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World Internet Conference Organization Inaugurated

By Staff Reporters

An international organization has been established to consolidate the World Internet Conference (WIC) on the basis of the successful hosting of eight WICs in a row. An inaugural ceremony for the WIC was held in Beijing on July 12.

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the World Internet Conference for the inauguration of the international organization, which was read out at the event by Huang Kunming, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee.

The establishment of the organization follows the informatization trend of the times, and it has responded to the wide call of the international community for dialogue, consultation and cooperation in cyberspace, Huang said at the inaugural ceremony.

Huang expressed the hope that all parties will step up dialogue and exchanges, deepen practical cooperation, and jointly build a cyberspace that is fairer and more equitable, open, inclusive, secure, stable and vibrant to allow the internet to better benefit people all over the world.

Members of the World Internet Conference include internet- related international organizations, enterprises, institutions, experts and scholars.

The Optics Valley Square at the entrance of the valley in Wuhan city, central China's Hubei province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Basic Sciences Boost Sustainable Development

By Staff Reporters

Focusing on how basic sciences facilitate sustainable development, the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD) kicked off with an opening ceremony on July 8 in Paris, headquarters of UNESCO.

At the event's high-level roundtable, China's Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang suggested that two types of relationships should be taken care of in order to continuously enhance the efficiency of basic sciences and effectively promote the development of basic sciences. One is the relationship between target oriented basic sciences and free explored basic sciences, and the other is the relationship between stable funding and competitive funding.

It is difficult for basic research to reach consensus among peers, but the government has to make funding decisions based on non-consensus, said Wang, adding that such a funding mechanism also faces challenges in terms of the unity and personalization of research funding, brought by different subjects and scientific questions.

Wang emphasized that the key players of scientific research are scientists, and it is one of the tasks of the government to fund basic research, so that the scientists and their research achievements realize continuous and positive upgrades.

Hou Jianguo, president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), noted in his speech that key achievements of basic sciences can bring about the profound change of productivity and major progress of society. Paying attention to basic scientific research is to care for the future development of humankind, as many common challenges facing human society need to be tackled with more sci-tech support, said Hou.

CAS hopes to strengthen communication and exchange with scientists all over the world through IYBSSD activities, and make concrete contributions to promoting global sustainable development by joining hands with the global sci - tech community, said Hou.

International Cooperation

Soymilk Helps Reduce Malnutrition in Africa

By Staff Reporters

"This soymilk tastes good, and I want another cup!" said a village child from the Morogoro region of Tanzania.

Soymilk, rich in flavor and nutrition, is an essential part of traditional Chinese breakfast but a new drink to most Africans. Now, however, it is becoming increasingly popular among Morogoro farmers and plays a supplementary role in their local nutrition.

The connection between this healthy drink and Morogoro farmers, originated from a bilateral agriculture project initiated this year by Chinese agricultural scientist Li Xiaoyun and his team from the China Agricultural University (CAU).

The project, called "Small Bean, Big Nutrition" aims to promote the inter-planting of maize and soybean. Maize is an important staple food for Tanzanian people, said Li, adding that soybean, which is rich in various amino acids and protein, can help improve local nutrition structure.

In collaboration with the Morogoro authorities, experts from CAU selected four villages in the region as the pilot zone. Soybean seeds were distributed to farmers in January this year, with on-site guidance on planting and management provided by technicians and project coordinators.

In late May and June, local farmers harvested soybeans. Using soymilk makers provided by CAU team, they learned how to make soymilk, which has become a firm favorite, leading to a willingness to plant more soybeans next year.

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Farmers learn to make soymilk in the Morogoro region of Tanzania. (PHOTO provided by CAU)

Editor's Pick

China Optics Valley: A Model of Industry-University-Government Cooperation

By LU Zijian

Beginning with a stream of light, China's Optics Valley has evolved into a zone of high - tech innovation through the joint efforts of universities, research institutes, enterprises and government.

Located in central China's Hubei province, Wuhan East Lake High-tech Development Zone, or Optics Valley, is the birthplace of China's first practical optical fiber, and now the world's largest production base of optical fiber and optical cable.

Fiber breakthrough

The first practical optical fiber was invented in 1976 by Zhao Zisen, academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. With only the most basic materials, Zhao managed to draw the optical fiber after three years of hard work in a laboratory of Wuhan Research Institute of Post and Telecommunications.

With Zhao leading the way, scientists in the Optics Valley gradually achieved technology breakthroughs.

In particular, scientists in Wuhan National Laboratory for Optoelectronics (WNLO) tackled challenges in brain imaging, solar cells, ultrafast lasers, laser manufacturing, optoelectronic devices and integration and data storage.

An attosecond laser of 2.6 gigawatts was realized via a new mechanism proposed by Lan Pengfei, professor at WNLO. The single pulse energy output still ranks first in the world.

Less than a month ago, the National Center of Technology Innovation for Digital Construction (NCTI- DC) and the National Center of Technology Innovation for Intelligent Design and Numerical Control (NCTI- IDNC) were inaugurated at a conference regarding sci- tech innovation in Hubei province.

The two centers are led by Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) and located in Optics Valley.

Together with other national research platforms, including WNLO, they will offer strategic support to help Optics Valley go global. ***See page 3***

Shipping Industry Embraces Green, Smart Growth

By WANG Xiaoxia

China is playing a leading role in the international shipping industry, and it is pursuing sustainable development of the industry in a green, low - carbon and smart way, authorities cited at the recently concluded National Maritime Day.

According to China's Ministry of Transport (MOT), the country has the best connected shipping networks in the world and makes up about one third of global shipping volume. Home to seven of the 10 busiest ports in the world, the country also has the world's largest cargo and container throughput.

In 2021, China's waterway cargo transport volume reached 8.24 billion tons, ranking first in the world. In terms of inland waterway system, the freight volume of the Yangtze River has ranked first in the world for years.

For China, about 95 percent of its traded goods are carried out by maritime shipping, said He Jianzhong, chairman of China Institute of Navigation, adding that it must be cognizant of its position to better develop the shipping industry.

In recent years, China has carried out a series of measures and achieved progress in the green, low- carbon and smart development of the shipping industry.

To promote the green transformation of the industry, China has improved laws, regulations and standards for the application of new and clean energy in waterway transportation, strengthening the control of pollution from ships and ports.

At present, the long - term mechanism has been continuously improved for pollution prevention and control along the Yangtze River Economic Belt, which basically realized closed - loop management of the whole transportation process and the tracing of pollutants, said MOT.

In terms of smart shipping, China has actively promoted the construction of smart ports and smart waterways, and built a shipping service network based on block chain.

BeiDou Navigation Satellite System was applied to waterway transportation, and an electronic navigation map of the Yangtze River has been completed. Smart vessels have been put into trial or operation. For example, "Zhi Fei," China's first self - developed 300TEU container ship with smart navigation capability, was officially delivered and put into operation in Qingdao Port, Shandong on April 22.

With blockchain technology, China has upgraded the shipping service system for imported e-commerce goods and refrigerated containers, realizing the digitalization of the bills of lading and sea waybills, according to MOT.

The development and upgrade of Chinese shipping industry will help ensure the stability of international supply chains, and promote world economic and trade recovery.

Notable progress has been made in jointly building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The Piraeus port in Greece, invested and operated by Chinese companies, has become the largest container port in the Mediterranean, said Zhao Chongjiu, vice minister of MOT.

WEEKLY REVIEW

Asia's First Professional Cargo Hub Airport Operates

The Ezhou Huahu Airport in central China's Hubei province started operation on July 17. It is the first professional cargo hub airport both in China and Asia, and the fourth in the world. With the new airport, goods from Ezhou can be delivered to any part of China overnight and to overseas destinations in two days.

Tianzhou-3 Separates from Space Station

Carrying supplies for China's Tiangong space station, the Tianzhou- 3 cargo craft detached from the space station combination on July 17, after completing all assigned tasks, according to China Manned Space Engineering Office. The cargo craft is in good condition and will re-enter the atmosphere under ground control in the future.

MEE: Water Quality Continues to Improve

The quality of surface water in China has improved for the first half of 2022, with water of Class I-III quality comprising 85.7 percent of all tested water sections, increasing by four percent of that last year, and the water of inferior quality (Class V) made up 1.1 percent with a year-on-year drop of 0.8 percent, according to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE).

Record Breaking Lvzhijiang Bridge Completes Load Tests

The Lvzhijiang Bridge on Yuxi- Chuxiong Expressway in southwest China's Yunnan province passed load tests on July 18. With a length of 798 meters, the bridge is the world's first single - tower single - span steel box girder suspension bridge, and has the longest main span of 780 meters.

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