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WEEKLY EDITION

## Beijing 2022 Ushers in Cooperation and Development

By WANG Xiaoxia

The Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 started as scheduled on February 4. More than 30 heads of state, heads of government, members of royal families and heads of international organizations attended the opening ceremony at the Bird's Nest.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has engaged himself in a flurry of face-to-face high-level meetings with foreign dignitaries. Development and cooperation emerged as the key issues during these meetings.

The leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation across multiple areas including trade, infrastructure, industrial development, agriculture modernization, scientific and technological cooperation, biodiversity protection and tackling climate change.

Joint statements were issued between China and Russia, Ecuador, Papua New Guinea, Argentina, Pakistan, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan respectively, for closer bilateral ties.

Apart from working together on key projects ranging from infrastructure and energy to the digital economy, the Belt and Road cooperation was much discussed.

Pakistan is willing to take active steps to promote the construction of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and strengthen cooperation with China in the fields of industry, agriculture and information technology, said Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan.

China is willing to increase its import of high-quality green agricultural

and sideline products from Kyrgyzstan, speed up advancing key cooperation projects, and support the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway.

Meanwhile Luxembourg expressed its willingness to actively participate in the Belt and Road cooperation. The two countries will make efforts to tap the potential of cooperation in fields such as new and high technology and green economy, strengthen their air freight services, and promote cultural exchanges.

Argentina has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with China on the Belt and Road cooperation.

Many leaders also voiced support for the Global Development Initiative (GDI) Xi proposed last year, which aims at speeding up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Kazakh President Kassym - Jomart Tokayev said Kazakhstan will continue to actively support and participate in cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative while supporting the GDI put forward by Xi.

According to the China-Russia joint statement, Russia confirmed its readiness to continue working on the China-proposed GDI, including participation in the activities of the Group of Friends of the GDI under the auspices of the UN.

UN Secretary - General Antonio Guterres, who came to China for the opening ceremony of Beijing 2022, hailed the GDI as one of great significance in promoting the realization of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressing the inequality and imbalance in global development.



Gu Ailing (left) in competition; Su Yiming (right) celebrated after claiming a historic gold medal in the men's snowboard big air; The National Ski Jumping Center, also called "Snow Ruyi," in Zhangjiakou, Hebei province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

### Editor's Pick

## Chinese Thought Behind Snow Sports Venues

Edited by CHEN Chunyou

At the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, athletes from around the world think highly of the two snow sports venues, "Snow Ruyi" National Ski Jumping Center in Hebei's Zhangjiakou city, and "Snow Flying" Shougang Big Air in Beijing's Shijingshan district. The question on many competitors' lips is, what is the thought behind the venues' designs?

At the outset, Zhang Li, the designer of the two sports venues and dean of School of Architecture, Tsinghua University, was not familiar with the two competition events. From watching previous games, he gradually began to understand the use of the venues and realized that the beauty of sports is determined by the posture and curve presented by the athletes in the air. After many discussions and brain storming sessions, the vision of "Snow Ruyi" and "Snow Flying" became clear to Zhang.

**"Snow Ruyi" National Ski Jumping Center — a gift from nature**

The design of "Snow Ruyi" is inspired by the traditional Chinese ornament Ruyi. In Chinese culture, Ruyi, usually made of jade or gold, represents auspiciousness.

When Zhang received the track curve of the National Ski Jumping Cen-

ter, provided by the International Skiing Federation (ISF), he decided to create the track capped by the top of "Snow Ruyi," a circular room with an outer diameter of 80 meters and an inner diameter of 40 meters. It can also be used for sightseeing after the competition.

The installation of a huge cantilevered building over the track, unrelated to the athletes, is unprecedented internationally. Zhang was not sure whether it would be certified by the ISF. However, considering the sustainable use of the stadium after the Games, the ISF finally agreed on the design with Chinese cultural characteristics. Thus the overall shape of "Snow Ruyi" was established.

The top of "Snow Ruyi" is composed of two jumping platforms, which can accommodate 500 people, and is more than 130 meters above the ground. The two S-shaped courses look like the main body of a Ruyi hanging in the air, while the bottom consists of a soccer field and audience area. The two courses are built away from the mountain, with the aim of protecting the surface runoff, and helping ecological restoration and animal migration in the future.

**"Snow Flying" Shougang Big Air — the first track-shared platform**

The idea of "Snow Flying" is borrowed from Dunhuang Murals' Flying

Apsaras, whose fluttering ribbons are imitated by the profile curve of the venue. Resembling the movement of the Flying Apsaras, the Shougang Big Air perfectly combines the snow sports with traditional Chinese culture.

The Shougang Big Air is set to host freestyle skiing and snowboard big air events. An innovative design of the Shougang Big Air is the availability of a shared track, making it possible to switch the two tracks quickly according to the types of the competition events.

In the past, the freestyle skiing event was held in mountainous areas, while the snowboard big air event happened in the urban cities. The two events require two entirely different tracks, and they have never shared the same venue.

The ISF expects to see more snow sports events to be hosted in Shougang and idea of merging the two events into one venue seemed to make sense to the design team.

With the help of his friend Ge Yi, an architect of steel structures, Zhang drew the sketch of the track transformation, which perfectly combines the characteristics of the two competition events—the track for assisting skiing and landing remain untouched, and the slope curve is properly changed, making it possible for two different events to compete on the same track.

## Inactivated COVID-19 Vaccines Effective Against Delta Variant

By QI Liming

A cohort study named *Effectiveness of Inactivated COVID-19 Vaccines Against Illness Caused by the B.1.617.2 (Delta) Variant During an Outbreak in Guangdong, China*, was published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in February this year.

According to the study, China's two most widely used COVID-19 vaccines, developed by Sinovac and Sinopharm, were shown to be effective against the Delta variant of the novel coronavirus, based on real-world data in China.

The study included 10,805 people with SARS-CoV-2 infection and close contacts in Guangdong, China, during the Delta variant outbreak in May and June of 2021. All people included in the study were linked to a single COVID-19 index case, with exposure identified by contact tracing.

"No severe or critical cases occurred among vaccinated participants," said the study, noting that "By contrast, unvaccinated participants had 19 (0.3 percent) severe or critical cases."

Among those fully vaccinated participants, only six individuals were aged 60 years or older, according to the study.

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## WEEKLY REVIEW

### Five-Year Plan for Emergency Management System Issued

The State Council of China on February 14 released a plan to uplift the construction of the country's emergency management system during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025). According to the plan, a unified, quick-response, and coordinated emergency management mechanism with higher levels of scientific and technological information and comprehensive support systems will be built by 2025.

### China Ranked First in PCT Application Again

According to the latest statistics issued by the World Intellectual Property Organization, China ranked first in international patent application volume in 2021 for the third consecutive year. Applicants from China filed 69,540 Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications, growing 0.9 percent from 2020.

### Powdery Mildew Resistance and Yield Retain in Wheat Achieved Simultaneously

Scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences illustrated that a mutant with a 304-kilobase pair targeted deletion in the MLO-B1 locus of wheat retains crop growth and yields while showing robust powdery mildew resistance. The result was published in *Nature* online on February 9.

INSIGHTS

China's Note

Post-Games Legacy Creates Sustainable Benefits

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WECHAT ACCOUNT

E-PAPER

