

NEWS FROM CHINA

CHINA-INDIA REVIEW

China Unbound Shaping Green Future





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Upholding Shanghai Spirit of Cooperation

With the world order undergoing an unprecedented transformation, the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind has acquired a new resonance. In this regard, the recent SCO summit epitomized the “Shanghai Spirit” to build a more humane, harmonious, and inclusive world.

The virtual Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit, hosted by India, has strengthened regional solidarity and cooperation to address shared challenges such as terrorism, climate change and sustainable development. In his remarks at the summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping encapsulated this spirit of mutual solidarity. “We have followed our fine tradition of standing together through thick and thin, as passengers in the same boat should do, and we have firmly supported each other in standing up for our respective core interests,” he said. “We have become trustworthy partners on our paths to development and national rejuvenation,” he stressed.

Going forward, China firmly believes that the world needs to “step up strategic communication and coordination, bridge differences through dialogue, and replace competition with cooperation,” as stressed by the Chinese leader. It is in this spirit of cooperation and resolving issues through constructive dialogue that Chinese and Indian leaders met frequently on the sidelines of international conferences. The Chinese side’s message is clear: as the two most populous developing countries in the world, both China and India take a long-term view for peaceful development of their bilateral relations. The Chinese side stressed that the two neighbours should carry out bilateral consultations and exchanges, step up dialogue and cooperation within multilateral frameworks, and deepen coordination and collaboration on international and regional issues, so as to bring China-India relations back on the track of sound and stable development.

Looking ahead, partnering in economic recovery and modernisation offers a promising area of cooperation between the two Asian countries. China and India account for more than 35% of the world’s total population and more than 20% of the world’s total economic output. China and India have played a major role in the world poverty alleviation. Over the past more than 40 years of reform and opening up, the Chinese government has lifted more than 800 million people out of poverty. From fiscal year 2006 to 2021, 410 million people in India have been lifted out of poverty. According to the forecast of the International Monetary Fund, the contribution rate of China and India to world economic growth this year will be over 50.3%.

Strong economic growth will not only benefit the two countries, but will also play a vital role in the global economic recovery. Emerging economies like China and India have become important engines for the recovery of global economic growth. Cooperation, not competition, is the way forward. The two neighbours should boost each other’s national rejuvenation and inject stability and positive energy into world peace and development.

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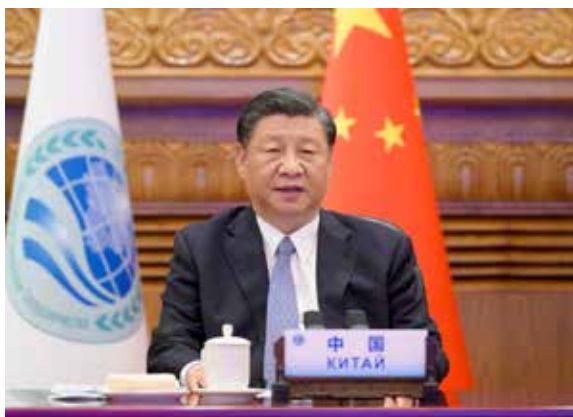
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Staying True to Our Founding Mission and Advancing Unity and Coordination to Realize Greater Development

In his remarks at the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) via video conference from Beijing, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that the SCO must rise to the call of the times, keep in mind its founding mission, and stay in unity and coordination to bring more certainty and positive energy to world peace and development.



Your Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

Distinguished Colleagues,

I wish to thank India for hosting the meeting of the Council of Heads of State as the current president of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

At this meeting, we are going to welcome Iran as a full member and sign the memorandum of

obligations on the membership of Belarus. This will manifest the vitality of our SCO family. I offer my congratulations to the two countries.

Colleagues,

Ten years ago, in view of the changes of the world, of our times and of the trajectory of history, I opined that mankind, living in the same global village, are increasingly becoming a community with a shared future in which everyone's interest is closely interlinked. Since then, the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind has gained extensive recognition and support from the international community, and has been transforming from an idea to action and a vision to reality. At the forefront of this trend is the SCO, upholding this very concept and the Shanghai Spirit to build an SCO community with a shared future.

—We have followed our fine tradition of standing together through thick and thin, as passengers in the same boat should do, and we have firmly supported each other in standing up for our respective core interests. We have

become trustworthy partners on our paths to development and national rejuvenation.

— We have acted out the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, accommodated each other's legitimate security concerns, and responded to both traditional and nontraditional security challenges. Together we have safeguarded peace and tranquility in the region, and fostered a favorable environment for countries in the region to pursue development and prosperity.

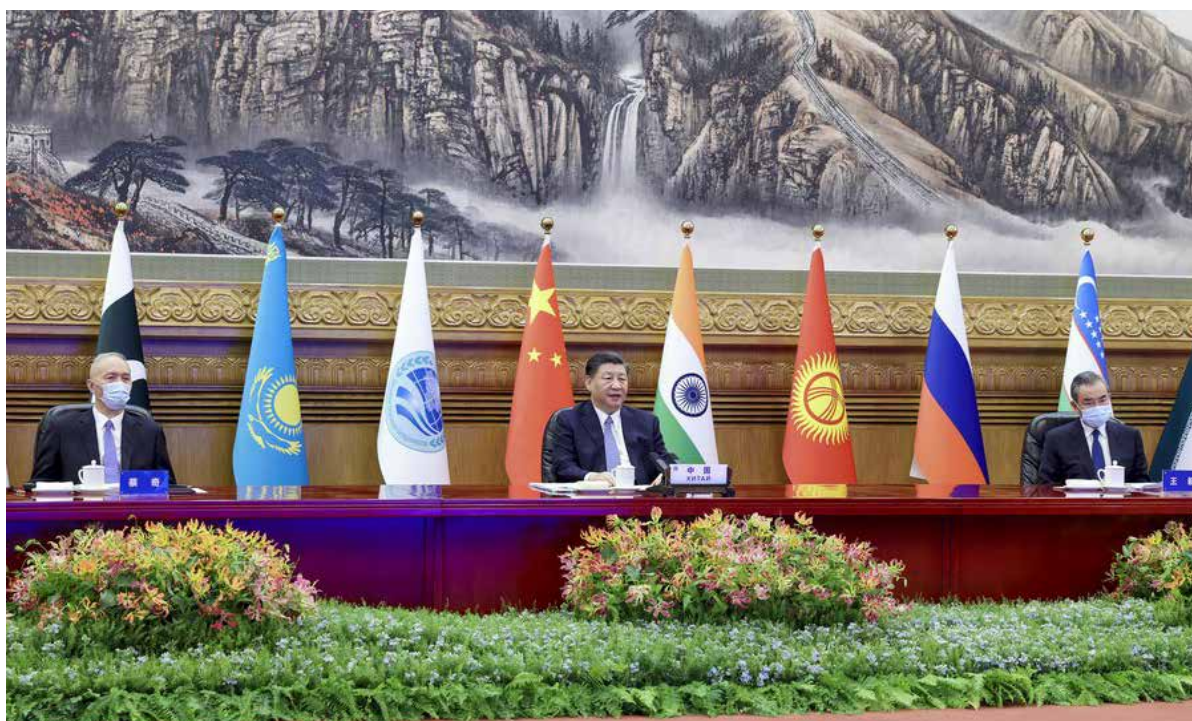
— We have embraced the development philosophy of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared growth, synergized our national development strategies and regional cooperation initiatives, and nurtured new growth areas for our cooperation in economy and trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture, finance, and innovation. This has helped promote coordination in our economic development.

— We have carried forward the spirit of good-neighborliness, and advocated equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness between civilizations. We have called for peaceful coexistence and harmonious development of different civilizations, and

expanded people-to-people and cultural cooperation. We have enhanced the popular support for our state-to-state relations.

— We have upheld international fairness and justice, and opposed hegemonic, high-handed, and bullying acts. We have enlarged the circle of friends of our Organization, and built partnerships featuring dialogue instead of confrontation, cooperation instead of alliance. This has strengthened the progressive forces for world peace and stability.

We have acted out the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, accommodated each other's legitimate security concerns, and responded to both traditional and nontraditional security challenges. Together we have safeguarded peace and tranquility in the region, and fostered a favorable environment for countries in the region to pursue development and prosperity.



Colleagues,

The world today is undergoing both transformation and upheaval; changes unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace; human society faces unprecedented challenges. Unity or split, peace or conflict, cooperation or confrontation—these are the questions raised again by our times. My answer is this: the people’s wish for a happy life is our goal, and peace, development and win-win cooperation are the unstoppable trends of the times.

The SCO has been growing stronger in recent years. This means development opportunities as well as unprecedented risks and challenges. As the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore put it, “The sea of danger, doubt and denial around man’s little island of certainty challenges him to dare the unknown.” We must rise to the call of our times, keep in mind our founding mission, and stay in unity and coordination to bring more certainty and positive energy to world peace and development. To this end, I wish to make the following proposals:

First, we should keep to the right direction and enhance solidarity and mutual trust. Since its founding over 20 years ago, the SCO has withstood the test of the changing international landscape, and kept moving in the right direction of promoting solidarity, mutual trust, development and cooperation. We have accumulated valuable experience, and achieved hard-won development gains. Facts have shown that as long as we bear in mind the larger picture, shoulder our responsibilities and remain undisturbed by all sorts of distractions, we will be able to protect and promote the security and development interests of our member states.

We should step up strategic communication and coordination, bridge differences through dialogue, and replace competition with cooperation. We should truly respect each other’s core interests and major concerns, and firmly support each other’s endeavor for development and rejuvenation. We should keep in mind the overall and long-term interests of our region, and make our foreign

policies independently. We must be highly vigilant against external attempts to foment a new Cold War or camp-based confrontation in our region. We must resolutely reject any interference in our internal affairs and the instigation of “color revolutions” by any country under whatever pretext. The future of our development must be held firmly in our own hands.

Second, we should maintain regional peace and safeguard common security. Sustaining peace and security in this region is our common responsibility. China stands ready to work with all sides to implement the Global Security Initiative, promote the settlement of international disputes through dialogue and consultation, and encourage political settlement of international and regional hotspots, so as to forge a solid security shield in our region.

We should step up strategic communication and coordination, bridge differences through dialogue, and replace competition with cooperation. We should truly respect each other's core interests and major concerns, and firmly support each other's endeavor for development and rejuvenation.

We need to upgrade SCO security cooperation, and continue to conduct joint operations. We should crack down hard on the forces of terrorism, separatism and extremism such as the “East Turkistan” elements, drug trafficking, and cyber and transnational organized crimes. We should move faster to strengthen the mechanisms for our law enforcement and security cooperation, and expand cooperation in the nontraditional security fields, including digital, biological and outer space security. We should continue to utilize platforms such as the mechanism of coordination and cooperation among Afghanistan’s neighbors to increase humanitarian support to Afghanistan,

and encourage the Afghan authorities to establish a broad-based and inclusive political structure and embark on the path of peace and reconstruction.

Third, we should focus on practical cooperation and expedite economic recovery. Promoting economic growth is a common task for all countries in the region. China stands ready to work with all sides to implement the Global Development Initiative, keep to the right direction of economic globalization, oppose protectionism, unilateral sanctions and the overstretching of national security, and reject the moves of setting up barriers, decoupling and severing supply chains. We should make the pie of win-win cooperation bigger, and ensure that more development gains will be shared more fairly by people across the world.

We need to enhance the connection of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with development strategies of various countries and regional cooperation initiatives. We should further promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, speed up the development of port infrastructure and regional and international logistic corridors, and ensure stable and smooth functioning of regional industrial and supply chains. Ten years ago I proposed the Belt and Road Initiative, and

on its tenth anniversary, China will hold the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. I welcome your participation. We should work together to broaden the Belt and Road as a “path of happiness” benefiting the whole world.

China proposes that the SCO scale up local currency settlement between member states, expand cooperation on sovereign digital currency, and promote the establishment of an SCO development bank.

China proposes that the SCO scale up local currency settlement between member states, expand cooperation on sovereign digital currency, and promote the establishment of an SCO development bank. China is ready to share market opportunities and development experience, and implement the capacity-building program to empower young professional farmers. China will carry out digital technology training programs in collaboration with the China-SCO Big Data Cooperation Center, and host an SCO national green development forum.



There are already a number of ministerial meeting mechanisms under the SCO framework for practical cooperation in various areas. China has also established cooperation platforms such as the local economic and trade cooperation demonstration area, and the demonstration base for agricultural technology exchange and training. We should make full use of these mechanisms and platforms to help us tackle the vexing issues in our practical cooperation and facilitate high-quality development of SCO economies.

We should practice multilateralism and improve global governance. All countries in the region pursue fairness and justice. We should advocate the common values of humanity, uphold the UN-centered international system and the international order based on international law, and oppose hegemonism and power politics.

Fourth, we should strengthen exchanges and mutual learning and forge closer bonds between our peoples. All nations in the region aspire to see harmonious development of different civilizations. We welcome all sides to work together to implement the Global Civilization Initiative, promote inclusiveness and coexistence among all civilizations, and increase mutual understanding and friendship among all nations.

We should further deepen cooperation in education, science and technology, culture, health, sport and media, support the work of non-official organizations such as the SCO Committee on Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation, and organize more events for people-to-people exchanges. In the coming three years, China will provide SCO member states with 1,000 International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarships, offer 3,000 “Chinese Bridge” summer camp opportunities, and invite 100 young scientists to China for scientific research exchanges. China will also host events on rural revitalization and

climate response. Your participation will be most welcome.

Fifth, we should practice multilateralism and improve global governance. All countries in the region pursue fairness and justice. We should advocate the common values of humanity, uphold the UN-centered international system and the international order based on international law, and oppose hegemonism and power politics. We should make global governance more just and equitable, and advance modernization of the entire humanity through collective efforts to promote equal rights, equal opportunities and fair rules for all. We should support more SCO engagements with observer states, dialogue partners and other regional and international organizations such as the UN, and jointly promote world peace, drive global development and safeguard the international order.

Colleagues,

The Chinese people are rallied behind the Communist Party of China to pursue Chinese modernization. It is the modernization of a huge population, of common prosperity for all, of material and cultural-ethical advancement, of harmony between humanity and nature, and of peaceful development. With these main attributes, it has created a new form of human advancement. China hopes to share new development opportunities with SCO members and all countries around the world through its achievements in modernization, and together make the world a better place.

Colleagues,

China congratulates President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on assuming the presidency of the Council of Heads of State, and will work with all member states to actively support Kazakhstan’s presidency.

A just cause finds great support, and a journey with many companions gets far. The SCO’s development accords with the trend of our times and goes along with the direction of human progress. Through our joint efforts, it will definitely grow from strength to strength.

Thank you.

China to Cooperate with other SCO Countries on Security Architecture: Defense Minister

Chinese State Councilor and Minister of National Defense Li Shangfu said here on April 28 that China is ready to cooperate with other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to build a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture.

Li said when attending the SCO defense ministers' meeting in the Indian capital that the ministerial meeting has become a key platform for SCO countries to strengthen strategic communication and discuss security cooperation.

Important consensus was reached at the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State in Samarkand, Uzbekistan last September, he noted.

China is willing to join hands with other SCO members to implement the Global Security Initiative, deepen strategic mutual trust, enhance anti-terrorism cooperation, expand fields for cooperation and improve cooperation mechanisms, so as to contribute to global and regional peace and stability, Li said.

The defense ministers pledged at the meeting to further boost strategic communication, focus on consensus and expand SCO cooperation and jointly safeguard regional security and stability.

A joint communique was released after the meeting.

During his stay in India, Li met with defense ministers from Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, India, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Russia, Uzbekistan and Iran on international and regional situations,



The defense ministers pledged at the meeting to further boost strategic communication, focus on consensus and expand SCO cooperation and jointly safeguard regional security and stability.

bilateral and military ties as well as issues of common concern.

Xiplomacy: Xi's Remarks at SCO Summit Illustrate China's Commitment to Peace, Development

“Unity or split, peace or conflict, cooperation or confrontation?” Chinese President Xi Jinping inquired under the attentive gaze of world leaders at the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

“These are the questions raised again by our times,” Xi continued. “My answer is this: the people’s wish for a happy life is our goal, and peace, development and win-win cooperation are the unstoppable trends of the times.”

China’s commitments in Xi’s speech are palpable for residents living on the outskirts of Lahore, Pakistan.

Just one day earlier, they held celebrations for the 1,000-day safe operation of the ±660kV Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current transmission project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which brought an end to the era of insufficient power supply that had plagued the local area for long.

For experts and scholars who have heeded China’s efforts to promote world peace and development, the power transmission project is a testament to China’s commitment to improving living standards of all people by cooperating with other countries.

And through Xi’s recent address at the SCO summit, they have seen fresh boosts to a closer

and stronger SCO community and drawn more confidence in building a better world featuring peace and stability, win-win cooperation, and a more just and equitable international order.

Champion of Peace & Stability

“Sustaining peace and security in this region is our common responsibility,” Xi said in his speech, adding that China stands ready to work with all sides “to implement the Global Security Initiative, promote the settlement of international disputes through dialogue and consultation, and encourage political settlement of international and regional hotspots, to forge a solid security shield in our region.”

The Global Security Initiative is a China-proposed initiative to advance multilateralism and peacebuilding to strengthen global security.

Inspired by Xi’s address, Jalal Bazwan, a lecturer at the Kabul-based Kardan University, said: “Xi’s speech highlights China’s proactive role in global security and its commitment to regional stability.”

Referring to the Afghan issue as an example, Bazwan said that China has been playing a constructive role in addressing regional issues and “supporting long-term stability through political negotiations.”

China has been the forerunner of the SCO, leading the way in ensuring global security and prosperity while building a community with a shared future for mankind, said Gulru Gezer, a former Turkish diplomat and foreign policy analyst.

“This is very important because the region and itself and the world is going through a turbulent period, and having an open dialogue based on mutual respect and mutual trust, I think, is critical nowadays,” Gezer told Xinhua.

Thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Tulanbay Kurbanov, an Uzbek expert on international relations, said that the infrastructure, trade and economic ties among Asian, European and African countries are becoming further interconnected. As the BRI heads into a new decade, Xi’s call for further coordination between the BRI and the development strategies of relevant countries will become a unifying force among regional countries and a cause for further global development, Kurbanov added.

At the summit, Xi noted that SCO members “have acted out the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, accommodated each other’s legitimate security concerns, and responded to both traditional and nontraditional security challenges.”

Echoing Xi’s words, Khalid Taimur Akram, executive director of the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future in Islamabad, said the SCO offers a platform for member countries to explore avenues for addressing regional conflicts, promoting stability and mitigating risks in a volatile world.

By promoting comprehensive and practical cooperation, China is contributing to maintaining peace and stability within the region and strengthening security collaboration among SCO member states, Akram added.

Advocate of Win-Win Cooperation

In his address, Xi emphasized the importance of member states enhancing strategic communication and coordination, resolving differences through dialogue, promoting cooperation instead of competition, showing genuine respect for each other’s core interests and major concerns, and providing firm support for each other’s efforts towards development and rejuvenation.

Xi’s proposals forging closer SCO partnerships “align with the interests and aspirations of people from various countries,” demonstrate China’s responsible role as a major country, and contributes to regional and global peace and development, said Benyamin Poghosyan, chairman of the Center for Political and Economic Strategic Studies in Armenia.

“We should make the pie of win-win cooperation bigger and ensure that more development gains will be shared more fairly by people across the world,” Xi said, welcoming member states’ participation in the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to broaden the Belt and Road as a “path of happiness” benefiting the whole world.

Thanks to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Tulanbay Kurbanov, an Uzbek expert on international relations, said that the infrastructure, trade and economic ties among Asian, European and African countries are becoming further interconnected.

As the BRI heads into a new decade, Xi’s call for further coordination between the BRI and the development strategies of relevant countries will become a unifying force among regional countries and a cause for further global development, Kurbanov added.

“China is promoting economic growth, facilitating trade, and enhancing people-to-people exchanges by encouraging regional development ... These efforts align with the spirit of the SCO, which seeks to enhance cooperation among member states for the region’s benefit,” Akram said.

The Pakistani expert said that through economic collaboration under the BRI, China connected its prosperity with regional growth, aligning with the SCO's objective of promoting economic integration and shared prosperity.

Selcuk Colakoglu, director of the Ankara-based Turkish Center for Asia-Pacific Studies, told Xinhua that in Xi's speech, "There is a focus on win-win cooperation and also increasing interactions for peaceful developments in international space."

"President Xi's remarks illustrate China's unwavering policy to expand mutually-beneficial cooperation, promote multilateralism for the benefit of all, and oppose hegemony and power politics," said Kin Phea, director-general of the International Relations Institute of Cambodia.

From the viewpoint of Mohammad Reza Manafi, Editor-in-Chief for the Asia-Pacific news desk of Iran's official news agency IRNA, the SCO is an excellent example of common growth and development. The Chinese government, he said, profoundly believes that today's world is not a place for unilateralism. When working together, nations and countries can achieve more growth and development.

Together for A Better World

The world today is undergoing both transformation and upheaval; changes unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace; and human society faces unprecedented challenges, Xi said in his remarks,

In response to the challenges, Xi called on SCO member states to make global governance more just and equitable and advance the modernization of humanity through collective efforts to promote equal rights, equal opportunities and fair rules for all. He called on member states to jointly promote world peace,

drive global development and safeguard the international order.

From the viewpoint of Mohammad Reza Manafi, editor-in-chief for the Asia-Pacific news desk of Iran's official news agency IRNA, the SCO is an excellent example of common growth and development.

The Chinese government, he said, profoundly believes that today's world is not a place for unilateralism. When working together, nations and countries can achieve more growth and development.

"China has proved that it is trying its best to use its huge abilities to bring common development to the whole nations simply because it believes it can achieve more development if other nations could develop together," Manafi added, noting China's approach as "real multilateralism."

Xi's remarks reflect "China's firm commitment and efforts to build an even closer SCO community with a shared future that will inject stronger impetus into regional and global peace, security and development," said Kin Phea.

He believed that China's global initiatives, such as the BRI, the Global Development Initiative, and the Global Security Initiative, are crucial to address regional and global challenges.

"It was particularly important that he (Xi) also underscored China's willingness to work with all parties to safeguard the international system with the United Nations at its core and maintain the international order based on international law and promote the establishment of a fair and more reasonable global governance system," Gezer told Xinhua.

Humankind does not need hatred, division or conflict, and people worldwide want to live a good life, said Sheradil Baktygulov, a foreign affairs consultant at the Kyrgyz National Institute for Strategic Studies. "The thoughts of President Xi show the way for building a close SCO community and a bright future for the Eurasian continent."



The SCO is a Success Story that Can Get Better

Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India Ma Jia Publishes Article in *The Hindu*

On July 27, 2023, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India Ma Jia published an article entitled, "The SCO is a Success Story That Can Get Better," in *The Hindu*. The full text is as follows:

On July 4, 2023, India successfully hosted the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The world witnessed another "SCO moment". Leaders of the SCO member-states signed the New Delhi Declaration, and issued the statements on countering radicalisation and exploring cooperation in digital transformation. The summit granted Iran full SCO membership, signed the memorandum of obligations of Belarus to join the SCO as a member-state, and adopted the SCO's economic development strategy for the period until 2030. These significant outcomes have demonstrated the vitality of the "SCO family".

A Changing World

Our world, our times and history are changing in ways like never before. The world is grappling with geopolitical tensions, an economic slowdown, energy crises, food shortage and climate change. These challenges require the joint response of all countries. The major risks to world peace and development are power politics, economic coercion, technology decoupling and ideological contest. The central questions revolve around unity or split; peace or conflict; cooperation or confrontation. The international community must answer them.

Over the years, the SCO has been committed to becoming a community with a shared future for mankind, firmly supporting each other in upholding their core interests, and synergising their national development strategies and regional cooperation initiatives. Member-states have carried forward the spirit of good neighbourliness and friendship, and built partnerships featuring dialogue instead of confrontation, and cooperation instead of alliance. The SCO has been a guardian of and contributor to regional peace, stability and prosperity. These achievements manifest the common aspirations of all countries so that there is peace, development and win-win cooperation. The SCO's leading and exemplary role can help strengthen unity and cooperation, seize development opportunities, and address risks and challenges. Going forward in a new era, the SCO member-states should strengthen strategic communication, deepen practical cooperation, and support each other's development and rejuvenation. As we build a better homeland together, more certainty and positive energy will be brought to the world.

We should enhance solidarity and mutual trust for common security. There are some external elements that are orchestrating a new Cold War and bloc confrontation in our region. These developments must be addressed with high vigilance and firm rejection. SCO member-states need to upgrade security cooperation, and crack down in a decisive manner on

terrorism, separatism and extremism, and transnational organised crimes. We need to pursue cooperation in digital, biological and outer space security, and facilitate political settlement when it comes to international and regional hot-spot issues.

We should embrace win-win cooperation to chart a path to shared prosperity. Protectionism, unilateral sanctions and decoupling undermine people's well-being all over the world. It is imperative for the SCO to generate stronger momentum for collaboration in trade, investment, technology, climate actions, infrastructure and people-to-people engagement. To contribute to high-quality and resilient economic growth of the region, there need to be collective efforts to scale up local currency settlement between SCO members, expand cooperation on sovereign digital currency, and promote the establishment of an SCO development bank.

Need for Multilateralism

We should advocate multilateralism to shape our common destiny. The SCO needs more engagements with its observer states, dialogue partners and other regional and international organisations such as the United Nations, to uphold the UN-centered international system and the international order based on international law. Together, we are united in promoting world peace, driving global development and safeguarding the international order.

The SCO's success story is part of the broader global partnership of emerging economies and developing countries. As changes to the global landscape unfold, emerging economies and developing countries continue their collective rise with greater cohesion and global weight. We are increasingly acting as a progressive force for world fairness and justice. Over the next two months, South Africa and India will preside over the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and G-20 summits, respectively. These will be significant moments to shape a multi-polar world order, promote inclusive global development, and improve international governance architecture.

The SCO is a success story that can get better

On 18th June 2023, India successfully hosted the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperative Organisation (SCO). The world witnessed another "SCO moment". Leaders of the SCO member states agreed the New Delhi Declaration, a statement of vision and cooperation, and reaffirmed their commitment to digital transformation. The summit marked a full SCO membership, signed the renewal of all obligations of India to join the SCO as a member state, and adopted the SCO economic development strategy for the period until 2030. These significant outcomes have demonstrated the vitality of the "SCO family".

A changing world that sees the rise and fall of superpowers, the world is grappling with geopolitical tensions, an economic downturn, energy crisis, food shortage and climate change. These challenges require the SCO to work together to address the global challenges and promote the well-being of all people.

Over the past 20 years, the SCO has been a platform for dialogue and cooperation between its member states. The SCO has been a platform of dialogue, cooperation and mutual trust. It has been a platform for dialogue and cooperation between its member states. The SCO has been a platform for dialogue and cooperation between its member states.



Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of China

and challenges, rising tensions in some areas, the SCO member states should strengthen strategic communication, increase practical cooperation, and support each other's development and prosperity. To us build a better tomorrow together, more necessary and positive energy will be brought to the world.

We should enhance dialogue and mutual trust for common prosperity. There are some common challenges that are not bound to us in region. These challenges need to be addressed with high vigilance and firm actions. SCO member states should promote security cooperation, and reach down to a deeper research on terrorism, separatism and extremism, and transnational organized crime.

We need to promote cooperation in digital, biological and outer space security, and facilitate political settlement when it comes to international and regional hot spot issues.

We should embrace win-win cooperation to chart a path to shared prosperity. Protectionism, unilateral sanctions and decoupling undermine people's well-being all over the world. It is imperative for the SCO to generate stronger momentum for collaboration in trade, investment, technology, climate actions, infrastructure and people-to-people engagement.

To contribute to high-quality and resilient economic growth of the region, there need to be collective efforts to scale up local currency settlement between SCO members, expand cooperation on sovereign digital currency, and promote the establishment of an SCO development bank.

Need for multilateralism: We should advocate multilateralism to shape our common destiny. The SCO needs more engagements with its observer states, dialogue partners and other regional and international organisations such as the United Nations, to uphold the UN-centered international system and the international order based on international law. Together, we are united in promoting world peace, driving global development and safeguarding the international order.

The SCO success story is part of the broader global partnership of emerging economies and developing countries. As changes to the global landscape unfold, emerging economies and developing countries continue their collective rise with greater cohesion and global weight. We are increasingly acting as a progressive force for world fairness and justice. Over the next two months, South Africa and India will preside over the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and G-20 summits, respectively. These will be significant moments to shape a multi-polar world order, promote inclusive global development, and improve international governance architecture.

China's commitment: China is committed to working with India, South Africa and other partners from the South to put into action the Global Security Initiative, Global Development Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative, to contribute to world peace, security and prosperity. We need to promote common, cooperative and sustainable security, respect each country's independent choice of the path to development and social system, and abide by the purpose and principles of the UN Charter. The reasonable security interests of all countries deserve consideration. Dialogue and diplomacy offer the best hope to address international disputes by peaceful means. And, security challenges in conventional and non-conventional domains should be dealt with in a holistic manner.

We need to forge a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnership, promote humanity's common values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, and get global governance to evolve in a fairer and more reasonable direction. Our voice should be loud and clear against hegemony, unilateralism, a Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation. And, illegal unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction measures must be rejected. In doing so, we will lead by example in safeguarding the development rights and legitimate interests of the developing world.

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SCO Summit 2023: New Delhi Declaration Backs Multipolar World Order

The member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on July 4, 2023 signed and issued the New Delhi Declaration at the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the grouping, which was held via video conference.

The world is undergoing unprecedented transformations and is entering a new era of rapid technological development that requires an increase in the effectiveness of global institutions, the declaration said.

The member states vowed to support the prevention of weaponization of outer space, and said they believe that an early settlement of the Afghan issue is one of the most important factors in maintaining and consolidating security and stability in the SCO region.

The member states reaffirm their commitment to formation of a more representative, just, democratic and multipolar world order based on the universally recognized principles of international law, multilateralism, equal, joint, indivisible, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, cultural and civilizational diversity, mutually beneficial and equal cooperation of states with a central coordinating role of the UN, it said.

The member states pursue a policy that excludes bloc, ideological and confrontational approaches to address the problems of

international and regional development, it said.

Considering Central Asia as the SCO's "core region," the member states said in the declaration that they support efforts of regional countries to ensure peace and prosperity, achieve sustainable development, and build a space of good-neighborliness and mutual trust.

The member states pointed out that interference in the internal affairs of other countries under the pretext of combating terrorism and extremism is not allowed.

They said they believe that it is important to ensure that all members enjoy equal rights in the management of the Internet and have network sovereignty.

They reaffirmed in the declaration that the unilateral and unrestricted strengthening of global anti-missile systems by several countries or groups of countries would jeopardize international security and stability.

The member states vowed to support the prevention of weaponization of outer space, and said they believe that an early settlement of the Afghan issue is one of the most important factors in maintaining and consolidating security and stability in the SCO region.

In the declaration, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan reiterated their support for the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by the People's Republic of China.

Member States emphasized the historic significance of the entry of the Islamic Republic of Iran into the SCO as a full member state.

SCO Issues Statements on Security, Digital Transformation Cooperation

The 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held on July 4, 2023 during which statements on fighting terrorism, separatism and extremism and on cooperation in digital transformation were issued.

The statement on countering radicalization leading to terrorism, separatism and extremism emphasized that the member states are determined to deepen law enforcement and security cooperation within the organization, promote multilateral cooperation, strengthen coordination at global, regional and national levels, firmly uphold equal, common, indivisible, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and coordinate responses to traditional and non-traditional security threats and challenges.

The statement stressed that the member states, adhering to the Shanghai Spirit, are committed to jointly strengthening regional peace, security and stability, and called on the international community to support the United Nations in playing its central role, abandon politicization and double standards, and strengthen global counter terrorism cooperation.

Meanwhile, the statement on cooperation in digital transformation noted that digital transformation is a driving force for global, inclusive and sustainable growth, and is conducive to achieving the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The member states should join hands to explore the potential of digitalization in various fields, and promote the deep integration of the

digital economy and the real economy, said the statement, adding that the potential of digital technologies to transform social, economic and cultural life has not been fully explored.

The statement said that the member states will continuously work hard to stick to the people-centered approach, and promote universal access to the dividends of digital transformation at an affordable cost, so as to fully tap human potential. The member states should continue to advance relevant work to ensure that the cost of using digital infrastructure is to be continuously reduced, promote digital interconnectivity, tap digital potential, and improve data interoperability, it said.

Digital transformation is a driving force for global, inclusive and sustainable growth, and is conducive to achieving the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The member states should firmly support the integration of digital solutions in key areas such as finance, it said, adding that the member states need to stay committed to promoting digital service applications while meeting information security requirements, so as to benefit the people of member states.

The development of digital technologies will promote data applications to better serve all aspects of economic, social and cultural life, the statement stressed, adding that the states will cooperate in this field and learn from each other's advanced experience and achievements.

China's Long-term Development Outlook Unchanged Amid Pro-Growth Measures



The upward trend of major economic indicators in China is expected to maintain in the long term as the government takes steps to bolster the growth rate.

The positive development trend of China's economy will remain unchanged in the long term, and a series of measures to bolster growth are in the pipeline.

Commenting on declines in some monthly economic indicators, including the purchasing managers' index for China's manufacturing sector and industrial profits, Meng Wei, spokesperson for the National Development and Reform Commission, said on June 16, 2023 the fluctuations are normal and temporary.

With supporting policies paying off, market demand has been gradually recovering, and the supply structure is improving, which can inject impetus into China's economic development, said Meng.

Retail sales, a gauge of China's consumption growth, increased 9.3 percent year on year to 18.76 trillion yuan (about 2.63 trillion U.S. dollars), and service-related consumption grew rapidly.

From January to May, the growth rate of the box office revenue across China topped 40 percent year on year, while that in the catering sector registered 22.6 percent.

China's fixed-asset investment totaled 18.88 trillion yuan in the period, up 4 percent year on

year, and investment in high-tech industries increased by 12.8 percent year on year amid the country's efforts to promote industrial transformation and upgrading.

Meng said that the upward trend of major economic indicators is expected to maintain in the long term but cautioned that market demand is still insufficient and the endogenous power of the economy still needs to be enhanced.

In the face of such pressures and challenges, the country will take measures to add vitality to the economy in the next stage.

Meng said China would roll out policies to recover and expand consumption timeously, continuously improving the consumption environment and unleashing potential in service consumption.

To stimulate auto consumption, the country will expedite building battery charging facilities and transformation of power grids in cities, and promote new energy vehicles in rural areas, she said.

Efforts will also be made to increase the income of urban and rural residents, said Meng, pledging that the country will stabilize employment, give more support to rural industries, broaden channels for farmers to get

China's Consumer Market to Sustain Steady Growth in Q2

China's consumer market is expected to maintain a steady expansion in the second quarter of this year, the Ministry of Commerce said on June 15, 2023.

With the Dragon Boat Festival and the summer vacation around the corner, consumer demand for holiday shopping, recreation and tourism will be further unleashed, said spokesperson Shu Jueting at a press conference. The ministry will tailor pro-consumption measures for sectors including home furnishing and catering, Shu said.

While organizing various activities nationwide to boost spending, the ministry will continue its efforts to build a series of cities into "international consumption centers," according to the spokesperson. China's consumer market has remained on track for recovery, with data from the National Bureau of Statistics showing that the retail sales of consumer goods increased by 9.3 percent year on year in the January-May period.



rich, continue to implement existing tax and fee cut policies, and improve the multi-tiered social security system.

To stimulate growth, the People's Bank of China reduced the one-year interest rate of its medium-term lending facility on June 5, 2023, following two similar policy rate cuts earlier this week, in the seven-day reverse repo rate and the standing lending facility rate. Such moves sent a clear signal that the authorities will strengthen counter-cyclical adjustment and shore up market expectations.

On the fiscal front, the central government has pledged to provide transfer payments of 10.06 trillion yuan this year, the highest level in recent years, to help local authorities deal with financial droughts caused by factors including massive tax and fee cuts.

China aims to expand its economy by around 5 percent in 2023, said this year's government work report, also stating that the country would increase domestic demand in 2023, prioritizing the recovery and expansion of consumption.

“World Factory” Upgraded with High-tech, New Energy and Originality

As the 24th Chinese city whose GDP has surpassed \$140 billion Dongguan, located in Guangdong province, has been forging ahead with high-tech, new energy, and originality.

An unparalleled manufacturing enterprise and foreign trade volume bestowed the title “world factory” to Dongguan in southern China’s Guangdong Province.

As the 24th Chinese city whose GDP has surpassed 1 trillion yuan (about 140.62 billion U.S. dollars), Dongguan has been forging ahead with high-tech, new energy, and originality, other than a stereotype as a massive contract factory for mobile phones and garments only.

Advanced Sci-Tech Research

In the “world factory” lies a world-class sci-tech project -- China Spallation Neutron Source (CSNS). Over 1,000 research tasks have been tackled since it started in August 2018.

Chen Hesheng, general director of the CSNS and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, explained that a spallation neutron source is like a super microscope to help study the microstructure of some material.

“This function could find out, for example, when the parts of high-speed trains should change to avoid accidents caused by fatigue of materials,” he said.

Chen said the transformation of CSNS achievements to practical use is underway. For now, the second phase of CSNS is under construction, and the cooperation between

CSNS and high-level colleges and institutes is accelerating to build scientific research instruments.

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Chen considered the CSNS the most significant infrastructure for the comprehensive national science center in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Emphasis on New Energy

Founded in 2010, Greenway Technology is a leading manufacturer of lithium-ion batteries for micro-mobility and energy storage applications such as electric bikes, electric motorcycles, drones, intelligent robots, and sound equipment.

With clients in over 80 countries and regions, Greenway has invested nearly 260 million yuan in research and development in the recent

three years to secure its competitiveness in the new energy market.

Thanks to early-stage planning and quick response, the company has rapidly grown and maintained a 20 percent share of the European market, said Liu Cong, Greenway's vice president.

The local government has coordinated policies and funds to build a strategic base for emerging industries, including new-style energy storage, new energy vehicles, parts, semiconductors, and integrated circuits, said Liang Yangyang, chief economist of Dongguan's industry and information technology bureau.

According to official statistics, Dongguan's new energy industry saw revenues up 11.3 percent year on year to 66.73 billion yuan in 2022.

The local government has coordinated policies and funds to build a strategic base for emerging industries, including new-style energy storage, new energy vehicles, parts, semiconductors, and integrated circuits, said Liang Yangyang, chief economist of Dongguan's industry and information technology bureau.

Originality in Manufacturing

Despite emphasizing high-tech and new energy, Dongguan still attaches great importance to manufacturing, which contributes to over half of the city's GDP.

As one of the city's industrial pillars, toy manufacturing has over 4,000 manufacturers and nearly 1,500 supporting enterprises. Among them, ToyCity is a pioneer in exploring paths for more brand power and added value.

Originality is the key to the company's success, said Zheng Bo, ToyCity's founder, while introducing the fashion and trend toys designed by his company.

Toy companies used to choose contract manufacturing at the expense of initiative. But it's different now, Zheng said, stressing that creating original brands with intellectual properties wins independence and profits for toy businesses.

ToyCity's annual turnover has exceeded 100 million yuan, and profits have surged over 300 percent since its path changed towards originality, Zheng added.

Furthermore, supportive measures have been implemented by the local government, such as financial support, fashion toy centers, and Chinese fashion design competitions to establish a whole industry chain for toy manufacturing.



Foreign Firms Upbeat About Prospects of China's Economy

Despite some negative reports in Western media platforms, foreign firms continue to have confidence in the world's second-largest economy.

China's economy has shifted from high-speed growth to high-quality development. The opportunities created by this shift have retained China's position as a top destination for foreign investment.

Citing the latest economic data such as the purchasing managers' index, some Western media reports recently cast doubt on China's economic growth prospects. But this is just a repetition of their habitual pessimistic tone. Foreign firms continue to cast votes of confidence in the world's second-largest economy.

Despite various challenges, the Chinese economy has followed an unwavering trend of sustained recovery. Furthermore, China has maintained a leading position in main economic indicators among major economies this year. The World Bank lifted China's economic growth expectation to 5.6 percent in its Global Economic Prospects report released on June 6, 2023.

The huge market and resilience of the Chinese economy are still proving to be cardiotoxic to foreign companies' confidence in China. A large number of international business tycoons including the leaders of Tesla, Starbucks, Alstom and Volkswagen have visited China to seek cooperation opportunities.

Elon Musk, the founder of Tesla, praised China's vitality and potential, voiced confidence in the Chinese market, and expressed his willingness to deepen cooperation during his visit to the country last week.

Another reason is that China is gradually becoming a source of global innovation. Volkswagen inked an investment agreement of around 1 billion euros (about 1.07 billion U.S. dollars) in April to build a research and development, innovation, and procurement center in east China, while Tesla's energy-storage product factory is scheduled to break ground in Shanghai this year.

These renowned enterprises are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to foreign companies' willingness to continue to invest in China. A total of 11,000 new foreign-invested companies were established in China in the first quarter of 2023, a 7.6-percent increase year on year, the State Administration for Market Regulation said.

Last month, U.S. Consumer News and Business Channel quoted Procter & Gamble, Starbucks, and other U.S. companies as saying that Chinese consumers' increased travel and leisure spending had helped these companies improve their overall sales. The report also noted that with a large population base and a growing middle class, China is a desirable market for multinationals.

The sound prospects of China's huge market, the resilience of its economy, and the mature industry chain of the global factory, combine to offer ample reasons for international firms to cast votes of confidence in China's economy.

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These facts speak for themselves and illustrate clearly that China remains a popular destination for foreign investment. China always welcomes foreign companies to access its market and benefit from its development dividends. Certainly, China's economy will continue to be a major driver of global growth.



China Unveils Measures to Encourage Private Investment

China's top economic planner on Monday unveiled detailed measures to encourage private investment further as the country moves to revive the private economy.

The document, issued by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), stressed fully recognizing the significance of promoting private investment and pledged efforts to maintain the share of private investment in fixed asset investment at a reasonable level.

The NDRC said it would particularly recommend that private investment go into a selected number of industrial segments with great market potential and in line with national strategies and industrial policies from sectors like transport, water conservancy, clean energy, new infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and modern facility agriculture.

A catalog of recommended investment projects will be created, and a platform will be set up to introduce such projects to private investors, according to the NDRC.

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The NDRC also pledged to improve financial assistance for private investment projects and ensure the support of other resources like land supply. Private investment projects are encouraged to issue Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) products, it said.

China's Economy Maintains Recovery Momentum as Consumption Gains Traction

China's economy maintained recovery momentum as consuming activities gained traction and innovation pushed up industrial upgrading in the past half year.

In the three-day Dragon Boat Festival holiday from June 22 to 24, 2023 the world's second-largest economy saw a vibrant rebound in its tourism industry, with a total of 106 million domestic tourist trips made and 37.31 billion yuan (about 5.16 billion U.S. dollars) of tourism revenue generated in the period. The figures jumped by 32.3 and 44.5 percent year-on-year, respectively, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Data from the civil aviation sector also showed a willingness to spend on traveling, as travelers have made over 230.65 million air trips in the first five months, up 139.9 percent compared with a year ago, said the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

"We have seen our operational effectiveness and total passenger revenue in the first half of the year surpass the levels in the same period of 2019," said one of China's major airlines, Hainan Airlines. The average daily domestic flights operated by Hainan Airlines reached 669 in the first half of 2023, the same as the 2019 level; the average passenger load factor stood at 81.5 percent, and 34 international routes resumed operation, according to the company.

"In 2023, the domestic market is likely to exceed the 2019 level due to pent-up leisure and traveling demand after the epidemic, and the international market would gradually recover to pre-epidemic level during 2024 and 2025," said the airlines company, forecasting that its business would continue growing as China implements national strategies such as the "Belt and Road Initiative" and industrial upgrading.





Green and low-carbon consumption also become a prominent trend among Chinese consumers, with the new-energy vehicle (NEV) market a shining point. Local governments have taken a slew of policies, such as NEV purchasing subsidies and tax exemptions, to spur green consumption.

From January to May, some 1.05 million passenger vehicles whose prices are above 300,000 yuan were sold in China, up 35.1 percent year on year. Among them, NEVs sales reached 329,770, surging by 121.8 percent from a year ago, data from the China Passenger Car Association showed.

Meng Wei, the spokesperson for the National Development and Reform Commission, said in mid-June that the positive development trend of China's economy would remain unchanged in the long term, and the pulling effect of consumption on the economic upswing is expected to be further highlighted.

Meng also cautioned that the market demand is still insufficient, and the endogenous power of the economy still needs to be enhanced. "In the process of economic recovery, fluctuations are normal and temporary in some fields," Meng said when commenting on declines in some monthly economic indicators, including the purchasing managers' index for China's manufacturing sector and industrial profits.

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China's Dual Carbon Goal Propels Thriving Energy Storage Sector

China's dual carbon goal and targeted policies have provided strong tailwinds, enabling the country's energy storage businesses to thrive amid the rapidly evolving market competition.

Driven by the carbon peak and carbon neutrality goals, China has been actively advancing the use of renewable energy, with energy storage playing a vital role.

As the country ratchets up policy support for the sector, an increasing number of Chinese enterprises have jumped on the bandwagon to develop business layouts oriented toward energy storage and compete in the lucrative market, with the industry scale predicted to surpass 1 trillion yuan (about 138.39 billion U.S. dollars) by 2025. Based on cooperation with local governments, a slew of companies



operating in the new energy industry have made recent moves to beef up their energy storage investment across the country.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of China Tianying Inc., an A-share listed company operating in the environment industry, recently announced its decision to build a 100-megawatt-hour gravity-based energy storage project in Huailai County of Hebei Province, in cooperation with the local government.

China's electric carmaker BYD and electric vehicle battery maker Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Ltd. also announced to up their investment ante in the energy storage sector in partnership with local governments in south China's Guangdong Province. U.S. carmaker Tesla has also joined the race as it plans to build a gigafactory for energy storage in Shanghai.

The promising market prospects, fueled by policy tailwinds, serve as the driving force for new-energy conglomerates and competent businesses as they compete on the emerging track of the energy storage sector, according to analysts. At present, there are nearly 90,000 registered enterprises involved in the energy storage industry, data from the China Industrial Association of Power Sources (CIAPS) showed.

According to the National Energy Administration, China's energy storage sector, hydropower storage excluded, will enter the stage of large-scale development in 2025. Last month, the country's top economic planner said it encourages the participation of these types of energy storage facilities in the mechanism aimed at alleviating strain on the power system during peak periods.

The number of energy storage power stations is expected to sustain rapid growth as policies targeting energy storage are gradually fine-tuned at local levels and independent energy storage business models are continuously optimized, said Wang Zeshen, an official with the CIAPS. According to Wang, the size of China's energy storage market will reach 70 gigawatts in 2025, compared with more than 15 gigawatts in 2020.



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China aims to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. Driven by these goals, the country will advance the energy revolution, expedite the building of new energy systems and beef up support for the rapid development of the energy storage sector, said Song Hailiang, board chairman and executive director of China Energy Engineering Group Co., Ltd.

China's Ports Advance Transformation, Upgrading for High-Quality Growth

China has made solid efforts this year in advancing transformation and upgrading of the country's ports and facilitating resource integration, a transport official said on June 30, 2023.

In the first five months of 2023, Chinese ports maintained sound performance, with cargo throughput rising 7.9 percent year on year to 6.75 billion tonnes, Vice Transport Minister Fu Xuyin told a press conference.

During the same period, container throughput at Chinese ports went up 4.8 percent year on year to 122 million twenty-foot equivalent units, Fu said.

The country has deepened the integration of resources at ports. Some 17 provincial-level port groups have been established to facilitate the intensive utilization of resources, integrated operation, orderly competition and efficient services at ports.

According to Fu, efforts have been made to promote the coordinated development

of regional port clusters and enhance the overall competitiveness of world-class port clusters.

China has improved the function of ports in facilitating rail-water combined transportation to effectively reduce logistics costs and improve operational efficiency.

The country has also actively guided the development of smart ports. At present, China has 16 automated container terminals and more than 10 automated terminals are under construction, said Li Tianbi, chief engineer of the Ministry of Transport, at the press conference.

In the next stage, the ministry will continue to guide and promote the coordinated development of regional port clusters, further deepen resource integration at provincial-level port groups, and improve services at ports to better promote coordinated development of regional economy and build a modern industrial system, Fu said.



China's Software Industry Expands In First 5 Months

China's software and information technology service industry reported double-digit growth in revenue and profits in the first five months of the year, data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology showed.

Profits of the sector expanded 12.2 percent year on year to 492.2 billion yuan (about 68.55 billion U.S. dollars) in the period, while revenue grew by 13.3 percent from a year ago to 4.32 trillion yuan.

The export of software business went down 3.7 percent year on year to 18.9 billion U.S. dollars in the first five months, but the export of software outsourcing services rose 5 percent year on year.



China's Largest Ultra-High Voltage Cross-River Power Transmission Project Put into Operation

China's largest ultra-high voltage (UHV) power transmission project across the Yangtze River, the longest river in the country, was completed and put into operation on July 2, 2023.

The 500-kV power transmission project, spanning 2,550 meters across the Yangtze, stretches from the city of Taizhou to Wuxi in east China's Jiangsu Province, with a total length of 178 km and a total investment of over 1.5 billion yuan (about 207.6 million U.S. dollars), according to the State Grid Jiangsu Electric Power Co., Ltd.

The project includes two power transmission towers measuring 385 meters high each, the tallest of their kind in the world. It is estimated

that the maximum annual power transmission of the project can exceed 26 billion kWh, which is equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of a medium-sized Chinese city.

It is expected to increase Jiangsu's cross-river power transmission capacity by 30 percent, greatly promoting the consumption of clean energy like offshore wind power in the Yangtze River Delta and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by about 10 million tonnes every year.

"We have overcome a series of technical difficulties and set many industry records. The overall project and the equipment were 100 percent Chinese-made," said project manager Chen Bing.



China Launches New Space Experiment Satellite

China on June 20, 2023 launched a Long March 6 carrier rocket to place a new experiment satellite in space.

The rocket carrying the Shiyun-25 experiment satellite lifted off at 11:18 a.m. (Beijing Time) from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern province of Shanxi. The satellite successfully entered the preset orbit.

This satellite will mainly be used to carry out new Earth-observation technology experiments. The Long March-6 carrier rocket

was developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology, a China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation subsidiary.

Fueled by liquid propellant, the three-stage rocket has a carrying capacity of one tonne for a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of about 700 kilometers. It is capable of sending a single satellite or a group of satellites of various types into space. This was the 477th flight mission of the Long March rocket series.

A Long March-6 carrier rocket carrying the Shiyun-25 experiment satellite blasted off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province on June 20, 2023. The satellite successfully entered the preset orbit. It will mainly be used to carry out new Earth-observation technology experiments.



China Reports Progress on IP Development

China's intellectual property (IP) development has gained momentum over the past year, with more patents, efficient protection measures and an improved institutional system, according to a white paper published by the country's top IP regulator.

In 2022, the number of IP examinations, approvals and registrations continued to grow, while the quality and efficiency of IP examination were steadily improved, the National Intellectual Property Administration said at a press conference.

By the end of 2022, the total number of valid invention patents in China had reached 4.21 million, a year-on-year increase of 17.1 percent, according to the data published in the white paper. The number of valid utility model patents totaled 10.84 million, up 17.2 percent year on year, while the number of valid registered trademarks in China was 42.67 million, a year-on-year increase of 14.6 percent, the paper revealed. The Chinese government achieved remarkable results in the intensity, scope and efficiency of IP protection in 2022.

China continuously strengthened IP protection in key areas such as patents, trademarks, copyrights, Olympic symbols, new plant species and anti-unfair competition, as well as crucial links such as customs and online markets. It also intensified efforts to crack down on irregular patent applications and malicious trademark registration, and developed the establishment of mechanisms for dealing with overseas IP disputes.

Last year, Chinese courts received 526,165 new IP cases. Among them, the number of patent cases and technology contract disputes continued to rise, with first-instance patent civil cases and first-instance technology

contract cases up 23.25 percent and 5.55 percent year-on-year, respectively, according to Ding Guangyu, an official with China's Supreme People's Court.

Chinese courts have fully safeguarded the legitimate rights of patentees and inventors in accordance with the law, strictly protected the trade secrets of enterprises, and vigorously promoted innovation in key areas, core technologies and emerging industries, Ding said, adding that the role of IP judicial services in high-quality development has become more prominent. China effectively improved the IP institutional system last year. Three laws and regulations related to IP were revised and implemented, two judicial interpretations of IP protection were issued, and more than 20 normative documents and policy documents about IP protection were introduced and implemented, the white paper said. Positive progress was also made in local comprehensive legislation on IP protection.

In 2022, the number of IP examinations, approvals and registrations continued to grow, while the quality and efficiency of IP examination were steadily improved, the National Intellectual Property Administration said at a press conference.

In 2022, China also deepened exchanges and cooperation with international organizations such as the World Intellectual Property Organization and IP institutions in various countries and regions, participated deeply in global IP governance, and actively advocated for the strengthening of IP protection through joint efforts.

Foreign Firms Confident in China's Industrial Chains

China's supply chains featuring resilience and integrity have attracted more foreign-invested companies to up their investment in the Chinese market amid an improved business environment.

Official data showed that 24,000 new foreign firms established themselves in China in the first half of the year, marking a 35.7 percent rise year on year. During the period, foreign direct investment from developed countries including Britain and Germany saw rapid expansion, according to the Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

As a manufacturing powerhouse, China boasts all the industrial categories listed in the United Nations industrial classification. With a vast market of 1.4 billion population, the motivation for foreign firms to invest in the country becomes even stronger.

German sheet metal parts producer HA-BE Mechanical Components (Taicang) Co., Ltd sustained double-digit growth in the Chinese market for the past five or six years. Karl Froehlich, on the board of directors of the company, attributed the fast expansion pace to the "highly competitive" industrial chain pertaining to the industry sector in China.

"The company wouldn't have grown so much without suppliers who can deliver with a faster speed and better quality, or customers who want to buy the products," Froehlich said.

He noted there has been a notable change toward partnership in the whole market that the communication and problem-solving capacity of the players on the industrial chain has boosted in the past 10 years.

The tailwinds from the integrity and unity of the industrial chain will drive the business to grow further in the Chinese market. "I hope I could work for the company for the next 10 years and have the Chinese branch as big as our headquarters in Germany when I go to retirement," he said.

Australian company BioGenesis Group, majoring in health, superfood products, and agricultural technologies related to natural algae, is looking forward to expanding its research and development (R&D) capacity, one of the core competitiveness of the company, by investing in the Chinese market.

Casting a vote of confidence in the vast potential of China, Zhang Wenbin, CFO of the group, said the company will take root in the Chinese market by launching an R&D center through an industry-academia-research cooperation mechanism.

"The Chinese market can provide up-to-date healthcare philosophy and abundant clinical data for us to develop healthcare products that are more suitable for Asian people," Zhang said.

Amid the country's improved business environment and shortened negative list for foreign investment access, foreign firms have been upping their investment ante in the Chinese market.

Foreign investments from France, Britain, Japan, and Germany into the Chinese mainland surged 173.3 percent, 135.3 percent, 53 percent, and 14.2 percent, respectively, in the first six months of this year, showed the MOC data.

Six Things to Watch in China's Economy

The Chinese economy recorded a general upward trajectory in the first half of this year, with fluctuations also being spotted. As optimism and pessimism both arose, how does one correctly judge the economic trend?

The following analysis in six aspects, from demand to employment, offers a glimpse into the performance and prospects of the world's second-largest economy.

Economic Recovery

With a rosy start and a stable second quarter, the macro economy experienced an unusual recovery curve.

Above all, China's growth is praiseworthy against a slowing global economy backdrop. In the first six months, China secured a 5.5-percent GDP expansion -- quicker than 2022 and this year's first quarter -- driven by stronger consumption and steadily improving services.

Secondly, economic vibrancy did soften in the April-June period, with weakening indicators from exports to industrial profits. However, it is normal to see some volatility during the post-COVID-19 recovery phases, said Liu Yuanchun, president of the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

Besides, despite headwinds at home and abroad this year, China's economic growth had higher quality, with continued transformation and upgrades.

For instance, China's 20 millionth new energy vehicle rolled off the production line early this month in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, marking a milestone for the country's green drive. China's exports of solar

batteries, lithium-ion batteries, and electric vehicles soared amid sluggish global trade. The equipment manufacturing and high-tech industries also registered robust growth.

Chinese authorities have recognized the difficulties and pledged more efforts to bolster the economy. Pressures and challenges will not change the sound long-term economic trend, said Meng Wei, spokesperson for the National Development and Reform Commission.

Domestic Demand

Gauged by short-term indicators, the recovery of China's domestic demand in recent months slowed down from the first quarter as insufficient market demand and tepid endogenous impetus remained a drag on growth.

But packed subway trains, long queues at restaurants, and humming machines in



factories across the country are adding strength to an economic upturn.

Liu Guoqiang, deputy governor of the People's Bank of China, stressed that it takes time for consumption to return to normal.

It has only been about half a year since China adjusted its COVID-19 response, and positive signs have emerged already in areas including economic circulation, residents' incomes, and consumption, Liu said.

In the first half, infrastructure and high-tech investment maintained robust increases, and private investment, excluding those in property development, saw a 9.4-percent rapid expansion from a year ago.

Further expanding domestic demand remains key to sustaining recovery. To that end, China has rolled out various measures to boost consumer spending on new-energy vehicles, household items, and other areas and encourage private capital to partake in the major national projects as outlined in the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).

With its super-sized market and great domestic demand potential, China possesses strong economic resilience and abundant room for maneuvering. What the country needs in the course of recovery is firm confidence and patience.

"Consumer spending will play a bigger role in shoring growth as supportive policies take further effect. Investment in infrastructure and manufacturing are resilient and will also help expand domestic demand," said Fu Linghui, a National Bureau of Statistics spokesperson.

Unemployment

China's job market has been stable this year, with the unemployment rate of those between 25 and 59 years old in June at 4.1 percent, lower than the pre-pandemic level in 2019. However, a 21.3 percent surveyed unemployment rate among urban youths aged between 16 and 24 revealed prominent structural problems and the arduous task of helping job seekers in need.

In response, Chinese authorities have

taken a multi-pronged approach to tackle the challenge.

China's growth is praiseworthy against a slowing global economy backdrop. In the first six months, China secured a 5.5-percent GDP expansion -- quicker than 2022 and this year's first quarter -- driven by stronger consumption and steadily improving services.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security plans to create 1 million intern jobs this year and organize vocational skills training for more than 15 million people. Local governments have rolled out differentiated favorable policies for key job-seeking groups, including fresh college graduates.

Recently, a semiconductor material company in Hohhot, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, received a refund of 165,000 yuan (about 23,091 U.S. dollars) under a government program that grants employers with no or few layoffs refunds of unemployment-insurance premiums.

"There's even no need to file an application. The money is transferred directly to our account. It's a great encouragement for us to stabilize employment and continue to develop," the company's general manager Wang Yanjun said.

Addressing the unemployment problem, in essence, still lies in development, analysts said, pinning high hopes on China's upgraded traditional industries and fast-growing emerging sectors to drive job creation.

In the next stage, the sustained economic recovery, growing labor demand, and government policies will jointly guarantee employment stability, Fu Linghui said.

Deflation Or Inflation

While the economy has been on track for a steady recovery, low-running domestic prices have raised market concerns over deflation.

The mild rise in the consumer price index -- a 0.7-percent year-on-year increase in the first half -- was attributable to a time lag in demand recovery and a high base last year when food and energy prices spiked due to the Ukraine crisis. The producer price index (PPI) dropped 3.1 percent due to falling global commodity prices and inadequate domestic market demand.

However, from a rational perspective, relatively low inflation allows more room for macro policies to spur growth. The current low price level is temporary, and its impacts should not be exaggerated.

Wang Likun, a researcher with the Development Research Center of the State Council, predicted a moderate PPI rebound in the second half as demand for industrial goods would gradually increase, and the base effect would diminish.



The government is also on the move to deliver more supportive measures. In June, the country's loan prime rate, a market-based benchmark lending rate, was lowered, sending policy signals of strengthening counter-cyclical adjustments and anchoring market expectations.

There is no basis for long-term deflation or inflation in China, Zou Lan, an official with the People's Bank of China, said. "The economy's

supply and demand has been basically balanced, with reasonable and moderate monetary conditions, and stable expectations among residents."

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Business Expectations

China's business confidence has largely improved this year. But the sentiment still diverged in different sectors as lingering epidemic impacts and external changes exacerbated the difficulties facing micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

Analysts said building the confidence of various business entities, including private enterprises, is crucial to promoting a sustained economic recovery.

China has carried out a raft of measures to reassure entrepreneurs, including removing more barriers in market access, further reducing taxes and fees to save 1.8 trillion yuan for businesses this year, and boosting financial support for agriculture and rural areas as well as micro, small and private firms.

Recently, authorities issued a guideline to improve the growth of the private economy, promising to improve the business environment, enhance policy support, and strengthen the legal guarantee for its development.

The market confidence is expected to be further enhanced, Liu Xiangdong, a researcher with the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) said, citing effective policies to promote economic recovery, continuous improvements to a market-

oriented, law-based, and internationalized business environment, and targeted relief measures to tackle businesses' difficulties.

Since the beginning of this year, multiple visits to China by executives of multinationals, including Tesla, J.P. Morgan Chase, and Apple, have already cast a vote of confidence in China's economic outlook.

As the Chinese economy has kept its recovery momentum this year with increasing production and unleashed pent-up demand, businesses can seize the opportunity to bolster strength and gear up for future development, analysts said.

Defusing Risks

For the world's second-largest economy, lurking risks and hidden dangers in the property sector, local government debts, and some smaller financial institutions are among the challenges adding uncertainties to its recovery.

Despite being largely stable, China's real estate market has faced multiple challenges, with a dawdling recovery and dented confidence of developers and home buyers.

Targeted policy measures were rolled out to meet the challenge. China's financial authorities have announced the extension of credit support to ensure the delivery of pre-sold homes. Over 100 cities have taken city-specific measures such as lower lending rates and looser restrictions to spur house purchasing.

"There is no systemic risk in the real estate sector, but the existence of supply-demand imbalance entails structural reforms in the long run," said Zhu Min, vice chairman of the CCIEE.

The country has done a lot to prevent and defuse risks in small and medium-sized financial institutions, which face increased operating pressure and concentrating regional risks.

By promoting restructuring and market exits, the Chinese financial regulator has managed to help some small lenders revive and significantly reduce the number of high-



risk institutions. More will be done to advance mergers and acquisitions of smaller banks, improve the corporate governance of financial institutions, and give full play to the fund for ensuring financial stability.

For the world's second-largest economy, lurking risks and hidden dangers in the property sector, local government debts, and some smaller financial institutions are among the challenges adding uncertainties to its recovery.

The issue of local government debts also came under the spotlight recently.

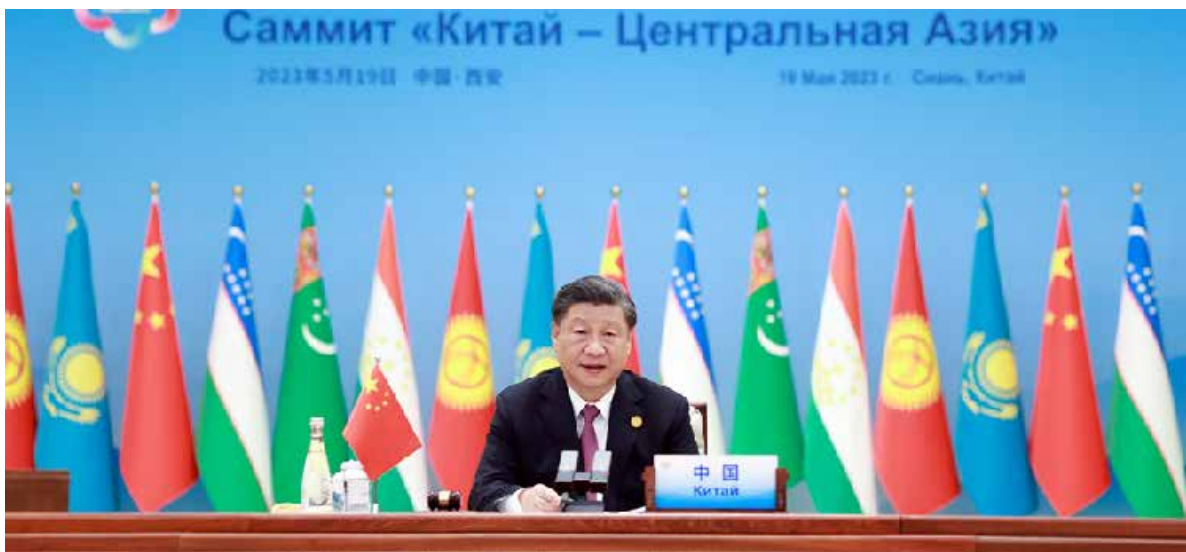
While most of the provincial regions reported positive growth in fiscal revenue in the first quarter, local governments will likely retain a tight balance in their budgets due to lingering epidemic impacts and rising spending in key areas.

In response, China is weaving a stronger safety net against debt risks, with measures to tighten oversight, strictly implement lifelong accountability, and strengthen regulation over local government financing vehicles.

Generally speaking, the fiscal condition in China is safe and healthy, leaving ample leeway for dealing with risks and challenges, the Ministry of Finance has said, pledging to ensure the bottom line of no systemic risk.

Keynote Speech by President Xi Jinping at the China-Central Asia Summit

On 19th May, 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech entitled “Working together for a China-Central Asia Community with a Shared Future Featuring Mutual Assistance, Common Development, Universal Security, and Everlasting Friendship”.



Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,

I'd like to welcome you all to Xi'an for the China-Central Asia Summit to explore together ways for closer cooperation between China and the five Central Asian countries.

Xi'an, known as Chang'an in ancient times, is an important cradle of the Chinese civilization and nation. It is also the starting point of the ancient Silk Road on the east end. Over 2,100 years ago, Zhang Qian, a Han Dynasty

envoy, made his journey to the West from Chang'an, opening the door to the friendship and exchanges between China and Central Asia. With their joint endeavor of hundreds of years, Chinese and Central Asian peoples made the Silk Road expand and prosper, a historic contribution to the interaction, integration, enrichment and development of world civilizations. The Tang Dynasty poet Li Bai (701-761) once wrote, "In Chang'an we meet again, worthy of more than a thousand pieces of gold." Our gathering in Xi'an today to renew our millennia-old friendship and

open up new vistas for the future is of very important significance.

Back in 2013, I put forward the initiative of jointly building a Silk Road Economic Belt during my first visit to Central Asia as Chinese president. Over the past decade, China and Central Asian countries have worked closely together to fully revive the Silk Road and actively deepen future-oriented cooperation, steering our relations into a new era.

The China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan highway that runs across the Tianshan Mountain, the China-Tajikistan expressway that defies the Pamir Plateau, and the China-Kazakhstan crude oil pipeline and the China-Central Asia Gas Pipeline that traverse the vast desert – they are the present-day Silk Road. The China-Europe Railway Express operating around the clock, the endless streams of freight trucks, and crisscrossing flights – they are the present-day camel caravans. Entrepreneurs seeking business opportunities, health workers fighting the COVID-19, cultural workers delivering message of friendship, and international students pursuing further education – they are the present-day goodwill ambassadors.

The China-Central Asia relationship is steeped in history, driven by broad actual needs, and built on solid popular support. Our relations are brimming with vigor and vitality in the new era.

Colleagues,

Transformations of the world unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace. Changes of the world, of our times, and of the historical trajectory are taking place in ways like never before. Central Asia, the center of the Eurasian continent, is at a crossroads connecting the East and West, the South and North.

The world needs a stable Central Asia. The sovereignty, security, independence and territorial integrity of Central Asian countries must be upheld; their people's choice of development paths must be respected; and their efforts for peace, harmony and tranquility must be supported.

The world needs a prosperous Central Asia. A dynamic and prospering Central Asia

will help people in the region achieve their aspiration for a better life. It will also lend strong impetus to global economic recovery.

The world needs a harmonious Central Asia. As a Central Asian saying goes, "Brotherhood is more precious than any treasure." Ethnic conflicts, religious strife, and cultural estrangement are not the defining feature of the region. Instead, solidarity, inclusiveness, and harmony are the pursuits of the Central Asian people. No one has the right to sow discord or stoke confrontation in the region, let alone seek selfish political interests.

The world needs an interconnected Central Asia. Blessed with unique geographical advantages, Central Asia has the right foundation, condition and capability to become an important connectivity hub of Eurasia and make unique contribution to the trading of goods, the interplay of civilizations and the development of science and technology in the world.

Colleagues,

At the virtual summit commemorating the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Central Asian countries held last year, we jointly announced our vision of a China-Central Asia community with a shared future. It was a historic choice made for the fundamental interests and bright future of our peoples in the new era. In building this community, we need to stay committed to four principles.

First, mutual assistance. It is important that we deepen strategic mutual trust, and always give each other unequivocal and strong support on issues concerning our core interests such as sovereignty, independence, national dignity, and long-term development. We should work together to ensure that our community features mutual assistance, solidarity, and mutual trust.

Second, common development. It is important that we continue to set the pace for Belt and Road cooperation and deliver on the Global Development Initiative. We should fully unlock our potentials in traditional areas of cooperation such as economy, trade, industrial capacity, energy and transportation.

And we should forge new drivers of growth in finance, agriculture, poverty reduction, green and low-carbon development, medical service, health, and digital innovation. We should work together to ensure that our community features win-win cooperation and common progress.

Third, universal security. It is important that we act on the Global Security Initiative, and stand firm against external attempts to interfere in domestic affairs of regional countries or instigate color revolutions. We should remain zero-tolerant to the three forces of terrorism, separatism and extremism, and strive to resolve security conundrums in the region. We should work together to ensure that our community features no-conflict and enduring peace.

Fourth, everlasting friendship. It is important that we implement the Global Civilization Initiative, carry forward our traditional friendship, and enhance people-to-people exchanges. We should do more to share our experience in governance, deepen cultural mutual learning, increase mutual understanding, and cement the foundation of the everlasting friendship between the Chinese and Central Asian peoples. We should work together to ensure that our community features close affinity and shared conviction.

Colleagues,

Our Summit has created a new platform and opened up new prospects for China-Central Asia cooperation. China will take this as an opportunity to step up coordination with all parties for good planning, development and progress of China-Central Asia cooperation.

First, we need to strengthen institutional building. We have set up meeting mechanisms on foreign affairs, economy, trade and customs, as well as a business council. China has also proposed establishment of meeting and dialogue mechanisms on industry and investment, agriculture, transportation, emergency response, education, and political parties, which will be platforms for all-round mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries.

Second, we need to expand economic and trade ties. China will take more trade facilitation measures, upgrade bilateral investment treaties, and open “green lanes” for streamlined customs clearance of agricultural and sideline products at all border ports between China and Central Asian countries. China will also hold a live-streaming sales event to further promote Central Asian products, and build a commodities trading center. All this is part of an effort to push two-way trade to new heights.

Third, we need to deepen connectivity. China will strive to increase the volume of cross-border cargo transportation, support the development of the trans-Caspian international transport corridor, enhance the traffic capacity of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan highway and the China-Tajikistan-Uzbekistan highway, and move forward consultations on the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway. China will seek to modernize the existing border ports at a faster pace, open a new border port at Biedieli, promote the opening of the air transportation market, and build a regional logistics network. China will also step up the development of China-Europe Railway Express assembly centers, encourage capable enterprises to build overseas warehouses in Central Asian countries, and build a comprehensive digital service platform.

Fourth, we need to expand energy cooperation. China would like to propose that we establish a China-Central Asia energy development partnership. We should expedite the construction of Line D of the China-Central Asia Gas Pipeline, expand trade in oil and gas, pursue cooperation throughout the energy industrial chains, and strengthen cooperation on new energy and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Fifth, we need to promote green innovation. China will work with Central Asian countries to conduct cooperation in such areas as improvement and utilization of saline-alkali land and water-saving irrigation, build together a joint laboratory on agriculture in arid lands, and tackle the ecological crisis of the Aral Sea. China supports establishing high-tech

firms and IT industrial parks in Central Asia. China also welcomes Central Asian countries to participate in special cooperation programs under the Belt and Road Initiative, including programs on sustainable development technologies, innovation and start-up, and spatial information science and technology.

Sixth, we need to enhance capabilities for development. China will formulate a China-Central Asia special cooperation program for poverty reduction through science and technology, implement the “China-Central Asia technology and skills improvement scheme”, set up more Luban Workshops in Central Asian countries, and encourage Chinese companies in Central Asia to create more local jobs. To bolster our cooperation and Central Asian development, China will provide Central Asian countries with a total of 26 billion RMB yuan of financing support and grant.

Seventh, we need to strengthen dialogue between civilizations. China invites Central Asian countries to take part in the “Cultural Silk Road” program, and will set up more traditional medicine centers in Central Asia. We will speed up establishment of cultural centers in each other’s countries. China will continue to provide government scholarships for Central Asian countries, and support their universities in joining the University Alliance of the Silk Road. We will ensure the success of the Year of Culture and Arts for the Peoples of China and Central Asian Countries as well as the China-Central Asia high-level media dialogue. We will launch the “China-Central Asia Cultural and Tourism Capital” program, and open special train services for cultural tourism in Central Asia.

Eighth, we need to safeguard peace in the region. China is ready to help Central Asian countries strengthen capacity building on law enforcement, security and defense, support their independent efforts to safeguard regional security and fight terrorism, and work with them to promote cyber-security. We will continue to leverage the role of the coordination



mechanism among Afghanistan’s neighbors, and jointly promote peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

Colleagues,

Last October, the Communist Party of China successfully held its 20th National Congress, which laid out the central task of realizing the Second Centenary Goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and advancing rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. It is a grand blueprint for China’s future development. We will strengthen theoretical and practical exchanges with Central Asian countries on modernization, synergize our development strategies, create more opportunities for cooperation, and jointly advance the modernization process of our six countries.

Colleagues,

There is a proverb popular among farmers in Shaanxi Province, “If you work hard enough, gold will grow out of the land.” In the same vein, a Central Asian saying goes, “You get rewarded if you give, and you harvest if you sow.” Let us work closely together to pursue common development, common affluence, and common prosperity, and embrace a brighter future for our six countries!

Eurasian Integration in a Multipolar World: Xi

In his address at the Opening Ceremony of the Plenary Session of the Second Eurasian Economic Forum of the Eurasian Economic Union, Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed hope that synergy can be forged to carry out deeper and more substantive cooperation in the Belt and Road construction and the building of the Eurasian Economic Union.



President Xi Jinping attended and addressed the opening ceremony of the plenary session of the second Eurasian Economic Forum of the Eurasian Economic Union via video link.

Noting that the world today is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, Xi

Jinping said the historical trends toward a multipolar world and economic globalization are irresistible. It is the broad consensus of the international community to uphold true multilateralism and promote coordinated development across regions. Eurasia is a region with the largest population, the largest number

of countries and the most diverse civilizations in the world. How to proceed with the Asia-Europe cooperation in a turbulent and changing world not only bears on the well-being of the people in the region, but also has a profound impact on the development orientation of the world.

Xi Jinping stressed that for this question of importance for our times and the history, China has a very clear answer. Xi Jinping said he had successively put forward the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, calling on all countries to work together to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys enduring peace, universal security and common prosperity, and to build a community with a shared future for mankind. Noting the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative this year, Xi Jinping said the ultimate purpose and goal of this initiative is to explore new ways for countries from near and far to achieve common development, and to blaze a “path of happiness” to the benefit of all countries and the world at large.

Xi Jinping stressed that as a member of the Eurasian family, China cannot develop

itself in isolation from the Eurasian region, and has contributed to the region with its development. China sincerely hopes that synergy can be forged to carry out deeper and more substantive cooperation in the Belt and Road construction and the building of the Eurasian Economic Union, and that countries will work together in solidarity to open up new prospects for Asia-Europe cooperation. Noting that China will host the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in the second half of this year, Xi Jinping said China is ready to work with the countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative and the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union to continuously hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, and to jointly create a better future by sharing opportunities and meeting challenges together, to write a new chapter of progress of human civilization in a multipolar world.

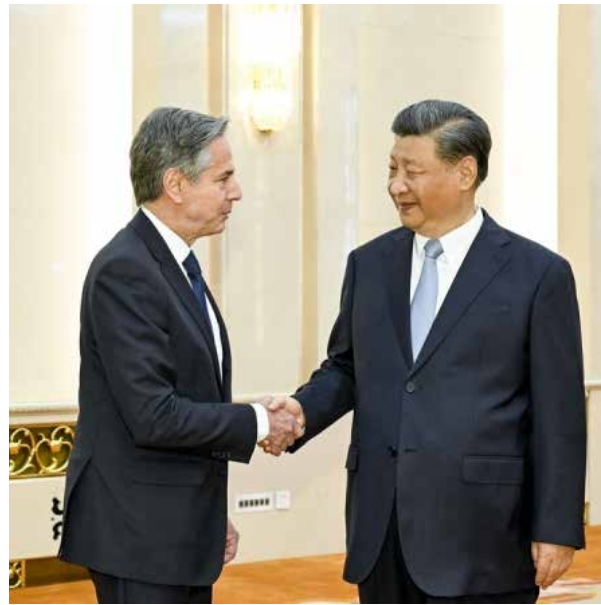
The second Eurasian Economic Forum of the Eurasian Economic Union was held online and offline in Moscow, Russia on May 24, with the theme of “Eurasian Integration in a Multipolar World”.



Xi Jinping to Blinken: World Needs Stable China-US Relationship

President Xi pointed out that the world is developing and the times are changing. The world needs a generally stable China-U.S. relationship. Whether the two countries can find the right way to get along bears on the future and destiny of humanity. Planet Earth is big enough to accommodate the respective development and common prosperity of China and the United States. The Chinese, like the Americans, are dignified, confident and self-reliant people. They both have the right to pursue a better life. The common interests of the two countries should be valued, and their respective success is an opportunity instead of a threat to each other. The international community is generally concerned about the current state of China-U.S. relations. It does not want to see conflict or confrontation between China and the United States or choose sides between the two countries. It expects the two countries to coexist in peace and have friendly and cooperative relations. The two countries should act with a sense of responsibility for history, for the people and for the world, and handle China-U.S. relations properly. In this way, they may contribute to global peace and development, and help make the world, which is changing and turbulent, more stable, certain and constructive.

President Xi stressed that major-country competition does not represent the trend of the times, still less can it solve America's own problems or the challenges facing the world. China respects U.S. interests and does not seek to challenge or displace the United States. In the same vein, the United States needs to respect



China and must not hurt China's legitimate rights and interests. Neither side should try to shape the other side by its own will, still less deprive the other side of its legitimate right to development. China always hopes to see a sound and steady China-U.S. relationship and believes that the two major countries can overcome various difficulties and find the right way to get along based on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation. He called on the U.S. side to adopt a rational and pragmatic attitude, and work with China in the same direction. President Xi pointed out that the two sides need to remain committed to the common understandings he and President Biden had reached in Bali, and translate the positive statements into actions so as to stabilize and improve China-U.S. relations.

Xi Meets Henry Kissinger



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, capital of China, July 20, 2023.

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on Thursday.

Xi noted that Dr. Kissinger has recently celebrated his 100th birthday and has paid more than 100 visits to China over the years. "These two 100s give this visit special significance."

Xi said that fifty-two years ago when China and the United States were at a crucial inflection point, Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai, President Richard Nixon and Dr. Kissinger, with their extraordinary strategic vision, made the right decision for China-U.S. cooperation and launched the process of normalizing the China-U.S. relationship. The decision delivered benefits to the two countries and changed the world.

The Chinese people value friendship, said Xi. "We never forget our old friends, nor your historic contributions to promoting the growth of China-U.S. relations and enhancing friendship between the two peoples."

Xi emphasized that the world is undergoing momentous transformations unseen in a century and the international landscape is going through major shifts. "China and the United States have once again come to a crossroads, which requires another decision by

the two sides about where to go from here."

Looking ahead, China and the United States can help each other succeed and prosper together, and the key is to follow the three principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, he said.

"China is ready, on this basis, to explore with the United States the right way for the two countries to get along and take their relations steadily forward, which will be good for both sides and deliver benefits to the world," said Xi.

He expressed the hope that Dr. Kissinger and other people of foresight in the United States could continue to play a constructive role in restoring China-U.S. relations to the right track.

Kissinger expressed appreciation to President Xi for meeting him at Villa 5 of the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, the venue where he had met Chinese leaders during his first visit to China. He stressed that the U.S.-China relationship is essential to peace and prosperity of the two countries and the wider world.

Under the current circumstances, it is imperative to maintain the principles established by the Shanghai Communique, appreciate the utmost importance China attaches to the one-China principle, and move the relationship in a positive direction, Kissinger said. He expressed his commitment to making continuous efforts to facilitate mutual understanding between American and Chinese peoples.

Wang Yi participated in the meeting.

Li Qiang to Janet Yellen: China-US Economic Relations Are Win-Win



On the afternoon of July 7, 2023, Premier Li Qiang of the State Council met with U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen at the Great Hall of the People.

Li Qiang said that the world needs a generally stable China-U.S. relationship. Whether the two countries can find the right way to get along bears on the future and destiny of humanity. Last year, President Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden reached a series of important common understandings during their successful meeting in Bali, Indonesia, charting the course for China-U.S. relations. Mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation are the fundamental principles of state-to-state interactions, and also the right way for countries to get along with each other. The Chinese civilization always values peace above everything else and opposes domineering and bullying practices.

China hopes that the United States will adopt a rational and pragmatic attitude, work with China in the same direction, and bring China-U.S. relations back to the right track at an early date.

Li Qiang pointed out that with closely intertwined economic interests, the China-U.S. economic relationship is mutually beneficial and win-win in nature, and strengthening cooperation meets the actual needs of the two sides and is the right choice to make.

China's development brings opportunities and benefits to the United States, rather than challenges or risks. Politicizing economic cooperation or overstressing the concept of security is detrimental to the economic development of the two countries and the whole world. The two sides should strengthen communication and seek common understandings on important bilateral economic issues through candid, in-depth and pragmatic exchanges, to inject stability and positive energy into China-U.S. economic relations. China and the United States should enhance coordination and cooperation to jointly tackle global challenges and promote common development.

Yellen said the United States does not seek "decoupling or disconnection", and has no intention of hindering China's modernization process. The U.S. side is ready to implement the common understandings reached between the two presidents in Bali, strengthen communication, avoid misunderstandings caused by differences, step up cooperation in stabilizing the macro-economy and addressing global challenges, and seek mutual benefit and win-win results between the two economies.

Li Qiang Attends 2023 Summer Davos Forum



On the morning of June 27, 2023, Premier Li Qiang of the State Council attended and addressed the opening plenary of the 2023 Summer Davos Forum in Tianjin. Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab, Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Mongolia Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene, Prime Minister of New Zealand Chris Hipkins, Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh, Director-General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, and about 1,500 representatives from more than 90 countries and regions were present.

Li Qiang said that in the past few years, the pandemic, compounded by transformation unseen in a century, has brought significant changes to our world. Having experienced the barriers, we should all the more cherish communication and exchange. Different countries, ethnic groups and civilizations need to deepen mutual understanding and strengthen dialogue to bridge differences and expand common ground. Having experienced the shocks of global crises, we should all the more cherish solidarity and cooperation, embrace the concept of win-win cooperation, and work together to tackle these global challenges and promote human

progress. Having experienced the ups and downs of economic globalization, we should all the more cherish openness and sharing, continue our efforts to build an open world economy, and deliver the fruits of globalization to different countries and groups of people in a more equitable way. Having experienced the anxiety caused by conflict and turmoil, we should all the more cherish peace and stability.

Li Qiang pointed out that what is lacking in today's world is communication, not estrangement; cooperation, not confrontation; openness, not isolation; peace, not conflict. We must act on the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind put forward by President Xi Jinping, and jointly implement the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative. We need to press ahead by following the logic of historical progress, develop by riding the tide of our times, and work hard to build an even better world.

Li Qiang said that over the past decade, China has been an important source of impetus for the steady growth of the world economy and served as an important anchor and for free trade and stable growth in the world. China will continue to provide strong dynamism to the world economic recovery and growth, and provide opportunities of win-win cooperation to investors from all countries.

Li Qiang stressed that the theme of this year's annual meeting "Entrepreneurship: The Driving Force of the Global Economy" cannot be more fitting. China wishes to work with entrepreneurs from all countries to firmly support economic globalization, firmly uphold the market economy, firmly support free trade, and steer the world economy toward a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable future.

Li Qiang Meets John Kerry, Call for Joint US-China Action to Tackle Climate Change



On the morning of July 18, 2023, Premier Li Qiang of the State Council met U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry at the Great Hall of the People.

Li Qiang said that China and the United States are both important countries in the world, and enhanced cooperation between the two countries will benefit not only each other but also the whole world. President Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden had a successful meeting in Bali, Indonesia last year, and reached a series of important common understandings, showing a clear direction for the development of China-U.S. relations. The two sides should take concrete actions to implement the common understandings between the two heads of state, properly manage differences, and bring China-U.S. relations back to the track of sound and steady development at an early date.

Li Qiang pointed out that the world is facing an arduous task of climate response, and it is essential that China, the U.S. and all other countries strengthen coordination, build consensus and take prompt actions to foster the greatest possible synergy for climate response. Premier Li stressed the need to

practice multilateralism and uphold the goals and principles set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement. All parties should shoulder their due responsibilities and abide by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in addressing climate change. Developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions and fulfill their financial commitments as soon as possible while developing countries should make contributions within their capacity. Scientific and technological achievements should be shared to promote global green and low-carbon transition, and developed countries should give more technical support to developing countries. Li Qiang expressed the hope that China and the United States will continue to uphold the spirit of cooperation, respect each other's core concerns, seek common ground while shelving differences through full communication, and explore more pragmatic institutionalized cooperation to advance the process of multilateral climate governance and ensure full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

John Kerry said that the United States and China are the world's two largest economies and the top two carbon emitters. The United States hopes that the U.S.-China relationship will remain stable, and stands ready to strengthen cooperation with China to jointly tackle climate change and other pressing global challenges, and strive for the success of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

China Committed to UN 2030 Agenda, will Implement GDI, Says Wang Yi



On July 10, 2023, the First High-Level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development was held in Beijing. Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi first read out a congratulatory letter from President Xi Jinping.

Wang Yi said that President Xi Jinping's congratulatory letter has shown China's sincere wish to advance the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, demonstrated China's resolute determination to implement the Global Development Initiative (GDI), and drawn a grand vision of building a human community with a shared future. In 2021, President Xi Jinping solemnly put forth the GDI, sending a strong message of the times of concentrating on development and revitalizing cooperation. Two years on, China has joined hands with all cooperative partners to deepen and substantiate the GDI,

revitalized the international development agenda, carried out numerous cooperation projects, established extensive cooperation networks, and improved the lives of people in all countries.

Wang Yi said that the GDI is not a solo of China, but a symphony of all sides. As the world's largest developing country and an ex officio member of the Global South, China will seek more active, effective and sustainable measures to promote the implementation of the GDI, take action in six areas including supporting the development priority agenda, optimizing the cultivation of development projects, breaking the bottleneck of development financing, expanding development cooperation methods, strengthening tripartite development cooperation, and supporting youth-led development, and jointly create a future of development with all other countries in the world.

Prime Minister of Solomon Islands Manasseh Sogavare, President of Tanzania Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Nikolai Snopkov, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos Saleumxay Kommasith, among others, attended the conference and delivered remarks either online or offline. Representatives of 158 countries and international organizations attended the conference upon invitation.



Chinese Defense Minister Calls for Normalised Border Management

Chinese State Councilor and Defense Minister General Li Shangfu, who attended the meeting of the Council of the Defense Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states in New Delhi, India, met Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh on April 27. The two sides exchanged views on relations between the two countries and militaries.

General Li said that as major neighboring countries and important developing countries, China and India share far more common interests than differences. The two sides should view bilateral relations and each other's development from a comprehensive, long-term and strategic perspective, and jointly contribute wisdom and strength to world and regional peace and stability.

Gen. Li pointed out that currently, the situation on China-India border is generally

stable and the two sides have maintained communication through military and diplomatic channels. The two sides should take a long-term view, place the border issue in an appropriate position in bilateral relations, and promote the transition of the border situation to normalized management. It is hoped that the two sides will work together to continuously enhance mutual trust between the two militaries and make proper contributions to the development of bilateral relations.

The two sides should take a long-term view, place the border issue in an appropriate position in bilateral relations, and promote the transition of the border situation to normalized management



Remarks by Ma Jia, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India at the "Tiangong Dialogue"

Let me express my gratitude, on behalf of the Chinese Embassy in India, to teachers and students for receiving our invitation to participate in the "Tiangong Dialogue" which is organized by China's SCO Committee on Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation, China Manned Space Agency and the SCO Secretariat to enable students from SCO countries to talk with Taikonauts of Shenzhou-15. The main venue today is in Beijing, China, where we will interact with the Chinese taikonauts in the Tiangong space station through a video link. We will be joined by teachers and students from other SCO member states, observer states and dialogue partners. The Chinese Taikonauts will answer the most popular questions through this virtual dialogue.

The Chinese space dream dates back thousands of years. Some of you may hear about the mythical story of Chang'e flying to the moon and the Flying Apsaras of Dunhuang which are

household stories in China. From the successful launch of the first man-made satellite "Dong Fang Hong-1" in 1970, the launch of "Chang'e", "Zhurong" and "Xihe" and other spacecrafts flying to the Moon, Mars and the Sun, to the current taikonauts crew of Shenzhou-15 who have been living in orbit for more than four months, we have achieved a number of milestones including scientific experiments, technical tests, crew out-of-cabin activities and cargo out-of-cabin missions. China's space industry has made historic accomplishment and achieved leapfrog development which accelerated its march to a space power.

The Indian "space dream" has a long history as well. About 4,000 years ago, the Rig Veda of ancient India touched upon with astronomy. The carved figures in ancient rock paintings found in central India which are even shown wearing space suits are astonishing. About 3,000 years ago, India had its own calendar and created its cosmology. Last month,

my colleagues and I visited the Jantar Manta Observatory in Jaipur, a World Heritage Site built in early 18th Century to showcase the high level of Indian traditional science, which was very impressive. India is the sixth country in the world to launch a satellite in geosynchronous orbit on its own, the first in Asia and the fourth in the world to successfully explore Mars. It shocked the world with its record-breaking launch of 104 satellites on one rocket.



As two neighboring ancient civilizations and the two largest developing countries and representatives of emerging economies with a combined population of 2.8 billion, both China and India are committed to national development and rejuvenation. Both countries are members of the SCO and BRICS and have great potential for exchange and cooperation in the fields of economy, social development, education, science and technology including space technology. In May last year, the BRICS Joint Commission on Space Cooperation was formally established and will carry out high-level cooperation in areas such as environmental protection, disaster prevention and mitigation, and climate change, which will further promote exchange and cooperation in space science and technology among BRICS countries including India and China.

Today happens to be the United Nations “International Chinese Language Day”. Since

2010, the UN has designated “Chinese Language Day” on “Grain Rain”, one of the 24 solar terms of the Chinese calendar, to commemorate the contribution of Cang Jie, for his creation of Chinese characters. Today, we have prepared calligraphy brushes, ink and paper for practising Chinese writing. The books are free to take with you. As some Indian schools have been offering Chinese language courses. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone engaged in Chinese teaching and learning.

Chinese language is spoken by the largest number of people in the world and inherited for thousands of years. Chinese characters have unique meanings and exquisite combinations. The vocabularies of Tiangong, Shenzhou, Bridge of Magpies, and Chang’e all correspond to ancient Chinese mythologies. The core module where our astronauts live in the space station is called “Tianhe”, which means “peace”, “harmony” and “the unity of Heaven and Humanity”. They are not only beautiful Chinese names, but also visions to explore the universe in pursuit of utilizing the space peacefully. These implications can hardly be understood only by reading Pinyin. I hope you could learn more Chinese characters for a better understanding of the culture and philosophy behind these names.

The theme of this year’s Chinese Language Day is “Facilitating Dialogues across Civilizations”, which is in line with this event today. The “Tiangong Dialogue”, which is held among young people from SCO countries, is also a vivid “dialogue among civilizations” providing a unique platform for people to get to know each other and promote language and cultural exchanges and cooperation.

I wish this kind of events bring you more knowledge about Chinese culture, bridge our two peoples with your friendship and wisdom, and promote exchanges among civilisations for a bright future for all.

Thank you.

Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India Ma Jia Publishes Article in *The Indian Express*



On June 2nd, 2023, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India Ma Jia published an article entitled "A Focus on Common Interests-Strong Economic Growth of India and China will be vital for global economic recovery" in *The Indian Express*. The full text is as follows:

Affected by complex factors such as the Ukrainian crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and interest rate hikes in the United States, the world economic situation is not optimistic in general. Instabilities and uncertainties bring about fragility to its recovery, and all countries are faced with tests of how to stabilise growth. In this context, recent robust economic performances of China and India have attracted much attention.

India has become the fifth largest economy in the world. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's "World Investment Report 2022" shows that in 2021, India ranked

seventh among the top 20 recipients of foreign direct investment. India's digital economy is growing rapidly with more than 82,000 start-ups and 107 unicorn companies. The "2022-2023 Indian Economic Survey Report" predicts that India will become one of the fastest growing economies in the world in fiscal years of 2023 and 2024.

Meanwhile, China's economy achieved comprehensive rebound with the first-quarter GDP growing by 4.5% year-on-year. Market vitality recovered with SME Development Index (calculated based on a survey of 3,000 small and medium-sized enterprises) reaching 89.3 points between January and March. The manufacturing PMI (purchasing managers index) and the non-manufacturing Business Activity Index continued to stand above the boom-and-bust line, and expectations on private enterprises rose on a gradual base. Employment and prices remained stable, and the CPI (consumer price index) rose by 1.3%. Many international organizations and investment institutions have revised their forecasts upwards for China's economic growth this year.

China and India are the most populous developing countries and the top two developing economies in the world. The two countries account for more than 35% of the world's total population and more than 20% of the world's total economic output. China and India has a decisive impact on the cause of human development, and strong economic growth of the two countries has a vital role to the global economic recovery.

China and India have also made important contributions to the world poverty alleviation. Over the past more than 40 years of reform



MA JIA

A Focus On Common Interests

Strong economic growth of India and China will be vital for global economic recovery

AFFECTED BY COMPLEX factors such as the Ukraine crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, and interest rate hikes in the United States, the world economic situation is not optimistic in general. Instabilities and uncertainties bring about fragility in its recovery, and all countries are faced with the test of how to stabilise growth. In this context, the recent robust economic performances of China and India have attracted much attention.

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China and India have also made important contributions to world poverty alleviation. Over the past more than 40 years of reform and opening up, the Chinese government has lifted more than 800 million people out of poverty. From fiscal year 2006 to 2021, a total of 410 million people in India have been lifted out of poverty. According to the forecast of the International Monetary Fund, the contribution of China and India to world economic growth this year will be over 50.3 per cent.

Emerging economies like China and India have become important engines for the re-

covery of global economic growth. As Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang said during his meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyan Jaishankar this year, as the two most populous developing countries in the world, both China and India are in a critical period of achieving modernisation. We should steer bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, respect and learn from each other, contribute to each other's success, pursue a new path of living in harmony, peaceful development and common revitalisation between neighbouring major countries, so as to boost our respective national rejuvenation and inject stability and positive energy into world peace and development.

The year 2023 marks a high point in India's diplomacy, with its presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the G20. China is willing to communicate and cooperate with India to strengthen global economic governance, safeguard the common interests of developing countries and international equity and justice. I firmly believe that by strengthening practical cooperation in various fields, China and India will surely bring a stronger impetus to the recovery and growth of the world economy.

The writer is Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India.

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Emerging economies like China and India have become important engines for the recovery of global economic growth. As the two most populous developing countries in the world, both China and India are in a

critical period of achieving modernisation. We should steer bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, respect and learn from each other, contribute to each other's success, pursue a new path of living in harmony, peaceful development and common revitalisation between neighboring major countries, so as to boost respective national rejuvenation and inject stability and positive energy into world peace and development .

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Chinese Bridge: Connecting Cultures via Chinese Language

Speech by Ma Jia, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Chinese Embassy in India at the final of the 22nd “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students in India and the Award Ceremony of the “Bank of China Cup Chinese Bridge” Chinese Competition

Honorable Ms. Weng Tiehui, Vice Minister of Education of China

Distinguished judges and candidates,

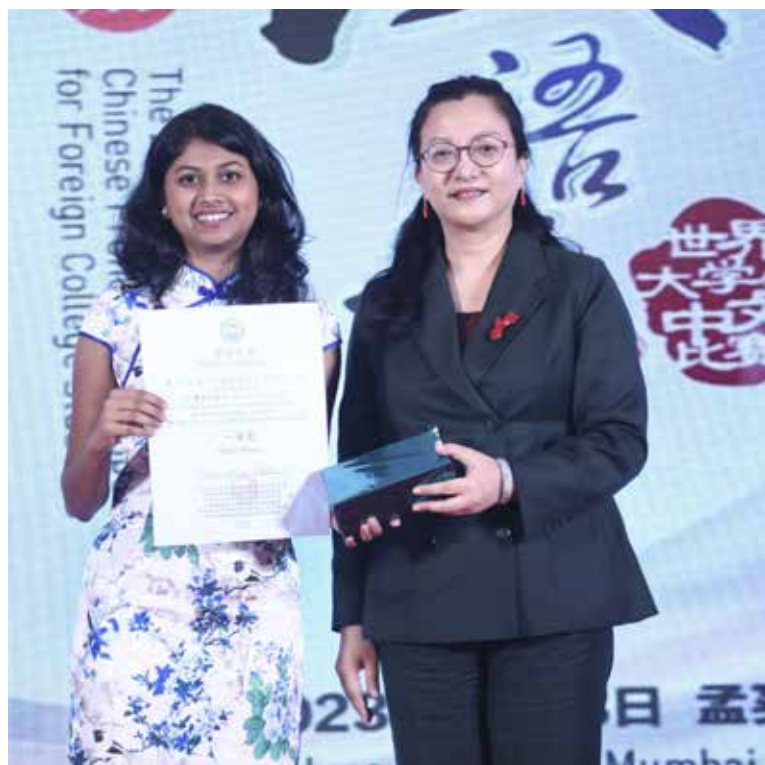
Dear teachers students and friends,

Namaste!

It is my great pleasure to attend the “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition as well as the award ceremony today. On behalf of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in India, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the 10 outstanding Indian university students, who have reached the finals and won awards today. Special congratulations go to Gao Xingfu for obtaining the championship.

Our finalists today were selected through a series of preliminaries. Some schools even held internal competitions. To make it to the final was not only the hard work of the contestants, but also the dedication of the teachers and the support from the headmasters. I would like to salute those who teach Chinese and spread Chinese culture in India, and the headmasters and heads of institutions supporting Chinese language education.

After watching the video of the preliminaries, and especially the on-site competition, we could feel the charm of “Chinese Bridge” and appreciate the enthusiasm of the students in



learning Chinese and their passion for Chinese culture. I believe that with the joint efforts of all of us, Chinese education in India will open up new horizons, and the mutual learning between Chinese and Indian civilizations will be carried on from generation to generation.

Friends,

President Xi Jinping not long ago proposed the Global Civilization Initiative, advocating the respect for the diversity of civilizations, the strengthening of international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, and jointly advancing the progress of human civilizations.

As two ancient civilizations next door to each other, mutual learning and friendly cooperation have always been the mainstream in the thousands of years history of exchanges between China and India. China's paper making, silk, porcelain and tea were introduced to India, while Indian singing and dancing, astronomy, architecture and spices were brought to China. Buddhism originated in ancient India, and was introduced into China, where it carried forward, then spread to Japan, Korean Peninsula, Southeast Asia and other places. The Chinese word “刹那” is derived from the Sanskrit word “Kshan”. The Chinese word for tea is “茶”, it is called Chay in Hindi, which has very similar

pronunciation. The two great civilizations of China and India have been interacting and promoting each other throughout thousands of years of history, making a profound impact on the process of human civilization.

As major developing countries and important emerging markets, both China and India are committed to achieving national development and modernization goals and shoulder major responsibilities in promoting world economic recovery, improving global governance and addressing global challenges. Our common interests far outweigh our differences. The two countries are neighbors that cannot be moved away. As the saying goes, “a close neighbor can be more helpful than a distant relative”. It is normal for neighbors to have differences. The key is to properly handle differences and find a solution through dialogue. The Chinese side has always viewed and handled China-India relations from a strategic and long-term perspective and is committed to implementing



the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries that “China and India should not be a threat to each other, but an opportunity for each other’s development”, and “be cooperation partners to each other instead of being competitive rivals”. It is hoped that the Indian side can work with China in the same direction to strengthen communication, properly handle differences, advance exchanges and cooperation in various fields, pursue a new path of living in harmony, peaceful development and common revitalization between neighboring major countries, so as to make greater contributions to regional peace, stability and development.

Friends,

Language is a bridge of cultural exchanges and a key to opening each other’s hearts. As China and India have the largest number of young people in the world, learning Chinese and mastering it means that more

youth from the two countries will have the opportunity to become friends. Through this “Chinese bridge” that connects the world, the young people of India can better understand the long-standing and profound Chinese civilization, better understand China, introduce China to each other, and renew friendship, thus contributing to the friendly relationship between China and India. I believe that more and more youth in India will learn Chinese inspired by you. The Chinese Embassy and Consulates-General in India will continue to provide more platform for Indian friends to learn Chinese, facilitate their further studies in China, and help deepen their exchanges, in a bid that they can serve as bridges of communication and messengers of friendship between the two countries.

Finally, we congratulate the winners once again and wish our Indian winners the best of luck in the global finals!



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Dragon Boat Festival 2023

Names, Origins, Traditions, Greetings

Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional Chinese holiday which falls on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, which is in late May or June on the Gregorian calendar. In 2023, Dragon Boat Festival falls on June 22. China will have 3 days of public holiday from June 22 to June 24.

Dragon Boat Festival is one of the four top traditional Chinese festivals, along with the Spring Festival, Tomb-Sweeping Day, and Mid-Autumn Festival.

In addition to Chinese mainland, many other Asian countries and regions also celebrate this festival. In Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Taiwan, China, it is known as Bak Chang Festival ('Dumpling Festival').

Why Is Dragon Boat Festival So Important?

Many believe that Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated to commemorate the death of Qu Yuan, a famous Chinese poet, and minister known for his patriotism and contributions to classical poetry, who eventually became a national hero.

However, it is evidenced that the Dragon Boat Festival actually came before the death of Qu Yuan. Its earliest origin is related to the fifth lunar month which was known to ancients as the 'month of poison'. During the early hot days

Dragon Boat Festival

Lunar Calendar:
Month 5 Day 5



Meaning of Dragon Boat Festival:

Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated in remembrance of Qu Yuan, a Chinese poet and statesman who drowned himself in the Miluo River on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month (June 27, 278 BC) in protest of his beloved homeland's fall.



How to Celebrate:



Eating Sticky Rice Dumplings



Dragon Boat Racing



Hanging Chinese Mugwort and Calamus



Drinking Realgar Wine



Wearing Perfume Pouches

Dragon Boat Festival Foods:



Sticky Rice Dumplings
Glutinous Rice Cake



Thin Pancakes



Eggs Steamed with Tea

Name the Festival:
Dragon Boat Festival (龙舟节),
Duanwu jie (端午节),
Tuen Ng (Cantonese),
Double Fifth Festival

How to Say Greeting:
Safe and Healthy Dragon Boat Festival



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of summer, people would easily fall ill and epidemics spread. This made the month seem evil, so people in ancient times regarded it as an important time to prevent diseases and keep evil spirits away.

Therefore, Dragon Boat Festival was originally regarded as a traditional medical and health festival. It is traditionally a festival for people to (ceremonially) come against diseases and poisonous insects.

How Do People Celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival?

Dragon Boat Festival customs can be roughly divided into two categories. One is to worship the god of dragon and heroes, such as Qu Yuan. The activities include dragon boat races and eating glutinous rice dumplings.

Another category aims to fend off evils and keep people healthy. The activities include bathing in herbal concoctions, hanging wormwood and calamus, and drinking realgar wine.

Eating Sticky Rice Dumplings

Zongzi are the most traditional Dragon Boat Festival food. Related to Qu Yuan commemoration, the legend says that lumps of rice (not unlike zongzi) were thrown into the river to stop fish eating his drowned body.

In the past, every family would make sticky rice dumplings and pass them out as gifts, receive them, and eat them. Today only a few of the more traditional older family members will bother to cook their own, while the majority are purchased from restaurants and bakers.

Zongzi are made of glutinous rice filled with meats, beans, and other fillings. They are wrapped in triangle or rectangle shapes within bamboo or reed leaves and tied with soaked stalks or colorful silky cords. The flavors of zongzi are usually different from one region to another across China.

Participating in or Attending Dragon Boat Races

Dragon boat racing is the most important activity of the Dragon Boat Festival. It is said to originate from the legend of people paddling out on boats to seek the body of patriotic poet Qu Yuan (343–278 BC), who drowned himself in a River.

There is another explanation. It is believed that dragon boat racing can be traced back to over 2,000 years ago, when it was a way to worship the Dragon God or Water God.

Dragon Boat Festival is one of the four top traditional Chinese festivals, along with the Spring Festival, Tomb-Sweeping Day, and Mid-Autumn Festival. In addition to Chinese mainland, many other Asian countries and regions also celebrate this festival. In Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Taiwan, China, it is known as Bak Chang Festival ('Dumpling Festival').



During Dragon Boat Festival perfume pouches are hung around kids' necks or tied to the front of a garment as an ornament. The perfume pouches are said to protect them from evil. Learn more on Dragon Boat Festival Customs.



The wooden boats are shaped and decorated in the form of a Chinese dragon. The boats' size varies by region and usually need 30–60 people to paddle them. During the races, dragon boat teams paddle harmoniously and hurriedly, accompanied by the sound of beating drums. It is said that the winning team will have good luck and a happy life in the following year.

The most famous dragon boat races can be found in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou.

Hanging Chinese Mugwort and Calamus

The Dragon Boat Festival is held at the start of summer when diseases are more prevalent. Mugwort leaves are used medicinally in China to combat such diseases. Their fragrance deters flies and mosquitoes. Calamus is an aquatic plant that has similar effects.

On the fifth day of the fifth month, people usually clean their houses, courtyards, and hang mugwort and calamus on doors lintels to discourage diseases. It is also said hanging mugwort and calamus can bring good luck to the family.

Drinking Realgar Wine

There is an old saying: 'Drinking realgar wine drives diseases and evils away!' Realgar wine is a Chinese alcoholic drink consisting of fermented cereals and powdered realgar (ruby-like arsenic sulphide).

In ancient times, people believed that realgar was an antidote for all poisons, and effective for killing insects and driving away evil spirits. So, everyone would drink some realgar wine during the Dragon Boat Festival.

Wearing Perfume Pouches

Before Dragon Boat Festival arrives, parents usually prepare perfume pouches for their children. They sew little bags with colorful silk cloth, fill the bags with perfumes or herbal medicines, and then string them shut with silk threads.

During Dragon Boat Festival perfume pouches are hung around kids' necks or tied to the front of a garment as an ornament. The perfume pouches are said to protect them from evil. Learn more on Dragon Boat Festival Customs.

Across China: Foreigners Embrace Traditional Chinese Culture During Dragon Boat Festival



As this is her first year in China, Albida Sultana, an international university student in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, is filled with excitement and curiosity to explore the rich traditional Chinese culture and participate in the vibrant celebrations of the Dragon Boat Festival, which falls on June 22, this year.

"I know little about the festival, but this time I can experience it in person," said the 20-year-old Bangladeshi girl. "I want to try the

glutinous pyramid-shaped rice of zongzi and I heard it's quite special and delicious."

Originating in China thousands of years ago, the Dragon Boat Festival, which commemorates the Chinese patriotic poet Qu Yuan (about 340 BC-278 BC) on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month of the Chinese calendar, has now become a national holiday. People enjoy zongzi, known as sticky rice dumplings, and watch dragon boat races on the day.

Sultana learned about the legend of zongzi in class, saying the traditional food was thrown into the water by people wanting to protect the remains of the great poet from hungry fish in ancient times. "The story is touching. I have already bought some zongzi from the supermarket," said Sultana, adding that she also plans to climb mountains with her friends as a way to relax during the festival.

Zafar Iqbal, a Pakistani expert at Ningxia Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, also loves the traditional Chinese festival culture. Apart from eating zongzi, he also wrapped rice and dates with reed leaves by himself, just like most Chinese would do during the festival.

Iqbal has also enthusiastically joined in the dragon boat racing, another cherished tradition during the festival. "I had the opportunity to witness a boat race when I was in the city of Fuzhou. It truly demands practice to achieve synchronization with the team, otherwise it can be counterproductive," said Iqbal. "I even tried it myself once, and I must say, rowing a boat with a long bamboo paddle is quite challenging. It requires skill and precision."

Mohammed Abdulkarem from Yemen came to Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia, last August. He

spent five years studying clinical medicine in the coastal city of Xiamen, in the eastern Fujian Province, where he first had a taste of zongzi and watched stirring boat racing.

"I tasted various flavors of zongzi, and among them, my personal favorite is the sweet one with dates," the 29-year-old noted.

Invited and encouraged by his Chinese friends, Abdulkarem participated in boat racing practice, which proved to be both physically demanding and exhilarating for him. "My eyes learned it, but apparently my arms did not. I almost plunged into the water," Abdulkarem said. "That day of practice left my body sore and fatigued the following day. Boat racing requires power and strength, so perhaps I need to work on keeping myself fit."

Abdulkarem said that he also discovered some philosophies about life and work from the dragon boat racing event, which helps him better understand Chinese culture and values.

"The spirit of cooperation and perseverance of every teammate is crucial to win a boat race, which is also important to achieve success in life and work. People within a team or family members should never give up easily and always give a hand to each other, then things will turn out with a happy ending," he added.



Cultural Innovation Breathes New Life into Beijing's Hutongs

Nestled amidst the towering skyscrapers and bustling streets of the Chinese capital Beijing, hutongs hold a special place in the hearts of many residents. Wang Jing is no exception.

For the 48-year-old woman who grew up in hutongs, these narrow alleys lined with traditional courtyards often serve as the backdrop for childhood adventures and close neighborly relations.

"When I came home from school, only to find that nobody was there and I forgot to bring my key, I would do my homework or have a meal at my neighbors' homes," Wang recalled. "We were like one big family."

Hutongs are a type of narrow alley commonly found in northern Chinese cities. Ingrained in the DNA of Beijing's urban development, hutongs have existed for centuries in the city.

There are several theories about the origin of the word "hutong." Some say that the capital's once common residential communities were often built around a communal well, with the phrase "hutong" originating from the Mongolian term for "water well."

In common use, the term may also be applied to other alleys that don't necessarily bear the name, such as those called "xiang" (lane) and "jie" (street).

Wang runs a shop selling cultural and creative products on Yangmeizhu Diagonal Street. She seeks to offer visitors more knowledge about the city's history and traditional culture involving the iconic hutongs.

With an academic background in industrial design, she makes and sells an array of products, ranging from ceramic coasters to postcards and notebooks, with the theme of traditional Chinese culture. Among the top-selling items are fridge magnets based on the signboards commonly found outside stores in Dashilan area in the past.

"Dashilan was once a bustling commercial center. To attract buyers, many shops would hang signboards called 'huangzi' displaying information about their particular business," she said.

For Wang, hutongs not only depict the architectural style and artistic essence of Beijing but also bear witness to the city's historical transformations.

"It's interesting to work in a place that is tinged with nostalgia," Wang told Xinhua. She herself has witnessed the remarkable transformation of these traditional alleys.

She used to pass down the 500-meter-long Yangmeizhu Diagonal Street every day on her way to school. Numerous clotheslines and electrical wires crisscrossed above the narrow alleyway at that time, she recalled.

In recent years, restoration projects have been undertaken to preserve the original charm of the courtyard houses, while efforts to enhance the infrastructure and amenities have improved the quality of life for hutong residents.

Yangmeizhu Diagonal Street has gradually regained its original charm. Today this



historical alley is paved with grey bricks, with art studios and miniature museums scattered around old courtyards. Wang's store proudly stands among these cultural gems.

The transformation of the street is part of Beijing's efforts to protect and revitalize its hutongs through cultural innovation.

In 2017, Beijing unveiled a general city plan for 2016 to 2035, underlining the strengthening of historic and cultural building conservation, and strengthening urban characteristics in capital city style, ancient city flair and modern city landscaping.

The general city plan requires the preservation of more than 1,000 hutongs and their names. Hutongs and alleys with traditional Beijing flair will be revived and hutong culture will be developed.

In Shijia hutong in the downtown Dongcheng District, the Shijia Hutong Museum was established. As the city's first public hutong museum, it is dedicated to promoting Beijing hutong culture, enriching the intellectual life of residents, and sustaining a site that evolves with time and presents the living history of hutongs.

Since its completion, the museum has collected old furniture, photos, and other old objects from hutong residents, invited artists to record the sounds of insects and voices in the hutong, and created a permanent exhibition, leaving a collective memory for hutong residents.

In turn, hutongs are driving the development of Beijing's cultural industries. In 2021, the cultural and related industries in the city's two main clusters of hutongs, Dongcheng and Xicheng districts, generated revenue of 143.63 billion yuan (about 19.82 billion U.S. dollars) and 99.86 billion yuan, respectively.

"Hutongs are a unique feature of Beijing, and preserving hutongs means protecting Beijing's culture," said Liu Yang, an official from Xicheng District.

Her view is echoed by Wang Jing, who believes that hutongs are not only residential communities but also a living cultural icon of the city.

"In Hutongs, people can see, touch and feel a real Beijing, its past and present," she said.



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