

NEWS FROM CHINA

CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

The BRICS Way Jointly Building a Better World





A view of the Baiyangyu section of the Great Wall in Qian'an City of north China's Hebei Province.

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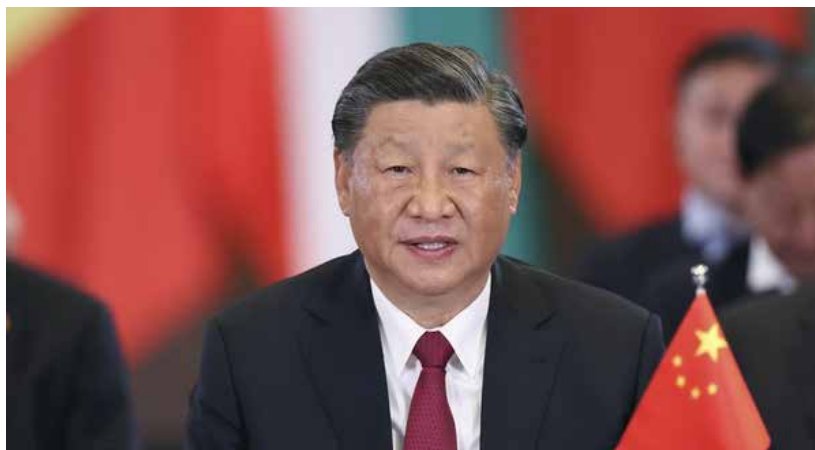
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BRICS Summit: Xi Focuses on Development Through Solidarity

Terming BRICS as an important force in shaping the international landscape in a “new period of turbulence and transformation,” Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled proposals for strengthening the grouping at the 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg on August 23, 2023.



Your Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa,
Your Excellency President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva,
Your Excellency President Vladimir Putin,
Your Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

I am very pleased to join you in Johannesburg for the important discussions on BRICS cooperation and development. It is especially significant that the BRICS Summit is held in Africa for the third time. I wish to thank President Ramaphosa and the South African government for the thoughtful arrangements.

We gather at a time when the world has entered a new period of turbulence and



transformation. It is undergoing major shifts, division and regrouping, leading to more uncertain, unstable and unpredictable developments.

BRICS is an important force in shaping the international landscape. We choose our development paths independently, jointly defend our right to development, and march in tandem toward modernization. This represents the direction of the advancement of human society, and will profoundly impact the development process of the world. Our track record shows that we have consistently acted on the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, and taken BRICS cooperation to new heights in support of our five countries' development. We have upheld fairness and justice in international affairs, stood up for what is right on major international and regional issues, and enhanced the voice and influence of emerging markets and developing countries. BRICS countries invariably advocate and practice independent foreign policies. We always address major international issues based on their merits, making fair remarks and taking fair actions. We do not barter away principles, succumb to external pressure, or act

as vassals of others. We BRICS countries share extensive consensus and common goals. No matter how the international situation changes, our commitment to cooperation since the very beginning and our common aspiration will not change.

BRICS is an important force in shaping the international landscape. We choose our development paths independently, jointly defend our right to development, and march in tandem toward modernization.

We gather at a crucial time to build on our past achievements and open up a new future for BRICS cooperation. We should navigate the trend of our times and stay in the forefront. We should always bear in mind our founding purpose of strengthening ourselves through unity, enhance cooperation across the board, and build a high-quality partnership. We should help reform global governance to make it more just and equitable, and bring to the world more certainty, stability and positive energy.

–We should deepen business and financial cooperation to boost economic growth. Development is an inalienable right of all countries, not a privilege reserved for a few. The world economic recovery remains shaky, with less than 3 percent of growth for the year as estimated by some international institutions. Challenges for developing countries are even more formidable, hampering their efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. We BRICS countries should be fellow companions on the journey of development and revitalization, and oppose decoupling and supply chains disruption as well as economic coercion. We should focus on practical cooperation, particularly in such fields as digital economy, green development, and supply chain, and bolster economic, trade and financial exchanges.

We should deepen business and financial cooperation to boost economic growth. Development is an inalienable right of all countries, not a privilege reserved for a few. The world economic recovery remains shaky, with less than 3 percent of growth for the year as estimated by some international institutions.

China will set up a China-BRICS Science and Innovation Incubation Park for the New Era to support the deployment of innovation results. Under the BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation mechanism, we will explore the establishment of a BRICS Global Remote Sensing Satellite Data and Application Cooperation Platform to provide data support for agriculture, ecological conservation and disaster reduction in various countries. China will also work with all parties to jointly establish a BRICS Framework on Industrial Cooperation for Sustainable Development as a platform of industrial coordination and project cooperation in implementing the United Nations (U.N.) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

–We should expand political and security cooperation to uphold peace and tranquility. As a Chinese saying suggests, “Nothing is more beneficial than stability, and nothing is more detrimental than turmoil.” The Cold War mentality is still haunting our world, and the geopolitical situation is getting tense. All nations long for a sound security environment. International security is indivisible. Attempts to seek absolute security at the expense of others will eventually backfire. The Ukraine crisis has evolved to where it is today because of complex reasons. What is pressing now is to encourage peace talks, promote deescalation, end the fighting, and realize peace. No one should add fuel to the fire to worsen the situation.

BRICS countries should keep to the direction of peaceful development, and consolidate the BRICS strategic partnership. We need to make good use of the BRICS Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, the Meeting of High Representatives on National Security and other mechanisms, support each other on issues concerning our respective core interests, and enhance coordination on major international and regional issues. We need to tender good offices on hotspot issues, pushing for political settlement and lowering the temperature. Artificial intelligence (AI) is a new area of development. BRICS countries have agreed to launch the AI Study Group of BRICS Institute of Future Networks at an early date. We need to enable the Study Group to play its full role, further expand cooperation on AI, and step up information exchange and technological cooperation. We need to jointly fend off risks, and develop AI governance frameworks and standards with broad-based consensus, so as to make AI technologies more secure, reliable, controllable and equitable.

–We should increase people-to-people exchanges and promote mutual learning between civilizations. There are many civilizations and development paths in the world, and this is how the world should be. Human history will not end with a particular civilization or system. BRICS countries need

to champion the spirit of inclusiveness, advocate peaceful coexistence and harmony between civilizations, and promote respect of all countries in independently choosing their modernization paths. We need to make good use of such mechanisms as the BRICS seminar on governance, the BRICS forum on people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and the Women Innovation Contest to deepen people-to-people exchanges and strengthen the bond between our peoples.

China would like to propose that BRICS countries expand cooperation on education, enhance the role of the BRICS alliance for vocational education, explore and set up a cooperation mechanism on digital education, and foster a paradigm of all-round cooperation on education. In addition, we also need to strengthen exchanges on traditional cultures and promote the renewal of fine traditional cultures.

The Ukraine crisis has evolved to where it is today because of complex reasons. What is pressing now is to encourage peace talks, promote deescalation, end the fighting, and realize peace. No one should add fuel to the fire to worsen the situation.

—We should uphold fairness and justice and improve global governance. Strengthening global governance is the right choice if the international community intends to share development opportunities and tackle global challenges. International rules must be written and upheld jointly by all countries based on the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, rather than dictated by those with the strongest muscles or the loudest voice. Ganging up to form exclusive groups and packaging their own rules as international norms are even more unacceptable. BRICS countries should practice true multilateralism, uphold the U.N.-centered international system, support and strengthen the WTO-centered

multilateral trading system, and reject the attempt to create small circles or exclusive blocs. We need to fully leverage the role of the New Development Bank, push forward reform of the international financial and monetary systems, and increase the representation and voice of developing countries.

BRICS countries should practice true multilateralism, uphold the U.N.-centered international system, support and strengthen the WTO-centered multilateral trading system, and reject the attempt to create small circles or exclusive blocs.

I am glad to see the growing enthusiasm of developing countries about BRICS cooperation, and quite a number of them have applied to join the BRICS cooperation mechanism. We need to act on the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation to bring more countries into the BRICS family, so as to pool our wisdom and strength to make global governance more just and equitable.

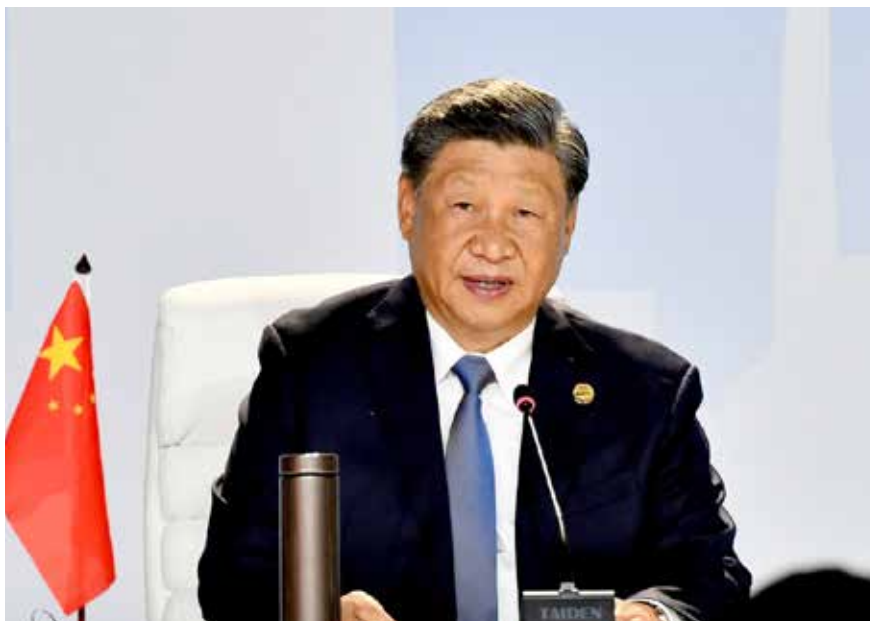
Colleagues,

The ancient African continent is a reservoir of simple yet profound wisdom. As an African proverb puts it, “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.” The philosophy of Ubuntu, which believes that “I am because we are,” highlights the interdependence and interconnectedness of all peoples. Similarly, harmonious coexistence has been the aspiration of the Chinese nation for thousands of years. China is ready to work with BRICS partners to pursue the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, enhance the strategic partnership, and deepen cooperation across the board. As fellow BRICS members, we should meet our common challenges with a shared sense of mission, shape a brighter future with a common purpose, and march together on the journey toward modernization.

Thank you.

BRICS Expansion a New Starting Point for BRICS Cooperation Mechanism: Xi

In a press segment of the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg on August 24, 2023, President Xi Jinping noted that the leaders of the five BRICS countries unanimously agreed to invite Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Iran and Ethiopia to the BRICS family as official members.



On the morning of August 24 local time, President Xi Jinping attended a press segment of the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg.

At the event, the announcement was made to invite Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Iran and Ethiopia to the BRICS family as official members.

President Xi Jinping delivered important remarks. He pointed out that, as countries

with great heft, BRICS countries shoulder important responsibilities for world peace and development. During the Summit, leaders had in-depth exchanges of views on the current international situation and BRICS cooperation. They reached extensive consensus, issued the Johannesburg II Declaration, and secured fruitful outcomes.

President Xi Jinping noted that leaders of the five BRICS countries unanimously agreed

to invite Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Iran and Ethiopia to the BRICS family as official members. China wishes to congratulate these countries and express high appreciation to the host South Africa and President Ramaphosa for their valuable efforts.

President Xi Jinping highlighted that the BRICS expansion is historic. It demonstrates the commitment of BRICS countries to cooperate in unity with all developing countries. It meets the expectations of the international community, and serves the common interests of emerging markets and developing countries. The expansion is also a new starting point for BRICS cooperation. It will inject new vitality into the BRICS cooperation mechanism and further strengthen the forces for world peace and development. He expressed confidence that as long as BRICS countries work in concert, they will bring out the best in BRICS cooperation and ensure a promising future for BRICS countries. He made the call for all to join hands together to write a new chapter of emerging markets and developing countries

seeking development through solidarity and cooperation.

The event was chaired by South African President Ramaphosa, and attended by Brazilian President Lula, Indian Prime Minister Modi, and Russian President Putin (via video link).

The Johannesburg II Declaration was adopted and issued at the event.

Cai Qi and Wang Yi were present at the event.

President Xi Jinping highlighted that the BRICS expansion is historic. It demonstrates the commitment of BRICS countries to cooperate in unity with all developing countries. It meets the expectations of the international community, and serves the common interests of emerging markets and developing countries. The expansion is also a new starting point for BRICS cooperation.



Enhancing Solidarity and Cooperation to Overcome Risks and Challenges and Jointly Build a Better World

In his address at the Closing Ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping said that China will remain firm in advancing high-standard opening-up and underlined that China will continue to cut the negative list for foreign investment, and further open the modern services sector.

Your Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa,
Members of the Business Community,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

I wish to extend my warm congratulations on the success of the BRICS Business Forum in South Africa!

Ten years ago here in South Africa, we BRICS leaders witnessed the birth of the BRICS Business Council. Since then, the Council has stayed true to its founding mission. It has

seized opportunities to deepen cooperation, contributing to economic and social development of BRICS countries and helping sustain global economic growth.

Right now, changes in the world, in our times and in history are unfolding in ways like never before, bringing human society to a critical juncture. Should we pursue cooperation and integration, or just succumb to division and confrontation? Should we work together to maintain peace and stability, or just sleepwalk into the abyss of a new Cold War?



Should we embrace prosperity, openness and inclusiveness, or allow hegemonic and bullying acts to throw us into depression? Should we deepen mutual trust through exchanges and mutual learning, or allow hubris and prejudice to blind conscience? The course of history will be shaped by the choices we make.

An ancient Chinese thinker observed that “following the underlying trend will lead one to success, while going against it can only cause one to fail.” We humankind have achieved notable economic development and social progress over the past decades, and that is because we have drawn lessons from the two world wars and the Cold War, followed the historical trend of economic globalization, and embarked on the right path of openness and development for win-win cooperation. Our world today has become a community with a shared future in which we all share a huge stake of survival. What people in various countries long for is definitely not a new Cold War or a small exclusive bloc; what they want is an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys enduring peace, universal security and common prosperity. Such is the logic of historical advance and the trend of our times.

Ten years ago, I made a proposition of building a community with a shared future for mankind, calling on all countries to build this planet we all call home into a harmonious

family. In the face of high winds, choppy waters and even treacherous storms, we in all countries need to uphold the correct views of the world, of history and of our overall interests, and act to translate the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind into reality.

—**We need to promote development and prosperity for all.** Many emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs) have come to what they are today after shaking off the yoke of colonialism. With perseverance, hard work and huge sacrifices, we succeeded in gaining independence and have been exploring development paths suited to our national conditions. Everything we do is to deliver better lives to our people. But some country, obsessed with maintaining its hegemony, has gone out of its way to cripple the EMDCs. Whoever is developing fast becomes its target of containment; whoever is catching up becomes its target of obstruction. But this is futile, as I have said more than once that blowing out others’ lamp will not bring light to oneself.

Every country has the right to development, and the people in every country have the freedom to pursue a happy life. With that in mind, I have proposed the Global Development Initiative, with the goal of promoting development for all by the international community and boosting the U.N. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the support of many countries, solid gains have been made in pursuing this initiative, with cooperation flourishing in various fields. China will work with all other countries to speed up cooperation under the Global Development Initiative, strengthen drivers of global development, promote the reform of the World Trade Organization in a comprehensive and in-depth manner, meet common challenges together and make life better for people across the world.

—**We need to achieve universal security.** Recent years have seen a turbulent world; many countries and regions are plagued



by wars and conflicts and many people are displaced. Members of the international community share the pressing hope to eradicate the root cause of conflicts and wars, and find a fundamental way to realize enduring peace and security globally. Facts have shown that any attempt to keep enlarging a military alliance, expand one's own sphere of influence or squeeze other countries' buffer of security can only create security predicament and insecurity for all countries. Only a commitment to a new vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security can lead to universal security.

Our world today has become a community with a shared future in which we all share a huge stake of survival. What people in various countries long for is definitely not a new Cold War or a small exclusive bloc; what they want is an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys enduring peace, universal security and common prosperity. Such is the logic of historical advance and the trend of our times.

Last year, I put forward the Global Security Initiative, and it has gained support from over 100 countries and international organizations. China stands ready to jointly pursue this initiative with all others. We should have dialogue and oppose confrontation, forge partnership but not alliance, and pursue win-win outcome and oppose zero-sum game, and work together to build a community of security.

— **We need to stay committed to exchanges among civilizations and mutual learning.** One flower alone cannot make a beautiful spring; only blossoming of a rich variety of flowers can bring spring to the global garden. Human civilization is colorful by nature. It is

precisely because of their differences in history, culture and system that all countries need to interact with one another, learn from each other, and advance together. Deliberately creating division with the assertion of “democracy versus authoritarianism” and “liberalism versus autocracy” can only split the world and lead to clash of civilizations.

I have put forward the Global Civilization Initiative, calling for promoting diversity of global civilizations, the common values of humanity, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges and cooperation. China welcomes all other countries to get involved in cooperation under this initiative. We should encourage different civilizations to bring out their best and flourish together; we should break barriers to exchanges, and renew human civilization.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

As an ancient Chinese philosopher observes, “Change is the nature of the universe.” The collective rise of EMDCs represented by BRICS is fundamentally changing the global landscape. EMDCs have contributed as high as 80 percent of global growth in the past 20 years, and their share in the global GDP has increased from 24 percent 40 years ago to more than 40 percent. Just as a line in a Chinese poem reads, “No mountains can stop the surging flow of a mighty river.” Whatever resistance there may be, BRICS, a positive and stable force for good, will continue to grow. We will forge stronger BRICS strategic partnership, expand the “BRICS Plus” model, actively advance membership expansion, deepen solidarity and cooperation with other EMDCs, promote global multipolarity and greater democracy in international relations, and help make the international order more just and equitable. The gathering between BRICS countries and more than 50 other countries in South Africa today is not an exercise of asking countries to take sides, nor an exercise of creating bloc confrontation. Rather, it is an endeavor

to expand the architecture of peace and development. I am glad to note that over 20 countries are knocking on the door of BRICS. China hopes to see more joining the BRICS cooperation mechanism.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

China stays committed to an independent foreign policy of peace and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. As a developing country and a member of the Global South, China breathes the same breath with other developing countries and pursues a shared future with them. China has resolutely upheld the common interests of developing countries and worked to increase the representation and voice of EMDCs in global affairs. Hegemonism is not in China's DNA; nor does China have any motivation to engage in major-power competition. China stands firmly on the right side of history, and believes that a just cause should be pursued for the common good.

At present, we Chinese, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, are advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts by pursuing Chinese modernization. Chinese modernization aims to achieve common prosperity, material and cultural-ethical advancement, harmony between humanity and nature, and peaceful development for a huge population. Chinese modernization has created a new form of human advancement and presented a new future of modernization. We hope that other developing countries can draw on the outstanding achievements of human civilization and find their own paths to modernization in keeping with their national conditions.

Achieving high-quality development is a top priority in China's goal of fully building itself into a modernized country. We are committed to applying a new development philosophy and creating a new development paradigm. In the past decade, China has contributed more than 30 percent of annual global growth. This year, the Chinese economy has maintained the momentum of recovery and growth. China

enjoys several distinct advantages: 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 force and entrepreneurs in terms of human resources. The Chinese economy has strong resilience, tremendous potential and great vitality. The fundamentals sustaining China's long-term growth will remain unchanged. The giant ship of the Chinese economy will continue to cleave waves and sail ahead.

China will remain an important opportunity for the world's development. Our door is wide open to anyone who wants to engage in cooperation with us. As a supersize economy, China will remain firm in advancing high-standard opening-up. We will continue to expand market access, cut the negative list for foreign investment, and further open the modern services sector. We will steadily improve the business environment, provide national treatment to foreign-invested enterprises, foster a world-class, market-oriented business environment governed by a sound legal framework, and build a globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas. We will continue to advance ecological conservation, accelerate the building of a Beautiful China, actively and prudently move toward carbon peak and carbon neutrality, and pursue all-round green transition in economic and social development. Going forward, as it endeavors to achieve modernization for its more than 1.4 billion people, China will surely contribute even more to the global economy and provide even more opportunities for the global business community.

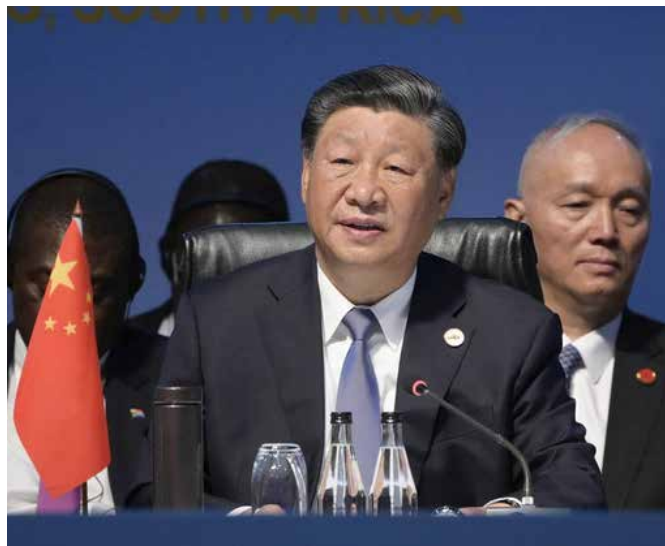
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

A formidable mission is a magnificent and glorious mission. As long as we work in unity and strengthen cooperation, we will not be intimidated by any risk or challenge on the way ahead, and we will surely steer the giant ship of human development to a brighter future!

Thank you.

Hand in Hand Toward a Community of Shared Development

In his remarks at the BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue in Johannesburg on August 24, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping highlighted that China will carry out more cooperation with African countries to support Africa in enhancing its own capacity for development.



Our Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa,
Colleagues,

Let me begin by thanking President Ramaphosa for preparing the Dialogues. I am delighted to join you all in this discussion on global development.

Development embodies our people's aspiration for a better life. It is the top priority for developing countries and a timeless theme for humanity. As the U.N. 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development is due for a midterm review this year, the delivery of most Sustainable Development Goals remains slow. This is a cause for concern, and the global development endeavor faces formidable challenges.

The international community must pursue the larger interests of all countries, respond to people's concerns, and restore development to the center of the international agenda. The representation and voice of developing

countries in global governance should be increased, and developing countries be supported in realizing better development. It is also important to uphold true multilateralism, forge a global development partnership, and create a secure and stable international environment for shared development.

Colleagues,

China has invariably stood in solidarity with fellow developing countries through thick and thin. China has been and will always remain a member of developing countries. I proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), precisely for the purpose of calling on the world to stay focused on development and lending impetus to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Last year, China held the first High-Level Dialogue on Global Development where a host of measures for development cooperation were unveiled. Encouraging progress has been made since then.

—We have put development first and allocated more resources. China has set up a Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund with a total funding of USD 4 billion, and Chinese financial institutions will soon set up a special fund of USD 10 billion dedicated to the implementation of the GDI.

—We have taken results-oriented actions and deepened practical cooperation. From Asia to Africa, from Pacific island countries to the Caribbean, over 200 cooperation projects have come to fruition, and cooperation mechanisms are growing in areas such as poverty reduction, education and health.

—We have unleashed the power of innovation and built up momentum for development. Under the GDI, we have prioritized green development, new-type industrialization, the digital economy and some other key areas, and pursued a Partnership on New Industrial Revolution to boost high-quality development.

—We have tided over difficulties together and made development more resilient. Food and energy security bear on the economy of a country and the well-being of its people. We have launched a China-FAO South-

South Cooperation Trust Fund, implemented the Food Production Enhancement Action, and provided food assistance to and shared agrotech with many countries. We have also initiated a Global Clean Energy Cooperation Partnership with a view to achieving energy security.

Development embodies our people's aspiration for a better life. It is the top priority for developing countries and a timeless theme for humanity. As the U.N. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is due for a midterm review this year, the delivery of most Sustainable Development Goals remains slow. This is a cause for concern, and the global development endeavor faces formidable challenges.

China is a friend that Africa can count on. Over the past decade, China has provided a large amount of development assistance to Africa and helped build more than 6,000 kilometers of railway, over 6,000 kilometers of highway, and 80-plus large power facilities on the continent. Going forward, China will carry out more cooperation with African countries to support Africa in enhancing its own capacity for development. Specific measures will be taken, such as providing satellite mapping data products, implementing a Smart Customs cooperation partnership, and launching with UNESCO a “GDI for Africa’s Future” action plan, to support sustainable development in Africa.

Colleagues,

A Chinese adage reads, “Victory is ensured when people pool their strength; success is secured when people put their heads together.” Let us stay committed and united to build a community of shared development, and make sure that in the process of global modernization, no country is left behind.

Thank you.

Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Create a Great Future for China and Africa

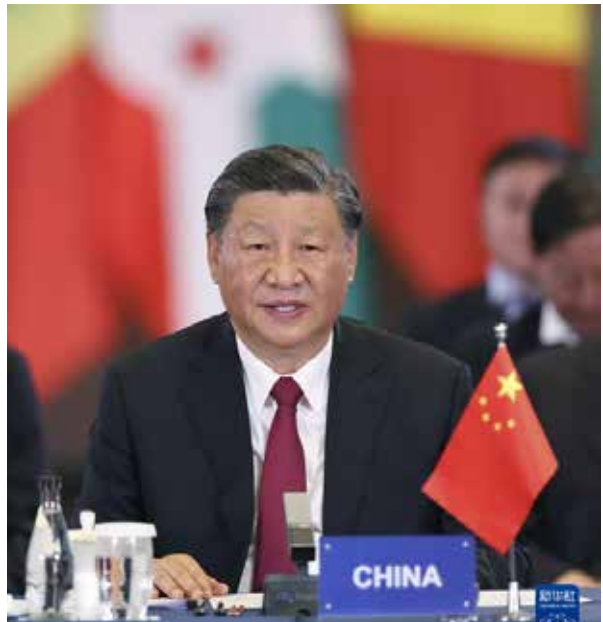
China will continue to support Africa in speaking with one voice on international affairs and support the U.N. Security Council reform to meet Africa's aspirations, said Chinese President Xi Jinping at the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue in Johannesburg on August 24, 2023.

Your Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa,
Your Excellencies Heads of State,
Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to co-chair with President Ramaphosa the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue. I feel a particular warmth seeing my African friends face to face after five years, to celebrate our friendship and chart the way forward for our cooperation. I wish to thank all the colleagues for attending the dialogue, and send sincere greetings to leaders of other African countries who are not with us today.

Africa is a fertile land of hope in the 21st century. This is my 10th visit to the continent. Each time, I feel the new development and changes in Africa. As the Organization of African Unity marks its 60th anniversary this year, I wish to convey heartfelt congratulations to you all and to the African people.

Over the past 60 years, under the banner of Pan-Africanism, African countries have made big strides on the path of independence, seeking strength through unity and integration. You have demonstrated the strength of Africa in the struggles to uphold multilateralism and the common interests of developing countries. With steady progress under Agenda 2063 of the African Union (AU), the official launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area



(AfCFTA), and growing coordination among the subregional groups, Africa is becoming an important pole with global influence.

In 2013 after I became Chinese President, I was here in Africa for my first foreign visit and announced the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith for China's Africa policy. Over the past 10 years, China has stayed committed to this principle. Together with our African friends and drawing strength from the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation, we have pressed ahead on the path of solidarity and cooperation, stood

for justice amid shifting global dynamics, and looked out for each other in face of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have taken China-Africa relations to new heights and entered the new stage of jointly building a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

Colleagues,

China is marching toward the Second Centenary Goal of building itself into a great modern socialist country in all respects that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful when the People's Republic marks its centenary. We are pursuing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. Africa is moving at an accelerated speed toward the bright prospects envisioned in Agenda 2063, and making all-out efforts to build a new Africa that enjoys peace, unity, prosperity and strength. China and Africa must work together to create a sound environment for realizing our respective development visions.

We are pursuing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. Africa is moving at an accelerated speed toward the bright prospects envisioned in Agenda 2063, and making all-out efforts to build a new Africa that enjoys peace, unity, prosperity and strength. China and Africa must work together to create a sound environment for realizing our respective development visions.

– **Working together to promote a just and equitable international order.** We should carry forward the spirit of sticking together in times of adversity, practice true multilateralism, and unequivocally oppose vestiges of colonialism and hegemonism in all forms. We should firmly support each other in defending core interests, stand strong by the just calls of developing countries, and work for a more just and equitable international order.



– **Working together to safeguard a peaceful and secure global environment.**

Africa is working unremittingly for the goal of silencing the guns. China is ready to work with Africa to implement the new vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, advocate the resolution of differences and disputes through dialogue and cooperation, facilitate the political settlement of international and regional hotspot issues, and safeguard world peace and stability. We should uphold harmonious coexistence between man and nature, and protect the security of the global eco-environment.

– **Working together to build an open and inclusive world economy.** What we need is to remove barriers rather than erect walls, open up rather than close off. We should carry out extensive consultation and make joint contribution for shared benefit, reject the winner-takes-all approach, and build an open world economy where developing countries are better involved in the international division of labor and share the fruits of economic globalization. We should overcome estrangement between civilizations through exchanges, promote inclusiveness and mutual learning between civilizations, and make new contributions to human progress.

Colleagues,

There are various paths leading to modernization. The African people have

the most say on which path suits Africa best. Advancing modernization through integration is the independent choice made by African countries and people. On this path to modernization, China has all along been a firm supporter, and walking side by side with Africa. Over the years, China has helped Africa build a large amount of connectivity infrastructure, carried out extensive cooperation with the AU and subregional organizations, and assisted the construction of several signature Pan-African projects, including the AU Conference Center and the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Looking ahead, **China will work with Africa to enhance the synergy of our development strategies.** Through Belt and Road cooperation and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), and in light of Agenda 2063, China will intensify dialogue and communication with Africa at various levels, and support the African agencies for integration, including the AfCFTA Secretariat, the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System and the African Union of Broadcasting, among others, in creating cooperation mechanisms with China.

China will continue to support Africa in speaking with one voice on international affairs and continuously elevating its international standing. China will work actively at the G20 Summit next month to support the AU's full membership in the group. China supports making special arrangements on the U.N. Security Council reform to meet Africa's aspiration as a priority. China will call on multilateral financial institutions to enhance the say of African countries.

To chart the course for our practical cooperation in the next stage and help Africa bring its integration and modernization into a fast track, I wish to make the following three proposals:

–**China will launch the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization.** China will better harness its resources for cooperation with Africa and the initiative of businesses to

support Africa in growing its manufacturing sector and realizing industrialization and economic diversification. In implementing the nine programs under the FOCAC framework, China will channel more resources of assistance, investment and financing toward programs for industrialization.

Over the past 60 years, under the banner of Pan-Africanism, African countries have made big strides on the path of independence, seeking strength through unity and integration. You have demonstrated the strength of Africa in the struggles to uphold multilateralism and the common interests of developing countries.

–**China will launch the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization.** China will help Africa expand grain plantation, encourage Chinese companies to increase agricultural investment in Africa, and enhance cooperation with Africa on seed and other areas of agro-technology, to support Africa in transforming and upgrading its agricultural sector. China will host the second Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Agriculture in Hainan this November.

To help Africa tackle the current food crisis, China will provide additional emergency food assistance to African countries in need. More importantly, China has confidence that Africa will attain food self-sufficiency through its own efforts.

–**China will launch the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development.** China plans to train 500 principals and high-caliber teachers of vocational colleges every year, and 10,000 technical personnel with both Chinese language and vocational skills for Africa. China will invite 20,000 government officials and technicians of African countries

to participate in workshops and seminars. To support Africa in strengthening education and innovation, we will launch the China-Africa Universities 100 Cooperation Plan and 10 pilot exchange programs of China-Africa partner institutes.

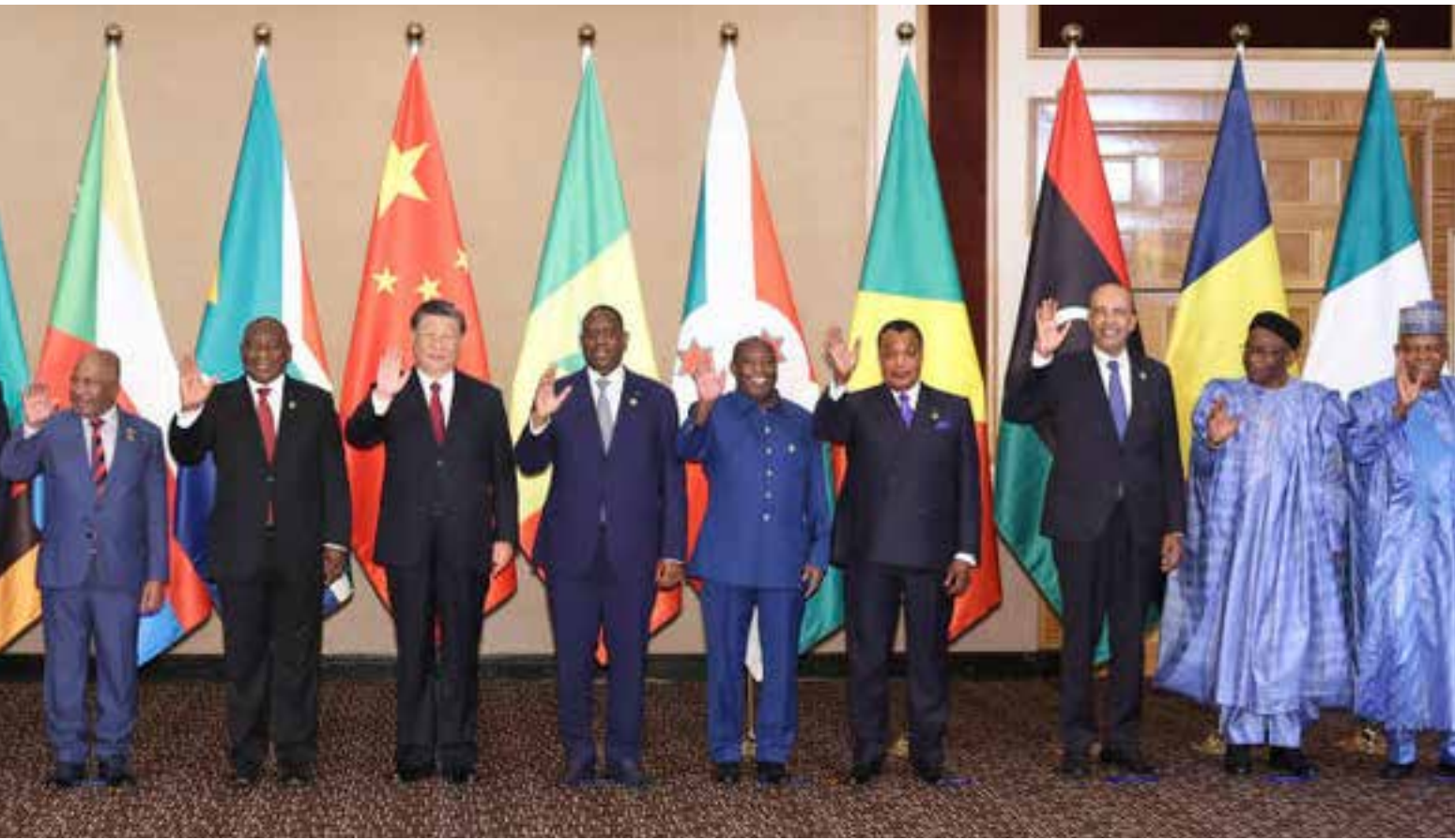
Colleagues,

The world today is undergoing transformation and turmoil, and changes unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace. At this point of history, we all face the tasks of how to address the deficit in development, overcome security challenges and enhance mutual learning between civilizations. In view of this, I have put forward the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, called for peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, and advocated building a community with a shared future for mankind. These proposals have received the extensive support of African countries. China

and Africa, through our creative explorations for modernization, are giving our answers to the questions of our times, and making joint efforts to advance the great endeavors of win-win cooperation, harmonious coexistence and shared prosperity of civilizations.

Next year, China will host the FOCAC meeting, where we may come together again and draw up new plans for our development. It is a big gathering that both sides are looking forward to. I am confident that China and Africa will carry forward the traditional friendship, enhance solidarity and coordination, and bolster our cooperation across the board. As we join hands to advance modernization, we will deliver a better future for the Chinese and African people, and set a fine example in the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Thank you.



Premier Li Qiang at G20 Summit: Solidarity and Cooperation is the Only Right Way Forward

In his remarks at Session I of the 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi on September 9, 2023, Chinese Premier Li Qiang advocated win-win cooperation and exhorted G20 countries to choose solidarity over division, cooperation over confrontation, and inclusiveness over exclusion.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi,
Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to attend the G20 New Delhi Summit. I wish to thank Prime Minister Modi and the Indian government for the thoughtful arrangements made for the summit, and warmly welcome the African Union into the G20!

The theme of this summit “One Earth, One Family, One Future” is of high significance, and encapsulates a similar vision with President Xi Jinping’s proposal of building a community with a shared future for mankind. We may all have this feeling: when “global village” becomes a commonplace notion worldwide, it is not just about reduced time and space brought by economic growth and technological advances, but more importantly the ever closer ties between countries and individuals on this planet. It is like we are villagers living in the same village, and humanity is in a community with a shared future. In particular, under the compounded impacts of unprecedented global transformation and a once-in-a-century pandemic, much has changed in our world in recent years. The most important thing these changes tell us is that humanity is bound by



a common stake. No one can stay unaffected in the event of major crises and common challenges, and solidarity and cooperation is the only right way forward.

The theme of this summit “One Earth, One Family, One Future” is of high significance, and encapsulates a similar vision with President Xi Jinping’s proposal of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

In particular, given the huge challenges confronting the global recovery and sustainable development, it is all the more important for G20 members to stick to solidarity and cooperation, and live up to our responsibility for peace and development, in the interest of humanity's shared future and well-being.

In this “global village” where we all live, all countries, regardless of size or location, should take a broader view and do more thinking about the future of humanity while pursuing one’s own interests. It is with such consideration in mind that President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative. We call on all countries to respect each other, seek common ground while reserving differences, live together in peace, and work jointly to meet global challenges and create a better future. In particular, given the huge challenges confronting the global recovery and sustainable development, it is all the more important for G20 members to stick to solidarity and cooperation, and live up to our responsibility for peace and development, in the interest of humanity’s shared future and well-being. We need to step up macroeconomic policy coordination, uphold the security of the international economic and financial systems, promote innovations in the digital economy and inject confidence and impetus into global growth, to be partners in promoting the world economic recovery. We need to steadfastly advance economic globalization, support the multilateral trading regime, firmly oppose the politicization of economic and trade issues, and keep global industrial and supply chains stable and smooth, to be partners in promoting open cooperation at the global level. We need to jointly protect planet Earth as our green home. We should uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, follow through on the G20 Green Development Pact, push forward green and low-carbon development, and protect the

marine ecological environment, to be partners in promoting global sustainable development. In a word, we must choose solidarity over division, cooperation over confrontation, and inclusiveness over exclusion. Only by doing so can we open up brighter prospects for global development and usher in a better future for humankind.

China's development enjoys bright prospects, and will inject more and fresh impetus to the global recovery and sustainable development. China will host the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation next month and the sixth China International Import Expo in November. All parties are welcome to take an active part in these events and share the opportunities of mutually beneficial cooperation.

China has all along stood for peace, development and win-win cooperation. We are committed to being a builder of world peace, contributor to global development and defender of the international order. Going forward, we will remain firm in deepening reform, expanding opening up, pursuing high-quality development, and advancing Chinese modernization. This year, the Chinese economy has generally been on an upward trajectory, and solid progress has been made in high-quality development. China’s development enjoys bright prospects, and will inject more and fresh impetus to the global recovery and sustainable development.

China will host the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation next month and the sixth China International Import Expo in November. All parties are welcome to take an active part in these events and share the opportunities of mutually beneficial cooperation. China is ready to make greater efforts together with all other parties for the good of our common planet, common home and common future!

China and ASEAN, Upholding Unity for Strength and the Spirit of Win-Win Cooperation: Li Qiang

China will work with ASEAN countries to set the pace for modernization in Asia and build a peaceful, safe and secure, prosperous, beautiful and amicable home, said Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the 26th China-ASEAN Summit on September 6, 2023.

Your Excellency President Joko Widodo,
Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to gather with you in Jakarta. I wish to thank President Joko Widodo and the Indonesian government for the meticulous preparations and thoughtful arrangements made for the meeting. I welcome Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão of Timor-Leste to the meeting as ASEAN observer, and look forward to in-depth exchanges with friends both old and new.

In 2013, it was also in Indonesia that President Xi Jinping proposed building a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future. Over the past ten years, China and ASEAN have forged ahead hand in hand and contributed to each other's successes. Facing great changes unseen in a century, we have embarked on a right path featuring longstanding good-neighborliness and shared progress and prosperity. China has remained the world's second biggest economy, and ASEAN's combined GDP has become the fifth largest in the world. Our joint efforts are fully reflected in the following four areas:

First, we have been committed to treating each other with sincerity, and our political mutual trust has grown deeper. Sincerity is the key that opens the heart, and trust is the bridge that connects the minds. No matter how the international situation evolves, China



and ASEAN have maintained close exchanges, respected each other's development paths and accommodated each other's major concerns. China was the first country to establish a strategic partnership with ASEAN, and took the lead to elevate the relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2021, a strong testament to the strategic trust between our two sides. China has reached important consensus separately with six ASEAN countries on building a community with a shared future, and hopes to do so with more countries in the future.

Second, we have been committed to mutual assistance, and our good-neighborly friendship has become stronger. China and ASEAN countries enjoy geographical proximity and close affinity. We have adhered to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence

and the purpose of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). We seek common ground while setting aside differences, properly handle disagreements through dialogue and consultation, and consistently deepen practical cooperation in the traditional and non-traditional security fields. We have preserved peace and tranquility in East Asia in a world fraught with turbulence and change. In particular, we confronted the COVID-19 challenge by coming to each other's aid in those difficult times, a reflection of our brotherly ties in face of adversity with concrete actions.

Third, we have been committed to mutual benefit, and our win-win cooperation has been more productive. China and ASEAN see each other's development as important opportunities, and have kept markets open to each other. Last year, our two-way trade reached over USD 970 billion, more than doubling the volume a decade ago. We have been each other's top trading partners for three years running. In 2021, at the Special Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of China-ASEAN Dialogue Relations, President Xi Jinping said that China will buy up to USD 150 billion worth of agricultural products from ASEAN in the next five years. To date, over USD 55 billion worth of these products have been imported, faster than expected. We have reached full consensus on regional connectivity, delivered a steady stream of signature outcomes in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and made solid progress in building the new International Land-Sea Trade Corridor. All this has brought new development opportunities for both sides.

Fourth, we have been committed to coordination and inclusiveness, and our common development has become more sustainable. Both Chinese and Southeast Asian cultures value harmony between man and nature. Following the philosophy of green, low-carbon and sustainable development, we have fostered new cooperation highlights in climate action, environmental protection, energy transition and poverty reduction. The China-ASEAN Year of Sustainable

Development Cooperation was held in the past two consecutive years. China's Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 echo and reinforce each other, and the GDI has been widely recognized and welcomed by ASEAN countries.

Our cooperation has come a long way. The key reason is that we both have a keen understanding about hardships, a relentless pursuit of peace, a strong aspiration for development, and take real actions to preserve regional stability. Whatever storm may come, as long as we keep to the right path, China-ASEAN cooperation will be as firm as ever and press ahead against all odds, and we each will achieve greater development and progress in the course of such cooperation.

Colleagues,

The global economic recovery is yet to take hold; global trade and investment remain sluggish; and economic growth in various countries is under considerable pressure. This year's theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth" demonstrates a sense of confidence and responsibility. We need to expand consensus for cooperation, enhance the synergy of our development strategies, and pursue a higher level of economic integration and interconnected development. These efforts will provide greater momentum to building a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future and bring more certainty and positive energy to the peace, stability and sustained prosperity in the Asia-Pacific. To be specific, I suggest that we work together to:

First, jointly build an epicentrum of growth. Market is a rare resource in today's world. China and ASEAN have a combined population of over two billion. If we could work together to develop and preserve this super-sized market, we would unlock enormous potential for economic growth. We need to enhance connectivity, deepen cooperation on industrial and supply chains, strive to complete in 2024 the negotiations on the China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) 3.0, and steadily advance regional economic integration. China will promote

mutually beneficial cooperation between the Belt and Road Initiative and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), and welcome the active participation of ASEAN countries in the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. China supports the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Hainan Free Trade Port in leveraging their unique locations and policy incentives to open new growth areas of cooperation with ASEAN. We will work with ASEAN to make the 20th China-ASEAN Expo a success.

Second, jointly pursue cooperation in emerging industries. A new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is gaining steam, and leading to profound adjustments in the global innovation landscape and economic structure. China will work with ASEAN countries to seize the opportunities of transformation, strengthen cooperation on science, technology and innovation, and accelerate the upgrade of traditional industries and development of emerging industries to release greater dynamism for innovation and foster new growth drivers and competitive edge. China will provide at least USD 10 million by 2025 to support the implementation of the Joint Initiative on Advancing the China-ASEAN Science, Technology and Innovation Enhancing Program to be released at this summit. China hopes to launch a ministerial dialogue on industry with ASEAN, and step up our cooperation on new energy vehicles and photovoltaics. China will continue to hold the Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Forum and will ensure the success of the first China-ASEAN Clean Energy Week. We welcome the active participation of ASEAN countries in these events.

Third, jointly safeguard regional peace and tranquility. For China and ASEAN to achieve greater development, we need to, first and foremost, safeguard peace in our region and create a favorable environment for development. China hopes to work with ASEAN to facilitate the implementation

of the Global Security Initiative (GSI), keep our development and cooperation away from the erosion and impact of a new Cold War or zero-sum mentality, and meet the various traditional and non-traditional security challenges with combined efforts. China remains steadfast in pursuing peaceful development and is ready to work actively with ASEAN countries to advance the text-based COC consultations, to provide institutional safeguard for making the South China Sea a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation. China supports the implementation of the China-ASEAN Work Plan on Cooperation in the Field of Non-Traditional Security Issues (2024–2028) and cooperation in fighting telecom and cyber fraud and illegal online gambling.

Fourth, jointly expand people-to-people exchanges. China hopes to work with ASEAN to further cement the public support for our relations and implement the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI). We can take the China-ASEAN Year of People-to-People Exchanges next year as an opportunity to further increase exchanges in culture, tourism, training and among the youth to deepen our cultural and people-to-people bonds. In the coming three years, China will build 10 China-ASEAN Institutes of Modern Craftsmanship in ASEAN countries, continue to run the “Bridge of the Future” Young Leaders Training Campus, and launch the “Plan of Training for 10,000” to train for ASEAN countries 10,000 professionals in governance, anti-corruption and green development.

As a Chinese saying goes, “One needs good companions to travel with and good neighbors to live with.” China and ASEAN are good neighbors, good brothers and good partners, and will remain so no matter what. Upholding unity for strength and the spirit of win-win cooperation, China will work with ASEAN countries to set the pace for modernization in Asia and build a peaceful, safe and secure, prosperous, beautiful and amicable home that we share together.

Thank you.

Seek Common Ground, Reserving and Resolving Differences: Li Qiang

In his remarks at the 26th ASEAN Plus China, Japan, ROK Summit in Jakarta on September 7, 2023, Chinese Premier Li Qiang highlighted the need to harness RCEP for forging high-quality economic partnership in the East Asia region.

Your Excellency President Joko Widodo,
Colleagues,
It is my great pleasure to join friends old and new at the ASEAN Plus China, Japan, ROK (APT) Summit. I wish to thank President Joko Widodo and the Indonesian government for the thoughtful arrangements made for this meeting.

Since its inception over two decades ago as a response to the Asian Financial Crisis, the APT cooperation framework has weathered the tests of the Global Financial Crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, and played an important role in driving regional progress and prosperity. We Chinese often say, "Just as a fence needs the support of three stakes, even an able fellow needs the help of three friends." The more difficult the situation, the greater the need for solidarity and cooperation. A review of the many multilateral cooperation mechanisms in the world would reveal that they are all essentially about creating and expanding networks of friends. In these networks, there are both next-door neighbors and partners further afield. Then comes the question: what principles should we go by as we make friends, choose partners and live with neighbors in these mechanisms? As President Xi Jinping noted, one can find partners in both those who share the same

ideals and those who choose common ground over differences. **In our engagement and interaction, a key principle is to seek common ground while reserving and resolving differences.**

To seek common ground, we must first acknowledge our commonalities. For APT countries and indeed all countries in Asia, there are so many things we share in common. **First, we share a common home.** We are connected by shared mountains and rivers, bound by similar cultures and traditions. These underlying commonalities are the reason behind our time-honored history of friendly ties. In this common home, we all gain from its peace and prosperity, and suffer in the event of upheavals and chaos. **Second, we share common interests.** We all played our part in creating the Asian Miracle of economic growth. In the past 10 years, the combined GDP of APT countries as a share of the global economy increased from 24.7 percent to 27.6 percent. We are each other's important economic and trade partners, and our industrial and supply chains are deeply integrated. If we can continue to enhance openness and cooperation, we will surely forge an epicentrum of global growth. **Third, we share common opportunities.** We are each other's opportunities, and can inject strong impetus into global development. The



Chinese economy is now on track to realize the annual growth target of around 5 percent. More importantly, China is advancing high-quality development and Chinese modernization on all fronts. The Chinese economy enjoys bright prospects, and will continue to generate fresh and greater opportunities for the region and the rest of the world.

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While we remain steadfast in seeking common ground based on the commonalities, we shall have nothing to fear about the differences, and will be able to find the right way to resolve them. Disagreements and disputes may arise between countries due to misperceptions, diverging interests or external interferences. Whatever the cause, it is vital to face the issues squarely, remove misunderstandings and keep the differences in check. Facing up to the problems is the prerequisite for finding solutions, whereas an ostrich policy would only make things worse. The most effective way to clear up misunderstandings is to strengthen exchanges, and increase mutual understanding and trust through sincere communication. To keep differences under control, what is essential now is to oppose



picking sides, bloc confrontation and a new Cold War, and ensure that disagreements and disputes among countries are properly handled.

Our meeting and discussion are actually a concrete action in seeking common ground and resolving differences. We need to bear in mind the larger interest of peace and development in East Asia, approach the commonalities and differences between countries in the right way, and make the foundation of APT cooperation even stronger. We should work in concert to meet various types of risks and challenges, promote development, prosperity and stability of our region, and build an Asian community with a shared future.

Colleagues,

Our world has entered a new stage of turbulence and transformation. We are faced

with growing challenges from slower growth, climate change and geopolitical disruptions. Differences and disputes between countries are being magnified, intended or otherwise. Global development endeavors are under severe strain. These circumstances make it all the more necessary that we seek common ground while reserving and resolving differences. We need to prioritize development in regional cooperation, remove the various disruptions, further unlock cooperation potential, and explore a path for more robust and vibrant development that delivers for all. This year, we have begun to implement the new APT Cooperation Work Plan. China hopes to work with all parties to seize this opportunity, and build an epicentrum of growth with a focus on the following three priorities:

Our economic and trade ties are growing ever closer. In June this year, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) entered into full effect, which brought new opportunities for regional economic integration. We need to further bring out the potential of the agreement, boost the free flow of factors, and expand and upgrade our trade and investment.

First, we should continue advancing regional economic integration. In recent years, the trade volumes of APT countries have kept hitting new highs, and nearly half of the trade is intra-regional. Our economic and trade ties are growing ever closer. In June this year, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) entered into full effect, which brought new opportunities for regional economic integration. We need to further bring out the potential of the agreement, boost the free flow of factors, and expand and upgrade our trade and investment. We need to advance our comprehensive, mutually beneficial and

high-quality economic partnership, and move toward an integrated regional market that is more open and vibrant. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China is widely regarded as one of the world's most open economies, and is an important trade and investment partner of RCEP members. We hope that you will support Hong Kong in becoming one of the first economies to join the agreement.

China is ready to deepen innovation cooperation with all parties in such fields as the digital economy, clean energy and new energy vehicles, to boost the emerging industries and foster more new drivers of growth. China supports issuing the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Developing of an Electric Vehicle Ecosystem at this summit, and hopes to enhance practical cooperation with all parties to sharpen the region's overall competitive edge in electric vehicles.

Second, we should continue deepening industrial specialization and collaboration in the region. Over the past 50-plus years, we have seen continued integration and extension of industrial and supply chains in East Asia. Such development is guided by market principles and anchored on comparative strengths. We all have reaped the development dividends of industrial specialization and collaboration. Attempts to decouple or sever supply chains go against the laws of economics and the trend of history. The narrative about "de-risking" is essentially mixing trade and economic cooperation with politics and security, which would end up in a lose-lose situation. APT countries should stay committed to openness and win-win cooperation, continue harnessing our strengths of geographical proximity

and economic complementarity, optimize and upgrade regional industrial and supply chains while keeping them stable and smooth, and work together to boost the economic competitiveness of East Asia. China proposes to hold the APT Forum for Cooperation on Industrial and Supply Chains and a seminar under the theme of "Digits Energize Supply Chain" next year, to build a more stable and smooth regional industrial and supply chain system based on comparative strengths.

Third, we should continue strengthening the steering and catalytic role of science, technology and innovation. In today's world where technology is advancing by leaps and bounds, innovation is critical for achieving development and securing the future. China is stepping up efforts to synergize industrial innovation with technological innovation, and accelerate the development of a modernized industrial system. This will provide regional countries with new opportunities of cooperation in new areas and new arenas. China is ready to deepen innovation cooperation with all parties in such fields as the digital economy, clean energy and new energy vehicles, to boost the emerging industries and foster more new drivers of growth. China supports issuing the ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Developing of an Electric Vehicle Ecosystem at this summit, and hopes to enhance practical cooperation with all parties to sharpen the region's overall competitive edge in electric vehicles. The handling of the nuclear contaminated water concerns the global marine ecological environment and people's health. Japan should faithfully fulfill its international obligations, have full consultations with its neighbors and other stakeholders, and deal with the nuclear contaminated water in a responsible manner.

APT countries are all members of the same East Asian family. China will join hands with all countries to create an even better future of East Asia.

Thank you.



Multiple Indicators Reflect Resilience, Strength of Chinese Economy

China's growth prospects are well underpinned by its super-sized market and the development potential amid its efforts to foster a new development paradigm, say analysts.

While lingering headwinds have fueled concerns over global growth prospects, multiple indicators have pointed to the resilience and strength of the Chinese economy.

In the first half of the year (H1), China recorded a 5.5-percent GDP expansion, the

fastest among major economies globally. This impressive performance was followed by robust growth in major economic indicators in the first seven months of 2023, with value-added industrial output and retail sales of consumer goods continuing to post steady increases.

Since the second quarter, several international organizations and institutions have revised their forecasts for China's economic growth this year upwards. The World Bank, for instance, raised its China growth forecast to 5.6 percent in June from January's projection of 4.3 percent.

Besides solid economic fundamentals, China has also secured growth in key areas such as grain and energy supply.

The country's annual grain output has steadied at over 1.3 trillion jin (650 billion kg) in recent years, while its power generation climbed 3.8 percent year on year during the January-July period.

New growth momentum is also building amid the country's transition to innovation-driven growth, with progress reported in several major sci-tech projects.

The C919, China's first homegrown large jetliner, made its commercial debut in May, while its first domestically-built large cruise ship completed its undocking in June, all of which bear testimony to China's growing strength in innovation.

Development of emerging sectors of strategic importance, seen as new drivers of growth by analysts, has also picked up pace in the first seven months of this year, as highlighted by the steady growth in high-tech and equipment manufacturing sectors.

In particular, exports of new energy vehicles more than doubled year on year in the first seven months to 636,000 units, an encouraging performance against the backdrop of flagging global trade.

Gu Yan, a researcher with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), noted that innovation as a primary driving force for development has become stronger in the country, saying that it will facilitate industrial upgrading and encourage the emergence of new business models.

To further energize business vitality, Chinese authorities have pressed ahead with

reform, unveiling a 31-measure guideline to bolster private economy and a document aimed at furthering opening up.

These policy measures have lent support to private economy, with the number of new self-employed households registering double-digit year-on-year growth in H1.

Looking ahead, China's growth prospects are well underpinned by its super-sized market and the development potential amid its efforts to foster a new development paradigm, analysts said.

With a population of 1.4 billion, the largest middle-income group in the world and continuous consumption upgrading, China's market holds great appeal among ambitious businesses across the globe.

The upcoming China International Fair for Trade in Services 2023, for instance, had attracted over 2,200 enterprises as of August 20, with more than 500 of them being either Global Fortune 500 companies or industry-leading enterprises, data showed.

Zhang Zhanbin, a researcher with the Party School of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said that China's urbanization rate stands at 65.22 percent, well below the 80 or even 90 percent recorded in developed economies, thus boasting great development potential.

In addition, China has broadened its development space by opening up wider to the outside world. Since the beginning of this year, demand for China-Europe freight trains has been running high, while cargo transported via the China-Laos Railway increased by more than 90 percent year on year.

Such an opening-up pace will continue unabated, with Zhao Chenxin, deputy head of the NDRC, pledging that the country will open its door wider.

"China's development is set to provide more opportunities for the world and inject strong impetus for the global economy," said Zhao.

China Upgrades Green Power Industry to Boost High-Quality Development

China's green power industry, the global leader, is becoming a new driving force for China's high-quality development through technological upgrades.

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Green Power

China has the world's largest renewable power generation system, with the installed capacity of hydropower, wind power, solar

power and biomass power generation ranking first in the world. This cheap and eco-friendly energy has become a key for high-quality development.

According to the latest data from the National Energy Administration (NEA), as of the end of June 2023, the installed capacity of renewable energy in China had exceeded 1.3 billion kilowatts, surpassing the installed capacity of

A wind power plant in Dingxi, Gansu province.



coal power for the first time in China's history.

A closer look at the installed capacity of renewable energy in China reveals that wind power is at 389 million kilowatts, ranking first in the world for 13 consecutive years, while the installed capacity of photovoltaic power is 470 million kilowatts, ranking first in the world for eight consecutive years.

According to Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu, the technological progress and large-scale application of renewable energy in China has greatly reduced the cost of renewable energy.

For example, China supplies 50 percent of the wind power equipment and 80 percent of the photovoltaic module equipment in the world. In 2021, the installation cost of global photovoltaic equipment had decreased by about 82 percent compared with the cost in 2010, while the installation cost of wind power equipment had decreased by at least 35 percent.

"It has not only contributed to China's green and low-carbon development, but also contributed greatly to global emissions reduction," said Huang.

Tech Upgrades

China's green energy industry has been developed through continuous technology upgrades.

According to Li Chuangjun, director of the new energy and renewable energy department of the NEA, China's new energy innovation has gone through technology introduction, digestion and absorption, and re-innovation.

For example, the latest China-developed wind turbine can generate 66 million kWh per year, equivalent to the electricity consumption of 36,000 families for one year.

This wind turbine is also the world's first 16-MW ultra-large offshore wind turbine. Hundreds of sensors and laser radars scattered over the whole machine can sense temperature, humidity, wind speed and other information to track the running state of the turbine, and adjust the angle and generation power automatically.

Li said China's wind power sector has surpassed international levels in terms of technology of large-scale units and floating units, with breakthroughs made in key



components such as spindle bearings of high-power units and ultra-long blades. He also mentioned that crystalline silicon photovoltaic technology in China has continued to develop. The efficiency of domestically-developed perovskite cells, a next-generation photovoltaic battery, has reached 26.1 percent, which is a new world record.

Japan-based data provider Fronteo revealed that China has delivered some 5,500 research papers on perovskite solar cells since 2019, outperforming the United States (3,400 papers) and South Korea (1,460 papers). Japan delivered about 820 papers.

According to Li Zhenguo, president of LONGi Green Energy Technology Co., Ltd., a leading photovoltaic module supplier, technological innovation is the core driving force for progress in the photovoltaic industry. The improvement of battery conversion efficiency has played a key role in this regard.

Boost for Economy

Chinese customs data showed the total export value of China's three major tech-intensive green products, or the "new three" -- photovoltaic batteries, lithium-ion batteries and new energy vehicles (NEVs) -- soared 61.6 percent year on year in first half of 2023, boosting China's export growth by 1.8 percent points.

From clothing, household appliances and furniture to the "new three," China's foreign trade structure has been continuously optimized and upgraded, reflecting the new trend of high-quality development.

Regions such as Shanghai, Jiangsu and Guangdong, all registered robust export growth in terms of the "new three." The value of these products exported from Shanghai reached 247.8 billion yuan (about 33.99 billion U.S. dollars) in H1, a year-on-year increase of 74.7 percent.

Jiangsu's export value of photovoltaic batteries, lithium-ion batteries and NEVs in H1 grew 4.8 percent, 60.9 percent and 481 percent, respectively. Guangdong's figures in the first seven months of 2023 were 44 percent, 23.9



Yucun Village in Anji County of Huzhou City, east China's Zhejiang Province.

percent and 570.8 percent, respectively. "The 'new three' reflect the effective improvement of the quality and reasonable growth of China's exports, and also make contributions to the world's green and low-carbon transformation," said Lyu Daliang, spokesperson of China's General Administration of Customs.

The contribution of the "new three" is also prominent in the domestic market. For instance, China's NEV sector has experienced rapid development in recent years. The output and sales of NEVs rose to 3.79 million and 3.75 million units, respectively, in H1 this year.

To narrow the rural-urban divide, China has intensified efforts to make cars -- particularly NEVs -- more affordable in smaller cities and the countryside. Over the past three years, more than 4.1 million units have been sold in the rural market.

The National Development and Reform Commission released measures in July to stabilize and expand the country's auto consumption, further promote the development of the NEV industry, and build more charging facilities in small cities, townships and villages.

Bustling Trade Fair Shows China's Foreign Investment Magnetism

The 2023 edition of China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), held in Beijing from September 2 to 6, attracted over 500 Global Fortune 500 companies, which are looking for opportunities in this country.

Introducing new products, services, and technologies; announcing cooperations with Chinese partners and exchanging ideas at forums -- the hustle and bustle of foreign exhibitors at the ongoing 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) has painted an inspiring picture of China's foreign investment magnetism.

The 2023 CIFTIS, held in Beijing from Sept. 2 to 6, has attracted over 500 Global Fortune 500 companies and industry-leading enterprises, and many of them are eyeing growing opportunities amid the country's

innovation-driven development and opening-up endeavors.

"We attach great importance to the CIFTIS, as it's a crucial platform to showcase innovations, share experience, and promote cooperation," said Meng Pu, chairman of Qualcomm China.

At the booth of the company, visitors flocked to interact with an artificial intelligence (AI) model via a mobile phone, asking it to draw pictures. Qualcomm will also release a white paper related to AI technology offline at the fair on September 5.

"Our company has participated in the fair for four consecutive years, and we are bullish on the Chinese market," said Meng.

British-headquartered global pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca has participated in the CIFTIS for the third time, showcasing its achievements in the Chinese market and signing agreements with its Chinese partners.

In August, AstraZeneca further invested 250 million U.S. dollars in its Qingdao pMDI inhalation manufacturing and supply site in east China's Shandong Province.

"China is becoming more and more important in our global development strategy," said Leon Wang, executive vice



president, international and China president at AstraZeneca, adding that the company has witnessed China's opening-up drive and benefitted from the country's development.

In the first seven months, foreign direct investment (FDI) into the Chinese mainland, in actual use in high-tech manufacturing, expanded 25.3 percent year on year, while high-tech industries saw an FDI increase of 3.8 percent during the period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During this year's CIFTIS, China reaffirmed its commitment to promoting high-standard opening up and advancing Chinese modernization on all fronts through high-quality development, a step further in strengthening cooperation to propel global economic recovery.

The sound foundation of China's economic growth remains unchanged, and its determination to open up has shored up the confidence of multinationals to tap into the Chinese market, said Jacky Zou, vice president of KPMG China, adding that China is still a popular destination for global investors.

In the past five years, China ranked among the top in return on foreign investment, and it's an appeal to overseas enterprises, he said in an interview with Xinhua.

During this year's CIFTIS, China reaffirmed its commitment to promoting high-standard opening up and advancing Chinese modernization on all fronts through high-quality development, a step further in strengthening cooperation to propel global economic recovery.

The country is actively promoting the progress of turning the country's super-large market into broader opportunities for foreign firms by rolling out supportive policies.

China's State Council unveiled guidelines to optimize China's foreign investment environment further last month, detailing measures such as expanding pilot areas to

open wider in terms of services, encouraging foreign firms and their R&D centers to undertake major sci-tech projects, facilitating the travel of senior executives, technicians and their families, and enhancing the expertise of personnel in local government offices handling foreign investment.



The guidelines came timeously, reflecting that China considers it important to attract and utilize foreign investment while advancing its own economic development, said Zhang Qi, an expert with the Development Research Center of the State Council.

Later the same month, the Ministry of Finance and the State Taxation Administration announced that the current preferential Individual Income Tax policies for foreign individuals would be extended for four years to Dec. 31, 2027.

The American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham China) applauds these decisions, which help companies better retain and attract vital expatriate employees while efficiently managing operational costs, said Colm Rafferty, AmCham China Chairman.

As China has made consistent efforts in advancing high-level opening-up, more foreign investment will flow into the Chinese market, and more synergy will be forged to propel global economic recovery, said Michael Bi, managing partner of EY Greater China Markets.

Joyride: First 350-km/h High-Speed Train Traverses Mountainous Guizhou

A Fuxing bullet train, with speed of 350 km/h, takes passengers on a remarkable journey, with swift transition of beautiful scenes outside the window.

A Fuxing bullet train, with a designed speed of 350 km/h, departed on August 8 morning from the southwest Chinese city of Guiyang, marking the operation of the Guiyang-Libo section of the Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway.

As one of the most typical areas in the world for karst landform development, mountainous Guizhou Province, of which Guiyang is the capital city, witnessed the miraculous journey of the train through its high mountains and steep valleys.

With one tunnel after another, one bridge after another, the light inside the carriage flickers. After more than six years of construction, the railway of Guiyang-Libo section takes passengers on a remarkable journey with rapid transition of scenes outside the window.

The Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway links Guiyang Province and south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, of which Nanning is the capital city. The Guiyang-Libo section has 86 bridges and 62 tunnels, while the mileage of bridges and tunnels accounts for 90 percent of the total mileage.

Among the first passengers of the train was 74-year-old Xu Jiyou, a retired railway worker. Xu and his wife were taking the trip in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, enjoying a unique sense of romance.

"We put in effort and sweat, dedicating our youth to the railways," Xu said. Back in those

working years, there were only the green-painted slow trains for them to board in the country. But now, they ride the high-speed rail, which is convenient and comfortable. Another passenger, 37-year-old Yang Shengquan, took



out his phone to take pictures. "Look, that's our village," he exclaimed with excitement.

Yang, a resident of Lianmeng Village in Bouyei-Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Qiannan of Guizhou, captured this moment with pride. "The high-speed rail passes by our doorstep, and our village has made its share of contributions," he said. Many of his fellow villagers worked on the construction project, and they also made way for the railway with land requisition and house demolitions.

Facing complex geological conditions in the southwestern mountainous areas and a high degree of karst development, the construction team overcame numerous difficulties, including ecological protection and tourist attraction conservation.

Standing before a map, Long Zongming, chief designer of the Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway, told Xinhua the railway

traverses the Yungui Plateau slope area with many mountains, an abundance of water, and many attractions.

The current terminal station of the train is Libo County, which boasts two impressive titles, namely the world natural heritage site of South China Karst and the reserve under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. As one of the counties with the richest tourism resources in Guizhou, 57 attractions are located here, including the Xiaoqikong scenic spot.

Ecological protection is Long's major concern. When passing through the world's natural heritage site, the high-speed rail line only goes through the buffer zone of the Maolan national nature reserve in Guizhou. Also, efforts were made to minimize the impact during construction. Now the railway itself has become a new scene while facilitating travelers.

"It used to take at least two days to arrange a trip, with an overnight stay. Now, it can be done in a day," said Luo Jia, a tour guide from Guizhou, who was leading 52 tourists to the Xiaoqikong scenic spot. The travel time from Guiyang to Libo has been reduced from over 3 hours to 57 minutes.

"It's not just a major transportation artery but also a golden tourism channel," said Ding Yi, executive deputy head of Bouyei-Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Qiannan, who noted that the opening of the Guiyang-Libo section will have a significant impact on the entire prefecture, boosting the overall economic output, driving regional tourism, influencing the transportation pattern, and enhancing regional cooperation.

Data shows that Libo County has received over 14 million visitors this year, a year-on-year increase of 42.03 percent, and total tourism revenue reached 13.7 billion yuan (about 1.89 billion U.S. dollars), a year-on-year increase of 47.37 percent.

Guizhou has mapped out plans to transform Libo into a world-class tourist destination. "With the combination of various favorable policies and the opening of the high-speed rail, we are more confident in promoting Libo's tourism," Ding said.



Innovation Boom: Foreign Companies Set Up R&D Centers

Foreign-funded research and development (R&D) centers have become important parts of China's scientific and technological innovation system and cater to a large Chinese market.



In recent years, many foreign companies have chosen China as their ideal location to settle their research and development (R&D) centers to cater to the vast Chinese market demands and serve a larger global market.

In late July, The Laundress, a high-end fabric care laundry brand affiliated with the global consumer goods giant Unilever, unveiled its Asia R&D Center in north China's Tianjin Municipality.

The R&D center is inside Unilever Tianjin

Industrial Park, which aims to give full play to the effectiveness and safety of the local manufacturing base.

Thanks to the leading technologies of China's intelligent manufacturing, the filling speed of its new production line is estimated to be significantly improved, and transportation efficiency is expected to soar by 90 percent. The comprehensive support of the local supply chain can also better ensure the quality and stability of products from the source, said the company.

"We have seen exceptional demand for our products in China since the launch in 2019. The opening of the R&D center in China shows our commitment to fostering local innovation and tailoring products that cater even better to the needs of our valued customers in this dynamic and thriving market," said Clemens Herrmann, CEO of The Laundress.

As the relevant industry sectors develop rapidly in China, Unilever is not alone in shifting to localized production and leveraging the advantage of China's intelligent manufacturing.

Mounted on the ceiling and walls, numerous anechoic wedges made the room with low ambient noise a bit eerie but brimming with a striking sci-fi atmosphere.

In the center of a testing room, a compressor does the major work, with over 10 detection

sensors positioned above it capturing acoustic signals from multiple angles, while the control center receives and displays real-time compressor noise data.

The laboratory is the global refrigeration industry giant Danfoss' most advanced and largest scroll compressor R&D and testing center in Tianjin.

"The R&D center conducts dozens of projects each year," said Duan Chenjun, head of the center. The tested and validated technologies and solutions will find widespread applications in many sectors, such as air conditioning, data centers, cold chain, and energy storage, Duan added.

Arthur Xu, president of Danfoss China, said it is significant for the group to move from "producing" in China to "creating" in China, which reflects the company's confidence in China's green development and the long-term prospects of the Chinese economy.

Over the past 27 years, Danfoss has set up 12 factories and 26 sales locations in China. China is the company's second-largest market globally and largest source for procurement. In 2022, the sales volume of the company in China reached about 10 billion yuan (1.4 billion U.S. dollars).

Likewise, German carmaker Volkswagen Group set up a technology company with a total investment of about 1 billion euros in Hefei, the capital of east China's Anhui Province, in May, as its R&D, innovation, and procurement center for new energy vehicles (NEVs) and intelligent connected vehicles in China.

Moreover, in March, global water technology provider Xylem put its R&D center in China into operation, while French multinational Schneider Electric launched its automation R&D center in Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province. In May, a new Volvo car design studio, among its total of three design studios over the globe, opened in Shanghai.

In the past, foreign investment in China targeted the massive potential of the Chinese

consumption market. But more and more foreign investors build R&D centers in China now, testifying to China's well-recognized innovation ability.

We have seen exceptional demand for our products in China since the launch in 2019. The opening of the R&D center in China shows our commitment to fostering local innovation and tailoring products that cater even better to the needs of our valued customers in this dynamic and thriving market,

Many multinationals have strived to consolidate their business capabilities and seize the initiative to gain worldwide development with the help of China's industry-university-research cooperative innovation ability and diversified industrial talents.

Hu Xiao, senior vice president of Schneider Electric, said with more industrial talents, the company's R&D center built in Wuxi can better meet the needs of China's local customers and, in the meantime, serve a larger global market with a more agile innovative organization and a stronger local collaborative innovation capability.

Since the beginning of this year, China has further strengthened its efforts to attract foreign investment by launching a series of business promotion activities.

Chen Chunjiang, assistant minister of Commerce, said that foreign-funded R&D centers are important parts of China's scientific and technological innovation system, which has made positive contributions to the introduction of international cutting-edge technologies and high-end talents, the upgrading of industrial technology levels and scientific and technological innovation capacity, promoting the rapid development of the global industrial chain and innovation chain.

China to Set Up Cross-Strait Integrated Zone

A demonstration zone for the integrated development in Fujian Province is set to economic personnel exchanges with Taiwan.

China will make Fujian Province a demonstration zone for the integrated development across the Taiwan Strait, according to a circular released on September 12.

The circular, jointly issued by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, said the move is aimed at deepening the cross-Strait integrated development in all fields and advancing the peaceful reunification of the motherland.

The document listed the general requirements and 21 specific measures for building the zone.

Fujian, situated on China's southeast coast, should leverage its distinctive advantages and harness a variety of resources to further enhance integrated cross-Strait development, according to the circular.

The circular said policies and systems will be optimized to promote the well-being of Taiwan compatriots and ensure they enjoy equal treatment with their mainland counterparts.

The objective, said the circular, is to make Fujian the first-choice destination for Taiwan residents and enterprises to pursue development on the mainland. The province will see more convenient personnel exchanges with Taiwan when the demonstration zone is built, it added.

By then, trade and investment across the Strait will be smoother, and cross-Strait exchanges and cooperation will expand to more fields and in greater depth. The circular added that the pair cities of Xiamen and



Kinmen, Fuzhou and Matsu will play an even more prominent exemplary role in promoting the cross-Strait integrated development.

The circular sent positive signals and will help Fujian explore more policy measures for the benefits of Taiwan, said Zhang Wensheng, deputy director of the Graduate Institute for Taiwan Studies of Xiamen University.

First-Choice Destination

The circular noted that Fujian should work to build multidimensional and comprehensive transport corridors and hubs linking itself with Taiwan and further open up channels connecting Fujian and Taiwan with other mainland regions.

Taiwan residents who have never been to the mainland are welcomed to visit Fujian. Students are welcomed to study in Fujian and employees are encouraged to work in Fujian.

Enterprises, especially Taiwan enterprises based in Fujian, are urged to hire more Taiwan

employees, and Taiwan-based physicians are allowed to practice in Fujian.

Taiwan compatriots are encouraged to take part in social welfare programs. They will no longer need to register for temporary residence in Fujian.

The province should strengthen the institutional support for employment, health services, housing, elderly care services and social assistance of Taiwan compatriots in Fujian and improve cross-Strait judicial services.

“Me and my friends from Taiwan believe it is a right choice to chase our dreams on the mainland,” said Lo Ting-jyun, a young Taiwan resident who is residing in Fujian.

Deeper Economic Integration

Fujian should provide better business environment for Taiwan compatriots and enterprises and deepen Fujian-Taiwan industrial cooperation, the circular said.

It should support the development of world-class industrial bases and manufacturing clusters that pool resources from both Fujian and Taiwan, and build a multi-tiered cross-Strait financial market.

Greater support will be given to Taiwan agriculture and fishery enterprises operating in Fujian and sci-tech innovation cooperation between the province and Taiwan should be enhanced.

“Taiwan enterprises and business people are earnestly looking forward to the implementation of the measures,” said Wu Chia-ying, executive vice president of the Association of Taiwan Investment Enterprises on the Mainland.

Wu particularly spoke highly of the preferential policies in the circular regarding Fujian-Taiwan industrial cooperation and the development of Taiwan’s agriculture and fishery enterprises and small and medium-sized firms.

Integration in Whole Province

The integrated development between Xiamen and Kinmen will be accelerated.

Kinmen residents living in Xiamen can enjoy the same treatment as local residents and efforts will be made to explore a model for Xiamen-Kinmen joint infrastructure development, facilitating the supplies of electricity and gas and the construction of bridges from Xiamen to Kinmen, and supporting Kinmen in using Xiamen’s new airport.

The circular also announced support for the integrated development of Fuzhou and Matsu, noting measures including supporting the Fuzhou government to entitle Matsu residents in Fuzhou to the same treatments as local residents, setting up a Fuzhou-Matsu industrial cooperation park, and promoting the supplies of water, electricity and gas and the construction of bridges from Fuzhou to Matsu.

Support will be given to the Pingtan Comprehensive Experimental Area in accelerating all-round opening up to Taiwan and other parts of Fujian are encouraged to expand exchanges with Taiwan. Quanzhou and Zhangzhou, both Minnan-dialect-speaking regions, are encouraged to develop themselves into a global center for Minnan culture.

People-To-People Exchanges

The circular stressed the importance of expanding the social and cultural exchanges and cooperation between Fujian and Taiwan. It called for various forms of exchanges based on the two regions’ bond of the belief in the Chinese sea goddess Mazu and other folk beliefs.

The circular encouraged communication and exchanges between young generations in Fujian and Taiwan. It suggested the two regions promote integrated development in culture, and jointly apply for the listing of Minnan red-brick buildings and Mazu cultural relics as World Cultural Heritage.

The circular called for an organizational guarantee for cross-Strait integrated development, including stronger financial support from the central budget to Fujian in this regard.

Chinese Economy On Upswing, Not Crisis-Ridden

Instead of scaremongers, what the world needs is a responsible and objective analysis of the Chinese economy, which will continue to be a major engine for the global economy.

The property market recently warmed in first-tier cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. In August, consumer inflation returned to positive territory on a year-on-year basis. The producer price index also edged up on a monthly basis last month.

All these positive signs would hardly make people draw the conclusion that the Chinese economy is experiencing some sort of a “crisis” in confidence or growth, as claimed by analysts who ignore facts or reporters wearing blinkers.

The country’s property sector, a focal point of these pessimistic analysts, shows positive changes following a raft of measures since late August, ranging from cutting interest rates on existing mortgages for first-home loans to easing mortgage rules.

“During the first weekend following the new policies, the daily number of visitors and transactions rose remarkably, about 2.5 to three times that on previous weekends,” said a

sales manager at the Jinmao Palace residential complex in Putuo District, Shanghai. More than 2,800 second-hand homes were sold in Beijing on the first weekend of September, double the average for weekends in August, Centaline Property data showed.

Against the backdrop of sluggish global trade, China’s foreign trade is generally stable, with improved structure and greater resilience. The total volume in yuan terms edged down 0.1 percent year on year in the first eight months of 2023. The auto exports remained a bright spot, with the export value of automobiles during the period surging 104.4 percent from a year earlier. China surpassed Japan to become the world’s largest auto exporter in the first half of this year.

Policy and institutional support is increasing the confidence and opportunities of private companies. This is clearly seen in



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the rise of the country's Small and Medium Enterprises Development Index, which reflects the performances and expectations of small and medium-sized enterprises, in August for the third straight month. Recently, China also set up a bureau specializing in promoting the private economy's development under the National Development and Reform Commission -- the country's top economic planner.

The current hot-selling products -- tech giant Huawei's Mate 60 series smartphones and Luckin Coffee's latte with the flavor of China's famous liquor Moutai -- offer a glimpse of robust consumer spending in China, not to mention the tourism boom during the summer holiday period. Consumption contributed to 77.2 percent of the country's economic growth in H1.

Foreign companies investing in China also have a say in China's economic situation. In the first seven months of 2023, investment



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from France, the United Kingdom, Canada and Switzerland surged by 213.7 percent, 159.9 percent, 113.3 percent and 61.2 percent year on year, respectively. A total of 28,406 new foreign-invested companies were established in this period, a 34-percent increase year on year. These figures reflect the confidence foreign companies have in the Chinese economy.

All these positive signs and developments clearly deserve attention when people assess the current state of the Chinese economy. Despite difficulties and challenges, it is on the up, and so is confidence among consumers and enterprises both at home and abroad.

The Chinese economy's strong resilience, ample potential and strong vitality and the fundamentals sustaining its sound growth in the long run stay unchanged. China's economy will remain a major engine for the global economy.

What the world needs is a responsible and objective analysis of the Chinese economy, rather than morbid scaremongers who exaggerate the negatives while filtering out or diluting the positives.



China's Opening-Up Boosts Foreign Investors' Confidence

China's introduction of new policies has provided a more equitable business environment which boosted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to 189.1 \$billion U.S. dollars in 2022, marking an 8 percent year-on-year increase on a comparable basis.



China's commitment to high-standard opening-up and an improved business environment has boosted the confidence of foreign investors attending the ongoing 23rd China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT), with senior officials reiterating the country's sincerity in facilitating international exchanges and cooperation.

The event kicked off in Xiamen, east China's Fujian Province, on September 8, drawing the participation of companies from 102 countries and regions.

Wang Yong, vice chairman of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said that China will unswervingly promote high-standard opening up.

Noting that the country is committed to its fundamental national policy of opening to the outside world and is pursuing a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up, Wang stressed that China would promote high-standard opening up, further improve the environment for foreign investment and firmly

safeguard the multilateral trading regime.

Among those attending CIFIT is ABB, a world leading electrification and automation company. It has invested approximately 19 billion yuan (about 2.63 billion U.S. dollars) in China over the past 31 years, expanding its operations to encompass research, manufacturing, sales and engineering services in 700 Chinese cities.

James Zhao, senior vice president of ABB (China) Ltd., told Xinhua, “China’s business environment has been continuously improving over the years.” He cited the Foreign Investment Law, which came into effect three years ago, as a significant step in

dollars, marking an 8 percent year-on-year increase on a comparable basis. The country’s share of global FDI rose from 8.2 percent in 2012 to 14.6 percent in 2022.

The report attributed China’s success to its proactive alignment with high international standards, continuous optimization of investment policies and the business environment, and persistent expansion of market access.

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providing a legal framework and protection for foreign investments.

“China’s recent introduction of new policies will surely provide a more equitable business environment,” Zhao added. According to a report released by the Development Research Center of the State Council during CIFIT, China has maintained its position as the world’s second-largest recipient of foreign investment since 2017 and remains one of the most attractive investment destinations globally.

In 2022, China’s actual use of foreign direct investment (FDI) reached 189.1 billion U.S.

Saleh Ali Khabti, Deputy Minister of Investment of Saudi Arabia, lauded China’s investment environment as “great” and cited the growth of Saudi companies’ investments in China as evidence of the improved business environment. He also mentioned the recent increase in investment by Saudi Aramco, the world’s oil giant, in various Chinese regions.

At a CIFIT forum for promoting investment in China, Chen Chunjiang, assistant minister of commerce, met with companies both from home and abroad, pledging greater efforts to enhance opening up.

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He said the country would shorten the negative list for foreign investment access, remove and relax restrictions on foreign investment, and increase the openness of the modern service industry.

China will also increase policy support for foreign investment, improve services and guarantees for foreign-funded enterprises, and strengthen the protection of the rights and interests of foreign investors, Chen added.

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“With China stepping up efforts to stabilize foreign investment and promote consumption, events like CIFIT provide us with golden platforms, allowing us to engage in deep communication with the Chinese government and creating favorable opportunities,” Lu Haiqing, chief corporate affairs and strategic relations officer of IHG Greater China, told Xinhua.

As one of the first multinational hotel groups coming to China, the UK-headquartered hotel giant has launched 658 hotels across 200 Chinese cities, operating under 12 distinct brands.

Lu highlighted the company’s impressive growth trajectory in China, noting, “Every year, we witness the inauguration of approximately 100 new IHG hotels in China, and we currently have 500 more in the pipeline for construction.”

He affirmed IHG’s commitment to accelerating its expansion in China, particularly in the post-epidemic era, as it remains confident in the country’s promising economic prospects and the continuously improving business landscape.



Lu disclosed that he had directly exchanged ideas with various provincial and city-level government officials. “We had offered our insights and received active feedback from the governments,” Lu said, adding that the group had secured good opportunities for future development during the exchanges.

When asked about the details, Lu responded with a confident smile, stating, “We will provide more details when they are finalized, and some of them are in the second and third-tier cities. We anticipate swift progress in the follow-up work.”

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China's Listed Firms Embrace Innovation-Driven Growth

With breakthroughs in technologies, R&D spending by communications and power equipment companies in China has increased significantly.

Research and development (R&D) has increasingly become both the reason for and result of the growth noted among China's listed companies, as they doubled down efforts on high tech and new energy.

Listed firms on China's major bourses have unveiled financial reports for the first half of this year. On the main board of the Shanghai Stock Exchange, high-tech companies are witnessing rising R&D expenditure, and rising performance.

With breakthroughs in core technologies, R&D spending by communications and power equipment companies increased by 25 percent and 17 percent, respectively, and their net profit increased by 9 percent and 13 percent.

"Listed companies are one of the most active and important components of the Chinese economy, and many are industry backbones," said Zhao Xijun, a finance professor with Renmin University of China. Among enterprises with high R&D intensity is CRRC



Corporation Limited, whose development of the CR450 bullet train has achieved initial results. During a test on June 28, the train operated at a speed of 453 km per hour.

The green energy sector has also seen steady development. The growth rate of operating income and net profit of photovoltaic equipment companies reached 24 percent and 21 percent, respectively.

Photovoltaic power generation also increased significantly, with the power generated by China Three Gorges Renewables (Group) Co., Ltd., China National Nuclear Power Co., Ltd. and Shanghai Electric Power Co., Ltd. totaling 15.5 billion kWh, a year-on-year increase of 20 percent.

New energy industries have registered remarkable export performances, with photovoltaic equipment and automobile companies achieving a 40 percent and 33 percent growth, respectively, in export-related revenue.

In the STAR market, China's Nasdaq-style sci-tech innovation board, the operating revenue of companies achieved stable growth in the first half of this year. Meanwhile, sci-tech oriented firms continued to bolster their R&D and innovation efforts, showing development potential and resilience.

During the first half of this year, R&D investment of the STAR market companies hit 70.6 billion yuan (about 9.79 U.S. dollars), surging 19 percent from a year ago.

There were 102 companies with R&D investment intensity above 30 percent. The total number of new invention patents of the companies exceeded 7,600.

China has ramped up fiscal policies to support the development of businesses and bolster the real economy this year. More corporate spending in R&D has been made tax-deductible, Luo Tianshu, an official with the State Taxation Administration, told a press conference on September 7.



Vice-Minister of Finance Wang Dongwei, also speaking at the press conference, said that technological innovation, the real economy, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises have received strong policy support.

In Shenzhen, high R&D investment of listed companies has supported innovation. For instance, China's electric vehicle battery maker Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Ltd. (CATL) released a new lithium iron phosphate battery for fast-charging on Aug. 16, which is capable of powering automobiles for 400 km on a charge of only 10 minutes.

The country's leading automaker BYD said in its semi-annual report that technological innovation is the core driving force for high-quality business development. Relying on strong research and development, BYD will launch a series of world-leading, forward-looking and game-changing technologies while continuing to promote the application of existing technologies.

According to the Shenzhen bourse, seven companies including CATL, BYD and Midea Group have spent more than 5 billion yuan on R&D in the first six months, and 46 companies have spent more than 1 billion yuan.

Wang Yi to Jaishankar: China, India Should Stabilize and Improve Bilateral Relations

In his meeting with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Jakarta on July 14, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi underlined that the two sides should intensify efforts to stabilize China-India relations.

On July 14, 2023, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi met in Jakarta with Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar at the latter's request.

Wang Yi said that President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached important common understandings of stabilizing China-India relations, and the two sides should translate them into actions, keep to the right direction of bilateral relations, grasp the general trend of world development, and work to stabilize and improve China-India relations. As the two largest developing countries in the world and eternal neighbors, China and India have much more common interests than differences, and it is of global demonstrative significance for the two countries to achieve common development and common prosperity.

The two sides should support each other and contribute to each other's success, instead of undermining and doubting each other. The two sides should focus energy and resources on respective development, improvement of people's livelihood and acceleration of revitalization, and not define overall relations with specific issues. Wang Yi expressed the hope that India would work with China in the same direction to find a solution to border issues acceptable to both sides. China is highly concerned with India's recent restrictive measures against Chinese enterprises,



and hopes that India will provide Chinese enterprises with a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory business environment.

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said that the normalization of India-China relations serves the common interests of both sides. India is ready to properly deal with differences between both sides with an open mind, bring India-China relations back on the right track as soon as possible, and create favorable conditions for next-stage high-level exchanges.

The two sides agreed to hold the next round of the China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting on border issues at an early date. The two sides agreed and reached a principled consensus on launching the process of BRICS membership expansion.

Wang Yi Calls for Efforts to Improve China-India Relations

Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, met India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval in Johannesburg on July 24 and conveyed that India and China should enhance strategic mutual trust, overcome obstacles and bring bilateral relations back to the track of sound and stable development as soon as possible.

Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, met with Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval in Johannesburg on July 24.

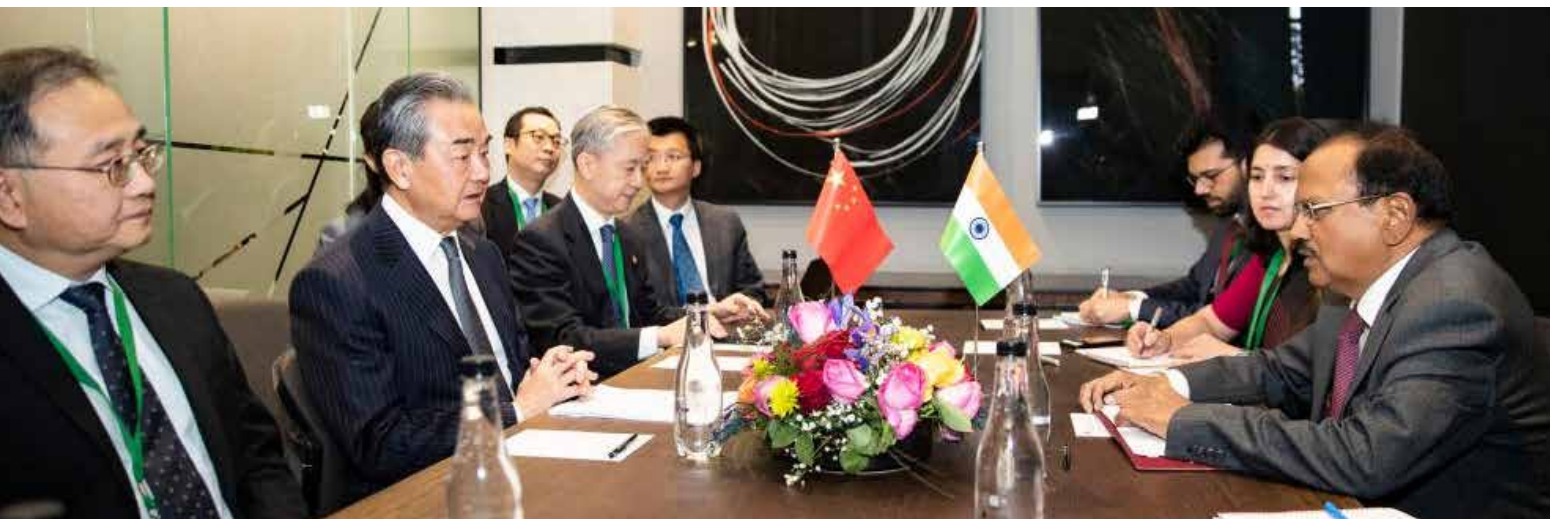
During the meeting, Wang said China and India are the two major forces in the process of multi-polarization, and the two sides should follow the right direction in developing bilateral relations.

The two sides should enhance strategic mutual trust, focus on consensus and cooperation, overcome obstacles and bring bilateral relations back to the track of sound and stable development as soon as possible, Wang said. Wang stressed that China will

never seek hegemony, and stands ready to work with developing countries, including India, to support multilateralism and the democratization of international relations, and promote the more just and equitable development of international order.

Doval said as two ancient civilizations and the two most populous countries in the world, India and China share broad common interests.

India is willing to work with China, in the spirit of mutual understanding and mutual respect, to find a fundamental solution to the border issues and improve the bilateral relations in a timely manner, so as to make positive contributions to world peace and prosperity, Doval said.



Wang Yi (2nd L), director of the Office of the Communist Party of China Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, meets with Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval in Johannesburg, South Africa, on July 24, 2023.

Improving China-India Relations Serves Common Interests

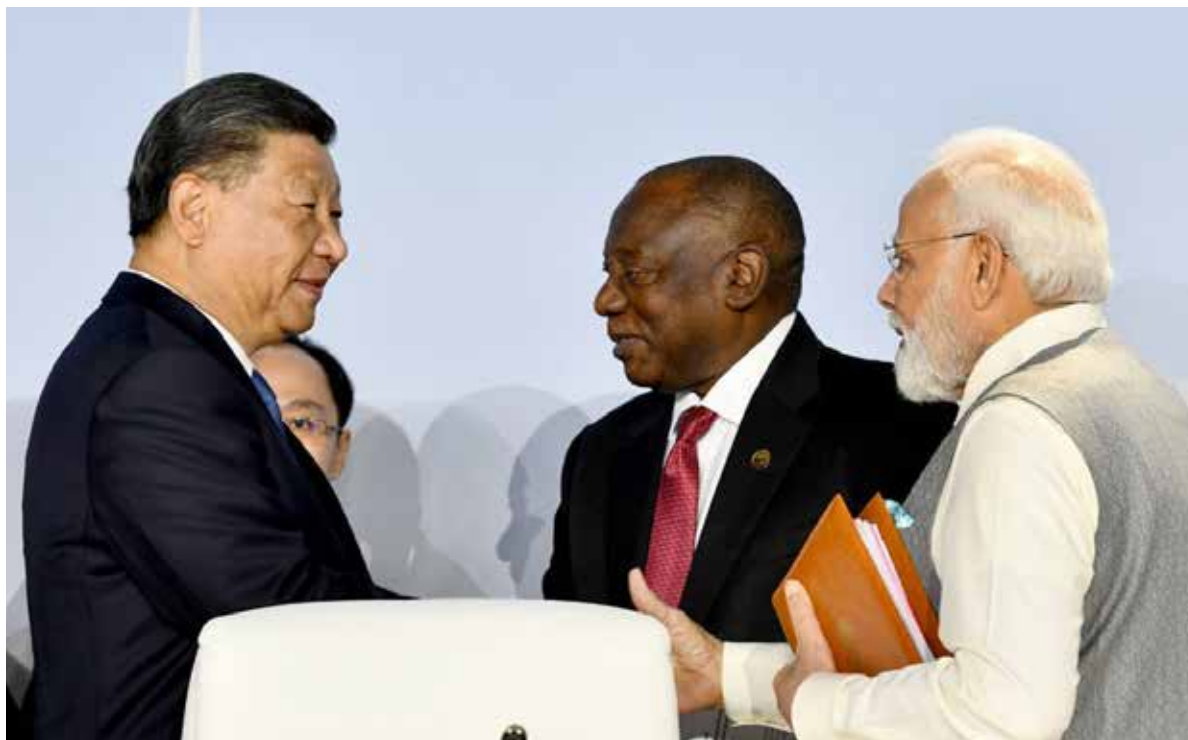
Foreign Ministry Spokesperson's Remarks on the Bilateral Exchange Between the leaders of China and India.

Q: Chinese and Indian leaders reportedly held a bilateral meeting during the BRICS Summit. Can you confirm and give us more information?

A: President Xi Jinping talked with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit at the latter's request on August 23, 2023.

The two leaders had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on current China-India

relations and other questions of shared interest. President Xi stressed that improving China-India relations serves the common interests of the two countries and peoples, and is also conducive to peace, stability and development of the world and the region. The two sides should bear in mind the overall interests of their bilateral relations and handle properly the border issue so as to jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the border region.



Push the China-India Relations Back to the Track of Healthy and Stable Development

Remarks by Ma Jia, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India at a reception to celebrate the 96th Anniversary of the Founding of PLA.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening!

It’s a great honour to have you here to celebrate the 96th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) of China.

Over the past 96 years, the PLA has made indelible achievements and important contributions to upholding China’s national sovereignty, security and development interests. Today, the PLA is working hard to achieve its centenary goal under the guidance of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. It is speeding up its transformation into a world-class force to provide strategic support for the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

When the world is entangled in intertwined turmoils and transformation, the global economic recovery is sluggish and the geopolitical crises have persisted, the Global Security Initiative put forward by President Xi Jinping in April 2022 advocates a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. It aims to create a new path to security that features dialogue over confrontation, partnership over alliance and win-win outcome over zero-sum game. It promotes the building of a world that enjoys lasting peace and universal security. This important international public good provided by China has so far received support and appreciation from over 100 countries and regional organizations. China stands ready to join hands with all sides to deepen the implementation of the initiative(GSI) in a bid to maintain world peace and tranquility.

China is committed to peaceful development and pursues a national defense policy that is defensive in nature. No matter how much it develops, China will never seek hegemony, expansion, sphere of influence or arms race. The armed forces of China have always been a

staunch force that safeguards world peace, and will continue to carry out international military exchanges and cooperation. They are ready to work with other countries to jointly tackle global security challenges, fulfill their international duties and obligations commensurate with China’s international status, and contribute to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

China and India are the largest developing countries in the world. Both of us are at a crucial stage of development and rejuvenation. Our common interests far outweigh our differences. A sound and stable China-India relationship not only serves the interests of the two countries, but also contributes to peace, stability and development in the region and the world. China and India should continue to make efforts to implement the important consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stabilize the China-India relations, adhere to the strategic judgement made by two leaders that “China and India should not be a threat to each other, but an opportunity for each other’s development”. We should grasp the trend of multi-polarization and economic globalization, stick to the right direction of the bilateral relations, enhance political mutual trust, overcome disturbances and difficulties, and strengthen multilateral coordination, so as to push the China-India relations back to the track of healthy and stable development at an early date.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to propose a toast,

to the 96th anniversary of the founding of the PLA,

to the friendship and cooperation between China and India,

and to the peace and development of the world.

Cheers!

How China and India Can Together Put into Action the Vision of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’

On August 23, 2023, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India Ma Jia published an article entitled “How China and India can together put into action the vision of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’” in the ABP Live. The full text is as follows:

The 15th BRICS Summit is going on in Johannesburg, South Africa. It is the first in-person Summit since 2019 and also the third Summit held in Africa. Amid the changes and chaos in the global landscape, the five BRICS nations are among the fastest-growing and most vibrant emerging markets and developing countries. The world is expecting the Summit would offer a stronger voice to answer the challenges of our time.

The BRICS partnership was formalised out of the historic tide as emerging markets and developing countries rose collectively. It provides a shining example on how countries of different geographic regions, social systems and civilizational heritage can come together and forge partnership. Its influence has expanded beyond the five nations. It has become a positive, stable and constructive force that promotes world economic growth, improves global governance, and contributes to democracy in international relations.

The world today is undergoing new turbulence and changes. Power politics and bullying are forcing their way. The global economic recovery is facing strong headwinds. The calls for peace, development and



cooperation are loud and clear. The aspiration of the developing world to unite is stronger. At the crossroads of this great transformative era, the BRICS nations need to more firmly embrace the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, and build a multi-polar world featuring multilateralism, equity and justice.

We need to seize the trend of history, and build a new type of international relations. Hegemony, cold-war mentality, decoupling and bloc confrontation should have no place in the global community. We need to pursue a new vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, take forward consultation and

cooperation for shared benefits, respect and celebrate diversity of civilizations, and strive for political settlement of international and regional hot-spot issues. China is ready to work with BRICS partners to implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative in a bid to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

We need to act collaboratively to pursue high-quality development. The BRICS have established the New Development Bank (NDB), the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, and have launched the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution. The NDB, which provides development funding without any political string attached, has so far approved more than \$30 billion in loans for infrastructure projects in developing countries. Going forward, we should further leverage our complementary strengths in industrial structure and resources endowment to further raise the quality of cooperation and make greater contributions to global economic recovery and sustainable development.

We need to be open and inclusive to rally the international community to come together. The BRICS is neither a closed club nor an exclusive small circle. In 2017, China proposed an innovative “BRICS Plus” approach to develop an open and diversified network of development partnerships. Since then more and more countries are knocking on the door of BRICS, aspiring to join the mechanism. This is a testament to the vitality of the BRICS cooperation. This year’s Summit is widely anticipated to make substantive progress in the membership expansion. This will promote a greater role by the BRICS cooperation mechanism in global governance and make the voice of BRICS stronger.

The growing influence of BRICS reflects that the international balance of power is undergoing profound shift with the Global South gaining a credible voice on the world stage. As the theme of this year’s Summit

“BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism” indicates, BRICS is striving for giving prominence to the Global South in the world system. We expect that closer cooperation among Global South countries could urge the international community to refocus on development issues, uphold international equity and justice, and increase the say and representation of developing countries in the new round of reforms of the global governance system.

As a natural member of the Global South, China always cares about the well-being of developing countries. Since its founding in 1949, China has provided various types of aid and cooperation projects to over 160 developing countries. In recent years, China set up the Global Development Promotion Center and established the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund. These actions will further benefit developing countries in their strive for economic growth and modernization.

Being the world’s largest developing countries, China and India are close partners in safeguarding the rights and interests of the Global South and promoting South-South cooperation. We need to work together to put into action our vision of “a community with a shared future for mankind” and “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (the world is one family). We need to cooperate with developing countries in more priority areas to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so that the countries of the Global South could move forward side by side towards development and rejuvenation.

As an ancient Chinese saying goes, “With one heart and one mind, we can accomplish everything we aspire for.” China stands ready to strengthen unity with India and other BRICS nations to foster a more comprehensive, close, practical and inclusive high-quality partnership, and make greater contributions to the peace and common development of the world.

Premier Li's Visit Shows China's Full Support to India's G20 Presidency: Ma Jia

On September 7, 2023, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India Ma Jia gave an interview to CGTN(China Global Television Network). The main content of the interview is as follows:



Q: Great to have you with us on CGTN, I'm here for the G20 summit. We've seen banners everywhere on the street, some have the summit's theme on them: "one earth, one family and one future"; while others urge to "give a voice to the global south". so what are your expectations of the summit?

A: At the invitation of the Indian government, Premier Li Qiang will come to New Delhi for the G20 Leaders' Summit, which fully demonstrates China's support to India's

Presidency. The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation, and a major multilateral platform to bring major international and regional players together.

As the world economy is experiencing downward pressure, global sustainable development facing more challenges, it is more imperative than ever for all to strengthen solidarity and cooperation to address the world economic challenges.

It's important for the two sides to fully implement the strategic judgement made by the two leaders, which is "China and India are cooperation partners to each other instead of threats".

We hope the New Delhi Summit will focus on development, form consensus on strengthening partnership and rising up to all these challenges, so as to contribute to world economic recovery and growth and global sustainable development.

Q: Relations between China and India go way back, with over 70 years of diplomatic relations, how would you evaluate China India ties currently?

A: The China-India relations are generally stable. The two leaders keep in touch through communication. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi had two face-to-face interactions in the past year, which defines the tone and direction for stabilising and improving China-India relations.

The border situation between our two countries is also stable. We have maintained communication through diplomatic and military channels. Our bilateral trade cooperation is close. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India, by the end of the first 6 months of this year, the export of iron ores, pepper and grapes from India to China has increased by nearly 100% to over 200% year on year, it's quite a lot.

It's important for the two sides to fully implement the strategic judgement made by the two leaders, which is "China and India are cooperation partners to each other instead of threats". We need to see the consensus carried out by all departments and agencies from the two countries, so that disturbance and obstacles will be overcome, mutual trust increased and a healthy bilateral relations brought back to the right track.

Q: As the two biggest developing countries, China and India do see eye-to-eye on issues related to the global south, and understand

the significance to uphold multilateralism. how can China and India work with other developing countries to bring about mutual benefits for all?

A: China and India are both ancient civilizations and two populous and largest developing countries in the world. Both nations are the members of BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization. We are natural partners in safeguarding the rights and interests of the Global South. Actually we share extensive common interests on global and multilateral issues such as development, climate change, and human rights and etc.

China and India should further strengthen multilateral cooperation, raise voices in support of multilateralism, and work together to restore development as the centerpiece on the international agenda. We need to work together to put into action our vision of "a community with a shared future for mankind" and "one earth, one family, one future", accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so that the countries of the Global South could move forward side by side towards development and rejuvenation.

China's support to India's Presidency. The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation, and a major multilateral platform to bring major international and regional players together.

During India's presidency of SCO and G20, we have maintained good cooperation. President Xi Jinping attended the SCO summit virtually and delivered important statement. Last month we jointly promote the historic step of BRICS expansion. For the coming G20 Delhi Summit, China will play its role and work with India and all other parties to make the summit a success.

How to Celebrate A Typical Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival?



The Mid-Autumn Festival is finally here. Celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month each year, the festival probably enjoys fame beyond China and other Asian countries.

As the second grandest lunar festival marked in China, aside from the Spring Festival, an official holiday is designated for it, and many Chinese people may celebrate the day at the holiday resorts.

But how much do you know about the typical ways to celebrate the festival? Here are some tips.

Mooncakes, hairy crabs and sweet-scented osmanthus

The Mid-Autumn Festival is all about the full moon. The Chinese people believed that the full moon represents a family reunion as well as perfection. As a result, admiring the



moon has become an essential part of the Mid-Autumn Festival celebration.

But the full moon itself is not enough. Mooncakes, which are made into the same shape as the moon, are filled with a variety of stuffing.



Mooncakes of different flavors.



Mooncakes and hairy crab.



The moon and its reflection near the Palace Museum.

In today's modern favors, the mooncakes are infused with more diversified ingredients that satisfy people with different tastes. There are salted, sweetened and even add some extra spice to the mooncakes flavorings.

More specifically speaking, nearly all the desserts from the East to the West could now find an equivalent in the world of mooncakes, such as matcha, cheese and Tiramisu.

The Mid-Autumn Day, falling in the middle of the autumn is also an occasion to mark the harvest. Some fresh fruits and vegetables would make the night even more

enjoyable. But hairy crab is probably the most preferred dish beside the mooncakes.

Steamed hairy crabs dipped with vinegar and ginger is paired with a glass of yellow wine, one could easily capture the essence of a typical Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival.

The best locations for admiring the moon

As admiring the moon is the theme of the Mid-Autumn Festival, selecting the perfect location has become a top concern for many.

Sites with an open view are always the best choices, such as on the top levels of a skyscraper, the peak of the mountains, in the park or the historical sites of the ancient cities. For instance, in Hangzhou city, the West Lake is recommended, as the moon's reflection in the lake would make one of the most beautiful scenery.

In Beijing, the Summer Palace, the Beihai Park and the Jingshan Park are all among the best sites to admire the full moon. The historical architectures such as pagodas or palaces sitting on high hills would make the best background for a good photograph of the moon.

Say 'cheese' with the moon out

In the internet era, the Mid-Autumn



Photographic works of the moon at the historical sites across China.



Creative photographic works of the moon.

Festival is often bestowed with another layer of meaning – a photography competition on the social media.

It is time to share the tips, with which it could be easier for us to become the champion among your friends in our WeChat Moments.

The importance of selecting a good location is once again highlighted. With a historical architecture in either the foreground or the background would add much more sense of history to your works.

If there is a river or lake nearby, the photos would be even more satisfying.

But what if such a location is not available? Maybe it's time to use your imagination and be

creative in the composition. For instance, the illusion photography.

Either create a poetic “painting” of your own or “grab” the moon with your hands, such a photo could easily make your works outstanding among a bunch of pictures of the moon.

Of course, if you are an enthusiast in photography or even a professional photographer, it is one of the best time to exhibit your works and make a hit of them. A group of time-lapse photographic photos could make you the star of the day.

Have you got the tips? Then give it a try and enjoy it tonight, as the moon rises!

2023 Beijing Culture Forum Kicks Off



The 2023 Beijing Culture Forum opened on September 14, 2023 in Beijing, and it received a congratulatory letter from President Xi Jinping.

The letter was read out by Li Shulei, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, at the opening ceremony.

Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and a member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech.

Speaking at the event, Cai said Xi's congratulatory letter vividly demonstrates China's firm determination and policy stance to adhere to the Global Civilization Initiative, strengthen cultural exchanges with the rest of the world, and jointly promote cultural prosperity and development.

He emphasized the need to take the spirit of the congratulatory letter as a guide, develop modern Chinese civilization, promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, and inject profound and lasting cultural strength into the endeavor to build a community with a shared future for humanity.

Cai stressed the importance of self-confidence and self-reliance, vigorously promoting the outstanding traditional Chinese culture, systematically protecting historical and cultural heritage, and nurturing the spiritual strength to achieve national rejuvenation.

He called for promoting openness and inclusiveness, mutual respect, and harmonious coexistence among different civilizations.

Cai added that China will work together with the international community to promote common values of humanity and strive to open up new horizons for people-to-people exchanges, connectivity and cultural integration worldwide.

He expressed hopes that the Beijing Culture Forum will achieve fruitful results and serve as a first-class platform to promote cultural exchanges and deepen mutual learning among civilizations.

The 2023 Beijing Culture Forum was jointly hosted by the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee and the Beijing municipal government.

Officials from central and local publicity and cultural units, renowned experts, scholars, writers, artists, industry leaders, as well as international political figures and heads of international cultural organizations attended the forum.



Hangzhou Set for Smart, Green Asian Games

On top of thrilling competitions, the Hangzhou Asian Games also aims to achieve carbon neutrality and provide cutting-edge solutions.

For multi-sport events like the Asian Games, the competition between elite athletes may dominate the focal point, but innovations in making these sporting events a sustainable reality are worth the public's attention as well.

With the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, around the corner, organizers are hoping their efforts to stage a green and smart Games will contribute to an extraordinary experience for athletes, officials and spectators.

"We will fully utilize Hangzhou's advantage in the digital economy to integrate innovative technologies throughout our preparations for the Asian Games to contribute to a successful, splendid and unforgettable sporting and cultural event," said Chen Weiqiang, executive secretary general of the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee (HAGOC).

Green Games

All 56 competition venues for the Hangzhou Asian Games were completed by the end of March last year, with 12 being newly built and the rest renovated or temporarily built.

As Hangzhou aims to host a carbon-neutral Asian Games, the use of green electricity in the

venues is a concrete step. According to State Grid Hangzhou Electric Power Supply, some of the green electricity utilized in the venues is photovoltaic energy transmitted from areas such as Qaidam Basin in Qinghai Province, Jiayu Pass in Gansu Province and northwest China's Loess Plateau, while another is wind power generated in areas including Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Apart from green energy, environmentally friendly technologies have been widely used in equipment, transportation and delivery services in the lead-up to the Games.

In the Asian Games Village are located the country's first high-power, wireless, Vehicle-to-grid (V2G) charging stations, equipped with eight 500-kilowatt charging devices, eight wireless charging parking spaces and eight V2G charging piles. The facility will provide efficient and convenient charging service to secure green transportation in that area.

In a move to increase sustainability, a number of venues have adopted water recycling systems. For instance, thanks to a rainwater recycling system, the Fuyang Water Sports Center can save around 1,000 tons of water per month, accounting for 35 percent of its consumption.

The Hangzhou Asian Games mascots, whose fabric is made using digital printing technology, are also an innovative attempt at going green.

Compared with traditional printing technology, the digital process doesn't generate any waste of water, gas or pulp. The mascot dolls are cut by workers using electric scissors instead of laser tailoring machines to reduce air pollution.

Smart Games

For Hangzhou, which is dubbed as an enterprise and innovation hub, the Asian Games is a window to showcase the city's cutting-edge technologies, including big data, artificial intelligence and virtual reality.

The first self-driving bus route for the Hangzhou Asian Games was launched at the Shaoxing Baseball & Softball Sports Center in June. The shuttle buses are equipped with HD cameras, laser radar, millimeter wave radar and an ultrasonic radar and positioning system to ensure safety.

Auto-driving shuttle services are also available in the Huzhou competition zone. The buses operate on a 10-kilometer-long loop route between the Deqing Sports Center Gymnasium and the Deqing Geographic Information Town Basketball Court.

"The bus drives smoothly at a speed of no more than 50 kilometers per hour, responding sensitively and slowing down when encountering overtaking, lane changes and traffic lights," said project manager Qian Jiangfeng.

He explained that although the buses are self-driving, a safety operator is mandatory to preside over its operation for now.

Another highlight of Hangzhou's efforts to host "smart Games" is the digital torchbearer program which allows any smartphone users to take part in the torch relay.

Organizers said the online digital torch relay has attracted over 100 million participants since it was launched on June 15. It will conclude with a digital light show at the



opening ceremony - a first for the Asian Games - on September 23.

"This is the first online torchbearer in the history of the Asian Games, a remarkable achievement for Hangzhou in its efforts to host a smart Asian Games," said Husain Al-Musallam, director-general of the Olympic Council of Asia.

According to Han Chongxin, an official with China Mobile Hangzhou, 5G technology will bring a faster and smoother game-watching experience for the audience.

"Without the restraints of fiber optic cables, people can watch the games wherever they are, either in the office or in open public space, and with less delay," he said.

"SmartHangzhou2022", the first one-stop digital mini-program in Asian Games history, offers information on six aspects of the Games, featuring tickets, food, accommodation, transportation, famous scenic spots and shopping information in Hangzhou and other co-hosting cities.

The program has already over 100 million registered users and more than 4.3 billion visits, according to the HAGOC.

"During the Hangzhou Asian Games, the platform can provide the one-stop solution to meet various needs such as food, accommodation, travel, tourism, shopping and entertainment," said Hangzhou mayor Yao Gaoyuan.

Growing Appetite for Art Performance Among Chinese Youths

After hectic weekdays, more and more Chinese youths are apt to spend a leisurely weekend by enjoying operas, dramas, and concerts in theaters. The new craze drives the robust recovery of China's theater consumption.

According to the data released by the China Association of Performing Arts (CAPA), a total of 31,050 commercial performances were staged in China during the 5-day Labor Day holiday of 2023, up 49.1 percent from the same period of 2019 before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Operas, concerts, children's plays, and dance performances received a warm welcome from the younger generation in the post-pandemic era.

On July 21, famous artists from China, Italy, and France performed arias from classical musical repertoires, such as "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Romeo and Juliet," in the Shaanxi Opera House in the northwest Chinese historic city of Xi'an, setting off jubilation among more than 1,000 audiences.

Yang Tian, a 28-year-old girl from southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, enjoyed many exhilarating moments with her friend at the musical concert.

"The show boasts an all-star cast. It combines solo, duet, chorus, and symphony. The human voice in the musicals goes straight to the hearts of the audience and fully expresses the sentiments of characters," said Yang.

An annual report from CAPA shows that people aged 18 to 34 years old contributed a dominant part of consumption to the performing art market in 2022, accounting

for over 76 percent of the audience for three consecutive years.

Yang is one of a growing cohort in China that travels to other cities only to watch a show. She used to believe that operas and concerts were so lofty that they were out of reach for amateurs, but now she is a frequent visitor to theaters.

"Nowadays, Chinese youths are getting more open-minded, and we are willing to explore new spheres. We are surprised to find that many excellent plays from home and abroad are not bound by conventions," said Yang, who added that the lower prices and abundant performances have boosted a new leisure choice for young people.

To cater to the growing demand for better performance and appeal to more young people, Chinese theaters have stepped up efforts to adapt classical operas and create new plays.





Last year, a poetic dance called the Journey of a Legendary Landscape Painting topped the national box office of the performing art market. Inspired by an ancient painting masterpiece named A Panorama of Mountains and Rivers from the Song Dynasty (960-1279), it brought to life the traditional Chinese aesthetic charm in a vivid way.

Zhu Yizhang, an opera producer with the Shaanxi Opera House, said its average attendance reached 77.38 percent from March to June.

An annual report from CAPA shows that people aged 18 to 34 years old contributed a dominant part of consumption to the performing art market in 2022, accounting for over 76 percent of the audience for three consecutive years.

“In May, we cooperated with the China National Opera House to perform ‘La Traviata’ and over 2,000 tickets were sold out within 30 minutes,” said Zhu, adding that he felt the enthusiasm of the young audience deeply from the faster-than-expected recovery.

After China’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced in March that it would resume accepting applications for commercial performances involving troupes from overseas, many international musical groups have returned to Chinese stages.

It was the second time the Italian opera singer Chiara Di Bari performed on the stage in China.

“I am quite moved to perform in China after 17 years and see that the theater was once again packed with opera lovers,” she said.

She was surprised by the enhanced aesthetic appreciation of the young audience. “They have a sensitive reading of singing and acting with good taste in general. Performing for them was a pleasure.”

In Zhu’s view, frequent exchanges between Chinese and foreign artists proved the enormous potential of the Chinese performing art market.

“For the younger generation, theaters have evolved into one of the favorite resorts for leisure and recreation. I am quite bullish on the rosy prospects of the performing art market,” noted Zhu.

Better China-India Relations in Common Interest

We live in a period of turbulence as well as transformation. The international landscape continues to be riddled with uncertainty that demands creative leadership and diplomacy. In such a situation, China's foreign policy, underpinned by President Xi Jinping's vision of a community with a shared future, has acquired a new resonance and force.

In key multilateral summits, President Xi stressed the need to widen the arc of understanding and solidarity to address pressing global challenges. The 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg, which saw the expansion of the grouping to include six new members, underlined the imperative to democratize multilateral bodies to make them more representative and effective. China fully supported the expansion of the grouping and wholeheartedly welcomed the new members, including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, Argentina and Iran, in the extended BRICS family. Terming the BRICS "an important force in shaping the international landscape," President Xi, in his remarks at the summit, highlighted the "BRICS spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation." "We gather at a crucial time to build on our past achievements and open up a new future for BRICS cooperation. We should navigate the trend of our times and stay in the forefront," said the Chinese leader.

In the two outreach events involving Africa and Emerging Economies, President Xi reaffirmed China's commitment to Africa's development and prosperity. In his speech at the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue in Johannesburg, President Xi stressed that Africa can always count on China as a friend and assured that China will support the AU's full membership in the grouping. This promise was fulfilled when China joined like-minded countries to make the AU the 21st permanent member of the G20 at the summit in New Delhi in September.

This overarching message of international solidarity was amplified by Chinese Premier Li Qiang's remarks at the 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi in which he advocated win-win cooperation and exhorted the G20 countries to choose solidarity over division, cooperation over confrontation, and inclusiveness over exclusion.

China's enhanced international diplomatic outreach has coincided with an upswing in the Chinese economy. Scaremongers who predict gloom-and-doom scenarios should get their facts right. Driven by enhanced ease of doing business and strong growth indicators, China has garnered a record amount of foreign investment.

Looking ahead, as China focuses on strengthening its economy and enhancing international cooperation, it hopes for better relations with India. The meeting between President Xi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg in August highlighted the shared desire to improve bilateral relations. In this meeting, President Xi stressed that improving China-India relations serves the common interests of the two countries and peoples, and is also conducive to peace, stability and development of the world and the region. In months to come, the two sides should focus on advancing this common understanding to promote amicable and win-win relations between the two great countries and civilizations.



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Chengdu Outdoor Music Park, the venue of the closing ceremony of FISU World University Games.