

BEIJING REVIEW

VOL.68 NO.45 NOVEMBER 6, 2025

北方周報 WWW.BJREVIEW.COM



GLOBAL VISION

What the 15th Five-Year Plan means for China and the World

RMB9.00
USD1.70
AUD3.00
GBP1.20
CAD2.60
CHF2.60
JPY188

ISSN 1000-9140



9 771000 914253

邮发代号2-922·国内统一连续号: CN11-1576/G2

Follow **CICG Americas**

And get in on the conversation

 BeijingReview  BeijingReview  @BeijingReview

 China Hoy

 China Hoje



CONTENTS

EDITOR'S DESK

02 A Pivotal Period

THIS WEEK

COVER STORY

12 **The Power of Planning**

Expert analysis of the upcoming 15th Five-Year Plan

17 **Communique of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (Excerpt)**

22 **A Plan for the Future of Global Development**

The blueprint for modernity

24 **China Doesn't Fail to Plan, Nor Does It Fail**

Organized, forward-looking, responsible governance

26 **The Geography of Growth**

Coordinated regional development over the next five years

28 **Benefits Beyond Borders**

Five-Year Plans as drivers for global growth

30 **Green Gains**

China's journey to global leadership in energy transition

OPINION

34 **Top-Level Talks**

Xi and Trump hold productive meeting in Busan

36 **Thirty Years of Cooperation for Gender Equality**

Persistent effort will lead to a lasting global legacy

37 **RCEP—An Engine of Integration**

A look at the world's largest free trade area

38 **Toward a Fair and Secure Global Cyberspace**

A call for equality, cooperation and justice

FEATURES

40 **Across Oceans, Through Cities**

China-U.S. sister cities strengthen ties

42 **Navigating Change**

Conference explores the future of finance

CULTURE

46 **Obstacle World Championships**

Athletes in Beijing leap toward Los Angeles

EXPAT'S EYE

48 **'A Beautiful New Day'**

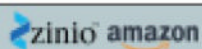
Life and study at an international school in Shanghai

Cover Photo: Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, delivers an address at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee in Beijing (XINHUA)

©2025 Beijing Review, all rights reserved.



www.bjreview.com



Follow us on



BREAKING NEWS » SCAN ME » Using a QR code reader



EDITOR'S DESK

北京周报

BEIJING REVIEW

A News Weekly Magazine
Published Since 1958

President: Xin Feng
Associate Editor in Chief: Liu Yunyun
Vice Presidents: He Peng, Gao Dingbo, Yu Shujun
Program Supervisor: Zeng Wenhui

Executive Editor: Yan Wei
Production Director: Yao Bin
Editors: Wang Hairong, Zhang Shasha, Lu Yan
Researcher: Lan Xinzhen
Editorial Consultants: Elsbeth van Paridon, G.P. Wilson
Reporters: Ji Jing, Kang Caiqi, Li Qing, Li Wenhui, Li Xiaoyang, Liang Xiao, Ma Miaomiao, Pan Xiaoqiao, Peng Jiawei, Tao Xing, Tao Zihui, Wang Jun, Wang Ruohan, Yuan Yuan, Zhang Yage
Photographer: Wei Yao
Art: Li Shigong
Design Director: Wang Yajun
Chief Designer: Cui Xiaodong
Designer: Wang Boyan

Editorial Administrator: Zeng Wenhui
Planning Director: Xu Bei
Deputy Planning Director: Li Nan
World News Director: Ding Ying
Director of Digital Media: Li Fangfang
Director of Strategic Research: Zan Jifang
Deputy Director of Strategic Research: Lu Ling

Administration: Zhang Yajie
International Cooperation: Sun Xuan
Legal Counsel: Yue Cheng

North America Bureau (New York City)

Chief: Yu Shujun
Executive Assistant: Zhao Wei
Tel/Fax: 1-201-792-0334
E-mail: yushujun@cicgamericas.com
Latin America Bureau (Mexico City)
Chief: Miao Ye
Tel: 52-55-55127271
Fax: 52-55-55332027
E-mail: chinahoymx@gmail.com
Peru Office (Lima)
Chief: Meng Kexin
Tel: 0051-959212702
E-mail: revistachinaperu@gmail.com

General Editorial Office

Tel: 86-10-68996252
Fax: 86-10-68326628
Editorial Desk
Tel: 86-10-68996250
Partnerships
Tel: 86-10-68995807
E-mail: yecong@cicgamericas.com
Distribution
Tel: 86-10-68310644
E-mail: circulation@cicgamericas.com

Published every Thursday by
CICG Center for Americas, 24 Baiwanzhuang Lu,
Beijing 100037, China
Overseas Distributor: China International Book Trading
Corporation (Guoji Shudian), P. O. BOX 399,
Beijing 100044, China
Tel: 86-10-68413849, 1-416-497-8096 (Canada)
Fax: 86-10-68412166
E-mail: fp@mail.cibtc.com.cn
Website: <http://www.cibtc.com>
General Distributor for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan:
Peace Book Co. Ltd.
17/F, Paramount Bldg, 12 Ka Yip St, Chai Wan, HK
Tel: 852-28046687 **Fax:** 852-28046409

Beijing Review (ISSN 1000-9140 USPS 2812) is published weekly in the United States for US\$64.00 per year by Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080. News Postage Paid at Burlingame, CA 94010-9997. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Beijing Review*, Cypress Books, 360 Swift Avenue, Suite 48, South San Francisco, CA 94080

A Pivotal Period

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) was convened in Beijing on October 20-23. Held as the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) is concluding and the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) is about to be implemented, the main purpose of the session was to formulate a document of recommendations that outlines China's development priorities for the next five-year period.

Formulating Five-Year Plans for economic and social development is a hallmark of the CPC's governance. Against the backdrop of multiple uncertainties such as geopolitical conflicts, rising protectionism and climate crisis, China's Five-Year Plans, bringing medium- and long-term strategic stability and policy continuity, have provided valuable certainty for the world economy and have been closely watched by the international community.

The recent plenary session set out the main objectives for economic and social development during the 15th Five-Year Plan period and proposed work plans to achieve them. By reading the documents it adopted, the international community can

gain an understanding of how China will promote economic development and choose its areas for future investment. For instance, China has prioritized high-quality development, placed greater emphasis on new quality productive forces featuring new economic models, new businesses and new industries, emphasized coordinated development and security and steadily expanded high-standard opening up, which provides global partners with new, predictable, available and feasible cooperation opportunities in areas of manufacturing, trade, green development and digital technologies.

The 15th Five-Year Plan period will be a pivotal time in China's development, as it consolidates the economic and social foundation built over the last seven decades, transitions to becoming an economy and society driven by world-leading technology and international cooperation, and begins its final push toward its 2035 goal of basically achieving socialist modernization. The next five years will bring more opportunities than ever for cooperation with China in areas that deliver joint development and shared prosperity. **BR**



WRITE TO US

Send an e-mail: editorsoffice@cicgamericas.com

Please provide your name and address along with your submissions. Submissions may be edited.

CHINA.....RMB9.00 U.S.A.....USD1.70
AUSTRALIA.....AUD3.00 UK.....GBP1.20
CANADA.....CAD2.60 SWITZERLAND.....CHF2.60
JAPAN.....JPY188 EUROPE.....EUR1.90
TÜRKIYE.....YTL5.00 HK.....HKD9.30 NEPAL.....RS40

主管单位：中国外文出版发行事业局

主办单位：中国外文局美洲传播中心（北京周报社）

出版单位：中国外文局美洲传播中心（北京周报社）

地址：北京市西城区百万庄大街24号 邮编：100037

编委会：辛峰 贺鹏 王宇 刘云云 高丁博 于淑均 曾文卉

编委会主任：辛峰

主编：闫威

总编室电话：(010) 68996252 发行部电话：(010) 68310644

印刷：北京华联印刷有限公司

北京周报 英文版2025年 第45期 ISSN 1000-9140

国内统一连续出版物号：CN11-1576/G2 邮发代号：2-922

广告许可证0171号 北京市期刊登记证733号

国内零售价：人民币9.00元



NEW CREW, NEW MISSION

Shenzhou-21 crew members (left to right) Zhang Hongzhang, Zhang Lu and Wu Fei. The trio was launched into low-Earth orbit on October 31, set to replace the *Shenzhou-20* astronauts who have inhabited China's *Tiangong* space station since April.

For the next six months, the team will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the space station. Their agenda includes undertaking 27 new scientific and application study projects, which will include research with mice. *Tiangong*, completed in late 2022, orbits Earth at an altitude of about 400 km.



Boosting Trade

Visitors browse building materials at the second phase of the 138th edition of the Canton Fair in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, on October 27. Held from October 23 to 27, the event's second phase showcased household goods, gifts, decorations, building materials and furniture. Spanning an area of 515,000 square meters, the exhibition featured 25,000 booths and over 10,000 participating enterprises.

Average Life Expectancy

China aims to raise the average life expectancy of its people to around 80 years during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30), Lei Haichao, head of the National Health Commission, said on October 24.

By the end of 2024, average life expectancy in China had reached 79 years, an extraordinary achievement among developing countries, Lei said.

According to Lei, China has established the world's largest health service system, disease prevention and control system, and medical insurance system during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period, making remarkable progress in the country's healthcare and population development.

China has also weathered the

once-in-a-century pandemic, and continuously improved its people's average life expectancy over the past five years, the official said.

Rural Roads

China constructed or upgraded 75,000 km of rural roads in the first three quarters of the year, completing 75.4 percent of the annual target, according to official data released on October 28.

The data was released at an event themed on rural roads in Quzhou City, Zhejiang Province, highlighting the country's progress in strengthening rural infrastructure.

Fixed assets investment in rural roads totaled over 275.3 billion yuan (\$38.8 billion) during the period. By the end of 2024, China's rural road network had reached 4.64 million km.

Easing Student Burden

The Ministry of Education (MOE) on October 24 rolled out a set of 10 measures aimed at further alleviating the academic burden on primary and middle school students.

These measures encompassed a series of strict regulations, including imposing a cap on the total amount of written school assignments, cutting down the frequency of daily exams, and ensuring exam difficulty is kept at a reasonable level. The MOE encouraged schools nationwide to designate one day each week as a "homework-free day."

The measures are part of the country's commitment to maintaining strict oversight over subject-based teaching during the nine-year compulsory education period,

spanning from primary to junior high school.

The MOE also pledged to advance the reform of the junior high school graduation exam in a systematic manner. Schools are required to organize at least one educational activity each month that focuses on health and safety, or is aimed at improving students' psychological resilience. The MOE further mandated the full implementation of a daily two-hour sports activities initiative, urging schools and communities to make nearby sports venues accessible to students.

In addition, the measures underscored the importance of ensuring students have adequate sleep and develop healthy Internet usage habits.

Special attention and care should be extended to vulnerable groups, such as children left behind in rural areas by parents who work in cities, orphans and children from single-parent families, the MOE emphasized.

The MOE also highlighted the significance of fostering harmonious parent-child relationships within families.

Bird Population Growth

China has made remarkable achievements in avian conservation, with stable population growth observed in multiple endangered bird species, according to a meeting on migratory bird conservation held from October 20 to 24 in Dongying City, Shandong Province.

The four countries participating in the meeting, China, Japan, Australia and the Republic of Korea, share the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) and have a long history of cooperation on the protection of migratory birds.

The routes that migratory waterbirds traverse on an annual

basis are known as “flyways.” There are nine major flyways around the world. The EAAF stretches from the Russian Far East and Alaska, southward through East Asia and Southeast Asia, to Australia and New Zealand and encompasses 22 countries.

Over the past five years, the Chinese Government has been consistently intensifying its avian protection efforts. The number of protected bird species in the country has increased by nearly 50 percent over the period, with 394 species now designated as key, nationally protected species, and another 1,028 categorized as species with important ecological, scientific or social value, according to the meeting.

China has continued to strengthen its protection and restoration of migratory flyways, as well as its construction of a monitoring system. It has designated 1,140 migration-route avian habitats as “important,” and begun comprehensive protection and restoration work on 821 key sites.

Chinese authorities have been conducting a specialized campaign to combat the illegal trade of wildlife for six consecutive years. Aimed at safeguarding ecological security by stopping the illegal hunting, trade and transport of wildlife, it has resulted in a notable drop in both wildlife crime and the

number of perpetrators.

Snow Leopards

The snow leopard population in Huangnan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province, has reached 59, the provincial forestry and grassland administration said on October 23, World Snow Leopard Day.

The survey, based on data collected in 2023 and 2024, involved 111 ecological rangers and deployed 200 infrared cameras across the prefecture. Of these, 55 cameras captured snow leopards, yielding 298 independent detections.

Results indicated that snow leopards inhabit approximately 3,872 square km in Huangnan, accounting for 21.74 percent of the prefecture’s total area.

Experts emphasized that snow leopards, which are listed as a first-class protected species in China, are critical indicators of ecological balance. Zhang Yu, head of the administration’s wildlife protection department, said the survey provides baseline data for future monitoring and protection efforts.

New Xiaomi Factory

Chinese tech firm Xiaomi launched its first smart home appliance factory in Wuhan, Hubei Province,



Painting the Palace

A worker paints the wall of the Potala Palace during an annual renovation of the ancient architectural complex in Lhasa, Xizang Autonomous Region, on October 24.

on October 28, part of a major expansion of the tech giant’s manufacturing footprint beyond smartphones and vehicles.

This new factory, focusing on air conditioner production, is the company’s third large-scale smart factory after its auto and smartphone plants.

Spanning over 50 hectares in its first phase with a total planned investment of over 2.5 billion yuan (\$352.8 million), the facility integrates advanced technologies, including Digital Twin, AI visual

inspection and aerial logistics systems. This enables comprehensive visualization and data-driven management across the entire production process.

The factory can roll out a high-end air conditioner every 6.5 seconds, according to Shan Lianyu, general manager of Xiaomi’s home appliance department. Peak annual production capacity for air conditioners is projected to reach 7 million units, with an estimated annual output value of 14 billion yuan (\$1.97 billion), Shan said.



Celebrating Chongyang Festival

Volunteers make dumplings together with elderly residents of Gaobei Village in Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province, on October 27, to welcome the Chongyang Festival, which fell on October 29 this year. Also celebrated as Seniors’ Day in China, the festival highlights the public’s care for elderly people.

Digital RMB Transactions

China's digital RMB ecosystem has been established in preliminary terms, with cumulative transactions reaching 14.2 trillion yuan (\$2 trillion) by the end of September 2025, according to the People's Bank of China (PBC), the central bank.

The digital RMB pilot program, which now covers 26 localities across 17 provincial-level regions in the country, has formed replicable application models in fields including retail and public services.

A total of 3.32 billion transactions had been processed by the end of September, with 225 million personal wallets opened on the digital RMB app.

The central bank has so far established a digital yuan international operations center in Shanghai to oversee cross-border cooperation and usage, and a digital yuan operations and management center in

Beijing, which is responsible for system development, operations and maintenance to promote the currency's broader application, according to PBC Governor Pan Gongsheng, while addressing the Annual Conference of Financial Street Forum 2025 on October 27.

The digital RMB's "dual-center" architecture was made public for the first time after the official launch of the Shanghai international operations center in September.

Sci-Tech Growth Tier

On October 28, the Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE) released the names of the first group of enterprises listed on a sci-tech growth tier on the country's Nasdaq-style Science and Technology Innovation Board, also known as the STAR Market.

The sci-tech growth tier mainly serves technology-based enterprises that have made major breakthroughs in

key service technologies, with broad business prospects, large continuous research and development investment yet are still unprofitable, according to the SSE.

This move came after the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), the country's securities regulator, announced the setting up of the sci-tech growth tier in June—aiming to provide better support for high-quality tech enterprises that were not yet profitable.

Li Chao, CSRC Vice Chairman, said at a listing ceremony on October 28 that the latest move marks a solid new step forward in the capital market's support for technological innovation and the development of new quality productive forces. New quality productive forces refer to the shift toward innovation-driven growth, technological advancement and high-quality development in multiple sectors of the economy.

Li noted that since June, the STAR Market has been steadily advancing reforms—including the establishment of the sci-tech growth tier and the pilot introduction of senior professional institutional investors and pre-review mechanisms.

Logistics Costs

China's social logistics costs totaled 14.2 trillion yuan (\$2 trillion) in the first three quarters of the year, accounting for 14 percent of the country's GDP and maintaining their lowest level since records began, official data showed on October 27.

The ratio remained unchanged from the first half of the year but decreased by 0.1 percentage point from the same period last year, according to the National Development and Reform Commission.

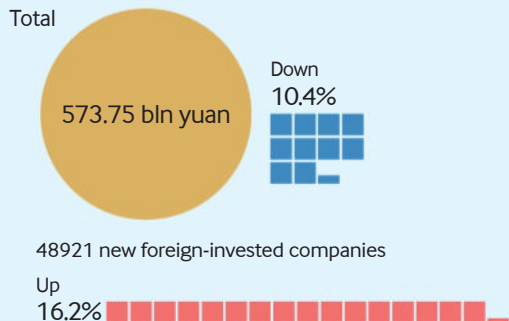
China aims to cut the ratio of social logistics costs to GDP to around 13.5 percent by 2027 as it moves to improve economic efficiency, according

NUMBERS

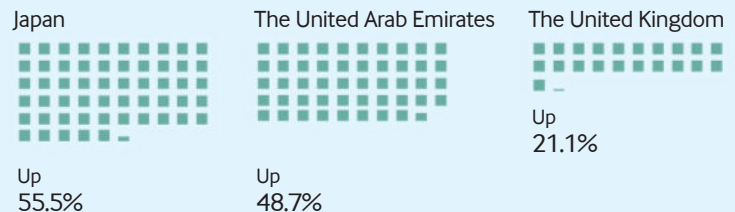
Foreign direct investment (FDI) in January-September

(All growth rates are y.o.y., \$1=7.08 yuan as of October 30)

Paid-in FDI in the Chinese mainland



FDI in the Chinese mainland from



to an action plan unveiled in November 2024.

By 2027, the country expects to optimize its goods transportation structure further, and to strengthen its national logistics hub system and modern logistics services network, per the plan, which was issued by the general offices of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, the highest state administrative organ.

Industrial Profits

Profits of China's major industrial firms increased by 3.2 percent year on year in the first nine months of 2025, recovering at an accelerated pace, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on October 27.

Industrial firms with an annual main business revenue of at least 20 million yuan (\$2.8 million) saw their combined profits totaling 5.37 trillion yuan (\$756 billion) during this nine-month period.

The 3.2-percent year-on-

year growth recorded from January to September was the highest cumulative growth rate since August last year, and also represented an acceleration of 2.3 percentage points compared to the January-August period, indicating a trend of accelerated recovery, NBS statistician Yu Weining said.

From January to September, profits of hi-tech manufacturing enterprises increased by 8.7 percent year on year, accelerating by 2.7 percentage points compared with the January-August period, contributing 1.6 percentage points to overall industrial profit growth, according to Yu.

In September alone, profits of the hi-tech manufacturing sector achieved growth of 26.8 percent, serving as a significant driver of high-quality development in industrial enterprises, Yu added.

Installed Power Capacity

China's cumulative installed

power generation capacity had reached 3.72 billion kw by the end of September 2025, a year-on-year increase of 17.5 percent, official data showed on October 26.

Solar power generation capacity amounted to 1.13 billion kw by the end of September, surging 45.7 percent compared to the same period last year, according to the National Energy Administration (NEA).

Wind power generation capacity reached nearly 582 million kw by the end of September, rising 21.3 percent year on year, the NEA data revealed.

In the first nine months of 2025, China's major power generation companies invested 598.7 billion yuan (\$84.3 billion) in power generation projects, up 0.6 percent year on year.

During the same period, investments in power grid projects totaled 437.8 billion yuan (\$61.7 billion)—an increase of 9.9 percent year on year, the NEA data showed.

New Operating System

Huawei said the number of devices running HarmonyOS 5 had exceeded 23 million units as of October 22, the day the Chinese technology giant released its new-generation HarmonyOS 6 operating system.

The rollout of HarmonyOS 6 has commenced for over 90 first-batch device models, introducing upgrades in fluency, intelligence, privacy protection and cross-device collaboration, according to Huawei Executive Director Yu Chengdong.


Key features include AI-powered anti-fraud capabilities and enhanced privacy protection, such as AI anti-peeping technology.

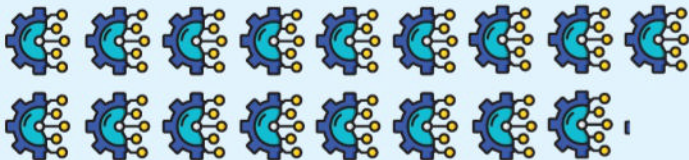
HarmonyOS is a full-scenario intelligent operating system developed by Huawei, which has now grown into one of the world's top three mobile operating systems.

FDI in the Chinese mainland into

hi-tech sector


170.84 billion yuan

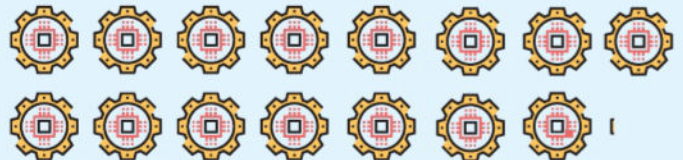
 = 10 billion yuan



manufacturing sector

150.09 billion yuan

 = 10 billion yuan



(Source: Ministry of Commerce)



JAPAN

Protesters gather in front of the Prime Minister's Office on October 28, voicing dissatisfaction with U.S. President Donald Trump's visit and protesting against arms expansion and the weaponization of tariffs



ITALY

Twelve "digital torchbearers" (content creators) pose with Milano-Cortina 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Games mascots Tina and Milo, along with newly unveiled podiums, during a ceremony marking 100 days to the opening of the games, at Palazzo Lombardia in Milan on October 29



CUBA

Military school cadets hold up a portrait of commander Camilo Cienfuegos during a ceremony commemorating the revolutionary leader in Havana on October 28





SPAIN

Sheep and goats are paraded through downtown Madrid on October 19 during the Transhumance Festival, a celebration of the local traditional practice of seasonally moving livestock



THAILAND

Mourners gather for Queen Mother Sirikit at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital in Bangkok on October 25. She passed away a day earlier at the age of 93



MALAYSIA

The closing ceremony of the 47th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit underway in Kuala Lumpur on October 28, during which the ASEAN chairmanship for 2026 was handed over to the Philippines



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ YOUNG PIANIST SHINES AT CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION

Chinese pianist **Wang Zitong**, 26, took third place at the 19th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw on October 21, and also received the event's Krystian Zimerman Award for the best performance of a sonata.

Born in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in 1999, Wang began learning piano at 3. She is pursuing a master's degree at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, under the guidance of Dang Thai Son, who won the Chopin competition in 1980.

Pianist Chen Sa, who served on the jury of the competition this year, said Wang has developed a personal approach to handling soft and delicate tones and brilliant execution of lively, agile passages.

First held in 1927 and organized every five years, the competition features a repertoire solely from Polish composer Frederic Chopin (1810-49) and is regarded as one of the world's most prestigious music events. It's open to pianists aged between 16 and 30 from around the world. This year's top winner is 28-year-old Chinese American pianist Eric Lu.



Redefining Dining

Rednet.cn

October 26

For a long time, fine dining belonged to the world of Michelin-starred restaurants and five-star hotels. In China, however, luxury hotels have lately been taking to the streets, selling gourmet dishes from curbside food stalls at everyday prices—and discovering that better affordability can actually yield more profit.

At the Nobel International Hotel in

Zhengzhou, Henan Province, street stall sales can bring in nearly 40,000 yuan (\$5,630) in a single day. Another local venue, the Zhengdi Olympic Sports Jianguo Hotel, has gone even further: Its street stalls once pulled in 90,000 yuan (\$12,700) in just two hours.

The move reflects not just a creative business model but also a timely response to broader policies aimed at boosting domestic consumption. By pairing five-star culinary standards with street-level prices, luxury hotels are finding new relevance in a changing market as they strive for deeper connectivity with their local communities.



The Taste of China

Lifeweek

October 27

Wine is hardly new to China. The country's wine-making story stretches all the way back to 7,000 B.C., when early settlers in what is now Henan Province were making wine out of wild grapes, rice and hawthorn. In 1892, Chinese entrepreneur Cheong Fatt Tze (Zhang Bishi) founded Changyu Pioneer Wine Co. Inc., China's oldest and largest modern winery, through which multiple internationally renowned grape varieties were

“It is not just an expansion of economic cooperation, but also a key step toward helping the region to walk away from the reliance on low-end manufacturing and achieve high-quality development.”

Sun Xiao, Secretary General of the China Chamber of International Commerce, on the signing of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area 3.0 Upgrade Protocol in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on October 28

“We welcome the addition of Tianjin's second line to our global production system, as it provides us with the necessary flexibility and capacity to deliver on our plan to assemble 75 A320 family aircraft per month in 2027.”

Airbus CEO **Guillaume Faury**, at a ceremony to launch the European aerospace giant's Final Assembly Line for A320 family aircraft in Tianjin on October 22

brought into the country.

Despite its early entry into China, wine has long remained on the margins of its drinking culture. According to a 2024 report by China Alcoholic Drinks Association, beer and *baijiu*, Chinese distilled liquor, together made up 93 percent of the country's total alcohol consumption, while per-capita wine consumption stood at just 0.5 liters a year—ranking China 20th in the world.

That, however, may be changing. While large domestic wineries struggle to compete with imported labels, small boutique producers are steadily winning loyal followings. Their rise reflects a broader shift in drinking habits among young Chinese consumers, who are turning away from business banquets, where *baijiu* is the main staple, and drinking less for business and more for their own enjoyment.

Another trend that has fueled the rise of these small wineries is the move beyond imitation to exploration of what a truly Chinese wine might taste like by experimenting with unconventional grape varieties and fermenting techniques. By appealing to a generation that values taste and authenticity, China's boutique producers are not only finding their own space in a market long dominated by foreign brands but also beginning to redefine what it means to drink Chinese wine.

Progress and Protection

Economic Daily
October 24

In the early morning of October 20, a new high-voltage power line in Nanchong, Sichuan Province, came into operation—an event that spoke as much about restraint as about progress. The line, along with six other transmission lines in the area, was shifted 6 km from its original route to protect migratory birds that traverse the region each year.

When engineers discovered that the

birds' migratory routes overlapped with the electromagnetic range of the power lines, they quickly reached a consensus with local authorities to adjust the project's design: Transmission towers were lowered, warning lights and marker balls installed and a 700-meter buffer zone established around wetlands—all to keep power lines safely clear of the birds' migratory paths.

This is not an isolated case. More and more such projects signal a quiet shift in China's development model, that slowing down to take care of environmental concerns may, in the long run, prove the fastest way forward.

↓ OLYMPIC CHAMPION SKATING PAIR RETURNS

China's Olympic champions **Sui Wenjing** and **Han Cong** announced their return to pairs figure skating with a bronze medal at the ISU Grand Prix Cup of China in Chongqing on October 25.

Sui, 30, and Han, 33, clinched gold in pairs figure skating at the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games. Following the victory, Sui never fully left the sport and resumed formal training at the end of last year with the goal of competing at the 2026 Olympics. Han announced in 2023 that he would withdraw from all competitions during the 2026 Olympic cycle due to injury.

The pair, first formed in 2007 and once renowned for their synchronization, announced their comeback in June. The Cup of China was their first competition since returning to the ice.

Sui and Han also won World Championships in 2019 and 2021 and claimed the title at the Four Continents Championships in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2020.



“China has created a new form of international cooperation. We need this new form of cooperation among countries, based not on the will of one or two big powers, but on the principles of win-win cooperation.”

Gyula Thurmer, President of the Hungarian Workers' Party, commending China's role in promoting multilateralism through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative, BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, in a recent interview with Xinhua News Agency

“Extreme precipitation is a critical factor in risk management. Mid-latitude regions should prioritize managing flood risks driven by intensified rainfall, while high-latitude and alpine regions need to address hazard risks related to snow.”

Li Yupeng, first author of a recent study published in the journal *Advances in Climate Change Research*, which shows that global warming has modified the distribution of both solid and liquid precipitation—leading to changes in the intensity and frequency of extreme rainfall and snowfall

中国共产党第二十届中央委员会



COVER STORY

THE POWER OF PLANNING

Landmark meeting sends major policy signals for the next five years

By Yan Yilong

会第四次全体会议



Xi Jinping, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi attend the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee in Beijing. The 20th CPC Central Committee convened its fourth plenary session from October 20 to 23

Editor's Note: The Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, convened in Beijing from October 20 to 23, outlined China's development roadmap for the next five years. *Beijing Review* spoke with Chinese and international experts for in-depth analysis of the upcoming 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30), as well as China's achievements during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period.

hand" complements the market's "invisible hand," creates a synergy that has driven immense progress.

Many Western observers have wondered how China has achieved remarkable development so quickly. The truth is, these accomplishments did not happen overnight. They are the cumulative result of one Five-Year Plan after another, each building upon the last in a continuous process of accumulation. This continuity is a key advantage of China's long-term planning approach. China's strategic direction has remained remarkably stable. The Five-Year Plans provide a rare form of certainty in China, in a world of increasing uncertainty.

Dynamic planning

The upcoming 15th Five-Year Plan period will coincide with a time of strategic standoff between major global ►►

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), convened in Beijing from October 20 to 23, shed light on China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30), a development roadmap over the next five years.

As a crucial pillar of national governance, China's Five-Year Plans have allowed the country to think long term, act strategically, and sustain progress across decades. This mechanism has been a key driver behind what many

call the "Chinese miracle." While this idea of strategic planning was not originally conceived in China, the country's persistence in making the plans and remarkable success in implementing them are unparalleled. This enduring success is a defining feature of what's often called the "China model."

Mainstream Western economics has long argued that national-level planning is impractical, advocating instead for planning at the city or enterprise level. However, this perspective appears increasingly narrow when viewed through the lens of China's experience.

Over the decades, China has developed a new form of planning that combines the market-driven principles of a capitalist economy with the guiding hand of government policy. This approach, in which the government's "visible

powers and profound instability in the world order. In this context, dynamic planning will be more important than ever. The experience of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) has proven that even under the unprecedented shock of a global pandemic and other volatile external conditions, China can still manage to meet its high-quality development targets.

The key to maintaining resilience lies, first and foremost, in combining long-term planning with short-term flexibility. The ability to make strategic decisions at the right moment and dynamically adjusting the planning and macroeconomic control is one of the inherent strengths of China's planning mechanism.

The Five-Year Plans' midterm evaluation mechanism should be fully utilized to make necessary adjustment in response to changing circumstances. In the past, this adjustment mechanism was rarely activated. But in today's era of high uncertainty, it has become clear that no plan can foresee all changes, such as the sudden onset of a global pandemic or the outbreak of geopolitical conflicts. Making the national planning more dynamic is therefore essential to mitigating future risks.

From an economic standpoint, China's growth has already been extraordinary. The People's Republic of China has sustained rapid growth for more than 70 years. Many believe this surge began with reform and opening up launched some four decades ago, yet even before that period, China's average annual GDP growth exceeded 6 percent. Having maintained high-speed growth for over seven decades, the nation is entering the 15th Five-Year Plan period, during which it aims to sustain medium growth for at least another decade.

How can this be achieved? The answer lies in the institutional strengths of socialism. Historically, when other nations reached a similar stage of development, many turned outward

through expansion, wars or shifting industries abroad, leading to the hollowing-out of domestic sectors. China, however, is pursuing a different path, one that leverages the advantages of its socialist system and promoting interplay between an efficient market and a well-functioning government.

Take domestic demand as an example. Market forces alone are insufficient. China's rapid rise within the electric vehicle industry would not have been possible without the government's firm commitment to climate policy and top-level strategic design. Addressing climate change is not just an environmental necessity, but also a major driver of economic growth.

Expanding domestic demand is a systemic endeavor that involves employment, income distribution and social welfare. One of the root causes of insufficient domestic demand lies in the fact that many low- and middle-income households have the desire to consume but lack the purchasing power. Promoting common prosperity, at its core, is about boosting their consumption capacity. Likewise, projects such as urban renewal and the redevelopment of old residential areas are not only tangible measures toward common prosperity but also powerful engines for domestic demand. Behind all these efforts stands the strategic strength of the state.

New priorities

The recent plenary session laid out 12 major priorities for China's next stage of development. At the top of the list is "building a modernized industrial system and reinforcing the foundations of the real economy." This signals China's resolve to chart a new course. China has realized more clearly than ever that the real economy is the cornerstone of its development. The message is clear: The modern industrial system must be built on the foundation of the real economy, with advanced manufacturing as its core. Its manufacturing value added now accounts for roughly 30 percent of the global total.

The plenary session noted that it is essential to promote the integration of manufacturing and services. China already has powerful manufacturing capabilities, but it is equally important to promote the fusion of manufacturing and services. Rather than merely selling equipment, we must expand into



Students watch an intelligent robot perform a dance during the opening ceremony of a science and technology festival in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on October 13



Visitors explore AI technologies powered by DeepSeek's large model in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on May 4

providing integrated services.

Equally vital is the integration of manufacturing and the digital economy. The rapid rise of China's digital economy rests on a solid foundation—a complete and fully integrated real economy system. This allows technologies like AI to be swiftly deployed in real-world scenarios, from smart vehicles to embodied intelligence. This serves as the foundation for China's digital economy and the bedrock of its innovation drive. A full industrial chain gives China a unique edge in innovation, so ideas can be quickly translated into prototypes, manufactured, tested and improved, creating a virtuous cycle of “innovation-manufacturing-reinnovation.”

China is now the leading trading partner for most countries around the world, and the cornerstone of this is its real economy. Trade cannot flourish without strong manufacturing capacity to produce what the world needs.

Traditional sectors will be upgraded through new technologies to preserve their strengths; emerging industries will be scaled up to form

new competitive advantages; and future industries, such as embodied intelligence, controlled nuclear fusion and quantum computing, will be strategically encouraged. Even if these frontier technologies yield no immediate payoff in the next five years, their early groundwork will prove invaluable in the decade ahead. This is long-range, evidence-based planning.

Beyond that, many of the new policy arrangements also deserve close attention. Compared with the previous plan, the 15th Five-Year-Plan will put more emphasis on innovation-driven growth, industrial profitability and the construction of a modern industrial system anchored in advanced manufacturing. This shows that China has reached a new stage of development based on the foundation laid during the 14th Five-Year Plan period. Its determination to achieve modernization remains unwavering. Despite an increasingly complex and uncertain international environment, China will continue to move steadily forward along its chosen course.

The plenary session also set a long-term goal: By 2035, China's per-capita GDP will be on a par with that of a mid-level developed country. This suggests that China's economy will maintain steady and medium-to-high-speed growth. As long as China maintains steady growth during the next five years, the 2035 modernization target will be well within reach.

Innovation is another highlight. The plenary session stressed a “high-level self-reliance and self-improvement in science and technology,” an upgrade from the previous

wording of “self-reliance and self-improvement in science and technology.” This shift reflects a deeper ambition: to seize the strategic opportunities of a new round of technological and industrial transformation and to secure future development. This demonstrates the central role of technological innovation in driving the development in the next five years. To achieve this, the plenary session underscored the need to reinforce education, science and technology, and human resources, to ensure that innovation and the real economy advance together in an integrated way.

Another noteworthy focus is the emphasis on the people. The plenary session devoted extensive attention to improving people's wellbeing—making solid headway promoting well-rounded personal development and common prosperity for all, promoting high-quality population development and further improving people's living standards. The principle of “people first” runs deep in Chinese tradition. During the 15th Five-Year Plan period, this centrality will be more pronounced than ever.

Opportunities for all

China's continued opening up presents vast market opportunities to the world. Initiatives such as the China International Import Expo are creating more pathways for global products to enter China.

In the Chinese market, businesses are exposed to the world's most dynamic industrial transformations and cutting-edge business innovations. Losing access to the Chinese market means more than losing a massive consumer base, for it also means missing out on the chance to participate in the frontier of global industrial evolution. Many European businesses have come to realize that their models and products refined in China are globally competitive.

Two features make the Chinese market unique: the intensity of ▶▶



An aerial performance at the Seventh China Helicopter Exposition in Tianjin on October 16

competition and the speed of evolution. In almost every field, multiple technologies and companies compete side by side, pushing innovation forward. Only by participating in the market directly can one truly grasp the pulse of industrial change. For example, several European automakers, after limited engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic, were astonished to find that China's electric vehicle industry had leapt to an entirely new level upon their return.

China's industrial development also provides critical support for global industrial and supply chains. As the world moves toward a more optimized allocation of resources, a global system of regional specialization is gradually emerging. China remains the country with a complete industrial system, strong manufacturing capacity, and a competitive cost-performance

advantage. Through cooperation with China, countries around the world can significantly improve their production efficiency. In the ongoing restructuring of global supply chains, China stands as a stabilizing anchor.

One of the major challenges facing the global green transition is a shortage of green capacity, both in terms of insufficient renewable energy and limited green manufacturing capability. China's strong green manufacturing base fills this gap, making a vital contribution to the world's shift toward smarter and more sustainable development.

Chinese innovation is injecting fresh momentum into global growth. Across Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, Chinese technologies, products, and development models are accelerating local modernization processes. The Belt and Road Initiative is empowering countries in the Global South, enhancing their endogenous development capacity.

China's expanding foreign investments will continue to unleash untapped potential. As Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao announced recently, during the 15th Five-Year Plan period, China will broaden two-way investment cooperation, focusing not only on GDP, but also on Gross National Income (GNI), emphasizing both the "Chinese

economy" and the "Chinese people's economy" (emphasizing the economy's focus on serving the needs of the population). As Chinese enterprises' international competitiveness grows, they are contributing to the stability and smooth operation of global production and supply chains. The returns from these overseas assets will directly contribute to GNI growth.

Taken together, China is sending a clear message to the world: A stronger China will not export war or conflict—it will export opportunities. As it continues to pursue its own stable development, China remains committed to growing alongside the world and sharing the benefits of progress. **BR**

The author is a professor at Tsinghua University's School of Public Policy and Management. He is also deputy dean of Tsinghua's Institute for Contemporary China Studies and a specialist in research on China's Five-Year Plans
Copedited by G.P. Wilson
Comments to zhangshsh@cicgamericas.com

COMMUNIQUE OF THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE 20TH CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA (Excerpt)

Adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on October 23, 2025

The 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) convened its fourth plenary session in Beijing from October 20 to 23, 2025.

A total of 168 members and 147 alternate members of the Central Committee attended the session. Members of the Standing Committee of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and leading officials from other relevant departments were present at the meeting in a non-voting capacity. Some of our primary-level colleagues and a number of experts and scholars who served as delegates to the 20th National Party Congress also attended the meeting in a non-voting capacity.

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee presided over the meeting. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee, delivered important addresses.

Participants at the session listened to and discussed a report on the work of the Political Bureau, presented on its behalf by Xi Jinping. They also deliberated over and adopted the Recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development. Xi Jinping made explanatory remarks on the draft recommendations.

At the session, the Central Committee fully affirmed the work of the Political Bureau since the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee. It was unanimously agreed that the Political Bureau has secured notable progress in the following respects: earnestly implementing the guiding principles from the Party's 20th National Congress and the plenary sessions of the 20th Central Committee; adhering to the general principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability; fully and faithfully applying the new development philosophy on all fronts; implementing the Five-Sphere Integrated Plan and the Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy in a coordinated way; balancing domestic and international imperatives; ensuring both development and security; further deepening reform comprehensively; delivering tangible results in high-quality development; advancing socialist democracy and rule

of law; improving public communication and cultural work; ensuring the people's wellbeing and protecting the environment; safeguarding national security and social stability; launching a study campaign for fully implementing the central Party leadership's eight-point decision on improving work conduct and further strengthening full and rigorous Party self-governance; modernizing national defense and the armed forces; carrying out work related to Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan; pursuing major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics; and promoting sustained economic recovery and growth. As a result of these efforts, China is now on the verge of accomplishing the major objectives and tasks of the 14th Five-Year Plan. It was also noted that we had recently commemorated the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War ►►

of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. This occasion has greatly lifted the national spirit, inspired a strong sense of patriotism among our people and further pooled strength for our country's collective endeavors.

Participants at the session gave a positive assessment of China's major development achievements during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), which has marked a momentous and extraordinary period in our country's development. In the face of a complicated international landscape and the challenging domestic tasks of advancing reform, promoting development, and ensuring stability, the CPC Central Committee, with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, has united the entire Party and Chinese people of all ethnic groups and led them in meeting difficulties head-on and forging ahead with determination. This has allowed us to withstand the severe shocks from a once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic, respond effectively to many major risks and challenges, and secure significant new achievements in the cause of the Party and the country. With China reaching new heights in terms of economic strength, scientific and technological capabilities, and composite national strength, we have made solid new strides in advancing Chinese modernization and gotten off to a successful start on our new journey toward the Second Centenary Goal.

It was pointed out that socialist modernization can only be realized through a historical process of gradual and ongoing development. It requires the unremitting hard work of one generation after another. The period covered by the

15th Five-Year Plan will be critical in this process as we work to reinforce the foundations and push ahead on all fronts toward basically achieving socialist modernization by 2035. It will thus serve as a key link between the past and the future. In this period, China's development environment will face profound and intricate changes.

At present, China remains in a phase of development where strategic opportunities exist alongside risks and challenges, while uncertainties and unforeseen factors are rising. Our economy is on solid foundations, demonstrating advantages in many areas, strong resilience and great potential. The conditions and underlying trends supporting long-term growth remain unchanged. More and more, we are seeing the strengths of socialism with Chinese characteristics, China's enormous market, its complete industrial system and its abundant human resources all coming to the fore.

All of us in the Party must acquire a deep understanding of the decisive significance of establishing Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and of establishing the guiding role of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era; become more conscious of the need to maintain political integrity, think in big-picture terms, follow the leadership core and keep in alignment with the central Party leadership; stay confident in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics; and uphold Comrade Xi Jinping's core position on the Party Central Committee and in the Party as a whole and uphold the Central Committee's authority and its centralized, unified leadership.

We must maintain strategic resolve and enhance our confidence of success. We must proactively identify, respond to and steer changes, demonstrate the courage and competence to carry forward our struggle, and dare to brave high winds, choppy waters and even dangerous storms. We must seize the historical initiative to overcome difficulties, combat risks and confront challenges, focus on managing our own affairs, and write yet another chapter on the miracles of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability, opening up new horizons for Chinese modernization.

It was stressed that in pursuing economic and social development during the 15th Five-Year Plan period, we must stay committed to

Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Development, and fully implement Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. We must thoroughly apply the guiding principles from the Party's 20th National Congress and the plenary sessions of the 20th Central Committee.

To move toward the Second Centenary Goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through Chinese modernization, we must implement the Five-Sphere Integrated Plan and the Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy in a coordinated way. Keeping in mind both domestic and international imperatives, we must fully and faithfully apply the new development philosophy on all fronts, move faster to create a new pattern of development, and adhere to the general principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability.

We must continue to pursue economic development as our central task, with high-quality development as our main focus, reform and innovation as the fundamental driving force, meeting the people's ever-growing needs for a better life as our fundamental goal, and full and rigorous Party self-governance as the fundamental underpinning for all our efforts. We must promote higher-quality economic growth while achieving an appropriate increase in economic output and make solid headway in promoting well-rounded personal development and common prosperity for all. All of this will allow us to secure decisive progress toward basically

achieving socialist modernization.

At the session, the Central Committee established the following guiding principles for economic and social development during the 15th Five-Year Plan period: upholding the Party's overall leadership; putting the people first; pursuing high-quality development; comprehensively deepening reform; promoting interplay between an efficient market and a well-functioning government; and ensuring both development and security.

The Central Committee also set the following major objectives for the 15th Five-Year Plan period: significant achievements in high-quality development; substantial improvements in scientific and technological self-reliance and strength; fresh breakthroughs in further deepening reform comprehensively; notable cultural and ethical progress across society; further improvements in quality of life; major new strides in advancing the Beautiful China Initiative; and further advances in strengthening the national security shield. Building on this, we will work hard for a further five years to see that by the year 2035 China's economic strength, scientific and technological capabilities, national defense capabilities, composite national strength, and international influence will all be markedly stronger, that its per-capita GDP will be on a par with that of a mid-level developed country, that its people will live better and happier lives, and that socialist modernization will be basically realized.

It was noted that we should build a modernized industrial system and reinforce the foundations of the real economy. To this end, we should keep our focus on the real economy, continue to pur-

sue smart, green and integrated development, and work faster to boost China's strength in manufacturing, product quality, aerospace, transportation and cyberspace. The share of manufacturing in the national economy should be kept at an appropriate level, and a modernized industrial system should be developed with advanced manufacturing as the backbone. We should upgrade traditional industries, foster emerging industries and industries of the future, promote high-quality, efficient development in the service sector, and develop a modernized infrastructure system.

It was stated that we should achieve greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology and steer the development of new quality productive forces. We must seize the historic opportunity presented by the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation to boost China's strength in education, science and technology, and human resources in a well-coordinated manner. We should enhance the overall performance of China's innovation system, raise our innovation capacity across the board, strive to take a leading position in scientific and technological development, and keep fostering new quality productive forces. We should promote advances in original innovation and breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields, facilitate full integration between technological and industrial innovation, pursue integrated development of education, science and technology, and talent, and advance the Digital China Initiative.

It was noted that we should build a robust domestic market and work faster to foster a new pattern of development. Guided by the strategy of expanding domestic demand, we should work toward improving living standards while increasing consumer spending and coordinate investments in physical assets and human capital. We should see that new demand drives new supply, that new supply helps create fresh demand, and that positive interactions are fostered between consumption and investment and between supply and demand. All this will help enhance the dynamism and reliability of the domestic economy. To this end, we should boost consumption, expand effective investment, and eliminate bottlenecks and obstacles hindering the development of a unified national market.

It was stated that we should move faster to develop a high-standard socialist market economy and boost the momentum for high-quality

development. We should uphold and improve China's basic socialist economic systems, better leverage the leading role of economic structural reform, and improve the macroeconomic governance system. This will help ensure steady and sustained progress in high-quality development. We should stimulate the vitality of all market entities, work faster to improve the institutions and mechanisms for market-based allocation of production factors, and make macroeconomic governance more effective.

It was also stated that we should promote high-standard opening up and create new horizons for mutually beneficial cooperation. We should continue to expand opening up at the institutional level, safeguard the multilateral trading system and promote broader international economic flows. We should advance reform and development through greater openness and seek to share opportunities and achieve common development with the rest of the world. We should take the initiative to open China wider, promote the innovative development of trade, create greater space for two-way investment cooperation, and pursue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

It was noted that we should accelerate agricultural and rural modernization and take solid steps to advance all-around rural revitalization. We must continue to place issues related to agriculture, rural areas and rural residents at the top of our Party's work agenda. We need to promote integrated urban-rural development, continue to consolidate and expand our achievements in poverty alleviation, basically ensure modern living conditions in rural ►►

areas, and secure faster progress in building up China's strength in agriculture. We should enhance the overall production capacity, quality, and performance of agriculture, build a beautiful and harmonious countryside for people to live and work in, and ensure that policies aimed at strengthening agriculture, benefiting farmers, and achieving rural prosperity deliver greater outcomes.

It was stated that we should refine China's regional economic layout and promote coordinated regional development. We should give full play to the synergies between the coordinated regional development strategy, major regional strategies, the functional zoning strategy, and the new urbanization strategy, improve the distribution of major productive forces, and ensure that key regions play their role as growth poles. Our goal is to develop a regional economic layout and a territorial space system that enable regions to leverage their complementary strengths in pursuit of high-quality development. We should promote more coordinated regional development, boost interconnected development between regions, improve the development of territorial space, move forward with people-centered new urbanization, and strengthen marine development, utilization, and protection.

It was noted that we should inspire the cultural creativity of our entire nation and foster a thriving socialist culture. We must uphold the guiding role of Marxism in the ideological domain, remain firmly rooted in the broad and rich Chinese culture, and follow the trends of information technology. On this basis, we should develop a socialist culture with Chinese characteristics for the new era

that has the power to guide, unite, and inspire our people and enjoys strong international influence. Tangible steps should be taken to build China into a country with a strong culture. We should promote and put into practice the core socialist values, make effective moves to boost cultural programs, accelerate the development of cultural industries, and extend the reach and appeal of Chinese civilization.

It was stated that we should work harder to ensure and improve public wellbeing and promote common prosperity for all. In line with the principle of doing everything within our means, we must ensure that public services are inclusive, meet essential needs, and provide a cushion for those most in need, while working to resolve the pressing difficulties and problems that concern the people most. The channels of social mobility should remain unimpeded, and living standards should be further improved. We should promote high-quality and full employment, refine the income distribution system, develop education that meets the people's expectations, improve the social security system, and facilitate high-quality development of the real estate sector. We should also work to advance the Healthy China Initiative, promote high-quality population development, and take solid steps to ensure equitable access to basic public services.

It was pointed out that we should accelerate the green transition in all areas of economic and social development in an effort to build a Beautiful China. We must unwaveringly uphold the principle that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets and put it into concrete action. Guided by our goals of achieving peak carbon and carbon neutrality, we should make concerted efforts to cut carbon emissions, reduce pollution, pursue green development, and boost economic growth. We must reinforce our ecological security shields and strengthen our green development drivers. We should press ahead with the critical battle against pollution and the drive to upgrade ecosystems, move faster to develop a new energy system, work actively and prudently toward peak carbon emissions, and accelerate the shift to eco-friendly production practices and lifestyles.

It was noted that we should modernize China's national security system and capacity and advance the Peaceful China Initiative to a higher level. We must remain steadfast in pursuing a holistic approach to national security and follow a socialist path of social governance with Chinese characteristics to ensure that our society is both full of

vitality and in good order. We should establish a sound national security system, build up national security capacity in key sectors, enhance public safety governance, and improve the social governance system.

It was also noted that we should work to achieve the centenary goals of the People's Liberation Army on schedule and modernize national defense and the armed forces. We should act on Xi Jinping Thought on Strengthening the Military and carry out the military strategy for the new era. We must ensure that the Party exercises absolute leadership over the people's armed forces, and the system of ultimate responsibility resting with the chairman of the Central Military Commission must be implemented. We are pursuing the new, three-step strategy for modernizing national defense and the armed forces. On this basis, we should continue to enhance political loyalty in the military, strengthen the military through reform, scientific and technological advances, and personnel training, and run the military in accordance with the law. We should simultaneously carry out operations, boost combat preparedness, and enhance military capabilities, and accelerate integrated military development through mechanization, informatization, and the application of smart technologies. All this will enhance our military's strategic capacity to defend our national sovereignty, security, and development interests. We should speed up the development of advanced combat capabilities, modernize military governance, and consolidate and improve integrated national strategies and strategic capabilities.

It was stressed that the whole Party and all Chinese people should be united in a concerted endeavor to fulfill the 15th Five-Year Plan. We must use the Party's self-reform to steer social reform and stay committed to strengthening full and rigorous Party self-governance. We should see to it that our Party becomes better at providing political leadership and theoretical guidance, organizing the people, and inspiring society while also improving its ability to lead China's economic and social development endeavors. All this will enable us to gather a mighty force for advancing Chinese modernization. We must uphold and strengthen the Party Central Committee's centralized, unified leadership, advance socialist democracy and rule of law, and fully mobilize the initiative, enthusiasm and creativity of the whole society to advance Chinese modernization. We should work for long-term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao, promote the peaceful development of relations across the Taiwan Strait and advance the cause of national reunification, and secure further progress in building a community with a shared future for humanity.

It was pointed out that studying and implementing the guiding principles from this plenary session represent a major political task for the entire Party and nation both at present and in the period to come. We must employ a variety of means to organize study activities, instructional lectures and communication initiatives, so as to make sure that the whole Party and society acquire a thorough understanding of the session's guiding principles. In effectively implementing these principles, we must stay firmly committed to

high-quality development, step up efforts to foster a new development pattern, make solid strides toward delivering common prosperity for all, better ensure both development and security, and coordinate our economic development endeavors with work in all other spheres. This will ensure that we lay a solid foundation for basically realizing socialist modernization.

It was stressed that to run the country well, we must first run the Party well; only a Party that is thriving can make our country strong. The more effective our Party is in supervising and governing itself, the better it will be able to provide guarantees for our economic and social development. We must have the resolve and tenacity to persist in the always ongoing endeavor of Party self-governance. In exercising full and rigorous self-governance, we must firmly act on the Party's requirements for self-reform, devote sustained and consistent efforts to improving conduct, and combat corruption resolutely, thereby providing a strong guarantee for fulfilling the major objectives for economic and social development in the 15th Five-Year Plan period.

Participants at the session carried out an analysis of the present situation and the tasks we face. It was highlighted that we must remain firmly focused on accomplishing this year's targets for economic and social development. To this end, we must continue to implement the decisions and plans of the Central Committee through targeted efforts. We must work to stabilize employment, enterprise operations, markets and expectations and keep the fundamentals of the economy stable, so as to consolidate and strengthen the momentum for economic recovery and growth. We should ensure that our macro policies continue to play an effective role and intensify their implementation as necessary. We should fully implement assistance policies for enterprises, press ahead with special initiatives to boost consumption, guarantee the three priorities including people's basic wellbeing, payment of salaries and normal government functioning at the primary level, and defuse local government debt risks through active and prudent measures.

It was noted that we should take concrete steps to safeguard the people's wellbeing and unlock potential through multiple channels. We should devote greater efforts to stabilizing and expanding employment while promoting stable employment

for key groups. We should ramp up efforts to address wage arrears, improve basic public services, and work harder to resolve the pressing difficulties and problems that concern the people most. We must do a good job in post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. Appropriate arrangements should be made for disaster victims to ensure that their basic living needs are met and that they have warm shelter for the winter.

It was emphasized that we must ensure workplace safety and safeguard stability. We must make sure that all responsibilities concerning workplace safety are fulfilled and that oversight systems are rigorously implemented, and we must work with firm resolve to prevent and mitigate major and serious accidents. We should strengthen whole-of-chain supervision and administration of food and drug safety. We should intensify efforts to investigate and resolve disputes and conflicts, take a holistic approach to ensuring law and order, and crack down on illegal and criminal activities of all types in accordance with the law. Furthermore, we should improve public opinion guidance and effectively prevent and defuse risks in the ideological domain.

At the session, a call was issued to the whole Party, the entire military and Chinese people of all ethnic groups to rally more closely around the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, work hard together toward the goal of basically realizing socialist modernization, and continue to break new ground in building a great country and advancing national rejuvenation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. **BR**

(Source: *Xinhua News Agency*)

A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

By Fred S. Teng

As China concludes the successful implementation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) and enters the decisive stage of building a modern socialist country, it does so with a powerful legacy that has shaped its development for more than seven decades. Since the first Five-Year Plan was launched in 1953, China has continuously planned its national development through strategic cycles, adapting to domestic realities, global changes and technological revolutions. This long-term consistency is not merely administrative, it is civilizational. It reflects a governing philosophy that sees development as a disciplined process of continuous improvement, guided by vision rather than reaction. The achievements of the 14th Five-Year Plan—rapid economic recovery amid global headwinds, breakthroughs in innovation, advances in green development and improved livelihoods—have laid a solid foundation for the next phase. It is against this backdrop that the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) emerges not as a simple continuation, but as a transformative blueprint designed to propel China toward becoming a global leader in innovation, sustainability and high-quality development.

Shaping a global future of modernity

The 15th Five-Year Plan represents a critical strategic window during

which China will move from consolidating its strength to shaping a global future of modernity. It is explicitly framed around one core mission: to firmly anchor high-quality development as the primary task of the nation. This signals a historic shift from quantitative expansion to qualitative excellence, from industrial catch-up to technological leadership and from domestic revitalization to global standard-setting. The plan outlines a cohesive strategic framework built on innovation-driven development, modernized industrial infrastructure, regional coordination, green transformation, reform and opening up at a higher institutional level, and a deepened commitment to people-centered progress.

At the heart of the plan lies innovation as the first driving force of national rejuvenation. It calls for strengthening national strategic science and technology capabilities, with a strong focus on frontiers such as AI, quantum information, life sciences, deep space exploration and deep-sea technologies. China will accelerate the construction of world-class research infrastructure clusters and optimize its national laboratory system to ensure breakthroughs in critical bottleneck technologies. The plan sets an ambitious goal of raising research and development expenditure, further cementing China's position among the world's top innovation-driven economies. It recognizes that enterprises—not institutes alone—must be the principal engines of innovation, advocating for deep integration between research institutions, universities and the private sector. Intellectual property creation and protection is elevated to a strategic pillar, signaling that innovation capacity will be both homegrown and safeguarded.

The plan further lays out an ambitious agenda for industrial modernization. Far from abandoning its real economy base, China will deepen its manufacturing strengths by promoting high-end, intelligent and green development. Traditional industries will be upgraded through full-chain digitalization, while

strategic emerging industries—such as biomanufacturing, new materials, high-end equipment, aerospace and marine technologies—will be expanded at scale. Most notably, the plan looks beyond today's industries to the future, with forward-looking deployment in fields such as brain-inspired intelligence, gene editing and extraterrestrial resource utilization. The integration of the digital economy and the real economy is a central theme. China aims to develop a globally leading digital infrastructure, promote industrial Internet applications, and foster a regulated and vibrant platform economy. This vision positions China not only to participate in the fourth industrial revolution, but to guide its evolution.

In the realm of green development, the 15th Five-Year Plan establishes a clear path toward carbon peaking and advances the transition to a carbon-neutral future. It commits to a dual-control system on carbon emissions in both volume and intensity. The document calls for the construction of a new energy system with non-fossil fuels at its core, expanded investment in renewable energy infrastructure and large-scale adoption of clean technologies in industrial, construction and transportation sectors. It also emphasizes ecological restoration and biodiversity protection as integral components of economic policy. This vision places China among the world's leading advocates and practitioners

of ecological civilization, demonstrating that sustainability is not a constraint on development, but a driver of future competitiveness.

Reform and opening up form another strategic pillar. The plan does not view opening up merely as the flow of goods or capital, but as a deeper integration into global systems of rules, standards and governance. By committing to expand institutional opening in areas such as regulations, management and standards, China signals its intent to actively shape the frameworks of international economic order. The Belt and Road Initiative will be further aligned with high-quality development standards, prioritizing sustainable, technology-driven and innovation-based cooperation. At home, reform will focus on creating a high-standard market system, deepening factor market reforms, optimizing the business environment and enhancing market confidence. Together, these measures demonstrate that China remains open to the world, but on a higher level defined by quality, resilience and mutual benefit.

People-centered approach

A defining feature of the 15th Five-Year Plan is its people-centered approach. The plan recognizes that development is meaningful only when it improves the lives of the people and advances common prosperity. It seeks to strengthen employment policies, particularly for youth, recent graduates and emerging occupational sectors. It aims to expand the middle-income group through better wage structures, social protections and public service access. China's response to demographic challenges is articulated through proactive aging strategies and the development of a "silver economy," turning challenges into new economic frontiers. Healthcare reform will deepen to expand access to quality medical resources and ensure regional equity. The plan also emphasizes cultural development, recognizing cultural confidence as a core strength of national rejuvenation.

In the domain of governance, the 15th Five-Year Plan elevates state capacity as an essential force in modernization. It calls for improving law-based governance, strengthening administrative efficiency, enhancing national security systems and refining mechanisms for social governance. It reinforces the leadership of the Communist Party of China as the central guarantee of successful implementation. This linkage between strategic planning and governance innovation demonstrates that China's modernization



The upper reservoir project of the Nanning Pumped-Storage Power Station, a major national energy project under China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), on October 25

model is not simply economic—it is institutional and civilizational in nature.

Forward-looking nature

What makes the 15th Five-Year Plan particularly significant is its forward-looking nature. It is not merely a plan for the next five years; it is a decisive chapter in China's 100-year journey toward national rejuvenation. By the conclusion of this plan in 2030, China aims to be on the cusp of realizing its 2035 goals of basically achieving socialist modernization. This means that the 15th Five-Year Plan is the transition point—from building a foundation to completing the framework of a modernized nation that is strong, innovative, green, culturally confident and globally engaged.

On the international stage, the 15th Five-Year Plan sends a clear message. It demonstrates that China is not turning inward but seeking to contribute more actively to global prosperity and stability. As some

parts of the world struggle with policy inertia, political polarization and short-termism, China offers a model of strategic consistency, long-range foresight and people-centered governance. The continuation of its planning tradition into the 15th cycle is a reminder that China's rise has never been accidental. It has been guided, tested, adjusted and propelled by one of the most sophisticated planning systems in human history.

In this new era, China is not only pursuing modernization—it is helping to redefine it. Through innovation, green development, coordinated regional advancement, reform and opening up, and common prosperity, the 15th Five-Year Plan represents China's strategic blueprint for global leadership. It is a plan not only for China's future, but for the future of global development. **BR**

The author is president of the America China Public Affairs Institute
Copedited by G.P Wilson
Comments to dingying@cicgamerica.com

CHINA DOESN'T FAIL TO PLAN, NOR DOES IT FAIL

By Josef Gregory Mahoney

Having reached the age of reason during the first term of the Ronald Reagan presidency (1981-85), I distinctly recall two lessons from that period that were initially formative in my worldview, despite what appears in hindsight to be a fundamental contradiction. Both came from my father directly and were reinforced in various ways by other social and political forces then culturally hegemonic in that Cold War milieu.

First, his frequent repetition of the axiomatic expression, “One doesn’t plan to fail, one fails to plan.” And second, he was wont, after dinner, to read aloud from whatever book had caught his fancy, in this case, Milton Friedman’s screed, *Free to Choose* (1979). The book praised free-market principles, lambasted government intervention in the economy and inspired Reagan’s famous quip, “Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.”

It might be said that this sentiment still rings true in the White House today, given the Donald Trump administration’s decimation of the U.S. government and the ongoing standoff with Congress over funding, which has left federal workers furloughed and without pay, many increasingly seeking assistance from food banks to feed their families, while American citizens go without public services.

The U.S. has indeed been in long cycles of decline since the 1970s at least, so it’s not surprising that it finds itself returning in various ways to discourses and practices that are not merely symptoms of a system in crisis,

but a system that normalizes cyclical crises to discipline the working class and perpetuate political control by economic elites. But whatever the underlying cause, the political consequences are clear, as are their criticisms of others. As a school kid, we were taught not only the foolishness of government and government planning in the U.S., we were taught to demonize the same wherever it was practiced in the world, above all in socialist countries.

“One doesn’t plan to fail, one fails to plan.” In fact, this quote is most commonly attributed to Benjamin Franklin (1706-90), one of the most important and influential figures in American history, a polymath who aided the American revolutionary war effort and helped solve its initial Constitutional crises. Franklin’s original formulation: “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” Consequently, we might say there’s a bit of irony in the fact that someone who is so famously connected to a pro-planning sentiment would be one of the key architects of a political system that was from the outset designed to be self-limiting in its capacity to organize and plan, leaving such work for the most part to local governments that were more directly under the control of so-called civil society.

This famous quote is also closely associated with Herbert Spencer (1820-1903), a leading English polymath working in philosophy, biology and the social sciences in the Victorian era, who coined the term, “survival of the fittest,” which Charles Darwin would later adopt in his studies of evolution. In fact, while there’s no record Spencer ever wrote or uttered an equivalent phrase on failing to plan, it is widely attributed to him because it aligns with his views on individualism, self-reliance and the importance of foresight. However, Spencer is recognized as founding what scholars would later call Social Darwinism, believing that social, economic and political competition weeded out weak people, thereby leading to societal progress. He developed this ideology to attack government welfare and intervention.

As I reflect on the recent Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), held in Beijing from October 20 to 23, and do so as an American Marxist exiled in China, I’m inclined to

reflect firstly on Franklin and Spencer’s ideas and their continued resonance in the United States. There is of course something self-serving and likely disingenuous about their sentiments and political positions.

It’s not uncommon for some exceptionally talented people to believe they are superior to others, and it’s unequivocally the case that Franklin and Spencer believed that of themselves individually, and likewise believed this of their class, race and gender, with both advancing misogynist and racist ideas. Franklin owned slaves and Spencer argued pseudo-scientifically that women and black people were biologically inferior and less capable intellectually or contributing to the management of society.

While Franklin wrote admiringly of Confucian philosophy he generally considered Chinese people to be “noble savages.” Spencer’s views were even worse, broadly describing China as a failed civilization, and the “Chinese people as being deceitful and obsequious, lacking in individuality and ingenuity, and industrious but in a servile way.” Unsurprisingly, this way of thinking is still found in the U.S. leadership today, given the recent noxious quote from Vice President J.D. Vance in defense of the U.S. trade war against China and America’s ongoing efforts to manipulate global currency and capital markets: “We borrow money from Chinese peasants to buy the things those Chinese peasants manufacture.”

In fact, while the People’s Republic of China’s experiences with centralized planning included a number of



Vessels under construction at the production base of Taizhou Sanfu Ship Engineering Co. Ltd. in Taizhou, Jiangsu Province, on October 14

ups and downs in the first 30 years after its founding in 1949, which some historians in the West still talk about incessantly, the overall trajectory of Chinese development was overwhelmingly positive, and all the more so once China reached a threshold that made reform and opening up possible. What other major country using the rubric of centralized planning has accomplished more in terms of human development, social justice and national rejuvenation than China has, not just in the past seven decades but throughout all of recorded human history?

Let us now bring this reflection to a close by noting that the key outcome of the recent plenary session was the adoption of the Recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development. This document sets the blueprint for China's development

over the next five years, a period considered crucial for achieving the broader goal of "basically realizing socialist modernization" by 2035, and will be voted on by the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, in March 2026.

The blueprint points especially toward building a modernized industrial system. It promotes greater self-reliance and strength in science and technology, moving toward breakthroughs in core technologies like quantum computing and biomanufacturing. In the meantime, to further improve quality of life and make China less sensitive to global demand fluctuations and trade wars, it aims to expand domestic demand and increase household consumption in sectors like health and culture. Furthermore, signaling China will be source of continued growth for the global economy, the blueprint also continues China down the path of reform, opening up and global cooperation, above all by continuing high-standard opening up and global economic engagement, positioning China as a stabilizer and engine for international growth and development. Finally, the plan accentuates China's continued commitment to green development and green transformations, sticking with China's carbon neutrality targets and outsized efforts to fight global climate change.

Planning is what the key to responsible governance

looks like. It's one of the lynchpins of China's unapparelled success in bringing wealth and wellbeing to its people, including women, those of different ethnicities and above all the poorest of the poor. In these ways, China has exemplified the lesson I and many others were taught when we were kids about the value of planning, but it actually fulfills that wisdom in ways that should humble Franklin, Spencer and their ideological descendants who persist in positions of power in the U.S. today, and who seem to attack China above all because China plans and they don't... **BR**

The author is a professor of politics and international relations and director of the Center for Ecological Civilization at East China Normal University in Shanghai. He is also a senior research fellow with the Institute for the Development of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics at Southeast University in Nanjing
Copyedited by G.P. Wilson
Comments to zhaowei@cicgamericas.com

THE GEOGRAPHY OF GROWTH

By Yin Zhi

In urban planning, there is a well-known “threshold theory,” which suggests that development, whether of a city, a region or an entire nation, does not follow a smooth and linear path upward; instead, progress advances in stages.

After a period of rapid growth, with changes in development environment and technological bottlenecks, there often comes a phase of adjustment and stabilization, during which several tasks must be undertaken: identifying shifts in major opportunities, overcoming key development obstacles, achieving an effective transition between old and new growth drivers, and reorganizing available resources in response to changing circumstances. Once these challenges are resolved, a new phase of accelerated development begins.

China’s modernization follows this law. The upcoming 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period will not be about racing for speed or scale. Rather, it will be about setting the rules, establishing the standards, exploring pathways, optimizing planning and ensuring coordinated progress for high-quality development. It will be a time for China to strengthen foundations and confront challenges head-on.

From coordination to integration

Over the years, China has introduced four strategies for guiding regional development. Each once served a distinct purpose—the Coordinated Regional Development Strategy emphasized balance, the Major Regional Strategies

prioritized the creation of growth poles, the Functional Zoning Strategy focused on differentiated governance, and the New Urbanization Strategy centered on people’s modernization and the leading role of cities in the process.

The emphasis on “giving full play to the synergies between the four strategies” in the Recommendations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) for Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development aims to create a more effective alignment between the forces that drive growth and the spaces that carry it. The document, adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, held in Beijing on October 20-23, establish the guiding principles and objectives for China’s overall advancement over the next five years.

China is placing even greater emphasis on tailored development based on each region’s distinctive natural, economic and social resource conditions. Another focus is the integration of regional economic layout and the territorial space system. The former sets goals and standards for development while the latter provides the physical and environmental foundation for achieving them (such as zoning and land use planning).

During the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period, the emphasis of spatial planning has been on balancing development and conservation, as China is still in a phase of rapid urbanization and faces strong tensions between large-scale construction and ecological preservation. In contrast to our major progress in environmental protection and regulatory frameworks, the mechanisms that sustain development have not yet played their full role. Thus, the new priority is to optimize the spatial layout for development.

A critical component of China’s regional coordination strategy in the new stage is boosting interconnected development between regions. This has two main dimensions: Developed regions should cooperate to achieve a “one plus one is greater than two” effect, creating greater efficiency, innovation and competitiveness through synergy; cooperation between developed and less developed regions must be deepened. This involves not only

financial transfer payments but also market-driven mechanisms that leverage their differences in prices, resources and costs to promote industrial clustering and value-chain collaboration. The goal is to maximize overall economic efficiency across regions. (The financial transfer payment refers to the funds allocated by higher-level governments to lower-level governments free of charge. It is an important policy tool mainly used to solve the problem of regional financial imbalance and promote the equalization of basic public services between regions—*Ed.*)

The concept of “people-centered” new urbanization is underlined in the document of recommendations. When discussing urbanization, whether in terms of the urbanization rate or the leading role cities play in driving social and economic development, it ultimately comes down to people.

In this regard, one of the tasks is to ensure people who move to cities from rural areas obtain household registration and access basic public services in their place of permanent residence.

A truly people-centered urbanization also touches upon how social wealth created by urbanization is distributed, specifically, increasing the labor income share. The ultimate goal is to raise overall national income, not to concentrate wealth among a few.

Strategic mobility

Modern society is defined by mobility. The more primitive a society, the more tightly people and land are bound together. However, new op-



Children play at a park converted from old factory buildings and warehouses in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, on October 8

Urban population increases and decreases are part of a dynamic system. For ecological preservation areas, maintaining smaller populations and reducing human pressure can itself generate new value.

As China advances

opportunities stem from the free flow of factors of production, namely, labor, capital, goods and information. China has made remarkable progress in this regard. From physical infrastructure to digital systems, connectivity has advanced greatly over the years. A unified national market centered on the free flow of goods is now largely in place.

The next step is to enable the freer movement of other factors of production, beginning with labor. Within provinces, mobility is already largely unhindered. In more advanced regions such as the Yangtze River Delta, policymakers are exploring how to achieve seamless inter-provincial movement. The ultimate goal is nationwide mobility.

Land use and resource allocation will follow a similar trajectory. For instance, can urban construction land quotas be transferred freely between resource-scarce and resource-abundant areas? Today, such adjustments are still largely limited within mu-

nicipal or provincial boundaries. The same question extends to data resources. Breaking down “data silos” and enabling cross-sector data flow will also be key issues during the 15th Five-Year Plan period.

During this period, China’s most advanced regions are already moving into a new phase: developing world-class city clusters. For most other regions, the focus will be on cultivating smaller modern metropolitan circles with distinctive strengths. As China advances its strategy of global connectivity, a greater number of strategic hubs will be further strengthened.

Another priority is strengthening strategic hinterland. As property and living costs rise in eastern coastal regions, parts of the industrial chain are relocating inland, where production and living costs are lower. Many firms are building second or even third manufacturing bases in inland regions. These regions will play a crucial role in China’s next phase of economic restructuring.

In recent years, China has also emphasized that factors of production, investment and resources should flow in line with the trends of population movement. This marks a shift toward more differentiated and adaptive policymaking, ensuring that both growing urban centers and less-populated areas receive the targeted support to achieve balanced and efficient development.

toward its goals of peaking carbon emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060, carbon markets will become a major new growth driver. Regions with lighter industrial footprints, including those with declining populations, will gain fresh opportunities by converting ecological resources into economic assets through conservation and carbon trading.

In earlier years, China’s spatial planning focused mainly on preserving ecology and resources. The 15th Five-Year Plan shifts emphasis toward strengthening the foundation for development, ensuring that security and growth advance together. Even amid global uncertainty, development remains China’s core priority. **BR**

The author is a professor at and director of the Institute for Urban Governance and Sustainable Development, Tsinghua University
 Copyedited by G.P. Wilson
 Comments to zhangshsh@cicgamerica.com

BENEFITS BEYOND BORDERS

The contribution of China's Five-Year Plans to the global economy By Tao Xing

From 2021 to 2024, during the first four years of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period, China's economy grew at an average annual rate of 5.5 percent, higher than the global average. Its contribution to global economic growth remained around 30 percent, playing a crucial role in stabilizing the world economy.

Five-Year Plans, formally known as Five-Year Plans for National

Economic and Social Development, are key guiding documents for China's medium-to-long-term progress. They outline the country's overall goals, key tasks and policy orientations across all sectors over five-year periods.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, global cooperation has been increasingly undermined by protectionism and the normal functioning of the multilateral trading system faces serious challenges. Despite these difficulties, China has instilled confidence in the world through its technological innovation and the sharing of opportunities arising from its reform and opening up.

Driving global innovation

China is one of the world's fastest-growing economies in terms of innovation capacity. The country has risen to the 10th position in global innovation for 2025, up one spot from the previous year, according to a ranking released by the World Intellectual Property Organization in September. The Innovation Scoreboard released by the European Commission in July showed that China's score has increased by 31.6 percentage points since 2020—a rise significantly higher than that of Europe and the United States. The annual report assesses the innovation performance of countries.

At the Mingde Strategic Dialogue 2025, hosted by Renmin University of China in Beijing on October 17, John Ross, former Director of Economic and Business Policy for the Mayor of London, said China made a major technological breakthrough during the 14th Five-Year Plan period. At the event, more than 30 Chinese and foreign representatives from the international strategic academic community exchanged ideas under the theme Chinese Modernization: New Drivers of Globalization.

Ross told the participants that China has transformed from a technological follower not expanding the global technological frontier into a technological leader in major industrial sectors that, in turn, transforms its relations with the world economy.

Quick Facts

During the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period,

China's economic growth: projected to exceed **35 tln yuan** (\$4.89 tln)

China remains the world's **second largest** economy, the world's **largest** manufacturing country, the **second largest** consumer market and the country with the **largest** foreign exchange reserves.

2021-24

China's average annual economic growth rate: **5.5%**

The world's average annual economic growth rate: **3.9%**

China contributed an approximate **30%** of global growth each year

Global Innovation Index ranking

- **China:** **10th** position in 2025, up from **34th** in 2012
- **The United States:** **3rd** position in 2025, up from **10th** in 2012
- **Germany:** **11th** position in 2025, down from **9th** in 2012
- **The United Kingdom:** **6th** position in 2025, unchanged from 2012
- **France:** **13th** position in 2025, down from **11th** in 2012

China's **2.68%** R&D intensity ranked 12th among major countries in the world in 2024, higher than the average of European Union countries (**2.11%**) and approaching that of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries (**2.73%**).

(Sources: State Council Information Office of China and World Intellectual Property Organization)



Visitors sample beverages at the food and agricultural products exhibition area of the Seventh China International Import Expo in Shanghai on November 10, 2024

The industries in which China has already achieved technological leadership are far from peripheral, according to Ross. They include key sectors such as telecommunications, electric vehicles, solar panels, wind power, pharmaceuticals and the mass production of cameras for industrial control systems—as well as, in certain areas, consumer Internet services and AI. These fields will continue to be decisive arenas of global competition in the decades ahead, he added.

For example, as the world shifts from fossil fuels to renewable energy, a process expected to take several decades, China has already established technological leadership in the critical industries that underpin the transformation. This positions China to further consolidate and expand its role in the global technological landscape. “It is no longer merely a producer of technologies that can easily be replaced by other countries, but rather a key provider of indispensable infrastructure and

industrial systems—such as power supply and transportation networks—that cannot be replaced,” Ross said. “This places China, with its strong emphasis on openness, even more centrally within the global system.”

Shared by all

China is the top trading partner of more than 150 countries and regions. As of January, it has signed 23 free trade agreements (FTAs) with 30 countries and regions across five continents, while continuing to expand and enhance its FTA network. During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, the country has offered the world broader and more diversified opportunities in markets, investment and growth.

In recent years, China has continued to share the opportunities of its vast domestic market with the world. For example, effective from December 1, 2024, China has given zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent of tariff lines to all of the least developed countries with which it has diplomatic relations, aiming to expand unilateral opening to these countries and achieve joint development. Additionally, over seven editions since its launch in 2018, the China International Import Expo, the world’s first import-themed national-level expo, held annually in Shanghai, has recorded a cumulative intended transaction volume exceeding \$500 billion.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China has also steadily expanded institutional opening up while continuously improving its business environment. The country has removed all market access restrictions for foreign investors in the manufacturing sector. The pilot programs for opening up service industries such as telecommunications, healthcare and education have advanced steadily. By the end of 2024, the cumulative number of foreign-funded companies established in China had exceeded 1.24 million, with paid-in foreign capital reaching 20.6 trillion yuan (\$2.83 trillion).

As of June, the China-Europe Railway Express had surpassed 110,000 trips, with the cumulative value of goods transported surpassing \$450 billion. The international rail freight service currently reaches 229 cities across 26 European countries and over 100 cities in 11 Asian nations. It is without a doubt a key engine of Eurasian trade.

China’s modernization presents tremendous opportunities for the world, Uwe Klußmann, a senior German journalist and historian, said at the Mingde Strategic Dialogue, adding that it offers global partners the chance to collaborate in areas ranging from technology to sustainable development, the green economy, and the digital economy—helping all sides better benefit one another and unlock greater potential.

China is entering a period of profound transformation, striving to shift its economy toward high-quality development that drives modernization through a stronger focus on innovation and sustainability. Klußmann told the event that this aligns with the shared interests, and he looks forward to seeing even deeper cooperation in the future. **BR**

Copiedited by G.P. Wilson
Comments to taoxing@qicgamericas.com

GREEN GAINS

China's clean and low-carbon energy transition over the past five years By Ji Jing

Substantial advancements have been made in China's energy sector during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period, with green energy now accounting for one third of the nation's electricity consumption. Green energy is generated from natural resources such as sunlight, wind or water without producing any pollution or carbon emissions.

At a press conference in Beijing on August 26, Wang Hongzhi, head of the National Energy Administration (NEA), characterized these developments as "breakthroughs and historical accomplishments," positioning China as a key facilitator of the global energy transition.

The NEA data show the past five years have been defined by rapid green and low-carbon energy transition. Since the commencement of the 14th Five-Year Plan, the share of non-fossil energy in China's total energy consumption has increased by 1 percentage point annually, concurrently with a 1-percentage point annual decrease in the proportion from coal.

Chen Li, chief economist of the

Green Finance Research Center of China Huadian Corp. Ltd., a major state-owned power producer, described this trend in an interview with *China Youth Daily* as a profound energy revolution, indicating a substantive leap in China's energy system from a coal-dominated model to one emphasizing diversified and clean energy sources.

A green transition

As of July this year, China's installed renewable energy capacity had reached 2.17 billion kilowatts (kw), ranking first globally. This includes 570 million kw of wind power and over 1.1 billion kw of photovoltaic capacity, both doubling the level from the end of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) period. Importantly, installed non-fossil fuel power generation capacity accounts for over 60 percent of China's total capacity. In 2024, the installed capacity of new energy power generation surpassed that of coal-fired power for the first time. New energy usually refers to energy derived from new sources or produced with new technologies, as opposed to those from conventional energy sources such as coal, natural gas and oil.

To build a diversified energy supply system, regions across China are exploring innovative, locally adapted development models. Yunnan Province, for example, draws on its hydropower resources, with six of the nation's top 10 hydropower stations by installed capacity located there. Xizang Autonomous Region is developing photovoltaic bases and high-altitude wind power, achieving over 50 percent new energy installed capacity by the end of 2024.

Crucially, wind and solar power from west China are now consistently transmitted to regions like the Yangtze River Delta and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, powering homes nationwide.

A groundbreaking green power transaction between Shanghai and Xizang, completed in September, ushers in a new era in clean energy connectivity. This historic deal delivers 7.85 million kw-hours of renewable energy generated in Xizang directly to Shanghai's power grid, helping the city reduce standard coal consumption by 24,100 tons and cut carbon dioxide emissions by 60,100 tons.

In an interview with *China Youth Daily*, Li Sheng, Director of the China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute, emphasized the paradigm shift that has occurred in China's energy supply system. "Before 2020, the power industry generally considered new energy as auxiliary. Now, it has become the main force... the electricity transmitted through the West-to-East Power Transmission program is gradually shifting from being coal-dominated to green electricity-dominated," Li said. This move aligns with the 14th Five-Year Plan's energy development targets, which aim to increase the share of non-fossil energy in total energy consumption to approximately 20 percent.

Notably, in 2024, this proportion reached 19.8 percent, representing an increase of nearly 4 percentage points from 2020. China's West-to-East Power Transmission program is an initiative designed to transfer electricity from resource-rich western regions to economically developed eastern areas, enhancing energy distribution and



The Zhongning converter station in Zhongwei, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on June 29. The station is the starting point of the Ningxia-Hunan Ultra-High Voltage Direct Current Transmission Project



Solar panels above a reservoir in Tieling County, Tieling City, Liaoning Province, on July 30

supporting economic growth.

Technological innovation

Continuous technological innovation is the engine powering China's accelerated energy transition.

At the press conference, Wang highlighted the 14th Five-Year Plan period as a time of "greater breakthroughs in energy science and technology." This era has seen China claim over 40 percent of the world's new energy patents, with key technologies such as photovoltaic conversion efficiency (the ratio of the electrical output of a solar cell to the solar energy input, expressed as a percentage) repeatedly breaking world records. The nation has also completed and operationalized a series of landmark projects, including the Baihetan Hydropower Station in southwest China, the indigenous third-generation nuclear power technologies Hualong One and Guohe One, and the world's first fourth-generation nuclear power plant, Shidaowan high temperature gas-cooled reactor nuclear power plant in Shandong Province.

Wang emphasized that these

major national projects demonstrate China's hard-core strength in technological innovation.

Continuous cost reduction stands as a crucial result of technological innovation. Li highlighted China's role in significantly lowering global renewable energy costs, with wind power generation costs decreasing by approximately 60 percent and photovoltaic power generation costs by roughly 80 percent over the last decade due to China's innovations. "Overall, China's technological and industrial innovation continues to drive profound changes in global renewable energy technology, not only enriching the supply of new energy products globally but also accelerating the formation of new quality productive forces in China's energy sector," he added. New quality productive forces refer to the shift toward innovation-driven growth, technological advancement and high-quality development in multiple sectors of the economy.

This commitment to efficiency is embedded in national policy. The 14th Five-Year Plan targets a 13.5-percent reduction in energy consumption per unit of GDP. According to the National Development and Reform Commission, by the end of 2024, the fourth year of the plan, China had already achieved an 11.6-percent reduction over four years, equivalent to a reduction of 1.1 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions—nearly 50 percent of the European Union's total carbon emissions in 2024.

Looking ahead, as the 14th Five-Year Plan period concludes and the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period approaches, China has set ambitious new energy transition targets. In his video speech to the United Nations

Climate Summit 2025, held in New York City in September, President Xi Jinping announced that China will, by 2035, increase the share of non-fossil fuels in total energy consumption to over 30 percent and expand the installed capacity of wind and solar power to over six times the 2020 levels, striving to bring the total to 3,600 gigawatts.

"The new goal is not only a strategic continuation of the domestic 'dual carbon' process (peaking carbon emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060) but also a reflection of China's commitment and responsibility in global climate governance," Li said. He expressed confidence that China possesses the industrial foundation, technological advantages and market scale to achieve these new objectives. "China has already built the world's largest clean energy supply system, and a complete industrial chain, leading technology and continuous innovation capabilities will provide a solid guarantee for future development," he added. **BR**

Copiedited by G.P. Wilson
Comments to jjing@cicgamericas.com

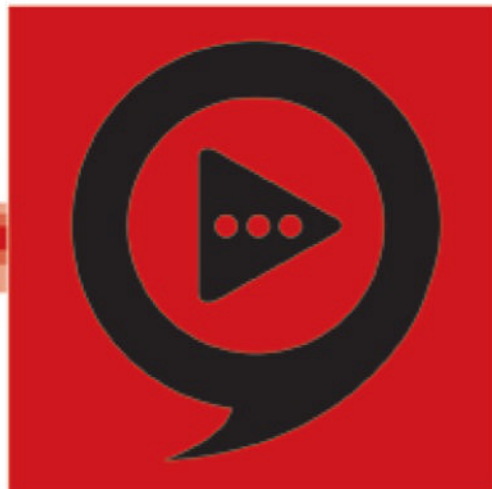
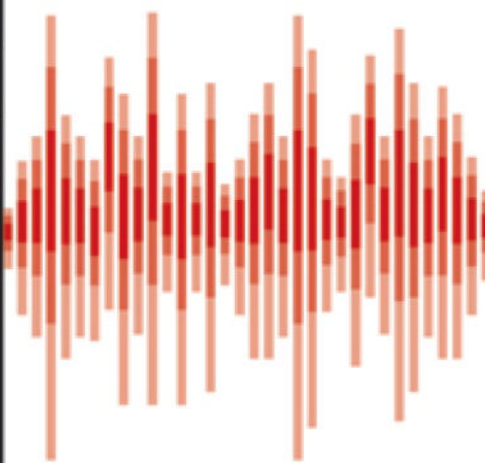


THROUGH THEIR EYES

People from around
the world take you
on a journey to
rediscover China



Governance
Governance
Governance
Governance



Beijing Review's flagship podcast series

The Governance Podcast

An inside take on the politics of the world's second largest economy

The Governance Podcast delves into topics related to President Xi Jinping's leadership and how the government functions in China. In this series, we explore the past, present and future of governance in China as it works toward meeting its development goals and finds its place in the global community.

Start listening on:



YouTube



Center for the Americas,
China International Communications Group
中国外文局美洲传播中心(北京周报社)

Top-Level Talks

By Lan Xinzhen



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with U.S. President Donald Trump in Busan, the Republic of Korea, on October 30

On the morning of October 30, Chinese President Xi Jinping met with U.S. President Donald Trump in Busan, the Republic of Korea (ROK). The two leaders held in-depth discussions on the strategic and long-term dimensions of China-U.S. relations, as well as global governance.

Xi met with Trump shortly after arriving in Busan to attend the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in nearby Gyeongju and to begin a state visit to the ROK.

This was the first face-to-face meeting between the Chinese and U.S. presidents since Trump began his second term in January. Against the backdrop of growing differences between the two countries in technology, security, ideology and more, many political analysts considered the meeting an important step toward enhancing strategic mutual trust between Beijing and Washington.

Cooperation benefits both

Since President Trump's reelection, the two leaders have spoken on the phone three times, exchanged letters on several occasions and maintained close communication. Under joint guidance, China-U.S. relations have remained stable on the whole, Xi noted.

In recent years, China-U.S. relations have faced mounting tensions, with the U.S. exerting pressure on China across a wide range of fields. Yet, despite these frictions, the overall relationship has remained stable. The two sides have maintained communication and reached basic consensus in many areas, with bilateral

ties continuing to be mainly characterized by cooperation.

This is largely due to the crucial role of head-of-state diplomacy. As Xi emphasized, "Given our different national conditions, the two sides do not always see eye to eye with each other, and it is normal for the two leading economies of the world to have frictions now and then."

"You and I are at the helm of China-U.S. relations," Xi said. "In the face of winds, waves and challenges, we should stay the right course, navigate through the complex landscape, and ensure the steady sailing forward of the giant ship of China-U.S. relations."

During their talks, Xi noted that the two countries' economic and trade teams had recently held a new round of consultations in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where they reached a basic consensus on addressing their respective major concerns. This, Xi said, created the necessary conditions for their meeting.

His message was clear: Mutual goodwill and sincerity are essential for building understanding and deepening cooperation. The progress made by the two countries' trade teams in Malaysia helped pave the way for this high-level dialogue.

History has shown that China-U.S. cooperation benefits both countries. From Trump's policies and statements, it is clear that "interest" and "advantage" are central to his political doctrine. Yet pursuing U.S. interests should not come at the expense of others. Resorting to tariffs, protectionism and unilateral measures ultimately harms the U.S. itself.

For example, U.S. soybean sales have plummeted in recent years, causing heavy losses for American farmers—a direct consequence of the Trump administration's tariff policies.

In an era of globalization, no country can solve all problems on its own. On this point, the U.S. Government must come to a clearer understanding.

Outcomes of China-U.S. Economic, Trade Talks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

China's Ministry of Commerce announced the results of the recent economic and trade discussions between Chinese and U.S. delegations held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on October 30.

According to a spokesperson for the ministry, the U.S. has agreed to cancel the 10-percent so-called "fentanyl tariffs" and extend the suspension of the 24-percent reciprocal tariffs on Chinese goods—which include products from Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions—for an additional year. In response, China will adjust its countermeasures to match these changes. Both sides also agreed to continue extending certain tariff exclusion measures.

Additionally, the U.S. will pause for one year the implementation of a new rule introduced on September 29 that broadens "entity-list" export restrictions to cover entities that are at least 50 percent owned by listed entities. In parallel, China will suspend its relevant export control measures announced on October 9 for one year and will refine specific plans as needed, the spokesperson said.

The U.S. agreed to pause for one year measures under its

Section 301 investigation targeting China's maritime, logistics and shipbuilding industries. China, in turn, will suspend its corresponding countermeasures for one year once the U.S. suspensions take effect.

Both sides also reached agreements on several other key areas, including anti-drug cooperation regarding fentanyl, expansion of agricultural trade, and the resolution of individual cases involving enterprises related to these key areas.

Furthermore, they reaffirmed the outcomes of the earlier Madrid economic and trade talks, held on September 14. The U.S. made constructive commitments in areas such as investment, while China pledged to properly address issues related to TikTok.

China remains committed to working with the U.S. to uphold and implement the critical consensus reached between the two heads of state during their meeting in Busan, the Republic of Korea, on October 30, where they engaged in in-depth discussions on China-U.S. economic and trade relations and pledged to strengthen cooperation in economic, trade, and other areas, the spokesperson added.

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

Promoting global peace and development

Xi emphasized that China's development and revitalization go hand in hand with President Trump's vision of "Make America Great Again." The two countries are fully capable of helping each other succeed and prosper together.

This idea of shared prosperity represents the right method for the two countries to coexist—one built on mutual respect, equality, cooperation and win-win outcomes. In today's deeply interconnected world, humanity has become a community with a shared future, where the interests of nations are intertwined and interdependent. Every country has the right to development, but that pursuit must take into account the broader interests of the global community, rather than come at the expense of others.

Over the 46 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China-U.S. cooperation has yielded fruitful results, bringing tangible benefits to both peoples. Even in times of heightened tension, new forms of exchange and collaboration have continued to emerge, such as the China-U.S. Agriculture Roundtable, the Yangtze-Mississippi River Regional Dialogue, the China-U.S. Bay-to-Bay Dialogue and the China-California

Business Forum. Productive cooperation between the two countries also continues in areas such as urban governance and climate change.

As Xi noted, China and the U.S. should be partners and friends. That is what history has taught us and what reality calls for. He said he is ready to continue working with President Trump to build a solid foundation for bilateral relations and create a favorable environment for both countries' development.

As the world's two major powers, China and the U.S. have a profound influence on global stability. A healthy, stable and sustainable bilateral relationship serves the long-term interests of both nations and meets the shared expectations of the international community.

Guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity, Xi has put forward the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilizations Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative.

During the meeting, Xi noted that President Trump has shown great enthusiasm for helping resolve regional hotspot issues, and China has also been working in its own way to promote peace and dialogue on various global challenges.

The world today still faces many difficulties. China and the U.S. can jointly shoulder their responsibilities as major countries, and work together to accomplish more meaningful and practical things for the benefit of the two nations and the entire world, Xi said.

Trump responded positively, saying that the U.S. and China have reached many important consensus and will reach even more in the future.

China is the biggest partner of the U.S., and with joint efforts, the two countries can get many great things done for the world and have many years of success, Trump said.

At a time of sluggish global economic recovery and rising geopolitical tensions, the Xi-Trump meeting in Busan served as a stabilizer for major-power relations and a response to global uncertainty. It is also expected to inject positive energy into global peace and development. **BR**

Copyedited by G.P. Wilson
Comments to liangxiaojia@icgamericas.com

30 Years of Cooperation for Gender Equality

By Peng Jiawei

Women play an important role in creating, driving and carrying forward human civilization. Advancing the cause of women, therefore, is not the task of a single nation but the shared responsibility of the global community.

In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing. It adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which laid out a blueprint for promoting gender equality and women's development.

Thirty years later, Beijing hosted the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women (GLMW) on October 13-14, reaching yet another milestone in the global pursuit of women's growth and development.

"Through steadfast devotion, a lasting fragrance remains."

President Xi Jinping quoted this line in his keynote address at the event's opening ceremony. The line comes from *Zuoyouming* (Motto) by Cui Yuan, a Chinese calligrapher and philosopher from the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220). It conveys the idea that virtuous conduct and persistent effort leave a lasting legacy—much like a fine scent that lingers long after its source is gone.

By invoking this ancient saying, Xi called on the international community to carry forward the spirit of the 1995 Beijing World Conference on Women, bear in mind the goal of building a community with a shared future for humanity, accelerate the process of women's all-round development and work together to create a better future for humankind.

The quote also reflects the progress China itself has made in advancing women's development over the past three decades. Today, some 690 million women nationwide live a moderately prosperous life. The average life expectancy of Chinese women has risen to 80.9 years. In 2024, women accounted for 50.76 percent of all higher

education students in the country. They now represent more than 40 percent of the national workforce and more than half of all start-up founders in the Internet sector.

In the new era, Chinese women, more confident and energetic than ever, are taking part in state and social governance across all sectors, contributing their strength and wisdom to advancing Chinese modernization.

Meanwhile, China's development has provided both opportunities and support for the advancement of women globally.

China has partnered with UNESCO to set up the Prize for Girls' and Women's Education. It has also launched a series of "small and beautiful" public interest initiatives, including those to improve maternal and child health and those to boost school enrollment rates among girls from low-income families. In addition, China has been actively promoting exchange and cooperation among women worldwide.

However, United Nations reports warn that more than 600 million women and girls worldwide are still trapped in wars and conflicts, some 2 billion still lack access to social protection, and nearly one in 10 lives in extreme poverty. There is still a long way to go before global gender equality is achieved, which calls for stronger cooperation, swifter action and enduring commitment from all sides.

In response to these challenges, Xi put forward four proposals at the

opening ceremony of the GLMW, calling for joint efforts to foster an enabling environment for women's growth and development, cultivate powerful momentum for the high-quality development of women's cause, develop governance frameworks to protect women's rights and interests, and write a new chapter in promoting global cooperation on women.

Xi also announced that China will donate another \$10 million to UN Women over the next five years and earmark a quota of \$100 million in China's Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund for partnering with international organizations on development cooperation projects for women and girls.

The country will also launch 1,000 "small and beautiful" livelihood programs with Chinese assistance that take women and girls as priority beneficiaries, invite 50,000 women to China for exchange and training programs and establish a Global Center for Women's Capacity Building, which is aimed at conducting cooperation with relevant countries and international organizations to cultivate more female talent.

We live in a world where the future of all women is deeply interconnected. Therefore, the global community should come together to fully unleash that ultimate "she power," further advance the cause of women and write a new chapter in the global story of women's development. **BR**



Scan the QR code to watch the video

Copyedited by G.P. Wilson
Comments to pengjiawei@cicgamericas.com

RCEP—An Engine of Integration

By Lan Xinzhen

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement was signed five years ago on November 15. Figures show that in the current context of backlash against globalization, the agreement is accelerating regional economic integration and thereby demonstrating the resilience of multilateralism.

According to data from China's General Administration of Customs, in the first three quarters of this year, the volume of trade in goods between China and the other RCEP members accounted for over one third of China's total trade volume. Figures from the Korean Customs Service show that, in the first three quarters this year, the trade volume between the Republic of Korea and other RCEP members accounted for more than half of its total trade volume. Similarly, the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia revealed, RCEP participating countries became the country's most important trade market in the first three quarters this year, contributing nearly two thirds of the country's total trade volume during this period. These examples demonstrate the central role RCEP is playing in trade, economic integration and growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

Five years ago, the 10 ASEAN countries, together with Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand, jointly signed the RCEP, which officially came into effect on January 1, 2022. The agreement has so far given birth to a free trade area with the largest population, the most diverse membership and the greatest development potential of any in the world.

In the five years since the signing of RCEP, as regional trade and investment have continued to expand, the structure of the agreement has been optimized. It is now a core

platform for promoting economic integration and stable growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

Through tariff reduction, cumulative rules of origin and simplifying customs clearance, RCEP has significantly promoted the efficient flow of intermediate goods (products used in the production of other goods or services) within the region and fostered the stability of industrial and supply chains. While global import and export pressure intensifies due to shifting U.S. tariff policies, RCEP members have seen their trade costs decline as a result of the trade agreement.

China is the largest economy in the RCEP and has always been an active proponent of its high-quality implementation, taking concrete actions to safeguard the multilateral trading system and build an open world economy. China not only plays an important role in

promoting trade and investment among RCEP participating countries and strengthening the stability of industrial and supply chains, but also has achieved remarkable results in fostering regional integration and boosting regional economic growth. It has proactively implemented the RCEP rules, expanded independent opening up, simplified trade rules and improved its trade environment, providing more favorable conditions for businesses from RCEP participating countries to develop in the Chinese market.

On September 25, the fourth RCEP Ministers' Meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The meeting discussed ways to strengthen RCEP implementation in the current global economic environment to support free trade and the rules-based multilateral trading system. The international trade situation in recent years has proved that as long as we refrain from taking any measures inconsistent with the obligations of the RCEP agreement, maintain an open, free and rules-based market, remove unnecessary trade barriers and enhance trade and investment facilitation, RCEP will bring mutually beneficial results.

At present, unilateralism and backlash against globalization are posing unprecedented challenges to the process of regional economic integration. All RCEP participating countries should uphold multilateralism, fully consolidate the momentum of Asia-Pacific economic cooperation, adhere to openness and inclusiveness, actively build a stable and diversified cooperation platform, and continuously explore the potential of regional free trade cooperation. **BR**

**RCEP is now
a core platform for
promoting economic
integration and
stable growth in the
Asia-Pacific region**

Copyedited by G.P. Wilson
Comments to lanxinzhen@qicamericas.com

Toward a Fair and Secure Global Cyberspace

By Xiao Junyong & Cao Tao

Recently, China’s national security authorities revealed a major cyberattack launched by the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) against the National Time Service Center at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Since 2022, the NSA has used a range of hacking tactics, such as exploiting system vulnerabilities and stealing credentials, to wage attacks on the center. These operations aimed not only to steal sensitive data but also to implant malicious codes designed to paralyze critical systems. This poses a serious threat to China’s cybersecurity.

This case is far from being isolated. In 2022, China’s Northwestern Polytechnical University was targeted by the Office of Tailored Access Operations (TAO), a cyberwarfare intelligence unit affiliated with the NSA. TAO deployed 41 customized cyber weapons to carry out more than 10,000 malicious attacks, stealing large volumes of high-value technical data. In 2023, the Wuhan Earthquake Monitoring Center was compromised by a “backdoor” trojan program with signatures consistent with U.S. intelligence spyware. Then, in 2024, U.S. actors launched another cyberattack against Chinese companies in the communications and satellite Internet sectors, infiltrating over 300 devices and exfiltrating sensitive data.

These repeated incidents reveal a persistent pattern of systemic intrusion and sabotage by U.S. intelligence agencies in China’s cyberspace. Confronting and responding effectively to such relentless “digital invasions” has become one of China’s most urgent tasks in safeguarding national cybersecurity.

Identifying cyber criminal offenses

Under the framework of international law, Article 2 of the United Nations Charter

explicitly prohibits member states from using or threatening force against the sovereignty or security of another country.

The key question in cyberspace is: When does a cyber operation amount to the use of force? While the issue remains debated, the Tallinn Manuals—drafted primarily by experts from the U.S. and its NATO allies—state clearly that a cyber operation can be considered a “use of force” if its scale and consequences are comparable to those of a conventional military attack.

The National Time Service Center, which ensures the precise timing that underpins China’s entire economic and technological system, plays a vital role similar

to a country’s nervous system. If such a facility were paralyzed, the effects would be disastrous: Financial transactions could lose time synchronization, power grids might fail and satellite launches could be disrupted. The resulting chaos would be indistinguishable from the destruction caused by traditional warfare. Moreover, the U.S. reportedly deployed 42 specialized cyber weapons during these attacks—far beyond the scope of ordinary espionage—making it a clear violation of the fundamental international legal principle that forbids the use of force.

From a human rights perspective, these cyberattacks also infringe upon basic civil rights. Public welfare relies on the stable functioning of infrastructure systems; disrupting them can lead to communication outages, transportation paralysis and power failures—all of which endanger citizens’ daily lives. Additionally, the



Staff members of the Electric Power Research Institute of State Grid Chongqing Electric Power Co. check equipment to protect it against cyberattacks in Chongqing Municipality on September 25



An exhibition on cybersecurity in Kunming, Yunnan Province, on September 15. Related activities were held during China Cybersecurity Week from September 15 to 21 across the country

unauthorized control of personal devices and the theft of private information violate Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which protects individuals from unlawful interference with their privacy.

Under Chinese law, foreign-led cyberattacks targeting Chinese institutions constitute criminal offenses. Although China's judicial authorities may face limits in directly prosecuting individuals overseas, the government has full legal grounds to impose countermeasures, such as freezing related assets, restricting the entry of involved personnel and suspending cooperation with implicated institutions, to safeguard national interests and public security. The Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law further empowers China to impose lawful, proportionate sanctions on entities whose actions undermine its sovereignty or security.

Building a secure cyberspace

U.S. cyberattacks against China are unlikely to cease in the near term. Faced with this persistent threat, China must continue to strengthen its defensive capabilities.

Technically, this means improving real-time monitoring and emergency response systems to detect abnormal activity and block attacks quickly. At the same time, preventive measures are essential: All software and hardware used in key infrastructure should undergo full-cycle

security testing to identify potential vulnerabilities or hidden "backdoors." Internal management must also be tightened to prevent insider risks and ensure that device and data use remain secure, thereby narrowing the space for potential infiltration.

On the regulatory front, the world needs clearer mechanisms to define accountability in cyberspace. At present, international consensus remains weak, and even when some countries establish domestic laws to address cyberattacks, these claims often lack global recognition. To address this gap, three steps are crucial.

The international community should explicitly define cyberattacks on another country's critical infrastructure as unlawful acts under international law.

An accountability framework based on "damage and causation" should be established, linking outcomes such as system paralysis or data breaches to specific cyber tools and responsible entities. This would help overcome the difficulty in tracing and prosecuting.

Multilateral mechanisms, such as those under the UN Group of

Governmental Experts on information security, should be strengthened to create an independent and multi-country review system, turning unilateral claims into multilateral consensus supported by evidence and shared rules.

When it comes to countermeasures, China's response must remain firm, evidence-based and proportionate. Facing deliberate U.S. cyber intrusions, China's actions are a legitimate exercise of self-defense under international law. Any counter-response must rest on solid evidence, including the identification of attack routes, responsible actors and verified damage. Moreover, China's countermeasures must adhere to the principle of proportionality—matching the scale and impact of the attack without overreach. If U.S. attacks target specific sectors, China's response should focus correspondingly, avoiding harm to civilian or non-military facilities.

It is important to build international understanding based on facts. China can do this by turning specific cases of cyberattacks into shared awareness across the global community, that the United States' record does not fully align with its image as a "guardian of cybersecurity." The key is to present clear and detailed evidence, including technical data, verified records and expert analysis, so that the discussion is grounded in facts rather than rhetoric.

Working through international platforms such as the UN and by showing how such attacks harm public welfare and violate privacy, China can help rally broader support, especially among developing nations, for stronger global cooperation to protect critical infrastructure and promote fairness and justice in cyberspace.

Confronting the growing challenge of cyber threats requires more than just stronger firewalls. It demands a shared commitment to the rule of law and collective responsibility in cyberspace. The digital world must not become a "lawless frontier" dominated by power politics. Only through equality, cooperation and justice can true global cybersecurity be achieved. **BR**

Xiao Junyong is executive director of the Center for Science, Technology and Human Rights at the Beijing Institute of Technology; Cao Tao is a research associate at the center. Copyedited by G.P. Wilson. Comments to liwenhan@cgicamericas.com

Across Oceans, Through Cities

Local cooperation for a sustainable China-U.S. future

By Zhao Wei

The Seventh China-U.S. Sister Cities Conference was held on October 25-27 in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province, under the theme Closer Partnership for a Sustainable Future. Over 180 representatives from 36 counties and cities in 28 U.S. states, alongside delegates from 26 provinces, regions and municipalities in China, gathered to explore new opportunities for local collaboration and to strengthen the friendship between the peoples of China and the U.S.

This year, jointly organized by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the People's Government of Zhejiang Province, the conference has, since its inception in 2014, become a key mechanism for promoting China-U.S. subnational exchanges.

Links across the Pacific

Hangzhou holds a special place in the history of China-U.S. relations. In February 1972, Hangzhou was the second stop of U.S. President Richard Nixon's historic visit to China. While in the city, Premier Zhou Enlai and Nixon discussed the details of the joint communiqué and signed its draft version. The final document, later signed in Shanghai and known as the Shanghai Communiqué, laid the foundation for the normalization of relations between China and the U.S.

In 1979, Hubei Province and the State of Ohio, as well as Nanjing, Jiangsu Province and St. Louis, Missouri, established the first sister province/state and sister city relationships between the two countries, marking the formal beginning of China-U.S. local cooperation.

Today, there are 288 sister relationships between Chinese and American provinces/states and cities, yielding results that benefit both peoples. Hangzhou, an important window of China's openness, has established sister city ties with Boston, Massachusetts, and Indianapolis, Indiana. Since forming its partnership with Boston in 1982, the two cities have deepened cooperation in cultural exchange, education, economic development, urban planning and youth programs. In 2022, Boston declared May 1 as Boston-Hangzhou Day to honor this enduring friendship.

The conference featured themed forums on educational exchange, urban innovation, sustainable development and case studies of sister city cooperation. Cultural events, including a performance by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the live show *Impression West Lake*, reflected the shared commitment to enhancing understanding through culture, building the future through education and driving cooperation through innovation.

In his opening remarks, Yang Wanming, President of the CPAFFC, emphasized that fostering friendship between the Chinese and American peoples is a great undertaking that draws strength from local communities.

"Every city and every individual is a participant in and contributor to China-U.S. relations," Yang said. "The future of our bilateral ties must be built together, step by step, by our peoples."

He acknowledged the complex challenges facing China-U.S. relations in recent years but stressed that the more difficult the situation becomes, the more vital it is for sister cities to strengthen communication, mutual trust and cooperation.

In a video address, Xie Feng, Chinese Ambassador to the U.S., described local cooperation as an important pillar of the bilateral relationship. He offered three proposals: promote mutual understanding and respect to deepen friendship between the two peoples; consolidate foundations to help stabilize and improve China-U.S. relations; and focus on cooperation to build a sustainable future for both nations.

"The gentle waves of Hangzhou's West Lake and the surging tides of its Qiantang



The opening ceremony of the Seventh China-U.S. Sister Cities Conference in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on October 27

River,” Xie said poetically, “symbolize sister city relations of two countries, both enduring in warmth and dynamic in vitality.”

A constant driving force

Robert Wagner, President of the Oregon State Senate, noted that his was the highest level delegation to visit China since the pandemic, including bipartisan legislators, business leaders and representatives from health and education sectors.

He recalled that in 1984, Oregon established one of the first sister-state relationships with Fujian Province. In 2006, the Oregon legislature created the Oregon-China Sister State Committee, the first such legal body in a U.S. state. On June 3 this year, Oregon reaffirmed this vision through the adoption of a Senate Concurrent Resolution, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening ties with China.

“Its purpose is clear: to ensure that Oregon’s sister state relationship is nurtured, respected and carried forward for many future generations. It’s not enough to just forge these relationships. We must maintain and ensure that they endure,” Wagner said in his address at the opening of the conference. “When our states and cities see each other not just as trading partners but as neighbors and friends, our relationship will truly thrive.”

Wagner and his delegation spent 15 days traveling across nine Chinese cities, taking in the country’s diversity and dynamism. It was his first visit to China, and as he told *Beijing Review* in an exclusive interview on October 27, he “came in sort of as a blank slate,” but left with impressions that were “very rich.” The experience, he said, inspired him to encourage people back home to travel more and embrace different cultures.

“The important thing for Oregon and our delegation being here in China is to let people know that we want to build a relationship for the long term,” Wagner said. “We want people in China to know that Oregon is eager to be a good partner in many different ways.”



Members of the U.S. delegation to the China-U.S. Sister Cities Conference make woodblock prints, a form of traditional Chinese intangible cultural heritage, at Zhijiang Cultural Center in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on October 26

<http://www.bjreview.com>

Victoria Woodards, Mayor of Tacoma, Washington, shared the 30-year friendship story between Tacoma and Fuzhou in Fujian Province. From cultural exchanges to student visits, she said the partnership has benefited countless young people.

She recalled President Xi Jinping’s 2015 visit to Tacoma, during which he invited 100 local students to visit China, an experience she said “changed many lives of students in Tacoma.”

“We look forward to the next generation of students, entrepreneurs and leaders who will carry these relationships forward. We want them to see the world not as divided by oceans, but as connected by shared opportunity,” Woodards said in her address.

At the closing ceremony of the conference, Chinese and American guests witnessed the signing of nine cooperative projects spanning sister-city partnerships, business collaboration and educational exchange.

During the event, Shen Xin, Vice President of CPAFFC, shared one of four congratulatory letters received earlier that morning, which jointly signed by councilmember Lisa Kaplan and Kevin McCarty, mayor of Sacramento, capital city of the state of California.

The message highlighted the 40-year sister-city relationship between Sacramento and Jinan, capital of Shandong Province, describing it as a model of enduring friendship and cooperation between China and California. Sacramento, they wrote, would continue to uphold the principles of mutual respect and mutual benefit, deepen collaboration with its Chinese sister cities and work together toward shared goals of peace, stability and prosperity.

“Today’s in-depth discussions have helped us chart a path of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation among sister cities,” Shen said in his address. “The agreements signed today strengthen the powerful synergy of China-U.S. local collaboration, contributing to deeper friendship between our peoples and to the broader development of China-U.S. relations.”

The conference also released the Hangzhou Consensus, a call for people from all walks of life in both countries to actively support and participate in sister-city cooperation, especially in challenging times. The consensus encourages deeper collaboration in culture, education and youth engagement, fostering a stable, healthy and sustainable future for China-U.S. relations. **BR**

(Reporting from Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province)

Copyedited by G.P. Wilson
Comments to zhaowei@cicgamericas.com

Navigating Change

Forum provides insights on international financial development

By Li Xiaoyang

Facing uncertainty in the global financial landscape, the Annual Conference of Financial Street Forum 2025, running in Beijing from October 27 to 30, took on the theme Global Financial Development in an Era of Innovation, Transformation and Restructuring. More than 400 participants from more than 30 countries and regions exchanged perspectives on how to promote high-quality global finance and called for innovation and restructuring, aiming to build a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable global financial system.

Eric Hong Fang, CEO of U.S.-based Skytower Group Inc., an international project development and investment company focusing on sustainable industries, was impressed by the vigorous discussions at the event. “The focus was institutional opening up and financially supporting sustainable industries, demonstrating a strategy to empower innovation through wider financial accessibility,” he told *Beijing Review*.

The conference was co-hosted by the Beijing Municipal Government, the People’s Bank of China (PBC), the National Financial Regulatory Administration (NFRA), the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), Xinhua News Agency and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE).

Since its launch in 2012, the Financial Street Forum has served as a barometer of China’s financial reform and development, and a platform for China to contribute to global financial governance and international financial dialogue.

Policy portfolio

On October 27, Pan Gongsheng, Governor of the PBC, the country’s central bank, said in a keynote speech that over the past year, the overall financing cost of the real economy has remained at a historically low level, creating a favorable monetary and financial environment for China’s economic recovery and the sound operation of financial markets.

The PBC will continue to maintain a supportive monetary policy stance, implement an appropriately accommodative monetary policy and make

comprehensive use of various monetary policy tools to provide short-, medium- and long-term liquidity arrangements, thereby keeping overall financing conditions relatively accommodative, Pan said.

The bank will also accelerate the building of a comprehensive macroprudential management system, prioritizing efforts in areas including strengthening the systemic financial risk monitoring and assessment framework, he added.

Pan also announced plans for the digital yuan, highlighting that the PBC aims to optimize the related management system, improve its positioning among different measures of money supply and support the licensing of more commercial banks as operators of digital yuan business.

The PBC suspended government bond trading at the beginning of this year, citing the imbalance between supply and demand in the bond market and accumulation of market risks. However, the bond market is generally operating well and the PBC will resume open market operations involving government bond trading, Pan said.

Li Yunze, head of the NFRA, stressed that efforts will be made to enable the financial sector to better serve the real economy in realizing sustained, healthy economic and social development and to balance financial development and security.

Financial resources will focus on intelligent, green and integrated programs, support the upgrading of traditional industries and promote the growth of emerging and future industries, Li said.

He also highlighted the need to create a new financial service model that integrates both direct and indirect financing, combines investment in physical assets with investment in human capital, aligns financing terms with industrial development and facilitates interplay between domestic and international markets.

Wu Qing, Chairman of the CSRC, announced that new reforms of the ChiNext Board, China’s Nasdaq-style board for growth enterprises, will be launched. He said



The opening ceremony of the Annual Conference of Financial Street Forum 2025 in Beijing on October 27



A media delegation visits the Shanghai Futures Exchange on September 12

listing standards will be set to align more closely with the innovation of enterprises in emerging fields, while providing targeted and inclusive financial services for new industries.

The CSRC will expand high-level opening up, enhance the protection of investor rights and seek to improve the inclusivity, adaptability, attractiveness and competitiveness of China's capital market, Wu added.

He also unveiled a plan to improve its system for qualified foreign institutional investors (QFIIs). The plan focuses on improving market access, helping enhance investment efficiency and expanding investment channels, in order to foster a more transparent, convenient and efficient institutional environment for all types of foreign investors. The QFII program, introduced in 2002, allows overseas institutional investors to move money into China's capital account to encourage controlled flows.

Zhu Hexin, head of the SAFE, said the administration, as China's foreign exchange (forex) regulator, will roll out new policies aimed at promoting innovative growth in trade.

The SAFE will introduce policies for a cash-pooling program that integrates domestic and foreign currency management for multinational enterprises, the management of funds among domestic companies listed abroad, and integrated forex management reforms and innovations in free trade zones, Zhu said.

China has been promoting cross-border trade and the facilitation of investment and financing, advancing the development of the forex market and creating favorable conditions for entities to effectively allocate forex resources, he noted.

In 2024, the turnover of China's forex market increased 37 percent compared to 2020, and its foreign-related balance of payments rose 64 percent, Zhu said.

The administration will enhance the capacity for forex supervision, risk prevention and risk control, and promote the high-level institutional opening up of the forex sector, he said.

Seeking certainties

In a video speech delivered at the opening ceremony of the conference, Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, warned about risks related to surging equity markets around the world. She said much of the enthusiasm in the financial market reflects a strong global optimism about AI, and called for prudence, vigilance and realism during the utilization of technology.

Pierre Gramegna, Managing Director of the European Stability Mechanism, said in a video speech that Europe, like China, believes in the benefits of an open and multilateral world. He pointed out that strengthening the global financial safety net and safeguarding financial stability are particularly vital in the current global setting of geo-economic fragmentation and uncertainty, urging cooperation to protect financial stability.

As investors reassess risks and reallocate assets globally, the stability offered by China is becoming an increasingly important consideration.

According to Fang, the policies rolled out during the conference signal great opportunities in the Chinese market for foreign-funded enterprises like Skytower. Over the past four decades, the company has supported U.S. companies entering the Chinese market, and it is helping Chinese companies invest overseas, especially the Saudi Arabian market, while also facilitating renewed U.S. investment into China.

"We are witnessing a significant policy establishment that will shape China's development over the next five years and beyond. A key challenge—and opportunity—is building strategic advisory and financial service capabilities to support Chinese enterprises as they go global," he said.

In his remarks at the opening ceremony of the conference, Vice Premier He Lifeng said China's financial system needs to advance risk prevention, strengthen regulation, promote high-quality development and push for high-standard opening up.

The 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30) period will be a key time for the goal of basically achieving socialist modernization by 2035, and it will also be a key period to promote high-quality financial development and accelerate the push to become a country with a strong financial sector, he said, adding that the sector should be further involved in the implementation of the 15th Five-Year Plan.

In the world today, changes rarely seen in a century are unfolding at an accelerating pace, presenting both challenges and opportunities in the international financial markets, He said, stressing that China is willing to work with all parties to research global financial governance and advance reforms in the area, and contribute to maintaining global financial stability. **BR**

BRIDGING THE PACIFIC

你好

HELLO

**Pacific
Dialogue**
对话太平洋

Follow us on X @Pacific_Dialog
& on Douyin @对话太平洋



中国儿童少年基金会
CHINA CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS' FUND



WECHAT QR CODE

SPRING BUD PROJECT

TOGETHER LET'S HELP LITTLE FLOWERS BLOSSOM

Obstacle World Championships

The Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) held its first Obstacle World Championships in Beijing from October 23 to 26. The global debut attracted more than 500 competitors from 30 countries and regions. Modern pentathlon, comprising fencing, shooting, riding, running and swimming, was introduced into the Olympics in 1912 by the “father of modern Olympics,” Baron Pierre de Coubertin. The obstacle race was added to modern pentathlon to replace horse riding as one of the five disciplines. To appeal to a younger generation, UIPM announced in 2023 that obstacle-running would be added to the Olympic program, with the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games slated as the first games to feature the event. **BR**

(Text and photos by Wei Yao)

Copyedited by Elsbeth van Paridon
Comments to weiyao@cicgamericas.com





1. Athletes compete in a qualifying round of the men's 400-meter race on October 23

2. Gold medalist, Tiana Webberley from the United States, silver medalist, Katarzyna Jonaczyk from Poland, and bronze medalist, Lotta Kokemohr from Germany, on the podium at the medal ceremony for the women's 400-meter race on October 24

3. Athletes compete in the women's 400-meter semifinal race on October 24

4. Chinese athlete Li Yiqi (center) competes in the men's 400-meter semifinal on October 24. He later finished fourth in the final

'A Beautiful New Day'

By Saor Song Mahoney



Students pose at the No.2 High School of East China Normal University

Crossing campus through the trees in an early autumn breeze, with freshly cut grass sticking to my shoes, and the wet pendula of a weeping willow sweeping across my shoulder, and up ahead, I hear a girl singing, "It's stopped raining, everybody's in the play, and don't you know, it's a beautiful new day." That's my classmate from Seoul, and beside her, one of our teachers, a Chinese man, who recently returned from Rome, strumming a guitar.

Such a scene might strike you as being completely out of step with what you'd expect at a Chinese high school, and yet, this is a new era for exceptional educational experiences, and just another "beautiful day" at "*Hua Er*," officially the No.2 High School of East China Normal University. This is the school I attend along with more than 2,000 other students enrolled at the Zhangjiang campus in Pudong New Area of Shanghai. It's one of our six campuses located in the city, all under a unified management, sharing the same identity, model and standards.

As one of 400-plus foreigners at my school, I belong to the International

Division. In fact, most of the students on my campus are Chinese, and I interact with them daily through shared coursework and extracurricular activities, like sporting events, including an annual track and field meet and regular football matches. That said, most of the students in most of the classes I take come from around the world, hailing primarily from the Republic of Korea and Japan, but also including Americans, Russians, Cambodians, Thai, among others, as well as a large contingent of Italians who come each year through an exchange program. While English is the language of instruction in a few classes, most of us advance into higher-level courses conducted entirely in Chinese, which is also the language we speak in common, whether we're gossiping over lunch, arguing over fouls on the basketball court, or working together to figure out a tough physics lesson.

While the school has emphasized internationalization, including admitting foreign students and sustaining international connections with institutions in North America, Europe and Australia, it's done so while preserving Chinese values

and academic rigor. Perhaps contrary to some international perceptions, Chinese education has matured and followed a progressive curve in its development, finding better pathways to high performance, creativity and innovation, eschewing the old models of rote and repetition. Consequently, while we're well-known for our strong exam scores, which remains a baseline we all strive to support, we should also be known as the school where kids keep guitars and basketballs close at hand, and where students form bands and teams to play on and off campus. Above all we should be known as a school devoted to developing healthy minds and bodies, always ready to cooperate and compete.

Recently a group of seven of my friends came home with me after school to have a home cooked meal. Some live in the dorm on campus, others live with their parents or in group arrangements off campus. We enjoyed a little smorgasbord of fresh salads with fruit, cheese and avocados, pan-fried salmon and bratwurst, spicy Thai noodles and empanadas. Afterwards, my father brought out a big chocolate cake and we covered it with candles, singing "Happy Birthday" for my grandma back in America in five different languages. Her eyes brimmed with tears of happiness as she watched us online. *Shengri Kuaile!* A beautiful day indeed! **BR**



Scan QR code to listen to a podcast with the author and his father on education in China and the U.S.

The author is an American raised in Shanghai and now in his final year of high school
Copyedited by G.P. Wilson
Comments to yanwei@qicgamericas.com



Beijing Review Vol.68 No.1 January 2, 2025

by Beijing Review (Author) Format: Kindle Edition

[See all formats and editions](#)

Kindle
\$0.99

[Read with Our Free App](#)

Beijing Review is China's only national English newsweekly published by China International Communications Group Center for the Americas.

Product Details

ASIN: BOBTKKP3G4

Publisher: Beijing Review (January 2, 2025)

Publication Date: January 2, 2025

Language: English

File Size: 1396 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Sticky Notes: On Kindle Scribe

Print Length: 90 pages

**Now available
on
amazon**

In addition to *Beijing Review*, CICG Americas publishes *China Hoy*, a monthly publication launched in 1960, aiming to bridge the gap between China and the Spanish-speaking world—particularly Latin-American countries.

Website: www.chinahoy.com.cn

