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STANDING UP FOR DISABILITIES

Improving life for those in need




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A photograph of a diverse group of people, including men and women of various ethnicities, sitting in a lecture hall and smiling. They are dressed in business attire. A red banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

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EDITOR'S DESK

02 Accessibility for All

THIS WEEK

COVER STORY

16 Living a Resilient Life

Fighting against life's adversities

18 Making Life Easier

Hi-tech augments a disabled reality

20 Moving to the Beat

Discovering dance as an expression

21 A Machine's Soul

Using robots to help autistic children learn

WORLD

26 China-Africa's Joint Future

Key players forge a path toward success

SPECIAL REPORT

32 Third Pole Challenges

Tibet witnesses environmental changes



No One Left Behind
Doing what it takes to support those with disabilities

WORLD

P.24 | Ramping-Up Regional Integration

Greater coordination among Asians

BUSINESS

P.38 | Cushioning a Hard Landing

Reasons why China's hard landing is fiction



SPECIAL REPORT

P.28 | Tempering a Warming Climate

China seeks solutions to climate issues

NATION

36 For Life's Sake

Drug reform plans benefit the sick

BUSINESS

40 Market Watch

CULTURE

44 Enlightenment Beckons

The road of Dharma stretches forward

FORUM

46 Silken Opportunities

EXPAT'S EYE

48 For the Love of Food

A taste of cultural exploration

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EDITOR'S DESK

Accessibility for All

This year's International Day of Persons With Disabilities, which falls on December 3, focuses on the theme—Inclusion Matters: Access and Empowerment for People of All Abilities—a notion that has increasingly resonated with Chinese people.

In China, there are more than 85 million people living with disabilities. Improving their livelihoods concerns social justice, progress and the realization of the country's goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects by 2020.

President Xi Jinping explained that China will carry out development plans targeting women, children, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities while speaking at a poverty reduction forum in Beijing in October. This statement is one of the latest testaments to the special attention paid to disability issues by the Chinese Government.

The government has always attached great importance to the inclusion of people with disabilities in the process of development. The first law on the protection of their rights and interests was put in place in the 1990s. Later, a series of regulations guaranteeing their rights in fields such as education and employment were enacted.

The government has tried to improve basic public services and provide more vocational training and rehabilitation opportunities for indi-

viduals with disabilities so as to enable them to get better jobs, enjoy better lives and play more active roles in society.

In addition to efforts directed at promoting the social and political participation of people with disabilities domestically, China is committed to international cooperation in this critical area. During the 2014 APEC meeting in Beijing, China hosted events on equal access and inclusive development and initiated the APEC Group of Friends on Disability.

Premier Li Keqiang proposed the inclusion of disability issues into the Asia-Europe cooperation framework at the 10th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Milan last year. China fulfilled Li's proposal by hosting the first ASEM event on disability in Beijing on October 29-30.

Currently, China still lags behind Western countries regarding disability services. This is largely due to a gap in economic development. With the growth of the Chinese economy, the gap will gradually be filled.

The differences also leave large room for exchange and cooperation. Notably, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which China and other countries formulated mindful of the need to promote social and economic cooperation inclusive of people with disabilities, has outlined specific objectives for global empowerment efforts in the coming years. ■

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COOPERATION ON THE FAST LANE

Premier Li Keqiang rides a high-speed train with the foreign leaders attending the Fourth Summit of China and Central and Eastern European Countries on November 25. The 100-km trip from Suzhou in east China's Jiangsu Province to Shanghai takes 25 minutes.

On November 24, China signed separate deals with Hungary and Serbia on a railway link between Budapest and Belgrade. Upon its completion in 2017, the new railway will cut travel time between the two capitals from eight hours to about three.



Football Victory

Players of China's Guangzhou Evergrande celebrate at the awards ceremony of the 2015 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, on November 21. Evergrande claimed the title after a 1-0 aggregate win over Al Ahli from the United Arab Emirates in the two-game contest.

It was the second time for Evergrande to lift the trophy of the AFC Champions League in three years. The five-time Chinese Super League champions became the first Chinese team to win the honor in 2013.

Tighter Supervision

China will tighten supervision over the use of medical devices in connection with recently issued measures to be implemented next year, the country's drug watchdog said on November 23.

Wang Shucui, Deputy Director of the Department of Medical Device Supervision at the China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA), said that illegal purchases of medical instruments and poor maintenance have seriously affected the quality of treatment and patients' health.

For the first time in October, the CFDA drafted a series of measures on the supervision and administration of the use of medical devices, which will take effect on February 2, 2016.

Wang said that food and drug administrations will monitor equip-

ment use in hospitals and inspect companies making medical devices, as well as agencies providing maintenance and repair services.

Special attention will be given to high-risk medical instruments, he added.

Maritime Observation

An international maritime surveillance center will be built for China's homegrown Beidou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), an alternative to U.S.-operated GPS, authorities with the Ministry of Transport said on November 24.

The surveillance center, located in north China's Tianjin, will monitor and assess the accuracy, operating situation and signal quality of the system and report results to users on the sea, ensuring a high-quality BDS

service, according to Chai Jinzhu, an official with the ministry's North China Sea Maritime Insurance Center. Chai's organization has been working on the construction and operation of the surveillance center.

The Beidou project was formally launched in 1994, some 20 years after the inception of GPS. The first Beidou satellite was launched in 2000.

By 2012, a regional network had already taken shape, and the BDS is already providing positioning, navigation, timing and short message services in China and several other Asian countries.

Sea Facilities

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on November 24 that China will build new civilian facilities on some islands and reefs in the South China Sea.

"This is aimed at fulfilling China's international responsibility and offer better public goods and services for countries in the region," spokesman Hong Lei told a routine press briefing in Beijing on November 24.

He said that China will build necessary defense facilities on some islands, adding that the construction will be moderate and has nothing to do with militarization.

"The construction will not target any country nor impede navigation and overflight freedom enjoyed by other countries in accordance with international law," Hong added.

China has built two lighthouses on South China Sea reefs, which ensure the safety of ships, and completed a land reclamation project on some of the Nansha Islands in June.

Soil Pollution

Heavy metal pollution still poses a glaring risk to China's environment, despite a drop in the discharge of five key heavy metal pollutants in 2014, the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) said on November 19.

The discharge of five key heavy metal pollutants—lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium and metal arsenic—declined by 20.8 percent through 2014 compared to 2007, the MEP announced following an assessment at 28 provincial localities.

The discharge of heavy metal is still high due to the past three decades of rapid industrial expansion, according to a statement from the ministry.

Some regions even had a remarkably higher level of discharge in 2014 compared to 2007. Hebei, Sichuan, Shaanxi and Fujian provinces, as well as Inner Mongolia and the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous regions, for example, face the daunting task of controlling the pollution.

The MEP also named five cities for "exceedingly rapid growth" of heavy metal pollutant discharge, including Yantai in Shandong Province, Chenzhou, Loudi and Yueyang in Hunan Province, and

Liangshan Prefecture in Sichuan Province.

The MEP said that it will review heavy metal pollution control next year and penalize localities that fail to meet the requirements.

Longer Living

The Tibet Autonomous Region in southwest China plans to raise its average life expectancy by two years to 70 in five years, according to a meeting on the region's medical sector on November 21.

Local health officials said that medical services in rural areas will be greatly improved in order to achieve this goal.

The average life expectancy in Tibet was 68.2 years in 2013, up from 35.5 years before 1951, yet still eight years behind the inland population's, due to the high altitude and difficult access to medical services in the scarcely populated region.

Every village in Tibet now has a clinic and an average of two medical practitioners, thanks to a 4-billion-yuan (\$627 million) funding injection from the Central Government over the past five years.

Porpoise Population

The population of China's finless porpoises at a reserve in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River has increased from 22 to around 50 in the past five years, the provincial aquatic products bureau of central China's Hubei Province said on November 24.

A survey began on November 19 in the Tian'ezhou National Nature Reserve to examine the finless porpoises' DNA, blood, appearance and their activities, said Zhang Zhenhua, deputy director of the reserve. The survey is scheduled to be conducted every five years.

The increase of the population could be attributed to the improved environment, Zhang said.

Finless porpoises live in the Yangtze and two lakes fed by the busy waterway. Their population was about 1,040 in 2012, compared to over 1,800 in 2006, a decrease of nearly 14 percent each year, according to a survey in 2012 by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

The Tian'ezhou reserve was established in 1992 for the protection of the porpoises in a 21-km traffic-free section of the river.

Beijing Airport

Beijing's new international airport, which is currently under construction, will eventually be able to handle 100 million passengers annually, authorities said on November 20.

Before 2025, the airport will be able to handle 72 million passengers, 2 million tonnes of cargo and mail, and have four runways, according to a plan approved by the government last year.

It is planned to have seven runways.

Located in the suburban Daxing



White Palace

Travelers visit the Palace Museum in Beijing in heavy snow on November 22.

Snowstorms hit a large part of north China on November 22, disrupting traffic and grounding flights in Beijing and neighboring regions.

District, the airport is expected to meet the capital's rising demand for air travel and help balance development in Beijing's southern and northern areas.

Its construction started late last year.

Solo Living

China has more than 58 million one-person households, accounting for more than 14 percent of the national total in 2013, according to a survey by China National Radio (CNR).

The survey found that one out of four households in Shanghai and

one out of five in Beijing had just one single dweller.

Factors like population migration, cross-city employment, a decrease of multi-generational families, and urbanization have led to the spike, said CNR.

More than half of seniors live alone or only with their spouses, a much higher portion than 20 years ago.

Meanwhile, the number of one-person households of young adults aged between 20 and 39 has reached nearly 20 million. Among solo-dwellers aged 20 to 54, men outnumber the women.

Mega Telescope

The feed cabin supporting system of China's single-aperture spherical telescope FAST is tested in Qiannan, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on November 21.

Construction of FAST began in March 2011 with an investment of 1.2 billion yuan (\$188 million). When it is completed in 2016, the 500-meter telescope will be the world's largest, overtaking Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory, which is 300 meters in diameter.

It will also be 10 times more sensitive than the steerable 100-meter telescope near Bonn, Germany.



Uygur E-Commerce

An e-commerce platform in the Uygur language was launched in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on November 23, becoming the first of its kind in the country.

Owned by the Xinjiang Bayilan E-commerce Co., Baiji Laoye joined China's enormous online-to-offline market using both Mandarin and Uygur languages on its website, offering shopping convenience for locals.

Apart from local specialties like walnuts and raisins, it sells everything from cosmetics to clothes.

"So far, there are more than 10 local enterprises on Baiji Laoye,"

said Adli Ahat, Marketing Director of the Xinjiang Bayilan E-commerce Co. "And we have reached agreements with over 2,000 factories from across the country."

The website promises that goods will be delivered directly from those factories to all major cities in Xinjiang within 48 hours. Baiji Laoye plans to build its own logistics system.

The online shopping platform aims to attract customers not only from China, but also people in Central Asia.

Relaxing Forex Market

The first batch of overseas central banks and similar institutions have been allowed to enter China's

interbank foreign exchange (forex) market, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said on November 25.

Seven such institutions have completed registration with the China Foreign Exchange Trading System, which signal their official access into the Chinese market, the PBOC said on its website.

"This will contribute to a greater openness of the Chinese foreign exchange market," the PBOC said.

The institutions are the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Reserve Bank of Australia, Hungarian National Bank, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Development Association, World Bank Group Trust

Funds, and GIC Private Ltd.

Those institutions can directly participate in the interbank forex market as foreign members, use existing interbank forex market members as their agents, or entrust the PBOC as their agent.

They will be allowed to conduct yuan and the foreign exchange trading of one or more traded forex products, including spots, forwards, swaps and options.

Overseas Railways

The China Railway Group Ltd. (CREC) announced that one of its subsidiaries has won the Hungary-Serbia rail contract with another Chinese company and a Hungarian peer.

The consortium will jointly construct the 160-km Hungarian section of the 350-km railway linking the Serbian and Hungarian capitals together.

The project marks the Chinese rail company's first step in entering the European market and will help promote Chinese rail technology going abroad, an official with the CREC said on November 25.

The contract is estimated to be worth about 10 billion yuan (\$1.57 billion), among which the CREC and its Chinese peer, the international subsidiary of China Railway Corp. (CRC), jointly hold an 85-percent share.

Airline Investment

Chinese conglomerate HNA Group is expanding its global footprint by acquiring a 23.7-percent stake in Azul Brazilian Airlines, the third largest carrier in Brazil, for \$450 million.

Following the stake deal, HNA will become the largest shareholder in Azul and also have a seat on the board of the Brazilian carrier. The two sides will cooperate on flights, new routes and frequent-flyer plans in the future, according to a statement from HNA. Azul has 145 aircraft flying to more than 100 destinations.

"With this transaction, Azul has become the highest-valued carrier in Brazil, at about 7 billion reais (\$1.89



Easier Payment

A staff member from Ant Financial, the financial arm of China's e-commerce giant Alibaba, introduces face recognition technology at the 2015 China (Hangzhou) Internet Finance Exposition in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on November 20. The technology will be used in online payment services provided by Alibaba.

The expo, which ran from November 20 to 22, attracted 67 financial institutions and Internet finance service providers to attend.



Taking Off

Chinese commercial drone maker DJI's staff member introduces its Phantom 3 drone to clients in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, on November 22.

billion)," said David Neeleman, Azul's chief executive, who is also the founder of Jetblue, a major low-cost carrier in the United States.

Neeleman, who founded Azul in 2008, said the deal will benefit the carrier in various ways, such as improved capital flow, a continued renewal of its fleet, and better products and services for clients.

Tan Xiangdong, President of HNA, said HNA is working on expanding its business in the aviation sector and is investing in powerful companies globally.

The huge passenger flows between China and Brazil, which are strong trading partners, also played a significant role in facilitating the transaction, said the statement.

Uber's Largest Market

China is likely to surpass the United States as Uber's largest market by the end of this year, the company said in Beijing on November 25.

The ride-sharing app will complete more daily trips for passengers

in China than in the United States, Liu Zhen, head of strategy for Uber China, said on November 25.

The Southern Chinese metropolis Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, currently completes the most number of daily trips among all cities in the world where Uber is available. Four other Chinese cities—Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, Shanghai and Shenzhen in Guangdong—are also among Uber's top 10 cities worldwide.

Uber has been expanding aggressively in China this year in a bid to challenge domestic ride-hailing app Didi. The company officially launched its ride-sharing service UberPool across five Chinese cities on November 25 after a four-month-long trial.

China's ride-hailing market has already seen intense competition among domestic players over taxi-hailing and ride-on-demand services since last year. Leading taxi-hailing apps Didi and

Kuaidi merged earlier this year, ending a heavily subsidized campaign that saw each scrambling for drivers and passengers.

Uber has been using a local approach to challenge Didi's dominance in the taxi-hailing market. Uber China was granted greater autonomy in decision-making in each city it operates in.

Liu also said that the company will expand its presence from 21 Chinese cities to 100 next year, including many in the west and northeast. This compares to 199 cities where Didi says its ride-on-demand services are available.

Chinese search engine provider Baidu has invested in Uber while the Internet conglomerate Tencent and e-commerce giant Alibaba both hold stakes in Didi.

Pro-Trade Measures

The General Administration of Customs (GAC) has rolled out 18 measures to buoy China's decreasing foreign trade, its spokesperson

said on November 25.

Customs procedures have been streamlined, raising customs' clearance efficiency by around 50 percent, said GAC spokesman Zhang Guangzhi during a news briefing.

Foreign trade fees have been lowered or eliminated to reduce enterprises' financial burden, he said.

The GAC has also slashed six items subject to government approvals or review for trade-oriented manufacturers.

As the world's largest goods trader, China's foreign trade is under heavy pressure this year due to an economic slowdown and a faltering global recovery.

GAC's data showed that foreign trade dipped 8.1 percent year-on-year in the first 10 months of 2015, while the annual target is a 6-percent increase.

"It seems impossible to reverse the trend within this year. What we can do now is to narrow the decline," said Bai Ming, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.



Landing

An imported fire truck gets off a ship in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on November 22. The truck is among the first batch of imported special-purpose vehicles in the Qingdao bonded port area.

THIS WEEK WORLD



RUSSIA

People protest outside the Turkish Embassy in Moscow on November 25 against the downing of a Russian warplane by Turkey on the Syrian border a day before



FRANCE

A police officer stands on guard on November 25 at the entrance of Le Bourget in Paris, the venue for the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference from November 30 to December 11



SOUTH KOREA

Mourners in Seoul on November 23 pay tribute in front of a portrait of former South Korean President Kim Young Sam, who passed away on the previous day at the age of 88



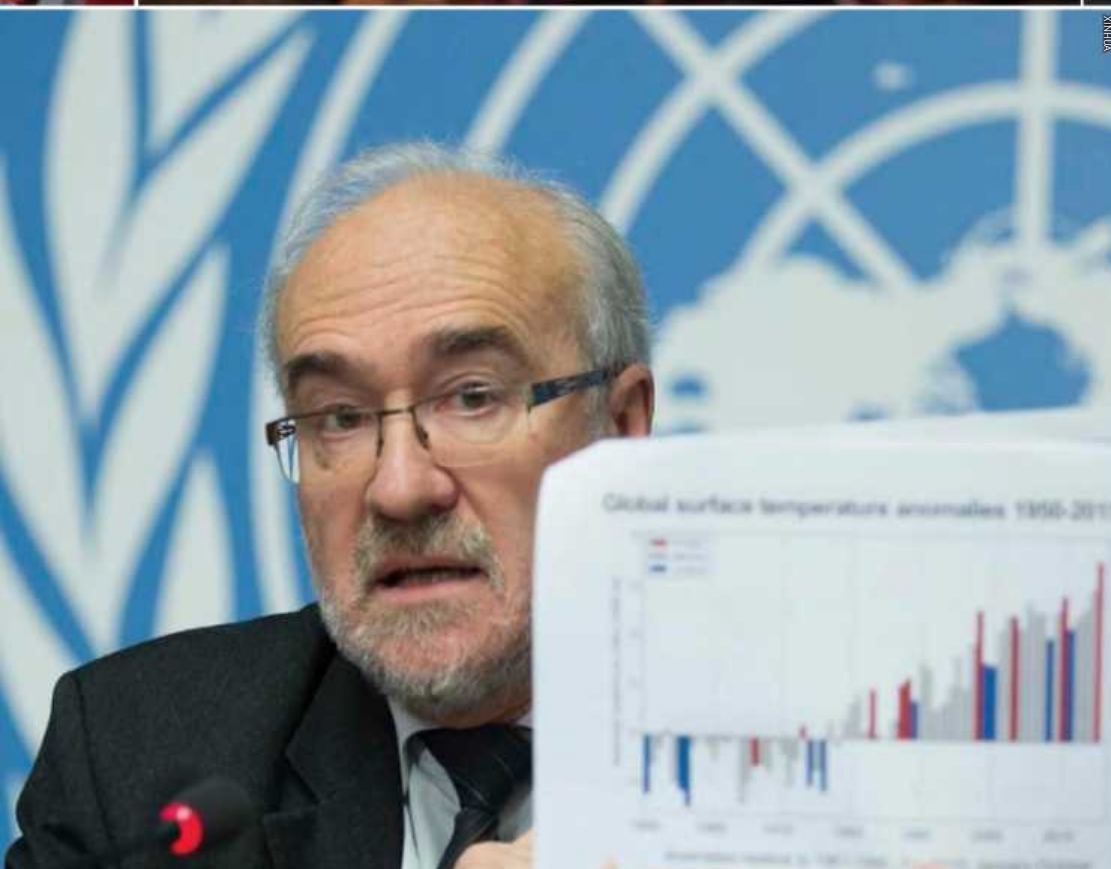
ARGENTINA

Presidential candidate Mauricio Macri (front) from the conservative Cambiemos Party celebrates his election victory in Buenos Aires on November 22



THE UNITED STATES

Chinese and U.S. service people conduct a joint humanitarian rescue drill in Seattle on November 20



SWITZERLAND

Michel Jarraud, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization, shows a graphic at a press conference in Geneva on November 25 indicating that the global average surface temperature in 2015 is likely to be the warmest on record

↓ NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER

Song Tao, a veteran diplomat, has recently been named head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The International Department is a ministerial-level department responsible for conducting CPC international exchanges. Since its establishment in 1951, it has carried out international exchanges surrounding the central tasks of the CPC in different historical periods and made positive contributions to the Party's development and the country's foreign affairs at large.

Song, 60, worked for the Foreign Ministry from 2001 to 2013. He served as China's vice foreign minister from 2011 to 2013 before becoming deputy head of the office of the CPC Central Leading Group for Foreign Affairs.



Household Registration for All

China Youth Daily
November 25

Public Security Minister Guo Shengkun recently called for a resolution regarding the issue of people living without a household registration, or *hukou*. Currently, 13 million people, or 1 percent of the population, don't have a household registration or identification card in China.

According to the country's laws and regulations, every newborn Chinese should be properly registered at the local police office. The registration is mandatory for a person to have legal rights and access to social welfare.

The number of people without a *hukou* has risen in conjunction with the implementation of China's family-planning policy in the late 1970s. Statistics show that more than 60 percent of them are children born to families who violated the family-planning policy. According to the household registration regulations, newborn Chinese citizens are entitled to a *hukou* with no strings attached. Relevant central government departments have also issued multiple notices to prohibit the denial of a *hukou* to citizens for violating the family-planning policy.

However, in reality many of those born in violation of the policy have not been granted a *hukou*. To solve the problem, the law should state that gaining a household registration is a basic right. Moreover, strict punishments should be dealt out to local governments that deny the registration for any reason.

An Example of Poverty Alleviation

Outlook Weekly
November 23

By the end of 2014, 70.17 million people in China's rural areas still lived in poverty. The Central Government recently proposed a "precision" poverty relief program, which represents a targeted approach to fighting poverty. This is a marked shift from the previous "one-size-fits-all" approach and is part of the government's goal to build a moderately prosperous society in all aspects.

In addition to the government's increase in spending on programs to reduce poverty and adoption of preferential policies for poverty-stricken areas, local governments should also take action. Ningde in southeast China's Fujian Province has set an example for alleviating poverty.

Over the past 30 years, Ningde has developed modern agriculture to fit the local climate and successfully cultivated edible mushrooms and tea, which have brought huge economic benefits to the city. Gutian, a county in Ningde, became

"Cosmetic procedures have grown incredibly popular in China as an increasing number of women go under the knife to get ahead."

Chen Yuzhe, a member of the China Association of Plastics and Aesthetics, at the launch of an industry trend report predicting China will become the world's third largest cosmetic surgery market after the United States and Brazil by 2019 on November 23

"Apart from the influence of improved nutrition and living standards, children are becoming more obese mainly because of a lack of exercise."

Ma Jun, Director of the Institute of Child and Adolescent Health at Peking University, in response to a 2014 national fitness survey released on November 25 that said obesity among Chinese youth continues to rise



the largest edible mushroom production base in China and produced more than 50 tons of mushrooms last year with an output value of over 4 billion yuan (\$620 million).

Additionally, the city has encouraged village committees to play a central role in alleviating poverty in their regions. The city government also calls on college graduates to return to rural areas to start their own businesses.

Medical Staff Working in Multiple Institutions

**Guangzhou Daily
November 24**

Since 2009, the Central Government has unveiled a slew of policies to support the development of private hospitals, which are expected to share the burden of medical care with public ones. However, private hospitals need to improve medical treatment quality to attract more patients. This includes hiring competent medical workers from public hospitals to work on a part-time basis.

While the government can help curb high

medical costs by increasing healthcare spending, improving medical services is mainly the responsibility of hospitals. They should put in place effective incentive mechanisms, with a focus on facilitating personnel flow and promoting innovation. Doctors and nurses at public hospitals should be allowed to work at other medical institutions or operate their own clinics so as to develop their potential to the fullest.

Some officials asserted that may jeopardize the interests of public hospitals. But the fact is that public hospitals, especially reputed ones, are often overcrowded and charge even higher than private hospitals. Only when private hospitals have access to qualified doctors and nurses, will they be able to help lighten the burden of their public counterparts.

↓ U.S. SCHOLAR AWARDED FOR CHINA STUDIES

David M. Lampton, Director of China Studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, was granted the Award for Outstanding Contributions to China Studies, along with three other scholars at the Sixth World Forum on China Studies in Shanghai on November 20.

Lampton has been devoted to China studies for over 40 years and specializes in Chinese domestic politics and leadership, Chinese foreign policy, the policy-making process and China-U.S. relations. He is the author of numerous books on Chinese domestic and foreign affairs, including *The Three Faces of Chinese Power: Might, Money and Minds*.

The Award for Outstanding Contributions to China Studies aims to promote China studies abroad and facilitate friendly exchanges between China and other countries.



“By reading my stories, they realized, after all those years, that people across the Straits have fundamentally been living the same life. The ordinary stories about ordinary people bring connections and understanding.”

Liao Shinchung, a 38-year-old writer from Taiwan, in a recent comment on his memoir *Once Upon a Time in Taiwan*

“Under no circumstances should sexual harassment, violence or the abuse of women be tolerated.”

Mei Li, a campaigner for the rights of Chinese “comfort women,” females forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military during World War II, during an event marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Hong Kong on November 25



A tourist experiences
barrier-free travel in
Qixing Park in Guilin,
Guangxi Zhuang
Autonomous Region,
on November 10

COVER STORY

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

China strives to promote the wellbeing of citizens with disabilities

By Zhang Zhiping & Wang Hairong

Confidence was written on the face of Yang Yuanwang, a resident with disabilities in Datang Village in central China's Hunan Province. This confidence stemmed from his transformation as someone who needed others' help to someone who helps others.

Years ago, a workplace injury left Yang with a disabled left hand and he experienced severe depression as a result. But his life was changed after participating in a free training session on livestock breeding techniques offered by Hongjiang City's Disabled Persons' Federation, where he learned to raise chicken, ducks and pigs. He later traveled out of town with the federation in order to learn how to feed swans.

In 2009, with help from the federation, Yang founded an animal husbandry cooperative together with fellow villagers. They leased a reservoir to raise fish and set up a farm on nearby land to grow poultry, goats, pigs and swans. With discounted loans for persons with disabilities, their business has gradually expanded. Today, more than 50 people are working in the cooperative, including several individuals with disabilities.

Since 2011, people with disabilities like Yang who have been able to move out of poverty have numbered 5.06 million in China, according to the China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF). In the same period, 9.13 million persons with disabilities have received government and private assistance in production and employment. The dilapidated houses of 438,000 impoverished persons with disabilities have been renovated, and 3.36 million such individuals have received training on vocational skills.

After the government released the Outline for Development-Oriented Poverty Reduction for China's Rural Areas (2011-20) in 2012, more than 6.8 million rural residents with disabilities have received support.

Poverty alleviation

The Chinese Government recently announced its goal to lift the 70 million plus people living below the country's current poverty standard out of privation in the next five years, which includes millions of citizens with disabilities.

Statistics from the CDPF show that, of China's 85 million people with disabilities, more than 70 percent reside in rural areas. One out of five rural persons with disabilities is

living below China's current poverty line, which suggests that the indigence rate among this group is more than twice the national average.

Worse still, close to 60 percent of rural persons with disabilities do not live in contiguous poverty-stricken areas or counties listed in the national poverty reduction program, and hence cannot benefit directly from national funds aimed at relieving the issue in the areas.

On October 17, China's second National Poverty Relief Day, CDPF Chairwoman Zhang Haidi said that alleviating the impoverishment for rural persons with disabilities is directly related to the effectiveness of development-oriented poverty mitigation on a national level.

Now, China is paying special attention to targeted poverty abatement.

In addition to raising social security benefits to meet the basic needs of impoverished people with disabilities, efforts have been made to increase the supply of basic public services such as medical and rehabilitation services, special education and housing, especially those for rural residents with disabilities.

In line with new policies rolled out earlier this year by the State Council, China's cabinet, financially troubled persons with disabilities will receive living allowances and persons with severe disabilities will receive a nursing subsidy starting from January 1, 2016.

Assistance measures specific to the needs of persons with disabilities have been included in the national development-oriented poverty alleviation program. The government has promised to verify the status of indigent people with disabilities, and designate persons to help each relevant household.

The government will also provide vocational training and mortgage-and-interest-free micro loans to persons with disabilities, boost their employment by developing industrial bases, and enable persons with disabilities who have lost their working ability to reap the benefits of government poverty reduction programs through share allotment so as to provide them with steady incomes.

Additionally, the private sector is encouraged to help meet the needs of impoverished people with disabilities.

Education for all

On August 2, when 20-year-old Zheng Rongquan received an admission letter from Wenzhou University in Zhejiang Province, he was understandably excited. He was the first

visually-impaired student in Zhejiang admitted into a regular university. In 2015, a total of 5,359 students with disabilities nationwide were admitted into regular universities, according to the CDPF.

Students with disabilities in China can access both special and regular education. Since 2014, visually-impaired students have been allowed to take regular college entrance exams in Braille in China.

Last April, the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the CDPF jointly issued a document requiring that more conveniences be provided to accommodate examinees with disabilities, such as hearing aids, special desks and chairs, optical magnifying glasses and other auxiliaries. Examination times may also be extended accordingly.

Many people with disabilities receive instruction in special education schools scattered across the country. Official statistics show that as of the end of 2014, China had about 2,000 special education schools, which enrolled 395,000 students and employed 48,100 teachers.

In 2010, the State Council announced to offer assistance to all students with disabilities in primary and middle schools so that they would not drop out because of financial difficulties.

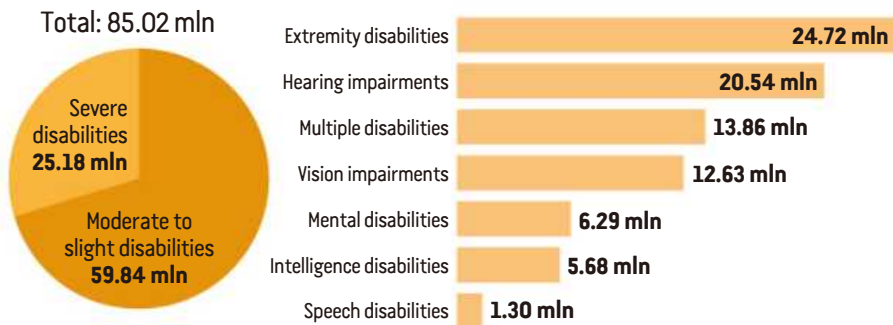
In 2014, the MOE and several other central government departments released a plan for improving special education, which pledges to ensure that every child with disabilities has access to proper education. Various localities nationwide have also made their respective local plans in this regard.

Since 2014, the government has sponsored the preschool education of more than 50,000 children with disabilities. Meanwhile, the MOE is making policies to improve vocational education and popularize standard sign language and Braille across the country.

Public investment in special education infrastructure has increased. Central and local governments have spent a total of 5.4 billion yuan (\$845 million) in building, renovating or expanding 1,182 special education schools over the past eight years. Since 2012, the Chinese Government has invested a total of 3.2 billion yuan (\$501 million) to support the construction of infrastructure for the special education major in normal universities and secondary and higher vocational schools. From 2013 to 2014, the Chinese Government's ►►

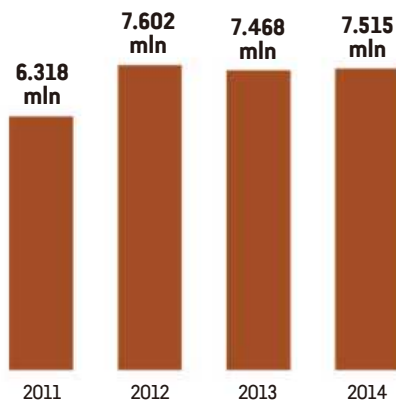
Development of Aid for Persons With Disabilities in China

Persons With Disabilities in China by the end of 2010



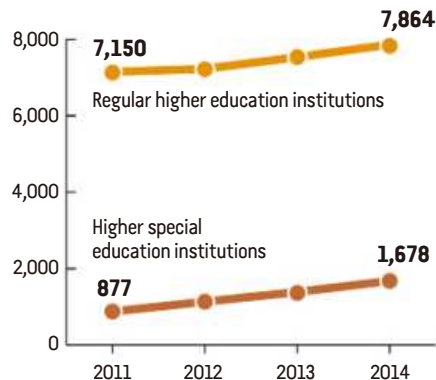
Rehabilitation

Number of people receiving rehabilitation



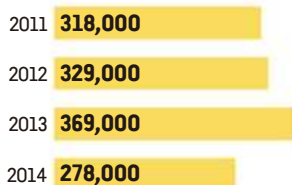
Education

Number of people admitted by higher education institutions

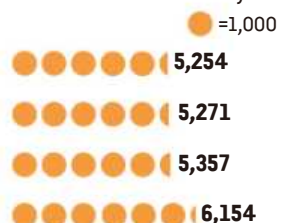


Employment

Employed people with disabilities in urban areas



Number of vocational training bases in the whole country

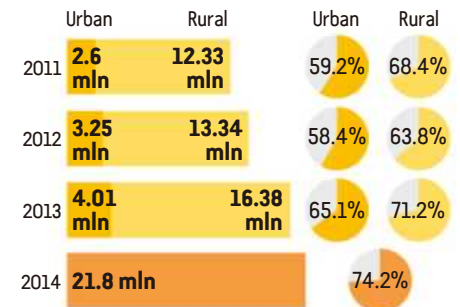


Instances of people receiving vocational training in urban areas

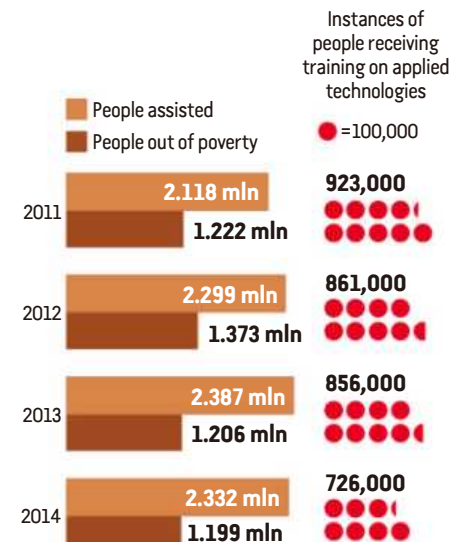


Social Security

People with disabilities who have pension insurance



Poverty Alleviation in Rural Areas



(Source: China Disabled Persons' Federation. Designed by Pamela Tobey)

earmarked funding for special education has increased 7.5 fold.

Social support for special education is also unprecedented. In the past four years, the China Foundation for Disabled Persons raised 20.6 million yuan (\$3.2 million) for special

education, benefiting 280,000 children and youths.

Employment promotions

After graduating from college, Sha Jingjing and Wu Haijian, both hearing impaired, were em-

ployed by a textile company in Nantong, Jiangsu Province. "They are quick at learning new skills!" their supervisor Xu Xiaoyan said approvingly.

China has been actively promoting employment for persons with disabilities like Sha and Wu. Since 1990, the government has required employers to recruit a certain



Students have a music lesson in a special education school in Luoyang, Henan Province, on September 9

economies launched a joint initiative on promoting equal access and inclusive development of people with disabilities.

In September, a disability rehabilitation forum attended by representatives from China and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was held in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in

percentage of persons with disabilities in appropriate types of jobs and posts.

In September 2013, seven central government departments including the State Administration of Civil Service released a document urging employers to meet the percentage requirement. Various local governments also produced measures to implement it.

A State Council regulation issued in February stressed that except for small businesses less than three years old and hiring fewer than 20 people, those employers failing to meet the percentage requirement should pay a fine and those hiring more people with disabilities than required will be rewarded. The document states that government departments, public institutions and state-owned enterprises should take the lead in recruiting persons with disabilities.

Shen Weiwei, a person with disabilities in Shanghai, became a civil servant at the city's Commission of Science and Technology last year. In December 2013, Shanghai opened some vacancies in municipal government departments and public institutions exclusively to people with disabilities. More than 400 people applied for these positions and 18, including

Shen, were hired.

"I took part in two civil service exams before, but due to physical reasons, I could not win the competition when measured against able-bodied candidates," Shen said. She is satisfied with the job she now holds.

In 2015, the Beijing Municipal Government also reserved five vacancies for persons with disabilities to be filled through the annual civil service exam. The practice has also been in effect in other places such as Chongqing and Tianjin municipalities, as well as Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Henan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Jilin and Shaanxi provinces.

International cooperation

The Chinese Government has taken an active part in international disability-related affairs.

Under the joint efforts of China and other members of the international community, the development of undertakings related to persons with disabilities has become part of the cooperation among members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Asia-Europe Meeting.

During the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Week in Beijing in November 2014, 20 APEC

south China.

Additionally, China has always participated in the discussion on the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, and promoted the inclusive development for people with disabilities on various occasions.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities has been actively implemented in China, which has taken legislative, administrative and other measures to fulfill the responsibilities under the convention, including amending the Law on the Protection of Disabled Persons.

China has formulated and implemented six national development outlines for persons with disabilities, and released two National Human Rights Action Plans whose key content includes the protection of rights and interests of these persons. Now the Chinese Government is drafting special plans to bring them into "a moderately prosperous society in all respects" under the country's 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) for social and economic development, to be adopted by the National People's Congress in March 2016. ■

Copiedited by Mara Lee Durrell
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COVER STORY

LIVING A RESILIENT LIFE

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities underlines these people's rights to full and effective participation as well as inclusion in society. With remarkable progress in their access to social security benefits, employment, education and public services, China's population with disabilities not only has better living conditions but is playing an increasingly active role in advancing social progress. (Photos by Xinhua)



Members of the Chinese Blind Soccer Team take part in a training session in Fuzhou, Fujian Province on January 20. The team won a silver medal in the Summer Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2008

Railway staff lead a visually impaired couple and their guide dog to their carriage at the Lanzhou Railway Station in Gansu Province on June 5. Guide dogs have been allowed to accompany their owners on train trips in China since May 1



A man with lower-limb paralysis receives rehabilitation advice from a doctor at a community clinic in Hefei, Anhui Province on April 17



XINHUA



A volunteer accompanies a girl with autism to a dolphin show at an aquarium in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, on April 1, 2014



XINHUA



A foreigner tries his hand at embroidery under the instruction of two hearing-impaired women from the Qiang ethnic group in southwest China at an event in Beijing on November 10, 2014

COVER STORY

MAKING LIFE EASIER

Companies are developing assistive devices for people with disabilities By Yuan Yuan

A device similar to the one that the famed physicist Stephen Hawking uses to communicate is being developed for people with disabilities in China that will allow users to operate a computer using just their eyes.

Users of one computer from the Beijing 7Invensun Science and Technology Co. Ltd. can type by moving their eyes to the keys of a keyboard shown on a screen. The company gave a live demonstration of the machine at the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) High-Level Meeting on Disability and Global Conference on Assistive Devices and Technology in Beijing on October 29-31. The user was able to type out the Chinese character *nihao*, meaning hello, in just 10 seconds.

"Of course it's slower than typing with your fingers, but it's better than nothing for people with finger disabilities or who have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)," a demonstrator from 7Invensun said. "After practicing it for some time, it can be a lot quicker than this."

China has about 200,000 people suffering from ALS, which increasingly weakens the patients' muscles until they become rigid. Eventually, their speech, swallowing ability and even breathing become complicated.

Devices like the computer developed by 7Invensun could be a game changer for technology and the way that people with disabilities live in China.

During the ASEM High-Level Meeting on Disability and Global Conference on Assistive Devices and Technology, the China Disabled

Persons' Federation (CDPF) made an initiative to promote the development of global assistive devices and technology industries on October 29. It said that assistive products (devices or instruments), which are designed for persons with disabilities, elders and persons with sickness or injuries by eliminating barriers and improving their quality of life, can help people regain their self-dignity and integrate into society.

"We recognized that these small assistive devices promise a big industry, which embraces diverse economic categories ranging from manufacturing to the service sector with a huge market potential for economic growth, which can advance human civilization and social welfare. We underscored that everyone, in his or her lifetime, might use assistive devices temporarily or permanently," the CDPF said in the initiative.

"Life is super difficult for people with disabilities," said Gao Yong, who was visiting the exhibition from Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. "While we enjoy the smart life that new technology has created, they always have this or that limiting them from the same experiences."

Gao said that he hopes his call can be heard by the high-profile attendees at the event, including officials in charge of disability issues from ASEM members, representatives of international organizations including the World Health Organization, International Telecommunication Union and Rehabilitation International, delegates from

disability organizations, entrepreneurs and experts.

Breaking new grounds

7Invensun developed the eye-control computer and first demonstrated it in 2009.

"We've used the keyboard and mouse for years. It's time to make a revolution," said Huang Tongbing, 7Invensun founder. He thinks the device is a potential breakthrough in wireless technology, an idea that is partially showcased in the company's motto: "Let the world understand your eyes."

When the company was first developing the computer system, its programmers tried it on people diagnosed with ALS, the same disease that afflicts Hawking. Wang Jia, who was diagnosed with the disease at the age of 24 in 2007, used the computer to write his book *There Are No What-ifs in Life*.

"The integration of new technologies with devices for persons with disabilities is a trend," said Peng Fan, Operation Director of 7Invensun. "For example, the eye-control technology that we developed can be used for ALS devices and can also be applied in people's daily life. This is the prime age for assistive devices like this."

7Invensun isn't the only company looking to break new ground. Aooman Happy and Health Technology Co. Ltd., a Tianjin-based company, is focusing on developing multimedia interaction facilities.

Founded by a group of leading teachers and professors from the China Central Academy of Fine Arts, Aooman is creating devices to assist children with special needs.

The team first got the idea after a visit to the Rehabilitation Center for Disabled Persons in northeast China's Liaoning



An engineer from Beijing 7Invensun Science and Technology Co. Ltd. demonstrates how to type with his eyes on a computer developed by the company at the ASEM High-Level Meeting on Disability and Global Conference on Assistive Devices and Technology in Beijing on October 30

Province in 2010 and seeing up close what challenges children with special needs face. They found that traditional training methods and devices weren't effective, with many of these children refusing to even try them.

"Even though the teachers at the rehabilitation center are quite professional, the children could only draw by hand or make some designs using outdated computers," said Li Huan, Aooman's General Manager.

After three months, the Aooman team went back to the rehabilitation center with their newly developed multimedia device.

The silver-colored gadget looks more like a box, but as long as a person touches it, his or her body will become a musical instrument. When a child touches different parts of the "instrument"—fingers, ears, nose or even hair—it will emit different musical notes. It is like turning a person into a piano.

The contraption was a resounding success. Both the kids at the rehabilitation center and

the teachers were crazy about it, Li said.

"As the market for devices for children with special needs wasn't developed before, the choices for such devices were quite limited," said a teacher surnamed Zhang, who works at the rehabilitation center. "With such devices, children with infantile autism are more willing to interact with other people."

Aooman's devices have been adopted in more than 20 schools for children with special needs around China.

Changing the future

Meng Chongfang from Shenyang, Liaoning, had her left leg amputated five years ago due to osteocarcinoma, or bone cancer, and got an artificial leg after the operation.

"It cost me about 40,000 yuan (\$6,260) and it's expensive, but even this is very basic," Meng said. "The artificial legs with which you can run and jump like a normal person are priced at more than 300,000 yuan

(\$46,950). It is a big expense and hard to afford as persons with disabilities are typically not that wealthy."

Today, new 3D printing technology is helping to alleviate the problem. On May 28, a 6-year-old boy in Xinyang, central China's Henan Province, got an artificial arm that was printed using a 3D printer developed by Wuhan Union Hospital. Now, the boy can use the arm to hold a cup and can even ride a bicycle. The arm cost just 600 yuan (\$94), significantly less than its traditional counterparts.

"Even though this technology is still in its initial stage, and the products don't look quite elegant enough, the future is super promising," said Xu Guisheng, a doctor from Guangdong Province. "Lower costs raise the possibility of mass production using this technology." ■

Copied by Jordyn Dahl
Comments to yuanyuan@bjreview.com

COVER STORY

MOVING TO THE BEAT

A young, hearing-impaired man finds success in ballroom dancing By Ma Li

Growing up with a hearing impairment, 20-year-old Liang Yuangang said that he had little hope for a happy and bright future. Today, he is a successful ballroom dancer.

The social work major at China Youth University of Political Studies in Beijing remembers being bullied in elementary school in his hometown Anshan in northeast China's Liaoning Province.

"Some of classmates once threw a small stool at my back for no other reason than the fact that I have hearing problems," he said.

Liang's mom sent him to a ballroom dancing training school—a safe space away from the bullies and unwanted attention at school—where he thrived. The teacher put him in the first line of students so he could better mimic the teacher's movements.

"Their kindness made me interested in ballroom dancing and re-activated my life," Liang recalled.

In 2007 at just 12 years old, Liang joined the Chinese Disabled People's Performing Arts Troupe (CDPPAT), which contributed to his success as a Latin dancer.

The *Thousand-Hand Bodhisattva* dance performance during the 2005 Spring Festival Gala—China's most-watched television program for celebration of the lunar New Year—launched the troupe to larger fame. Parents have been more willing to send their kids to the troupe since the show aired, believing that art and expression can help with the children's development and future.

CDPPAT has 37 staff members and 110 performers who have an average age of 20. The majority of the staff at management level also have disabilities. They design and create programs, train the performers, produce promotional and audiovisual products and are also in charge of publicity and marketing. The troupe is comprised of two teams of performers who can perform at the same time in different regions. It also has a trainee team to nurture young talent.

Liang and his dancing partner, 21-year-old Zhu Yue, who is also hearing-impaired, are the only ballroom dancing pair in the troupe. Their performance *Dancing & Listening* was exclusively choreographed for them, a first in the troupe. The dance blends

Liang Yuangang and Zhu Yue perform the dance *Dancing & Listening* during a charity event at Peking University on September 15



elements of various ballroom styles, including Rumba, Samba, Chacha and Cowboy and is the troupe's signature performance.

It may look easy to the audience members, but it took Liang and Zhu six months to get the routine down.

"Before our first performance, the supervisors watched the dance many times. They finally asked me to take out my hearing aid, which could affect the beauty of the dance," Liang said. This request makes the dance even more demanding. "Without the hearing aid, I cannot feel the beat, and it's easier to mess up the dance."

But by the premiere, he was ready to try it without using his hearing aid. The first show's success gave him the confidence he needed to continue.

Liang plans to continue his studies in Beijing and wants to improve his dance skills to realize his dream to dance at the Blackpool Dance Festival in Britain, the world's first and most well-known annual ballroom dance competition. Ultimately, he said that he wants to be a professional ballroom dancer. ■

Copyedited by Jordyn Dahl
Comments to yanwei@bjreview.com

COVER STORY

A MACHINE'S SOUL

A startup introduces robotic-assisted rehabilitation for children with autism

By Chen Ran

Just one year ago, Edith Liu knew little about robots and was planning on following her classmates to work at a *Fortune* 500 company after graduating. Today, she is the co-founder of a startup that is bringing a French robot to China to help rehabilitate children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). What a difference a year makes!

Liu's company—Open Source Maker Space—launched the robotic project, called A Machine's Soul on the crowdfunding platform Themakers.cn in September. By the November 8 closing date, the company received 858 likes on the site and raised 135,210 yuan (\$21,290), surpassing their target amount of 120,000 yuan (\$18,900).

The humanoid robot, NAO, stands at 58 cm tall and has mood recognition and interactivity capabilities, such as walking and talking. The robot is programmed to communicate with children with ASD in voices that the children are familiar with, such as their parents or pediatricians. The kids can also acquire and practice life skills with the robot through an interactive imitation game called *Follow Me*.

The original developers—Paris-headquartered Aldebaran Robotics—have an open source policy that allows other entrepreneurs to create their own applications for the robot. The robot is being used in computer and science classes in over 70 countries, according to Aldebaran Robotics.

Liu, 25, graduated from Audencia Nante in France with an MBA and toured the Aldebaran headquarters in November 2014. Her future business partner, 33-year-old Nicolas Xie, a telecommunication graduate interested in robotics, arranged the tour. Liu knew next to nothing about robots, but the machine's human-like capabilities piqued her interest.

"I was totally fascinated by how intelligent NAO was. It was the first time I have found that a robot isn't just a cold machine and it's not that far removed from my life. It was friendly and approachable and can be a good companion," Liu told *Beijing Review*.

"We made up our minds to introduce NAO to Chinese children with ASD, because we would like to offer a new approach—a hi-tech one—to autism treatment back home," Xie said.

ASD is a group of neurodevelopmental disorders with repetitive patterns of behavior,

sensory issues, difficulties with communicating or social interactions and cognitive delays, in some cases. Specific disorders include Asperger's syndrome and autism. According to a 2013 World Health Organization report, one child in about 160 has an ASD and subsequent disability in the world. In China, there are about 1.64 million children diagnosed with ASD.

In December 2014, Liu and Louis Lu, 30, a former engineer at ZTE's European branch, established Open Source Maker Space in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. Liu and her team spent six months consulting experts, conducting field surveys and research and designing solutions. They created a tailored application platform for teaching and learning based on NAO's hardware, making a one-on-one or group interaction between children with ASD and the robot a reality.

Their key innovation, according to Liu, is a platform that comes with a remote control that allows pediatricians and parents to control the NAO without any programming knowledge.

"The ongoing assessment demonstrates that most of the children with ASD have a positive response to the robotic assisted rehabilitation," Xie told *Beijing Review*.

The company began collaborating with the Golden Age Interventions Center for Special Children in May 2015. Launched in 2004, the center is among the first non-governmental rehabilitation institutions for autism in Shenzhen.

"The children here are curious about the robot, which encourages their desire to communicate," said Wang Jing, a social worker at the center.

It appears to be working. Some children recognized Liu after she repeatedly visited the center for assessment sessions.

"I was impressed the other day when 4-year-old Fei Fei (pseudonym) hugged me and sat on my lap right away. Another 7-year-old boy said 'robot' when holding out my arms. His pronunciation was unintelligible, but I was deeply moved," Liu noted.

After almost a year in operation, Liu and Xie said the next step is determining how they should evaluate treatment outcomes. Does the combination of artificial intelligence, medical theories and real life applications meet the expectations? One issue the team has encountered is that the human-robot interaction is



Xiao Xin (pseudonym) touches NAO for the first time with the help of Edith Liu (right) at the Golden Age Interventions Center for Special Children in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province on May 25

interrupted if the child pushes NAO or fiddles with it. They're developing a bigger and heavier robot to counteract the problem.

"We need to spend more time on assessing if treatment has improved," Xie said.

The Machine's Soul project goes behind helping individual patients, though. Lu said it has helped raise awareness for ASD.

"Currently, there are fewer than 3,000 professionals in rehabilitation training for autism nationwide. The involvement of robots will definitely lend them a helping hand," he said.

The company has promised to use all the money raised during the crowdfunding drive to improving the existing application platform. Beginning in January 2016, they will collaborate with an autism treatment center and choose five families to design a customized teaching content for their children with ASD.

"Now, more people know about our project. Several ASD-affected families have contacted us. We have recognition and support from the government," said Liu. "What we have is far beyond my expectations." ■

Copiedited by Jordyn Dahl
Comments to chenran@bjreview.com

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	New Year Eve Dinner RMB 788*/person
Zijin Mansion	Christmas Eve Dinner RMB 788*/person
	New Year Eve Dinner RMB 788*/person
Peacock Alley	Christmas Day Afternoon Tea RMB 388*/person
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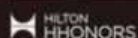


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Grand Festival Celebration

Continuing its merry and festive traditions, the Grand Hyatt Beijing at Oriental Plaza is excited to welcome you to an array of activities and outstanding dining options to celebrate this joyous season.

Gather around your family and friends to revel in the Christmas gourmet extravaganza at the Grand Café, while the acclaimed Da Giorgio restaurant offers an Italian-style New Year's Eve Menu.

The Fountain Lounge is also getting into the seasonal spirit with jovial afternoon tea and a chocolate buffet. For more gift ideas, do not miss the chance to take a merry hamper at The Patisserie in the Lobby. Taking part in the hotel's festive flair is the perfect way to bid farewell to 2015 and to usher in the New Year.

A very happy season's greeting and best wishes for a prosperous new year to everyone.

Christmas Eve Dinner at the Grand Café

5:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m., December 24

Experience an unforgettable Christmas Eve at the Grand Café! We've prepared a special festive buffet coupled with live cooking stations, featuring distinctive Christmas delights such as roasted turkey, Boston lobster and more. Discover the spices of the advent in our home-made Glühwein and take your just desserts with a glass of sparkling wine as a welcome drink. You will also be pleasantly surprised to have Santa Claus visit your table with his magic bag.

688 yuan net per person; includes free flow of soft drinks, juice, coffee and tea specialties

788 yuan net per person; includes free flow of wine selections and beers

388 yuan net per person for children under 12 years old

Complimentary for children 5 years old and below

Afternoon Festival Tea

2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., November 28, 29, December 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 24.

158 yuan plus a 15-percent surcharge per person

Chocolate lovers can indulge in a festive chocolate afternoon tea, featuring seasonal treats and Christmas carols during the week-end.

Christmas Eve Chocolate Buffet

3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., December 24

288 yuan net per person including one glass of sparkling wine

A tribute to the most popular festive sweets in the world will be presented at the Fountain

Lounge. A sumptuous selection of cakes, pastries and desserts, served with various kinds of silken liquid chocolate will put you in the right mood for the upcoming Christmas celebration.

Festive Hampers

November 29 - December 31

Discover enchanting holiday gift ideas at The Patisserie. Pack up your personal gift box from selections of goodies ranging from 388 yuan for your friends and loved ones. Also, dining gift certificates valued at 100 yuan, 200 yuan and 500 yuan are available.

Grand Wine Sales

December 18-31

There's nothing better than fetching wines of the highest quality at a knocked down price. So here at The Patisserie we've selected an array of premium wines hand-picked by our sommelier Frank He. Stock up for your festive celebrations with these sensational wines at bargain prices.

Christmas Turkey to Go

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Ramping-Up Regional Integration

China calls for greater cooperation at a series of East Asia summits **By Bai Shi**

Regional cooperation in East Asia is preparing to enter a new phase, where countries use a series of regional inter-governmental bodies to increase trade, invest in cross-border infrastructure projects, and work with each other to speed up development.

Over the course of several days representatives of member countries from these bodies came together to solidify their support for such a path forward. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang recently attended concentric meetings with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the 18th ASEAN-China Summit, the 18th ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan and South Korea) Summit, as well as the 10th East Asia Summit on behalf of the Chinese Government.

Most recently, Premier Li, together with other leaders of East Asia, pledged joint efforts to deepen collaboration on regional integration during the annual East Asia leaders' meetings that were held in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, on November 21-22.

Inter-ASEAN cooperation

In his address at the ASEAN-China Summit, Premier Li said that China sees ASEAN countries as a priority in its foreign policy, and that China supports the bloc's integration process and the construction of the ASEAN Community. China also upholds ASEAN's centrality in regional cooperation.

"Next year marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the China-ASEAN dialogue," Li said. "China is willing to work with ASEAN countries to enhance political trust, trade and cultural cooperation, to boost building a closer China-ASEAN community of shared destiny."

Premier Li proposed that China and ASEAN as a whole strengthen cooperation

mechanisms and implement the third five-year plan of action. China will continue talks with ASEAN members on the Treaty on Good Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. Additionally, Li called on both China and ASEAN to accelerate the "upgrade" of economic and trade cooperation.

During the summit, representatives of China and ASEAN countries signed a protocol on deepened cooperation on bilateral trade. The protocol covers a wide spectrum such as trade in goods, services, investment, economic and technological cooperation, and is a supplement to the original agreement of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA). Its initial framework agreement was inked in 2002 and the area had been completed in 2010.

With the upgraded agreement, both sides will further open their services, allow each other to establish solely-owned or joint-venture companies, and reduce regional restrictions. Thanks to preferential policies in the proposed trading area, the trade volume between China and ASEAN grew nearly nine times from \$54.8 billion in 2002 to \$480.4 billion in 2014, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

At the meeting, leaders of China and ASEAN also vowed to realize the target of scaling up two-way trade to \$1 trillion by 2020.

Shared communities

ASEAN is also stepping up efforts to establish the first sub-regional community. In the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration that was adopted at the 27th ASEAN summit on November 22, all 10 leaders of the regional bloc announced that they will complete the establishment of the ASEAN Community by the end of the year. The community is comprised of three pillars: the Political and Security Community,

the Economic Community and the Socio-Cultural Community, a creation which will be seen as a milestone in the process of the bloc's integration.

"The establishment of the ASEAN Community will help the bloc enhance unity and coordination on allocating resources and planning projects, which will also be beneficial for China to carry out cooperation with ASEAN countries," said Song Junying, an associate researcher of China Institute of International Studies.

China not only welcomes the establishment of the ASEAN Community but also its precedent in developing relations with ASEAN countries, said Ruan Zongze, Deputy Director of China Institute of International Studies. For example, China was the first country to sign free trade agreements with ASEAN and the first one to upgrade those agreements with the bloc. China is also the first country that proposed talks with ASEAN on the Treaty on Good Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation.

"China plays a positive role in supporting the regional integration of ASEAN," Ruan asserted. According to him, China takes the lead in developing relations with ASEAN, which drives other countries in East Asia to join the multilateral cooperation and further enhance the ASEAN's role in regional affairs.

Apart from the ACFTA, China has been working with Asian partners to promote the Belt and Road Initiative that aims at bringing greater connectivity and opportunities to the region; and all ASEAN countries have applied for founding membership of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Furthermore, Premier Li announced at the meeting that China will render economic assistance of 3.6 billion yuan (\$563.8 million), gratis, for the undeveloped countries of ASEAN in



State leaders pose for group photos at the 10th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on November 22

2016. Moreover, China will provide a loan of \$10 billion for carrying out China-ASEAN cooperation on infrastructural construction.

According to Ruan, Asia is faced with a bottleneck in that infrastructure conditions in many regional countries can't meet the strong demand of economic development. That is why China's initiatives on promoting infrastructural construction through bilateral and multilateral cooperation are welcomed by Asian countries, he explained.

China-ASEAN cooperation in all its forms is providing benefits to both sides, Song said. He specifically noted the Belt and Road Initiative and the AIIB, which will provide regional cooperation with new opportunities. Song said that ASEAN countries hope these initiatives can support their development.

Accelerating talks

The regional meetings also helped to advance the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), proposed by ASEAN, which is moving forward rapidly. The RCEP involves the 10 ASEAN member states and the six countries—Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea—which have established bilateral free trade agreements with ASEAN. Premier Li and other leaders made a pledge at the summit to complete talks on RCEP by the end of 2016, building a free trade area with the largest population and most diverse cultures in the world.

Ruan believes that the possibility of completing talks on the RCEP in next year is huge. In 2013, the ASEAN and the six countries had kicked off negotiation on RCEP. They have fin-

ished 10 rounds of talks, achieving substantial progress on many issues, he said.

The ongoing talks of RCEP show that regional integration in East Asia is making progress on different levels and in various aspects, Ruan said. The ASEAN Community is a sub-regional integration outcome, and the RCEP covers more countries including developing and developed economies.

Undoubtedly, China, Japan and South Korea should be three major countries for advancing RCEP talks. However, the talks of a free trade agreement (FTA) among the three countries had been suspended due to political tensions between China and Japan, as well as between South Korea and Japan.

In early November, the leaders' meeting of China, Japan and South Korea resumed after a three-year hiatus. The parties then agreed to continue talks on building a trilateral FTA.

"The resumption of China-Japan-South Korea leaders' meeting will promote their cooperation on RCEP talks," said Jiang Ruiping, Vice President of China Foreign Affairs University.

A ripple of tension

The Asian Summit held in Malaysia included 10 ASEAN countries and eight other countries including the United States and Russia. The Asian Summit serves two functions: to serve as a forum for leaders to discuss practical cooperation on development strategies and projects; and to create a dialogue for leaders to exchange opinions.

For economic cooperation, Premier Li called all relevant countries to cultivate East Asia as a region with stable growth. But the November

summit also came at a time of highly publicized political and security issues in the region, as Ruan noted.

"Of course China does not shy away from political and security issues, but there is a condition, the discussion should not refer to specific bilateral disputes," Ruan said.

Some leaders talked about the disputes in the South China Sea at the summit and again expressed their concerns over free navigation on the waters of the sea. "But the issue of the South China Sea is not a conflict between China and ASEAN. And most ASEAN countries would not like to be attached to the issue at the multilateral forum nor spoil cooperation with China," Song analyzed.

At the summit Premier Li raised a five-pronged proposal to uphold and promote peace and stability in the South China Sea and urged outside countries to refrain from taking actions that may cause tension in the region.

However, "some major countries outside the region exercise their so-called freedom of navigation by sending airplanes and warships while strengthening military cooperation with other countries in the region," Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin said at a press briefing on November 22 on the sidelines of the summit.

In a presidential statement issued by the 27th ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN leaders said that they supported to settle the South China Sea disputes peacefully in accordance with the international law and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. ■

China-Africa's Joint Future

Shortly before the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in South Africa, Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi** contributed an article to a special issue of *ChinAfrica—Beijing Review's* French and English monthly publication—marking this event. Excerpts of Wang's article follow:

The Johannesburg Summit of the FOCAC in South Africa on December 4-5 will be a historic event. The summit, marking the 15th anniversary of the founding of FOCAC, will be the second of its kind in the history of China-Africa relations and the first to be held on the African continent. It has not only been highly anticipated in both China and Africa but has also attracted close attention from the international community.

China and its African friends jointly inaugurated FOCAC in 2000 to strengthen unity and cooperation and cope with challenges together. With the establishment of this collective dialogue platform and pragmatic cooperation mechanism, China and Africa have marched into the new century hand in hand.

With FOCAC at the helm, cooperation between China and Africa has progressed rapidly across the board over the past 15 years, leading to the consolidation of the China-Africa community of shared futures and interests. Political mutual trust between the two has deepened. Chinese state leaders have paid 149 visits to African countries and their African counterparts have made 379 trips to China. Mutual confidence has grown remarkably. China and Africa have always offered each other understanding and support on issues involving their core interests and major concerns.

Pragmatic cooperation in diverse areas has borne abundant fruit. While working more closely with Africa in traditional areas such as agriculture, health and education, China has



been active in expanding cooperation in emerging areas including finance, science and technology, and environmental protection. It is committed to assisting Africa in infrastructure construction and human resources development as well as supporting Africa's efforts to pursue independent and sustainable development. In 2014, the stock of China's non-financial direct investment in Africa was more than 60 times that in 2000,

and as for the China-Africa trade volume, 22 times. China has been Africa's largest trading partner country since 2009, contributing more than 20 percent to the latter's economic growth.

In addition, cultural ties between China and Africa have been further cemented, with a considerable increase in personnel exchanges in various sectors. Cooperation in peace and security has made strides. The Chinese Government has designated its special representative on African affairs. China has participated in 16 United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa. Over 2,700 Chinese peacekeeping troops, police officers and military staff members are now serving in seven mission areas on the continent. All these efforts have contributed to Africa's peace and development.

Thanks to the joint efforts of China and Africa, FOCAC has become a flagship institution with great vitality and appeal spearheading the development of China-Africa relations, as well as a highly recognized initiative in international cooperation involving Africa. This is due to the

following reasons:

First, adherence to sincerity, friendship and equality. This is a fine tradition in China's relations with Africa as well as a political advantage in China's diplomatic policies. In its exchanges and cooperation with Africa, China has always respected the African initiative, is attentive to African countries' opinions, and accommodates their concerns. It empathizes with Africa, shares its concerns and refrains from attaching political strings or imposing unreasonable demands. The decisions to upgrade the Third FOCAC Ministerial Conference in 2006 to the Beijing Summit and the Sixth FOCAC Ministerial Conference this year to the Johannesburg Summit were both taken based on African countries' suggestions and consultations between China and Africa, exemplifying their mutual respect and equality.

Second, honoring promises and valuing pragmatism and efficiency. Since the establishment of FOCAC, the Chinese Government has been initiating a series of pragmatic measures at FOCAC meetings every three years to support African development and enhance China-Africa cooperation. China has always lived up to its promises and endeavored to achieve the best possible outcome. It never issues a "bad check" and conscientiously fulfills its commitments with the goal of providing concrete support for African countries so that they can achieve self-reliant and sustainable development. Since 2008, the Chinese economy has been confronted with downward pressure in the aftermath of the global economic and financial crisis and also partly due to its own internal economic restructuring. Even so, China has honored its commitments and fulfilled its promises under the FOCAC framework. In light of the new circumstances and demands of development of both sides, China is planning new measures that will help boost China-Africa mutually beneficial cooperation and common development in the next three years.

Keeping abreast of the times and striving to be pioneering and innovative. FOCAC is the first institutional dialogue and cooperation-oriented platform of its kind established by China with other developing countries. It is, in itself, a big innovation. The FOCAC Beijing Summit was the first time China has held a large-scale summit conference. The Johannesburg Summit will be the first overseas summit with China being the co-host. A multi-level consultation mechanism has been built within the FOCAC framework and has inspired the establishment of a dozen more sub-forums. These are the results of the collective wisdom of China and African countries and the new achievements of innovative and pioneering China-Africa cooperation. Since the launch of FOCAC, China and Africa have strived to expand areas of cooperation, explore new potential and models for collaboration, and mobilize new participants and resources to ensure the vigor and vitality of China-Africa cooperation. We can be reassured that this summit will inject a strong impetus into China-Africa mutually beneficial cooperation and common development; that the industrialization and agricultural modernization process in Africa will pick up steam; and that China-Africa cooperation in all fields will be enhanced.

Third, attaching great importance to political concurrence and effective coordination. Chinese leaders have always placed high value on China-Africa relations and FOCAC affairs. Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Africa in 2013 during his first trip overseas as China's head of state. He reaffirmed the principles of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith and a balanced approach to principles and interests. President Xi will co-host the Johannesburg Summit with South African President Jacob Zuma. The Chinese Follow-up Committee of FOCAC, made up of more than 40 member institutions, is in charge of coordinating with government departments of China for concerted efforts to push forward China-Africa collaboration. Close contact and coordination will be maintained between the Chinese Government and governments of African countries and between the Follow-up Committee and the African Diplomatic Corps in China.

Currently, the international situation is undergoing a profound and complicated change, which has brought enormous opportunities for the development of all countries as well as challenges. China is advancing reform in an all-round way and its industrialization has entered a mature stage. It means China has

China-Africa cooperation is soon expected to witness qualitative transformation after decades of incremental change

an abundance of advantageous industries and spare capacity that can be deployed overseas. Moreover, China is more than determined to assist African countries to achieve independent and sustainable development. Africa, though with fledgling industrialization, is blessed with rich natural and human resources and great market potential; hence its desire is to receive spare capacity from industrialized economies to promote its own industrialization and modernization. China and Africa are in different stages of development with complementary industries. Our cooperation is soon expected to witness qualitative transformation after decades of incremental change. China and Africa, each with its own unique and comparative advantages, have embraced a new historic opportunity for development.

With China-Africa relations reaching a new starting point, the Johannesburg Summit is being held at the right time. Chinese and African leaders getting together to renew friendship, discuss further cooperation and seek common development will draw a new blueprint for and inject new vigor into China-African relations, and open a new chapter in China-Africa win-win cooperation and common development. The Johannesburg Summit will definitely be a historic event that will strengthen China-Africa solidarity and guide future China-Africa cooperation.

The summit will take China-Africa relations to a new high. It will comprehensively evaluate the position of China-Africa relations in the two sides' respective development and foreign policies, upgrade the new strategic positioning of China-Africa relations, and add new substance to them. China will take this opportunity to formulate a new version of its Africa policy, systematically expounding President Xi's new ideas, policies and measures toward Africa, and guiding the future development of China-Africa relations.

The Johannesburg Summit will raise the quality and efficiency of China-Africa cooperation. It will discuss how to align the development strategies of both sides and closely link China's development with Africa's independent and sustainable development. It will unveil new

measures to promote China-Africa pragmatic collaboration. These measures will leverage industrial alignment and capacity cooperation, enable the market to play a leading role, allow enterprises to become major market players, and upgrade China's investment in and trade with Africa. They will also help promote Africa's industrialization and agricultural modernization, and turn China and Africa's respective advantages and development potential into real achievements.

The Johannesburg Summit will ensure that China-Africa cooperation delivers more benefits to the people. New measures to be put forward at the summit will focus on helping Africa solve two development bottlenecks, poor infrastructure and skills shortage. The new measures will prioritize supporting Africa to build an independent and sustainable industrial system, a food security system and a disease prevention and control system. They will underscore resolving three major livelihood issues—employment, food and health. All this is intended to have Chinese and African people share the results of the mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Africa.

The Johannesburg Summit will push forward China-Africa cooperation for the greater good of the world. Cooperation between China and Africa is an integral part of South-South cooperation. China-Africa mutually beneficial cooperation and common development will play a guiding and exemplary role for South-South cooperation and help increase the overall strength and influence of all developing countries, promote South-North cooperation and make the world order and global governance system more balanced and equitable, thus contributing to the establishment of a new type of international relations focusing on mutually beneficial cooperation.

In retrospect, China-Africa cooperation has been fruitful, beneficial to both sides, and welcomed by the people. Looking ahead, China and Africa will implement the results of this summit and take this opportunity to usher in a new era of mutually beneficial cooperation and common development together. ■

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Tempering A Warming Climate

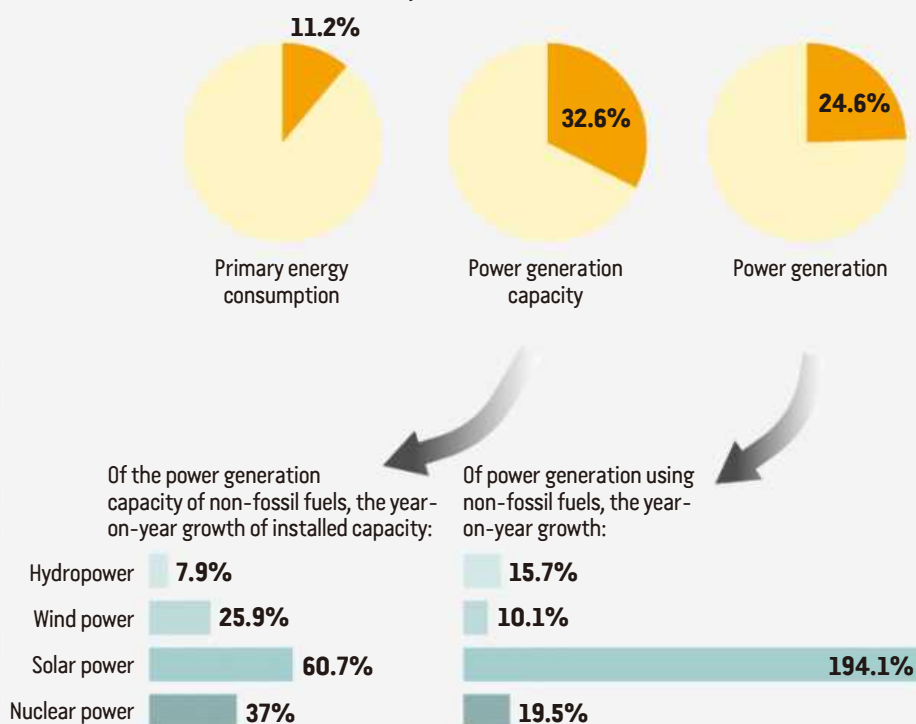
Rising temperatures and the risks they bring demand action By Deng Yaqing



Afforestation projects in Yanqing County of Beijing have been carried out since 2012

Non-Fossil Fuel Share in China's Energy Sector

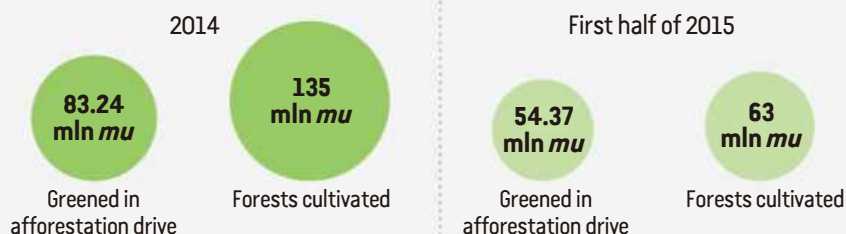
By the end of 2014



Paris is currently experiencing an unprecedented amount of hustling and busting for the next two-week period. Thousands of government leaders, negotiators, scholars and non-governmental representatives are gathering at the Paris UN climate change summit. Their goal: to finish sealing a fully articulated and legally binding agreement on curbing climate change after 2020.

"By now, a total of 160 nations have submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) on tackling climate change after 2020 to the secretariat of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and it's expected that other nations will follow suit," said Xie Zhenhua, Chinese special representative on climate change at a press conference in Beijing on November 19. This reflects "that the world is making concerted efforts to address the increasingly grave global problem," said Xie.

Afforestation (1 mu=0.067 hectare)



(Source: China's Policies and Actions for Addressing Climate Change 2015, Designed by Pamela Tobey)

"Humans clearly influence the climate system, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history," the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said in an assessment report released on November 2, 2014. "Each of the last three decades have been successively warmer

on [the Earth's surface] than any preceding decade since 1850. The period from 1983 to 2012 was likely the warmest 30-year period of the last 1,400 years in the Northern Hemisphere," said the IPCC report.

According to calculations by the UNFCCC, without an agreement in Paris, the global tem- ►►

↓ Seven Carbon Emission Trading Pilot Programs



perature might experience an increase of 4-5 degrees Celsius by 2100, which will far exceed the critical limit of rising by no more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Reviewing the developmental history of the Earth, one can find that the temperature differences between the pre-industrial world and

the last ice age was a mere 4-7 degrees Celsius, which indicates that small changes in temperatures may mean big differences for the planet.

Still, the joint actions of the 146 countries that had submitted their INDCs by October 1 may lead the average global temperature to rise by around 2.7 degree Celsius by 2100. This

outlines a failure in achieving the goal of rising below the 2-degree-Celsius limit, according to a report released by the UN on October 30.

Following the submission of INDCs, at a ministerial meeting in Beijing on October 30-31, four large developing countries—India, China, Brazil and South Africa—agreed that the Paris summit should be based on the principles of the UNFCCC. In particular, they stressed the equality principle, and the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Developing countries have already taken more active measures to cope with climate change than their developed counterparts. The developed world should further reinforce their emission reduction endeavors and ensure sustained and sufficient support in terms of financing, technology development and transfer. That is in addition to the capacity to support developing countries, especially the promised \$100 billion a year by 2020 and intensified support after 2020, agreed on by the four countries.

“Now, what underlies the success of the Paris summit is whether the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities can be fully respected and whether the developed world will fulfill its promise to provide developing countries with financial and technological support. That is the foundation to establishing mutual political trust,” Xie stressed.

China's endeavors

As the largest greenhouse gas emitter and the second largest economy, China shows a firm determination to carry out global climate governance by unveiling a series of joint announcements with the United States, France, India, the EU and Brazil and taking an initiative to submit its INDCs, said Li Peilin, Vice President of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

In early November in Beijing, Chinese

President Xi Jinping and his French counterpart François Hollande made a joint statement on climate change, pledging to promote a working program to speed up pre-2020 efforts in mitigation, adaptation and support during the Paris summit. Both agreed that any global treaty on climate change reached in the summit should include a mechanism to monitor progress on emission cuts every five years.

Predating that, President Xi had also met U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C. and outlined the new steps that the two countries will take to deliver on pledges made in 2014 to slash their greenhouse gas emissions. China will launch its national emission trading system in 2017, covering key industrial sectors such as iron and steel, power generation, chemicals and building materials. In addition, the nation will channel a total of 20 billion yuan (\$3.13 billion) to set up the China South-South Climate Cooperation Fund to assist developing countries in the fight against climate change, matching the United States' similar pledge.

Aside from that, the Chinese Government has been committed to carrying out industrial restructuring, advancing energy conservation and efficiency of energy use, optimizing energy structure and boosting the forest carbon sink.

In 2014, carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP fell by 6.2 percent year-on-year and 15.8 percent compared to 2010, accomplishing 92.3 percent of the carbon intensity reduction goal set by China's 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15). Energy consumption per unit of GDP fell by 4.8 percent, compared to the 3.7 percent that was registered in 2013.

Efforts were also made to eliminate 4,858-megawatt thermal power generation units, 31.1-million-ton backward steel production capacity, 87 million tons of cement production capacity and 37.6 million weights of plate glass cases. In addition, a total area of

83.24 million *mu* (5.55 million hectares) were planted in an afforestation drive and 135 million *mu* (9 million hectares) of forests were raised in 2014. In the first half of 2015, a total of 54.37 million *mu* (3.62 million hectares) were managed in afforestation initiative, and 63 million *mu* (4.2 million hectares) of forests were cultivated, according to China's Policies and Actions for Addressing Climate Change 2015.

Pressing forward

In its INDCs submitted in June, China promises to peak its carbon dioxide emissions by 2030, lower carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by 60 percent from 65 percent, jack up the share of non-fossil fuels in the primary energy mix to roughly 20 percent and increase the volume of forest stock by roughly 4.5 billion cubic meters over the level in 2005.

"China has also laid out adaptation measures, such as improving its early-stage alarming and forecasting system, adopting disaster reduction and prevention actions and promoting infrastructure construction for addressing climate change," said Xie, noting that more measures were included in a national climate change adaptation plan released earlier.

Apparently, the pre-convention exchanges and communications of the Paris summit are more efficient and adequate than that of the Copenhagen summit, which will facilitate the process of wrapping up a legally binding treaty, said He Jiankun, Deputy Director of National Expert Committee on Climate Change.

Countries draw up their own INDCs according to their respective development stage and national condition. This is more rational and viable than forcing countries to reach rigid, allocated targets, said He, suggesting that combating climate change is not a zero-sum game but a mutually beneficial action. ■

China's Climate Change Mitigation Highlights

On June 30, the Chinese Government submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), detailing its commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation for the post-2020 period. China's specific goals include:

- To achieve peak carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 2030, or sooner as best efforts allow;
- To lower carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by 60 percent to 65 percent from 2005 levels;
- To increase the share of non-fossil fuels in the primary energy mix to approximately 20 percent;
- To increase the volume of forest stock by approximately 4.5 billion cubic meters over 2005 levels; and
- To continue to proactively adapt to climate change through: enhanced mechanism- and capacity-building; the effective management of climate change risks in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and water resources and in regions including urban, coastal and ecologically vulnerable areas; improved early warning and emergency response systems and disaster prevention and mitigation mechanisms.

(Source: *Enhanced Actions on Climate Change: China's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions*)

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Third Pole Challenges

The Pristine Tibetan plateau faces complex climate changes **By Yu Lintao**

As the globe's Third Pole, changes in the Tibetan Plateau's environment are closely linked to the evolution of the environment and ecosystem of the world, and Eurasia in particular.

The Hindu Kush-Himalayan region spans an area of more than 4.3 million square km in China, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan. The region stores more ice and snow than anywhere else in the world outside the polar regions, hence its name: The Third Pole. According to the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the area contains the world's tallest

mountains, including all 14 peaks above 8,000 meters, is the source of 10 major rivers, and forms a "formidable global ecological buffer."

However, a recent report on environmental change of the world's highest plateau published by the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research (ITPR) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) showed that as a result of global warming and human activity, the Tibetan Plateau is becoming both warmer and moister, and that natural disasters are on the rise.

Fortunately, the report also showed that despite dark projections for the long-term effects of climate change, the Tibetan Plateau remains

one of the world's cleanest expanses.

A warming plateau

The environmental assessment report reviewed the changes on the Tibetan Plateau over the past 2,000 years and previewed its environment's evolution in the upcoming century. This was achieved through the efforts of more than 70 specialists from China, the United States, Sweden, Canada and several other contributors.

Data gathered by the report showed that the Tibetan Plateau has become more hot and humid, particularly over the past 50 years. The average annual temperature in the region rose by 0.3-0.4 degree Celsius every 10 years from 1960 to 2012, about twice the average of the rest of the world. The temperatures rose more sharply during the winter compared to historical averages, as well as in the northern part of the plateau.

Ice core records showed that temperatures in the region rose the most during the 20th century. According to climate change models, the next 100 years may see the plateau warming by up to 4 degrees Celsius.

Xu Baiqing, a researcher with the ITPR and an author of the report, said that high-altitude areas are more vulnerable to global warming, so it is worrying but not surprising that temperatures on the Tibetan Plateau rose faster than the global average. Worse yet, the rising temperatures across the plateau are accompanied



Mountain Qomolangma—known as Mount Everest in the West—towers 8,844.43 meters above sea level

by retreating glaciers, disappearing permafrost and increasing natural disasters.

According to the report, glaciers on the plateau have been decreasing in size since the 20th century due to rising temperatures, and at a faster rate since the 1990s. Glacier shrinkage in the plateau is the most prominent in the Himalayan Mountains and Southeast Tibet, whereas glaciers stay

relatively stable, or are even growing, in the Karakoram and Western Kunlun region.

Due to glacial melting, both the number and area of the lakes on the Tibetan Plateau have increased notably. The number of lakes exceeding 1 square km climbed from 1,081 in the 1970s to 1,236 in 2010, and 80 percent of lakes in the region have been expanding.

ICIMOD's website states that "mountain systems are particularly sensitive to climate change and that the Third Pole region is home to some of the people most vulnerable to these changes in the world. Changes in the river systems and their basins have directly impacted on the wellbeing of millions of people."

Xu noted that against the backdrop of global warming, glacier loss is not unique to the Tibetan Plateau, but a common crisis that all plateaus are facing. Still, as ICIMOD has noted, as the rate of warming in the Third Pole region is significantly higher than the global average, and the rate is higher at higher altitudes, it suggests "a greater vulnerability of the cryosphere environment to climate change."

Natural disasters

Just as alarming are the increasing number and occurrences of natural disasters on the Tibetan Plateau as a result of global warming and increased human activity. The report said that disasters including landslides, torrential floods and avalanches are all expected to increase in

the coming years, while fires will be more difficult to prevent and extinguish.

Data provided by the report showed that about 1,500 mountain torrents were reported on the plateau from 1950 to 2010, when strong and fast-moving water rushed down the slopes. The worst was in 1998 when more than 50 counties in Tibet Autonomous Region were affected.

Meanwhile, the report warned that frozen lakes and barrier lakes on the plateau are also posing a threat as more than 20 have overflowed during the course of the 20th century, leading to severe flooding in the region.

The report also recorded the fact that as one of the major forests in the nation, the risk of fire in this region is also high due to strong winds and a decrease in the total amount of rain and snow. From 1988 to 2014, a total of 373 forest fires were reported, according to the study. In addition, the scale of snow storms and avalanches has markedly expanded over the past 40 years under the influence of climate change and human activities.

A pure land

According to the ITPR report, airborne pollutants on the plateau have increased by 200 percent since the 1950s. However, both black carbon—a climate changing agent that heats the atmosphere and warms Earth—and persistent organic pollutants remain at a relatively low level, which is close to or lower than in the Arctic or the Alps, it notes. Though the level of heavy metal recorded in ice and lake cores of the plateau is higher than or similar to the South and North Pole regions, it is much lower than that in most areas.

Zhang Xianzhou, a researcher with the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research under CAS, told reporters that the report shows the ecological environment of the Tibetan Plateau has been well preserved despite the onset of global warming and an increase of human activities in the region.

Xie Pengyun, Deputy Director of the ITPR, claimed that the sound ecological status quo of the Tibetan Plateau is inextricably linked to the

efforts of the central and regional governments.

Based on data from reports of Xinhua News Agency, in order to protect the fragile environment on the Tibetan Plateau, the regional government of Tibet banned the mining of gold dust in 2006 and the exploitation of iron sand in 2008 as mineral resource exploration in Tibet had caused severe environmental damage. Fifty-six renovation projects had been carried out by 2010, in areas with a total size of 77.11 square km. Forty mining companies in Tibet that failed to meet environmental standards have been closed since 2010. Moreover, by 2010, areas with registered mining rights covered only 749.62 square km, less than 0.1 percent of the autonomous region's total area thanks to tightened controls.

Xu of the ITPR also noted that Tibet's energy consumption mainly relies on clean energy and it has a service-dominant industrial mix, which also means less pollution compared to densely populated areas.

Some experts said that despite a retreat of the permafrost and the partial desertification of the Tibetan Plateau, the ecosystem is improving overall with the vegetation coverage of the plateau increasing remarkably, the boundaries of frigid and sub-frigid zones moving westward and northward, and the temperate zone expanding.

On one hand, as the Tibetan Plateau becomes warmer and moister, it will also become more suitable for vegetation growth and human habitation and production, said Xu. The report also noted that the scope of arable land has been expanding since the mid-1970s on the plateau, which helps increase the income of farmers and herdsmen.

Nevertheless, the report called for more government efforts protecting the ecology of the plateau. It suggested that a model green zone be established in Changtang, a high altitude plateau in western and northern Tibet and also China's highest vulnerable environment, which will be a safe and clean habitat for wild animals such as Tibetan antelopes and yaks. ■

Copiedited by Mara Lee Durrell
Comments to yulintao@bjreview.com

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Ritz-Carlton Beijing, Financial Street, Brings Happy Holidays!

Christmas is the most magical time of year and once again at the Ritz-Carlton it promises to be anything but just another occasion. The Ritz-Carlton Beijing, Financial Street's four sophisticated dining and entertainment destinations continue to take Beijing dining to new heights and attract a high-flying social scene. Capture the magic of the season as the bustling Ritz-Carlton Beijing, Financial Street warmly welcomes you with luxurious comfort and an ever-lasting excellence of service from elegant ladies and gentlemen. Prepare to be enchanted once again and let your expectations culminate on a high note with glitz and glamor.

Greenfish Restaurant

● Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet

Thursday, December 24, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

With an elegant festival atmosphere and personalized service, Greenfish invites you to explore the best local and international dishes including an extravagant seafood station consisting of Dublin Bay Prawn, Blue Flower Crab, Alaskan King Crab, Tiger Prawns, Brown Crab Claw's and Boston Lobster. In addition, expect seasonal appetizers with signature pressed duck terrine with goose liver, choices of salad, soup, bread, entrées, as well as Roasted Christmas Turkey with traditional stuffing and assorted desserts from China, Asia, France, Italy and America. Lucky draws include prizes such as iPhone 6s and Moët Chandon Champagne. A special guest appearance from Santa Claus will surely surprise the little ones.

1088 yuan per person, including a glass of Moët & Chandon Champagne, coffee, tea and soft drinks

588 yuan per child between the ages of 6 to 12

● Christmas Brunch

Friday, December 25, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The joyous mood continues on Christmas Day. The festive menu presents fresh seafood, mouth-watering Honey-Glazed Ham, traditional Roast Turkey with condiments, juicy Roasted Prime Ribs, Portuguese Style Stewed Oxtail, Char-Grilled Lamb Skewers with peanut sauce and vegetables, Belgian Waffles with rich homemade sauces, Christmas Puddings and other tempting desserts.

488 yuan per person, including juice and soft drinks

248 yuan per child between the ages of 6 to 12, including juice and soft drinks

Cépe Restaurant

● Gran Cenone Di Natale

Thursday, December 24/Friday, December 25

Enjoy Christmas Eve Dinner at the award-winning Cépe. Chef Fabio brings our guests an innovative menu infused with the traditional festival flavors of Italy and a unique taste influenced by advanced cooking techniques, healthy ingredients and unique spices. This exquisite six-course dinner starts with Foie Gras with Toasted Hazelnuts, Balsamic and Raspberry, then Lobster Ravioli, with Mozzarella Juice and Wild Turnip, followed by innovative Italian Parsley Risotto with Egg Cream

and Black Truffle. In addition, taste the Turbot with Cotechino Crust, Braised Lentils and Celery Salad or succulent Waygu Tenderloin with Hollandaise Sauce and Shiso Leaves. Last but not least, try the decadent Chocolate Consistency with Beetroot Ice Cream which crowns the dinner.

1224 yuan per person, including a glass of Moët & Chandon Champagne

● New Year's Eve Dinner

Thursday, December 31

Enjoy an extravagant six-course dinner featuring Steamed Oyster with Milanese Sauce and Caviar, the famous Parmesan Ravioli with Braised Leek and Black Truffles, the enticing Langoustine Risotto with Champagne and Citrus, the Pan Seared Turbot with Artichoke Cream and Foie Gras Sphere and the succulent 57 Sous Vide Canard Breast with Duck Praline, Butternut Squash and Crispy Barley. Complete the dinner with a traditional dessert of Pumpkin Parfait, Crunchy Hazelnut or Chocolate Mousse specially designed to celebrate the holiday season.

1288 yuan per person

Qi Restaurant

● Christmas Eve Dinner

Thursday, December 24

Enjoy two delightful seven-course dinner menus featuring Double-Boiled Sea Cucumber Soup with Baby Abalone and Chinese Herbs, along with Fried Prawns with Wasabi Sauce and Wok-Fried Scallops with Lily and Celery, and Braised Cod Fish with Black Garlic and Teriyaki Sauce in a Clay Pot and Stir-Fried Asparagus as well as other culinary favorites all prepared in the finest of Chinese traditions! The Christmas Turkey is included into the menu as an appetizer.

688 yuan per person including one glass of selected wine

An a la carte menu is also available.

● New Year's Eve Dinner

Thursday, December 31

A seven-course Chinese set menu will be offered as well as an exceptional a la carte selection, including several typical dishes traditionally eaten to usher in wealth, happiness and good fortune. These include assorted Chinese appetizers such as Steamed Tiger Garouper with Baby Black Fungus, and Pan-Fried Prawn with Soy Sauce and Sautéed Beef with Assorted Peppers as well as other culinary delights that are sure to please.

688 yuan per person including one glass of selected wine

An a la carte menu is also available.

● Christmas Hampers

Get ready for Christmas with mouth-watering hampers! A selection of indulgent gourmet foods, gift leather baskets and more are essential for the perfect Christmas gift. The luxurious hamper includes the following items: The Ritz-Carlton Chocolate Santa Claus, Panettone, Christmas Stollen, a Gingerbread House, a bottle of House Red Wine and so on.

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For Life's Sake

A pilot scheme has been launched to provide patients more choices

By Yin Pumin

An experimental program aimed at loosening drug approval systems has been launched on November 5. The program, which will also handle the management of medical devices, was spread across 10 provinces, according to China's food and drug authority.

The scheme is designed to promote pharmaceutical innovation and improve the quality of the drugs by giving more incentives to researchers.

The trial will allow research and development bodies as well as individual researchers to apply directly for drug approvals, according to the China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA). Currently, only drug manufacturers can apply for approvals, and drug researchers are required to transfer their findings to producers.

"Researchers have long been put at a disadvantage and cannot obtain full proceeds after the medication hits the market, giving them little incentive to come up with new products," said Bi Jingquan, head of the CFDA. Bi made the remarks at the 17th Plenary Session of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislative body, which was held from October 30 to November 4.

China's pharmaceutical market is estimated to hit \$185 billion by 2018, as stated by IMS Health, an American health market research firm. Chinese and foreign drug makers are competing fiercely for their share of the lucrative market.

However, the current rules make it hard for smaller, research-based firms to bring new drugs to market, since they need to invest in expensive manufacturing plants before seeking approval.

The ongoing pilot scheme is being conducted throughout Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai municipalities as well as Hebei, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong, Guangdong and Sichuan provinces.

After three years, the State Council, China's cabinet, will submit a report on the experiment

to the NPC, which will then decide whether or not to formally revise the current law on drug administration.

Improving quality

According to the CFDA, the pilot scheme also aims at increasing China's pharmaceutical development compared to developed countries and seeks to promote generic drugs made in China to the global market.

In August, the State Council released a new set of guidelines on reforming the review and approval procedures for drugs and medical devices.

The document emphasizes creating a more transparent and efficient system. It also focuses on addressing the backlog of applicants by the end of 2016, improving the quality of the generic drugs and encouraging the development of proprietary drugs.

The quality of some generic drugs produced in China lags behind their international counterparts, a problem which reforming the drug review and approval system could address, Bi admitted.

"Struggling to meet public demand for medication, China's drug review and approval system does not suit the development of the drug-making industry," Bi said.

Currently, drugs fall into "new" and "generic" categories in China. The guidelines released by the State Council state that new drugs will be further classified into proprietary drugs and improved forms of new drugs.

Furthermore, the guidelines provide additional definitions for "new drugs," referring to drugs that have not yet been marketed anywhere in the world, a more restricted term than the previous definition. The outdated definition also included drugs not yet marketed in China. As for "generic drugs," the guidelines define them as products consistent with the original drug in terms of quality and efficacy.

The concept of "generic drugs" comes from the United States in 1984, when the

patents of some 150 types of common drugs had expired. In order to keep the drugs in circulation, the U.S. Government issued a regulation stating that pharmaceutical companies can continue producing copies. However, the new producer must prove that its own medical products are therapeutically equivalent to the specified, previously approved "reference listed drug" that they're emulating. Thus, the term "generic drugs" was born.

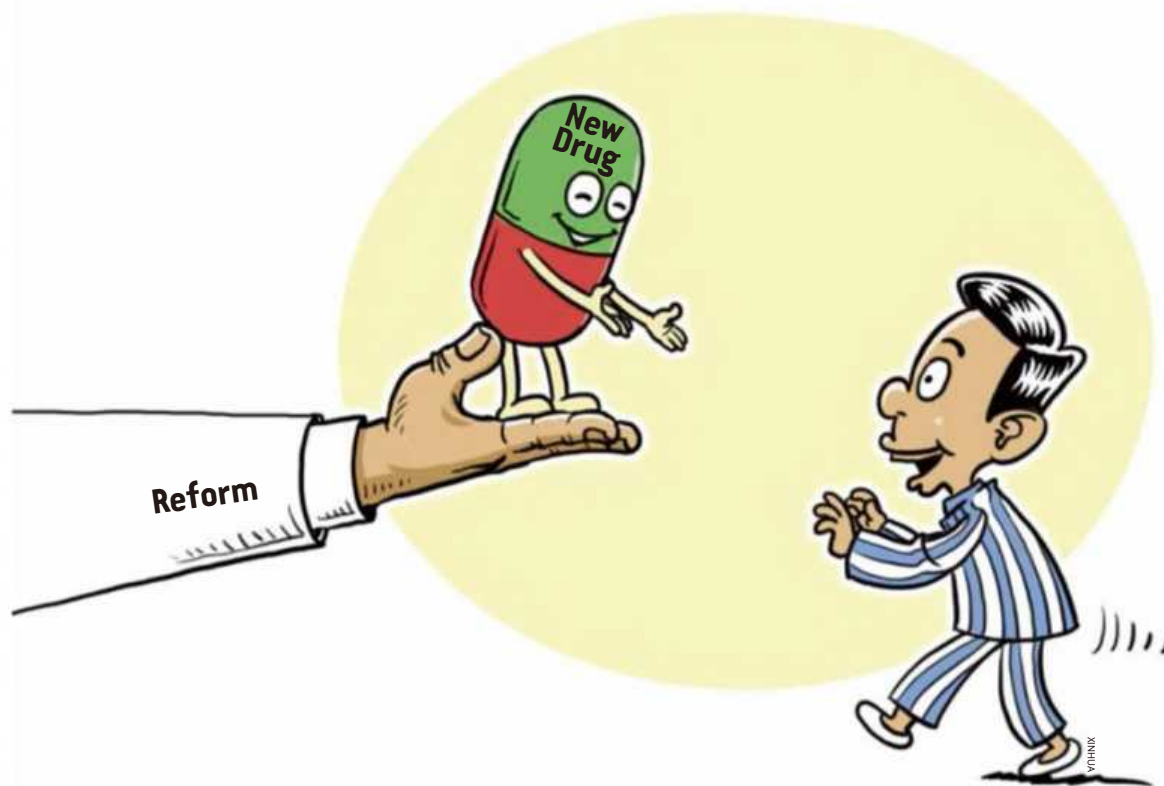
Currently, generic drugs constitute the majority of China's drug supply. According to Pan Guangcheng, Executive Vice Chairman of the Beijing-based China Pharmaceutical Industry Association, most of the current 121,000 approval certificates for chemical drugs held by Chinese pharmaceutical enterprises are for generic products. In 2014, among the newly approved chemical drugs, 220 were generic, amounting to 47 percent; 127 were new drugs, accounting for 27 percent; and 63 were imported brand drugs, resulting in 14 percent of the total figure.

"China is a big country [when it comes to] producing generic drugs, but its development of drugs is less optimistic," Pan said. According to him, the approval standards for generic drugs in China were not strict enough in the past. Also, few medical enterprises were willing to do research comparing their own products to the original drugs, which led to poorer quality.

However, the quality and efficacy of the drugs are key elements that influence patients' choices.

The Shanghai Cancer Recovery Club is a self-help and mutual-aid nongovernmental organization formed by cancer patients. Currently, the club has 16,000 members.

According to Yuan Zhengping, President of the club, few of his members choose to take Chinese-made generic drugs. "Most of them [prefer] to buy expensive imported branded drugs or Indian-made generics. They just don't trust Chinese alternatives," Yuan said.



According to industry insiders, since China's current national standards for generic drugs have no obligatory requirements for those producers to do bioequivalence experiments, many generic drugs made in China are just products re-imitating previous product versions. As a result, the efficacy of these drugs is unlikely to be guaranteed.

To improve the quality and efficacy of China's generics, the ongoing pilot scheme stipulates that those approved drugs should not only meet the national standard but also be up to the quality and efficacy of the original products.

Lowering prices

Industry insiders say that the change of narrative from just "up to the national standard" to "consistent with the quality and efficacy of the originator products" will greatly raise the approval criteria for homemade generic drugs and help improve their quality.

"The decision will also help promote the upgrading of China's healthcare industry," said Jiang Hualiang, Director of the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The reality is that the price of many

medicines sold in China is higher than those in foreign countries.

Take, for example, the anti-cancer drug Glivec that is produced by the Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis. It costs 23,000 yuan (\$3,598) per monthly dose in China, compared with about \$2,500 in Japan and \$2,130 in the United States.

Last year, a high-profile case involving a Chinese leukemia patient buying generic Indian drugs drew public attention to the issue.

Lu Yong, then 46 years old, was diagnosed with leukemia in 2002. He had been prescribed Glivec.

In 2004, Lu turned to Veenat—a much cheaper, generic version of Glivec. It is made in India and costs only 4,000 yuan (\$626) for a month's supply. After he discovered that the drug worked, Lu began to buy more of the medicine for himself and even helped other patients he met online to purchase it.

However, any medication that has not been approved by the Chinese authorities is considered illegal. In July 2014, a procuratorate in Yuanjiang, central China's Hunan Province, filed charges against Lu for selling "fake medication."

After Lu was sued, more than 400 leukemia patients signed a petition pleading the judicial organs to remit the criminal punishment

against him.

In February, procurators dropped the charges against Lu.

Ma Dexiu, a retired professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, blames the monopolistic status of China's medical market for pushing the drug price so high. "There is only one way to break the monopoly—by improving the capabilities and levels of those pharmaceutical enterprises in researching and developing innovative and generic drugs," she said.

Ma believes that the pilot program to reform drug approval procedures can help improve China's pharmaceutical enterprises' research and development capabilities.

Zhao Daqing, a professor at the Changchun University of Chinese Medicines in northeast China's Jilin Province, agreed. He said that the pilot will motivate researchers' incentives and help set up more research-oriented pharmaceutical enterprises.

"With more new drugs appearing, the quality of the overall medical industry will be greatly improved and the price of medicines will be naturally lowered," he noted. ■

Copiedited by Bryan Michael Galvan
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Cushioning a Hard Landing

Although challenges remain, China's economic future is still optimistic

By Ding Ying



Visitors are drawn in by two dancing robots at the World Robot Conference 2015 in Beijing on November 24. The event was held in a bid to boost the development of China's robotics industry

Before 2014, China was cautiously enthused by the high-speed economic growth of the past two decades. As its economic growth rate is expected to decrease by 0.5 percentage points compared to last year, is China's economy going to face a "hard landing" under the pressure?

Stephen Roach, U.S. economist and senior fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs and former chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, recently sat down at a seminar to address opinions regarding the question. Roach

believes that a hard landing of the Chinese economy is not fact, but fiction.

Time of transition

In 2014, China's annual economic growth rate dropped to 7.4 percent, the first time it has fallen below 8 percent. Meanwhile, the country's annual gross domestic production (GDP) hit a record high of 63.65 trillion yuan (about \$10 trillion).

In September 2015, amid the waning turmoil of the stock market drop, the Chinese

Academy of Social Sciences released a report forecasting that China's annual economic growth for 2015 will be 6.9 percent.

On October 19, China's National Bureau of Statistics announced that the country's GDP grew at 6.9 percent in the first three quarters of this year.

"I am China-optimistic," stressed Roach on November 19 at the seminar hosted by China Institute in America, a nonprofit educational and cultural institution in New York City, founded in 1926.

Roach pointed out that, considering the country's GDP, a 6.9-percent growth rate is high enough for China, which is now the second largest economy in the world.

Although China's economic growth rate is indeed slowing down, there is no reason to worry about China's economic future. That is because the decreasing GDP growth is still part of a natural stage of the economic transition that China is undergoing, according to Roach. "Now China is transforming from a key producer into a key consumer," he emphasized.

China faces numerous difficulties as it transitions from investment- and export-led growth toward domestic consumption goals. Roach explained that China's fast-growing domestic consumption will serve as the impetus that will drive the country past relative hard times.

For example, on November 11—the so-called Singles Day in China, the leading e-commerce platform Alibaba's Tmall saw its daily trade volume reach a record high of 91.22 billion yuan (\$14.4 billion), which reflected China's robust consumption ability and potential.

According to Roach's research, the services industry will take over 65-70 percent of China's economy during coming 20 years. The emerging services sector has generated development in two ways: urbanization and job creation in cities.

The Yale expert pointed out that in recent years, a majority of jobs in China have been shifting toward labor-intensive and services-led growth. The urban job creation target has been 10 million per year since 2013, while actual job growth was more than 30 percent above targeted job growth in 2013-14, he noticed. Even if the economy's growth decreases in 2015, the rates at which jobs are being created have accelerated in the first nine months of 2015, added Roach.

China's sustainable development strategy is very rational, stated the former investment bank chairman. According to the recently released Proposal on Formulating the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) on National Economic and Social Development, China's bottom line of

annual GDP growth will be 6.5 percent, which is 0.5 percentage points lower than that of the planned growth during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15) period.

The future planned growth rate of 6.5 percent is also lower than China's current growth rate, he pointed out. This means that the Chinese Government is not obsessed with the simple growth of a figure. "The key to an understanding of China is not in the GDP, but in the mixture of the economy," Roach said.

He greatly applauded China's current innovation enthusiasm, believing it will pump up China's production. "You can't do productivity without innovation," highlighted Roach.

Challenges amid chances

Chinese leaders have realized that economic transformation is a difficult but urgent task. In a speech on March 16, 2007, then-Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao pointed out that the old development model was "unstable, unbalanced, uncoordinated and unsustainable."

During China's 12th Five-Year Plan period, the Chinese Government had seen great progress in employment and wage growths. However, the development of creating a safety net had been left in the dust. According to Roach, "the government is now correctly giving priority to safety net building."

According to the proposal on formulating China's 13th Five-Year Plan, China will pay more attention to *hukou* (household registration) reform, the family planning policy, endowment insurance systems, funding mechanisms based on state-owned enterprises and healthcare reform, which are expected to greatly influence economic development.

China is undergoing economic transformation from a focus on manufacturing to services and from investment and exports toward consumption, as well as innovation-based industrial upgrades. Roach believes that against the complicated background of globalization, the Chinese Government should pay more attention to realizing more effective governance,

Stephen Roach's 10 Reasons Why Hard Landing Is Not True In China

- 1 Development strategies
- 2 Commitments
- 3 Wherewithal to deliver
- 4 High number of savings
- 5 Rural to urban migration
- 6 The low hanging fruit of consumption
- 7 The low hanging fruit of services
- 8 Direct foreign investment
- 9 Good education
- 10 Innovation

regulation and control of its giant economy.

He suggested China take up more measures to lower risks from areas like economic reform, excesses in the equity and property market, deleveraging, anti-corruption and environmental degradation.

"The anti-corruption campaign is absolutely essential for China to realize sustainable development," he stressed.

Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on November 13, that IMF staff assessed that the yuan meets the requirements to be a "freely usable" currency. It also proposed that the Executive Board include the yuan in the Special Drawing Rights basket as a fifth currency, along with the British pound, euro, Japanese yen, and the U.S. dollar. Roach believed such a decision will have great impact on the future of the yuan, and "it is encouraging news to China's ongoing financial reforms." ■

(Reporting from New York City)

Copiedited by Bryan Michael Galvan
Comments to dingying@bjreview.com

OPINION

A Supply and Demand Balancing Act

President Xi Jinping stressed that China should reform and strengthen the structure of its supply front in order to increase the quality and efficiency of the supply system and provide a growth impetus for sustainable economic development, while speaking at the 11th meeting of the Central Leading Group for Financial and Economic Affairs on November 11. This lays new groundwork for the development of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period.

Latest studies and discussions regarding the reform of the supply front have focused on a trend where management of the supply front will become the main economic focus, rather than the previous emphasis on demand.

The reform of the supply front indicates that there are problems on the supply side, which therefore demonstrates a natural shift in focus toward resolving those issues. However, the demand side is not yet perfect. Reforming the supply front does not mean that we can ignore the demand front. Instead, we should strike a balance between reforming both supply and demand sides.

Since the opening up and reform policies took hold in 1979, China has adopted a development strategy where the demand guides the supply and therefore the supply improves the demand conditions.

The logic behind this is that for a long time, there simply weren't enough supplies to meet both production and consumption demands.

As productivity was increasingly improved, the problem of short supply has been alleviated, and the issue has even disappeared in most sectors. In some areas the supply even exceeds demand, forming new problems. Especially after

the 2008 global financial crisis, such imbalances have become increasingly serious.

So how did China handle the 1997 Asian financial crisis and even rescue the entire regional economy with an export-oriented development pattern?

This was due to the fact that at the time, the Chinese market was balanced and the demand for Chinese products at home and abroad was vibrant. Even though there were problems on the supply front, they were effectively covered up by the vigorous demand of the time.

However, problems regarding high production capacity, low efficiency, low quality and low benefits on the supply front have imposed too much requirements on the demand front.

Moreover, after continued growth, the demand front has also entered a bottleneck, being unable to digest the excessive stockpiles from the supply front—hence an increasing imbalance between the two forces.

Therefore, a reform of the supply front is necessary and conforms to the current conditions of the Chinese economy.

The focus of the reform should be to address the issues of excessive production capacity, structural imbalance, inadequate independent innovation capacity, low product quality and brand value, and a lack of core competitiveness.

As for the government, their tasks should focus on how to create a sound market environment, how to formulate good reform rules, and how to build a fair and just market order.

Based on these proposals, the government should give full play to the role of enterprises as major market players, making them act more in

accordance with the market rules.

Should the government still use administrative methods to advance reforms, it may arouse conflicts of interests between the central and local governments, between different local governments and between local governments and companies. In particular, local authorities are likely to impede the implementation of various reform measures in order to protect their own interests.

Therefore, the success of the reform initiatives largely depends on whether the government can find a way to balance various interests and improve the industrial structure.

It is only when both the markets and the companies play a major role in the reform that it can achieve maximum efficiency.

By reforming the supply front, the Central Government aims at balancing demand and supply. Only enacting changes to the supply side is not enough.

The government must also make overall plans by taking all economic factors into consideration and coordinate between supply and demand.

In addition, the government should focus on improving distribution networks, removing various barriers and raising service levels, in order to achieve a state of equilibrium between supply and demand. ■

This is an edited excerpt of an article written by financial commentator Tan Haojun and published in *Securities Times*

Copyedited by Bryan Michael Galvan
Comments to yushujun@bjreview.com

NUMBERS

(\$1=6.3 yuan)

\$89 bln

China's investment in clean energy in 2014, the largest among 55 nations surveyed in a global report, Climatescope 2015

3.05 bln tons

China's coal production from January to October, falling 3.6 percent from a year ago

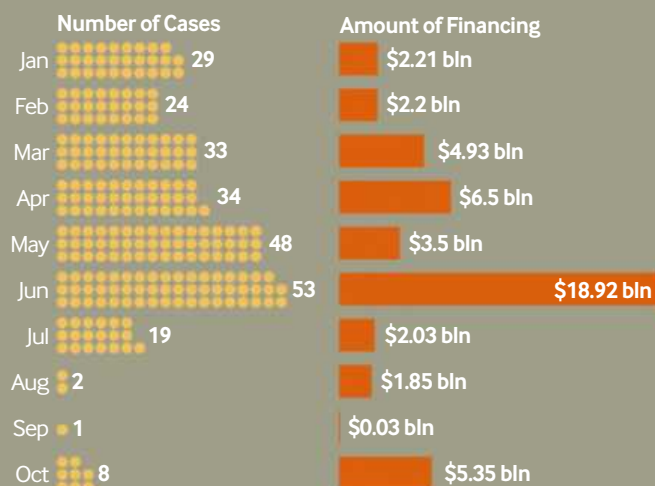
78%

Percentage of Chinese luxury consumption that happened outside of China in 2015

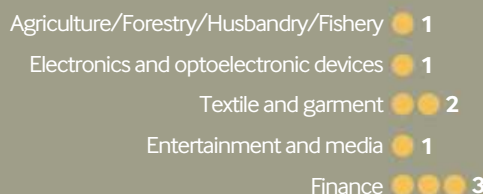
30.2%

The 2014 market share of Chinese firms regarding the global offshore service outsourcing, narrowing the gap with the current largest provider, India

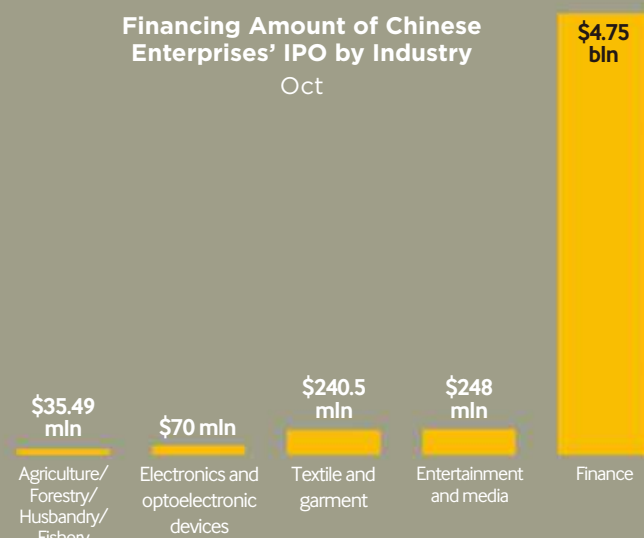
Chinese Enterprises' IPO Jan-Oct



Cases of Chinese Enterprises' IPO by Industry Oct



Financing Amount of Chinese Enterprises' IPO by Industry Oct



(Source: Zero2IPO)

800 bln yuan

The predicted value of China's cosmetic surgery industry by 2019

188.6 tln yuan

The onshore assets of China's banking institutions, including commercial banks, policy banks and rural credit cooperatives, as of the end of October, climbing 15 percent from a year ago

174 tln yuan

Total liabilities of China's banking institutions at the end of October, a 14.3-percent increase over the same period last year

1.3 tln yuan

China's investment in research and development in 2014, up 9.9 percent from 2013 with the country seeking to find a new competitive edge as the era of cheap labor and fast exports ends

HOTEL INFORMATION



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Enlightenment Beckons

Buddhism continues to be an important component of Chinese culture

By Tang Yuankai

On Yin Xiaotian's rearview mirror hangs a pendant with the Chinese character for Buddha. When the 44-year-old Beijing office worker adopted Buddhism, he was just hoping for luck and fortune. But the religion has taken on deeper meaning and is now an integral part of his daily life.

Yin gets up at 3:00 every morning to have classes at home, which include reading scriptures, praying to the Buddha and watching Buddhist Master Chin Kung expounding the scriptures online.

He's not alone. Half of the world's Buddhists live in China, according to a 2012 Pew Forum Report. About 18.2 percent of China's population, or 244.1 million people, practice the religion, the report said.

Pure Land Buddhism, which focuses on the

teachings of the Amitabha Buddha, also known as the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and light, is the most popular branch practiced.

"The religion has had a large group of followers and a big influence on people's lives over the 2,000 years since Buddhism disseminated to China," said Li Silong, Director of the Buddhism Education Research Center at Peking University.

Buddhism came to China from India between the end of the Western Han Dynasty (202 B.C.-A.D. 8) and the beginning of the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220).

As the religion has increased in size, so too have the monasteries housing the monks and nuns who dedicate their lives to the religion. When Yin returned to Beijing in 2003 after a

stint studying in Paris, he was surprised by the increase in visitors to the monasteries he previously volunteered at, particularly the Longquan Temple on the northwestern outskirts of Beijing. The monastery is more than 1,000 years old and recently rose to fame after it converted a group of senior intellectuals and professors at renowned universities in Beijing.

"The monastery has been able to attract a large number of intellectuals because nowadays as people become better off materially, their spiritual aspirations cannot be as fulfilled proportionately as their material needs," said Fu Ruilin, President of the Buddhist Association of China.

The monasteries have also become prominent places to worship Buddhist gods and take part in Dharma assemblies for celebrations. These ceremonies have also become an important income for many of the monasteries.

"Aside from Amitabha, the Goddess of Mercy has almost permeated every aspect of people's lives. Stories of the goddess abound and the goddess can be found in almost every monastery. It's interesting that Buddhism, which originally has no god has become a religion full of gods and goddesses in China. Monasteries have become a place for the admiration of gods rather than a place for the cultivation of morality," said Li at Peking University.

Reaching common ground

Master Chin Kung focuses on this dichotomy and spiritual vacuum in his online teachings. He believes religion is an important part of education and the highest form of cultivation.

"The teaching of Master Chin Kung transcends the boundaries of nationalities, eth-



Participants attend a meditation program at Yufo Temple in Shanghai



Fu Ruilin (right), or Master Xuecheng, President of the Buddhist Association of China, at a religious ceremony in Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province

nicities and religions. He holds that Buddhism is a multi-cultural social education," said Yin. "He has taught scriptures for 57 years and although he is at the ripe age of 88, he explains Buddhism classics online almost every day."

The master tries to highlight relations between multiple cultures with Buddhist principles and encourages different religions and cultures to communicate with and understand each other. He calls for the main religions of the world to be rid of prejudice, respect each other and work together to create a new era of peace and prosperity.

"In Master Chin Kung's eyes, all higher religions in the world have a common principle, which is benevolence and philanthropy," Yin said. "The Dhamma tells us that every living thing is a Buddha. In other words, we should respect and love every living thing like we love a Buddha," Yin added.

Resurgence of culture

Today, Buddhism has become part and parcel in the revival of traditional Chinese culture, which includes a rebirth of Confucian values. Since the dawning of the new century, the religion has been a key component in the innovation of modern-day China.

Indeed, Chinese President Xi Jinping

remarked on the religion's place in society during a visit to UNESCO headquarters in March of last year. "In the process of the Chinese culture's revival, Buddhism has an indispensable role to play," he said.

Some argue Buddhism can help China establish a new value system, particularly in light of how materialistically focused the country has become as income levels have risen. Earlier this month, e-commerce giant Alibaba set a new record on November 11—also known as Singles Day and China's most popular online shopping day—of 91.22 billion yuan (\$14.4 billion) in sales.

And it's not just China that is intrinsically focused on material gain, according to Fu of the Buddhist Association of China.

"Against the backdrop of globalization, a crisis of self-identification is haunting the entire world. The contradictions between self and others, humans and nature, individuals and society are worsening. Pursuing self-benefits at the cost of others has become the norm in contemporary society. A value system upholding maximum individual benefits as the ultimate goal goes against the trend of the times and a new system aimed at the pursuit of all humans' wellbeing urgently needs to be established," he said on November 12 at Peking University at a

forum on reviving traditional Chinese culture.

Traditional culture primarily constitutes a mix of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism, with the latter advocating for the unity of nature and man. Buddhism teaches that life is full of suffering brought on by desire and people can end the suffering by reaching enlightenment. It also holds that events arise out of a combination of specific causes and conditions. Confucianism derives from the teachings of the 5th-century philosopher Confucius, who advocated for strong family loyalty, ancestor worship and the respect of one's elders. He also believed that peace and prosperity would be reached when all people under heaven are one family.

With the dissemination and development of Buddhism in China, it has absorbed aspects of Confucianism and influenced the development of the latter.

"As a foreign culture, Buddhism has gone through a process of adjustment when meeting with traditional Chinese thinking like Confucianism and Taoism," said Cheng Jianhua, a researcher with the Institute of Philosophy at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. ■

Copiedited by Jordyn Dahl
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Silken Opportunities

Dear Readers,

Forum is a column that provides a space for varying perspectives on contemporary Chinese society. We invite you to submit personal viewpoints on past and current topics (in either English or Chinese).

 yanwei@bjreview.com

Please provide your name and address along with your comments

The Belt and Road Initiative, first proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, aims at strengthening ties among countries and regions along the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road. It was one of the hottest topics at the Sixth World Forum on China Studies in Shanghai in November.

The Belt and Road will run through Asia, Europe and Africa, connecting the vibrant East Asian economic circle with Europe. Many scholars at the forum believe the initiative will deepen cooperative ties between China and other participants and benefit the world. Here is a selection of their opinions:

Lu Nanquan (Deputy Director of the Russian Research Center at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences): The Belt and Road Initiative has attracted the world's attention as well as triggered various interpretations. It is therefore imperative to understand the intent behind the formulation of such a plan. In my opinion, the plan can serve the following purposes. First, it can facilitate China's integration toward economic globalization and enhance regional economic cooperation. Second, it supports the country's all-round opening up. Third, it helps foster new growth drivers. Fourth, it narrows regional disparities in China. Fifth, it creates a reduction of a dependency on the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca by means of the maritime Silk Road. Lastly, it promotes reform to meet new challenges in international cooperation.

To put it simply, the Belt and Road Initiative is meant to build a well-recognized platform for economic cooperation and diplomacy, and to stabilize economic growth through all-round opening up. The success of the plan depends on whether it can create a mutually beneficial situation.

Nasanbat Tumor (a senior research fellow with the Institute of International

Studies at the Mongolian Academy of Sciences): As a landlocked country located between China and Russia, Mongolia is willing to develop comprehensive strategic partnerships with northeastern Asian countries and actively push forward regional exchanges and cooperation with the two major powers.

Shortly after China put forward the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, Mongolia decided to launch the Prairie Road project in 2014. The Prairie Road project aims to take advantage of Mongolia's location linking China and Russia, thereby making Mongolia a bigger player in regional economic cooperation.

On November 11, China and Mongolia issued a joint statement, saying that both sides will deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership and promote signing a treaty on aligning China's Belt and Road initiative and Mongolia's Prairie Road plan. This is in addition to enhancing financial cooperation between Mongolia and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund in big infrastructure projects.

By aligning China's Belt and Road Initiative and Mongolia's Prairie Road project, Mongolia can develop expressways, rail networks and natural gas and oil pipelines. Transport and shipping services can be offered between the two countries thereby contributing to Mongolian domestic economic growth.

Besides cooperation in mining resources development, infrastructure construction and finance, both countries can work together in water-diversion projects, dust storm management and tourism. Northern Mongolia is rich in water resources while the southern part is short of water. Some Mongolian water experts advise the Mongolian Government to take a page from China's rich experiences in water diversion and work with China to start a north-south water diversion project.

In addition, the China-Mongolia-Russia eco-

The Sixth World Forum on China Studies opens in Shanghai on November 20



economic corridor, a plan linking up the Silk Road Economic Belt, the Prairie Road project and Russia's transcontinental rail plan was proposed by the three countries' presidents in September 2014. The trilateral cooperation plan is, in fact, viewed by scholars as a branch of the Silk Road Economic Belt.

Sergey Lukonin (Director of the Center for Economic and Political Studies of China at the Russian Academy of Sciences): By 2030, the Silk Road Economic Belt will be implemented with some limitations. Bilateral free trade agreements and zones may be achieved, but a single integration space will not be created. However, even a limited implementation of the project will lead to significant changes to both the world's and China's economies.

As for China's economy, the following results are possible. First, China's problem of excess capacity will be alleviated and GDP growth will be supported by creating an additional demand for Chinese industrial products in Central Asia, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Second, an additional driver for increasing Chinese hi-tech product output will be created. Third, China's inland areas will be developed by re-industrialization and creation of new industries with a marketing focus on Central Asian countries, EAEU, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Fourth, the number of internal migrants will be reduced with the development of inland provinces. Fifth, China will not become an absolute innovation leader, but perhaps some breakthroughs in applied sciences in the areas of energy saving, software and communications can be made. Sixth, the efficiency of Chinese businesses will be improved in a truly international environment.

As for the global economy, the following results are possible. First, with China's foreign direct investment in the Silk Road Economic

Belt, its multinational corporations as well as small and medium-sized enterprises will enter the region. There, they will provide construction, consulting, trade, technology, engineering, software and other services. Second, the Chinese yuan will be internationalized. The yuan will become one of the major currencies in the Silk Road area, but it will not replace the U.S. dollar or the euro. Third, transport infrastructure in the region will be improved, enhancing economic development and political stability as well as living conditions for the local people. Fourth, potential military conflicts will be reduced as aggressive behavior will jeopardize the whole project and hurt the common interests of the countries involved. Therefore, confrontation among competing countries will decrease, while competition in business will increase.

Of course, challenges are inevitable. Contradictions are possible between industrialized countries in the use of national equipment and standards in the implementation of the Belt segments. There is a possibility of a shortage of funds for their full implementation. The effectiveness of the projects is also questionable. After the construction of a facility, who will maintain and finance it? Will it be self-sustaining? Also, during the implementation of the initiative, Chinese companies need to perform perfectly in social responsibility, environmental protection and compliance with the local laws and so on. Finally, security and stability are a key factor in the successful implementation of the initiative. China needs to show goodwill and always look for compromises in all areas.

Aghavni Harutyunyan (a senior research fellow with the Institute of Oriental Studies of Armenia's National Academy of Sciences):

Xi has put forth new concepts like the Chinese dream and the Belt and Road. The Chinese dream aims to realize the great renewal of the Chinese nation by achieving Two Centenary Goals—to build a moderately prosperous society by 2020 in time for the Communist Party of China's 100th anniversary and turn China into an all-around modern and socially advanced country by 2049, when the People's Republic of China marks its centenary. To achieve these goals, China needs a peaceful and stable international environment. Therefore, Beijing will work together with its neighboring countries and the international community, sharing more development opportunities with them.

The Belt and Road Initiative actually may become the embodiment of the Chinese dream in the international format. It aims to build an economic corridor connecting the nations of Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The Belt and Road Initiative calls for nations along the Silk Road routes to strengthen political contacts, boost trade and financial integration, create free trade zones, construct transport networks and energy pipelines and promote people-to-people communications.

Beijing clearly emphasized that through the implementation of the Chinese dream and the Belt and Road Initiative, China does not want to create a new organization, or to seek hegemony in Asia and beyond. It does not aspire to establish a sphere of influence or interfere in the internal affairs of other states. Beijing will not threaten the outside world. On the contrary, the transformation of China into a strong and rich state will bring significant benefits to other nations. ■

Copied by Bryan Michael Galvan

For the Love of Food

By Mara Lee Durrell



Chefs make *xiaolongbao* at a restaurant in Shanghai

It is sometimes hard for foreigners in China to express to their friends and family back home what exactly it is about their host country that keeps them so fascinated. But whether it is the endless array of *jiaozi* (dumplings), hot pot nights with friends or the tea traditions that instantly put you at ease, I would bet China's food culture is at the top of many people's list.

As a newcomer, I realized early on that unraveling the social norms around eating would help me better connect with the country and its people. I also recognized that even beginning to understand a country's food culture requires far more than consuming it, though I had plans to do plenty of that. I decided I would need to try cooking it myself.

So seven weeks after first arriving in Beijing, there I was, heading to Sichuan and Yunnan provinces in southwest China to get a taste of the Middle Kingdom outside of its capital city.

Upon take-off, I even thought that I knew something about Sichuan cuisine, as there are several restaurants purporting to serve this style of food in my home state of California. I know now that what I was served was miles away from the authentic versions.

The course started with us being split into small groups and given a shopping list, a traditional basket for market jaunts and a firm budget of 100 yuan (\$15). Off we went, encour-

aged by our guides to barter, with me using my very elementary Mandarin skills, meant to aid my team, who were in the country for just one week. We came back with full baskets and a strange sense of accomplishment, ready to prepare a feast for the whole group to consume.

Luckily my group was assigned my personal favorite Sichuan dish—and the one I was most eagerly looking forward to replicating—*mapo doufu*, a spicy tofu dish. I learned to quickly boil the tofu in hot water before adding it to the stir-fry so the perfect tofu squares do not break, and the appropriate number of Sichuan numbing peppers to add to balance out the notorious chilies that are the region's signature ingredient. As a former vegetarian, this was a go-to dish for me at Chinese restaurants in the United States. I learned, however, that most chefs here add pork or beef to top off the dish and to add extra flavor.

Abandoning my dietary preferences was also a must for the *xiaolongbao* (soup dumplings) course I recently took in Beijing at The Hutong, an organization running daily cooking classes, market tours and other cultural excursions from a beautiful courtyard in Dongcheng District.

A friend visited from New York and we decided to do a cooking course together while she was in town. We thought the dish would be

both challenging and fun to make, unaware the only choice for its filling is pork, an ingredient neither of us had ever cooked with. When this was explained by the head chef, my friend with a worried look on her face whispered to me she had never actually eaten pork. "When in Beijing!" we said, laughing anxiously.

Our first task was easy enough: Patiently stir flour, salt and water together in one direction to make the dough for the dumplings. After rolling these out to the intended thickness, size and shape, we were again given a false sense of confidence by our teacher.

We were then given bowls of raw meat to stir gently with chopsticks, adding intermittent spoonfuls of water to fluff it up, as the fat would absorb the liquid. Spring onions, soy sauce and ginger were added to provide additional flavor and remove any "gaminess" from the meat. Not the healthiest of choices on our part we realized, nor did we know how close we would get with the final product.

For those who don't know, the "soup" part of *xiaolongbao* is a refrigerated cube of fatty pork skin stock pre-made the day before. When the dumplings are steamed, the stock melts inside to provide the liquid consistency.

Our final task was to take the dough, add a "healthy" dose of the pork mixture, along with the small stock cubes and try to skillfully twist the dough into what almost looked like a gift. This brought on class-wide bouts of laughing, sighs and excited exclamations when we somewhat succeeded.

Then, of course, the best part was eating the dumplings straight out of the steamer. My friend Jamie is convinced that she ate about 15 before even looking up. So much for our vegetarian lifestyles—Chinese cuisine had obviously gotten the best of us. ■

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