

INSIGHTS

World Sci-tech Workers Urge for Collaboration

Voice of the World

By YU Haoyuan

In the face of severe global challenges, countries should put aside prejudices and cooperate on sci-tech development for the benefit of all. This was the message of a major event held in Beijing recently to promote international sci-tech communication and collaboration.

Hosted by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the World Federation of Scientific Workers (WFSW), it was attended by experts from Europe, Africa, and the Americas.

Pascal Janots, treasurer of WFSW, pointed out that though China has made remarkable achievements in scientific innovation in recent years, in France, the media hardly covers that. The successful Chang'e-6 mission, which was the first to bring back soil samples from the far side of the moon, got only a single report in the mainstream French media.

Janots called on the European media and public to set aside their prejudices, and treat China's significant contributions to the global sci-tech field equally like Western achievements.

He also emphasized that global issues such as climate change, energy crisis,



"Cooperate for Science," an exhibition co-hosted by CAST and WFSW, is held in Beijing on August 13. (PHOTO: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DAILY)

and resource inequality urgently require closer international cooperation. China's leading position in these fields makes it an important force in global collaboration.

Malik Fall, vice-president of WFSW, also affirmed China's leadership in the sci-tech field, quoting an ancient saying, "Seek knowledge even if you have to go as far as China" to highlight the country's crucial role in global sci-tech cooperation.

He said Africa has great research potential and a strong need for sci-tech cooperation, and China's experience in this field can greatly assist the continent's development. He also said China's strength in the global scientific field makes it a key partner for Africa, while Africa's vast land and rich natural resources offer numerous research opportunities for Chinese scientists. China could focus more on Africa, particularly in joint research publications and practical

cooperation projects, which would create a win-win situation.

He suggested enhancing China-Africa scientific cooperation and proposed the establishment of an African scientific research fund, which would open up new channels for China-Africa scientific cooperation, advancing the partnership to a new level.

Janots agreed, saying the WFSW and CAST should work together, using cooperation with countries in Africa and Latin America as entry points to foster broader international communication and collaboration.

Shi Yigong, vice-president of CAST and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said CAST was ready to strengthen global scientific cooperation.

For that he suggested promoting the spirit of science, which is a vital driving force for sci-tech progress. Also, since science knows no borders, it is crucial to maintain a higher level of openness. Third, international scientific cooperation must be built on trust. Trust can deepen cooperation and make research outcomes more fruitful. Finally, Shi called for expanding the scope of cooperation.

"I hope future cooperation will be enhanced and world sci-tech workers can jointly build a community with a shared future," he said.

Overseas Echoes

Trusted Partners, Beneficial Platform: Seminar's Verdict on FOCAC

By Staff Reporters

"China came up with a very good concept of a community of shared future. It's a shared future of interconnectedness, mutual benefit, inclusivity, sustainability and global governance. And as Africans, we embrace them," Edith Phaswana, director of graduate academic programs, Thabo Mbeki African School of Public and International Affairs, University of South Africa, said at a seminar on "The Governance of China: Forging a Closer China-Africa Community of Shared Future." Convened in Pretoria, South Africa, on August 15, it was a lead-up to the upcoming Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), scheduled to be held from September 4 to 6.

Mutual understanding was a key theme emphasized throughout the seminar. Botshabelo Maja, deputy director general of South Africa's National School of Government, stressed that appreciating Chinese culture and identity is vital for building a shared future. "Africans must first introspect and define their own identities. Chinese and African peoples should learn more about each other, and understand each other better," Maja said. He pointed out that understanding China's governance philosophy can deepen respect for China's achievements.

Bongani Mayimele, director of International Relations and Partnerships at the National School of Government, emphasized that mutual trust is built on shared values like Ubuntu in Africa, which denotes humanity towards others, and Confucianism in China. "Trust allows us to engage as equals, despite our different global standings. It's the cornerstone of our relationship," he said, outlining five principles that guide China-Africa cooperation — commonality, consistency, complementarity, convergence and consensus.

Qin Xiaoshun from the University of South Africa highlighted FOCAC's contributions to Africa's development since its inception, citing its impact on political mutual trust, economic and trade relations, infrastructure, agriculture, and renewable energy. He noted that China has built or upgraded hundreds of schools in Africa and provided training for tens of thousands of African talents. Additionally, China has

established Luban Workshops and encouraged Chinese companies in Africa to create over one million jobs for local communities.

Ni Yanshuo, chief reporter at the CIG Center for Europe and Africa, South Africa bureau, stressed that a defining feature of China-Africa cooperation is the realization of commitments made at FOCAC meetings. Since FOCAC's launch in 2000, a follow-up committee has ensured progress in policy implementation.

Some participants also explored how China's evolving development model offers new opportunities for collaboration between China and Africa.

Gert Grobler, a former South African ambassador to Spain, Japan and Madagascar, underscored the relevance of China's modernization experience for countries in the Global South. He said China has embarked on a path of socialism with Chinese characteristics and achieved remarkable outcomes by creating a "moderately prosperous society" based on its "people first" approach, hard work, innovation, reform, and opening up under the able leadership of the Communist Party of China.

"New quality productive forces signify China's departure from the traditional growth model that relies on heavy industry and the sheer size of cheap labor, to a new model centered on innovation, research and development, and the production of advanced technology," said David Monyae, director of the Center for Africa-China Studies at the University of Johannesburg. He said China's focus on enhancing its production of high-quality products "has made it a world leader in the production of clean energy technologies such as wind turbines, electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and solar panels."

Looking ahead, Kirtan Bhana, director of *The Diplomatic Society*, said sustainable development should be at the core of FOCAC's goals, focusing on green growth, digital innovation, and social inclusion, adding that the upcoming summit will prioritize infrastructure development and the removal of trade barriers across Africa.

Organized by the CIG Center for Europe and Africa, the seminar brought together scholars, officials, professors, and journalists from both South Africa and China.



A seminar on building a closer China-Africa community of shared future is successfully held in Pretoria, South Africa, on August 15. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Global South Cooperation, a Shared Aspiration

Comment

By TANG Zhexiao

With Thailand and Malaysia's recent announcement that they have asked to join the BRICS group, and Brazil's interest in joining the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global South community has sent a message of strengthening cooperation.

The three countries' aspirations show the increasing magnetism of the BRICS cooperation mechanism and the BRI, reflecting accelerated development of South-South cooperation.

Against the backdrop of the resurgence of global protectionism and unilateralism and the "decoupling and breaking of chains" by some Western countries, the Global South is increasingly becoming an important force in promoting open and cooperative development.

In January, with the addition of new members, the number of BRICS members rose to 10 countries, and the "waiting list" for applications to join continues to expand. After the expansion, the BRICS countries account for nearly half of the world's population and one-fifth of global trade, becoming an important force in promoting multipolarization.

The BRI grouping has also demonstrated strong cohesiveness and development prospects.

Currently, more than 150 countries and more than 30 international organizations have joined it. The signed project agreements have driven investment of over one trillion USD, providing a practical platform for building a community with a shared future for all.

Whether it is BRICS cooperation or international cooperation under the

BRI, they all show a development trend of "more and more people traveling together," behind which is the general awakening and joint self-reliance of the Global South.

The BRICS mechanism conforms to the trend of the times and is in line with the interests of all countries. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia is keen to join the grouping "as it seeks stronger ties with Global South economies across the world."

Thai government spokesperson Chai Wacharonke said joining the BRICS group will enhance Thailand's international status and increase its opportunities on the global stage.

The expanding of the BRI's "circle of friends" also reflects the broad consensus of developing countries to focus on development and deepen cooperation. China is an essential partner for Brazil's economic growth and scientific and technological development and a partner Brazil will always take into account, according to Brazilian President Lula da Silva. Lula has said he is willing to discuss the BRI with China. "I want to know where we come in and what position we are going to play," he said. "We want to be a starter."

The rise of developing countries is an inevitable trend. Their similar history, common development tasks, and similar perspectives on international affairs

have prompted them to choose their development paths.

In recent years, globalization has encountered adverse currents. Some developed countries have weaponized economic issues, attached political terms to cooperation, and coerced others to choose sides. What's more, they have tried to suppress Global South countries' development in economy, trade, and science and technology, undermining the development environment of global openness and cooperation.

The BRICS cooperation mechanism, the BRI grouping and other bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanism innovations among the Global South are seen to be an antidote to this unfair, unequal, and unreasonable exchange model.

Over the past 20 years, the Global South has contributed as much as 80 percent of global economic growth, while its share of global GDP has jumped from 24 percent to more than 40 percent in the past four decades.

The Global South is increasingly becoming a key engine for a new form of globalization that is inclusive and universally beneficial. As the scope of cooperation in the Global South continues to expand and the scale continues to upgrade, South-South cooperation will play an important role in global development and responding to global challenges in the future.

China's Heritage Preservation Goes Beyond Borders

Opinion

By Staff Reporters

China recently succeeded in securing UNESCO World Heritage status for the famed Beijing Central Axis. This not only highlights China's dedication to preserving its cultural and natural treasures but also underscores its broader commitment to the continuous development of the world's civilization.

China's cultural heritage is vast and varied, stretching back thousands of years. The Beijing Central Axis is a prime example of how this heritage has been meticulously preserved and honored.

This 7.8-kilometer path through the heart of Beijing is more than just an architectural marvel; it is a living legacy of China's ancient city planning philosophy, which places harmony between humans and nature at the forefront.

By safeguarding traditional legacies, China is both preserving its own cultural identity and contributing to a global understanding of sustainable development rooted in ancient wisdom.

China's efforts in heritage preservation extend beyond its borders, influencing global approaches to conserving cultural and natural sites. Along with the Beijing Central Axis, the recent inclusion of the Badain Jaran Desert and the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf (Phase II)

of China on the UNESCO list underscores the country's recognition of the interconnectedness of natural and cultural heritage.

The Badain Jaran Desert, with its stunning sand dunes and unique lake system, offers invaluable insights into the planet's geological history and the delicate balance of desert ecosystems. The Migratory Bird Sanctuaries play a crucial role in the survival of numerous bird species that fly across international borders.

By protecting these areas, China contributes to the global effort to preserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and promote ecological balance — all of which are critical to the long-term sustainability of human civilization.

The inscription of these Chinese cultural and natural sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List is a recognition of China's role as a steward of global civilization. It signals to the world that the preservation of heritage is not a passive activity but an active contribution with initiatives to the ongoing story of human progress.

As the world faces unprecedented challenges, from climate change to cultural homogenization, the preservation of heritage becomes even more critical. China's approach — rooted in a deep respect for history, culture, and nature — offers a model for how nations can contribute to a sustainable future by honoring and protecting the legacies of the past.

Hi! Tech



A visitor competes with an AI Go robot at the 2024 World Robot Conference held in Beijing from August 21 to 25. (PHOTO: HONG Xing)