

Voice of the World

Spectacular
Tech-driven
Visual Gala
for Olympics

Edited by QI Liming

With the flame lit, Beijing became the first city to host both winter and summer Olympic Games. The opening ceremony driven by technology reflected the "simple, safe and spectacular" ambitions of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), as IOC President Thomas Bach addressed athletes: "Dear fellow Olympians, Your Olympic stage is set."

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attended the opening ceremony. He said, IOC is a close partner of the UN, and the Olympics bring together people with a message of solidarity and peace.

According to *Nature*, Beijing Winter Olympics will be the first to be carbon neutral. The Winter Olympics are also the first to use natural CO₂ as a refrigerant to cool the skating venues, instead of synthetic hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants, saving up to 26,000 tonnes of carbon. Claudio Zilio, who studies refrigerants at the University of Padua, Italy, said that CO₂ is an environmentally friendly option for the purpose.

Beijing's Winter Games are the first to have considered a broad range of emissions from the earliest stages of preparation, said Marie Sallois, a director of sustainable development at IOC. They are also the first to have taken into account indirect sources of emissions,



Torch bearers Dinigeer Yilamujiang (L) and Zhao Jiawen set the torch into the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games at the National Stadium in Beijing, Feb. 4. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

such as air travel, she added. Beijing's approach of embedding sustainability at all stages of the process is "something we will encourage for future games."

According to tech media Protocol, China has deployed cocktail-pouring robots in the Olympic Village, installed futuristic remote-controlled beds for visitors and implemented its new digital currency system, e-CNY, for its first international test.

According to Techradar, China built the world's largest LED screen for the 2022 Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. The screen was used as the main stage of the opening ceremony and was built by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALT). According to the CALT, the screen offered "a visual

feast even better than 8K resolution."

Bach praised China's role in making "sporting history." "China is now a winter sport country where over 300 million people are engaged in winter sports in over 2,000 resorts and ice rinks," Bach said towards the end of the opening ceremony. "This is an extraordinary achievement and [it] opens a new era for global winter sports."

According to mainstream media platforms, China kicked off the 2022 Winter Olympics in an unprecedented manner. The focus was on a spectacular technology-driven visual show that featured fireworks and a light show before culminating with a block of ice that was "broken" by ice hockey players, giving way to five snow-white Olympic rings.

This grand event provided a stunning visual feast that combined digital technology and beautiful creative designs. It was not only technologically advanced, but dynamic, aesthetically pleasing, and experiential. This was also an opportunity to showcase some of China's newest technology innovations to the world.

According to *South China Morning Post*, Beijing put on a spectacular and stirring show of technology and artistry at the opening of the Winter Olympics. Although it was a scaled-back affair because of COVID-19, the National Stadium was awash with light and symbolism as 3,000 performers enacted the theme of China's quest for world peace and the Games motto of "together for a shared future."

China's Shipbuilding : Sailing to New Orders

Edited by QI Liming

In 2021, the global economy struggled to recover as the pandemic raged worldwide. Now, as an index of economic recovery, the shipbuilding industry is in the spotlight showing encouraging growth despite tough times. China posted a shipbuilding output of 39.7 million (m) Deadweight tonnage (DWT), an increase of 3 percent year-on-year and the newly received shipbuilding order was about 67 m DWT, increasing 131.8 percent.

Leading global shipbuilding by CGT
According to data released by shipbroker Clarksons, China has taken the number-one spot in shipbuilding, overtaking South Korea for annual order volume by compensated gross tons (CGT).

Over the span of the year, China's shipbuilders raked in orders totaling about 22.8 million CGT, almost 50 per-

cent of the global total of 45.7 million CGT. South Korean builders took in orders totaling 17.35 million CGT, or about 38 percent.

China dominated in sales of new container ships, a segment which has taken off thanks to a surge in consumer goods cargo.

Ranking first in 10 types of ships ordered

According to BUILT by CHINA, China's shipbuilding industry led the world in terms of orders for 10 out of 18 mainstream ship types in 2021.

Last year, the world's largest 24,000 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) container ship built by China State Shipbuilding Corporation Ltd. (CSSC) was launched in Shanghai. And right now, the corporation has had orders for nearly 100 large container ships, of which 16 are being built.

In 2021, China's shipbuilding indus-

try contracted bulk carriers of 32.19 m DWT, taking up 76.4 percent of the global total volume, and container ships of 27.38 m DWT, 60.9 percent of the global total.

In addition to these types of ships, China has also played an increasing role in the international market of high-tech and high value-added ships, especially its key breakthrough in the green-energy powered ships, including the dual-fuel powered ships.

Substantial increase in shipbuilders' orders

According to Seatrade Maritime News, at the end of December 2021, Chinese shipbuilders' order book showed 95 m DWT, increasing 34.8 percent year-on-year.

China's shipbuilding output, newly received orders and orders on hand accounted for 47.2 percent, 53.8 percent and 47.6 percent respectively of the

global shipbuilding market share, increasing 4.1 percent, 5 percent and 2.9 percent compared with the numbers for 2020.

Six Chinese shipbuilding companies made the world's top ten list in 2021, further strengthening the nation's competitiveness in the global shipbuilding market.

CSSC ranked as the world's largest in 2021, bagging about 25m DWT shipbuilding orders, 130 billion RMB in total; delivering 206 vessels, totaling 17 m DWT; showing on hand orders of 41 m DWT, accounting for 21.5 percent, 20.2 percent and 20.5 percent of global market share, respectively.

The newly received order volume of CSSC was doubled from the annual target of 2021, hitting a record high since its best performance in 2008. Of these, 75.2 percent of the new orders were mid-to-high ship types.

Stop Pointing Fingers at China's ZTP

Comment

By Staff Reporters

Over the past few months, China has been actively containing COVID-19 based on the country's zero-tolerance policy (ZTP). With the great effort made by the government and the public, the pandemic situation in China is well under control. However, some Western politicians and experts, especially in the U.S., have consistently questioned and criticized the ZTP policy.

On January 25, Ezekiel Emanuel and Michael Osterholm, the former members of a scientific COVID-19 advisory team to Biden Administration, posted an article in *The New York Times*, saying ZTP was unsustainable and even threatening the U.S. and the global supply chain. They suggest China can learn from some European countries to build immunity by spreading the virus.

And here is what is happening in the world today: on February 6, the number of confirmed cases in the Chinese mainland was only 79 (in 31 provinces), with no severe cases increase. The U.S. had over 290,000 thousand new confirmed cases and 2,565 deaths on the same day.

The data gap between the two countries is stark, and it is hard for people to understand why these U.S. experts keep saying China's policy is unsustainable though China has shown repeated victories over the virus for two years. What makes it even more incomprehensible is their views on letting the Chinese get infected in exchange for U.S. supply-chain security. Considering the Biden administration once hired these experts as consultants, how could the U.S. anti-pandemic work be effective!

Emanuel seemed to enjoy his viewpoint and shared the article on Twitter with a comment, "You can't build a wall around COVID; it's why China's zero-COVID policy is unsustainable. We all need China to come to terms with our new normal of endemic COVID. If not, disease & shutdowns there will affect the whole world."

Without a doubt, this article has received little praise, except for the perennial anti-Chinese brigade. Almost all the Twitter comments were critical of Emanuel.

Israeli Bioinformatics specialist Yaniv Erlich said, "This article is really cute. M.D.s from a nation that lost two years of life expectancy, couldn't issue enough tests, deployed the army to help hospitals, had riots and great resignation, give advice to a nation that hasn't

Hi! Tech

Plastic Waste Become Sports Shoes

Edited by QI Liming

Thaely Shoes was initially developed by Ashay Bhavne, an Indian student, to develop a sneaker that only uses components recycled from waste materials.

The startup makes shoes using fabric derived entirely from waste plastic bags. Bhavne named the brand Thaely, from the Hindi word for plastic bags.

It took about two years to develop the fabric using plastic waste and then the prototype shoe. Bhavne presented his product at Amity University Dubai's 2019 Eureka startup pitch competition and walked away with first place.

Since then, Thaely Shoes was able to receive funding and the production of the second prototype was put into action. The second prototype aimed to make a production ready sample, was developed in Dubai.

The plastic waste is recycled to make ThaelyTex fabric that looks and feels like leather. This ThaelyTex fabric is used to make the revolutionary product Thaely Y2k Pro sneakers. Each pair

experienced any of this."

Scott MacEachern, an archaeologist, replied sarcastically to the Twitter comment, "Sure. After all, a policy that has prevented many hundreds of thousands of needless COVID deaths is inconsistent with Western values. Can't have that!... Many of the Western articles about China and COVID over the last two years have been predicated on the assumption that Chinese lives are not as important as Western ones."

The dynamic ZTP approach is the general policy of China's current pandemic prevention and control, and it is the embodiment of the supremacy of the people and the supremacy of life. The practice of the past two years has shown that ZTP fully guarantees the health and safety of the Chinese people and ensures the normal operation of society and the smooth development of the national economy to the greatest extent possible. Many Western scholars can see this clearly, and many Americans who have suffered from COVID-19 are gradually seeing it. *Newsweek* published an article pointing out that once China decides to cancel the ZTP and chooses the U.S. method to deal with the pandemic, the number of newly diagnosed cases in China would exceed 630,000 in a single day, and China's medical system could collapse.

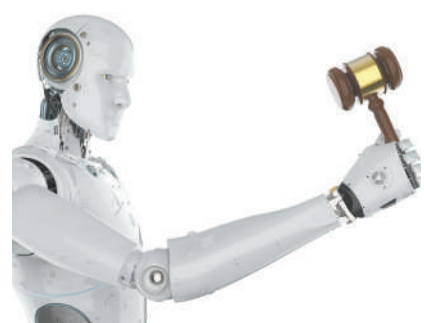
In addition, some foreign media also criticized China's nucleic acid testing for being too strict. Rather than saying that China's testing standards are too high, it is more proper to say that some countries' testing standards are too low. In line with a responsible attitude towards people's life, health and safety, China has every reason to be more vigilant against Omicron, a variant with amazing transmission ability.

As for the comment of China affecting the global commodity supply chain, this is ludicrous. They should stop accusing China immediately, especially when most of the quarantine materials around them are all "Made in China."

The successive emergence of various COVID strains such as Delta and Omicron shows that the pursuit of the so-called "natural immunity" policy promotes the virus's continuous mutation and makes the global pandemic situation more difficult to recover. Some experts recommend their own countries give up fighting against the virus and want other countries to follow suit. We wonder if this is because they have taken a professional wrong turn, or are they continuing to make excuses for their poor performance in preventing the outbreak?

AI Prosecutor Gets Better at Handling Crime

By Staff Reporters



AI prosecutor can pass judgment based on a verbal description of the case. (PHOTO: VCG)

A robot judge may sound like a character from a science fiction novel, but it has in fact become a reality. A research team in China recently developed an Artificial Intelligent prosecutor (AIP) that can judge whether a person is guilty with more than 97 percent accuracy.

The Shanghai Pudong People's Procuratorate tested the AIP, which can only pass judgment that is based on a verbal description of the case. Theoretically, it can reduce human workload and costs, while allowing prosecutors to focus on more complex tasks.

"The AIP system can replace prosecutors in the decision-making process to a certain extent," Shi Yong, the re-

search team leader, wrote in an article.

This is not the first time that AI has been used in law enforcement. As early as 2016, China's procurators began to use AI. Nowadays, many of them still use a kind of AI tool named System 206, which can assess the strength of proof, the conditions for arrest and the danger of suspects to the public.

The AIP can run on a computer. It can make a judgment based on 1,000 features retrieved from human case descriptions for each suspect. Most of these features are too small or not detailed enough, requiring System 206 to evaluate evidence.

It is reported that from 2015 to 2020, the machine has been tested on

more than 17,000 cases, and so far, it has been able to identify and prosecute the eight most common crimes, such as credit card fraud and gambling in Shanghai.

Shi explained that the AIP would soon become more effective through upgrades, and in the future, it will be able to identify less common crimes and bring multiple charges against a single suspect.

However, no matter how good it is, there is always the possibility of error. AIP cannot foresee how the public will react to cases in a changing social environment. "AI may help spot mistakes, but it cannot replace human decision-making," said Shi.



The sewing of Thaely Shoes. (PHOTO: VIDEO SCREENSHOTS)