

# Building Bridge for China-EU Cooperation

## Dialogue

By BI Weizi & LONG Yun

Dr. Christoph Schrempp, chairman of the Tianjin Branch of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) and general manager of Airbus Tianjin Delivery Center, is both an entrepreneur and an envoy dedicated to promoting economic and trade cooperation between China and the EU. He sat down with *Science and Technology Daily* recently to share his perspectives on China's opening up and its contribution to world economic recovery, while also introducing EUCCC's efforts to build a bridge for EU-China economic and trade cooperation and promote Tianjin to European companies.

**Science and Technology Daily: What factors do EU companies consider when choosing investment destinations? What are Tianjin's advantages?**

**Dr. Christoph Schrempp:** There are some common factors, such as how much companies feel welcomed by the city, local preferential policies, local infrastructure and availability of skilled labor. This leads me directly to the advantages of Tianjin. First, Tianjin has very good infrastructure, with Tianjin Port ranking among the top 10 container seaports in the world, and an international airport at Binhai that handles commercial aircraft and air cargo. Second, high-speed trains and highways connect Tianjin to other major Chinese cities. Lastly,



Dr. Christoph Schrempp. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Nankai University and Tianjin University provide a highly educated and skilled workforce.

**In 2021, Tianjin set manufacturing as the foundation of the city's future development. What are your views on this?**

Tianjin has always had a strong manufacturing base. Considering the current situation of the city, it makes sense to strengthen the strong areas and make them even stronger. In fact, this is something that we at the EUCCC strongly promote in our Tianjin Local Position Paper 2023/2024, where we recommend focusing on Tianjin's manufacturing strength. The idea of developing into an intelligent manufacturing hub is very much supported by

the EUCCC.

**What opportunities can China's high-quality development offer to the world?**

Indeed, high-quality development provides opportunities for the world. China and its competitive ecosystem are now attractive to international companies. To quote our former president of EUCCC, "China is the fitness club for EUCCC member companies." On the other hand, the world can benefit from the results of high-quality development, such as environmental protection.

**What role does EUCCC play in promoting Tianjin to European companies and attracting more companies to invest in Tianjin?**

First of all, the people and compa-

nies involved in EUCCC see themselves as ambassadors to build bridges between China and their home countries. Companies based in Tianjin would not be here if their business was not profitable. Even during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, seven out of 10 member companies reported a positive EBIT (Earnings Before Interest and Tax), which sends a confidence-reinforcing signal to the world. In short, while we advocate for a better business environment in Tianjin Municipality, we pave the way for new investment to come in through our member companies in the form of their partners and suppliers.

**From 2008 to 2022, China has made significant progress in opening up to the outside world, with its openness index rising from 0.6789 to 0.7517. What do you think about China's achievements in this area?**

China has made visible efforts to open up, and remarkable changes have occurred with the first issuance of a negative list for foreign investment in China in 2018. This list replaced the previous government approval practice, which required any foreign investment into China to go through a government review process. It is also appreciated that the list of excluded sectors for foreign investment is getting shorter from one revision to the next. This is definitely a step in the right direction, and one can clearly see the continuous efforts the Chinese government has made and is making. We all know that for decades China has been and still is the powerhouse of the global economy.

# New Int'l Web Portal of Beijing Launched

## Service Info

By Staff Reporters

The upgraded version of the International Web Portal of Beijing (<https://english.beijing.gov.cn/>) was officially unveiled on March 28.

The website focuses on enhancing the development of a center for international exchanges in Beijing, offering information release, public services, consultation and communication channels. It is accessible in nine lan-

guages, including English, Korean, Japanese, German, French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic, and Portuguese. The website now offers complete online services for foreigners and foreign-funded enterprises.

**"Discover Beijing" presents you the charm**

The upgraded website emphasizes cultural tourism, sustainable practices, technological innovations, and other themes, showcasing Beijing's progress and blending ancient and modern aspects elegantly. The section "My Story in Beijing" tells engaging tales of entrepre-

neurship, company growth, and personal experiences of working, living, studying, and travelling here, which truly records everyone's unforgettable experiences in this dynamic city.

**"Opportunities of Beijing" brings you possibilities**

As an international metropolis, Beijing offers a first-class business environment with extensive growth avenues for all businesses. The upgraded website zeros in on Beijing's business environment, the construction of the "Two Zones" (i.e. the Integrated National Demonstration Zone for Opening up the Services Sector and the China (Beijing) Pilot Free Trade Zone), the coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, industry exchanges, and other content, releasing information on economic development and advantages of investment, key industries and parks and launching guidance modules for foreign investment.

**Convenient services can all be accessed**

The new website is designed for scenario-based integrated services, enabling

you to benefit from more digital services with your passport information. Based on thematic services such as investing, working, living, studying, travelling and consuming, the website features two series of instructive videos entitled "How Beijing" and "Service Guide for Foreigners in Beijing", providing more than 300 friendly service guidelines and online reservation and handling channels for over 50 high-frequency foreign-related items including accommodation registration and visa application. Also, "Beijing-Service", as the English-language WeChat official account of the International Web Portal of Beijing, caters to the diverse needs of foreign-funded enterprises and foreigners in Beijing.

**"Policy Toolkit" offers services**

To enhance the accessibility and readability of policy-relevant information, the website newly launched the "Policy Interpretation" and "Investment Cases" sections with detailed interpretations of the essential points of policies and core provisions in hot fields such as the "Two Zones" and talent.

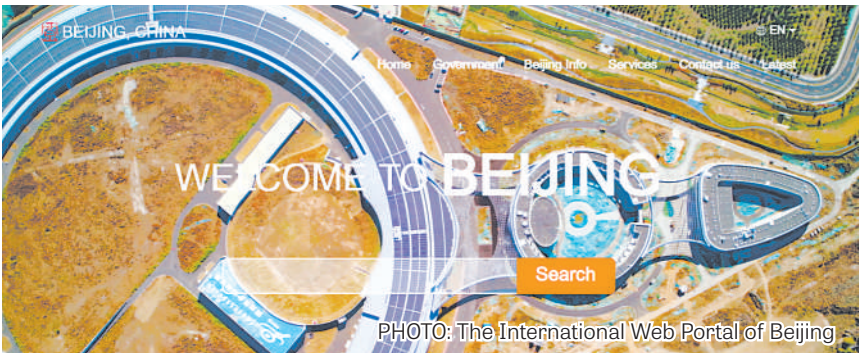


PHOTO: The International Web Portal of Beijing

# Geomagnetic Storms: Threat or Visual Treat?

## Science Outreach

By Staff Reporters

The recent phenomenon of geomagnetic storms has raised public concern. What is a geomagnetic storm? How do geomagnetic storms affect people? Experts answer some of the major questions.

Geomagnetic storms are caused when the sun's coronal mass ejections with their embedded magnetic field strike Earth's magnetosphere at a high field, causing severe disturbances in the magnetic field.

Professor He Jiansen, deputy dean of the School of Earth and Space Sciences at Peking University, said, "Geomagnetic storms are essentially the effects of solar eruptions on Earth." Cyclical changes occur in the sun's magnetic field generally every 11 years. The year 2024 is in the 25th solar activity cycle. It is also the "big year" of sunspots, which will produce solar eruptions, or the release of the sun's energy.

The China Meteorological Administration (CMA) said that under the influence of geomagnetic activity, the orbital altitude of space stations may decrease due to the atmospheric drag, and positioning error of satellite navigation equipment may increase.

Cai Zheng, associate professor of

the Department of Astronomy at Tsinghua University, said geomagnetic storms can affect the propagation of radio waves, interfering with ground communications and satellite signals. This can affect the accuracy of satellite navigation systems and the signal quality of mobile phones and satellite TV.

Also, strong geomagnetic storms can affect the power transmission system, increasing the current load on transmission lines and sometimes even damaging transformers or other grid equipment, causing power outages.

But there is no reason for people to worry unduly. Experts say geomagnetic storms usually have no effect on human health and interfere very little with modern, commonly used electronic communications products, though

astronauts working in space stations may be more affected.

During geomagnetic storms, the charged, high-energy particles falling from space are guided into Earth's atmosphere by the geomagnetic field, and collide with the atoms in the upper atmosphere, releasing energy. This results in the phenomenon of luminescence.

Therefore, a geomagnetic storm would be a great opportunity to see the sky light up. "Although auroras are common in areas with high magnetic latitudes, if the geomagnetic storm is particularly strong, the range of aurora occurrence will also expand. Especially in 2024, which is the peak year of solar activity, it is a good opportunity to chase light," he said.

## Letter to the Editor

# What China's Opening Up Brings to the World

By Francesco Faiola

The opening-up policy adopted by China has played a crucial role in promoting international cooperation within the science and technology sector. Its growing openness in this field has significantly contributed to global progress.

This openness has enabled greater collaboration between Chinese scientists and their international counterparts, leading to the exchange of ideas and the development of new technologies. Additionally, Chinese innovations in areas such as renewable energy and telecommunications have helped to drive progress around the world.

China has been actively working on attracting and embracing foreign talents in the field of science and technology. One of the main reasons is the country's focus on innovation and science and technology advancements.

The Chinese government has implemented various policies and programs to attract and retain foreign talents, which include providing funding for research projects, investing in infrastructure, and offering attractive salaries and benefits. Additionally, the government is refining its institutions and mechanisms for talent development, granting greater autonomy to researchers, and providing a stage for a range of talents to innovate and shine.

Meanwhile, China has made it easier for foreigners to work and live in the country by simplifying visa procedures and providing support services.

At the same time, as a result of China's opening up, Chinese companies have formed partnerships with their foreign counterparts and have collaborated on R&D projects. By opening up its markets and encouraging cultural exchanges, China has built stronger relationships with other countries, thereby becoming an increasingly important player on the world stage.

Based on my observation, China has gradually emerged as a global hub for open innovation, with Beijing being one of the most prominent cities for this type of innovation. In the past years, the Beijing municipal government has accelerated efforts to transform the city into

an international innovation center. A focus has been placed on attracting and developing top-tier scientists, particularly those from the younger generation.

Action plans have also been implemented to secure the city's leading position in basic research and achieve breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields. These plans have ensured that Beijing-based national laboratories operate at the highest standards and have supported new R&D institutes in their research endeavors. Additionally, business-led collaboration that bridges industries, universities, and research institutes has been promoted. The development of incubators for sci-tech startups is being encouraged, along with attracting international technology organizations and foreign-funded R&D centers to open branches in Beijing.

These efforts aim to create an open innovation ecosystem with global competitiveness. For example, Beijing has been making significant stride in the development of "science cities" and "demonstration areas." Zhongguancun Science City experiences rapid development, Huairou Science City intensifies its efforts to develop the Comprehensive National Science Center, and Beijing Future Science Park strengthens collaboration with enterprises and local universities. In addition, the Demonstration Area for Innovation-based Industrial Clusters has commercialized more than 270 research outcomes from the three science cities.

Overall, Beijing is becoming a global innovation hub. The city's commitment to increasing support for basic science research and promoting high-quality development of new R&D institutes will help to drive breakthroughs in core technologies.

The opening-up policy has brought many benefits to China and its partners, and is likely to continue playing an important role in the country's future growth and development.

*The author is an Italian professor at the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Science at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.*

# Oolong Tea: Green Leaves with Red Edges from Rocking

## Traditional Eastern Wisdom

By ZONG Shihan

Oolong tea or blue tea, one of the six main types of tea in China, is a semi-oxidized tea. The oxidation level of oolong tea is between green tea and black tea, combining the fresh aroma of green tea with the rich flavor of black tea. After brewing, the leaves of oolong tea show green in the middle and have distinct red edges.

In terms of appearance, representatives of oolong tea include the strip-shaped Wuyi rock tea, the spherical Tie Guan Yin tea, and the hemispherical Dong Ding tea.

Oolong tea undergoes the most intricate processing among all tea varieties. Typically, the processing involves withering, rocking, fixation, rolling and drying. Among these steps, rocking is

crucial in shaping the unique character of oolong tea. The physical friction generated by alternating rocking and standing promotes the enzymatic oxidation of polyphenols in tea leaves, resulting in green leaves with red edges. At the same time, the evaporation of water contributes to the development of aroma.

Furthermore, some oolong teas involve roasting at the end of their processing. For example, the heavy roasting of Wuyi rock tea, represented by Da Hong Pao, is a traditional step. The roasting temperature can reach over 150°C, and the process may last for more than 10 hours. The process gives the tea a distinct roasted flavor and a strong taste. Therefore, if people get used to the taste of rock tea, they may feel tasteless when drinking other teas.

Oolong tea is rich in vitamins, tea polyphenols, and plant alkaloids, which can assist in improving immunity, lowering blood pressure, and delaying aging.



A tea farmer rocks the tea leaves, which is a key process in the production of oolong tea. (PHOTO: VCG)