

## Voice of the World

## China, Indonesia Building Closely Connected Future

Edited by TANG Zhexiao

As the first head of state received by China since the Beijing Olympic Winter Games in February, Indonesian President Joko Widodo's visit on July 25 to 26 attracted global attention.

Indonesia's online news website Zonajakarta said it proved China's importance for Indonesia, and the two sides' common expectations to build a China-Indonesia community with a shared future.

During the visit, the two sides issued a Joint Press Statement on the bilateral meeting, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on jointly promoting cooperation on the Silk Road Economic Belt, the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative and the Global Maritime Fulcrum, as well as other cooperation documents in areas as vaccines, green development, cyber security and ocean development.

"The Indonesia-China cooperation is not only beneficial to Indonesians and Chinese, but also to all the peoples of East Asia," said Jusuf Wanandi, senior fellow and co-founder of Indonesia's leading think tank.

China and Indonesia are at similar development stages, have shared inter-



Workers at the construction site of the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway, designed with "China Standard" and will be furnished with equipment manufactured in China. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

ests, and a closely connected future. Building a China-Indonesia community with a shared future is the common aspiration and expectation of the two peoples.

In recent years, the China-Indonesia relationship has enjoyed robust growth, demonstrating great resilience and vitality. Especially since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, China and Indonesia have supported each other in

fighting the virus.

China took the lead in providing anti-pandemic assistance to Indonesia. More than 80 percent of COVID-19 vaccines in Indonesia came from China. Five Chinese vaccine companies have worked with Indonesia in research and development, procurement, filling, and production through four different technologies.

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno

Marsudi expressed gratitude and appreciation for the vaccine support given by the Chinese government, Sinovac and the Red Cross Society of China.

In future, China is expected to continue to fully support Indonesia in building a regional vaccine production hub, and step up public health cooperation with Indonesia.

Tech cooperation with Indonesia has also been strengthened.

According to the *Financial Times*, China's tech investment in Indonesia is experiencing a sharp spike. Stephanie Davis, managing director of Google's south-east Asia and south Asia business, said, "The Chinese remain very important investors particularly in the e-commerce space."

Besides taking an active part in the development of Indonesia's North Kalimantan Industrial Park, China has been expanding cooperation in cultivating new growth drivers in the digital economy and green development, among other areas.

President Widodo said Indonesia will work with China to keep deepening their comprehensive strategic partnership and make still greater contributions to regional peace and global development.

## Opinion

## Sino-ASEAN Cooperation Enjoys Broad Prospects

Edited by QI Liming

According to the report by independent think-tank Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI), China has deepened its ties with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) during the COVID-19 pandemic at a pace that the U.S. failed to match.

The promise of vaccines, pandemic aid and high-level conversations among leaders increased China's influence and strengthened its ties with regional countries.

China's heavily promoted pandemic aid, especially the supply of vaccines when these were in very short supply from the West, won gratitude from people in the region.

The high-level bilateral and regional diplomacy kept up a brisk pace, while the focus of the region's other major partners was at home. China's ability to contain the pandemic in 2020 and 2021 and keep its economy open to lift bilateral trade, positioned China as the road to economic recovery.

The country met the region's needs through broad diplomatic and material support, looking outward while the U.S. and its allies were mostly looking inward.

In this regard, firstly, China was willing to provide medical assistance and vaccines in large numbers, while the U.S. and its partners were prioritizing domestic needs.

China was the first country to deliver vaccines to hard-hit Southeast Asia, having donated more than seven million doses across nine Southeast Asian countries by the time the first donation from the U.S. was delivered in July 2021, according to Bridge Consulting and the Kaiser Family Foundation, which provided vaccine tracking data on China and the U.S. respectively.

Secondly, the gravitational pull of China's economy, its geographical proximity and growing infrastructure connectivity, and the sustained attention and engagement across Southeast Asia in re-

cent years have seen its presence, role and influence grow considerably.

In the 2022 ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute State of Southeast Asia Survey, which surveys government, business, and civil society elites, nearly 77 percent of respondents saw China as the most influential economic power in the region.

Thirdly, trade with China grew during the pandemic and ASEAN became China's largest trading partner. The pandemic did not prevent China-Southeast Asia from a bilateral trade increase. In 2020, ASEAN displaced the EU and became China's top trading partner, which continued in 2021.

The strong growth in trade with China was driven by a combination of factors, including China's success in containing the pandemic in 2020, and strong consumer demand.

Last but not least, China's investments and grants in Southeast Asia, as indeed across the world, are often in the form of large infrastructure projects, many of which form part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

These include high-speed railways in Indonesia and Thailand, as well as the Estrella-Pantaleon Bridge in Manila, which opened to the public in July 2021.

From 2020, even though some of these investment and construction programs were impacted due to the pandemic, investment has recovered mildly since 2021, and construction has improved more quickly.

A report released by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs found that China is more trusted than Japan in ASEAN, which was seen as quite astonishing to Japan's media.

Based on the *Results of the 2021 International Public Opinion Survey on Japan*, when asked which country will be an important partner in the future, 48 percent of respondents said China, followed by Japan with 43 percent. It is the first time Japan has been overtaken by China in this survey since 2007.

## Hi! Tech

On Your Marks  
Get Set for 5.5G Era

The 5.5G network, also known as 5G-Advance approved by the 3GPP standards, is an improvement to the 5G network which contains features that will transform the telecommunications field.

## 10 Gbps user experience

5.5G will provide a 10 Gbps experience through MIMO technology that boasts larger bandwidth, higher spectrum efficiency, and higher-order modulation.

## Diversify computing

5.5G technology will refine computing architecture, increasing computing efficiency by 10-fold through chip engineering and full peer-to-peer interconnection architecture.

## Lift existing limits in storage architecture

Future storage performance will be improved by 10-fold through data-centric hardware and software architecture and diversified data application acceleration engines.

## Advance L4 highly autonomous driving networks

It will accelerate breakthroughs in ADN technology, enabling an even faster connection between transport systems and offer new application options.

## Business scope goes beyond connectivity

The 5.5G core networks will redefine architecture and foundational technologies to enable new service scenarios.

## Developments in green technology

The innovative solutions for green sites, green networks and green operations will empower operators to cut energy consumption per bit in 5.5G era.

Produced by Science and Technology Daily

## RCEP Adds Momentum to Multilateral Trade

## Comment

Edited by QI Liming

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) involves China and 14 other Asia-Pacific nations, covering nearly a third of the global population and about 30 percent of the world's gross domestic product.

Tariffs on more than 65 percent of trade in products reached zero under the RCEP agreement after it took effect on January 1.

RCEP aims to diminish deglobalization

The RCEP is the largest new multilateral trade deal since the 1990s and continues Asia-Pacific's economic integration in a time of broad deglobalization.

In December 2021, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development predicted that RCEP's tariff reductions would immediately boost intra-regional trade by nearly two percent, equivalent to about 42 billion USD, upon taking effect.

The RCEP's share of global GDP is

also increasing rapidly as several members are large and fast-growing emerging markets. Swiss economists Jessie Guo, John Zhu, Yaxin Chen and Weijia Yao anticipate in a project that the RCEP's share in global GDP will reach nearly 35 percent in 2030. For most RCEP countries, researchers also expect that the increase in export volumes will directly boost demand for trade and shipping.

It is estimated that the RCEP could add approximately 4.5 percent (720 million USD) to marine insurance premiums across the Asia-Pacific region in 2030, and grow credit & surety insurance business by about 4.4 percent (1.29 billion USD) in the same year, with the majority of the incremental business coming from China and Japan.

China's efforts in building an efficient RCEP

China already has an existing free-trade agreement (FTA) with all members of ASEAN, as well as individual deals with RCEP members South Korea, Japan, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand.

China considered that RCEP would serve as "powerful leverage" for keeping trade and foreign investment stable this year, as it will expand exports of

Chinese products while helping speed up China's industrial transformation.

Wing Chu, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, said that in addition to tariff reductions and eliminations, RCEP also provides other measures such as customs cooperation and facilitation, the removal of non-tariff technical barriers, and e-commerce facilitation.

"China can help advance trade liberalization among RCEP members, which would help developing countries in the region conduct trade in a more efficient manner," he added.

According to Swiss senior insurance economists, additional investment in manufacturing facilities and infrastructure is also expected, as regional supply chains adjust to take advantage of opportunities created by the RCEP.

This should generate new business for engineering and liability insurance during the construction phase of these facilities and property lines in the operational phases. Employment and wage increases in trade and construction related sectors will support growth in society.

Cambodia's impressive performance on RCEP

Take Cambodia as an example, the

country's total export to other member countries of the RCEP totaled 3.28 billion USD in the first half of 2022, up 10 percent year-on-year, according to the Cambodian Ministry of Commerce.

The top three importers of Cambodia in the period were Vietnam, China, and Japan, with export values reaching 1.17 billion USD, 612 million USD, and 542 million USD, respectively.

Cambodia's exports to RCEP member countries in the first half accounted for 28.8 percent of the country's total export turnover.

Meanwhile, the total import-export turnover between Cambodia and RCEP countries peaked at 16.24 billion USD, up 9 percent over the same period last year.

Penn Sovicheat, Undersecretary of State and Spokesman of Cambodian Ministry of Commerce, affirmed that RCEP is a contributing factor to Cambodia's exports in the first six months of 2022.

According to Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) Chea Chanto, the Southeast Asian country's economy is expected to grow 5.3 percent in 2022, mainly thanks to increased exports of garments, bags and footwear.

Decoupling Sci-tech Cooperation:  
Harm All Parties

By TANG Zhexiao

The U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, who recently completed her provocative visit to China's Taiwan region, tweeted on July 30, "Today, our nation took a monumental step forward to equip America to meet and beat the challenges of the 21st Century with the CHIPS & Science Act."

The act, which was signed by US President Joe Biden on August 9, aims to boost domestic manufacturing of semiconductor chips and help the U.S. to compete with China.

Certain provisions in the act restrain normal sci-tech cooperation between China and the U.S., and China is firmly against it, according to Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian.

"China-U.S. science and technology cooperation serves the interests of both sides and promotes the progress of humanity. Imposing restrictions and seeking decoupling will only hurt others and oneself alike," said Zhao.

Chinese Ministry of Commerce also said on August 1 that this act will distort the global semiconductor supply chain and disrupt international trade. China will monitor the progress and implementation of the act, and take strong measures to safeguard its legitimate rights when necessary.

There is no doubt that moves like decoupling and cutting supplies run

counter to market rules and could only lead to self-isolation and backwardness.

So, why did the U.S. administration still choose to pass this act?

It's all about retaining its monopoly in the scientific field under the guise of boosting its semiconductor manufacturing and increasing competitiveness.

The U.S. is no longer as competitive as it once was in this field. It still leads the world in chip design, but the global share of semiconductors produced domestically has declined from 37 percent in 1990 to 12 percent today, said Bloomberg.

It is up to the U.S. to fix its deficiencies in chip industry and develop itself. However, it should by no means block normal technological and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation with China, or undermine China's legitimate development rights and interests.

China and the U.S. are the two biggest economies in the world. It is no doubt that to enhance cooperation in science and technology between two countries is conducive to the well-being of humankind.

The U.S. administration should correctly view China's scientific progress and China-U.S. ties in scientific sectors.

Only by stopping unjustifiable suppression and restrictions of Chinese tech companies, can two sides jointly contribute to normal exchanges and cooperation, as well as global sustainable development.