

OPINION: ONCE UPON A TIME P.26 | FEATURES: ACROSS WATERS, AMONG TREES P.30

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Time: September 8th to 11th, 2026

Location: Xiamen City, Fujian Province, China

About CIFIT:

CIFIT is hosted by the Ministry of Commerce, P.R.C. and is co-hosted by six international organizations, including the World Trade Organization. CIFIT bears the permanent theme of “Expanding Two-Way Investment, Jointly Facilitating Global Development” and is dedicated to building the platform for two-way investment promotion, authoritative information release and investment trend discussion. As China’s only state-level exhibition focusing on investment and one of the world’s most influential international investment events, CIFIT has become an effective platform for global investors to deepen concrete cooperation.

The Outcomes of 25th CIFIT

120,000+ Exhibition Area (sqm) **80,000+** Participants

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1.288 Billion Views Global Reach **138** Participating Countries/Regions/ International Organizations

300+ Project Roadshows **1,000+** Business Matchmaking Sessions



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CONTENTS

EDITOR'S DESK

02 Equity in Education

THIS WEEK

COVER STORY

12 Live and Learn

The reforms shaping China's education landscape

16 A Blueprint for Breakthroughs

Education reforms aim to produce well-rounded innovators

OPINION

20 Free Trade Redefines Ties

Highlights of Ecuadorian President's first state visit to China

Cover Photo: Primary school students walk onto campus at the start of the new semester in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, on August 24 (VCG)

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22 Understanding China Beyond Western Perceptions

Leader of the Workers Party of Britain on China's development and relations with the West

24 From Russia With Move

Putin's visit to the Moscow-controlled Pacific archipelago also claimed by Japan

26 Once Upon a Time... in WANA

A movie's scenes through the eyes of those who lived it

27 Joint Efforts for a Greener Future

China and Arab states make bold efforts to cope with desertification

FEATURES

30 What Grew From \$5,000?

Retired U.S. teacher reunites with Ordos tree planter

32 Autonomous Athletes

Faster, higher, stronger at the World Humanoid Robot Games

34 More Than a Getaway

Rural villages offer "Fujian-style life" to visitors and new residents

38 Two Shores, on the Same Page

Reading brings understanding and understanding gives rise to respect

40 Learner Drivers Hit the Brakes

Driving schools must adapt or perish as fewer people learn to drive

42 From the Streets to the Spotlight

Olympic hopes for China's homegrown eight-ball sport

CULTURE

46 From the Kilns to the Capital

Treasures of Jingdezhen on show in Beijing

FORUM

48 Hiring Ex-Prisoners: Risk or Reward?



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EDITOR'S DESK



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Equity in Education

As the new school year begins this month, students in big cities and rural villages, from China's east to west, are returning to classrooms. Efforts to close gaps left open by geographical and socioeconomic factors are delivering higher quality education to more students, pushing China closer to its goal of becoming a global powerhouse in education.

The foundation of these efforts has consisted of legal mandates, financial and policy support, and initiatives aimed at capacity building and exchange between more and less developed regions. From the introduction of the Compulsory Education Law in 1986 and its latest amendment in 2018 to recent efforts to improve infrastructure in rural schools, efforts to increase participation have been paying off.

The completion rate for children in China's nine-year compulsory education system reached 96.1 percent in 2025, with the enrollment rate of primary school-aged children at 99.9 percent. Outside of compulsory education, enrollment last year reached 92 percent for senior high school-aged children and 92.9 percent for preschoolers. Currently, there are 430,000 primary and secondary schools and kindergartens in China, serving 220 million students and supported by 15.77 million teachers.

These key indicators have already

reached the average levels of high-income countries and are still improving. A targeted assistance system for vulnerable groups, including the children of migrant workers and children with disabilities, has contributed not only to the improvement of these volume metrics, but also to the standard of education these students receive.

During the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30), China will continue to upgrade its education system and promote high-quality, well-balanced development of compulsory education. Remaining priorities include increasing the speed with which China's education resource allocation adapts to changes in birth rates and migration trends; continuing to eliminate gaps between urban and rural areas, regions and different schools; improving students' physical fitness and mental health and protecting eyesight; making education more inclusive; and ensuring AI enters teaching and learning in beneficial, healthy and secure ways.

Improvements in access to and quality of education have not only changed the destinies of countless individuals, but also contributed to the stability and progress of society as a whole. Ongoing reform will ensure education continues to grow into a main driver of China's long-term development. **BR**



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MUDSLIDE RESCUE

Rescue workers head to mudslide-stricken Gyirong Port in Gyirong County, Xizang Autonomous Region, on August 27.

The port lies on the China-Nepal border. A mudslide that occurred on the morning of August 26 in Nepal had resulted in three people dead and 558 missing at Gyirong Port as of 8 a.m. on August 27.



Pedals and Petals

Cyclists explore the Erhai Lake ecological corridor in Dali, Yunnan Province, on August 21. Cycling has become a popular choice for many visitors to tour the lake and get close to nature.

Yellow River Tunnel

Drivers can now cross the Yellow River, China's second-longest river, in just about five minutes, as a new tunnel opened to traffic on August 25 in Jinan, capital of Shandong Province.

Stretching 5.75 km in total, the tunnel on Huanggang Road features a shield-driven section of roughly 3.3 km, bored by the Shanhe shield tunneling machine with a cutting diameter of 17.5 meters. It is the largest of its kind among underwater shield tunnels in the country.

The single-tube, double-deck structure accommodates six lanes—three on each level—with a design speed of 60 km per hour. This layout significantly improves overall cost-effectiveness.

As the second major Yellow River crossing in Jinan after the tunnel on Jiluo Road, this new

route is expected to further boost cross-river economic ties.

Family Doctor Services

China's health authorities have issued new measures aimed at further improving family doctor services.

The National Health Commission, the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration recently issued a circular outlining measures to further deepen and expand family doctor contract services.

According to the document, all physicians in the clinical categories of internal medicine and pediatrics, as well as traditional Chinese medicine practitioners, working in primary-level healthcare institutions, should by the end of 2026 serve as family

doctors and provide contract services.

The circular calls for the orderly advancement of a family doctor first-contact responsibility system, under which contracted residents will be given priority access to consultations with their designated family doctors at primary healthcare institutions. If a patient's condition exceeds the professional scope of a family doctor, the doctor should, with the patient's consent, refer the patient to a specialist.

When referral to a higher-level hospital is necessary, family doctors should make use of reserved appointment slots, hospital beds and fast-track referral channels available through closely integrated medical alliances to ensure timely treatment.

The circular also calls for expanding family doctor services from chronic disease management to the coordinated

management of both chronic and infectious diseases.

China launched family doctor contract services in 200 cities nationwide in 2016 as part of broader efforts to strengthen primary-level healthcare services, with plans to steadily expand their coverage.

WorldSkills Competition Delegation

China has formed its national delegation for the 48th WorldSkills Competition, to be held in Shanghai in late September, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announced on August 23.

The Chinese delegation comprises 220 members, including 71 competitors who will participate in all 64 skill categories of the event. The contestants come from 21 provinces across the country, with 49 being students and 22 being working professionals. Their average age is 21, all within the age bracket from 18 to 25.

Held every two years, the WorldSkills Competition is the world's largest international gathering of skills talent. It is scheduled to take place in Shanghai from September 22 to 27 this year, with nearly 70 countries and regions expected to send about 1,400 competitors.

Since joining WorldSkills International in 2010, China has taken part in seven previous competitions, amassing 93 gold medals, 41 silver medals, 28 bronze medals and 71 medalions for excellence. The country has topped both the gold medal tally and the overall team standings for four consecutive editions.

The competition covers a wide range of professional skills

divided into six major categories, including manufacturing and engineering technology, information and communication technology, construction and building technology, transportation and logistics, creative arts and fashion as well as social and personal services.

World Cleanup Day

The global observance of World Cleanup Day 2026 will be held in Shaoxing City, Zhejiang Province from September 19 to 21, the first time China has been chosen to host the event.

Cecilia Andersson, Programme Management Officer and Waste Management Lead at United Nations-Habitat, made the announcement at a press conference in Shaoxing on August 20, adding that the event is themed from Clean Plates to Clean Cities.

Andersson noted that preventing and reducing waste at the source contributes to building cleaner, healthier and more resource-efficient cities.

"Hosting the event allows us to learn from practices worldwide, while driving cities toward high-quality development and creating better living spaces for people," Wang Shengjun, chief economist at the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, said.

Established by the United

Nations General Assembly in 2023, World Cleanup Day is observed annually on September 20. It aims to raise public awareness of the role cleanup efforts play in sustainable development.

New Subway Line

Subway Line 22, Beijing's urban rail route spanning the capital and neighboring Hebei Province, launched empty-load trial operations on August 25, advancing a scheduled year-end opening, municipal authorities said.

Stretching 79.1 km, the line runs through Chaoyang and Tongzhou districts of Beijing, then Sanhe in Hebei, before reaching Pinggu District of Beijing. Starting from Hongmiao in Chaoyang District to Pinggu New City, the trains stop at 20 stations—15 in Beijing and five in Hebei.

The Beijing Major Projects Construction Headquarters Office and Beijing Metro Operation Administration Corporation said on August 25 that the trial operation is a critical milestone, putting the line on track to meet basic opening conditions by the end of this year.

Once fully operational, the line will deliver seamless connections between Sanhe, a county in Hebei's Langfang City, and Beijing's urban rail network.



Robot Meets the Press

Members of a joint Chinese-Russian media delegation watch a humanoid robot performance at the Hubei Humanoid Robot Innovation Center in Wuhan, Hubei Province, on August 25.

Tainted Cabbage

China's food safety authorities ordered nationwide inspections of perishable vegetables on August 23 after reports that Chinese cabbage buyers in Hebei Province used a formaldehyde solution to preserve the produce during transportation.

The State Council's Food Safety Office, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the State Administration for Market Regulation said on the night of August 23 that they had immediately directed local authorities to investigate the case

involving the tainted cabbage in Kangbao County of Hebei.

The statement came after a video posted online alleged that some agricultural produce buyers in Tunkun Township, Kangbao County, had dipped Chinese cabbage in a formaldehyde solution before loading it for transportation to better preserve it.

Under China's Food Safety Law and Law on Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products, formaldehyde cannot be used as a food-processing aid and adding formaldehyde to food in any manner is illegal.



Cruising!

Visitors take photos aboard the cruise ship *Da Wan Qu Yi Dun* on August 22. The ship departed from the Nansha International Cruise Home Port in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, that same day, marking the official launch of the regular Guangzhou-Shenzhen maritime cultural tourism route.

Multinational Growth

China's advantages have become important drivers of multinational companies' growth in the country, and also key factors that help these companies build competitiveness globally, Vice Minister of Commerce Ling Ji said at a press conference on August 25.

Foreign companies are paying greater attention to China's highly developed industrial ecosystem, world-class infrastructure, efficient supply chains, dynamic innovation ecosystem and large pool of skilled talent, rather than traditional factors such as labor and land, the official said.

Ling also noted China's changing role for multinationals. In the past, many such companies achieved quick success by bringing in capital, mature technologies, business models and management expertise, he said.

Today, with its intense market competition and diverse consumer use cases, China is increasingly serving as a "training ground" or

"gym" for multinational companies to strengthen their global competitiveness, Ling explained.

This shift is also changing the way foreign companies operate in China, Ling noted. Previously, many foreign-invested companies built their own research and development and supply-chain systems in China. Now, more of them are becoming deeply integrated into China's broader industrial ecosystem and working more closely with local partners, he said.

The latest foreign investment figures point to continued confidence in the Chinese market. In the first seven months of 2026, 37,711 new foreign-invested enterprises were established nationwide, up 4.4 percent year on year, while foreign direct investment in hi-tech industries surged 32.7 percent year on year.

EV Charging Infrastructure

China's electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure has continued to expand swiftly, with the total number of charging points reach-

ing 23.68 million by the end of July, up 41.9 percent year on year, the National Energy Administration said on August 24.

Of this total, public charging facilities numbered 5.099 million, an increase of 21.3 percent from a year earlier.

Private charging facilities totaled 18.58 million units by the end of July, surging 48.8 percent year on year.

The data, sourced from the national charging infrastructure monitoring and service platform, highlights the continued expansion of China's EV support network alongside a surge in EV sales.

China's new-energy vehicle (NEV) sales in July accounted for more than 60 percent of monthly new car sales for the first time, industry data showed in August.

In July alone, NEV output and sales reached over 1.57 million and 1.56 million units, respectively, up a respective 26.8 percent and 23.7 percent year on year, according to data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Humanoid Robots

China will formulate at least 100 key standards for the humanoid robot industry by 2028, according to a draft guideline from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).

The draft guideline for developing a national standard system for the humanoid robot industry is open for public commentary from August 25 to September 23.

The proposed standards cover areas including methods for capability testing and evaluation, key technologies, platforms and systems, application scenarios and safety governance. By 2028, the draft also aims to establish a systematic, science-based and coordinated standard system, with more than 200 enterprises promoting and implementing these standards.

Humanoid robots are defined in the draft as a new generation of AI-driven intelligent terminals with human-like forms and the ability to autonomously perform complex tasks.

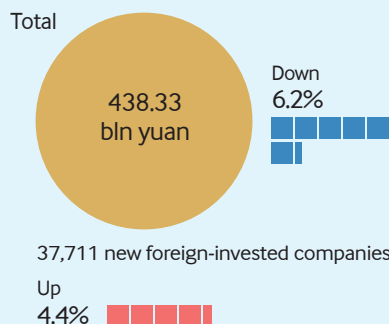
The sector's rapid develop-

NUMBERS

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in January-July

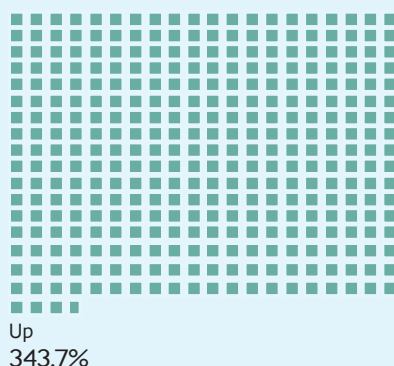
(All growth rates are y.o.y., \$1=6.78 yuan as of August 27)

FDI in the Chinese mainland in actual use

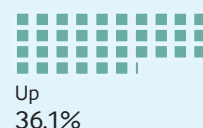


FDI in the Chinese mainland from

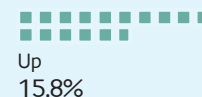
Saudi Arabia



France



Republic of Korea



ment has created an urgent need for common standards covering terminology, interfaces, testing and evaluation to guide technological innovation, product development and large-scale application, according to the draft. More than 100 humanoid robot-related standards are already under development or subject to preliminary research in China and abroad.

BeiDou Adoption

More than 98 percent of the 133 million mobile phones shipped in China's domestic market in the first half of 2026 supported the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), or the Chinese GPS, as this technology expands across consumer devices, transport and other industries, MIIT said on August 24.

Over 14 million shared two-wheelers had adopted BeiDou independent positioning as of late June, accounting for more than 90 percent of the country's total fleet.

As of late 2025, cumulative shipments of domestically produced BeiDou-compatible chips and modules had approached 2.6

billion units, while the installed base of terminal products with BeiDou functions had exceeded 2.2 billion units, according to the ministry.

Deployment has also expanded across 39 pilot cities for large-scale BeiDou applications, which had introduced more than 12 million terminals using BeiDou independent positioning by the end of June.

BeiDou's footprint is also expanding across major industries. China now has nearly 40 million BeiDou terminal devices in key sectors, where overall application penetration stands at about 90 percent. More than 160 million wearable devices support BeiDou positioning, while over 100 million passenger vehicles have been equipped with BeiDou-based positioning devices.

Boosting Consumption

China has optimized the implementation of coordinated fiscal and financial policies to boost domestic demand, with a new package of

measures taking effect on August 1, Liao Min, Vice Minister of Finance, said at a press conference on August 21.

So far this year, the ministry has allocated 187.5 billion yuan (\$28 billion) to support consumer goods trade-in programs, helping generate 178 million purchases with a combined sales of approximately 1.32 trillion yuan (\$196 billion), according to Liao.

China has also introduced interest subsidies for personal consumption loans and loans to service-sector business entities while supporting employment and entrepreneurship among key groups.

Efforts have also been made to improve the consumption environment by advancing the development of pilot cities for modern commercial circulation systems and piloting new forms, models and scenarios of consumption.

The new measures broaden the scope of interest subsidies for consumer loans. New credit-card installment purchases, including

those for cars and home decoration, are now eligible for policy support.

The number of financial institutions handling interest subsidies for loans to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and service-sector businesses has increased from about 100 to around 400, Liao said.

The measures also raise the loan caps under the interest subsidy policy, from 50 million yuan (\$7.4 million) to 75 million yuan (\$11 million) for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and from 10 million yuan (\$1.5 million) to 20 million yuan (\$3 million) for service-sector businesses. Liao said the interest subsidy ceiling for personal consumption loans has also been raised from 3,000 yuan (\$446) to 5,000 yuan (\$744).

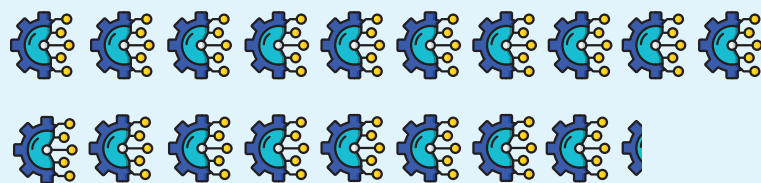
The Ministry of Finance, in line with economic development needs, is continuing to formulate new coordinated fiscal and financial policies and measures, which will be rolled out in the second half of this year, Liao said.

FDI in

hi-tech sector

182.31 billion yuan

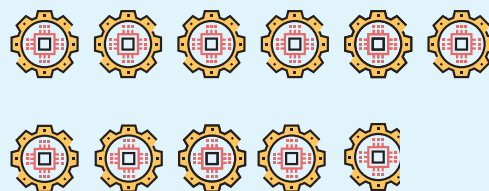
 = 10 billion yuan



manufacturing sector

109.43 billion yuan

 = 10 billion yuan



(Source: Ministry of Commerce)



HUNGARY

An evening show featuring fireworks, choreographed drone displays and light projections is held to celebrate the national day in Budapest on August 20



FRANCE

President Emmanuel Macron (right) welcomes Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud at the Élysée Palace in Paris on August 24. The two-day visit focused on bilateral deals and the Middle East



SPAIN

The annual tomato fight (*La Tomatina*) in Bunol near Valencia on August 26



BRAZIL

Visitors interact with a humanoid robot during The smarter E South America 2026, an energy industry event, at the Expo Center Norte in São Paulo on August 25



GERMANY

Visitors play games at Gamescom 2026 in Cologne on August 26



NEPAL

An area affected by flash floods in Nuwakot District on August 26. The death toll from a massive flash flood in the Bhoté Koshi River had reached 72 as of August 27

THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ CHEMIST EARNS TOP INTERNATIONAL ELECTROCHEMISTRY MEDAL

Tian Zhongqun, a professor with the College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Xiamen University, was awarded the 2026 *Electrochimica Acta* Gold Medal by the International Society of Electrochemistry (ISE) on August 14, becoming the first Chinese scientist to receive this honor since its launch in 1990.

As the society's top-tier biennial prize, the medal, named after the ISE's flagship academic journal, recognizes scholars delivering the most transformative advances in electrochemistry.

Tian earned the award for inventing a technique that greatly advances fundamental studies across electrochemistry, catalysis, corrosion and battery science.

Tian was elected as a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the highest academic accolade in the field of science and technology in China, in 2005. He served as president of the ISE from 2019 to 2020.



Reusable Rocket Recovery

Southern Daily

August 20

The reusable rocket industry took a notable step forward on August 19, when LandSpace, a private space company, successfully landed and recovered the first stage of its Zhuque-3 rocket—a first for China.

The feat came a month after the Long March 10B, a reusable rocket developed by the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp. completed its maiden flight and a sea-based recovery test. Together, the two missions made China the first country to accomplish both land-based and sea-based rocket recovery. Zhuque-3 carries another

layer of significance: It demonstrates that reusable rockets can be developed and used outside state-owned companies.

This leap has not come easily. Eight months earlier, LandSpace's first attempt to recover the Zhuque-3 booster ended in flames, with the vehicle crashing about 40 meters from its intended landing point. The company later published a detailed account of the failure, along with the technical upgrades it planned to make to improve the reliability of future recovery attempts.

The harder test now is widespread commercial deployment. Many hurdles remain, including setting standards for rocket inspection and reuse, improving recovery safety and reliability and bringing down launch costs.



Counties of Bounty

Oriental Outlook

August 6

The more than 1,800 counties and county-level cities in China produce 90 percent of the country's grain and, as of the end of 2024, accounted for 40 percent of its GDP. Their rise as important engines of economic growth has been driven less by sprawling conglomerates than by clusters of highly

"Through patent licensing, we share our innovations with the industry, delivering advanced technological experiences to consumers worldwide, particularly in standardized technologies."

Alan Fan, Chief Intellectual Property Officer of Chinese tech giant Huawei, as the company and U.S. tech firm HP on August 25 announced the completion of a multi-year global patent cross-licensing agreement, granting HP access to specific Wi-Fi-related patents owned by Huawei

"Jordan can draw lessons from China's experience in long-term planning, community participation, integrating environmental protection with economic development, leveraging technology and scientific research, and sustained government support."

Mishal Al-Fawaz, Director of the Environment Protection Directorate of Zarqa Governorate in Jordan, in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency on China's anti-desertification solutions

specialized businesses.

Across China, some counties have become virtually synonymous with particular industries. Zhuji in Zhejiang Province has built major businesses around pearls; Pingjiang in Hunan Province has become a byword for *latiao*, a popular Chinese spicy snack made of wheat gluten; and Gutian in Fujian Province specializes in edible fungi. In several cases, these narrowly focused industrial clusters have grown into nationally dominant hubs and captured sizable shares of global markets.

Specialization, however, also brings vulnerabilities. Many county-based manufacturers remain stuck in low-margin production, hampered by weak branding strategy, limited research capacity and fractured supply chains. Rising labor and land costs are squeezing margins further. Smaller counties face another constraint: persuading young talent and skilled professionals to stay.

Local manufacturers in these counties are increasingly trying to move up the value chain. Some are pouring money into research and technological development, while others are investing in branding and design. Local governments, meanwhile, are building shared innovation platforms and upgrading infrastructure and public amenities in an effort to attract and retain skilled workers.

Tertiary Menageries

Gmw.cn

August 26

A handful of Chinese higher education institutions are experimenting with a more permissive approach to pets on campus. Yinchuan College of Science and Technology recently allowed freshmen to bring pets with them during registration, though the animals must later be taken home. Chongqing Energy College and Kunming City College have gone further, offering paid pet-sitting services and pet-friendly dormitories.

That all three are private institutions is probably no coincidence. As competition for students intensifies, pet-friendly policies can

serve as a useful selling point. Universities have long restricted pets for practical reasons. From the animals' perspective, cramped dormitories may be far from ideal places to live. From the students' perspective, pets can pose hygiene and disease control risks, trigger severe allergic reactions in some, and create noises and odors that disturb those sharing the same space.

These concerns, however, do not mean campuses cannot become more pet-friendly. Some universities abroad allow pets on campus under strict conditions, including vaccination and roommate consent. Ultimately, bringing furry friends onto campus requires not only goodwill but also sound contingency plans, clear lines of responsibility and rigorous oversight.

↓ OCTOGENARIAN BREAKS ASIAN HURDLES RECORD

Ding Ming, an 82-year-old Chinese athlete, claimed gold in the men's 80-84 age group 80-meter hurdles at the 2026 World Masters Athletics Championships, an international sporting event for older athletes, held in Daegu, the Republic of Korea, on August 25, clocking 15.99 seconds to set a new Asian record. Ding shattered the previous Asian record of 16.73 seconds.

A versatile veteran competitor, Ding bagged four gold medals at the 2019 Asian Masters Athletics Championships. In May this year, he won the 80-meter hurdles title at the China Masters Athletics Championships, also competing in high jump and shot-put events.

A native of Anshan in Liaoning Province, the retired technician has loved sports since childhood. He was introduced to hurdling while in high school and the sport quickly grew into a lifelong passion.



“Raging conflicts displace people, destroy farmland and disrupt food production, and are an important driver of humanitarian crises and hunger.”

Fu Cong, China's Permanent Representative to the UN, at a Security Council open debate on the council's role in mitigating global and local food crises on August 25

“What I like about healthcare is that it's something shared between all people, and across all countries. We all face the same challenges, and all want to integrate innovation to save people's lives and reduce burdens.”

Khaoula Belahsen, a master's student at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, during a tour of China by representatives of Harvard University and other leading U.S. institutions



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