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WEEKLY EDITION

Dynamic Zero-COVID Policy Puts People First

By Staff Reporters

The Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee convened a meeting on May 5, 2022 to analyze current epidemic prevention and control situation, and arrange key measures for better and more rigorous epidemic control. General Secretary Xi Jinping presided over the meeting and delivered an important speech.

It was noted at the meeting that since the outbreak of COVID-19, China has always put the people and their lives first and worked hard to prevent both inbound cases and domestic resurgences. A dynamic zero-COVID policy has been upheld and adjustments were made in light of specific conditions.

Practice has proven that China's policies can stand the test of time, and that its measures are science-based and effective, said the meeting.

Since March this year, with concerted efforts nationwide, China has withstood the most challenging COVID-19 control test since the anti-epidemic battle of Wuhan in early 2020 and attained major achievements.

However, the global COVID-19 pandemic situation is still severe, the virus has been constantly mutating, and the development of the pandemic is still full of uncertainties, according to the meeting, which warned against any slackening in the control efforts.

As a populous country with a huge number of senior citizens, unbalanced development between different regions, and insufficient medical resources, China will definitely see a wide range of infections if it eases up on epidemic prevention and control, which will cause a huge amount of severe cases and deaths, severely threatening social and economic development as well as the people's health and safety, said the meeting.

The meeting stressed the importance of unwaveringly adhering to the dynamic zero-COVID policy, and emphasized that quicker response and refined measures should be made to improve epidemic prevention and control capacity.

Meanwhile, enough efforts must be made to ensure people's livelihoods and everyday supplies, meet people's needs for medical services, and release information on a regular basis to address public concerns, according to the meeting.

International Cooperation

China Supports Sustainable Development of BRICS

By TANG Zhexiao

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) said it will enhance dialogue and collaboration with its peers from BRICS countries to use big data as a tool to achieve sustainable development, according to the BRICS Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development held both online and offline on April 26.

Themes of big data in support of food security and poverty alleviation, the digital economy, sustainable urban development, climate actions and disaster reduction, and biodiversity conservation were included in the forum, while a series of data products to support scientific research on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) of BRICS countries were released.

These products include data from BRICS countries collected by CAS's first Earth science satellite SDGSAT-1, mapping the global spatial distribution of

forest cover at a resolution of 30-meter in 2020 and core urban built-up areas in BRICS cities with population over 300,000 from 2000 to 2020.

The BRICS countries share a strong desire and commitment for closer cooperation to ensure future collective sustainable development. Within this context, China proposed to organize a BRICS Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development in order to support the 14th BRICS Summit, which will be hosted in China this year.

With the goal of serving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the forum will further strengthen the dialogues, promote the cooperation mechanism, and enhance international scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation among BRICS countries.

Guo Huadong, director-general of the center, said data products containing remote sensing and Earth sciences data would provide support for BRICS countries to carry out scientific research on SDGs.

Currently, due to the lack of digital infrastructure and data support, it is difficult for some experts and policymakers in low-income countries and regions to accurately evaluate the situation and make scientific decisions, said Guo, adding that it was necessary to coordinate global scientific and technological resources.

Narinder Kumar Mehra, vice-president of the Indian National Science Academy, said BRICS scientific communities can play a vital role in promoting science, technology and innovation to improve health and education, reduce inequality and facilitate sustainable development as well as peace and prosperity.

Climbing the Peak in Scientific Research

Chinese scientific researchers reached the summit of Mount Qomolangma on May 4 and established an automatic meteorological monitoring station on it. (PHOTO: XINHUA)



Editor's Pick

Ai Aiguo: A Welding Craftsman of the Nation

By LU Zijian

President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the First Innovation Exchange Conference for Craftsmen of the Nation in Beijing on April 27, calling for contributing wisdom and strength to high-quality development and the implementation of the strategy to build the country into a leader in manufacturing.

Not long before this, a celebration was held to honor ten craftsmen of 2021 by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and China Media Group. Among the ten is Ai Aiguo, welding consultant at Xiangtan Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. of Hunan Valin.

Despite being feted by his peers and given titles like "Han Wang," which literally means "King of Welding," Ai said, "Fame doesn't help. It is one's capabilities that matter when solving problems."

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Breaking technological bottlenecks
Ai has paid his dues and long proved his expertise in the art of welding.

As early as the 1980s when he worked for Shougang Group in Beijing, Ai ever managed to ensure that there was no leak in the 30,000 cubic meters oxygenerator, which was the largest oxygenerator in the world at that time, during the deep cooling oxygen generating process.

In the witness of international institutions in the industry, Ai's efforts made it possible for Xianggan Iron & Steel to produce high heat input welding ship series steel, after performance detection of steel welding and post-welding in 2020.

But Ai's most unforgettable experience was the research and development

of welding for high-strength engineering machinery and wear-resistant steel [1,100-MPa level high-strength steel], which had to be imported with insanely high prices that time.

The higher the steel's strength, the lower its weldability will be, said Ai. This also means it is difficult to avoid weld defects.

After selecting countless materials, adopting numerous techniques and conducting incalculable experiments, Ai and his team finally lifted the tensile strength of their domestically produced steel from 690 MPa to 1,100 MPa, reduced the product weight by over 15 percent, and extended the body durability by more than 50 percent. And it cut the cost of steel by nearly 66 percent, from 30,000 RMB per ton [imported steel] to 12,000 RMB.

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Infrastructure Construction, Highlight of China's Development

By Staff Reporters

Infrastructure has been top of China's agenda for decades, and last month, fresh arrangements were made at a meeting of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs to modernize China's infrastructure for sustained growth.

In fact, progress has been made in infrastructure construction over decades, promoting coordinated and green development, and improving people's livelihood in China, as well as benefiting the whole world. Some of the impressive achievements in recent years include:

The museum of world bridges
Guizhou, as the only province without plains in China, has seen its economic development long been hampered by poor transportation conditions.

Over the decades, more than 20,000 bridges built among its karst mountains have reshaped the province. It is now known as "the museum of world bridges" and home to 50 of the 100 tallest bridges in the world by the end of 2021.

For example, the Beipanjiang Bridge, which sits over 565 meters above a valley, has been certified as the world's highest bridge by the Guinness World Records. Yachihe Bridge is the world's longest steel-truss, cable-stayed bridge, with a span of 800 meters and a total length of 1,450 meters. The mega-bridges have improved the road network and the quality of life for local residents.

High-speed railway on the plateau
From the first line in 2008, to the world's top in mileage, China's high-speed railway symbolized the country's rapid modernization, according to CNN.

Trains ran through southeast Xizang for the first time in history with the operation of Lhasa-Nyingchi railway in June 2021. Over 90 percent of the track sits in areas located more than 3,000 meters above sea level.

With a designed speed of 160 kph, the 435-km railway marked the launch of the country's first electrified railroad operating on the plateau region. It meant that the Fuxing bullet train series then operated in all provincial-level regions on the Chinese mainland.

Coordinated development
In terms of digital networks, China's administrative villages all had access to broadband networks by the end of November 2021, which provides solid support for China's rural modernization and narrows the "digital divide" between urban and rural areas. See page 4

Mt Qomolangma Gets World's Highest Auto Weather Station

By TANG Zhexiao

A Chinese scientific expedition team established an automatic meteorological monitoring station on Mount Qomolangma at an altitude of 8,800 meters, after reaching its summit on May 4, making it the world's highest station of its kind.

Yao Tandong, an academician with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and team leader, said that including the new weather station, eight elevation gradient meteorological stations from 5,200 meters to 8,830 meters above sea level have been set up on Mount Qomolangma, providing first-hand data to support scientific research and mountaineering activities.

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WEEKLY REVIEW

Tianzhou-4 Launched for Space Station Supplies

Carrying supplies for the upcoming Shenzhou-14 crewed mission, China's cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-4 was launched from Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan province on May 10, and it successfully docked with space station combination later the same day, according to the China Manned Space Agency.

Chang'e-5 Payloads' Scientific Data Sets Partly Released

China has released a batch of data from the payloads installed on Chang'e-5 probe, according to the China National Space Administration on May 7. Public users can gain access to the datasets by visiting the website of China's Lunar and Planetary Data Release System.

Quantum State Transfer over 1,200 km Achieved

Scientists from University of Science and Technology of China realized quantum state transfer at the distance of over 1,200 km assisted by prior quantum entanglement shared between two ground stations with the satellite Micius, the world's first quantum communications satellite.

Chinese Scientists Decipher Global Low-carbon Economies via Satellite Data

A research group from China's Southwestern University of Finance and Economics evaluated the quantity and quality of 77 countries' low-carbon economies, based on their low-carbon GDP and ratio of low-carbon GDP to real GDP estimated by satellite data. The result showed that the U.S. and China took the lead in the scale of low-carbon economies in 2019 based on the night-time light data.

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The International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals in Beijing. (PHOTO: XINHUA)