

NEWS FROM CHINA

CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

Keep Doors Open: Shaping Innovation-driven Future

APEC 2023
SAN FRANCISCO





A Time for Hope and Reflection: New Horizons

It's the season of reflection, looking back at what has been achieved and looking ahead to new possibilities and horizons. As we end 2023, there is much for China to celebrate and rejoice in. The world's second-largest economy has successfully navigated economic headwinds and is on track to achieve higher economic growth. China has also emerged as one of the most attractive destinations for global investors due to its consistent opening-up drive.

Innovation is poised to remain a key driver for China's economic growth and development. As China celebrates 45 years of reform and opening up this year, President Xi assured the leaders of APEC countries at the APEC summit in San Francisco in November, that "we will continue to pursue high-quality development and high-standard opening up." The ultimate goal of China's development is to better our people's lives, not to unseat anyone, he stressed.

Creating better lives of people requires peace and stability in the world. In this regard, we need to resolve the Palestine-Israel conflict urgently. As President Xi said at the BRICS extraordinary virtual summit in November, the parties to the conflict must end hostilities, and achieve a ceasefire immediately. He emphasized that the only viable way to break the cycle of Palestinian-Israeli conflict lies in the two-state solution, in the restoration of the legitimate national rights of Palestine, and in the establishment of an independent State of Palestine.

Looking ahead, China is focusing on improving relations with its major partners and neighbours, including the US and India. In this regard, the meeting between President Xi and his US counterpart Joe Biden in San Francisco was very productive and forward-looking. Terming the China-U.S. relationship as "the most important bilateral relationship in the world," President Xi underlined that "for China and the United States, turning their back on each other is not an option." "The world is big enough to accommodate both countries, and one country's success is an opportunity for the other."

It is in this spirit of mutual understanding that we seek better relations with India. As the only two major developing countries with a population of over one billion and major emerging economies, China and India should join hands to promote global stability and common development. This year, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi attended the SCO and BRICS Summits and had a conversation during the BRICS Summit. Premier Li Qiang attended the 18th G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi.

Going forward, we hope that the two sides will follow the important consensus reached by the two leaders and translate it into concerted actions to bring China-India relations back to sound and steady development at an early date. So, there is much to hope for as 2023 ends and we welcome the New Year with new dreams and goals.

Wishing our esteemed readers a joyous New Year!

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CHINA AND THE WORLD

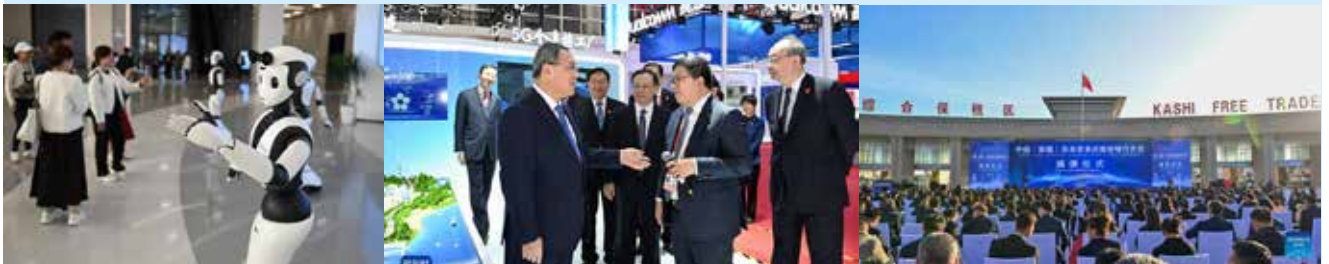


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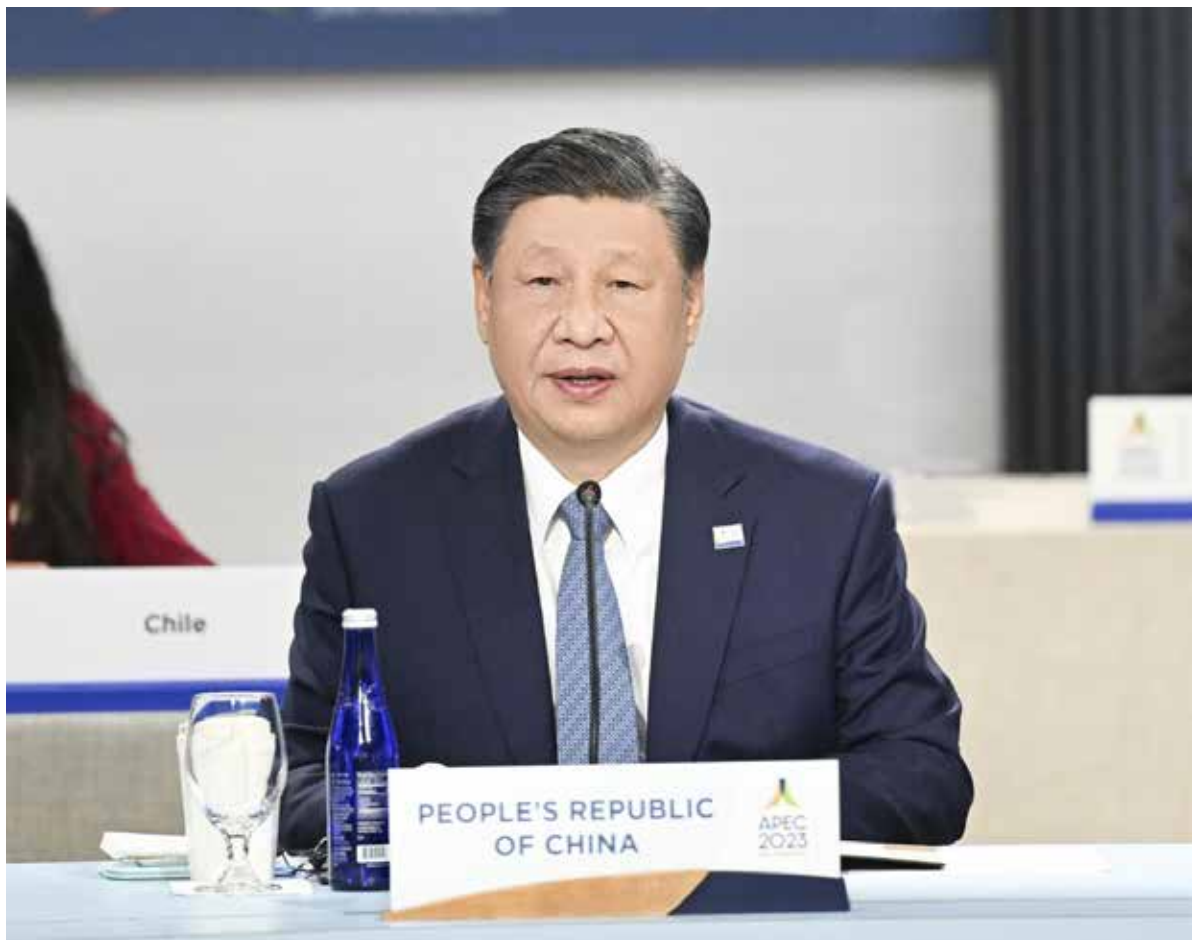
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Staying True to APEC Founding Mission and Enhancing Unity and Cooperation To Jointly Promote High-Quality Growth in the Asia-Pacific

At the 30th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco on November 17, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping warned against weaponisation of trade and underlined China's commitment to innovation-driven development and keeping global industrial and supply chains open and stable.



The Honorable President Joe Biden,
Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to meet you all in beautiful San Francisco. This APEC Economic leaders' meeting, the 30th of its kind, holds special significance. I wish to thank President Biden and the U.S. government for the thoughtful arrangements for this meeting.

Since the establishment of the economic leaders' regular meeting mechanism, APEC has always stood at the global forefront of openness and development. It has played a robust role in promoting Asia-Pacific trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, economic growth and technological progress, and the flow of goods and people. It has helped create the "Asia-Pacific miracle" that has staggered the world.

In the world today, changes on a scale unseen in a century are unfolding at an accelerating pace. The world economy faces multiple risks and challenges. The Asia-Pacific region, which is an engine of global growth, thus has greater responsibility in these times. We, the leaders of Asia-Pacific economies, must think very hard as to what kind of Asia-Pacific region we should have by the middle of this century, what we should do to usher in another "golden 30 years" for the region, and how we can bring out the best of APEC in this process.

An ancient Chinese sage said, "For a righteous cause, I shall press forward, undaunted by thousands standing in my way." In the same spirit, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to APEC's founding mission. We must respond to the calls of our times responsibly and meet global challenges together. We must fully deliver on the Putrajaya Vision of building an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community for the prosperity of all our people and future generations. To this end, I wish to propose the following.

First, staying committed to innovation-driven development. Innovation is a strong driver of development. We should follow the trends of scientific and technological

advancement, more proactively promote exchanges and cooperation in science and technology, and work together for an open, fair, equitable and non-discriminatory environment for scientific and technological progress. We should accelerate digital transformation, narrow the digital divide, redouble our efforts to implement the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap, support the application of big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and other new technologies, and create new momentum and new drivers of growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

China remains committed to its strategy for driving growth and development through innovation. China is advancing both its digital industry and the digital transformation of traditional industries. China has put forward a number of initiatives for promoting growth and development in the region through digital empowerment, such as digital technology-driven rural development, corporate digital identity, and transition to a green and low-carbon economy through the application of digital technologies.

Second, staying committed to openness in development. As manifested by the Asia-Pacific experience, an economy thrives in openness and withers in seclusion. We must promote free and open trade and investment, support and strengthen the WTO-centered multilateral trading regime, and keep global industrial and supply chains open and stable. We must say no to any attempt to politicize, weaponize, or impose security implications on economic and trade issues. We must remain unwavering to promote regional economic integration, accelerate the building of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, fully implement the APEC Connectivity Blueprint, and share in the opportunities of open regional development.

The recent third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that China hosted was a success, injecting fresh impetus into global connectivity and the building of an open world economy. China applies the highest standards

in implementing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, and has taken proactive steps to align its economic and trade rules with the high standards of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Digital Economic Partnership Agreement (DEPA), to accelerate the process of its accession to the CPTPP and DEPA. China will work with all relevant parties to write a new chapter in open development.

China has put forward a number of initiatives for promoting growth and development in the region through digital empowerment, such as digital technology-driven rural development, corporate digital identity, and transition to a green and low-carbon economy through the application of digital technologies.

Third, staying committed to green development. Given the increasingly grave challenges such as climate change and natural disasters, we must continue to promote harmony between man and nature, accelerate the transition to green and low-carbon development, and see to it that reducing carbon emissions and mitigating pollution operate in parallel with expanding green transition and promoting economic growth. We must deliver on the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy, making “green” a defining feature of Asia-Pacific growth.

China remains as determined as ever to pursue green development that prioritizes eco-environmental conservation and protection. China is making active yet prudent moves toward its goal of carbon peak and carbon neutrality, and is accelerating its transition to green development. China has put forward initiatives for cooperation between APEC member economies in green agriculture, sustainable city development, green and low-carbon energy transition, and marine pollution control and prevention. All such initiatives aim to build a clean and beautiful Asia-Pacific region.

Fourth, staying committed to inclusive development that delivers benefits to all. Global development now faces severe challenges and the development divide is getting wider. I have said on many occasions that true development is development for all. We must fully implement the U.N. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and put development back on the international agenda as a central priority. We need to develop greater synergy in our development strategies and work together to resolve the global development deficit. China welcomes participation by all parties in the Global Development Initiative (GDI) to deepen cooperation in poverty reduction, food security, industrialization and development financing and build a global community of development so that the fruits of modernization are shared by people across the world. China will continue to support APEC in its economic and technical cooperation and work together with other member economies to make the “cake” of Asia-Pacific development bigger.

China will continue to support APEC in its economic and technical cooperation and work together with other member economies to make the “cake” of Asia-Pacific development bigger.

Colleagues,

China is advancing the noble cause of building a great country and national rejuvenation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. China will remain committed to the path of peaceful development. The ultimate goal of China’s development is to better our people’s lives, not to unseat anyone. As we celebrate 45 years of our reform and opening up this year, we will continue to pursue high-quality development and high-standard opening up. Chinese modernization will bring the world more and greater opportunities for the modernization of all countries. I am ready to work with you for new success in Asia-Pacific cooperation and for another “golden 30 years” of the region.

Xi Calls for Unity to Achieve Better Asia-Pacific Cooperation

In written remarks delivered at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit on November 16, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that China's resolve to foster a "market-oriented, law-based and world-class business environment" will not change in days to come.



On November 16, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a written speech titled "Meeting challenges with unity of purpose to write a new chapter for Asia-Pacific" at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit.

In the written speech, Xi pointed out that three decades ago, Asia-Pacific leaders followed the trend toward peace and development, and convened the inaugural APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, enabling Asia-Pacific development and economic globalization to embark on a fast track of growth, turning the region into a powerhouse for world economic growth and an anchor of stability for global development.

Over the past three decades, we have stayed committed to open regionalism, opening

up and inclusiveness, learned from each other's strengths, exchanged needs, focused on development and jointly developed "the APEC Approach" based on the principles of voluntarism, consensus-building and incremental progress, capitalizing on the spirit of partnership featuring harmony without uniformity, and solidarity and mutual assistance, Xi said, adding that there is so much we can draw from this remarkable journey of Asia-Pacific cooperation.

Noting that the world has entered a new period of turbulence and change, Xi stressed that we should stay committed to APEC's founding mission, never forget our mission bestowed by history, and move to relaunch Asia-Pacific cooperation, as we are facing a new question of the times -- where will Asia-

Pacific cooperation be headed in the next 30 years.

We should jointly uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, maintain Asia-Pacific prosperity and stability through dialogue and partnership rather than confrontation and alliance, Xi said. The region cannot and should not be an arena for geopolitical rivalry, still less should it be plunged into a new Cold War or camp-based confrontation, he said.

Xi underscored that we should remain committed to open regionalism, and steadfastly advance the building of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, make our economies more interconnected, and build an open Asia-Pacific economy featuring win-win cooperation.

The president said that we should move along with the trend to promote transition to digital, smart and green development, jointly boost innovation and market application of scientific and technological advances, and push forward full integration of digital and physical economies.

Xi underscored that we should remain committed to open regionalism, and steadfastly advance the building of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, make our economies more interconnected, and build an open Asia-Pacific economy featuring win-win cooperation.

We should jointly improve global governance of science and technology, so as to build an open, fair, just and non-discriminatory environment for the development of science and technology, he said.

This year, China's economy has been steadily recovering and turning for the better, and the country remains the most powerful engine of global growth, Xi said.

China enjoys distinct strengths such as a socialist market economy in systemic terms, a supersize market in terms of demand, a full-fledged industrial system in terms of supply, and abundant, high-caliber labor forces and

entrepreneurs in terms of human resources, the president said, adding that China's economic development is self-generative, resilient and has many potentials.

Today, the overall Chinese economy remains promising, and it will remain so in the long run, Xi said. China has the confidence in, and even more capability of achieving long-term and stable growth, and through its development China will continue to provide the world with new growth momentum and opportunities, he said.

Xi said that China remains committed to pursuing development with its doors open, and will unswervingly advance high-standard opening up and further expand market access.

The president stressed that China's resolve to foster a market-oriented, law-based and world-class business environment will not change, and its policy of providing equal and quality services to foreign investors will not change.

Chinese modernization's immutable goal is to deliver a better life to the whole of more than 1.4 billion Chinese people, Xi said, adding that for the world, this means a broader market and unprecedented cooperation opportunities. It will also instill strong impetus in the global modernization endeavor, he said.

Xi voiced hope to see an active part of the global business community in the Chinese modernization drive to benefit from the huge opportunities brought by China's high-quality development.

Today, the overall Chinese economy remains promising, and it will remain so in the long run, Xi said. China has the confidence in, and even more capability of achieving long-term and stable growth, and through its development China will continue to provide the world with new growth momentum and opportunities, he said.

Xi Stresses Independent Development, Cooperation in Bilateral Engagements with APEC Leaders

Independence was one of the keywords in President Xi Jinping's meetings with leaders of Asia-Pacific countries on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting. Xi underscored China's expectations for Asia-Pacific countries to pursue independent development, manage differences, and promote cooperation.

On November 16, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping held a series of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, stressing APEC members should pursue independent development and regional cooperation.

In those bilateral engagements, Xi underscored China's expectations for Asia-Pacific countries to pursue independent development, manage differences, and promote cooperation.

Independence is one of the keywords in Xi's meetings with leaders of Asia-Pacific countries.

In talks with his Mexican counterpart, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the Chinese president said that China supports Mexico's independent development path in line with its national conditions and is willing to strengthen exchanges with Mexico in country governance.

Later in a meeting with Fiji Prime

Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, Xi said that China's policy on Pacific island countries fully respects their sovereignty and independence, and does not attach political conditions or make empty promises.

The Chinese president told Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah that China supports Brunei in pursuing a development path suited to its own national conditions.

Having been reaffirming its support for countries to pursue an independent development path, China urges Asia-Pacific countries to respect each other's political systems and development models, while jointly opposing bullying, power plays, and interference in other countries.

Echoing Xi's remarks, Japanese scholar Kazuteru Saionji, a visiting professor at Higashi Nippon International University said that after the end of the Cold War, global development has entered a period of "diversity."

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region “should recognize and respect the diversity of political systems and ideologies among each other, rather than engaging in bullying and exerting pressure,” said the scholar.

Managing differences and seeking consensus are also an important part of Xi’s meetings with the Asia-Pacific leaders.

When meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Xi said the two sides should view each other’s development with objectivity and rationality, foster positive and friendly mutual cognition, manage differences in a constructive manner, and translate the political consensus that the two countries are cooperative partners, not a threat to each other into specific policies and concrete actions.

Xi also stressed that major issues of principle related to history and Taiwan bear on the political foundation of China-Japan relations, and he urged Japan to honor its pledges and make sure that the foundation of bilateral relations will not be damaged or shaken.

On the South China Sea issue, the Chinese president told Brunei’s leader that the two countries should make joint efforts to advance positive progress in joint maritime development and jointly safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea.

China stands ready to work with Brunei and other ASEAN countries to advance regional economic integration and maintain the right direction of East Asia cooperation, Xi said.

While there are differences and even conflicts among Asia-Pacific countries on specific issues, China recognizes that differences and conflicts are not the defining feature of relationships between Asia-Pacific nations, and China has always aspired to foster mutual development and prosperity with other Asia-Pacific countries by seeking common ground while shelving differences.

In a world fraught with turbulence and change, China, as a major economy, has voiced a clear position and attitude, demonstrating a highly cooperative and open mind, said Wang

Qi, chairman of the U.S.-China Green Energy Council. “It seeks to manage differences and enhance cooperation, which holds importance in promoting the common development of the Asia-Pacific region.”

Xi also stressed that major issues of principle related to history and Taiwan bear on the political foundation of China-Japan relations, and he urged Japan to honor its pledges and make sure that the foundation of bilateral relations will not be damaged or shaken.

Promoting cooperation is also a central theme in Xi’s multiple meetings.

When meeting his Peruvian counterpart, Dina Boluarte, the Chinese president said the two sides should synergize their development strategies, and strengthen cooperation in traditional areas such as economy, trade, energy and mineral resources. The two presidents agreed to enhance Belt and Road cooperation.

In his meeting with the Fijian prime minister, Xi said as developing countries, China and Pacific island countries should strengthen mutual assistance within the framework of South-South cooperation, and that China has developed relations with Pacific island countries in a candid manner, without selfish motives or targeting any third party.

Hailing China as “an active player in the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation,” Ahmed Kandil, an Egyptian expert in Asian affairs and head of the International Studies Unit at Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, said, “China has played a very important role in promoting common development and building a shared future for humanity in the Asia-Pacific region.”

China’s contribution to the Asia-Pacific “has positively reflected on the development of the region,” said the scholar.

President Xi Jinping Meets with U.S. President Joe Biden

In his summit meeting with US President Joe Biden at the majestic Filoli Estate, San Francisco on November 15, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping described the China-U.S. relationship as the most important bilateral relationship in the world and underlined that a stable and growing China is good for the United States and the whole world.

President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden held a summit meeting at the Filoli Estate, San Francisco. The two heads of state had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on strategic and overarching issues critical to the direction of China-U.S. relations and on major issues affecting world peace and development.

President Xi Jinping noted that China and the United States are faced with two options in the era of global transformations unseen in a century: One is to enhance solidarity and cooperation and join hands to meet global challenges and promote global security and prosperity; and the other is to cling to the zero-sum mentality, provoke rivalry and confrontation, and drive the world toward turmoil and division. The two choices point to two different directions that will decide the future of humanity and Planet Earth. The China-U.S. relationship, which is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, should be perceived and envisioned in this broad context. For China and the United States, turning their back on each other is not an option. It is unrealistic for one side to remodel the other. And conflict and confrontation has unbearable consequences for both sides. Major-country competition cannot solve the problems facing China and the United States or the world. The



President Xi Jinping was warmly received by President Joe Biden upon arrival at the Filoli Estate.

world is big enough to accommodate both countries, and one country's success is an opportunity for the other.

President Xi Jinping elaborated on the essential features of Chinese modernization and its significance, China's development prospects, and its strategic intention. He pointed out that China's development is driven by its inherent logic and dynamics. China is promoting the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. It will not take the old path of colonization and plundering, or the wrong path of seeking hegemony with growing strength. It does not export its ideology. It has no plan to surpass or unseat the United States. Likewise, the United States should not scheme to suppress and contain China.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation are the lessons learned from 50 years of China-U.S. relations as well as the conflicts between major countries in history. China and the United States should put in a lot of efforts to follow them. In San Francisco, the two sides should assume a new vision and build together five pillars for China-U.S. relations.

First, jointly developing a right perception.

China is consistently committed to having a stable, healthy and sustainable relationship with the United States. At the same time, China has interests that must be safeguarded, principles that must be upheld, and red lines that must not be crossed. We hope that the two countries could be partners that respect each other and coexist in peace.

Second, jointly managing disagreements effectively. Disagreements should not be a chasm that keeps the two countries apart. Instead, the two sides should look for ways to build bridges to help them walk toward each other. It is important that they appreciate each other's principles and red lines, and refrain from flip-flopping, being provocative, and crossing the lines. They should have more communications, more dialogues and more consultations, and calmly handle their differences as well as accidents.

Third, jointly advancing mutually beneficial cooperation. China and the United States have broad common interests in a wide range of areas, including traditional areas such as the economy, trade and agriculture, as well as emerging areas such as climate change and artificial intelligence (AI). Under



current circumstances, the common interests between China and the United States have increased, not decreased. It is important to fully utilize the restored and new mechanisms in foreign policy, economy, finance, commerce, agriculture and other fields, and carry out cooperation in such areas as counternarcotics, judicial and law enforcement affairs, AI, and science and technology.

President Xi Jinping noted that China and the United States are faced with two options in the era of global transformations unseen in a century: One is to enhance solidarity and cooperation and join hands to meet global challenges and promote global security and prosperity; and the other is to cling to the zero-sum mentality, provoke rivalry and confrontation, and drive the world toward turmoil and division.

Fourth, jointly shouldering responsibilities as major countries. The problems facing human society cannot be solved without cooperation between major countries. China and the United States should lead by example, step up coordination and cooperation on international and regional issues, and provide more public goods for the world. The two sides should keep their initiatives open to each other or coordinate and connect them for synergy to the benefit of the world.

Fifth, jointly promoting people-to-people exchanges. The two sides should increase scheduled flights, advance tourism cooperation, expand subnational exchanges, strengthen cooperation in education and disability affairs, reduce negative factors hindering people-to-people exchanges, and encourage and support greater interactions and communication between their peoples, to cement the foundation for the healthy development of China-U.S. relations.

President Xi Jinping elaborated on China's

principled position on the Taiwan question. He pointed out that the Taiwan question remains the most important and most sensitive issue in China-U.S. relations. China takes seriously the positive statements made by the United States in the Bali meeting. The U.S. side should take real actions to honor its commitment of not supporting "Taiwan independence", stop arming Taiwan, and support China's peaceful reunification. China will realize reunification, and this is unstoppable.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that U.S. actions against China regarding export control, investment screening and unilateral sanctions seriously hurt China's legitimate interests. Development of China is innovation-driven. Stifling China's technological progress is nothing but a move to contain China's high-quality development and deprive the Chinese people of their right to development. China's development and growth, driven by its own inherent logic, will not be stopped by external forces. It is important that the U.S. side take China's concerns seriously and adopt tangible steps to lift its unilateral sanctions so as to provide an equal, fair and nondiscriminatory environment for Chinese businesses.

President Joe Biden extended a warm welcome to President Xi Jinping to the United States for the meeting upon invitation. He said that he and President Xi Jinping had an important meeting a year ago in Bali. San Francisco is the gateway for Chinese immigrants to the United States, the place where the United States and China signed the U.N. Charter, and the first to establish a sister city relationship with China. It is fitting that the two presidents have another face-to-face meeting in San Francisco. He said he looked forward to a productive meeting, building on the basis set in Bali.

President Biden noted that he has always believed that the U.S.-China relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world. Conflict between the two countries is not inevitable. A stable and growing China is good

for the United States and the whole world. When the Chinese economy grows, it benefits the United States and the world. When the United States and China keep their relations stable, prevent conflict, manage differences, and cooperate in areas of shared interest, they will be better able to handle the issues facing themselves and common challenges. He reaffirmed the five commitments he made in Bali, i.e., the United States does not seek a new Cold War, does not seek to change China's system, does not seek to revitalize its alliances against China, does not support "Taiwan independence", and has no intention to have a conflict with China. The two economies are mutually dependent. The United States is glad to see prosperity in China. It does not seek to contain or suppress China's development or to decouple with China. The United States adheres to the one-China policy, welcomes dialogue between government agencies at various levels, and is ready to maintain open and candid communication with China to increase understanding, avoid misperceptions and manage differences. The United States is ready to keep growing economic and trade relations and strengthen cooperation with China in such important areas as fighting climate change, counternarcotics and AI. The U.S. side is glad to see more direct flights and more educational, scientific and technological and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

The two presidents acknowledged the efforts of their respective teams to discuss the development of principles related to China-U.S. relations since the meeting in Bali. They stressed the importance of all countries treating each other with respect and finding a way to live alongside each other peacefully, and of maintaining open lines of communication, preventing conflict, upholding the U.N. Charter, cooperating in areas of shared interest, and responsibly managing competitive aspects of the relationship. The leaders welcomed continued discussions in this regard.

The two presidents agreed to promote and strengthen dialogue and cooperation

between the two countries in various areas including China-U.S. government talks on AI and the establishment of a working group on counternarcotics cooperation. They agreed to resume on the basis of equality and respect high-level military-to-military communication, the China-U.S. Defense Policy Coordination Talks, and the China-U.S. Military Maritime Consultative Agreement meetings, and to conduct telephone conversations between theater commanders. They also agreed to commit to work toward a significant further increase in scheduled passenger flights early next year; and expand educational, student, youth, cultural, sports and business exchanges.

The two leaders underscored the importance of working together to accelerate efforts to tackle the climate crisis in this critical decade. They welcomed recent positive discussions between their respective special envoys for climate, including on national actions to reduce emissions in the 2020s and on common approaches toward a successful COP28 and on operationalization of the Working Group on Enhancing Climate Action in the 2020s to accelerate concrete climate actions.

Following the meeting, President Joe Biden hosted a luncheon in honor of President Xi Jinping. The two heads of state exchanged views on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and other international and regional issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was positive, comprehensive and constructive. It has charted the course for improving and developing China-U.S. relations. And San Francisco should be a new starting point for stabilizing China-U.S. relations. They instructed their teams to build on the understandings reached in Bali and to timely follow up on and implement the new vision agreed on at San Francisco. The two heads of state agreed to continue their regular contact.

Cai Qi, Director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, and Wang Yi, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, attended the events.



Xi Stresses Role of People in China-US Relations

In a speech at the Welcome Dinner by friendly organizations in San Francisco on November 15, 2023, President Xi Jinping called for building more bridges and paving more roads for people-to-people interactions between China and the US.

On November 15, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed here the role of people in China-U.S. relations at a welcome dinner by friendly organizations in the United States.

“The foundation of China-U.S. relations was laid by our peoples,” Xi said, stressing that “the door of China-U.S. relations was opened by our peoples,” “the stories of China-U.S. relations are written by our peoples” and “the future of China-U.S. relations will be created by our peoples.”

“We should build more bridges and pave more roads for people-to-people interactions. We must not erect barriers or create a chilling

effect,” he said. The Chinese president said he was convinced the door of China-U.S. relations cannot be shut again once opened, and the cause of China-U.S. friendship cannot be derailed halfway once started. Meanwhile, Xi stressed that the United States should not see China as its primary competitor.

“I have always had one question on my mind: How to steer the giant ship of China-U.S. relations clear of hidden rocks and shoals, navigate it through storms and waves without getting disoriented, losing speed or even having a collision?” he said.

“In this respect, the number one question for us is: are we adversaries, or partners? This

is the fundamental and overarching issue," said Xi.

"The logic is quite simple. If one sees the other side as a primary competitor, the most consequential geopolitical challenge and a pacing threat, it will only lead to misinformed policy making, misguided actions, and unwanted results," Xi said.

China is ready to be a partner and friend of the United States, the Chinese president noted. "The fundamental principles that we follow in handling China-U.S. relations are mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation," he said.

Just as mutual respect is a basic code of behavior for individuals, it is fundamental for China-U.S. relations, Xi said. "The United States is unique in its history, culture and geographical position, which have shaped its distinct development path and social system. We fully respect all this."

The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics has been found under the guidance of the theory of scientific socialism, and is rooted in the tradition of the Chinese civilization with an uninterrupted history of more than 5,000 years, said the Chinese president.

"We are proud of our choice, just as you are proud of yours. Our paths are different, but both are the choice by our peoples, and both lead to the realization of the common values

of humanity. They should be both respected," Xi said.

"Peaceful coexistence is a basic norm for international relations, and is even more of a baseline that China and the United States should hold on to as two major countries," Xi said.

"China never bets against the United States, and never interferes in its internal affairs. China has no intention to challenge the United States or to unseat it," Xi added.

Noting that win-win cooperation is the trend of the times, and it is also an inherent property of China-U.S. relations, Xi said, "China is pursuing high-quality development, and the United States is revitalizing its economy. There is plenty of room for our cooperation, and we are fully able to help each other succeed and achieve win-win outcomes."

The Chinese president announced that China is ready to invite 50,000 young Americans to China on exchange and study programs in the next five years to increase exchanges between the two peoples, especially between the youth.

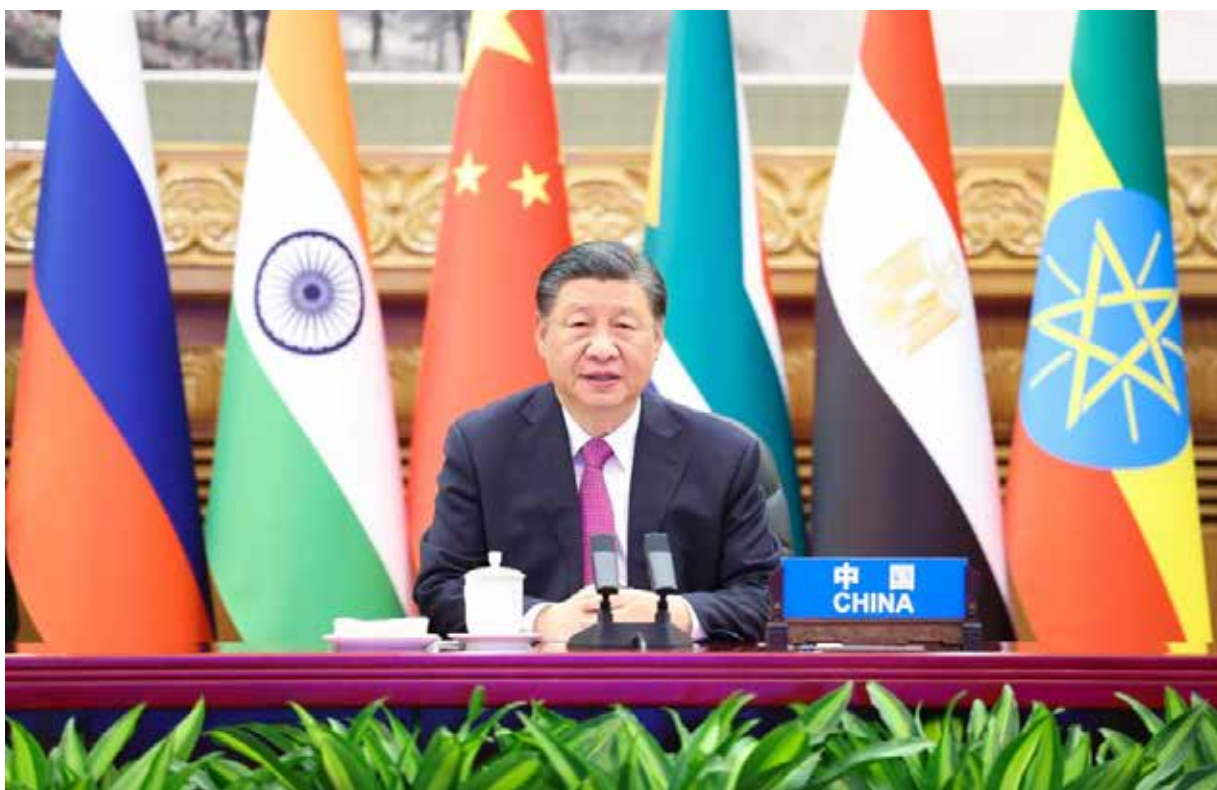
Xi also emphasized that China will not fight a cold war or a hot war with anyone.

"Whatever stage of development it may reach, China will never pursue hegemony or expansion, and will never impose its will on others," he said. "China does not seek spheres of influence, and will not fight a cold war or a hot war with anyone," he added.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets and poses for a group photo with representatives of friendly personages before attending the Welcome Dinner by Friendly Organizations in the United States, in San Francisco of the U.S. on November 15, 2023.

Xi Urges Ceasefire in Gaza, Stresses Two-State Solution



Addressing the BRICS extraordinary virtual summit on the Palestinian-Israeli issue on November 21, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping reiterated China's commitment to the two-state solution and stressed the need for keeping humanitarian corridors secure and unimpeded.

On November 21, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the BRICS extraordinary virtual summit on the Palestinian-Israeli issue, saying that the parties to the conflict must end hostilities and achieve a ceasefire immediately.

Xi called on the parties to stop all violence and attacks against civilians, release civilians held captive, and act to prevent loss of more lives and spare people from more miseries.

Xi said humanitarian corridors must be kept secure and unimpeded, and more

The leaders expressed grave concern over the Palestinian-Israeli situation and condemned all acts of violence against civilians. They stressed the need for the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law, calling for an immediate durable, sustainable humanitarian truce and humanitarian aid delivery.

humanitarian assistance should be provided to the population in Gaza.

He said the international community must act with practical measures to prevent the conflict from spilling over and endangering stability in the Middle East as a whole.

He emphasized that the only viable way to break the cycle of Palestinian-Israeli conflict lies in the two-state solution, in the restoration of the legitimate national rights of Palestine, and in the establishment of an independent State of Palestine.

China calls for early convening of an international peace conference that is more authoritative to build international consensus for peace and work toward an early solution to the question of Palestine that is comprehensive, just and sustainable, Xi said.

Xi said this is the first summit since the expansion of BRICS. Given the current circumstances, it is very timely and very important that we meet and speak up for justice and for peace on the Palestinian-Israeli issue.

“The conflict in Gaza is raging on into its second month. China is gravely concerned that the conflict is causing enormous civilian casualties and a humanitarian disaster, and tends to expand and spill over,” he said.

The collective punishment of people in Gaza in the form of forced transfer or water, electricity and fuel deprivation must stop, he said.

All the parties must act to deliver on UN General Assembly and Security Council

resolutions through concrete measures on the ground, Xi said.

Xi said the root cause of the Palestinian-Israeli situation is the fact that the right of the Palestinian people to statehood, their right to existence, and their right of return have long been ignored. He said there can be no sustainable peace and security in the Middle East without a just solution to the question of Palestine.

Xi said since the outbreak of the latest Palestinian-Israeli conflict, China has been working actively to promote peace talks and a ceasefire. China has provided humanitarian assistance to help ease the humanitarian plight in Gaza and will provide more supplies and assistance according to the needs of the people in Gaza.

At the UN Security Council, China has acted in its capacity as president to facilitate the adoption of the resolution, which calls for extended humanitarian pauses and corridors, the protection of civilians, and the provision of humanitarian assistance, he said.

China calls for early convening of an international peace conference that is more authoritative to build international consensus for peace and work toward an early solution to the question of Palestine that is comprehensive, just and sustainable, Xi said.

Hailing the BRICS cooperation mechanism as an important platform for emerging markets and developing countries to strengthen solidarity and cooperation and safeguard common interests, Xi said the meeting to coordinate positions and actions on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict marks a good start for greater BRICS cooperation following its enlargement.

China stands ready to work with other members to usher in a new era for BRICS cooperation, Xi said.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa



金砖国家领导人巴以问题特别视频峰会

Extraordinary Joint Meeting of BRICS Leaders and Leaders of invited BRICS Members on the situation in the Middle East with particular reference to Gaza



chaired the summit, which gathered leaders from China, Brazil, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and foreign ministers from India and Argentina.

The leaders expressed grave concern over the Palestinian-Israeli situation and condemned all acts of violence against civilians. They stressed the need for the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law, calling for an immediate durable, sustainable humanitarian truce and humanitarian aid delivery.

They emphasized the importance of settling disputes through dialogue, and voiced support for all efforts conducive to a peaceful resolution of the crisis. The leaders called on the international community to support a just solution to the Palestinian question, and promote the realization of the two-state solution and establishment of an independent State of Palestine that enjoys full sovereignty.

Wang Lei, director of the Center for BRICS Cooperation Studies at Beijing Normal University, said the summit reflects the sense

of responsibility of the BRICS countries, their call for international peace and stability, and their consensus on many major issues.

Wang Lei, director of the Center for BRICS Cooperation Studies at Beijing Normal University, said the summit reflects the sense of responsibility of the BRICS countries, their call for international peace and stability, and their consensus on many major issues.

China's position is consistent, fair, just and without selfish interests and China genuinely works for regional peace and development, said Xu Feibiao, director of the Center for BRICS and G20 Studies with China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations.

QR code of China's position paper on resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict



Regional Affairs Should Be Decided Without External Interference: Chinese Premier

During his speech at the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the SCO Member States in Bishkek on October 26, 2023, Chinese Premier Li Qiang advocated jointly building a security barrier in the region and resolutely resisting external interference.



Looking back at the founding aspiration of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), its members were brought together to ensure that regional affairs are decided by regional countries through consultation, without interference from those outside the region, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said.

During his speech at the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the SCO Member States, Li called for jointly building a security barrier in the region and resolutely resisting external interference.

In his speech, Li said the SCO summit in July this year further reached important consensus, and identified key tasks on carrying forward

the Shanghai Spirit and building a closer SCO community with a shared future, adding that China is willing to work with all parties to implement the spirit of the summit.

At the Samarkand summit last year, President Xi Jinping stressed the necessity to uphold political trust, win-win cooperation, equality between nations, openness and inclusiveness and equity and justice, which is the key to the success of the SCO's development and growth, Li added.

Looking forward to the future, SCO members should keep in mind the founding aspiration and uphold the key to success, Li said, stressing that guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, SCO members should work together and make mutual achievements, advance cooperation in various fields in a solid way, and inject more certainty and positive energy into peace and development of the region and the world.

Li offered four proposals on deepening SCO cooperation. **First, the SCO members should jointly solidify regional security barrier, firmly reject external interference, improve the organization's mechanism of coping with security threats and challenges as soon as possible, and crack down on the "three forces"**



of terrorism, separatism and extremism as well as transnational organized crimes.

Second, SCO members should jointly promote the speedy economic recovery, cooperate to build safe and efficient transportation systems, continuously promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and maintain steady and smooth industrial supply chains.

Third, the members should jointly enhance the Belt and Road cooperation. The third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation has been successfully held, and the Belt and Road has become the most popular international public goods and the largest international cooperation platform in the past 10 years.

The SCO members should reinforce the alignment of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with the member states' respective development strategies, push forward the construction of major economic corridors, and develop well the SCO Development Bank.

Fourth, the SCO member states should jointly promote the understanding and amity among their people, and continue to deepen cooperation in areas including education, culture and tourism, and sports.

Leaders including Kazakh Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, Indian foreign minister, Pakistani foreign minister attended the meeting, together with Belarusian Prime

Minister Roman Golovchenko and Mongolian Prime Minister Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene, leaders of two observer states. Kyrgyz Prime Minister Akylbek Japarov hosted the meeting.

The SCO is committed to carrying forward the Shanghai Spirit, said participants of the meeting, adding that since its founding 22 years ago, the SCO has continuously developed, with its global influence ever increasing.

They agreed to implement the consensus reached at the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO, jointly combat the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism and transnational organized crimes, strengthen cooperation in such areas as economy and trade, transportation, agriculture, energy, finance, high and new technology, environmental protection and green development, promote Belt and Road cooperation, improve infrastructure connectivity, and deepen people-to-people exchanges in such fields as tourism and education.

They also agreed to strengthen institutional building of the SCO, practice true multilateralism, jointly safeguard regional security and promote regional prosperity, and help make the international system more inclusive and sustainable.

The Chinese premier and other leaders of the SCO member states attending the meeting signed and issued a joint communique, and approved a series of SCO cooperation documents and resolutions on economy and trade, railways and institution building, among other areas.

Asia's Revitalization Lies in Countries Working Hard in Unity: Wang Yi



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the Opening Ceremony of the International Symposium to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of China's Principle of Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit and Inclusiveness In Neighborhood Diplomacy in Beijing on October 24, 2023.

On October 24, 2023, the International Symposium to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of China's Principle of Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit, and Inclusiveness in Neighborhood Diplomacy was held in Beijing. Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi first read written remarks by President Xi Jinping.

Wang Yi said, ten years ago, amid the profound changes in Asia and in response to the expectations of relevant countries, and informed by his keen grasp of the global trend and the evolution of regional development,

President Xi Jinping put forward the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness to guide China's neighborhood diplomacy. Over the past decade, China has actively turned this important principle into real actions. China has given top priority to its neighboring countries in diplomatic work, and has kept to the right path to foster good-neighborliness and share development and prosperity. This principle has been translated from a concept into actions, and from a vision into reality, taking on new dimensions and delivering continued results. It has injected a strong impetus into friendship, cooperation, unity and rejuvenation in Asia, and inspired the

building of a community with a shared future for mankind. “Amity” is how we interact, and has added new strength to the big Asian family. “Sincerity” is how we treat others, and has taken our partnerships to new heights. “Mutual benefit” is how we collaborate, and has brought our practical cooperation to new levels. “Inclusiveness” is how we cooperate, and has enabled new developments in regional integration.

Wang Yi said, over the past decade, China has worked with neighboring countries to preserve the hard-won peace and tranquility in this region amid turbulence in the global landscape, and to develop Asia into the most vibrant force of growth despite many crises and challenges. Going forward, China will work with all sides to take greater care of good-neighborliness and friendly cooperation, carry forward the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, further enrich and expand this principle, and let it light the way forward for all Asian countries.

First, let the tradition of peace and security continue. Regional countries need to stay independent, seek strength through unity, pursue the new vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, establish an Asian security model featuring mutual respect, seeking common ground while shelving differences and dialogue and consultation, and always keep the future of Asia’s stability and security firmly in their own hands.

Second, let the fruits of win-win cooperation benefit all. All countries need to prioritize development, keep to mutual benefit, openness and cooperation, and reject zero-sum game, decoupling and supply chain disruption. This is the only way to realize higher-level cooperation and thereby higher-quality development.

Third, let the values of openness and inclusiveness shine. All countries need to advocate humanity’s common values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, promote harmony without

uniformity, practice open regionalism, and draw from each other’s strengths and prosper together through exchanges and mutual learning. All countries need to mobilize positive factors and take regional cooperation into a better future.

Fourth, let the trend of integration and harmony surge ahead. All countries need to deliver on the vision of building a community with a shared future and incorporate one’s own development into the development trend of the region, to make success in protecting, building and developing the homeland that we all depend on.

Wang Yi stressed, “Asia is at an important juncture on its way toward development and revitalization. The choice we make today will shape its tomorrow. Asia’s future lies primarily in us doing our own things well. Asia’s revitalization lies, first and foremost, in regional countries working hard in unity.” Asia is the birthplace of ancient civilizations and a powerhouse of global development and prosperity. It has every condition to be a place of enormous potential for openness and cooperation. China is now advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. It will provide long-term dividends, more opportunities and sustained drive for Asian neighbors and countries around the world.

Wang Yi said, China will keep its foreign policy on its neighborhood consistent and stable. China will uphold the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, deepen friendship, cooperation and the integration of interests with neighboring countries, jointly build a peaceful, secure, prosperous, beautiful, amicable and harmonious Asian home, and contribute more wisdom and strength to building an Asian community with a shared future and the community with a shared future for mankind. **Wang Yi put forward four proposals** in this regard:

First, all parties should plan together, build together, and benefit together, and



become an exemplar of Belt and Road cooperation. All parties should implement the outcomes of the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, and deepen physical connectivity of infrastructure and institutional connectivity of rules and standards among regional countries. All parties need to further synergize the BRI with the development strategies of regional countries, facilitate and upgrade unimpeded regional economic flows, and deliver more benefits to the peoples in the region.

Second, all parties should pursue development together, and become a pacesetter for implementing the Global Development Initiative. All parties need to speed up the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, implement well the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and strive to complete in 2024 the negotiations on the ACFTA 3.0. All parties need to accelerate regional economic integration and facilitate cooperation in trade, expand cooperation areas, and foster new growth areas for cooperation.

Third, all parties should work in solidarity, and become a pioneer in implementing the Global Security Initiative. All parties need to respect the development paths chosen by countries independently, and resolutely reject

interference by external forces in the internal affairs of regional countries. All parties need to oppose the Cold War mentality unequivocally, and prevent the tragedy of geopolitical conflict from happening in the region. On disputes left over from history, all parties should pursue a fair and equitable solution through consultation and negotiation, and follow a path of common security for Asia.

Fourth, all parties should uphold Asian values, and become a front-runner in implementing the Global Civilization Initiative. It is important to champion Asian values featuring peace, cooperation, inclusiveness and integration, and deepen exchange and mutual learning between civilizations. Efforts should be made to expand people-to-people exchanges between regional countries, foster closer ties among the peoples, and cement the foundation for understanding, amity and everlasting friendship.

The International Symposium to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of China's Principle of Amity, Sincerity, Mutual Benefit and Inclusiveness in Neighborhood Diplomacy was co-hosted by the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Prime Minister of Mongolia Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene, Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia Sun Chanthol, former Prime Minister of Japan Fukuda Yasuo, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea Lee Hae-chan, former Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Kubatbek Boronov, and Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Zhang Ming, among others, attended the symposium either offline or online.

On the same day, the Outlook on China's Foreign Policy on Its Neighborhood in the New Era was released.

**QR code of Outlook on
China's Foreign Policy on Its
Neighborhood In the New Era**





Proposal Set to Advance Cause of Human Rights

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has unveiled a four-point proposal for advancing human rights, which includes China's calls for prioritizing development, boosting mutual learning and upholding justice and fairness.

Beijing has put forward a four-point proposal for advancing global human rights, including “galvanizing common security and shaping a stabler international environment”, in order to end conflicts and facilitate the return of the homeless to their homeland.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi unveiled the proposal package in Beijing on December 5, 2023, in a speech during the opening of an international symposium commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“The world should never be allowed to become a jungle where the strong prey on the weak, and countries should never be allowed

to plunge once again into the abyss of Cold War confrontation,” he said.

The four-point proposal includes China's calls for prioritizing development, boosting mutual learning and upholding justice and fairness.

For the vast number of developing countries, “the right to development is the foremost human right”, and the China-proposed Global Development Initiative is intended to push the development topic back to the center of the international agenda, Wang said.

He called for safeguarding an open world economy and rejecting scientific and technological barriers as well as economic decoupling.

Wang also emphasized the need to respect countries and encourage them to choose their own path of human rights development, and opposed interference in the internal affairs of other countries or blocking their development under the pretext of human rights.

The senior diplomat said “the inadequate representation of developing countries in the United Nations human rights mechanisms should be resolved in a timely manner”, in order to make the UN a platform for dialogue and cooperation instead of a wrestling ground for confrontation and coercion.

The UN General Assembly elected members of the UN Human Rights Council for the 2024-26 term on October 10. As a sign of widespread support and recognition in the world, China was reelected as a member, marking its sixth term in the council and making it one of the most frequently elected countries.

Observers said that China has developed an evolving, inspirational solution for advancing human rights that reflects the common pursuits and reality of many developing countries.

Liu Huawen, executive director of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences’ Center for Human Rights Studies, said that human rights in China are not just an idea, but also involve

actions. “Human rights in China are tangible and visible, and are reflected in the betterment of people’s daily life,” Liu said.

“China is walking steadfastly on its own path of development with self-confidence and continuous efforts, and it is actively participating in international human rights governance. It is a very determined driving force for advancing human rights in this era,” he added.

For the vast number of developing countries, “the right to development is the foremost human right”, and the China-proposed Global Development Initiative is intended to push the development topic back to the center of the international agenda, Wang said.

In his speech, Wang also took stock of a series of fresh, historic achievements in China’s human rights endeavors. In terms of international human rights governance, China has carried out exchanges and cooperation with UN human rights organs and more than 30 countries and regions, he noted.



Premier Li Calls for Bolstering Global Industrial and Supply Chains

Chinese Premier Li Qiang made a four-point proposal on deepening international cooperation in industrial and supply chains at the Opening Ceremony of the First China International Supply Chain Expo and Global Supply Chain Innovation and Development Forum on November 28, 2023.

On November 28, 2023, Premier Li Qiang of the State Council attended the opening ceremony of the first China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) and Global Supply Chain Innovation and Development Forum in Beijing, and delivered a keynote speech.

Li Qiang said that the CISCE is the world's first national expo with the theme of supply chain, and the current world economic recovery is facing difficulties. As President Xi Jinping pointed out, maintaining the resilience and stability of global industrial and supply chains is an important guarantee for the promotion of global economic development. Consolidating and strengthening cooperation in global industrial and supply chains reflects the interests of all parties and the pressing aspirations. The expo held by China aims to answer the call of the times, and create an international platform for all parties to strengthen communication, deepen cooperation and seek common development.

Li Qiang pointed out that both history and reality have proven that countries around the world will benefit when cooperation in global industrial and supply chains remains stable and continues to deepen; otherwise, the world will generally bear losses when cooperation in global industrial and supply chains is



hindered and stagnates. China is a participant in, beneficiary of, and also a staunch guardian and builder of cooperation in global industrial and supply chains. China is ready to work with all other parties to make the global industrial and supply chains more resilient, efficient and dynamic, and make greater contribution to promoting global economic recovery, development and prosperity.

Li Qiang made a four-point proposal on deepening international cooperation in industrial and supply chains. **First, jointly build safe and stable industrial and supply chains, enhance the resource coordination of key industrial chains on a global scale, and**

avoid interfering with market behaviors at will. China will continue to provide the world with high-quality made-in-China products and stable supply from China. **Second, jointly build smooth and efficient industrial and supply chains, further strengthen global connectivity and make the circulation of factors of production more convenient and their allocation more effective.** China will continue to advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and step up innovation cooperation in smart manufacturing, the digital economy and other fields. **Third, jointly build open and inclusive industrial and supply chains, take a clear-cut stand against protectionism and various forms of “decoupling and severing industrial and supply chains”, and make efforts to promote the green and low-carbon transition of industrial and supply chains.** China will integrate at a deeper level into the global system of industrial and supply chains, and will actively participate in international cooperation in the fields of green development. **Fourth, jointly build industrial and supply chains that are mutually beneficial and win-win.** It is necessary to promote the building of a global system of industrial and supply chains with extensive participation, complementary

advantages and shared dividends among all the countries. China will actively promote industrial and production capacity cooperation with other countries, and help developing countries participate more deeply in global value chains. China hopes that entrepreneurs from all over the world will play an active role in promoting the steady operation of the global industrial and supply chains. China will provide more convenience and better guarantees for enterprises from all other countries to invest and do business in China.

Li Qiang then declared the first China International Supply Chain Expo open.

President of Indonesia Joko Widodo, President of Uruguay Luis Lacalle Pou, Director-General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, and Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Rebeca Grynspan, among others, delivered remarks via video link.

Before the opening ceremony, Li Qiang inspected exhibition halls of the CISCE, and had interactions and exchanges with responsible personnel of relevant enterprises.

Yin Li and Wu Zhenglong were present at the above events.



Market Access: Chinese Premier Vows Further Opening Up at High-Profile Import Expo

In his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE) and the Hongqiao International Economic Forum in Shanghai on November 5, 2023, Chinese Premier Li Qiang assured that China will continue to promote opening-up with greater market opportunities.



On November 5, 2023, Chinese Premier Li Qiang vowed efforts to further expand opening up and share China's development opportunities with the rest of the world.

Li made the remarks during his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE) and the Hongqiao International Economic Forum in Shanghai.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has sent a letter to the expo, reiterating China's firm determination to advance high-standard opening up and facilitate the building of an open world economy.

China will continue to promote opening-up with greater market opportunities, Li said, adding that China has a population of over 1.4 billion people and a middle-income group of over 400 million people, presenting huge potential in terms of market demand.

Noting that China has always been willing to share its market opportunities, Li said the country will actively expand imports, promote coordinated development of trade in goods and services, implement negative lists for cross-border service trade, support innovation in foreign trade formats and models, and boost digital trade.

China's imports of goods and services are expected to reach 17 trillion U.S. dollars in cumulative terms in the next five years, according to him. The premier also vowed that China will continue to ease market access and implement policies to remove all restrictions on foreign investment's access in the manufacturing sector.

China will protect foreign investors' rights and interests in accordance with the law, and continue to provide a business environment that is market-oriented, law-based and up to international standards, Li said. In his speech, he reiterated China's commitment to pushing forward opening up with stronger innovation momentum.

“China is willing to step up cooperation with all countries in innovation, facilitate the deep integration of science and technology with the economy, promote the sharing of innovation results, and strive to remove barriers that hamper the flow of knowledge, technology, talent and other factors of innovation,” Li said.

China will continue to promote greater inclusiveness and sharing of opening up, Li said, adding that the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core is the cornerstone of economic globalization and free trade, as well as an important guarantee for the steady recovery of the world economy.

China will always stand on the right side of history, follow the logic of progress of the times, firmly oppose unilateralism and protectionism, resolutely uphold the authority and effectiveness of the multilateral trading system, fully and deeply participate in the reform of the WTO and promote the early entry into force of the Investment Facilitation for Development agreement, he stressed.

The premier hailed the CIIE as “a big platform full of opportunities.”

In the previous five editions, 131 countries and international organizations participated in country exhibitions, with nearly 2,000 new products, technologies and services making their debuts and a total intended turnover reaching nearly 350 billion U.S. dollars.

U.S. companies have ranked first in terms of exhibition area at the CIIE for several years in a row, Li said.

Li revealed that over 3,400 exhibitors have registered for the event this year, among whom over 200 have participated in the CIIE for six consecutive years.

As the global economic recovery lacks momentum, he called for joint efforts to contribute to an open world economy. “We sincerely hope to work with other countries to make efforts in the same direction and make mutual achievements on a grand stage of openness.”

Foreign leaders at the opening ceremony believed that the CIIE has become a key platform for global economic and trade cooperation, revealing China’s commitment to deepening reform and expanding opening up as a major country.

They are willing to work with China to further strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, science and technology, infrastructure, e-commerce, health and other fields, promote the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, firmly support free trade and the WTO’s authoritative role, continue to liberalize and facilitate trade and investment, and stabilize global industrial and supply chains to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth in the world.



China's Economy on Course to Realize 2023 Growth Goals



Despite a sluggish global economy, China has navigated the various economic headwinds with an effective policy mix and put the economy on a solid footing to achieve its full-year growth targets.

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on November 13, 2023 that retail sales of consumer goods, a major indicator of consumption strength, grew 7.6 percent year on year in October, marking its fastest pace since May and quickening from a rise of 5.5 percent registered in September.

Industrial production also beat market expectations, rising 4.6 percent year on year in October, accelerating from the 4.5 percent growth pace seen in September. This also marked the strongest growth since April.

Employment remained generally stable,

with the surveyed urban unemployment rate at 5 percent in October, unchanged from that in September, according to the NBS.

Judging from major economic indicators, NBS spokesperson Liu Aihua said the country's economy has maintained a sustained momentum of recovery in October, and laid a solid foundation for the country to achieve the full-year growth targets.

The world's second-largest economy expanded 4.9 percent year on year in the third quarter. China set its GDP growth target at around 5 percent for 2023.

Bright Spots, Challenges

Data showed the country's economic structure continued to improve, which macroeconomist Pan Jiancheng said is vital

for sustainable development in the longer term. Consumption is playing an increasingly important role in driving growth, with consumer spending contributing 83.2 percent to economic growth in the first three quarters, according to the NBS data.

Judging from major economic indicators, NBS spokesperson Liu Aihua said the country's economy has maintained a sustained momentum of recovery in October, and laid a solid foundation for the country to achieve the full-year growth targets.

The country's consumption will continue to recover thanks to the continued growth in disposable incomes and a slightly lower saving rate, a recent Goldman Sachs report said.

High-tech manufacturing maintained robust growth, with the value-added industrial output of the drone manufacturing sector surging 53.2 percent year on year in October, while new energy vehicle production expanded 27.9 percent from one year earlier.

The Chinese economy will continue to recover under effective macro-economic policies, but the recovery will be a wave-like development with twists and turns, Liu said.

"At present, the external pressure remains great, the constraints from insufficient domestic demand are still prominent, enterprises face many difficulties in production and operation, and hidden risks in certain areas require much attention," the spokesperson told reporters at the latest press conference.

The weakness remained in China's real estate sector, with investment in property development continuing to cool in the first 10 months, down 9.3 percent year on year.

Fixed-asset investment went up 2.9 percent year on year in the first 10 months, further softening from the 3.1-percent growth in January-September and 3.2-percent in the first eight months. The growth represented the weakest expansion since the end of 2020.

Policy Mix

China has been ramping up its efforts to boost economic recovery in recent months, including enhancing support for the private sector, as well as measures to bolster consumption and the real estate sector.

Before the data release, the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the central bank, boosted liquidity injections, but kept the interest rate unchanged when rolling over the maturing medium-term lending facility.

The PBOC has cut the financial institutions' reserve requirement ratio (RRR) twice this year, by 0.5 percentage points in total. Wen Bin, chief economist at China Minsheng Bank, expected more reductions in the RRR and benchmark interest rates to be likely in the future.

High-tech manufacturing maintained robust growth, with the value-added industrial output of the drone manufacturing sector surging 53.2 percent year on year in October, while new energy vehicle production expanded 27.9 percent from one year earlier.

On the fiscal policy front, the country last month lifted its 2023 budget deficit ratio from 3 percent to around 3.8 percent, through the issuance of an additional 1-trillion-yuan (about 139.28 billion U.S. dollars) in government bonds during the last quarter of the year.

The effective implementation of the macro-economic policy mix will provide "a strong guarantee" for the country's sustained economic recovery, Liu Aihua said.

She said a low comparative basis from the fourth quarter of last year would lead to further improvement in the year-on-year growth of major indicators, and more efforts are needed to ensure a sustained economic recovery.

Pan said more supportive policies are also needed to further lift the confidence of consumers and private business.

China Remains a Preferred Destination for Global Investors

With its massive market, strong industrial chain resilience, new business models and emerging innovation ecosystem, China is poised to remain one of the most attractive overseas investment destinations for multinational companies.

Despite a fluctuation in its foreign direct investment (FDI), China remains one of the most attractive destinations for global investors thanks to its consistent opening-up drive bolstered by favorable policies.

Some foreign media reports have recently been focusing on the decline of China's FDI in the first nine months of 2023, citing analysts claiming that foreign companies are moving capital out of the country. Clearly, such reporting contradicts the general picture of China's foreign investment, its major economic indicators, and the consistent interest of most foreign firms in tapping the opportunity-rich Chinese market.

FDI in actual use on the Chinese mainland decreased 8.4 percent year on year to 919.97 billion yuan (about 128 billion U.S. dollars) in the first nine months. But this comparison is based on last year's record-high figure over the same period. China's actual use of foreign capital increased 8 percent year on year to 189.1 billion U.S. dollars in 2022, as the country remained the world's second-largest recipient of foreign capital.

FDI fluctuations are not uncommon for any country. It should be noted that the global environment for international business and cross-border investment remains challenging,

and downward pressure on global FDI is expected to continue this year after a 12 percent decline last year, according to the World Investment Report 2023, which was released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Despite the FDI decline, an increasing number of foreign firms are investing in China. Data from the Ministry of Commerce shows that 37,814 foreign-invested enterprises were established in China in the first three quarters, up 32.4 percent year on year.

It is worth noting that the structure of foreign investment has been optimized. Double-digit foreign investment growth has been reported in sectors such as high-tech manufacturing, medical equipment manufacturing, electronic and communication equipment manufacturing, and R&D and design services.

Over the past few decades, China has been consistently widening its opening-up. A recent case in point was the inauguration of the Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in northwest China as part of the country's strategic move for promoting reform and opening-up in the new era. The FTZ will play a significant role in building a "golden channel" between Asia and Europe and a bridgehead for China's westward opening up. At the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

last month, China announced it would remove all restrictions on foreign investment access in the manufacturing sector, advance high-standard opening-up in cross-border services trade and investment, and expand market access for digital and other products in accordance with high-standard international economic and trade rules. China's Ministry of Commerce said the country will continue to shorten its negative list for foreign investment access. These favorable policies will be a continuous boon to foreign investors.

Over the past few decades, China has been consistently widening its opening-up. A recent case in point was the inauguration of the Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in northwest China as part of the country's strategic move for promoting reform and opening-up in the new era.

The results of a recent survey, conducted by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, of 700 foreign-funded companies in China speak volumes.

According to the survey report on the business environment for foreign companies in China in the third quarter, over 80 percent of the surveyed companies say they are satisfied with

the business environment in China. The survey also showed that 70 percent of the companies say their industrial chain layout in China will "remain stable," which is 4.57 percentage points higher than that in the second quarter, and 80 percent expect their yearly profits to increase or remain flat in 2023.

Strong interest in China has also been felt at various international expos. The upcoming sixth China International Import Expo in Shanghai has a larger business exhibition area and higher number of participating Fortune 500 and leading companies compared with previous editions. At the fourth Qingdao Multinationals Summit held in Shandong Province in October, a total of 194 foreign investment projects were inked, with a record combined value of 20.6 billion U.S. dollars.

In the first three quarters of 2023, the Chinese economy expanded 5.2 percent. The world's second-largest economy is expected to grow 5.2 percent in 2023 and 5 percent in 2024, according to a report released at the International Financial Forum in late October.

With its super-large market, strong industrial chain resilience, new business models and emerging innovation ecosystem as well as its unwavering commitment to broader opening-up, China will undoubtedly remain one of the most attractive overseas investment destinations for multinational companies.



Three Years on, China Sees Tangible Progress in Green Development, Climate Action

Three years after China made a solemn commitment related to carbon peaking and neutrality, the country has taken concrete actions to curb global warming, including industrial upgrades, cleaner air, renewable energy capacity, enhanced production of solar panels, electric cars, and lithium battery production.

China, a crucial contributor to the global fight against climate change, has taken solid steps to advance the green shift in its economic and social development and achieved tangible results, official data revealed.

Three years ago, China made a solemn commitment to the world that it aims to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

Since then, the country has embarked on a fast track toward these goals, with highlights in areas including industrial upgrades, cleaner air, renewable energy capacity, and a world-leading position in solar panels, electric cars, and lithium battery production.

“China has always kept its promise and made important contributions to global climate governance,” said Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang while addressing the World Climate Action Summit recently in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

Pro-Green-Growth Policy

Citing a forecast that 2023 will be the hottest year on record in human history, a report published by the United Nations’s World Meteorological Organization recently warned that 2023 marked a year of unprecedented climate records being shattered, as extreme weather events left behind a trail of widespread devastation and despair.

With a strong sense of urgency and duty, China, as it promised, has always been making consistent efforts to fight climate change and mitigate its effects.

Back in 2021, China unveiled an overarching document with a number of policies related to carbon peaking and neutrality, calling for “resolutely curbing the haphazard development of projects that are energy-intensive and have high emissions.”

Subsequently, action plans for key areas such as construction materials and non-ferrous metals have been rolled out, detailing specific goals and roadmaps each sector should focus on to reduce the use of fossil fuels and embrace low-carbon production processes.

In November, the National Development and Reform Commission announced that 100 carbon-peaking pilot projects would be launched in 15 provincial regions to solve bottlenecks constraining the country’s green and low-carbon development and explore paths toward carbon-peaking in different areas.

By 2025, a policy mechanism conducive to green and low-carbon development in the pilot areas will mostly be in place, together with many innovative practices and reform measures that are feasible and replicable, and can be applied elsewhere, the commission said.

By 2030, innovative practices and reform measures tested at these localities will then

play a vital supportive role in carbon peaking at the national level.

Tangible Progress

Initial results of industrial transformation have been achieved. Official data showed that China's crude steel output has declined by 40 million tonnes since the start of the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).

China's energy consumption per 10,000 yuan (about 1,408 U.S. dollars) of gross domestic product decreased by 0.1 percent in 2022 from 2021, while CO2 emissions per 10,000 yuan of GDP fell 0.8 percent year on year, according to an official statistical communique.

Reducing dependence on coal in its energy mix is another tough task for China, with concrete actions taken to increase its renewable energy generation.

China's installed capacity of renewable energy exceeded 1.3 billion kilowatts by the end of June this year, surpassing that of coal power for the first time, data from the National Energy Administration showed.

Only four months later, the figure topped 1.4 billion kilowatts, accounting for almost half of the country's total installed power generation capacity.

Building on the success of its domestic energy transition, China also plays a vital role in global renewables manufacturing.

It provides 50 percent of the world's wind equipment and as much as 80 percent of global photovoltaic equipment.

Solar batteries, lithium-ion batteries and electric vehicles have replaced apparel, home appliances and furniture to become the new "three major ones" underpinning China's exports.

Customs data showed that the total export value of the tech-intensive green trio jumped 41.7 percent year on year in the first three quarters of this year, providing key components for other countries' decarbonization drives.

International Cooperation

In addition to reducing its own carbon emissions, China has vigorously promoted



Electricity workers patrolling amid a photovoltaic and wind power generation project installed above the fishery waters in Sheyanghu Township of Baoying County of Yangzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province.

international cooperation on green development, energy revolution and climate change.

In Thailand, for example, a hydro-floating solar project was jointly built by China and Thailand in the Sirindhorn Dam and put into commercial operation in October 2021.

With a vast array of solar panels floating on the reservoir, the project generates electricity through solar energy during the day and hydroelectric power at night.

The installed capacity of the project reaches 58.5 megawatts, which can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 47,000 tonnes every year.

China has also arranged more than 1.2 billion yuan of South-to-South cooperation special funds to enhance developing countries' capacity to cope with climate change.

The country pledged to promote the establishment of a fair, reasonable, cooperative and win-win global climate governance system, Ding said in Dubai.

"As a major responsible developing country, China stands ready to work with all parties to build a clean and beautiful world," Ding said.

Xinjiang Land Ports Play Robust Role Amid Efforts to Expand Opening Up

China's youngest pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in Xinjiang is expected to support the core area development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and play a significant role in building a "golden channel" between Asia and Europe as well as a bridgehead for China's westward opening up.

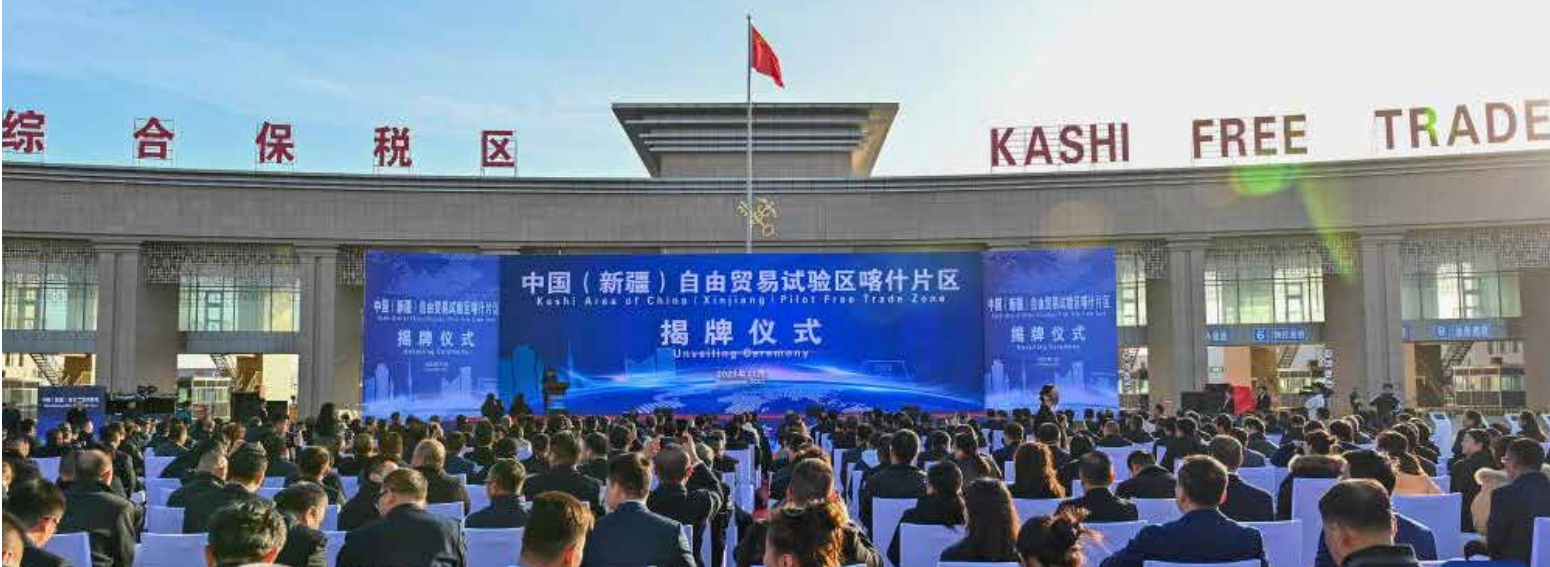
Xinjiang, a provincial-level region in northwest China with the largest number of land ports in the country, is gaining steam in pursuit of economic growth as its land ports register busier trade and handle more travelers in a drive to expand China's opening up.

Horgos, Alashankou, Khunjerab, Torugart, Irkeshtam -- these important portals of the Silk Road Economic Belt help strengthen economic and trade exchanges between China and neighboring countries and beyond. With the

recent inauguration of the Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone, these ports are poised to play an even bigger role in China's westward opening up.

Vibrant Ports in Westward Opening Up

Up on the Pamirs in south Xinjiang where the altitude averages about 4,700 meters sits the Khunjerab Pass, a land port on the China-Pakistan border and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe.





The Urumqi Diwopu International Airport, which is undergoing reconstruction and expansion, in Urumqi, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Pakistani merchant Hussain Basit waited in line for customs and immigration checks to go through the port. He has been providing

Pakistani consumers with access to much sought-after Chinese goods like clothes, bed linen and home appliances for many years.

"I have crossed the border almost every week for Chinese goods this year, more frequent than ever because it is getting increasingly convenient," said Basit while shouldering stuffed luggage.

The ease with which Basit crosses the border is widely shared among businessmen and travelers. Since the resumption of passenger customs clearance on April 3, 2023, the Khunjerab Pass has recorded over 40,000 inbound and outbound passengers.

Xinjiang has been making concrete efforts to improve the efficiency of customs clearance. On August 14 this year, Horgos became the first road port in Xinjiang to trial 24/7 passage for traded goods. Torugart port in south Xinjiang this month adopted these same hours.

"Initially, I had to wait and stay in Horgos for 10 days to load goods and clear customs. Now it only takes me two to three days," said Kazakh truck driver Salamat Abdilda, adding that his income has increased as a result.



Horgos Customs data shows that in the first three quarters this year, the highway port had recorded about 1.36 million tonnes in terms of its import and export volume of freight, up 115.3 percent year on year.

Other major ports have also seen a surge in trade. According to Urumqi Customs, the total value of imports and exports in Xinjiang in the first 10 months of 2023 had reached 287.33 billion yuan (about 39.67 billion U.S. dollars), a year-on-year increase of 48.9 percent.

Xinjiang is also upgrading transportation infrastructure to bolster growth. The railway station at Alashankou, also known as Alataw Pass, a crucial hub connecting China with Central Asia and Europe, is under construction to increase its capacity.

With better infrastructure and customs services, Alashankou has attracted many investment enterprises. This year alone, over 130 companies have been established in the Alashankou integrated free trade zone.



Performers dance at the ancient city of Kashgar scenic area in Kashgar, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

More measures to underpin the role of land ports in Xinjiang's development are in the pipeline. Hao Weiming, head of Urumqi Customs, said customs clearance of agricultural products will be fast-tracked through "green channels" at border ports, while cross-border trade of minerals and automobiles will also be made easier.

Fresh Opportunities Abound

Xinjiang took a historic leap recently with the inauguration of a pilot free trade zone (FTZ), China's 22nd pilot FTZ and the first-ever in the country's northwestern border regions.

Covering approximately 180 square km, the pilot FTZ comprises the iconic areas of Kashgar prefecture, Urumqi and Horgos, and is expected to contribute greatly to Xinjiang's integration into both domestic and international markets and boost local socioeconomic development.

China's youngest pilot FTZ is also expected to support the core area development of the Belt

and Road Initiative (BRI) and play a significant role in building a "golden channel" between Asia and Europe as well as a bridgehead for China's westward opening up, according to a general plan released by the State Council.

Leveraging their edges in international trade and logistics, the three iconic areas will further tap into their comparative strengths and jointly serve local, national and broader regional development.

Urumqi, for instance, will focus on developing global trade, modern logistics, advanced manufacturing, textiles and clothes as well as new emerging industries like biopharmaceuticals, new energy and new materials and is also set to become an important platform for exchanges and cooperation with neighboring countries, including those in Central Asia.

Kashgar will expand and strengthen an export-oriented economy, and develop labor-intensive industries such as deep processing



The standard-gauge rail yard of Horgos station in Horgos, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.



Customs staff check the container at Alashankou port in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

of agricultural and sideline products, textile and clothing manufacturing, and electronic product assembly. Horgos is poised to leverage its role as an international cooperation center to develop modern service industries such as cross-border logistics, travel and financial services, and make itself a model of cross-border trade and investment cooperation, according to the general plan.

Zaydulla Tursun, a cross-border e-commerce businessman, has made a fortune thanks to the Urumqi Comprehensive Bonded Zone.

"After consumers order bonded goods online, customs clearance is carried out in real time, and three to five minutes later, the goods leave the Urumqi Comprehensive Bonded Zone and are efficiently connected to express delivery," said Zaydulla, adding the goods can be delivered within the city in 24 hours, and throughout Xinjiang in three days.

"The inauguration of the pilot FTZ is set to more fully unleash Xinjiang's unique locational

strength, and actively serve and integrate the region into China's new development paradigm," said Zhuang Rui, executive dean of the Institute of International Economy at the University of International Business and Economics.

Analysts also believe that the milestone inauguration will turn Xinjiang into a magnet for domestic and overseas resources as well as a land of promise with an excellent business environment, convenient access for investment and trade, an agglomeration of advantageous industries, and achieve an outstanding spillover effect.

"To the south, it will connect the supply chain of Xinjiang to eastern coastal areas, and prompt more high-tech industry chains in the eastern area to relocate to Xinjiang," said Tian Yun, a veteran macroeconomist and former vice director of the Beijing Economic Operation Association. "To the north, it will link Xinjiang with Central Asia and West Asia, unleashing prodigious regional economic benefits."

China Issues White Paper on CPC Policies on Governance of Xizang in New Era

On November 8, 2023, China's State Council Information Office released a white paper on the policies of the Communist Party of China on the governance of Xizang autonomous region in the new era.

The white paper, titled "CPC Policies on the Governance of Xizang in the New Era: Approach and Achievements," highlighted that the CPC's guidelines for governing Xizang in the new era have brought about all-round progress and historic success in various undertakings in the region.

5G networks cover all counties, main townships in Xizang

The 5G networks now cover all counties and main townships in Southwest China's Xizang autonomous region.

A total of 8,099 5G base stations and nearly 312,600 km of fiber-optic cables have been built in Xizang.

Optical fiber broadband, 4G, radio and TV signals cover almost all administrative villages in the region. Modern cloud and network integration has enabled local people to connect with the world online.

Xizang earmarks over 325m yuan for intangible cultural heritage protection

The central government and the local government of Southwest China's Xizang autonomous region had earmarked over 325 million yuan (about \$45.26 million) between 2012 and 2022 for protecting intangible cultural heritage items.

Xizang has 106 ICH items on the national representative list with 96 bearers, and 460 items on the regional list with 522 bearers. Three items -- Gesar, Tibetan Opera, and

the Lum medicinal bathing of Sowa Rigpa of Xizang -- have been registered on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Xizang GDP grows by 128% from 2012 to 2022

The 2022 GDP of Xizang reached 213.26 billion yuan (about \$29.7 billion), 2.28 times of that in 2012 calculated at constant prices.

The increase represented an average annual growth rate of 8.6 percent, which ranked among the highest in China.

Xizang fully guarantees freedom of religious belief

The Xizang autonomous region fully guarantees the freedom of religious belief and religious activities are carried out in an orderly manner.

The region today hosts over 1,700 sites for Tibetan Buddhism activities with approximately 46,000 Buddhist monks and nuns, four mosques with about 12,000 native Muslims, and one Catholic church with over 700 believers.

Over 1,700 religious and folk activities, including the Shoton Festival, Butter Lamp Festival, Saga Dawa Festival and the walks around lakes and mountains, help to preserve the solemn traditional rituals and demonstrate new vitality with modern cultural elements.

QR code of CPC Policies on the Governance of Xizang in the New Era: Approach and Achievements



Chinese Brands Chart New Horizons In Global Market



The 2023 Boao Forum for Entrepreneurs was held in Boao, south China's Hainan Province.

Chinese products have traversed a journey from inception to prosperity in recent decades, with their popularity evolving into an unstoppable trend. They are now poised for relentless innovation to enhance their presence in the international market.

At the just-concluded 2023 Boao Forum for Entrepreneurs in Boao, a coastal town in south China's Hainan Province, Chinese entrepreneurs and experts believe technological innovation empowers Chinese brands to create distinctive products, enabling them to ascend alongside international giants and ride the waves to success.

Wu Rongzhao, chairman of Erke, a Chinese sportswear brand, attached importance to technological innovation in generating new productive forces.

"We're diving into tech advancements in product research and development, hoping to produce more top-notch sports gear on par with international standards. By this way, we've already helped Chinese runners excel on the competition stage dozens of times," said Wu. He added that the company has collaborated with national research centers to make continuous technological innovation a driving force for its development.

Snow Lotus, a time-honored Chinese cashmere brand, also welcomes the idea of innovation.

“Given the rarity and luxury of cashmere, our focus remains on consistently strengthening our technological capabilities and the core competitiveness of our products,” said Gan Xuerong, chairman of Snow Lotus. “We innovate a range of products by utilizing technology to enhance the added value of our offerings.”

Gao Dekang, president of Bosideng, a major Chinese manufacturer of down jackets, said that innovation was crucial for shaping a more promising future for a category, industry, or market segment, fostering consumer recognition, and establishing genuine leadership capabilities.

The company has strategically centered its efforts on fashion and functionality innovation to promote new brands and explore novel product categories.

“Irreplaceable innovation is the true innovation and the core competitive advantage,” said Gao.

With the pursuit of innovation across various dimensions, such as quality, value, and distribution, Chinese brands have increased their competitiveness and garnered global recognition.

Many of these brands are implementing a “go global” strategy, expanding into international markets to generate substantial profits and tap diverse resources.

“Venturing abroad targets primarily mainstream markets with products suitable for international reach,” said Ma Enduo, founder and chairman of Amos, an innovative candy producer in China.

This enterprise has expanded its footprint to over 50 countries and regions, including key markets such as the United States, Canada, and Japan. This became a feat highlighted in a case study collection by Harvard Business Review last year.

In a parallel commitment to brand internationalization, Kweichow Moutai, a

leading Chinese liquor maker, is leveraging both domestic and international markets to promote Chinese brands and culture worldwide, according to its chairman Ding Xiongjun.

Ding said the liquor maker’s sales network now spans 64 countries and regions.

Meanwhile, some nascent Chinese brands like Voyah have adopted a global business strategy right from the outset.

Voyah, a Chinese luxury electric auto brand, has identified Europe as a pivotal market for its initial global endeavors. This emerging player in the new energy automotive sector has established a presence in Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Bulgaria, with dynamic initiatives underway across countries like Germany, Italy, and France.

Besides globalizing products, certain companies have effectively exported their corporate culture and rich Chinese heritage. This helps reshape global perceptions of Chinese technological innovation, boost brand visibility internationally, and foster cultural exchanges between different regions.

Lu Zhan, secretary general of Beijing Reignwood Culture Foundation dedicated to promoting cultural and educational programs, noted that the foundation developed its unique cultural brands amid China’s economic growth. It has organized high-quality cultural activities through collaborations with global art influencers, acting as cultural ambassadors.

Gao Yanmin, a former Ministry of Industry and Information Technology official, expressed optimism about the current development of Chinese brands, adding that they’ve seen notable success at home and abroad through improved brand image and market expansion.

Gao believed that with sustained efforts and policy adjustments, Chinese brands would better address the demand for high-quality products, tackle challenges related to brand differentiation, and carve out a more prominent identity in the global market.

China's Greater Bay Area Emerges As Promising Growth Engine

An investment promotion event for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) held on November 8, 2023 in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, witnessed the signing of 859 investment and trade deals totaling about 2.24 trillion yuan (around 312 billion U.S. dollars).

Combined with investments secured during the inaugural event last year, the region has now garnered a total investment of nearly 5 trillion yuan across these two conferences.

This record-breaking number reflects the strong confidence of global companies in the Greater Bay Area, solidifying its position as a

promising global growth engine. "The area's distinctive geographical advantages, favorable business environment, and government openness instill confidence in our future development," said Frances Yu, President of Amway China.

The company has invested 600 million yuan in the 10th upgrading of its production base in Guangzhou.

Statistical data shows that over the past five years, Guangdong has secured more than 250 large projects with actual capital exceeding 100 million U.S. dollars, and actual foreign investment there surpassed 80 billion U.S. dollars.





Jacob Aarup-Andersen, CEO of Carlsberg Group, said that “over the years, Carlsberg’s cumulative investment in China has exceeded 10 billion yuan, and we will keep on investing in the Greater Bay Area because it’s such a crucial growth market for us.”

The province has so far established over 310,000 foreign-funded projects, and achieved actual foreign investment utilization reaching 570 billion U.S. dollars, while 350 of the Fortune Global 500 companies have invested in the province.

Guangdong’s appeal to foreign investors has not only grown quantitatively but also made significant strides in terms of quality, signaling a pivotal shift in the region’s investment landscape.

From January to August this year, the actual use of foreign investment in Guangdong’s manufacturing industry reached 36.82 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 19 percent, and the proportion exceeded 30 percent for the first time since 2019.

“American cleantech companies are eager to find business opportunities in the Greater Bay Area, so they can settle down and make their entry into the Chinese market,” said An Feng, president of the U.S.-China Clean Tech Center, who participated in a sideline event ahead of the promotion conference.

Jacob Aarup-Andersen, CEO of Carlsberg Group, said that “over the years, Carlsberg’s cumulative investment in China has exceeded 10 billion yuan, and we will keep on investing in the Greater Bay Area because it’s such a crucial growth market for us.”

The construction of a new Carlsberg brewery in Foshan, central Guangdong, with a total investment of 3 billion yuan, is expected

to be completed in the second quarter of 2024. This facility will have an annual output value of 2 billion yuan.

Carlsberg will also establish its first R&D center outside Europe at its Foshan brewery. This center will play a key role in new product development, packaging design, and testing tailored for Asian markets.

Siemens has evolved into an essential player in this dynamic region, said Karim Amin, member of the Executive Board of Siemens Energy AG.

He added that the company’s commitment to leveraging the entire innovation, industrial, supply, financial, and talent chains in the Greater Bay Area actively contributes to the development of a modern energy industry system.

China’s steadfast commitment to increased global openness, coupled with proactive policies supporting innovation, has opened new avenues for enterprises to invest in the promising Greater Bay Area.

“We’re considering setting up a subsidiary in China, eyeing the Greater Bay Area with its vast market for environmental products and favorable tax policies,” said Liu Xin, director of Asia Business Development at Cormetech.

“In the future, it is not only about promoting the company’s advanced technology to China but also about considering introducing innovative technologies from China to the United States,” Liu added.

China's Agricultural Supply Chain Cooperation Enriches Consumer Food Choices

The abundance of agricultural products from different countries on display at the world's first national-level supply chain expo in Beijing demonstrates the greater range of food choices on offer to consumers in today's globalized world.

From the river prawns of Thailand and the tropical fruits of Malaysia to China's high-yield hybrid rice and the coffee of Kenya, these products not only appease the appetites of customers but also provide food for thought. Enhanced cooperation on agricultural supply chains benefits the consumers and businesses of various nations, while the stability of supply chains has great significance for global food security and safety.

While addressing the opening ceremony of the first China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) on November 28, 2023, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said the expo is being held in order to create an international platform for all parties to strengthen communication, deepen cooperation and seek common development.

He said China is willing to work with all parties to make the global industrial and supply chains more resilient, efficient and dynamic, and make greater contributions to promoting global economic recovery, development and prosperity.

At the expo, being held in the Chinese capital from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2, multinational corporate executives have presented their business

models, demonstrating why maintaining the resilience and stability of global industrial and supply chains is so important to the promotion of global economic development.

Connecting The World

At its expo booth, U.S. coffee giant Starbucks shared the firm's story in southwest China's Yunnan Province, where it helps local coffee farmers boost their capacity.

In 2012, Starbucks established a farmer support center in Yunnan as part of its commitment to elevating the Chinese province as a high-quality coffee-growing region. Over the years, more than 30,000 local coffee farmers received professional training and technical support. Driven by a series of measures, coffee tasters have witnessed the coffee qualification rate increase from 20 percent to 80 percent in the past 10 years.

In a video address, Starbucks CEO Laxman Narasimhan conveyed his wishes for the success of the inaugural CISCE, and said that coffee can be a bridge connecting the world and uplifting people, while also uplifting communities.

"China's coffee market has enormous potential and Starbucks' confidence in our long-term investments in China has never been greater," Narasimhan said.

"I am deeply impressed by China's leading supply chain capabilities, and excited to open

the China Coffee Innovation Park in Kunshan this September for Starbucks. It fulfills our ambition to be vertically integrated ‘from bean-to-cup’ in China -- a first for Starbucks globally,” he said. “With every cup, with every conversation, with every community, we nurture the limitless possibilities of human connection.”

Modern Agriculture

At the expo, Syngenta Group, an agriculture innovation company, displayed innovative products covering all aspects of the agricultural chain. They include rice that features high yield and water saving, and that matures early, developed by taking advantage of China’s germplasm resources. The product has already been introduced into Southeast Asia and Africa.

“We focus on the product innovation chain and rely on global innovation resources to contribute to world food security,” said Liu Hongsheng, president of Syngenta Group China.

Liu said that by joining hands with global partners, the firm plays an active role in building a green, safe, smooth and stable global agricultural supply chain.

The CP Group Agro-industry & Food Business, a leading agro-industrial and food conglomerate, also displayed various food products at the expo. “We implement strict food safety control measures in all aspects of the entire industry chain, including feed, breeding and planting, direct procurement, slaughtering, food processing, warehousing and logistics, retail and catering, and built a fully safe and traceable food industry chain,” said Xue Zengyi, senior vice chairman of CP Group Agro-industry & Food Business, China Area.

The company’s layer poultry farming project in Pinggu, suburban Beijing, for instance, has realized a breeding system with automated environmental control, automatic feeding, automatic water supply, automatic egg collection and automatic manure cleaning.

Green Agriculture

“Currently, the stability of the global food supply chain and the green development of agriculture still face challenges, and it is even more necessary to work together and make progress,” said Song Juguo, deputy director of the Agricultural Trade Promotion Center under China’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Song said that it is also necessary to strengthen the multilateral trade system, further promote international scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation in green agriculture, and nurture multilateral and bilateral cooperation platforms for shared benefit.

At the expo, Chinese dairy firm Yili showcased its carbon-neutral ice cream products and the environmentally friendly packaging for its organic raw milk.

Liu Chunxi, executive president of Yili Group, said that the company, through a green industrial chain strategy, strives for carbon emission reductions in its upstream, midstream and downstream business segments.

“The global food system is in urgent need of systemic change and transformation to a more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable path, and green agriculture in particular is an important focus to promote and realize this transformation,” said Zhang Zhongjun, an official with the Food and Agriculture Organization China Office, adding that green agriculture must run through the entire agricultural industry chain.

“Currently, the stability of the global food supply chain and the green development of agriculture still face challenges, and it is even more necessary to work together and make progress,” said Song Juguo, deputy director of the Agricultural Trade Promotion Center under China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

China's Economy Ushers in Digital Transformation

China has ambitious plans to step up research, development and application of new technologies to make AI more widely utilized in major fields such as agriculture, industry, finance, education and medical services.

One can get information about physical conditions, advice on diet, and even prescriptions by putting a hand into a small AI-powered instrument for two minutes.

This is not a science fiction scenario, but a real practice demonstrated at the ongoing expo of the 2023 World Internet Conference (WIC) Wuzhen Summit held in east China's Zhejiang Province.

It comes amid the immense progress China has made in digitalization over the past decade. In 2022, China's digital economy had reached

50.2 trillion yuan (about 6.99 trillion U.S. dollars), up from 11 trillion yuan in 2012, said Xia Xueping, head of the Chinese Academy of Cyberspace Studies, at a press conference during the summit.

By June 2023, China had about 1.08 billion internet users, nearly double the number recorded at the end of 2012. Meanwhile, internet penetration increased to 76.4 percent from 42.1 percent during this period.

On the basis of this huge digital community, internet enterprises thrived in China over the



A view of the Light of Internet Expo in Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang Province.



Representatives of award-winning projects pose for photos during the award ceremony of World Internet Conference Awards for Pioneering Science and Technology in Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang Province.

past decade. The number of Chinese internet enterprises listed on the stock market had increased from just over 50 in December 2012 to nearly 160 in June 2023, including internet giants like ByteDance and Pinduoduo, while the scale of leading internet enterprises also continued to grow.

AI technologies, especially AI foundation models, are developing at a rapid pace and profoundly reshaping both the digital and real worlds. AI is boosting productivity and generating new momentum for the development of various industries in China.

Tencent Cloud, one of China's top cloud service vendors, has provided more than 50 foundation models for 10 industries such as finance, culture and tourism, media, government affairs, and education.

For example, travel plans can be made by a tour guide or travel agent, but now may also be created by AI.

With personalized travel services using the Language Models on Tencent Cloud, users can simply provide their preferences, budget and general route to generate a detailed travel plan and schedule their daily itinerary in advance.

Some traditional industries are taking the initiative to embrace digital transformation.

Xinfengming Group, a chemical fiber manufacturer based in Zhejiang's Tongxiang City, where the WIC Wuzhen Summit is being held, has used a wide range of intelligent robots on its production lines. In its factory, robots are tasked with duties such as product inspection and delivery.

"With the help of robots, our factory's per capita output value is twice the industry average," said Yang Zhongjie, manager of the factory.

China's digital economy, now ranking second in the world in terms of the overall scale, has shown strong growth momentum. However, there are still obstacles in the process of its development.

The China Internet Development Report 2023, released at the WIC Wuzhen Summit, revealed that China aims to step up research, development and application of new technologies to make AI more widely utilized in major fields such as agriculture, industry, finance, education and medical services, while also diversifying application scenarios.

"Many small and medium-sized enterprises form the main body of the supply, industrial and ecological chains. These are often sluggish in undergoing digital transformation, due

to issues such as a lack of funds, talent and technologies,” said Zhou Hongyi, founder of Chinese internet security firm Qihoo 360.

At the national level, China will promote deeper integration of the digital and real economies, and support small and medium-sized enterprises in speeding up transformation, the report said.

Yang Yuanqing, Lenovo Group’s chairman and CEO, pointed out at the summit that in the application of AI foundation models, there are still some practical problems to be solved. “While generating productivity, they should also protect privacy and data security,” Yang said.

China sees a need for international cooperation in tackling issues concerning digital applications. During the past few years, China has proposed multiple initiatives to promote the formulation of global digital governance rules.

Meanwhile, the “Digital Silk Road” construction is expected to let internet development benefit more people in the world.

“This year’s summit is not only a review of global digital economic development over the past decade, but also a look ahead seeking more inclusive and equitable development in the next stage,” said Pan Helin, a researcher at the International Business School of Zhejiang University, noting that China is willing to promote regional collaboration and the flow of digital elements to create a fairer and more open development environment for all.

AI technologies, especially AI foundation models, are developing at a rapid pace and profoundly reshaping both the digital and real worlds. AI is boosting productivity and generating new momentum for the development of various industries in China.



People watch robots dancing at the World Internet Science and Technology Museum in Wuzhen, east China’s Zhejiang Province.

China, India Hold 28th Meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs



On November 30, 2023, Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Foreign Ministry Hong Liang and Joint Secretary of the East Asia Division of Ministry of External Affairs of India Gourangalal Das co-chaired the 28th Meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on China-India Border Affairs. Representatives of government agencies for foreign affairs, national defense and immigration affairs of the two countries attended the meeting.

The two sides fully affirmed the positive progress made in negotiations on the China-India border situation, and had comprehensive, in-depth and constructive discussions on the current China-India border-related issues. The two sides agreed to earnestly implement the guiding principles of the important common understandings reached by the leaders of the two countries, maintain the momentum

of diplomatic and military negotiations, hold the 21st Round of Corps Commanders Level Meeting at an early date, promote the settlement of issues related to the border areas, and turn the page in the situation of the border areas at an early date. The two sides agreed to improve the mechanism for negotiation and consultation, consolidate the existing outcomes of negotiation, strictly abide by the agreements signed and confidence-building measures reached between the two sides, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas.

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We Hope to Accelerate Resumption of Practical Cooperation: Ma Jia



Dear Mr. Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary of the East Asia Division of Ministry of External Affairs of India,

Honorable guests,

Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

Good evening and Namaste!

Very honored to have all of you joining us to celebrate the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Over the past 74 years, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people have successfully charted the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and brought about the two miracles of

rapid economic growth and enduring social stability. China's GDP has grown from 30 billion US dollars to 18 trillion US dollars in 2022. China has become the world's second largest economy, largest manufacturer and trader in goods, and second largest consumer of commodities and recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI).

China has contributed initiatives and resources to maintain world peace and promote common development. President Xi Jinping put forward the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind, which has gained extensive recognition and support from the



Chinese Premier Li Qiang welcomed by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G20 summit in New Delhi on September 9, 2023.

international community. The Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative are bearing fruits. China has been and will continue to be a builder of world peace, contributor to global development and defender of the international order. We will further inject stability and positive energy into today's world fraught with uncertainties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marks the 45th anniversary of China's reform and opening up. Over the past decade or so, China's economy contributed up to more than 30 percent on average to world economic growth. For the first half of this year, China's GDP grew by 5.5 percent year-on-year. According to IMF, China's economy is expected to grow by 5.2 percent and account for one third of global growth this year. The fundamentals sustaining China's economic growth in the long run have not changed. The

economy's remarkable resilience, potential and vitality have not changed. The conditions underpinning high-quality development have not changed. The giant ship of the Chinese economy will continue to sail ahead.

China is a major trading partner of over 140 countries and regions. Confronting with the headwinds to economic globalization, China would like to work with partners to build an open world economy, oppose the politicization of economic issues, work together to keep global industrial and supply chains stable and smooth, so that the fruits of globalization could be enjoyed by all in a more equitable way.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the only two major developing countries with a population of over one billion and major emerging economies with broad development prospects, China and India shoulder increasingly important responsibilities in maintaining global stability and promoting

common development. China-India relations have gone beyond the bilateral scope and acquired global and strategic significance.

This year, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi attended the SCO and BRICS Summits and had a conversation during the BRICS Summit. Premier Li Qiang attended the 18th G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi. The two sides maintained communication through diplomatic and military channels to move the border situation from emergency response to normalized management and control. Bilateral trade has performed strongly, and the trade volume reached 77.6 billion US dollars in the first seven months of this year. People to people exchanges between the two countries continue to increase.

Going forward, we hope that the two sides will follow the important consensus reached by the two leaders and translate it into concerted actions taken by all departments and in all fields, so as to bring China-India relations back to the track of sound and steady development at an early date.

We hope to firmly stick to the correct direction of China-India relations. China and India are eternal neighbors who need to accurately understand each other's strategic intentions, and to support and contribute to each other's success instead of undermining and doubting each other. We need to jointly oppose zero-sum games and keep our region away from geopolitical calculations. China and India have the ability and wisdom to find a way for friendly coexistence between neighboring major countries and jointly create the "Asian Century".

We hope to accelerate the resumption of practical cooperation and deepen it. China's second centenary goal and India's "Amrit Kaal" development goal are the biggest strategic objectives for the two countries respectively. China-India economic and trade cooperation is mutually beneficial and win-win in nature, and an important booster to "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat". We need to provide a fair, just and non-discriminatory business environment for each other's enterprises,

promote bilateral trade facilitation, maintain contacts and exchanges in youth, culture, education, tourism and other fields, work for an early resumption of passenger flights, and continue to enhance mutual understanding and people-to-people bond.

We hope to properly manage and handle differences and sensitive issues. Many of the problems in China-India relations are left over from history and will take time to resolve. There is an old Chinese saying, "the finer details fall into place when they align with the bigger picture". We need to consolidate and develop the overall situation of friendly cooperation between our two countries and properly manage and resolve specific issues in this process, rather than allowing specific issues to define our bilateral relations, so as to promote more mature and stable relationship between our two countries.

We hope to strengthen multilateral cooperation. The theme of the G20 Summit in New Delhi was "One Earth, One Family, One Future", which is highly consistent with the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind. China and India are both members of the Global South. We need to stand firmly on the side of developing countries, uphold independence, work for unity and rejuvenation, advance the economic globalization, oppose hegemonism and power politics, and fully support the improvement of the representation and voice of developing countries in the reform of the global governance system.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are ready to work with people from all walks of life who care about and support China-India relations, and promote the stability, improvement and development of bilateral relations for the benefit of the two countries and two peoples.

Finally, I would like to propose a toast, to the 74th birthday of the People's Republic of China,

and to the friendship and cooperation between China and India,

Cheers!

A China-India Partnership, Its Vast Global Potential

On October 28, 2023, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India Ma Jia published an article entitled “A China-India partnership, its vast global potential” in *The Hindu*. The full text is as follows:

A China-India partnership, its vast global potential

The crisis in Ukraine continues unabated even as new conflict has flared up in West Asia. Traditional and non-traditional security threats are interlocked and global deficits in peace, development, security and governance are growing. What has happened to the world? How should we respond? These are profound questions that have been raised by the world, by history and by the times, and challenge mankind to search for answers.

An opportunity for China and India

As Asian civilisations that have been living side by side for thousands of years, China and India share common thoughts on the future and destiny of mankind. The Chinese people have cherished the vision of “a world of fairness and justice for the common good” since ancient times. Ancient Indian literature also records the motto of “*Samudhaya Jātumbakam*”.

In the 1950s, China and India jointly initiated the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, which has turned into basic norms governing international relations. As two largest developing countries and emerging market economies, each with a population of over one billion, China and India are both at a crucial stage of development and revitalisation. They have the responsibility, the ability and the opportunity to once again illuminate the path forward for mankind with Oriental wisdom. The answer China’s President Xi Jinping gives out is to build a global community of a shared future. A white paper China recently released titled “A Global Community of Shared Future: China’s Proposals and Actions”, systematically lays out the theoretical base, practice and development of that over the past decade. It advocates forging greater synergy to achieve lasting peace, developing a conducive environment for common security, instilling greater confidence in common development, providing sustainable driving forces for mutual learning among civilisations, and taking more actions to protect the ecology.

The vision of a global community of shared future has been included in United Nations



Ma Jia
is Chargé d’Affaires ad interim (a.i.) of the Chinese Embassy in India

The two nations have the responsibility, the ability and the opportunity to chart the path for the world with Oriental wisdom

General Assembly Resolutions for six consecutive years and incorporated in the resolutions and declarations of multilateral mechanisms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS. It has won the international community’s understanding and support, especially among developing countries, and has a clear path forward.

Vision points

These are: Keep to the correct direction of economic globalisation. Jointly build an open world economy that reflects the demands and represents the interests of developing countries. Unilateralism, protectionism, decoupling, and the zero-sum game of the “winner-takes-all” should be rejected.

Follow the right path of peaceful development. The world needs peace, just like people need air and sunshine. The trend today is the pursuit of peace, development, cooperation, and win-win results. The old path of colonialism and hegemonism leads to a dead end and those who follow it will pay a heavy price. Only by working together to pursue peace, safeguard peace, and share peace, can countries achieve their development goals and make greater contributions to the world.

Foster a new type of international relations. By building a global community of a shared future, emerging countries and established powers can avoid falling into the Thucydides trap and build common ground and achieve common development for different civilisations and countries with different social systems. Countries should uphold the principles of mutual respect, equity and justice, and mutually beneficial cooperation so as to build broader and deeper global partnerships based on equality, openness, and cooperation.

Practice true multilateralism. Building cliques in the name of multilateralism is no more than bloc politics. Seeking supremacy in the name of multilateralism is still unilateral thinking. “Selective multilateralism” is practising double standards. The world should be fair and free from

domineering practices. There is only one system for the world, which is the international system with the United Nations at its core. There is only one order for the world, which is the international order based on international law. There is only one set of rules for the world, which is the basic norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Promote the common values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom of humanity. There is no single model of democracy that is universally applicable, far less a superior one. Promoting the common values of humanity is about seeking common ground while reserving differences, harmony without uniformity, and fully respecting the diversity of civilisations and the right of all countries to independently choose their social systems and development paths.

China’s contributions

Over the past decade, China has contributed its strength to building a global community of a shared future with firm conviction and solid actions. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has become a popular global public good and a cooperation platform provided by China to the world. The Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative point to the direction of human progress across three dimensions and have evolved into a crucial cornerstone for building a global community of a shared future, providing comprehensive solutions to the challenges confronting humanity.

With a third of the global population, China and India are natural partners in building a global community of a shared future. China and India could jointly work hand in hand with global development, security and civilisation initiatives to demonstrate the common will and resolution of the Global South countries to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

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The photo taken at the welcome banquet for guests at the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing.

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Xi Sends Congratulatory Letter to Liangzhu Forum

On December 3, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the first Liangzhu Forum.

The ruins of Liangzhu ancient city are a demonstration of the 5,000-year history of the Chinese civilization, and a treasure of world civilizations, Xi said.

The Chinese civilization has been open and inclusive, continuously enriching itself, and drawing on the essence of other civilizations, greatly enriching the garden of world civilizations, he said.

Noting that mutual respect, unity, harmony and coexistence are the right path for the development of human civilization, Xi called on all parties to make the best of the platform of the Liangzhu Forum, advance the dialogue with partner countries of the Belt

and Road Initiative, and implement the Global Civilization Initiative and further exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations.

He also called for efforts to promote the vision of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and mutual accommodation to help different civilizations live in harmony and reinforce one another, as well as enhance friendship and mutual understanding and affection between people of different countries.

With the theme of “Implementing the Global Civilization Initiative, Promoting Exchanges and Mutual Learning Between Civilizations,” the first Liangzhu Forum, jointly held by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the provincial government of east China’s Zhejiang, opened in Hangzhou, capital city of the province.



Chinese Dragon Version of Bing Dwen Dwen Unveiled



Chinese zodiac dragon version of Beijing Winter Olympic Games mascot Bing Dwen Dwen and associated licensed products.

A Chinese zodiac dragon version of Beijing Winter Olympic Games mascot Bing Dwen Dwen was unveiled at China's National Stadium here on November 29, 2023.

The special version was designed to celebrate the second anniversary of the Beijing Games and the upcoming Year of the Dragon in February 2024.

"The dragon represents the spirit of the Chinese nation and the best wishes for health and well-being, which echoes with the

solidarity emphasized by the Olympic family," said Lin Cunzhen, a designer of the dragon version of Bing Dwen Dwen.

Licensed products of the new version, including toys, badges and keychains, will hit the market on December 7.

"The international community expects to see the Olympic cultural heritage continue to shine worldwide. China has already made breakthroughs in revitalizing the Olympic mascot through the traditional Chinese zodiac and the Spring Festival," Lin noted.

During the Beijing Winter Games, which coincided with the Chinese New Year in 2022, organizers released a special festival edition of Bing Dwen Dwen dressed in a costume featuring tiger elements to celebrate the Year of the Tiger.

Following Hu - meaning tiger - Dwen Dwen, Tu Dwen Dwen was also unveiled, inspired by a mythical rabbit, for the Year of Rabbit.

“People are always curious about the new appearance of Bing Dwen Dwen, as we all know how popular it was since the opening of

the Beijing Winter Olympics nearly two years ago,” she added, noting that Chinese people are eager to see what the next version of Bing Dwen Dwen will look like.

“After getting to know the concept of our design, people from other countries and regions can better understand Chinese culture. If possible, we hope to carry out all 12 Chinese zodiac versions of Bing Dwen Dwen to meet the expectations of the public, which is also a milestone for myself,” Lin said.



A commemorative version of Bing Dwen Dwen to celebrate China's year of the rabbit in 2023.

24 Solar Terms: 9 Things You May Not Know about Start of Spring



The traditional Chinese solar calendar divides the year into 24 solar terms. Start of Spring (Chinese: 立春), the first solar term of the year, begins in 2024 on February 4 and ends on February 18.

Start of Spring lifts the curtain of spring. After that everything turns green and full of vigor; people clearly see that the daytime is becoming longer and the weather is becoming warmer.

Here are nine things you should know about Start of Spring.

Start of Spring and Spring Festival

As a solar term, Start of Spring had already entered people's lives in the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC). At that time, there were eight solar terms. According to some experts, the 24 solar terms were used for the first time in books during the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 24), when the Start of Spring was set as the Spring Festival. In 1913, the first day of the first month of the lunar year was mandated as the Spring Festival.



Flying a kite

Spring is the best season for kite-flying. A traditional folk activity, it has a history of more than 2,000 years. It can help build one's health and prevent diseases. It also has the effect of promoting blood circulation and speeding up metabolism. A breath of fresh air outside can discharge the foul smell accumulated in winter.

Erecting the egg

In China, it is said that the egg can be set upright on the first day of the Start of Spring, Spring Equinox day and Autumn Equinox day. It is believed that if someone can make the egg stand on the first day of Start of Spring, he will have good luck in the future.

According to astronomers and physicists, setting the egg upright has nothing to do with time, but with mechanics. The most important thing is to shift the egg's center of gravity to the lowest part of the egg. In this way, the trick is holding the egg until the yolk sinks as much as possible. For this, people should choose an egg about 4 or 5 days old, whose yolk is inclined to sink down.



Wearing fabric swallows

Wearing fabric swallows is a custom in some regions in Shaanxi. Every Start of Spring, people like to wear a swallow made of colorful silk on their chests. The custom originated during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). The swallow is a harbinger of spring and a symbol of prosperity and happiness.

Biting the spring

In many parts of China, people observe the custom of “biting the spring” on the first day of Start of Spring. They eat spring pancakes, spring rolls, or a few mouthfuls of carrots.



Making a Spring Ox

This custom in Shaanxi is practiced right before the Start of Spring. The local government hires some skilled artisans and gathers them to build the frame of an ox out of bamboo strips and the legs with wood. Then they paste some paper and paint onto it – and, voila! The image of an ox is complete. It is said that if more red and yellow paper is used, then there will be a good harvest that year; if black paper is pasted, then the year will be poor. When the paper ox is ready, there is a ritual to paint the eyes. After that, people will set up an altar for it and worship it.



Posting spring calligraphy and paintings

The custom of posting calligraphy and paintings on one's door in the spring first appeared during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). People would do so to welcome spring and pray for good luck on the first day of Start of Spring.

Appreciating plum blossoms

Plums blossom from the 12th lunar month to the second month of the next year. The plum blossom, as it fights against the cold, is the most highly regarded. In China, the plum blossom, orchid, bamboo and chrysanthemum are praised as the four gentlemen of Chinese flowers.



Welcoming spring

People in China began holding a special ceremony on the first day of Start of Spring about 3,000 years ago. They made sacrifices to Gou Mang, the god of Spring, who is in charge of agriculture. By the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), greeting spring had become an important folk activity. In Beijing, government officials welcomed spring in the wild field near Dongzhimen (the east gate of Beijing).



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