

WORLD: CHINA-ASEAN SYNERGY P.18 | SHENZHEN SEZ AT 40: FROM FARMING TO *FORTUNE*500 P.24

# BEIJING REVIEW

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## CHARACTER OF COOPERATION

China, Japan and ROK expand regional integration



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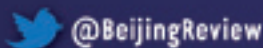
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## Elbow-to-Elbow Progress

After cloud consultations during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in-person diplomacy is now resuming, as the situation in East Asia normalizes. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in late November indicates this, including his elbow bumps with senior officials in both countries, highlighted by the media.

It is also a significant overture to the new Japanese Government of Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on the eve of a new administration to take power in the United States in January. Though Japan has traditionally been an ally of the U.S., its relations with China have strengthened with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) signed in November.

China, Japan and the ROK, the world's second, third and 11th largest economy respectively, together account for around 20 percent of the global GDP and foreign trade. Across the world, the trio has also shown the best performance among major economies in containing the pandemic. China, with its economic recovery, is forecast to be the first, if not the only, major economy to see positive growth this year. Against this backdrop, the trilateral trade and economic cooperation is significant, with its great potential. Especially with the RCEP, the three economies now have a greater mutual commitment to open one another's markets wider and lower barriers.

Besides, the RCEP, signed after eight years of turbulent negotiations, raises hope for the conclusion of the free trade agree-

ment (FTA) the three have been negotiating. It will lead to further trade liberation, regional integration and championing of multilateralism in the time of rising protectionism and unilateralism.

Historically, cooperation between China, Japan and the ROK has always been important for regional stability. Japan's recent hosting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue with Australia, India and the U.S., and the new defense pact with Australia have created unease and Wang's face-to-face talks with Japanese leaders was a good opportunity to get a better assessment of how they might or might not impact Chinese and regional interests.

China and Japan should realize that they have a lot more in common besides trade, such as both going to hold different editions of the Olympic Games and both having committed to achieving carbon neutrality, China before 2060 and Japan by 2050. These are lofty goals that will be made easier to reach through cooperation. Wang's ROK visit resulted in immediate agreements on issues ranging from their under-discussion bilateral FTA to COVID-19 control and people-to-people exchanges.

With China and the ROK to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their diplomatic ties in 2022 and the ROK to host the 2024 Winter Youth Olympics, their cooperation has matured. Their readiness to start new dialogues, dock the ROK's development strategy with the Belt and Road Initiative faster, and launch cultural exchange years in 2021 and 2022 signal some of the positive results from Wang's visit. ■

### WRITETOUS



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# HISTORIC PROGRESS

The *Chang'e-5* spacecraft gathers rock samples on Moon on December 2. The China National Space Administration announced a day later that the probe has completed the task of taking samples.

Launched on November 24, *Chang'e-5* landed on the near side of Moon a week later, tasked to collect China's first samples from an extraterrestrial body.

Ascender of *Chang'e-5* took off from the lunar surface on December 3, and is expected to complete unmanned rendezvous and docking with the orbiter-returner in lunar orbit.



## Game Changer

Students of a primary school in Tangshan, a city in Hebei Province in north China, play floorball on December 2.

### Public Opinion

An online initiative was launched on December 1 to solicit public feedback on government work, the seventh year in succession such an initiative has been rolled out to improve public policies.

The initiative will run through to the annual sessions of the national legislature and the national political advisory body—a key event on the country's political calendar known as the Two Sessions—in 2021.

Members of the public are invited to weigh in on 22 topics, including macroeconomic management, technological innovation, epidemic prevention and control, employment, entrepreneurship, education, and healthcare.

They can visit a number of websites and platforms to submit their opinions and suggestions. Dubbed

A Word to the Premier, the campaign was launched by [www.gov.cn](http://www.gov.cn) in cooperation with other major websites in China.

Organizers say that the best suggestions will guide the group responsible for drafting the Report on the Work of the Government, a flagship document to be delivered during the Two Sessions.

The Two Sessions in 2020 saw nearly 1,400 pieces of advice make it to the drafting group, according to the organizers.

### Forest Cover

Yunnan Province in southwest China saw its forest cover reach 23.9 million hectares, increasing from 55.7 percent in 2015 to 62.4 percent in 2020, thanks to afforestation and ecological restoration efforts, local authorities said on December 1.

The increase can be attributed to a spate of government-led ecological projects such as turning farmland back into forests and grassland and restoring desertified land, according to Wang Weibin, Deputy Director of the Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Bureau.

The past five years also saw Yunnan's forest stock expand from 1.77 billion cubic meters to 2.02 billion cubic meters. About 2.5 million hectares of trees were planted over the period.

The province's forest area ranks second among China's provincial-level regions.

### More Graduates

The number of graduates from Chinese colleges and universities is expected to hit 9.09 million in 2021, an increase of 350,000 over

2020, the Ministry of Education said on December 1 at a video conference held jointly with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security.

The meeting stressed the importance of supporting graduates to find jobs and start businesses in emerging industries and modern services.

State-owned enterprises as well as medium, small, and micro businesses are encouraged to create more positions for them.

The meeting also called on the graduates to serve in communities and the armed forces.

### Ecological Tasks

Poverty alleviation has been coordinated with ecological protection under ecological poverty-relief programs. All such programs have been completed, and over 20 million people shook off poverty through these programs, Li Chunliang, Deputy Director of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, said at a press conference on December 2.

The programs include ecological compensation and government-sponsored afforestation projects. As a part of the ecological compensation mechanism, forestry authorities nationwide have recruited about 1.1 million forest rangers from impoverished households since 2016. The project offers stable employment while contributing to ecological protection.

### Reservoir Overhaul

In the next five years, about 100 billion yuan (\$15.2 billion) will be invested to reinforce dilapidated reservoirs, the Ministry of Water Resources said on November 30.

Private investment will be mobilized along with central and local fiscal funds to renovate reservoirs, especially small reservoirs that were damaged by severe floods this year, Ye Jianchun, Vice Minister of Water Resources, told a press conference.

China has some 98,000 reservoirs, mostly built in the 1950s to

1970s, with the vast majority being small.

In recent years, about 155.3 billion yuan (\$23.7 billion) was allocated to reinforce 2,800 large and medium-sized reservoirs and more than 69,000 small ones.

## Panda Breeding

Shaanxi Province in northwest China has bred 32 captive giant pandas over the last five years, making the province one of the major breeding bases for the animal, local authorities said on December 1.

The fourth national survey of giant pandas conducted between 2011 and 2014 showed that Shaanxi's wild population of the species reached 345, ranking first in terms of increase and density in the country, Dang Shuangren, Director of the Shaanxi Forestry and Grassland Bureau, said.

The number of captive giant pandas in the world stood at about 600 in November 2019. Fewer than 2,000 pandas live in the wild, mostly in Sichuan and Shaanxi.

## Medicine Park

An industrial park processing herbal medicines imported from Russia had been put into operation in Heilongjiang Province in northeast China, Xinhua News Agency reported on November 30.

The industrial park in the Suifenhe sub-area of the Heilongjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ) has seen six herbal medicine-processing companies register,

according to local authorities.

The 339-million-yuan (\$51.46 million) park will have an annual medicine processing capacity of 165,000 tons.

A new policy allows medicinal herbs from Russia, such as ginseng and licorice, to be processed in the Suifenhe area of the FTZ.

Imported drugs can be unloaded, primarily processed and sold directly in Suifenhe, thus helping companies reduce costs, Wang Tengli, general manager of a local pharmaceutical trading company, said.

The Heilongjiang FTZ, inaugurated in August 2019, has three sub-areas, one in provincial capital Harbin and the other two in the cities of Heihe and Suifenhe on the China-Russia border.

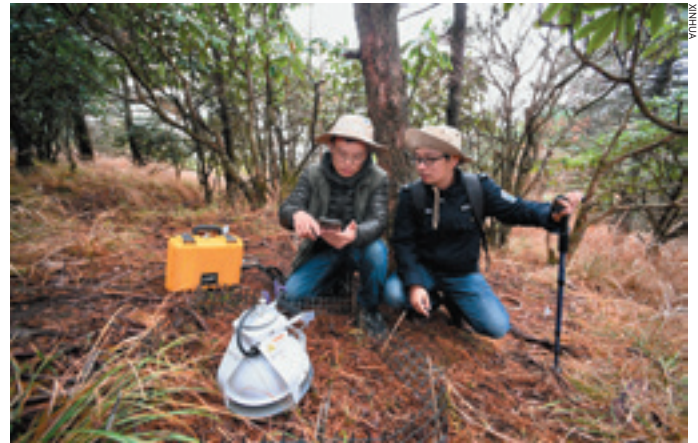
Since it began operation, the FTZ has taken a series of measures to attract enterprises. They include promoting online services to attract companies, improving its business environment, and cutting costs for foreign trade enterprises.

## Tomb Relics

Over 1,000 artifacts have been unearthed at a tomb site in Qinghai Province in northwest China, indicating the province used to be a pivotal hub on the ancient Silk Road, archaeologists said, Xinhua reported on December 1.

The finds in the Xuewei No.1 Tomb, part of the Reshui Tombs in Dulan County, include silverware, glass and textiles.

The craftsmanship and design



## National Park Research

Sun Jun (left), a doctoral candidate of Fujian Normal University, and a staff member of the Wuyishan National Park in Jiangxi Province in east China, measure soil carbon flux in the Wuyishan area, Fujian Province in southeast China, on December 1. Infrared cameras were installed at the reserve that day for ecological monitoring.

of some of the delicate artifacts unearthed have Central and West Asian ethnic features, Han Jianhua, an associate researcher with the Institute of Archaeology under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said.

The multi-chamber tomb is a wood and rock structure consisting of a ground level and an underground level. A long sacrificial pit was found in the tomb, where horses, cows, antelopes and yaks were buried.

"The Xuewei No.1 Tomb is the most structurally intact tomb ever

unearthed on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau," Han said, adding that it is of great value for the study of burial customs in the area, the relationship between the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and ethnic minorities, the history of Silk Road transportation, and goods and cultural exchanges at that time.

Discovered in 1982, the Reshui Tombs date back to between the 6th and 8th centuries, and are located on both sides of the Qagan Us River at an altitude of 3,400 to 3,500 meters.



## Keeping Tradition Alive

Wang Fangzhou teaches *batik* painting in his workshop in Danzhai, a county in Guizhou Province in southwest China, on December 1. Wang, once a migrant worker, returned to his hometown and set up the workshop in 2016.

## Tariff-Free Hainan

Weather radar transceivers worth more than 3.8 million yuan (\$579,100) became the first batch of tariff-free raw and auxiliary materials to enter the newly established Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP) located on Hainan Island in south China. The transceivers were imported for use by Hainan Airlines and arrived at the Hainan FTP on December 1. According to authorities, the transceivers were exempt from 530,200 yuan (\$80,847) of tariffs.

The Ministry of Finance (MOF) announced in November that China would waive tariffs on imported raw and auxiliary materials in the Hainan FTP. A circular jointly issued by

MOF, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) and the State Taxation Administration, stated the exemption would begin from December 1.

According to the circular, import tariffs, value-added tax and consumption tax will be waived for raw and auxiliary materials to be processed in Hainan for manufacturing or service enterprises requiring these materials from overseas for self-use or to be processed into products sold in overseas markets.

To enjoy the tariff exemption, the materials may not be sold within Hainan or moved outside the island.

Initially, the scheme will cover 169 types of raw and auxiliary materials, including farm produce,

materials related to energy production, chemical products and spare parts for aircraft and shipping. However, the list is expected to be revised according to the future needs of the island's industries.

Chinese authorities released their plan for the operation of the Hainan FTP on June 1, aiming to build Hainan, which is both an island and a province of China, into a globally influential FTP by the middle of the century.

## QDII Quotas

China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) issued a new round of quotas under the Qualified Domestic Institutional

Investor (QDII) scheme on November 30. The scheme is an important channel for domestic investors to invest in securities outside of their home country.

The new QDII quotas, valued at \$4.296 billion, were granted to each of 23 financial institutions, including fund companies, securities firms, banks, wealth management subsidiaries of banks, and trust companies, according to SAFE.

The move echoed previous efforts by SAFE to normalize the issuance of QDII quotas. The administration had previously issued three rounds of quotas under the QDII scheme since September, granting a total of approximately \$12.72 billion worth of quotas to 71 institutions. According to official data, this latest issuance brings the total to roughly \$116.7 billion, distributed among 169 institutions under the QDII scheme.

The scheme allows domestic investors to purchase foreign assets. According to market analysts, the cross-border flow of capital has remained stable under the scheme in recent years. Analysts added that the impact of QDII quota issuance on China's domestic capital market, cross-border capital flows, and the renminbi exchange rate is generally under control.

SAFE cautioned QDII institutions to carry out outbound investment in a prudent and orderly manner, to improve product diversity, and manage and control the risks of investing in foreign markets.

## Outbound Investment

China will expand the scale of two pilot schemes that allow domestic investors to access foreign assets, SAFE announced on November 29.

According to SAFE, the scale of the two outbound investment schemes, known as the Qualified Domestic Limited Partner (QDLP) and the Qualified Domestic Investment Enterprise (QDIE), in Shanghai, Beijing and Shenzhen will be expanded in the near future. The move aims to further meet domestic



## Building a Link

A cross-sea bridge on the Fuzhou-Xiamen railway is under construction on December 2. With a design speed of 350 km per hour, the high-speed rail connecting the two major cities of Fujian Province in southeast China is expected to open to traffic in 2022.





## Green Opportunity

A staff member checks vegetables in a smart greenhouse at a modern agriculture demonstration park in Hejian, Hebei Province in north China, on November 29. The local government encourages farmers to develop modern agricultural practices to increase their income.

investors' demands for global asset allocation.

The government also plans to launch a pilot QDLP program in Hainan, and in Chongqing Municipality in southwest China to better support the development of the Hainan FTP and the Chengdu-Chongqing Economic Circle, according to the administration.

## Internet Plus Tourism

Chinese authorities have issued new guidelines to make domestic tourist destinations more intelligent. The guidelines, which lay out a plan for what is known as Internet Plus Tourism, were announced on November 30.

Jointly released by 10 departments including the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the National Development and Reform Commission, the guidelines say that by 2025, tourist attractions rated 4A or above are to be upgraded to

provide smarter services.

The guidelines call on tourist attractions and resorts to expand 5G network coverage and speed up the application of unmanned, non-contact facilities. They also encourage tourist destinations to make use of advanced technologies such as big data and cloud computing to provide detailed traffic, weather and other tourist information in a timely manner.

According to the guidelines, China aims to revive tourism to pre-COVID-19 levels by 2022.

## Super Factory

Tesla China announced on November 27 that it plans to build a supercharger manufacturing facility in Shanghai. Owned by U.S. electric car manufacturer Tesla, the new factory is expected to begin operation in the first quarter of 2021.

With a planned investment of 42 million yuan (\$6.4 million), the plant

will produce 10,000 superchargers annually, mainly the V3 model, at the initial stage. The company claimed a V3 supercharger can add up to 250 km of range to a Tesla vehicle after charging for 15 minutes.

Currently, Tesla superchargers used in China are all imported from the U.S. Tesla established 30 supercharging stations in October, covering 18 Chinese cities. It is estimated that the company will have nearly 650 supercharging stations with more than 5,000 chargers in total in China by the end of this year.

## Import Ban

China will ban all imports of solid waste from January 1, 2021. According to a notice released by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Commerce and GACC on November 27, the dumping, stacking and disposal of waste products from overseas on Chinese territory will

also be banned.

The total ban is the culmination of policies introduced since 2017 to phase out solid waste import. In late 2017, China banned the import of 24 types of solid waste, including unsorted paper, textiles and vanadium slag.

China began importing solid waste as a source of raw materials in the 1980s and, despite its limited waste disposal capacity, had been the world's largest importer for years. During that time, some companies also illegally imported foreign waste for profit, posing a threat to the environment and public health.

With growing public awareness of environmental issues and the success of China's green development drive, its solid waste imports have decreased significantly. Last year, the imports stood at 13.48 million tons, down from 22.63 million tons in 2018. In the first 10 months of this year, solid waste imports plunged 42.7 percent year on year.



## Scaling Up Incomes

Workers process fish in Sansha Town, Xiapu County, Fujian Province in southeast China, on November 26. By simplifying export procedures, Xiapu has reduced the average time for export tax refund to less than five working days, helping boost the business of local export-oriented companies.

# THIS WEEK WORLD



## UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary General António Guterres calls for global solidarity and a sense of urgency to confront the coronavirus pandemic at a special session of the UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York City on December 3



## ROMANIA

President Klaus Iohannis attends National Day celebrations in Bucharest on December 1



## THE PHILIPPINES

Firefighters try to put out a fire engulfing a residential area in Manila on November 27. Nearly 200 families were left homeless



## JAPAN

A mask-themed shop in Yokohama on November 30. The venture, called Mask Paradise, is expected to open for one month for Christmas



## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

A worker sterilizes an area in a high school in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province, on December 2 for the College Scholastic Ability Test the next day. Students took the annual test amid a sharp resurgence in coronavirus infections across the country



## UNITED KINGDOM

EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier (center) heads for talks with British officials in London on November 28. Renewed efforts are on to reach an agreement on fishing and other issues as UK's transition period after Brexit ends on December 31

## ↓ WINNER OF THE BEST ACTRESS AWARD

**Zhou Dongyu** received the best actress award at the 33rd China Golden Rooster Awards in Xiamen, Fujian Province in southeast China, on November 28. Thanks to her performance in *Better Days*, she became the third actress to bag the recognition at China's biggest film awards after Zhou Xun and Zhang Ziyi.

Directed by Derek Kwok-cheung Tsang and starring Zhou and Jackson Yee, *Better Days* tells the story of two teenagers supporting each other in difficult times.

Zhou, 28, debuted in *Under the Hawthorn Tree*, a love story released in 2010, directed by Zhang Yimou, one of China's most internationally recognized directors. She was a high school student without any acting experience but the veteran filmmaker sensed her potential.

A graduate of Beijing Film Academy, China's most respected film school, Zhou, nicknamed little yellow duck by her fans, has since then acted in several blockbusters. One of them, *Soulmate*, is about the friendship between two girls and fetched Zhou the best actress trophy at the 53rd Golden Horse Awards in Taipei, China's Taiwan, in 2016.



## Early Childhood Education

[www.gmw.cn](http://www.gmw.cn)

**November 27**

The early years of education have been increasingly gaining attention among Chinese parents for their importance in forming a child's behavior and attitude and habit of learning. According to [www.qcc.com](http://www.qcc.com), a website providing corporate information, the number of registered early childhood education companies had reached 37,000 in May, resulting in a 300-billion-yuan (\$44.18 billion) market.

This indicates the unprecedented emphasis given to early childhood education by parents today. A scientific early education is beneficial

for children's brain development. However, China's early childhood education presents a stark picture. The lack of teachers well-versed in the scientific education theory is a common problem in such institutions, affecting children's long-term growth.

For instance, some organizations make preschool children recite the ratio between a circle's circumference and diameter, to develop their memory and concentration, though it is a challenging math concept for preschoolers. It cannot foster an interest in their studies, which is an essential target of childhood education.

Therefore, there should be a comprehensive regulation to ensure a minimum level for entering the industry. There should also be a common evaluation mechanism and standards to manage the industry and protect consumers. It is necessary to improve the personnel training system and ensure the agencies offer better services to the market.

## Retaining Talents

**Nanfang Daily**

**November 29**

Graduates entering the elderly care service industry will enjoy a 60,000 yuan (\$9,144) reward, according to a recent document issued by the Beijing Municipal Government. It proposes to give young people financial support to attract more graduates to elderly care services. Pay is an important factor in choosing a career, and rewarding pay will attract graduates and inject more energy into the industry in the short term.

Elderly care services have seen increasing demand for talents in recent years. China is experiencing a significant demographic change. By 2022, people aged over 65 will make up 14 percent of the population. Nearly one tenth of them will be unable to perform basic functions like dressing, eating and bathing on their own. Also, 25.4 percent of aged people will require all-round care.

However, the supply of nursing care lags far behind the demand, with a widening talent gap. According to international standards, there should be one nurse per three disabled elderly. But there is a shortage of nearly 10 million nursing staff in China. A long-term plan, including promotion, incentive mechanisms

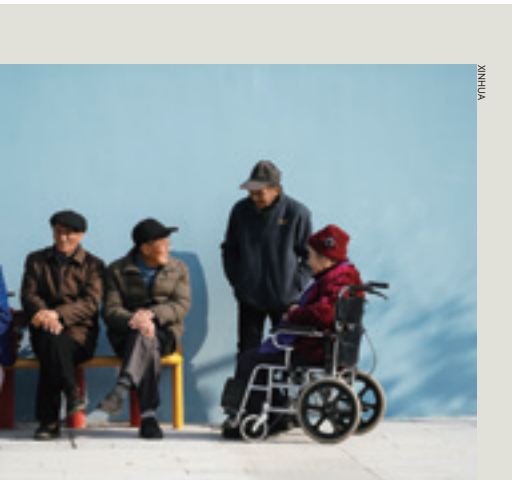


**“We need to reconsider what is the danger to all. The danger no longer lies in war, but rather in infectious disease. This is now the biggest threat. Mankind has put so much investment into making weapons rather than investing in public health.”**

**Shao Yiming**, chief expert on AIDS, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, to CGTN on December 1

**“On the trade and economic side, I fully expect that given a little bit of time, there will be a different approach that leads to growth and not to a decline in trade and investment.”**

**Craig Allen**, President of the U.S.-China Business Council, to Xinhua News Agency on December 1



YIP HING

Senior people chat outside a community elderly care center at the Suzhou Industrial Park in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province in east China, on December 1

and enhanced social respect, is necessary to address the shortage.

Today, only 40 percent of those who work in the industry stay there for over two years. Besides the low salary, many graduates lack an understanding of the industry, resulting in psychological gaps in professional skills, career identity and other aspects. This is another reason for the high turnover rate.

Graduates should learn skills at nursing institutions to form a realistic understanding of the industry. Given the high labor intensity and poor pay, a sense of accomplishment and professional identity is needed to foster long-term dedication to the industry.

## Deep-Sea Exploration

**Beijing Youth Daily**

**November 29**

China's new deep-sea manned submersible *Fendouzhe*, also known as *Striver*, returned to Hainan Province in south China on November 27 after completing its ocean expedition. The vessel set a national diving record of 10,909 meters on November 10 in the Challenger Deep, the deepest known point of Earth's oceans, located at the southern end of the Mariana Trench in the western Pacific Ocean.

The development of the home-made *Fendouzhe* began in 2016. It involved nearly 1,000 scientists and researchers from about 100 research institutions, colleges and enterprises. Compared to its predecessors, its cabin and buoyancy materials are more pressure-resistant. Besides, *Fendouzhe* has a safe and powerful energy system, and an advanced control and positioning system.

The successful sea trial verified the various functions and performances of the submersible and marked a breakthrough in deep-sea equipment and technologies. It also marked China's entry into the first echelon of deep-sea scientific research and will provide strong technical support for subsequent deep-sea research.

This is expected to lead to the discovery of new marine organisms and ecosystems in the most inhospitable places on Earth, and deepen our understanding of the formation of tectonic plates, along with marine biology, chemistry and conservation. It will also unlock access to a wealth of natural resources.

### ↓ CHINESE NUCLEAR EXPERT DIES

**Li Guanxing**, an expert on nuclear materials and techniques, passed away at the age of 80 in Beijing on December 1.

Li, who had worked in China's nuclear industry for nearly 50 years, was engaged in research on nuclear fuel and technologies and made important contributions to the development of new materials for nuclear energy development.

He presided over China's first production line for fuel rod bundles, which fuel the nuclear reactor, in 2003, for the heavy water reactor power plant in Jiaxing, a city in Zhejiang Province, east China. The production technology, equipment and management at the plant are of international standard.

Li was the director of the Chinese Nuclear Society and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

A graduate from Department of Engineering Physics at Tsinghua University, he was a visiting scholar to Ohio University.



**“The Australian side has made such a scene with this image because it wants to divert attention, avoid the real issue and relieve some pressure off its shoulder.”**

**Hua Chunying**, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, at a press conference on December 1

**“The current global industrial layout is a manifestation of the objective laws governing economic operations, and the fact that the industrial landscapes of China and the EU are primarily a result of the optimal allocation of global resources, based on market rules.”**

**Xia Xiang**, Minister of the Economic and Commercial Office of the People's Republic of China to the EU, in an article in *EUobserver*, an online European newspaper, on November 26



COVER STORY

# MOVING FORWARD

Cooperation among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea gears up to meet demands of present times By Shi Yongming