科技日報

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International Cooperation

BRICS Continues to Uphold Innovation, Inclusiveness

By WANG Xiaoxia

BRICS countries vowed to use innovative and inclusive solutions including digital and technological tools, to promote sustainable development at the newly concluded summit.

The 14th BRICS Summit, with the theme of Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development, was held from June 23 to 24.

China, as the chair nation of this year's summit, said that BRICS countries need to uphold the pioneering spirit, innovation and cooperation, to improve global science and technology governance and allow more people to access and benefit from the scientific and technological advances.

This year, China has accelerated the building of the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center in Xiamen, and hosted the Forum on the Development of Industrial Internet and Digital Manufacturing and the Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development.

In addition, BRICS countries agreed on the Digital Economy Partnership Framework, issued the Initiative for Cooperation on Digitalization of Manufacturing, and established a BRICS Vaccine R&D Center, a network of technology transfer centers and an aerospace cooperation mechanism.

Events held in areas such as scientific and technological innovation (STI), people-to-people exchanges and sustainable development, have provided new platforms for cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries.

BRICS countries reiterated the importance of further enhancing BRICS solidarity and cooperation, and issued the Beijing Declaration at the 14th BRICS Summit on June 23.

All parties acknowledged the progress of BRICS cooperation on STI, especially the flagship projects initiative aiming to find effective STI solutions to global challenges.

The declaration vowed to carry out cooperation on R&D and application of new and emerging technologies, to address the most pressing problems in developing countries, such as poverty, hunger and climate change, as well as promoting the application of aerospace and big data technologies to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

GBA's Innovation Races into Fast Lane

By LU Zijian

The economic aggregate of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) has witnessed a great leap forward since the *Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area* was released in 2019, and the comprehensive strength of GBA has obviously grown.

Among all the contributing factors, sci-tech innovation in GBA deserves special attention.

Shenzhen - Hong Kong - Guangzhou ranked second for two consecutive years on the list of science and technology clusters in the *Global Innovation Index* report, published annually by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

In 2021, there were already about 57,000 national high-tech enterprises in nine Pearl River Delta cities of GBA.

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The Nansha New Area in Guangzhou is part of the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Located at the western tip of the West Kowloon Cultural District, the Hong Kong Palace Museum is scheduled to open on July 2 and will display exceptional works from the Palace Museum and beyond. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Editor's Pick

Sci-tech Museums Register a Decade of Progress

By WANG Xiaoxia

Development in the modern world is increasingly more reliant on the progress of science and technology, which subsequently sparks people's curiosity about these advances.

Now, to narrow the gap between science and society, a rise in efforts to improve public access to scientific and technological knowledge is underway. Museums of science and technology may well play a fundamental role in the communication of this knowledge, so that an informed and enlightened public can make decisions based on facts.

China has made great progress in the promotion of science and technology information in the past decade, with improved infrastructure, innovative exhibition techniques and broader participation across society at large.

Equal access

China has promoted the construction of infrastructure for popularizing science, including national sci-tech museums in recent years, ensuring science popularization to benefit more people.

From east to west, China has, to date, built 408 sci-tech museums, and hosted more than 850 million visitors over the past decade.

To ensure equal allocation of science education resources among urban and rural areas, a total of 1,112 science popularization sites have been built in rural middle schools, and training courses have been offered to nearly 5,000 teachers from villages newly lifted out of poverty.

A national online platform, China Digital Science and Technology Museum, has seen its users increase to more than 15 million. It is also available for rural residents, as all China's administrative villages have access to broadband Internet.

On March 23, the second class from Tiangong space station was live streamed with nearly 100 science museums and venues across the country, including the museum on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

As a result, the proportion of scientifically literate Chinese citizens increased to 10.56 percent in 2020, nearly twice that in 2015, said Zhang Yuzhuo, vice chairman of the China Association for Science and Technology. And according to National Action Plan for Scientific Literacy 2021-2035, this figure will exceed 15 percent by 2025.

Innovative services

Different from other museums, science and technology museums tend to become practical places, where science plays upon the senses and can be experienced in every conceivable way. These museums are therefore educational, cultural and scientific.

Over the past 10 years, to meet public demand, science popularization venues around the country have adopted specialized and innovative exhibition techniques to share scientific and technical information in an intelligible, meaningful and enjoyable way.

In January 2022, the Palace Museum and the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum co-organized a multimedia exhibition called "Catalog of Animals Collected in the Qing Palace," where specimens are combined with cultural relics and ancient paintings, an integration of science and arts.

To popularize science information in schools, Chongqing Science and Technology Museum has customized more than 150 lessons for students, to trigger their interest in science.

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Ability and Integrity Key in Evaluating Sci-tech Personnel

By Staff Reporters

A work plan detailing the trials of reforming evaluation of scientific and technological personnel was reviewed and adopted at the 26th meeting of the Central Commission for Comprehensively Deepening Reform held on June 22.

It was emphasized at the meeting, that both ability and integrity should be taken into consideration when the pilot reform is conducted on the evaluation of scientific and technological personnel.

The evaluation should be done in different categories, including undertaking tasks concerning national key technological breakthroughs, conducting basic research, applied research and technological development, and social welfare.

The trials are to establish an evaluation index that fits the characteristics of R&D activities, innovating evaluation methods, and improving the internal institutions of employing units, in order to form feasible measures that can be duplicated and disseminated.

Relevant departments and local authorities should ensure their units taking part in the trials to promote the smooth implementation of the pilot reform.

Global Development Report: A Blueprint for Growth

By Staff Reporters

Analyzing the progress and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Development Report was released by the Center for International Knowledge on Development on June 20.

Speaking at the report's launch via video link, Wang Yi, state councilor and foreign minister said the report will provide intellectual support for global development.

Noting that China places great importance on common development and was the first to adopt a national plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Wang said as an important measure of China's implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the report will provide a useful reference for countries to pursue development.

The report also outlines the context of global development, explains the core concepts, fundamental principles, implementation pathways, and early successes of the GDI, and offers policy recommendations for building a global community of development. The policy advice proposed by the report covers eight perspectives, namely reducing poverty, maintaining food security, safeguarding human health, promoting financing for sustainable development, advancing green and low-carbon development, facilitating the industrialization in developing countries, harnessing the digital economy for prosperity and benefits for all, and enhancing connectivity in the new era.

Chen Fengying, researcher at China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said that the eight suggestions are aligned to GDI, explain the challenges facing humankind and offer a future blueprint, which shares China's experience with the world.

China will stay committed to true multilateralism and an open and inclusive spirit of partnership, actively share development expertise and experience, and work with all parties to implement GDI, step up efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda, and build a global community of development, said Wang.

Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator in China, also attended the launch of the report, saying that the UN in China is keen to act as a conduit and independent broker, to leverage China's development experiences to the benefit of other developing countries.

WEEKLY REVIEW

World Intelligence Congress Held

The 6th World Intelligence Congress was held in Tianjin on June 24 and 25, with an exhibition displaying the latest achievements in the intelligence industry, and 30 online forums focusing on cutting-edge technologies such as XR, AI, 3D and motion capture.

Three Remote Sensing Satellites Launched

The second batch of three Yaogan-35 satellites were launched by a Long March-2D carrier rocket on June 23 and entered the planned orbit successfully. China launched a batch of three Yaogan-35 satellites last November. The satellites will be mainly used to conduct science experiments, land resource surveys, disaster prevention, and estimate agricultural yields.

Chemical Induction of Totipotent Stem Cells

A research team from Tsinghua University has developed a chemical approach for totipotent stem cells (TotiSCs) induction and maintenance, providing a defined in vitro system to manipulate and understand totipotent state towards creating life from non-germline. The study result was published online in journal *Nature*.

Breakthrough in Silkworm Research

Research team from Southwest University conducted the first ultrahigh-resolution analysis of the silkworm's silk-producing organ and its gene expression dynamics at the single-cell dimension, according to an article published in the journal *Nature Communications* in June.

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