

OPINION: GREENING EARTH P.26

FEATURES: SINO-AFRICAN TIES AT ALL-TIME HIGH P.32

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DEMOCRACY

Exploring a model of governance that makes a difference

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A Democracy That Works

A country's political system depends on its individual economic, social, historical and cultural background. China's whole-process people's democracy subsequently is a model specifically designed for the Chinese context.

Fundamental to the whole-process people's democracy is to have the population truly in charge of the country, with the rights to vote and participate in public affairs. All political procedures stipulated by the laws in place must be executed to ensure the exercise of power is for the people and subject to their scrutiny.

Upholding the citizens' status as masters of their country has been a commitment of the Communist Party of China (CPC) since its founding 100 years ago. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates that all power in China belongs to the people, and they shall, in accordance with legal provisions, manage state affairs, economic and cultural undertakings and social matters. This clause determines that China's socialist democracy is innately equipped with a whole-process feature, which ventures well beyond electoral equality to enable the public to have its say in the general course of governance.

In China, the people exercise state power through the National People's Congress and local people's congresses, roughly equivalent to U.S. legislatures. Deputies at the county and township levels are directly elected; those above the county level, indirectly. The task befalls upon all deputies to communicate with their constituencies and represent them on the political stage.

China also highly values consultation, mainly conducted through the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), which involves members from non-CPC parties and various social sectors. Matters of public concern are debated by the people's congresses, CPPCC national and local committees and other stakeholders before major decisions are finalized.

The whole-process people's democracy is a new model of political advancement, rooted and grown in China's soil. It is unacceptable the U.S. uses democracy as a tool to interfere in the affairs of other nations. The American definition of "democracy" does not necessarily work wonders; instead, its flaws, including many empty election promises, are rising to the surface as this age of change we live in advances.



WRITE TO US

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HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

A staff member from the Disease Prevention and Control Department in Haigang District, Qinhuangdao City, Hebei Province, tells primary school students about HIV/AIDS prevention and control on November 30. December 1 marks World AIDS Day. Various activities take place across China on this occasion to inform people of the risks and modes of the disease's transmission as well as related measures to prevent and control it.



Coal Mine-Turned Park

A view of the Nanhu Wetland Park in Huaibei, Anhui Province, on November 25. Local authorities have transformed the subsidence areas of a colliery into ecological parks.

Hydrogen Project

The China Petrochemical Corp. (Sinopec Group), the country's largest oil refiner, said on November 30 that it had begun construction of a 20,000 tons-per-year green hydrogen plant in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

With an investment of nearly 3 billion yuan (\$470 million), the project in Kuqa City includes photovoltaic power generation, power transformation, electrolytic hydrogen production, and hydrogen storage and transportation.

A solar station with an installed capacity of 300 MW and an average annual power generation capacity of 618 million kWh will be constructed to support hydrogen production.

"The green hydrogen project is expected to become operational in June 2023 and

will replace the grey hydrogen, and will help reduce 485,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year," a Sinopec Group spokesperson said.

Underground Casinos

There has been a recent increase in the incidence of illegal underground casinos, with some using online chess rooms to solicit gamblers, announced the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP), on November 29.

Between January and September this year, prosecutors across the country successfully charged 63,238 individuals for running gambling houses, the SPP said.

This represents an increase of 45.71 percent and 49.27 percent respectively from the averages of the same period in the years 2018 to 2020.

New types of casinos tend

to be more deceptive and insidious, as criminals may use online chess rooms to lure people into gambling traps. The crime also involves larger criminal networks, more suspects, and often criminal gangs, the SPP added.

The SPP pledged strengthened efforts targeting the crime. Gambling has been outlawed on the Chinese mainland since 1949. People who run gambling houses will be sentenced to no more than five years in prison or five to 10 years in severe cases.

Releasing Rare Fish

Chinese officials and researchers have released 450,000 fries of rare fish into the upper reaches of the Yangtze River in the latest effort to restore the river's ecology, Xinhua News Agency reported on November 29.

The release took place in Chongqing Municipality and was

launched by multiple departments, including the national nature reserve for the protection of rare and unique fish in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River.

The released batch included mullet and rock carp, which are nationally protected, and three other rare species unique to the Yangtze River. Among them, 9,300 fries of rare fish were tagged in order to keep track of their condition.

"It is hoped the release will help boost fish stocks, conserve aquatic biodiversity on the upper reaches of the Yangtze, and increase environmental awareness among locals," Wang said.

Besides releasing captive-bred fish into the river, authorities have also taken a variety of protection measures in recent years to improve the ecology of the Yangtze, such as implementing a 10-year fishing moratorium and a ban on illegal sand mining along the river.

Green Transport

According to the municipal road transport administrative bureau, Shanghai will accelerate the use of green energy in the transport sector during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period, reported Xinhua on November 28.

According to a new development plan, Shanghai will further strengthen the promotion and application of energy-saving and new energy vehicles between 2021 and 2025.

In principle, all new or updated buses and taxis should be new energy vehicles, and authorities aim for the proportion of new energy buses in Shanghai to reach 96 percent by 2025.

The city will also step up its pace of installing charging piles across the city, encourage the use of cleaner energy such as liquefied natural gas and

hydrogen for freight vehicles, and explore launching pilot programs for autonomous buses.

Dai Dunwei, deputy director of the bureau, said that in the process of adapting to the growing demand for transport, Shanghai will accelerate the construction of a green and low-carbon transportation service system by optimizing the energy structure, promoting innovation, and raising management efficiency.

Standardizing Signs

Beijing Municipal Government has recently issued a regulation that requires the display of standardized Chinese and foreign-language signs in five categories of public venues, Xinhua reported on November 27.

The regulation is aimed at elevating Beijing's international service level, improving its function as an international exchange center, and promoting the high-level opening up and high-quality development of the capital city.

The five categories include public transport venues such as airports and railway stations; venues for large-scale international events such as sporting events, conferences, and expos; communities with a large number of

foreigners; emergency shelters; and other significant public venues of culture, tourism, and sports.

The regulation will take effect starting January 1, 2022.

World Heritage

Three more ancient Chinese irrigation sites have been recognized as World Heritage Irrigation Structures (WHIS), according to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Granted by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) on November 26, the inclusions of the Li Canal-Gaoyou Irrigation District, the Liao River Irrigation District and the Sakya Water Storage Irrigation System have brought the total number of Chinese irrigation projects on the WHIS list to 26.

Li Canal in Jiangsu Province, one of the newly listed projects, was first built in 486 B.C. to connect and divert water between Gaoyou Lake and the Gaoyou irrigation district, maintaining a functional balance between water transport and irrigation.

Liao River Irrigation District, located in the northwest of Jiangxi Province, has a history of over 1,100 years. The irrigation works in the district are still in



Fish Farming

An aquaculture area in Xiaocheng Township, Lianjiang County, Fujian Province, on December 1. Fishing boats sail between the floating buoys on water and breeding nets under water, creating an amazing scenery.

service today, keeping 22,400 hectares of farmland in the region well-watered.

The Sakya Water Storage Irrigation System in the Tibet Autonomous Region has an average altitude of 4,000 meters, the highest among all the WHIS sites. For centuries, the project has helped locals make full and effective use of their limited

water resources. At present, there are more than 400 pools still irrigating farmlands, benefiting approximately 10 percent of the population in the autonomous region.

Established in 1950, the ICID is an international organization aimed at boosting scientific and technological exchange in irrigation, drainage and flood control.



Winter Habitat

White cranes are seen at the Wuxing White Crane Conservation Area by Poyang Lake in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, on November 30. Numerous migratory birds, including white cranes and swans, have arrived at the wetland, making it their winter home.

Quota Expansion

The approved quotas of the Qualified Domestic Institutional Investor (QDII) program, a scheme that allows Chinese investors to access foreign assets, totaled \$154 billion as of November 30, according to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE).

Data released on the SAFE website showed the quotas were granted to 174 financial institutions, including banks, securities firms, insurers and trust companies.

Since the implementation of the QDII scheme in 2006, China has gradually normalized and accelerated the issuance of its quotas. In June, SAFE further expanded quotas under the program to meet domestic investors' soaring demand.

China has yet to fully liberalize its capital account, with programs such as the QDII and Qualified Foreign Institutional

Investors providing financial institutions with quotas for outbound and inbound investment, respectively.

Industrial Plans

The value of China's big data industry will likely exceed 3 trillion yuan (\$470 billion) by the end of 2025, with a compound annual growth rate of around 25 percent, according to a development plan for the sector during the 2021-25 period. The plan was unveiled by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) on November 30.

A market-oriented pricing mechanism for data as a key factor of production will be established over the same period, it said.

China's big data sector exceeded 1 trillion yuan (\$157 billion) by 2020, MIIT data showed.

On the same day, the ministry also released another plan, saying the country aims

to develop more than 1 million industrial applications by 2025, and foster a competitive edge in software for key industries such as finance and construction.

The plan also details measures to support companies in the sector, with the goal of cultivating more than 100 companies with operating revenues exceeding 10 billion yuan (\$1.57 billion) by the end of the period.

Manufacturing PMI

The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for the manufacturing sector came in at 50.1 in November, up from 49.2 in October, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on November 30.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, and below that mark, contraction.

The rise came after the country's measures to ensure adequate energy supply and stabilize market prices began to

take effect, said NBS senior statistician Zhao Qinghe.

The sub-index measuring purchase prices of major raw materials dropped 19.2 points from October to 52.9. The ex-factory price index fell to 48.9, down 12.2 points from the previous month.

The sub-index for production expanded 3.6 points to 52, while that for new orders increased 0.6 point to 49.4.

NBS data also showed that the PMI for the non-manufacturing sector came in at 52.3 in November, down from 52.4 in October.

SOE Profits

The combined profits of China's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) rose 47.6 percent year on year to over 3.8 trillion yuan (\$594 billion) in the first 10 months of the year, official data showed on November 25.

During the period, the companies saw their operating

NUMBERS

(\$1=6.38 yuan)

China-Africa Trade and Investment

(All growth rates are y.o.y.)

Trade in goods between China and Africa in January-October

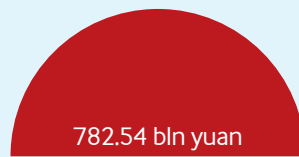
Total value



Up 27.4%



China's exports to Africa



Up 24.5%



China's imports from Africa



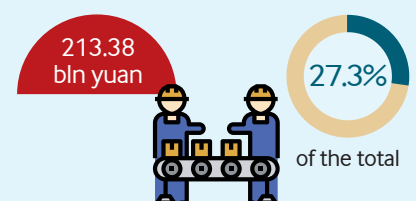
Up 31.7%



China's exports of mechanical and electrical products



The exports of labor-intensive products



revenue up 22.1 percent year on year to around 60.4 trillion yuan (\$9.5 trillion), according to the Ministry of Finance.

Centrally administered SOEs reported a 44-percent year-on-year profit increase, amounting to 2.53 trillion yuan (\$397.7 billion). Their revenue rose 21.3 percent year on year to 33.85 trillion yuan (\$5.3 trillion).

At the end of October, the debt-to-asset ratio of the SOEs came in at 64.3 percent, flat with the level seen in the same period last year.

Equity Investment

Some 1.27 trillion yuan (\$198.9 billion) of funds were raised from China's equity investment market from January to September, 50.1 percent higher from the same period last year, according to research institute Zero2IPO Research.

Equity investment reached 1.05 trillion yuan (\$165 billion)

over the nine-month period, up 74.9 percent year on year, the company said in a report.

Investors paid particular attention to sectors such as information technology, biotech and healthcare, semiconductors and electronic equipment, with over 5,000 investment cases in the reporting period involving them.

In the same period, the number of registered equity investment fund managers increased by over 15 percent year on year, data from the report showed.

There were frequent cases of industrial investment as well as mergers and acquisitions, which mainly focused on advanced manufacturing, new energy, semiconductors, healthcare and logistics sectors, it noted.

Business Support

New loans to private enterprises reached 5 trillion yuan (\$782 billion) in the first 10 months

of the year, according to the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC).

The amount accounted for 53.5 percent of the total new corporate loans over the period, 1.8 percentage points higher than the level at the beginning of this year, CBIRC data showed.

Outstanding loans to private enterprises by banking institutions stood at 53.1 trillion yuan (\$8.3 trillion) as of September, 15 trillion yuan (\$2.3 trillion) more than the figure at the end of 2018.

In the same period, the number of private firms with outstanding loans increased from 25.84 million to 77.62 million.

Financing costs for private enterprises have been on the decline. In the first three quarters of the year, the annual interest rate for their new loans was 5.3 percent, 1.6 percentage points lower than the 2018 level.

The CBIRC will further push for implementing measures boosting financial services for private enterprises and urge banking and insurance institutions to continue improving their service, the commission said.

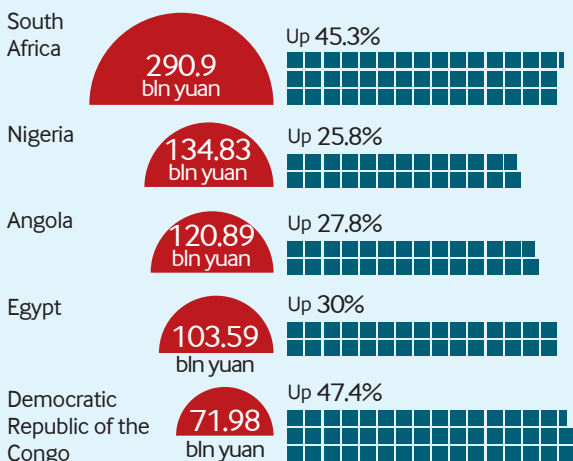
Expansion Plan

The Universal Beijing Resort is planning its second phase of construction, according to a press briefing on December 1. The expansion will cover 2.2 square km, with five more hotels expected to be built.

The Universal Beijing Resort began formal operations in September and became the fifth Universal Studios theme park globally, the third in Asia, and the first in China.

The annual number of visits to the 1.8-square-km existing resort is estimated at 10 million, Cui Shuqiang, Vice Mayor of Beijing, said at the press briefing.

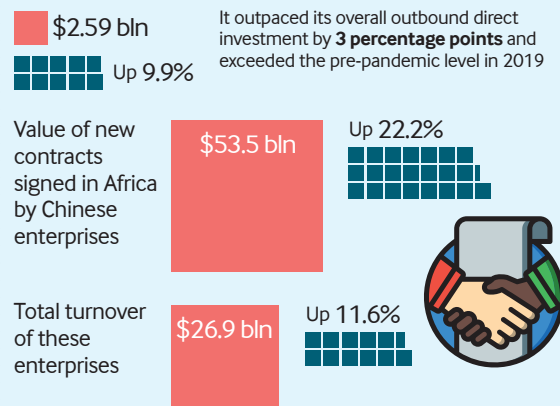
Trade with China



Total trade of the countries with China



China's direct investment in Africa in January-September



(Source: General Administration of Customs, Ministry of Commerce)

THIS WEEK **WORLD**



THAILAND

A staff member cleans a car during the Thailand International Motor Expo in Bangkok on December 1. The event, running from December 1 to 12, showcases 32 car and 12 motorcycle brands as well as electric vehicles



SWEDEN

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson presents her cabinet in Stockholm on November 30. Andersson was approved by Parliament to become Sweden's first female prime minister the previous day



JAPAN

International arrivals at Narita Airport Terminal 1 in Tokyo on November 30. Japan banned the entry of all foreign nationals from that day onward over concerns regarding the new Omicron COVID-19 variant



MEXICO

People gather at the site of a bus accident in the central Mexican city of Joquicingo on November 26. At least 19 were killed and around 25 others got injured after their vehicle crashed into a house due to a malfunction of the brakes



ROMANIA

Soldiers attend the National Day military parade at the Arch of Triumph in Bucharest on December 1



BELGIUM

People visit a Christmas market in Brussels on November 26. Featuring activities like a sound and light show, wintery snacks and beverages, etc., the city's Winter Wonders took off that day



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

NEW ITTF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Liu Guoliang, President of the Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA), was elected executive vice president of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) at the Annual General Meeting of the sport's world governing body held in Houston, the U.S., on November 24.

Born in 1976, Liu began playing table tennis at 6. He was only 15 when he made the Chinese national team in 1991. He became the first Chinese player to win all titles at major world tournaments in 1999.

Liu was appointed head coach of China's men's team in 2003 and later took charge of Team China as chief coach in 2013. He became CTTA president at the end of 2018 and was named World Table Tennis Council chair in June 2020.

Liu was an influential force behind the newly created China-U.S. mixed double teams, which made their debut at the 2021 World Table Tennis Championships taking place in Houston from November 23 to 29.



Esports: Real Sports?

China Newsweek
November 29

EDward Gaming, one of China's largest esports associations, beat defending champion Damwon KIA from the Republic of Korea 3:2 in the League of Legends 2021 World Championship in Iceland's capital Reykjavik on November 8.

To the surprise of many fans, the sports channel of state broadcaster CCTV first launched a weekly program themed on

Teenage Mental Health

Guangming Daily
November 29

China will include depression screenings in students' regular health checks to prevent psychological problems, according to a recent announcement by the Ministry of Education.

Study shows that as they enter adolescence, students can experience mood swings due to physical development, environmental changes, academic pressures and interpersonal relationships. Preventing the onset of mental disorders among teenagers requires the establishment of a scientific mechanism that includes screening and analysis.

Also, society at large should enhance the popularization of psychological wellbeing under an improved framework of laws, policies and supervision.

The mental health status of students will also be recorded on a platform to offer timely interventions if they show any signs of psychological problems. High-risk groups, as identified by a related monitoring index system, can receive more support, including policy preferences. In addition, vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities, should receive special attention with increased and more targeted guidance.

“Developing Xiongan New Area in Hebei and the sub-city center [Tongzhou in Beijing] are two major strategic measures in the integrated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, which aims to find a new model for the growth of heavily populated areas, through improved use of space and a better economic structure.”

Cong Liang, deputy head of the National Development and Reform Commission, at a news conference on December 1

“Local governments need to choose more market-oriented methods such as carbon tax and trading, instead of administrative interventions, to foster structural reforms and avoid too sharp a decline in energy supply that could constrain production activities.”

Wang Yiming, Vice Chair of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, in an interview with *China Daily* on December 2

esports as early as 2003. It introduced the latest games, software, player interviews and international events. Today, some still consider esports as the gimmick of video games.

Video games are the main carriers of esports, which cannot represent the whole industry, according to industry insiders.

Yet the games, thanks to a winning combination of advanced technology and creativity, have expanded across various categories. Only those with outstanding qualities in different categories can further develop into esports events.

Huang Mingyue, a pro-gamer, practices 14 hours a day and has stress injuries from years of excessive training. Being professionally active in the esports sector comes with the responsibility of putting on a good performance that enhances spectator experience.

The esports industry has created an operation system, decreasing dependence on gaming manufacturers. Besides events in various forms and at different levels, it has embraced a mature business model involving sponsor investment, event operation, broadcasting and other derivative products. In 2020, the global esports industry generated \$1.1 billion in revenue, according to Newzoo, a firm focusing on video games and esports analysis.

Innovative Behavior

People's Daily
November 29

The annual National Science and Technology Award was unveiled in November, including 13 projects by 14 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Their presence accounted for over 10 percent of award-winning enterprises, indicating SMEs are capable of providing strong impetus for scientific and technological innovation.

SMEs usually face high operational costs and feature very limited risk management structures. Only by developing core technology and equipment can they stand their ground in the competitive market.

Many of the award-winning SMEs have cooperated with universities, integrating education, research and production. This innovative model can prove a remedy for their funding deficiencies and boost research and development capabilities. Supported by universities and institutions alike, SMEs can obtain cutting-edge technologies and accelerate utilization of scientific research results.

To further build on the foundations laid, authorities must create platforms for the communication between enterprises and research institutes. Meanwhile, SMEs should also reinforce their comprehensive proficiencies to boost cooperation with universities and research institutes.

↓ MACAO BILLIONAIRE DETAINED

Alvin Chau Cheok Wa, a Macao business mogul, was detained on allegations of criminal associations, illegal gambling and money laundering, announced police in Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) on November 27.

According to the Judiciary Police under the SAR Government at a press conference, the suspects, including 47-year-old Chau and others, all confessed to inviting mainland residents to engage in online gambling and subsequently laundering the illegal gains through clandestine networks.

Chau is former chairman and former executive director of Macao's casino operator Suncity City Group Holdings Ltd. The company formally announced his stepping down on December 1.

The gaming industry in Macao is subject to relevant laws. Suspected legal violations are to be further examined and Chau will be transferred to the local prosecutor's office for further investigation.



“I look forward to our two countries deepening their fruitful relationship and continuing to improve the lives of future generations together, whether it be through trade, new sustainable technologies, regulatory innovations, or even in space.”

Ali Obaid Al Dhaheri, the United Arab Emirates Ambassador to China, in an article published on CGTN's website on December 2

“In China, the healthcare system... has increased demographic coverage and is continuing to improve. This will create an enormous market.”

Valtero Canepa, head of Bracco Group China, in an interview with Xinhua News Agency on December 1



COVER STORY

A CUSTOMIZED CONCEPT

Whole-process democracy takes root across the country By Ji Jing