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International Cooperation

60 Years of Flourishing China-France Relations

By LIN Yuchen

As the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and France is commemorated in 2024, a tapestry of cultural exchange, economic cooperation and mutual understanding is unfolding. The tie established six decades ago has evolved into a robust partnership, contributing to global harmony and progress.

At the heart of this milestone lies cultural exchange. The exchange of gifts between the leaders of the two countries symbolizes the deep-rooted friendship between the two nations. A treasured French edition of *An Introduction to the Analects of Confucius*, dating back to 1688, was gifted to Chinese President Xi Jinping by his French counterpart, President Emmanuel Macron, in 2019. The symbolic gesture underscored the enduring resonance of Confucian philosophy across continents and the fusion of ancient Chinese wisdom with the Age of Enlightenment in France in the 18th century.

Bilateral economic ties have also thrived, exemplified by the fruitful collaboration showcased at events like the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. France, renowned for its culinary delights and wine culture, has found a receptive market in China, while Chinese products, from agricultural produce to technological innovations, find their way into French markets. This synergy not only enriches bilateral trade but also fosters a deeper appreciation of each other's heritage.

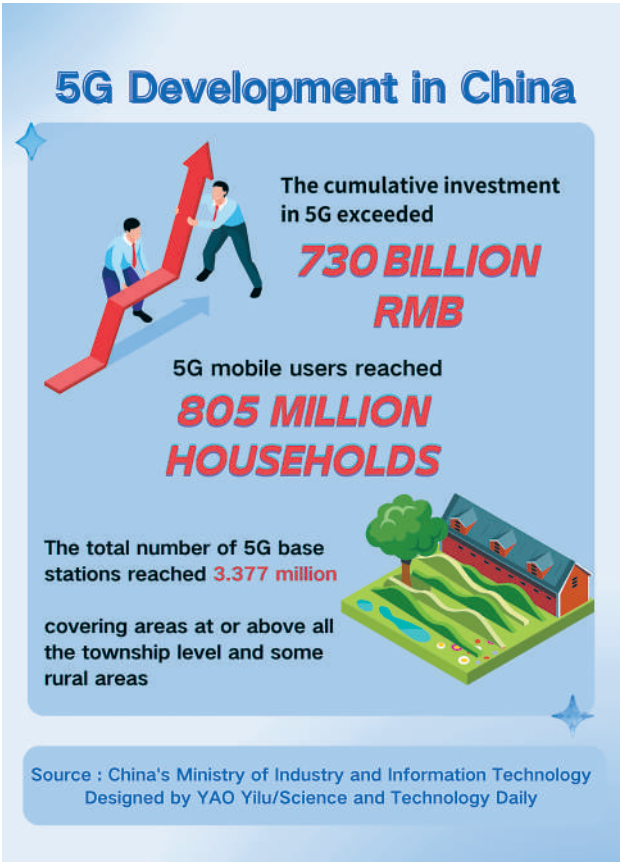
Cultural immersion has transcended borders, with initiatives like the Phoenix Bookstore in Paris showcasing Chinese literature, and Chinese students eagerly gearing up to volunteer at the Paris Olympics that will kick off in July. These exchanges of language, literature and sports embody the spirit of mutual learning and respect.

Furthermore, diplomatic engagements at the highest level reflect a commitment to global cooperation. President Xi and President Macron's exchange of congratulatory messages on January 27 on the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties emphasizes their shared vision of a peaceful, prosperous world. Their pledge to enhance strategic partnership underscores the pivotal role China and France play in addressing global challenges, from climate change to economic development.

Looking ahead, the 60th anniversary marks not just a milestone but a springboard for deeper collaboration.

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New Graphic



China's research icebreaker Xuelong 2 holds an open day at the Lyttelton Port in Christchurch, New Zealand, on January 28. About 400 local people board the ship for a visit. (PHOTO: VCG)

Editor's Pick

'Zhifei' Revolutionizes Smart Shipping

By CUI Shuang & LIANG Yilian

China's first autonomous 300 TEU containership, the Zhifei, steered itself effortlessly into the harbour near the Aoshan Bay in Qingdao, Shandong province, much to the amazement of onlookers recently. The Zhifei, which made its maiden voyage in April 2022, was completing a phased docking demonstration using one of its three driving modes. It has three driving modes — manned driving, remote driving, and unmanned driving. These modes enable the container ship to have intelligent perception of its navigation environment, plan routes independently, avoid collisions intelligently, and be driven via remote control.

Breaking the data barrier

An advanced radar system is important to developing an intelligent driving system. Due to the fact that some well-known foreign radar brands are not avail-

able to China, the R&D team decided to develop and improve domestic radars with relevant enterprises.

Over a year, the R&D team and radar enterprise technicians were able to improve the effectiveness of data through continuous sea test measurements and equipment parameter adjustments.

"The team also specially developed a series of wave active suppression algorithms to clean out the wrong data caused by its error or electromagnetic interference, and make up for the lack of radar measurement accuracy," said Gao Jie, an official of Navigation Brilliance, a Qingdao-based smart ship technology company and one of the vessel's developers.

Finding a way to secure communication

For intelligent driving, reliable communication is paramount. However, the R&D team found that due to the com-

plexities of the marine environment, there was no single solution to avoiding signal loss.

"Just like you are making a phone call in a moving car, there are multiple base stations serving you continuously. But this is difficult to do on a mobile ship, because telecom operators have many blind spots in nearshore base station coverage, and signal delays, interruptions and losses can occur when base stations switch," said Yang Zongwei, deputy general manager of Navigation Brilliance.

Three major operators, China Telecom, China Mobile and China Unicom were consulted to work with the team to improve the base station coverage, adjust the antenna orientation, and optimize the network signal, to ensure that each part of the route is covered by an operator's base station.

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China's Shipbuilding Industry Tops for 14 Years Straight

By WANG Xiaoxia

China's shipbuilding industry has ranked first in the world for 14 consecutive years in terms of three major indicators, according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).

In 2023, China was the only country to achieve comprehensive growth of the three major indicators, namely, shipbuilding output increased 11.8 percent year-on-year to 42.3 million deadweight tonnes (dwt), new orders surged 56.4 percent year-on-year to 71.2 million dwt, and holding orders expanded 32 percent year-on-year to 139.39 million dwt, said the MIIT.

It is notable that China's shipbuilding industry has been upgraded through

continuous technological innovation, and made breakthroughs in homegrown large ship building, including large cruise ships, large LNG carriers and aircraft carriers.

China's first domestically-built large cruise ship, the Adora Magic City, was delivered in Shanghai on November 4, 2023, after five years' design and construction. The cruise ship, 323.6 meters in length, with a gross weight of 135,500 tonnes and a total of 2,125 guest rooms, can accommodate up to 5,246 passengers. On January 7 this year, it completed its commercial maiden voyage.

Dubbed a "super freezer truck at sea," constructing a large LNG carrier is globally recognized as a challenging project. China delivered its first large LNG carriers in 2008, the Dapeng Sun, breaking the duopoly of Japan and South Korea in

LNG carrier manufacturing. Since then, Chinese shipbuilders have continued to update technologies and increase the localization rate.

As of June 2023, it has safely carried 257 cargo shipments with a cumulative delivery of approximately 16.7 million tons of LNG. From January to July 2023, China undertook orders for 18 large LNG carriers, accounting for 35 percent of the global total.

In 2017, the first domestically built aircraft carrier, the Shandong, was launched and in December, 2019, the Shandong officially entered service. In June 2022, China launched its third aircraft carrier, the Fujian, which has a displacement of more than 80,000 tons and is the first catapult aircraft carrier designed and built completely by China.

Digital Code Facilitates Medical Services

By WANG Xiaoxia

The medical insurance code is an electronic certificate and information identification for medical insurance participants. Since the digital tool was launched in November 2019, it has seen more than 1.08 billion people register and brought great convenience to its users, according to the National Healthcare Security Administration (NHSA).

Those covered by basic medical insurance can view the digital code on the national government service platform, WeChat, Alipay and bank apps. It can be used to make hospital appointments, see doctors, undergo tests and examinations, collect reports and buy medicines.

Thirty-one provinces (autonomous regions or municipalities) directly under the central government and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps support the purchase of drugs using medical insurance codes, with access to more than 800,000 designated medical institutions nationwide.

As for the activation rate, Zhejiang and Qinghai provinces take the lead, achieving full coverage of their enrollees. More than half the provinces have an activation rate of more than 75 percent.

According to Tencent Health estimates, medical insurance code-related services save an average of 43 minutes for each patient. The code not only makes healthcare convenient for patients, but also improves hospitals' efficiency.

The medical insurance department will continue to optimize and improve the application scenario of the medical insurance code, simplify service procedures, and develop more functions, according to Xie Zhangshu, an official at the NHSA.

WEEKLY REVIEW

AES100 Aircraft Engine Passes Ice Test with Flying Colors

China has successfully completed rigorous ice formation testing for its developed AES100 advanced civil turboshaft engine, marking a major breakthrough in aircraft engine certification technology, according to the Aero Engine Corporation of China on January 29.

CNOOC's Breakthrough Valve Boosts Oil Flow Control

On January 29, CNOOC's first HAILONG TOOLS hollow motor type underground flow control valve successfully passed various functional tests which lasted 72 consecutive hours. It marks a breakthrough in China's offshore underground flow control technology, and speeds up the intelligent completion process of the company's offshore oil fields.

Hydrogen Combustion Aircraft Makes Maiden Flight

The first four-seat hydrogen internal combustion aircraft prototype successfully completed its maiden flight at the Faku Caihu Airport in Shenyang, Liaoning province, on January 29. The test flight data indicated adequate aircraft power, minimal vibration and exceptional handling performance.

First Zero-subsidy Offshore Wind Project Connected to Grid

On January 28, the first batch of the Fangchenggang Offshore Wind Power Demonstration Project's units were successfully connected to the grid. The Fangchenggang project, an offshore wind power scheme under construction in Guangxi, is the largest single installed capacity and the first zero-subsidy affordable offshore wind power project in China.

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