

# Young Africans See China as Most Influential Country

## Voice of the World

By Staff Reporters

China has overtaken the U.S. and is now viewed as the most influential foreign country with a positive contribution in the eyes of African youth, according to a survey released on June 13.

Conducted by the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, the survey showed that 76 percent of 4,507 young Africans across 15 countries named China as a foreign country with positive influence on their lives, compared with 72 percent for the U.S.

More than half (54 percent) of young Africans surveyed said China has a great impact on their country, with positive sentiment strongest in Rwanda, Malawi and Nigeria.

"We see China having climbed to pole position, we see a recognition of the fact that China is engaging in Africa at a time when very few others are," said Ivor Ichikowitz, chairman of the foundation during an interview in Johannesburg. "In Africa, America has played a very limited role, it has actually played an embarrassingly insignificant role in terms of actual investment, actual trade, actual building of infrastructure."

In the survey, the top reasons given for China's influence being positive are: affordable products, Chinese investments in infrastructure development on the continent and China's creation of job opportunities in African countries.

### Strengthened Trade Ties

Chinese investment in Africa has been climbing despite the pandemic. The General Administration of Customs of China recently noted that bilateral trade between China and Africa amounted to 254.3 billion USD in 2021, an increase of 35.3 percent from 2020. In the first quarter of 2022, Customs' official data confirmed that trade between the two increased by 23 percent, reaching 64.8 billion USD.



Members of Chinese medical team with local staff in Conakry, capital of The Republic of Guinea. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Data from Ministry of Commerce further revealed that over the last 20 years, China's trade with Africa has risen 20-fold, showing that China has become one of Africa's biggest bilateral trading partners.

According to a report released by *the Economist*, 33 of the poorest jurisdictions in Africa export 97 percent of their exports to China, with no tariffs and no customs duties.

It is noted that though bilateral trade was still heavily centered on China's imports of Africa's natural resources, China had increased its imports of manufacturing products from more diversified economies such as South Africa in recent years.

In addition, China has created 25 economic and trade cooperation zones in 16 African countries. The zones, registered with China's Ministry of Commerce, had attracted 623 businesses with a total investment of 735 billion

USD at the end of 2020, said the *China-Africa Economic and Trade Relationship Annual Report (2021)*.

These figures fully demonstrated the confidence of Chinese enterprises in Africa's future development.

### Infrastructure Footprint in Africa

To aid Africa with these massive infrastructure needs, China has provided significant fund for key infrastructure projects on the continent. Since 2011, China has been the biggest player in Africa's infrastructure boom, a 40 percent share that continues to rise, according to Forbes.

Between 2007 and 2020, China's two main overseas development banks invested 23 billion USD in infrastructure projects on the continent, according to an analysis of the Center for Global Development, a U.S. think tank.

At the Eighth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Summit held in 2021, China pledged 40 billion USD to infra-

structure projects in Africa as part of the country's Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035.

As a monument that exemplifies the historical friendship between China and Africa, is the Tanzania-Zambia Railway, which was built up with Chinese assistance in the 1970s.

Other major infrastructure projects such as Lobito-Luau railway in Angola, Kigamboni Bridge in Tanzania and photovoltaic power plant in Kenya, also marked strengthened momentum cooperation.

President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa praised China in his latest column in the local *Sunday Mail* newspaper, saying that, "Here in Zimbabwe, China has helped fund and implement several projects in the sectors of energy, air transport, water, real estate, industrial value addition, mining and defense."

## Opinion

# World Needs a Multilateral Trading System

Edited by QI Liming

For almost three decades, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has been lowering barriers on trade and smoothing the path of globalization.

WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) took place on June 12-15 at its headquarters in Geneva. During the meeting, ministers from across the world reviewed the functioning of the multilateral trading system, made general statements and took action on the future work of WTO.

Ministers from Canada, Egypt, India and other countries expressed their support for a multilateral trading system. WTO economists have estimated that if the world split into different trading blocs, it would lower the long-run level of real global gross domestic product by about 5 percent.

The trade war, inflamed by former U.S. President Donald Trump, and tariffs on allies in Europe in the name of national security, threatened to undo years of integration.

Meanwhile business has issued an urgent plea. On the eve of MC12, Business Europe and U.S. Chamber of Commerce said in a joint statement that the "primary objective" of the meeting must be to "reaffirm multilateralism and rules-based trade as the preferred path to boost global economic growth. The WTO also needs to demonstrate that it can respond to the most pressing challenges of our time, particularly health, climate change and food security."

Jane Drake-Brockman, representative of the group Australian Services Roundtable said, "This is a dangerous

time for trade. We really need ministers to get a quality outcome that signals the WTO is still a pro-trade organization."

Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, the IMF's chief economist, this month warned of a world fragmenting into, "Distinct economic blocs with different ideologies, political systems, technology standards, cross-border payment and trade systems, and reserve currencies."

And in a statement released by International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on global business priorities, it outlined seven key recommendations for action, namely WTO reform, e-commerce, fisheries subsidies, food security, health, environmental sustainability and services domestic regulation.

According to ICC, the global business community views WTO as an essential pillar in the multilateral trading system. As end-users of the system, the global private sector strongly encourages ministers to work towards ambitious outcomes that will meet the needs of modern economies and all stakeholders.

At a time of serious global economic challenges, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, pressure on global supply chains, and the prospect of high inflation and recession, ICC has released a statement on global business priorities urging ministers to take the opportunity presented by MC12 to reinforce the role of the WTO and to ensure its effectiveness to meet ongoing and new global challenges.

ICC Secretary-general John W.H. Denton AO said, "World trade negotiations are now at a crunch point. Ministers need to take hard decisions and not underestimate the importance of outcomes for business."



China makes significant contributions to WTO waiver of COVID-19 vaccine patents during MC12. (PHOTO: VCG)

## A Decade of Glory: China's Industrial Development

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China also issued 42 international standards and over 300 national standards for intelligent manufacturing. For the pilot demonstration projects of intelligent manufacturing, the production efficiency increased by 48 percent on average, the product lead time shortened by 38 percent and the defective rate of products dropped by 35 percent. The intelligent manufacturing in refining and chemicals, printing and dyeing, and home appliances in China has reached a world-leading level.

### SRDI for the future

The rise of specialized, refined, differential and innovative (SRDI) enterprises has been a distinctive feature in the development of SMEs in China.

Xu Xiaolan, vice minister of industry and information technology, said SRDI enterprises have strong capabilities of innovation and good growth, and play an inevitable role in strengthening, supplementing and stabilizing industrial chains.

Leading SRDI enterprises are nicknamed "little giant" enterprises, over 60 percent of which are in the basic fields of industry, over 70 percent deep diving more than ten years in their relevant industry and over 80 percent entering a

strategic emerging industrial chain. The average R&D investment ratio of SRDI enterprises reached 10.3 percent, 1.8 percent higher than that of listed companies.

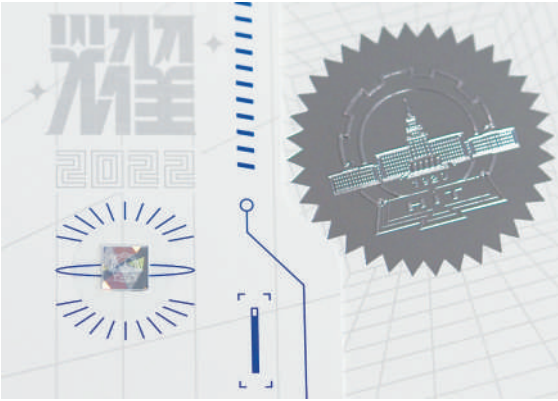
As a "little giant" enterprise, a soft robot company in Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area developed a kind of flexible gripper, which is accurate and controllable like a human hand when it is used in delicate operations like gripping a cell phone screen. The product has been sold to 23 countries and applied in industries like semiconductors, auto parts, medical instruments and fresh food.

China has spared no effort to support the development of SMEs. The Beijing Stock Exchange, opened last year, aims to offer financial support for SMEs and push for innovation-driven development. At a conference, Xu said that MIIT will help SMEs to pull through in every possible way and support them in enhancing their innovative capabilities and levels of expertise.

The industrial achievements of the past decade has laid a good foundation for future development of China's industry, and the country is ready to take the next step up.

## Hi! Tech

# Romance of Tech: University's Offer Glitters with Diamonds



The admission letter inlaid with diamond. (PHOTO: Harbin Institute of Technology)

By Staff Reporters

Recently, an admission letter inlaid with diamonds has gone viral on Chinese social media Weibo, with 260 million views.

Decorated with self-developed diamonds and sapphires, the admission letter to freshman of 2022 was made by a research team of the center for composite materials and structure, Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT).

Single crystal diamonds are widely used in quantum communication, extreme optics, AI, ultra-precision machining and other fields. With ultra-high thermal conductivity, it is electronic material that can tolerate high power and high frequency applications.

Different from gem-quality diamonds and natural diamonds, the single crystal diamonds inlays in the admission letter are industrial diamonds, according to Prof. Zhu Jiaqi, leader of the HIT research team.

In the process of developing heat dissipation for high-power devices and quantum chips, the team turned "waste" into treasure by using high-energy pulsed ultraviolet lasers to engrave single crystal diamonds that could not meet extreme requirements.

In collaboration with its partners, the HIT team successfully achieved elastic straining of diamond at an unprecedented level, a breakthrough that heralds a new diamond age in the utilization of the gemstone in microelectronics, photonics, and quantum information technologies.

# Here Comes Next Generation Cloud Computing

By QI Liming

On June 13, CIPU (Cloud Infrastructure Processing Units), a dedicated processor designed for new cloud data centers, was launched in China, marking yet another breakthrough in cloud computing. In future, it will replace CPU, becoming the center of a new generation of cloud computing architecture systems.

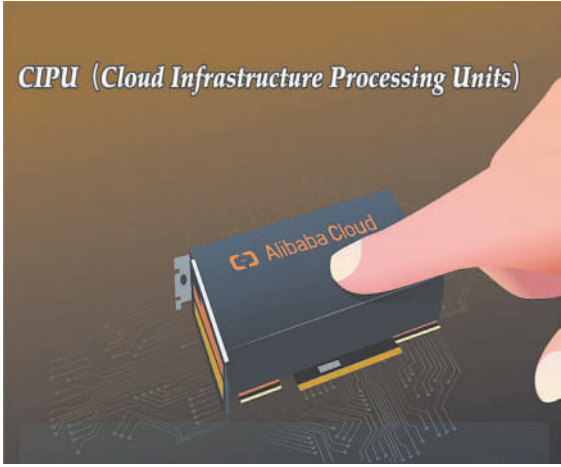
On one hand, CIPU can rapidly accelerate the computing, storage, and network resources of the data center through the cloud. On the other hand, it is integrated with the Apsara cloud operating system to connect millions of servers around the world into a super-computer.

The computing power, with "CIPU + Apsara" as the core, has been greatly improved. In mainstream and general-purpose computing scenarios, Nginx im-

proved performance by 89 percent and Redis (Remote Dictionary Server) improved performance by 68 percent.

MySQL improves performance of big data by 60 percent and in AI scenarios, its training performance of AI deep learning scenarios improves by 30 percent. In addition, the cost of single container virtualization was reduced by 50 percent while the startup speed of the virtual container increased by 350 percent.

In the digital era, there are many scenarios for super-large-scale computing power in a country with a large population. An example is the Spring Festival travel rush. China's train ticketing website, 12306.com, relies on the elastic computing capacity of cloud computing to ensure that the ticket purchasing system does not break down due to the centralized mad rush for tickets.



CIPU will become the center of a new generation of cloud computing architecture systems. (PHOTO: VCG)