

OPINION: KNOWLEDGE HAS NO FLAG P.30 | FEATURES: FROM FIRE TO FUTURE P.34

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ACROSS THE PACIFIC

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Cover Photo: Participants of the 2026 Across the Pacific: China-U.S. Youth Dialogue for a Shared Future are dressed up in traditional Miao minority costumes at a cultural resort in Kunming, Yunnan Province, on July 16 (ZHANG WEI)

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OPINION

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EDITOR'S DESK



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Liang Xiao, Ma Miaomiao, Pan Xiaoli, Peng Jiawei, Tao Zihui,

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Art: Li Shigong

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Designer: Wang Boyan

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Deputy Planning Director: Li Nan

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Legal Counsel: Yue Cheng

North America Bureau (New York City)

Chief: Yu Shujun

Tel/Fax: 1-201-792-0334

E-mail: yushujun@cicgamericas.com

Latin America Bureau (Mexico City)

Chief: Miao Ye

Tel: 52-55-55127271

Fax: 52-55-55332027

E-mail: chinahoymx@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@cicgamericas.com

Distribution

Tel: 86-10-68310644

E-mail: circulation@cicgamericas.com

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Friendship, Not Fences

For three weeks this July, 22 university students from China and the United States traveled together from Washington, D.C., and Montana in the U.S. to China's Yunnan Province and Beijing. By the time they parted, strangers had become friends.

This was the Across the Pacific: China-U.S. Youth Dialogue for a Shared Future, co-hosted by the China International Communications Group Center for the Americas, the publisher of *Beijing Review*, and the U.S.-based International Student Conferences, a student-led international exchange organization.

It was not a diplomatic summit. There were no grand declarations. Instead, the program offered young people something important: face-to-face time to listen, learn and see beyond stereotypes.

The initiative aligns with the consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump at their Beijing summit in May. The two heads of state agreed on a new vision of building a constructive bilateral relationship of strategic stability. Xi defined the nature of "constructive strategic stability" as a positive stability with cooperation as the mainstay, a sound stability with moderate competi-

tion, a constant stability with manageable differences, and an enduring stability with promises of peace. He called for expanding exchange and cooperation in areas ranging from trade to tourism and people-to-people ties.

Yet misunderstandings persist, fueled by one-sided narratives and digital echo chambers. This journey demonstrated that young people are uniquely equipped to break down those barriers. American students witnessed rural development in Yunnan, where local communities have blended ecological protection with sustainable agriculture. Chinese students gained insights into Indigenous land conservation in Montana and community development in the U.S.

Of course, 20 days cannot erase all misconceptions, and 22 students cannot represent all youth. But they can plant seeds. The topics they explored, including climate change, sustainable agriculture and technology for good, are challenges facing all of humanity. On these, there is common ground.

The program has ended, but it is not a finish line. It is a starting point. If more people on both sides follow these young people's example, embracing rationality, inclusiveness and a spirit of win-win cooperation, the foundations of China-U.S. relations will steadily grow stronger. **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：辛峰 贺鹏 刘云云 高丁博 于淑均 曾文卉

编委会主任：辛峰

主编：闫威

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

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UNFADING MEMORY

A woman pays tribute to a relative at the Tangshan Earthquake Memorial Park in Tangshan, Hebei Province, on July 28. This year is the 50th anniversary of the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck the city on July 28, 1976, claiming more than 240,000 lives and leveling the city's infrastructure.



New Green Rides

On July 27, 35 Chinese-made electric double-decker buses head to a car carrier at Yantai Port in Shandong Province, bound for the United Kingdom. Specifically designed for the UK market, these buses have already been integrated into London's public transport network.

World Heritage Bird Sanctuaries

On July 27, the 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Busan, the Republic of Korea, approved the boundary modification of the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China, officially incorporating the Changshan Archipelago into the World Heritage site.

The move is another expansion of the World Natural Heritage site following a 2024 update. It further improves the integrity of the migratory bird sanctuaries series, an important practice in China's integrated conservation of coastal natural resources, according to the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

Sitting on the only sea route of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, the archipelago serves as a critical stopover for tens of millions of migratory birds crossing the

Bohai Sea.

The newly added heritage section covers more than 4,900 hectares. The area is rich in biological resources, with over 140 recorded bird species.

Thousands of Chinese egrets arrive in the archipelago each April from Southeast Asia to breed and rear their young, staying until early September before migrating south for winter.

IP Protection

China has taken a major step forward in protecting seed industry innovations by releasing a set of documents detailing how it will implement its essentially derived variety (EDV) system, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs announced on July 27.

An EDV refers to a new plant variety bred by modifying an existing original variety, differing from it by only a few specific traits. The EDV system protects intellectual property (IP) by preventing

competing breeders from making minor modifications to an existing protected variety and commercializing it without the original creator's permission, thereby encouraging true original breeding.

The ministry released a 10-crop list, including rice, wheat and cotton, under the EDV system. This marks the first crop list under China's EDV system. Four other detailed documents standardizing the identification of EDV were also released, Liu Lihua, an official with the ministry, said at a press conference.

China has been encouraging original innovation in the seed sector for years. According to Wan Jianmin, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering specialized in plant breeding, the quality of approved varieties has significantly improved in the last three years.

In May 2025, China unveiled revised regulations to strengthen the protection of rights to new plant

varieties and to encourage innovation in the seed industry, stating that authorities would release the EDV implementation scope and assessment guidelines.

Autism Support

China will step up support for people with autism over the next five years, expanding early screening and intervention services for children and increasing the availability of specialized education programs, an official said on July 27.

The measures are part of a broader effort to improve services for people with disabilities over the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30), which include a nationwide initiative to provide support across the entire life cycle of people with autism, covering early diagnosis, proper rehabilitation and education, Zhou Changkui, Chairperson of the Board of Executive Directors of the China Disabled Persons' Federation, told a press conference.

China will implement standardized autism screening and intervention services for children aged 0 to 6, ensure that each city-level region has the capacity to provide rehabilitation assistance for children with autism, and support provincial capitals and larger cities in building special education schools dedicated to children with autism, Zhou said.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by difficulties in social interaction, restricted interests and repetitive behaviors.

China currently has more than 13 million people with autism, with the condition accounting for the largest share of mental disabilities in the country, according to official figures.

Trip.com Fined

The State Administration for Market Regulation said on July

25 that it had imposed administrative penalties on Trip.com Group for abusing its dominant market position in violation of the country's anti-monopoly law.

According to the regulator, the company was ordered to forfeit 1.658 billion yuan (\$244 million) in illegal gains and pay a 3.521-billion-yuan (\$520-million) fine, bringing the total penalty to 5.179 billion yuan (\$765 million).

The regulator also ordered the group to refund 122 million yuan (\$18 million) in hotel order reserve funds that had been forcibly deducted from hotel operators, undertake comprehensive rectification measures and publicly disclose its corrective actions.

Trip.com, China's largest online travel platform, provides services including hotel reservations, transportation ticketing and vacation packages.

According to the regulator, it received multiple complaints in 2025 alleging that Trip.com had forced hotels to accept unfair contractual terms and used technological means to influence hotel pricing, thereby harming fair market competition and squeezing hotel profitability.

The regulator opened an investigation in January 2026, which found that Trip.com had

abused its dominant position in China's online hotel booking platform services market by using its traffic allocation mechanism, platform rules and technical tools to require certain hotels to enter into exclusive cooperation agreements and offer the "lowest price across the Internet."

These practices restricted fair competition, limited hotels' ability to operate across multiple platforms, infringing upon their pricing autonomy, and impeded the healthy development of the industry, the regulator noted.

Environmental Protection Tax

China will carry out a pilot program to levy environmental protection tax on volatile organic compounds (VOCs) starting January 1, 2027, as part of efforts to strengthen air pollution control and expand its use of green taxation, authorities said on July 24.

The Ministry of Finance, the State Taxation Administration and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment jointly issued a notice detailing the pilot, under which all VOCs will be brought into the scope of environmental protection taxation.



The Coolest Workers

Sanitation workers wearing cooling vests navigate the streets of Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, on July 28. To combat the intense summer heat, workers in Nanjing's Xuanwu District have been issued these specialized vests, which feature miniature fans at the waist to circulate cool air against the body.

"The move is an important step in deepening fiscal and tax reforms and improving China's green tax system," Xu Wen, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Fiscal Sciences, said. He added that the measure would encourage deeper control of VOC emissions throughout production processes and help reduce pollution.

VOCs are a key source of PM25 (fine particulate matter) and ozone formation, contributing to atmospheric environmental issues

such as smog and photochemical smog. Currently, more than 300 types of VOCs can be detected.

When the Environmental Protection Tax Law was enacted in 2016, it covered only 18 types of VOCs, including benzene and formaldehyde.

The pilot program will initially cover eight industries, including printing, chemical raw materials and chemical manufacturing, which collectively account for more than 70 percent of industrial VOC emissions.



Summer Scene

Tourists enjoy a rafting adventure at the Grand Canyon Rafting Scenic Area in Pingshan County, Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, on July 26. In recent years, Shijiazhuang has capitalized on the Taihang Mountains' pristine mountain and water resources to create unique cultural tourism experiences, drawing a surge of visitors seeking a summer escape.

AI Product Exports

China's AI-related exports surged in the first half of 2026 (H1), emerging as a new hallmark of the country's foreign trade, He Shaojun, an official with the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) said on July 28.

Exports of industrial robots and 3D printers jumped 18.6 percent and 109.3 percent year on year, respectively, in the January-June period, he said, citing customs data. He attributed the robust growth to a variety of factors, including solid industrial strength and sustained innovation.

He added that the country's complete industrial chain, massive domestic market, continuous innovation and open international cooperation have collectively driven the export surge.

These advantages, he said, have enabled rapid supply chain responsiveness, cost efficiency, technological upgrading and broader global market reach.

Outbound Direct Investment

China's outbound direct investment (ODI) across all industries reached 596.42 billion yuan (\$88 billion) in H1, an increase of 3.8 percent year on year, official data showed on July 28.

China's domestic investors engaged in non-financial direct investment in 6,867 overseas companies across 144 countries and regions, with the investment value totaling 453.06 billion yuan (\$66.9 billion), according to data released by MOFCOM and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

In H1, China's non-financial ODI in countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) reached 120.77 billion yuan (\$17.8 billion), down 11.1 percent year on year. The China-proposed BRI aims to boost connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes.

During the period, the turnover of contracted overseas projects by Chinese companies

amounted to 606.26 billion yuan (\$89.5 billion), an increase of 8 percent year on year.

The turnover of contracted overseas projects by Chinese companies in BRI partner countries rose 11.8 percent year on year in H1 to 520.71 billion yuan (\$76.8 billion).

Shopping Mall Sector

Over 70 percent of shopping malls across China recorded increased foot traffic in H1, showing a mild upward trend, a survey showed on July 27.

The survey, released by the China Chain Store and Franchise Association, covered companies operating in the sector. It showed that more than 40 percent of respondents reported a 5- to 10-percent rise in foot traffic in the first six months of this year.

Online shopping also saw an uptick during the same period, with 43.4 percent of surveyed companies reporting a higher online sales ratio, according to

the survey.

The survey also indicated that shopping malls nationwide posted a higher occupancy rate during the period.

China's total retail sales of goods and services, a major indicator of the country's consumption strength, increased 2.7 percent year on year in H1, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Electronics Profits

China's electronics industry posted a 96.9-percent year-on-year increase in profits in H1, contributing 8.5 percentage points to the overall profit growth of major industrial firms, the NBS said on July 27.

Driven by the wide adoption of AI and growing demand for computing power, profits of computer manufacturing and computer peripheral equipment manufacturing (including mice, keyboards and monitors) surged 689.3 percent and 305.8 percent from a year earlier, respectively.

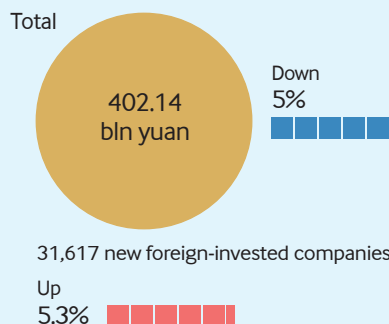
Within electronic device manu-

NUMBERS

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in January-June

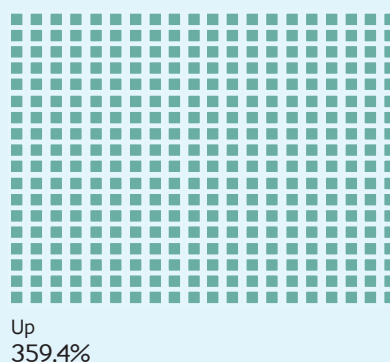
(All growth rates are y.o.y.; \$1=6.78 yuan as of July 30)

FDI in the Chinese mainland in actual use

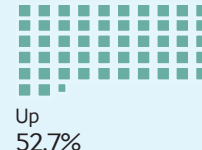


FDI in the Chinese mainland from

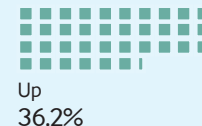
Saudi Arabia



Switzerland



France



facturing, profits of integrated circuit manufacturing soared 2,579.5 percent, while those of discrete semiconductor device manufacturing, including transistors and diodes, increased 31.2 percent.

In the electronic components sector, profits of specialized electronic materials manufacturing rose 209.7 percent, whereas those of electronic circuit manufacturing recorded an increase of 26.9 percent.

The data also showed profits of China's major industrial firms, or those with an annual main business revenue of at least 20 million yuan (\$2.95 million), increased 18.7 percent year on year in H1.

Transport Services Plan

China has issued a plan to comprehensively advance the high-quality development of integrated transport services during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30), the Ministry of Transport announced on July 24.

The plan was jointly issued

by the ministry, the National Railway Administration, the Civil Aviation Administration of China and the State Post Bureau. It aims to largely establish a modern integrated transport service system by 2030.

Under the plan, China will improve connections among different modes of transport, make passenger transfers more convenient and enhance freight logistics services. It will also promote the integration of transport and tourism, improve services at transport hubs, as well as strengthen rural passenger transport, freight and delivery services.

By 2030, 90 percent of multimodal cargo transfers at key freight hubs are expected to be completed within one hour. The volume of containers transported consecutively by rail and water, with the cargo remaining in the same container throughout the journey, is expected to reach 10 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). TEUs are the international standard unit used to quantify containerized cargo,

ship capacity and port throughput.

Green travel is expected to account for 76 percent of trips in major cities. Integrated delivery and logistics service stations are expected to cover 90 percent of administrative villages. New-energy heavy-duty trucks are expected to make up 20 percent of the country's heavy-truck fleet, while car rental services are expected to cover all major passenger transport hubs.

By 2035, the system is expected to be further improved, enabling one-hour commutes within metropolitan areas, two-hour travel within city clusters and three-hour access to major cities nationwide. The plan also aims to enable express freight delivery within one day in China, within two days to neighboring countries and within three days to major cities worldwide.

Green Electricity Certificate

The National Energy Administration (NEA) launched a price index for green electricity

certificates (GECs) on July 24, in a bid to better reflect the development of green power market.

With the base period set at 100 points in January 2025, the index closed at 181 points in June, or a year-on-year increase of 23.2 percent, the NEA said.

Green electricity is electricity generated from renewable energy sources such as wind, solar or biomass power, whose prices serve as a barometer for the development of renewable energy.

The GECs price index will be released on a regular monthly basis, which is expected to boost market transparency and facilitate precise supply-demand matching, an NEA official said.

China introduced the GEC system as a pilot program in 2017. In December 2023, the NEA issued an initial batch of certificates.

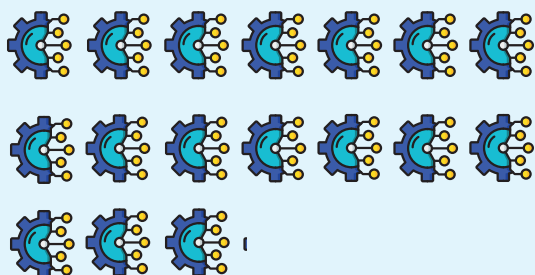
Data released by the NEA on July 24 showed that it issued 373 million GECs in June, involving over 1.24 million renewable energy power generation projects.

FDI in

hi-tech sector

170.33 billion yuan

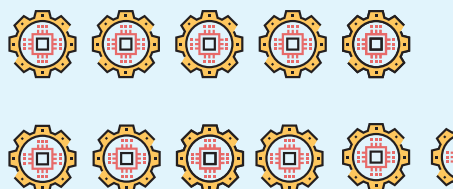
 = 10 billion yuan



manufacturing sector

105.03 billion yuan

 = 10 billion yuan



(Source: Ministry of Commerce)



MEXICO

Dancers perform dance at the Guelaguetza Auditorium in Oaxaca City on July 27. Guelaguetza is an annual showcase of the country's indigenous cultures, featuring traditional music, dance and food



GREECE

Firefighting operations in Rethymno on the island of Crete on July 29. Two firefighters lost their lives while battling a fast-moving wildfire as gale-force winds fueled the blaze across a front stretching more than 15 km



JAPAN

A damaged house after an earthquake in Kumamoto Prefecture on July 29. Twenty-eight people were confirmed dead following the powerful quake





ITALY

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani (left) and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud meet on the sidelines of a meeting of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution in Rome on July 29, reaffirming their support for implementing the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict



IRAQ

A funeral procession for Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) members in Baghdad on July 29. At least 20 of its members were killed and 32 others wounded during U.S.-Saudi strikes that hit several Iraqi provinces



PERU

Soldiers march in a parade to commemorate the country's 205th anniversary of independence in Lima on July 29



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ DRAM TRAILBLAZER

Physicist **Zhu Yiming** led ChangXin Memory Technologies (CXMT) to its debut on Shanghai's STAR Market, China's Nasdaq-style Science and Technology Innovation Board, on July 27, a milestone for China's homegrown DRAM industry.

DRAM is the temporary memory that powers every computer, smartphone and server. CXMT, headquartered in Hefei, Anhui Province, is the only company on the Chinese mainland capable of mass-producing DRAM chips. Founded in 2016, it had captured 7.67 percent of the global market by the fourth quarter of 2025.

The man behind it is Zhu, who holds degrees from Tsinghua University in Beijing and Stony Brook University in the United States. He returned to China to found GigaDevice, a semiconductor company, in 2005. Zhu champions a strategy that links chip design and wafer manufacturing through both GigaDevice and CXMT.



Beyond the Screen

Guangming Daily

July 27

Cinemas are rapidly transforming from simple movie theaters into dynamic cultural hubs. They are diversifying beyond screenings by incorporating features like cultural exhibition halls, themed photo zones, cafés and immersive experiences. This expansion enriches the visitor experience and integrates cinemas into the broader cultural and entertainment ecosystem.

A major development this summer was the live-broadcasting of the 2026 FIFA

World Cup in North America (June 11-July 19) across 1,200 cinemas. Official guidelines now encourage cinemas to creatively redesign their spaces, creating visually appealing and engaging environments for varied programming. This includes morning family shows, afternoon business events and late-night art film screenings, positioning cinemas as multi-functional venues for viewing, socializing and consumption.

Furthermore, cinemas are becoming important educational platforms, hosting science popularization events. As they evolve into integral cultural centers, cinemas foster deeper audience connections and contribute to urban vitality.



Factory Forward

Lifeweek

July 27

Chinese manufacturing is undergoing a major transformation from traditional mass production to a flexible, technology-based system that responds quickly to global consumer demand.

The rapid production of soccer jerseys during the 2026 FIFA World Cup demonstrated how factories can now react to changing market trends within days. Factories, supported by complete industrial supply chains, were able to produce custom-

“China-European Union (EU) cooperation is enormous in scale, and differences and frictions are inevitable. Such differences, however, should not be used as a justification for making groundless accusations, still less as a pretext for imposing restrictions, exerting pressure or undermining practical cooperation.”

Lin Weilong, a Ministry of Commerce official, at a press conference in Beijing on July 28, as the EU recently rolled out a series of protectionist measures against China

“Music really is a universal medium through which we can connect.”

Tanner DeWaal, Artistic Director of One Voice Children's Choir in the U.S., during an exchange program in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, where her fellow singers performed with local students on July 19

ized products in extremely short periods of time, showing the speed and efficiency of China's modern manufacturing network.

The traditional model of producing large quantities of standardized goods is gradually being replaced by smaller, more personalized and fast-changing production. Consumer preferences are increasingly shaped by social media, livestreaming and e-commerce platforms, creating demand for greater variety and shorter product cycles. Companies such as fast fashion giant SHEIN represent this trend by combining small-batch production with rapid market response. Manufacturing is now more closely connected with consumer data, allowing producers to adjust designs, quantities and styles in real time.

Digital technologies have become essential to this shift. AI, cloud computing, industrial Internet systems and smart management platforms help factories coordinate supply chains, production schedules, logistics and design processes more efficiently. Data-driven systems, then, reduce waste, improve communication between factories and allow customized production on a larger scale.

As a result, Chinese manufacturing is moving beyond its traditional role as "the world's factory." It is becoming a highly connected industrial ecosystem that combines scale, speed, innovation and customization to meet rapidly changing global demand.

Private vs. Public

Guangzhou Daily

July 27

A recent incident broadcast by state media outlet China Central Television has ignited a heated debate over the delicate boundary between private life and public exposure.

The case unfolded when a female homeowner, glancing toward her neighbor's window, spotted her male neighbor completely naked inside his own apartment. Rather than look away, she photographed him through the window and posted the image in their building's private owners' group chat. Alongside the photo, she added a pointed message urging him to close his curtains,

out of consideration for neighbors and, especially, for the children living in the building.

What began as a neighborly admonition quickly spiraled into a full-blown uproar, with group members sharply divided over who was truly in the wrong: the man who failed to cover up, or the woman who chose to expose him.

While individuals enjoy a legal right to privacy within their own homes, that right is not without limits. That said, the female homeowner's response in this case crossed a line. However well-intentioned her concerns may have been, secretly photographing a neighbor in a state of undress and sharing that image publicly constitutes a violation of both privacy and personal dignity.



PROFESSOR AT THE FRONTIER OF MATH

He Xuhua, a professor of mathematics at the University of Hong Kong, has been elected vice president of the International Mathematical Union. He secured the role during the union's General Assembly in New York City, the United States, on July 20-21. At 47, he is the youngest person to hold this position in two decades, and only the second Chinese mathematician to do so since the IMU was founded in 1920.

He, a leading scholar who has made original breakthroughs in pure mathematics, will serve a four-year term starting in 2027. Throughout his term, he will advance open collaboration and academic exchanges in global mathematical research, and foster further prosperity of mathematical studies worldwide, he said.



The IMU, an international scientific organization, hosts the International Congress of Mathematicians and administers the selection of the Fields Medal, the world's most prestigious mathematics award.

"We can see where it started, what steps were taken, how it evolved and how that journey compares with what we have achieved today."

Andrei Mokhar, Director General of the Belarusian Telegraph Agency, at a photo exhibition in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on July 27. The SCO, initially a six-member regional organization, now consists of 10 members, two observers and 15 dialogue partners spanning Asia, Africa and Europe

"The most critical bottleneck for ASEAN countries is not capital or technology; it is absorptive capacity."

Marco Kamiya, a United Nations Industrial Development Organization official, in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency, noting closer China-ASEAN cooperation can help Southeast Asia strengthen its industrial capabilities



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