

OPINION: HOPE ON THE SINO-AMERICAN HORIZON? P.24 | FEATURES: SUN PROTECTION IS HOT P.34

# BEIJING REVIEW

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## THE BIGGER PICTURE

How Chinese modernization makes a difference



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# CONTENTS

## EDITOR'S DESK

**02 Road to Rejuvenation**

## THIS WEEK

### COVER STORY

#### **12 A Modern Mindset**

Chinese modernization conforms to the trend of globalization

#### **16 A Trip and a Talk**

Global youth explore Shanghai's evolution

#### **18 In Sync**

Cultural exchange, the key to mutual understanding

**Cover Photo:** The memorial of the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China in Shanghai pictured in June 2021 (XINHUA)

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## OPINION

### **22 SCO Promotes Peace and Development**

Member states further strengthen solidarity

### **24 Over the Rainbow**

A push to put Sino-American ties back on surer footing

### **25 PMI Scores Points**

Easing downward pressure in manufacturing sector

## FEATURES

### **28 Charged With Challenges**

Internal division at the NATO summit

### **30 Tainted Tides**

Japan's plan to dump radioactive wastewater in the Pacific

## **32 Riding the Trends**

AI-driven innovation and growth

### **34 Blocking the Sun**

The growing battle against UV rays

### **36 A Devotion to Art**

Creating a new future for traditional craftsmanship

### **38 History in the Making**

Documentary makers gather in Fujian Province

### **40 The Boxing Kids**

Youngsters fight their way to fame

### **42 Stylish Strokes**

Increasing admiration for contemporary calligraphy

## CULTURE

### **46 Night Skies and Sights**

Students explore wildlife after dark

## EXPAT'S EYE

### **48 Future Crossroads of Global Finance**

Is China on track for financial superpower status?

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**Legal Counsel:** Yue Cheng

**North America Bureau (New York City)**

**Chief:** Yu Shujun

**Executive Assistant:** Zhao Wei

**Tel/Fax:** 1-201-792-0334

**E-mail:** yushujun@cicgamerica.com

**Latin America Bureau (Mexico City)**

**Chief:** Lin Yeqing

**Tel:** 52-55-55127271

**Fax:** 52-55-55332027

**E-mail:** chinahoyomx@gmail.com

**Peru Office (Lima)**

**Chief:** Meng Kexin

**Tel:** 0051-959212702

**E-mail:** revistachinaperu@gmail.com

**General Editorial Office**

**Tel:** 86-10-68996252

**Fax:** 86-10-68326628

**Editorial Desk**

**Tel:** 86-10-68996250

**Partnerships**

**Tel:** 86-10-68995807

**E-mail:** yecong@cicgamerica.com

**Distribution**

**Tel:** 86-10-68310644

**E-mail:** circulation@cicgamerica.com

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

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

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## Road to Rejuvenation

Chinese modernization, since being written into the report to the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) National Congress in October 2022, has become a widely discussed topic. The CPC National Congress, held every five years, and the Central Committee elected during the congress are the highest leading bodies of the Party. The concept's inclusion in the report shows how it has become a policy priority of the Party and an important guideline for China's development.

But what exactly is Chinese modernization? What are the traits that may be of interest to international observers?

At its core, Chinese modernization is socialist modernization pursued under the leadership of the CPC. To understand China today, one must understand the CPC, the country's ruling Party. Beginning in the mid-19th century, China, a country that had played a significant role in human advancement, lost its former glory in the wake of foreign aggression and domestic turmoil. Since its founding in 1921, the CPC has taken working for the people's well-being and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation as its main missions. It has won popular support with its progressive political stance—Marxism integrated with China's actual conditions and the best of traditional Chinese culture—coupled

with the achievements it has delivered.

Chinese modernization is the Party's approach to advancing national rejuvenation, that is, enabling the ancient civilization to reach its full potential in the modern world. The Party exercises its leadership from within and going forward, the inseparable relationship between Party and people that it represents is poised to grow.

Socialist modernization means that China, while sharing elements common to the modernization processes of all countries, has done away with many downsides of capital-centered modernization, which puts material profits before anything else. It thereby is antithetical to wealth polarization, environmental degradation and the "law of the jungle," where might is right, in international relations. Instead, China upholds a people-centered development philosophy, advocates harmony between humanity and nature, and champions global governance based on extensive consultation, joint contributions and shared benefits.

A Chinese path to modernization does not mean alienating China from the rest of the world or "putting China first." Instead, in the process of modernizing itself, China will create more opportunities for global development. **BR**



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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 贺鹏 刘云云 高丁博 曾文卉

主任：李雅芳

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

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XINHUA

## ROCKET SCIENCE

A Zhuque-2 carrier rocket blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on July 12, marking the world's first methane-powered rocket launch. The carrier rocket completed its flight mission according to the procedure, making the launch a success.

The launch also puts private Chinese aerospace company LandSpace, the rocket's developer, in the front of liquid oxygen methane rocket technology. The development of this new model is expected to reduce the cost of commercial rocket launches.



## Cruise Cravings

The interior of Liberian cruise ship *Dream* as pictured on July 11. The ship, registered in Liberia, docked at a port in Tianjin Municipality on July 8, becoming the first international cruise ship to be received by the Tianjin port in the past three years. The ship, operated by Tianjin Oriental International Cruise Ship Co. Ltd., is expected to resume operation in the fourth quarter of this year.

## Manned Lunar Landing

China plans to land its astronauts, also called “taikonauts,” on Moon before 2030 to carry out scientific exploration, according to a preliminary plan released by the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) on July 12.

The plan is to launch two carrier rockets to send a lunar lander and a manned spacecraft into a lunar orbit, respectively. The craft and lunar lander will rendezvous and dock with each other, and then taikonauts will enter the lander.

As the lunar lander descends and arrives at the preset area on the lunar surface, the taikonauts will carry out scientific tasks and collect samples.

After completing the planned tasks, they will return to the lander, which will lift them back into the lunar orbit to dock with

their spacecraft. In the final stage, the spacecraft will fly taikonauts back to Earth with lunar samples.

China will also explore the construction of a lunar scientific research station and carry out systematic and long-term lunar exploration and related technical tests and verification, Zhang Hailian, Deputy Chief Designer with the CMSA, said at a space industry forum in Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province.

## The Circles of Life

China is set to promote the construction of “living circles” in cities at the prefecture level and above so that residents can conduct all their essential activities within a 15-minute walk of their homes.

The project was outlined in a three-year action plan released by the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and 12 other departments on July 12.

The plan states that residents living in targeted areas will be able to find places to fulfill their needs for shopping, catering, housekeeping and repairing services within a 10-minute walk from home, while enjoying quality goods and services related to culture, entertainment, leisure, social communication, healthcare and fitness within 15 minutes of walking.

Services related to senior care and childcare around communities will also be promoted, the plan read.

The construction of the community living circles is already underway, with 2,057 circles created in the first two batches nationwide, benefiting a total of 42.01 million community residents, the MOFCOM stated.

## Online Protection

China's Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Cyberspace

Administration of China (CAC) have sped up the process of formulating regulations for the online protection of minors, according to an MOJ statement on July 11.

As the country's number of underage netizens continues to rise, problems such as the spread of illicit online content, the illegal obtaining and using of minors' personal data and their addiction to the Internet are also increasing. Further, fine-tuned legislation will tackle these challenges, the statement read.

Recently deliberated by the two authorities, the draft regulation focuses on solving problems regarding the online protection of minors and converting effective measures into regulations, in a bid to improve the system for integrated Internet management.

It also covers issues concerning the online behavior of underage netizens, online content and anti-addiction measures, as well as outlines stipulations on the legal liabilities of related illegal acts, according to the statement.

## Daycare Developments

China will step up efforts to provide daycare services for children under the age of 3 to relieve mothers of the heavy burdens of child-rearing, a health commission official said on July 11.

The country now has about 75,000 nurseries for children under the age of 3, which can take in more than 3.6 million children, Yang Jinrui, a senior official with the National Health Commission, said at a seminar marking this year's World Population Day, which fell on July 11.

About 6 percent of children under 3 in China are enrolled in day nurseries, according to Yang. A majority of Chinese children under that age are taken care of by their families, particularly

mothers who are struggling to balance childcare and career.

In 2021, China began to allow each couple to have three children. Measures are being taken to boost the country's fertility rate as China faces a swiftly aging population.

## Self-media Management

China's top Internet watchdog has issued a circular on strengthening self-media management, emphasizing websites' and online platforms' responsibility for censorship and supervision.

In China, "self-media" refers to independently operated social media accounts—on platforms such as Weibo, China's Twitter equivalent, and other smaller ones—usually run by individual users.

Social media websites and platforms should timely identify and strictly punish self-media accounts with undesirable acts, including creating and spreading rumors, hyping social issues, and disseminating illegal and harmful information, according to the Office of the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission on July 10.

The circular also requires websites and platforms to efficiently prevent counterfeit accounts, especially those pretending to be authorized accounts of authorities

and media outlets and those involving the fields of finance, education and healthcare.

The circular said self-media accounts cannot distort facts or publish counterfeit information that is scrawled up, clipped or fabricated. Accounts involving this type of malpractice may face punishment, including being shut down or blacklisted.

## Solar Power Plant

A new solar power plant built on a functional saltern has been connected to the grid and has begun generating power in Tianjin Municipality, Xinhua News Agency reported on July 10.

Erected on a 1,333-hectare saltern in Tianjin's Binhai New Area, the 2.1 million solar panels can generate power while allowing the salt production beneath to continue.

The project is capable of generating 1.5 billion kilowatt-hours of clean power per year, meeting the electricity needs of 1.5 million households while reducing about 1.25 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, according to the Tianjin branch of Huadian New Energy Group Corp. Ltd. that runs the factory.

## Games Host

Harbin, capital of northeast



## Not Toying Around!

Visitors explore the booth of a toy company during the East China Fair in Shanghai on July 12. The fair, which took place on July 12-15, attracted 33,000 domestic and international purchasers, injecting further growth momentum into east China's foreign trade sector.

China's Heilongjiang Province, on July 8 was named host of the 2025 Asian Winter Games by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

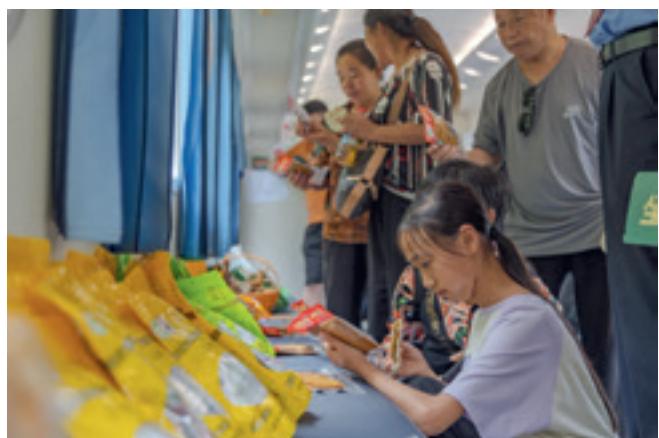
The only candidate city for the 2025 Asian Winter Games, Harbin's bid was approved at the 42nd OCA Congress in Bangkok, Thailand.

During the Harbin Bid Committee's presentation to the OCA, Yu Zaiqing, Vice President of the Chinese Olympic Committee and an International Olympic Committee member, said Harbin boasts stable economic growth, solid winter sports tradition and excellent winter

sports facilities.

"We are convinced Harbin can deliver an outstanding and successful edition of the Asian Winter Games, to contribute to the development of winter sports and the Olympic movement in China and Asia overall, and to promote solidarity, friendship and peace," Yu said.

It will be the second time Harbin hosts the Asian Winter Games—the first time was in 1996—and the third time the regional games take place in a Chinese city, the other being Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, in 2007.



## Shop Till You Stop

Passengers shop for local specialties on a train from Zunyi, Guizhou Province, to Chongqing Municipality on July 11. Local railway authorities have been organizing onboard markets and performances, which allow villagers living along the trains' route to sell goods to passengers and provide travelers with a special mobile experience.

# THIS WEEK ECONOMY

## Loans Growth

China's yuan-denominated loans rose by 15.73 trillion yuan (\$2.2 trillion) in the first half of the year (H1), data from the People's Bank of China (PBC), the country's central bank, showed.

In June alone, yuan-denominated loans rose by 3.05 trillion yuan (\$424.2 billion), according to the PBC.

In H1, the central bank injected 78.9 billion yuan (\$11 billion) of net cash into the market.

Newly added social financing, a measurement of funds individuals and non-financial firms receive from the financial system, came in at 4.22 trillion yuan (\$586.9 billion) in June.

Total new social financing in H1 amounted to 21.55 trillion yuan (\$3 trillion), representing an increase of 475.4 billion yuan (\$66.1 billion) from the same period last year.

Loans to the real economy accounted for 72.4 percent of total social financing in H1, rising 7.8 percentage points compared

with a year earlier.

The data also showed China's new yuan deposits hit 20.1 trillion yuan (\$2.8 trillion) in the January-June period, up by 1.3 trillion yuan (\$180.8 billion) from the same period last year.

## NEV Sales

Nationwide new-energy vehicle (NEV) sales surged 44.1 percent year on year to nearly 3.75 million units in H1, data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers showed.

NEV sales in June stood at 806,000 units, increasing 35.2 percent from a year ago.

The output of NEVs in the country totaled nearly 3.79 million units in the first six months, expanding 42.4 percent year on year, the data revealed.

Data also showed that China exported 534,000 NEVs in H1, expanding 160 percent year on year.

## The SME Status

The Small and Medium

Enterprises (SMEs) Development Index, based on a survey of 3,000 SMEs, edged up amid a steadily warming economy in June, industry data showed.

The index, ending a streak of three consecutive months of decline, came in at 89.1 in June, up 0.2 points month on month, according to the China Association of Small and Medium Enterprises.

The index contains multiple sub-indexes to gauge the performances and expectations of SMEs. A reading below 100 indicates dented vitality.

In June, the sub-indexes for industry, construction, transportation and storage, and real estate, as well as the information transmission and software industry increased, while those for wholesale and retail, social services, as well as the hospitality industry, retreated from a month earlier.

Thanks to the country's pro-growth measures, SMEs felt more confident in business development. This was reflected in the

sub-index gauging sentiment toward the macro economy, which edged up 0.1 point to reach 98.4 points in June, according to the association.

The association did, however, caution about challenges facing the SMEs, including high corporate costs and rising financial constraints, calling for further expanding effective demand and improving the business environment.

## Fund Regulation

China on July 9 published a regulation concerning the supervision and administration of private investment funds, the first of its kind in the country, marking the latest move to safeguard the healthy development of the industry and protect investors. A private investment fund is an investment company that does not solicit capital from retail investors or the general public.

The regulation, with 62 items in seven chapters, will come into effect on September 1, the State

## NUMBERS

China's Producer Price Index Growth (%)



China's Consumer Price Index (CPI) Growth (%)



Council, China's cabinet, said in a statement.

The regulation clarifies the scope of application, specifies the obligations and requirements of private fund managers and custodians, regulates fundraising and investment operations, and strengthens supervision and management as well as legal liability.

The new rules also make special provisions for venture capital funds, showing that China is encouraging investment in technology companies and startups.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission, the country's top securities regulator, has said it will draft related measures and rules, and further refine the regulatory requirements to better leverage the positive role of private investment funds in satisfying financing demands.

As of May, about 22,000 private investment managers had been registered, managing funds

of around 21 trillion yuan (\$2.9 trillion), ranking among the top globally.

## Digital Payments

China's digital payment sector expanded last year to cover more global clients and shore up the domestic real economy, according to the annual report on the development of China's bank card industry by China UnionPay, the country's largest bank card payment processor.

In 2022, online payment services provided by China UnionPay extended to over 22 million clients in more than 200 countries and regions overseas, according to the report.

Over 41 million people across China received consumption vouchers from China UnionPay's payment app last year, which generated transactions worth nearly 50 billion yuan (\$6.9 billion).

The company's offline payment network reached out to 38 million corporate clients in 181

countries and regions worldwide, the report revealed.

## Unmanned Platform

An offshore platform of PetroChina Dagang Oilfield Co., a subsidiary of China's oil giant PetroChina, has realized unmanned operations in a trial run in Tianjin Municipality.

The construction and operation of the digitally managed platform save nearly 30 percent of costs compared to traditional offshore drilling platforms, according to the company.

This is the company's first digitalized offshore platform.

It is located at the Zhaodong Oilfield, which has produced oil for nearly 30 years. With continuous technology upgrades, the daily output of the old oilfield has not decreased in recent years.

## Forex Reserves

China's foreign exchange (forex) reserves, assets held on reserve by a country's central bank in foreign currencies, came in at over \$3.19

trillion at the end of June, up from over \$3.17 trillion a month earlier, according to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

The forex regulator attributed the increase in forex reserves to the combined impact of currency translation and asset price changes.

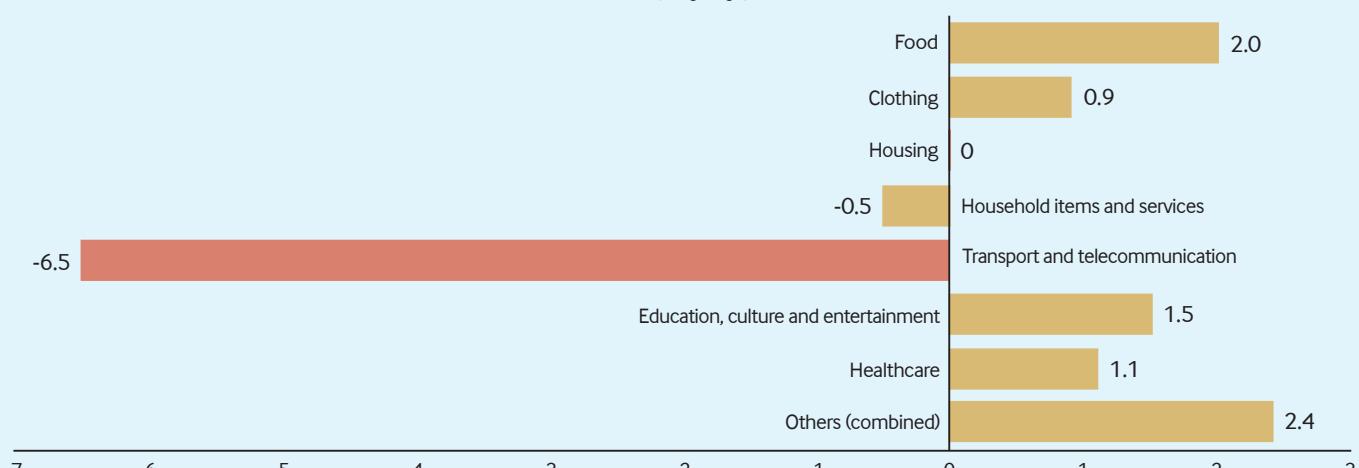
The U.S. dollar index, which tracks the strength of the U.S. dollar against a basket of major currencies, fell in June and the prices of global financial assets were mixed, affected by the fiscal and monetary policies of major economies as well as global macroeconomic data, the regulator said.

China's forex reserves are expected to remain generally stable as the country sees a prominent trend of economic recovery and steadily pushes forward high-quality development, the regulator added.

The data also showed that the country's gold reserves had risen to 67.95 million ounces as of late June, increasing from 67.27 million ounces in late May.

**China's CPI Growth by Type**

June (% y.o.y.)



(Source: National Bureau of Statistics)

# THIS WEEK WORLD



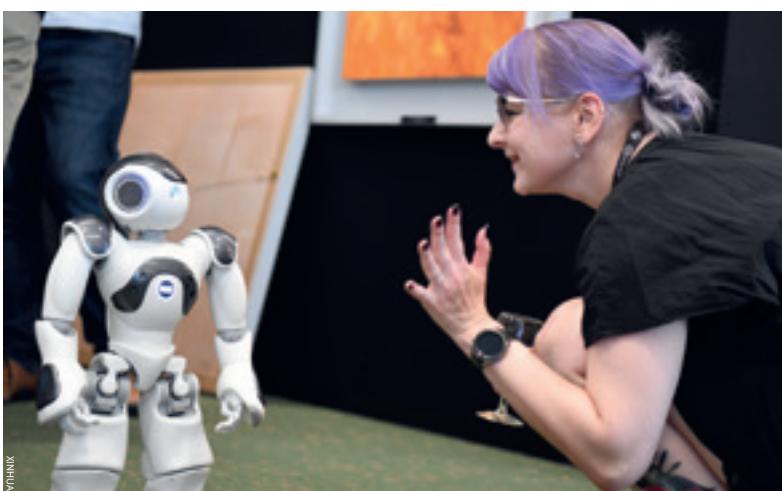
## SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

People perform during the Independence Day celebrations to mark the 48th anniversary of the country's independence in Guadalupe, São Tomé Island, on July 12



## SWITZERLAND

A participant interacts with a robot at the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva on July 7



## NEPAL

The bodies of six helicopter crash victims are airlifted to Kathmandu on July 11. All six people, five Mexican tourists and a Nepali pilot, were killed after their helicopter crashed in a mountain district in the country's eastern region

# THIS WEEK



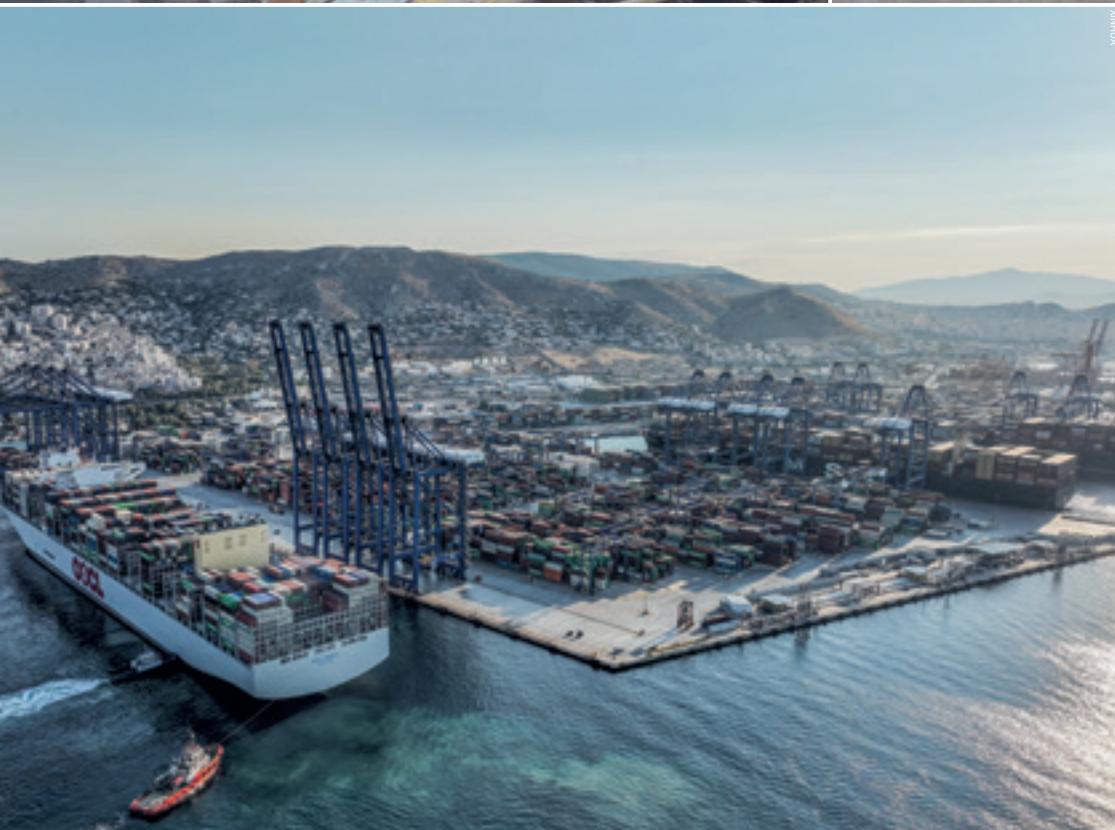
## BRAZIL

Rescue workers search for survivors at the site of a collapsed building in Recife, capital of Pernambuco State, on July 7. The tragedy killed at least 14 people



## JAPAN

Two men wade through thigh-high waters in heavy rain in Kurume, Fukuoka Prefecture, on July 10. Triggering floods and landslides, torrential rain left at least two people dead and eight others missing



## GREECE

*OOCL Piraeus* arrives at Piraeus Port on July 10. The ship is one of the largest container vessels in the world

# THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

## ↓ SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT HEAD

**Wu Hansheng**, 60, has recently been appointed as the first head of the Social Work Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

The new department was announced in March as part of a plan to reform Party and state institutions. Its tasks include collecting suggestions from the public, ensuring the Party plays a leading role in community-level governance, exercising leadership over Party affairs in national industry associations and chambers of commerce, and training social workers. It also oversees the National Public Complaints and Proposals Administration.

Before heading the newly established department, Wu was deputy secretary of the Party Affairs Commission for Central CPC and Government Departments. He had also served as secretary of the CPC Committee of Yingkou City, Liaoning Province, and head of the Organization Department of the CPC Shanxi Provincial Committee.



## Remembering CoCo Lee

**Rednet.cn**

**July 7**

On July 5, CoCo Lee, a Hong Kong-born singer known for being the voice behind Disney's *Mulan*, the Oscar-nominated theme song of the film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and many Mandopop hits, died at the age of 48 following a suicide attempt at home. According to a statement posted by her sisters, Nancy and Carol Lee, on social media, the cause of her suicide was depression. The news came as a shock to her fans and fellow artists, who remember her not only for her vocal prowess, but also for her confident

image and exuberance on stage.

The diva's death sparked a nationwide discussion about depression, a hidden epidemic across the globe that has taken many lives. This time, the discussion centers on the concept of smiling depression, a type of depression with which Lee reportedly struggled. The term describes an individual who suffers from depression on the inside but looks and acts happy. Due to its lack of outward symptoms, this form of depression often goes undetected.

Hopefully, the singer's tragic loss will galvanize awareness about this hidden disease and the importance of help. Sometimes, small acts of kindness can make huge differences.

“Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations [in 2019], bilateral exchanges have moved forward in all aspects and vigorously promoted the development of Solomon Islands.”

**Wang Yi**, Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, at the inauguration ceremony of the Embassy of Solomon Islands in Beijing on July 11

“When China’s per-capita GDP reaches 50 percent of that of the United States, the world will enter a new stable pattern.”

**Justin Yifu Lin**, former Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank and Dean of the Institute of New Structural Economics at Peking University, in a column published by Xinhua News Agency on July 13



## Megalopolis In the Making

**Outlook Weekly**

**July 3**

Covering an area of 56,000 square km in the Pearl River Delta, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is a city cluster composed of nine cities in Guangdong Province and two Special Administrative Regions (SAR), Hong Kong and Macao. As the fourth largest bay area after the New York Bay Area, San Francisco Bay Area and Tokyo Bay Area, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is one of China's most industrially developed

regions, producing 37 percent of the country's total exports and 12 percent of its GDP.

Envisioned as a highly integrated economic hub within which each of the cities can be reached by a commute of an hour or less, the Greater Bay Area has seen the construction of a transport network with 2,500 km of railways and 4,972 km of expressways. The region has also set up a series of checkpoints that offer a one-stop customs clearance experience, thereby enabling a faster transit between the mainland and the two SARs.

Three cooperation zones—Hengqin, Qianhai and Nansha—have also been established in the Greater Bay Area to improve the interconnectedness of its different parts. Situated in the south of Zhuhai City, the island of Hengqin is a major gateway for trade between Macao and the mainland. Located on the west coast of the thriving metropolis of Shenzhen, Qianhai serves as a springboard to and from Hong Kong and a premier legal services hub that allows Hong Kong lawyers easier access to the mainland. Nansha, the geographical center of the Greater Bay Area, aims to become an innovation powerhouse where hi-tech industries are clustered.

## New Open Source OS

**Guangzhou Daily**

**July 7**

China recently released openKylin 1.0, the country's first homegrown open source desktop operating system (OS). Built by a community of some 4,000 developers, openKylin 1.0 belongs to the Kylin family, a series of domestically developed software programs that have found wide application across the country's aerospace industry.

In an increasingly digitalized age, the creation of a homegrown OS means

infinite market potential as well as enhanced data protection. Therefore, despite its late arrival in a field that requires heavy investment but does not guarantee quick payback, China has decided to rise to the challenge.

But the country does have a long way to go before it comes up with a mature, self-developed OS. The good news is that remarkable progress has been made. Multiple homegrown OS models, including Deepin, FydeOS and StartOS, have been deployed in important fields such as finance, communication, and electricity production and supply.

## SCIENTIST WINS EUROPEAN INVENTOR AWARD

**Wu Kai**, a Chinese scientist, won the European Inventor Award 2023, which was presented at a ceremony in Valencia, Spain, on July 4.

Wu is the chief scientist at Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd., a battery manufacturer and technology company founded in 2011 and headquartered in Ningde, Fujian Province. Together with his team, Wu developed a lithium-ion battery with a cover that reduces the risk of battery explosion and fire in electric vehicles.

The award, granted by the European Patent Office, recognizes the contribution the invention makes to ensuring the safety of vehicles equipped with lithium-ion batteries containing a flammable electrolyte.

“Electric vehicles powered by our advanced and safe batteries are enabling more people to embrace a sustainable lifestyle, contributing to the global energy transition,” Wu said after receiving the award. “I hope that more and more inventors will dedicate themselves to e-mobility and energy transition.”



“Dunhuang has put me where I am.  
Serving Dunhuang is my  
lifelong ambition.”

Renowned archaeologist **Fan Jinshi**, speaking after an asteroid was named after her on July 10 in recognition of her contributions to the protection, study and promotion of the Mogao Grottoes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Dunhuang, Gansu Province

“I might not be a rich man, but I am very optimistic. It is this positive attitude that made me make this bold decision more than 20 years ago.”

**Wang Zhilun**, a 70-year-old villager in Longfeng Township, Chongqing Municipality, who spent his life savings building a small library accessible to all, in a recent interview with Xinhua



COVER STORY

# A MODERN MINDSET

Forum discusses ways to better convey the concept of Chinese modernization to global audiences By Ma Xiaowen

What is Chinese modernization? Does Chinese modernization equal “China first?” Questions like these have frequently popped up

abroad since the concept was formally elaborated at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in October 2022.

“The CPC has upheld mutual learning among civilizations and driven Chinese modernization to benefit nations around the world. China is promoting

Chinese modernization neither for ‘self-admiration’ nor to ‘put China first.’ Instead, it hopes to bring more new opportunities to global development in the process of achieving its own growth,” Lu Cairong, Vice