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WEEKLY EDITION

Xi Calls for Intensifying Exchanges and Cooperation on Innovation

Our world is facing a pandemic and drastic changes both unseen in a century. Economic globalization is experiencing headwinds, and the world is entering a new period of volatility and transformation.

President Xi Jinping made these remarks while addressing the conference of the 70th anniversary of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the Global Trade and Investment Promotion Summit via video link on May 18.

Xi said that now more than ever, business communities across the world yearn for peace and development, call for fairness and justice, and aspire for win-win cooperation. For this to happen, he advised efforts on the following four fronts.

First, we need to pull together to defeat COVID-19. The pandemic has been going on unabated. Resurging with ever

faster transmission, it is posing a serious threat to the life and health of the people, and taking a heavy toll on the world economy. We must put people and their lives first, actively engage in international cooperation on vaccine R&D, production and distribution, bolster global public health governance, jointly build multiple lines of defense against the virus, and work for a global community of health for all.

Second, we need to reinvigorate trade and investment. We need to balance pandemic response and economic development, strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination across countries, and get the global economy out of the woods at an early date. China has put forward a Global Development Initiative, which calls for concerted efforts to advance the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in all respects.

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International Cooperation

BRICS to Strengthen Collaboration in Climate Change

By Staff Reporters

A joint statement was released by BRICS countries to accelerate low-carbon transition and strengthen multilateral cooperation in tackling climate change issues at the BRICS High-level Meeting on Climate Change, hosted by China via video link on May 13.

In the statement, BRICS countries commit to strengthening collaboration on climate change, and deepening the contents of cooperation. Information exchanges and cooperation at multiple levels will be carried out in clean energy, low-carbon technology, sustainable and resilient infrastructure construction, carbon market and climate change adaptation. Policy research on low-carbon green growth, technology cooperation and joint pilot projects will also be jointly promoted.

With science and technology innovation as the driver, BRICS countries will promote the transition and upgrading of energy, resources, industrial structure and consumption structure, jointly exploring pathways for low-carbon and sustainable development, noted the statement.

Huang Runqiu, China's minister of ecology and environment, said together with fellow BRICS countries, China is willing to promote the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

China is a big advocate of the response to climate change, said Huang, noting that China has finalized the top-level design on carbon peaking and carbon neutrality and basically established the "1+N" policy framework for this goal.

According to Huang, China's carbon intensity in 2020 decreased by around 48.4 percent compared with data in 2005, exceeding the 2020 climate action goal promised to the international community, and there was another year-on-year drop of 3.8 percent in 2021.

Xie Zhenhua, China's special envoy for climate change, said that China will fully support the upcoming Egyptian Presidency of the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), hoping that the event could highlight the reinforcement of adaptation and financial aid to developing countries.



A herd of Milu at the national reserve in Shishou, Hubei province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Editor's Pick

Milu Deer Survive Against All Odds

By WANG Xiaoxia

Milu, also known as Père David's deer or *Elaphurus davidianus*, is a species of deer native to China as well as the only extant member of the genus *Elaphurus*.

It is no ordinary deer, as it has giant antlers on its horse-shaped head, a donkey's tail, and hooves like a cow, but with webbing between the toes for swimming.

What is more extraordinary is its odyssey from the West. The deer went extinct in China over a century ago, but a small number had fortunately been saved on a British duke's estate. Now, it is back home in China and adding a new chapter to its incredible story.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, executive secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, hailed

the protection work on Milu in China as it provides a reference for the protection of other endangered species worldwide.

Ancient Chinese species

As one of the most ancient species in China, Milu dates back to around two million years ago, and its population peaked at more than 100 million about 2000 years ago. Feeding mainly on grasses and aquatic plants, most of them lived in the basin areas of the Yangtze River and Yellow River.

Milu, whose antlers fall off in winter and grow again in spring, is regarded as an auspicious animal with cultural imagery reflecting life and hope in Chinese tradition.

Therefore, the animal gained the affection of the Chinese people, including royal family members, and became a popular quarry to hunt. Due to years of overhunting and the loss of its natural

habitat, by the end of 19th century, only a small number of Milu lived in captivity in the emperor's private garden.

In 1865, when French missionary Père (Father) David saw Milu at the Nanhaizi royal garden in suburban Beijing, he introduced this species to the West. Later, floods and warfare wiped out the entire population in China.

Fortunately, Herbrand Russell, Duke of Bedford, saved the species from extinction by breeding the world's last herd of 18 Milu on his Woburn Abbey estate in Britain. The current population in zoos around the world all stems from the Woburn Abbey herd.

Home sweet home

Thanks to the Duke's care, Milu survived World War II and thrived at zoos in many Western countries, with a global population surpassing 1,300 in 1983.

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China Leads in 5G Networks Development

By TANG Zhexiao

With nearly 1.6 million 5G base stations, China has built the world's largest 5G network covering all prefecture-level cities and counties, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said on May 17.

Zhang Yunming, vice minister of MIIT, said the country's fixed broadband has been upgraded from 100 megabits per second to 1,000 megabits per second, and the proportion of optical fiber users has increased from less than 10 percent in 2012 to 94.3 percent in 2021.

Moreover, China has constructed fiber-optic networks in 130,000 villages and 4G base stations in 60,000 villages. It raised the rural broadband coverage

from less than 70 percent five years ago to 100 percent currently, ensuring all rural villages have access to broadband.

5G is being applied in a wide range of categories including transportation, medical care, education, culture and tourism nationwide, and industrial Internet has been applied to 45 major sectors of the national economy with the value exceeding one trillion RMB (149 billion USD), said Zhang.

This year marks a critical year for the large-scale development of 5G applications. The MIIT previously revealed that two million base stations would be constructed by the end of 2022, and the coverage in transportation hubs, shopping centers and other densely populated areas would be broadened.

Zhao Houlin, secretary-general of

the International Telecommunication Union, said that China's consumer Internet and industrial Internet have entered the fast lane, putting China among the leaders in global innovation and development.

More than 2,400 5G+ industrial Internet projects are under construction in China currently, as the country strengthens its industrial upgrading and attempts to promote the combination of digital technologies and traditional industries, according to MIIT.

MIIT also said it will enhance upgrades of traditional infrastructure with new technologies such as big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and blockchain next, promoting digital infrastructure to help the construction and development of smart city.

WEEKLY REVIEW

74 Percent of Wild Species under Conservation

May 22 marks the International Day for Biological Diversity, with the theme of "Building a shared future for all life." According to National Forestry and Grassland Administration, 74 percent of China's key wild species are under protection, witnessing a recovery growth in population.

A UN Center Inaugurated in China

Online ceremony was held for the inauguration of United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Center in Deqing, Zhejiang, the first UN affiliated agency headquartered in China. UN Secretary-General António Guterres sent congratulatory message for the establishment of the center.

One more Chinese COVID-19 Vaccine Included in EUL

The World Health Organization (WHO) validated the CONVIDECIA COVID-19 vaccine developed by Chinese developer CanSino Biologics for emergency use on May 19, making it the third Chinese vaccine certified by WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL).

National Science and Technology Week

The National Science and Technology Week kicked off on May 21. Activities are held across the country to display advanced technologies and prompt citizens' interests in science.

Caution for Long COVID Symptoms

By Staff Reporters

A group of Chinese scientists discovered that more than half of COVID-19 recovered patients still had at least one sequelae of infection two years after they were discharged from hospital, with fatigue or muscle weakness as the most frequent symptoms.

Published in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine* online on May 11, the study was the longest longitudinal cohort study of individuals who had survived COVID-19 hospitalization to describe the dynamic recovery of health in the two years after symptom onset.

The study shows that COVID-19 survivors had a remarkably lower health status than the general population at the two-year recovery period.

Long COVID refers to long-term effects on multiple organs and systems after hospitalization with COVID-19. Its symptoms at the two-year follow-up were related to decreased health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and exercise capacity, psychological abnormality, and increased use of health care after discharge.

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WECHAT ACCOUNT

E-PAPER



Technicians are working on a 5G base station in southwest China's Chongqing municipality. (PHOTO: XINHUA)