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CONTENTS

EDITOR'S DESK

02 Spring Dialogues

THIS WEEK

COVER STORY

12 **The Asia Advantage**

Boao forum highlights Asia's role in global growth

16 **An Invitation to Grow Together**

Innovation rooted in China, branching across the globe

18 **Certainty in Fractured Times**

China's openness is a source of global economic stability

OPINION

22 **Driving High-Quality Growth**

New quality productive forces are rewriting the rules of development

24 **Deep Dive: China's 15th Five-Year Plan**

Expert analysis of the major goals for 2030

26 **Green Power, Renewed Cities**

From industrial relics to renewable hubs

28 **Prosperity on the Plateau**

Xizang: steady development, meaningful change and tangible benefits

30 **Who Decides What Happens on The Ocean Floor?**

Washington's unilateral licensing of seabed mining arouses concern

32 **Ally, Vassal or Pawn?**

Japan's precarious position in America's global game

33 **The Rise of Invasive Brain-Computer Interfaces**

Landmark approval brings new tech from lab to life

34 **A Response to the ABC**

Covering China takes more than an eye-catching headline

FEATURES

36 **Forest Fortunes**

How a county in Jiangxi Province plants the seeds of rural prosperity

38 **Own Less, Experience More**

What happens when a generation decides "stuff" isn't the answer?

40 **The New Bloom Boom**

Flower power in driving spring tourism

42 **The Worldwide Wave of Wushu**

Young martial arts enthusiasts attend Junior World Championship in Tianjin

CULTURE

46 **Step Into the Fair**

A sweeping look at a time-honored tradition

FORUM

48 **Humanities Graduates and AI: Promise Or Mirage?**

Cover Photo: A flowerbed designed for the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in Boao Town, Hainan Province, on March 17 (XINHUA)

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Spring Dialogues

The China Development Forum 2026 was held in Beijing on March 22-23. Themed China in Its 15th Five-Year Plan Period (2026-30), the forum brought together Chinese government officials, global business leaders, representatives of international organizations and scholars for dialogue. It signaled China's commitment to advancing high-quality development and creating new opportunities through cooperation.

Meanwhile, the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2026 took place in Hainan Province on March 24-27. The conference similarly focused on China's 15th Five-Year Plan, emphasizing new opportunities and cooperation arising from an evolving landscape.

This is the first year of the plan. With high-quality development at its core and high-standard opening up as its path, China continues to lend strong momentum to global economic recovery and prosperity.

High-quality development is the defining theme of China's economic and social progress during this five-year plan period. Its outline calls for guiding development with the new development philosophy, which calls for innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, and cultivating new quality productive forces, or economic drivers based on cutting-edge

technologies, tailored to local conditions.

The current global background is marked by sluggish economic recovery, frequent geopolitical conflicts and rising unilateralism and protectionism, all factors that introduce multiple uncertainties to global development. Many of China's goals, including pursuing the Digital China Initiative, advancing pollution control and promoting green production and lifestyles, are rooted in domestic realities while also aligning with broader global development trends.

High-standard opening up is the path China must take to achieve high-quality development. The 15th Five-Year Plan emphasizes expanding market access, particularly in the service sector, and fostering all-round opening up through land and sea connections, as well as synergy between eastern and western regions, to accelerate China's transformation into a strong trading nation.

Through its opening up, China offers the world a vast market, a complete industrial system and abundant application scenarios, turning its own development into a major opportunity for the global community. This is a commitment it will continue to uphold during the 15th Five-Year Plan. **BR**



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HARMONY IN MOTION

On March 21, people practice taijiquan (also known as tai chi) in Qinyang, Henan Province, to celebrate the inaugural International Taijiquan Day.

Rooted in Chinese philosophy, taijiquan is an internal martial art exemplifying the pursuit of harmony between humanity and nature, as well as the balance of body and mind.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated March 21 as International Taijiquan Day at the 43rd session of the UNESCO General Conference in Uzbekistan on November 5 last year. This honor followed the art's 2020 inscription on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



Cruising Toward Delivery

China's second domestically built large cruise ship *Adora Flora City* undocks in Shanghai on March 20, moving one step closer to trial voyages and final delivery as the country expands its push into the cruise tourism market. The vessel was slowly pulled and guided out of the construction dock by powerful tugboats at Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of China State Shipbuilding Corp.

Rural Water Supply

China has issued a circular focused on improving the operation and maintenance of water supply systems in its rural areas, outlining key tasks to establish a standardized system spanning the entire supply chain from water sources to household taps, Xinhua News Agency reported on March 24.

The circular, jointly issued by the Ministry of Water Resources and five other government departments, sets out priorities including ensuring water quantity and quality, strengthening emergency supply capacity, and advancing pricing reform.

Authorities will also intensify efforts to improve supply reliability and water quality, particularly in less-developed

areas and where there are weak links in rural systems.

The circular further stresses the need for steady progress in pricing reform while ensuring public welfare and safeguarding livelihoods.

It urges diversified funding for operation and maintenance, encouraging private capital to participate through integrated investment, construction and management models, with government funds playing a guiding role.

China has seen improvements in rural water supply over the years. As of late 2025, access to tap water in rural areas had continued to expand, with national rural tap water coverage reaching 96 percent.

OpenClaw Security Guidance

China on March 22 issued the

security guidance for the use of the open-source AI agent OpenClaw, advising users, cloud service providers and developers to reduce risk during deployment and operation.

The guidance, jointly issued by the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team/Coordination Center of China and the Cyber Security Association of China, recommends that ordinary users install OpenClaw on dedicated devices, maintain strict environment isolation, and avoid installing it on everyday work computers.

Ordinary users are also advised to not run OpenClaw with administrator or superuser privileges, avoid storing or processing private or sensitive data within OpenClaw environments, and keep OpenClaw updated to the latest releases.

For cloud service providers, the guide advises conducting baseline security assessments and hardening of cloud hosts, deploying and integrating appropriate security protection capabilities, and strengthening supply-chain and data-security defense.

The guidance also offers tailored security best practices for enterprise users and technical developers.

Video Content Labeling

Chinese authorities have stepped up efforts to regulate content labeling on short-form video platforms, aiming to address inconsistencies in marking standards and curb the spread of unlabeled fictional and AI-generated content, Xinhua reported on March 21.

The Office of the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission has guided platform operators to adopt standardized labeling practices. Over the past month, six major short-form video platforms have removed more than 37,000 short videos involving falsification and other violations, dealt with over 3,400 violative accounts, and added labels to more than 600,000 short videos.

According to the office, platforms have been instructed to standardize the categories of labels used for short-form video content and make labeling a mandatory step in the publishing process. Users are now required to indicate the nature of the content they upload. In addition, platforms are adding labels to previously published content to ensure all eligible videos are properly marked.

Rare Earth Oxide Reserves

China has discovered an additional 9.67 million tons of

rare earth oxides in Mianning County, Sichuan Province, raising the total to 11.46 million tons, the Ministry of Natural Resources said on March 24.

The increase makes the county's Maoniuping deposit the world's second largest in-production source of light rare earth elements, behind the Bayan Obo site in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

In the Maoniuping mining area, newly found resources were also identified alongside the rare earth reserves. These resources include 27.14 million tons of fluorite and 37.23 million tons of barite, both of which are classified as ultra-large deposits of strategic importance.

Light rare earth elements—including seven of the 17 rare earth elements—are relatively abundant in the Earth's crust in oxide form compared with heavy rare earth elements. Often dubbed the “vitamins” of industry, these are widely used in magnetic and fluorescent materials and are indispensable to modern industry and high-end manufacturing.

Zhao Wen, an associate professor at China University of Geosciences in Wuhan, Hubei Province, stressed the strategic importance of the discovery, saying that the additional 9.67 million tons of rare earth oxides are equivalent to about 36 years of China's current consumption of light rare earth elements.

Cross-Boundary Drone Delivery

Tech hub Shenzhen, in Guangdong Province, is drafting a pilot plan for cross-boundary, low-altitude logistics based on border crossings, aiming to launch its first route within the year and create a new logistics model with Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), newspaper *China Daily* reported on March 24.

The low-altitude economy covers airborne economic activities below 1,000 meters.

The initiative is part of Shenzhen's broader push to develop the economy in areas surrounding border crossings, a key task outlined in the city's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) to boost domestic demand. Following



Rail to Rail

A staff member operates a new-energy flash butt welder for multiple scenarios at the construction site of the Hangzhou-Deqing Suburban Railway in Zhejiang Province on March 22. The welder was used for the first time to perform welding operations on steel rails that day. The device can complete the welding of 50 rail joints once fully charged, ensuring continuous and stable construction in areas without external power sources.

discussions with national authorities and the Hong Kong SAR Government, Shenzhen will prioritize testing three cross-boundary drone delivery routes, according to the Office of Port of Entry and Exit of Shenzhen Municipal People's Government.

The routes are designed to deliver small-batch, time-sensitive cargo within half an hour, Wu Jun, Director of the Cooperation and Development Division (Policy and Regulation Division) of the office, told *China Daily*.



Robot Threading

A robot threads a needle at the Zhongguancun Exhibition Center in Beijing on March 24. Themed Full Integration Between Technological and Industrial Innovation, this year's Zhongguancun Forum took place in Beijing on March 25-29. More than 1,000 guests from over 100 countries and regions participated in the forum.

Future Industries

Minister of Industry and Information Technology Li Lecheng said on March 22 that the country will guide all localities to adapt to their own comparative advantages and pursue differentiated development of industries of the future.

China is sharing the fruits of technological innovation and working with other countries to promote the development of industries of the future and benefit the entire humanity, he noted at the China Development Forum 2026 in Beijing.

The ministry will make efforts to promote breakthroughs in fields such as quantum technology, biomanufacturing, hydrogen energy and nuclear fusion energy, brain-computer interfaces, embodied AI and 6G.

Efforts will be made to foster first-class scientific and technological enterprises and hi-tech enterprises that excel in core technologies and possess strong innovation capacities, according to Li.

China will also promote the in-depth integration of innovation chain, industrial chain, capital chain and talent chain, establish oversight that adapts to the characteristics of industries of the future, and actively participate in the formulation of international standards and rules, he added.

EV Charging

China's electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure continues to expand rapidly, with the total number of charging points reaching 21.01 million by the end of February, up 47.8 percent year on year, the National Energy Administration has revealed.

Of this total, public charging facilities numbered 4.834 million, an increase of 28.8 percent from a year earlier.

Private charging facilities totaled 16.176 million units by the end of that month, surging 54.6 percent year on year and reflecting strong growth in residential charging demand.

The data, sourced from the national charging infrastructure

monitoring and service platform, highlight the continued expansion of China's EV support network alongside a surge in EV sales.

In 2025, China's EV sector saw accelerated growth momentum, with production and sales totaling 16.626 million and 16.49 million units, respectively, growing 29 percent and 28.2 percent year on year, respectively, according to data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

In October 2025, China unveiled a three-year action plan to improve the country's EV charging infrastructure, aiming to establish a nationwide network of 28 million charging facilities, with public charging capacity to surpass 300 million kilowatts by the end of 2027.

Inbound Consumption

Chinese authorities have released policy measures aimed at boosting spending by foreign tourists and enhancing exports of tourism services, as part of broader efforts to expand the country's service

sector, according to a notice publicized on March 20.

The measures, jointly issued by nine government departments including the Ministry of Commerce, outline steps to boost foreign visitor spending in key sectors, including tourism, business activities, sports events, cultural and entertainment activities, health services, and education and training.

Key policies include granting visa-free entry to more countries and improving visa-free transit policies. Efforts will be made to increase the number of departure tax refund stores and offer easier payment methods for foreign visitors to enhance their overall travel experience.

In addition, the measures call for efforts to pilot international medical tourism hubs in eligible regions and encourage local authorities to host more sports events that have a global impact.

Transformer Output

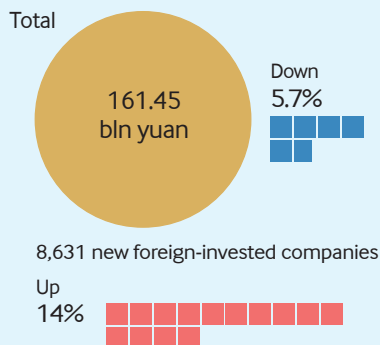
China's transformer manufacturing sector has cemented its

NUMBERS

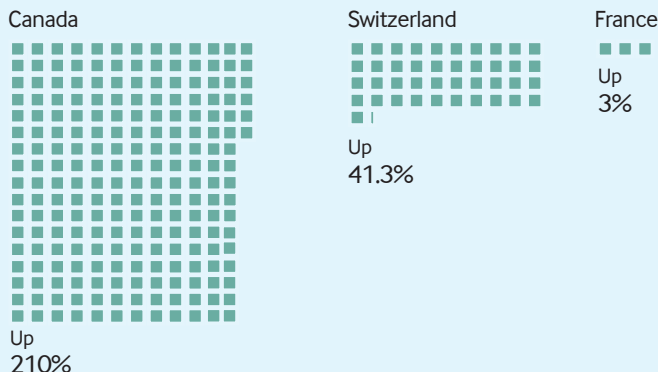
Foreign direct investment (FDI) in January-February

(All growth rates are y.o.y.; \$1= 6.9 yuan as of March 26)

FDI in the Chinese mainland in actual use



FDI in the Chinese mainland from



position as a global powerhouse, with industry output surpassing 300 billion yuan (\$44 billion) in 2025 and production representing more than half of worldwide capacity, according to industry association estimates released on March 20.

The transformer industry has also seen the emergence of influential “heavyweight” enterprises, said Luo Junjie, Executive Vice President of the China Machinery Industry Federation.

Luo noted that transformers serve as the backbone of electrical power systems. The sector has shifted from pure capacity expansion toward quality and efficiency enhancement in recent years. This shift has resulted in improvements in the energy performance of mainstream products, including silicon steel and amorphous alloy transformers.

Looking ahead, stakeholders will focus on technological innovation to overcome material bottlenecks, while advancing digital-intelligent integration to enable smart transformer opera-

tions, Luo said.

By 2028, China targets a share of over 75 percent for energy-efficient transformers among new installations, with the proportion of efficient units in the existing fleet rising to 15 percent, according to an implementation plan recently issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and other central government authorities.

Imported Food Safety

The revised regulations on the registration of overseas manufacturers exporting food to China will be implemented from June 1, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has announced.

The GACC will determine, under dynamic management, the catalog of imported food products subject to official recommendation for registration, the list of products not eligible for automatic renewal of registration and the scope of overseas food storage enterprises required to register

under the regulations.

These decisions will be made based on analyses of factors such as sources of raw materials, production and processing techniques, historical food safety data, target consumer groups and consumption methods, while also taking international practices into account.

The registration will remain valid for five years and will be automatically renewed for an additional five years upon expiration, unless specified otherwise.

As an important measure to strengthen source supervision and risk management of imported food, the current rules have been in force for more than four years since January 1, 2022.

During the period, more than 96,000 food enterprises from 178 countries and regions have registered in China.

Trade in imported food from overseas enterprises already registered in China will not be affected and will enjoy greater convenience under the revised rules, according to the GACC.

Regulating Financial Institutions

Over 5,600 non-compliant financial institutions in China have been shut down since 2024, official data showed on March 19.

The number of six categories of local financial organizations in China had dropped 26 percent year on year as of late December 2025, down 55 percent from its historical peak, according to the National Financial Regulatory Administration.

The six categories are micro-lending companies, financing guarantee companies, pawnshops, financial leasing companies, commercial factoring companies and local asset management companies.

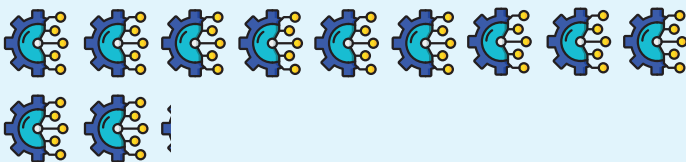
China has been intensifying efforts to advance targeted rectification of the six types of local financial organizations since 2024, eliminating non-compliant institutions that were “out of contact,” operating as “shell companies,” or seriously violating regulations, while strictly addressing market irregularities.

FDI in

hi-tech sector

111.22 billion yuan

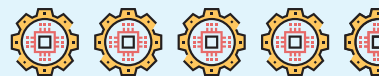
 = 10 billion yuan



manufacturing sector

47.52 billion yuan

 = 10 billion yuan



(Source: Ministry of Commerce)



KUWAIT

Smoke billows following a strike on a fuel depot at Kuwait International Airport in Farwaniya Governorate on March 25. Kuwaiti air defenses had intercepted multiple hostile drones and missiles before the fuel depot was struck, causing a fire but no casualties



UNITED NATIONS

A memorial wreath in front of the monument dedicated to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, at the UN headquarters in New York on March 25. That same day, the UN General Assembly adopted the draft resolution: Declaration of the Trafficking of Enslaved Africans and Racialized Chattel Enslavement of Africans as the Gravest Crime Against Humanity



DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

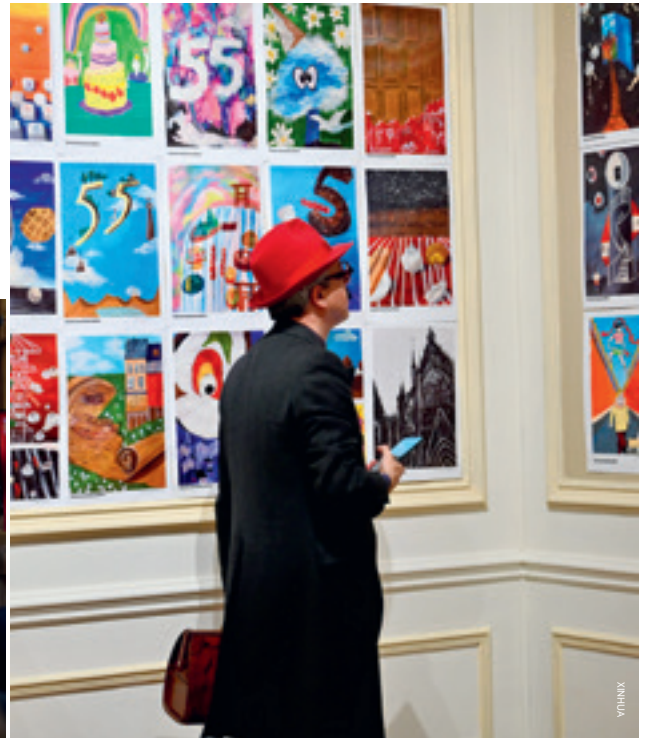
The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) reelects Kim Jong Un as president of state affairs of the DPRK in Pyongyang on March 22





UNITED KINGDOM

The Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum Chairman David Marsh addresses the organization's China-UK Investor Forum in London on March 24



BELGIUM

A visitor views exhibits at the art exhibition Artists in Dialogue: Across Generations in celebration of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Belgium, in Brussels on March 25



UNITED STATES

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents patrol at La Guardia Airport in New York on March 23. ICE agents were assisting at busy airport security checkpoints amid a Department of Homeland Security shutdown that had lasted more than a month



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ PHYSICIST WINS TOP GLOBAL AWARD FOR SUPERCONDUCTIVITY RESEARCH

Jin Changqing, a research fellow with the Institute of Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, has been named the sole winner of the 2026 Bernd T. Matthias Prize, widely regarded as the highest international award in the field of superconducting materials.

Jin was recognized for his groundbreaking discoveries in new superconducting materials using high-pressure synthesis and characterization techniques. He is the third Chinese scientist to receive the honor.

Jin earned his Ph.D. from the institute in 1991. His research focuses on the development of new materials under extreme high-pressure conditions. He has been elected a fellow of the American Physical Society, the UK-based Institute of Physics and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The prize, established in 1989, is awarded every three years for outstanding contributions to superconductivity research.



The Culture of Speed

Securities Daily

March 23

For years, the top priorities of Chinese consumers when buying cars have been practicality and value for money. However, the recent frenzy surrounding the 2026 Formula One (F1) Chinese Grand Prix, which was held in Shanghai from March 13 to 15, suggests more buyers are looking beyond mere utility to performance and brand appeal.

F1 is becoming increasingly viewed as more than just a sport. As China's car industry continues to evolve, it is being rec-

ognized as a showcase for the most advanced capabilities of the global automotive industry. Aerodynamics, electronic control systems, lightweight materials, thermal management and reliability under extreme conditions are all central to success on the track. Though developed for racing, these capabilities are also core to long-term competitiveness in the commercial market.

Seen in that light, China's enthusiasm for F1 is not just a sporting fad. As people are paying more attention to racing, they are becoming more aware of the engineering behind the performance. This awareness is translating into higher expectations for everyday vehicles.

Made to Win

China Newsweek

February 9

At the Olympics, there are really two contests. One is the obvious one: athletes testing years of training against their rivals. The other is quieter, but no less consequential: a race in sports technology. This year's Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics was no exception, becoming not merely a display of athletic ambition, but

“The incident once again highlighted the danger of the rampant spread of far-right impact and neo-militarism in the country.”

Foreign Ministry spokesperson **Lin Jian**, commenting at a regular press briefing on a Japanese Self-Defense Forces officer's forcible entry into the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo on March 24

“By the end of 2025, the industrialization rates of patents from universities and research institutes had reached 10.1 percent and 17.2 percent, respectively, showing great improvements compared with the pre-action period.”

Hu Wenhui, Deputy Commissioner of the China National Intellectual Property Administration, at a press conference held in Beijing about a special action plan for patent transformation and utilization, introduced by the Central Government in 2023

also a marker of industrial progress.

A notable feature of the Chinese delegation's kit was how much of it came from domestic brands. Among the biggest contributors is Anta Sports, which, together with FILA and Descente under its umbrella, provided professional gear for 13 Chinese national teams during the Games.

In winter sports, warmth is one of the first requirements. Eileen Gu's customized ski suit, for instance, used an extremely advanced insulation technology, derived from volcanic-rock materials also used in the national flag carried by the *Chang'e-6* lunar mission.

Speed, however, matters just as much. In skeleton, often described as the F1 of ice sports, athletes hurtle head-first down the track at over 130 km per hour. China's latest racing shoes for the event each feature 253 lightweight alloy spikes specifically designed for stronger grip, while a bionic streamlined design helps reduce drag.

What is forged for the podium is now increasingly finding its way into everyday life. That is what makes Olympic wear more than a matter of costume. When Chinese athletes step onto the podium in home-grown gear, they not only represent sporting success, but also embody the ascent of China's sports technology and manufacturing prowess.

Stolen Voices

Workers' Daily

March 24

Recently, several Chinese voice actors have spoken out against the unauthorized use of their recordings for AI training and voice synthesis. Their complaints point to a broader threat facing the dubbing industry: As AI-powered synthetic audio grows ever more convincing—sometimes to the point of being indistinguishable from the original—the profession is confronting a mounting crisis of rights, livelihoods and artistic identity.

At the heart of the dispute is the fact that a voice is a legally protected personal attribute.

Under China's Civil Code, protection for a person's voice is treated in much the same way as protection for portrait rights. To replicate or deploy someone's voice through AI without consent is therefore not just ethically dubious; it is, in essence, an infringement of personality rights.

The risks do not end there. Many of the recordings used to train such systems come from film, television and animation, where voice performances are themselves part of copyright-protected works. Using those materials without authorization for AI training or voice synthesis may constitute a disguised form of copyright infringement, regardless of how much the voice is altered.

ANIMATOR TAKES CHINESE SCI-FI TO WORLD STAGE

Animator **Ruan Rui** reached a new milestone for Chinese sci-fi on March 24, with *Ling Cage: Season 2* becoming the first Chinese sci-fi animation ever selected to compete at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival in France. The series was created by YHKT Entertainment, a studio founded and led by Ruan in Wuhan, Hubei Province in 2015.

Born in Hubei in 1982, Ruan graduated from the Communication University of China's School of Animation and Digital Arts, before entering the animation industry in 2005. The first season of *Ling Cage* premiered in 2019 and accumulated over 560 million views on online video platform Bilibili, with a rating of 9.6 out of 10. The second season, which debuted in May 2025, has since drawn over 350 million views and scored 9.8 on Bilibili.



“Ecologically, the flower economy fosters ecological restoration and encourages green planting, while economically, it propels the integration of agriculture, culture, and tourism, stimulates rural development and county-level employment, and facilitates consumption enhancement and high-quality growth.”

Deng Aimin, a professor with the Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency

“Taijiquan is not just a form of exercise, but a spirit and a living style reshaping my body, mind and soul.”

Dionysios Paraschos, a Greek taijiquan practitioner, in an interview with Xinhua



COVER STORY

THE ASIA ADVANTAGE

Boao forum highlights region's role in powering global growth

By Li Xiaoyang