became chairman of HNA Group in 2018.

Tan Xiangdong, CEO of HNA Group, was also detained by the police that same day.



“China has demonstrated the most consistent commitment to defeating the pandemic out of any other major economy... The United States and its European allies possess all of the resources required to lead the fight against COVID-19, but none of the will.”

**Danny Haiphong**, a U.S. independent journalist and researcher, in an article published by CGTN on September 24

“A consistent innovation policy, increased spending on education and science and the ability to translate all these into sound results are behind China's current role of global innovation leader.”

**Sacha Wunsch-Vincent**, a senior official from the World Intellectual Property Organization, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency on September 23



COVER STORY

# THE TRICOLOR OF PEACEKEEPING

Chinese blue helmets instill positive energy in world peace and development

By Ma Miaomiao