

China's Economic Growth Brings Opportunities

Voice of the World

Edited by TANG Zhexiao

In this year's government work report, information related to China's economy attracted attention from the global community.

From setting an economic growth target for 2025 at around 5% and achieving new breakthroughs in scientific and technological innovation, to deepening opening up and reform, foreign media and international observers believe that China's economy has demonstrated strong resilience and vitality, and is expected to maintain a sustained positive momentum and help drive the global economy.

Embracing sci-tech innovation

According to a CNN report, China acknowledged international and domestic challenges, presenting itself as a responsible and confident major power.

The growth target set by China reflects the resilience of its economy. China has increased trade and investment cooperation with other countries, promoted the development of these countries, and played a role in stabilizing the global economy, according to the Latin American news television network TeleSur.

Earlier this year, Chinese AI firm DeepSeek stunned the world with its large language models, showing China's resilience to meet international challenges through scientific and technological innovation.

This has helped fuel a surge of confidence and national pride in China's tech sector, and the country remains more committed than ever to becoming



Workers of a technology firm step up production of new energy vehicle range extenders in the workshop located in Sichuan province on March 6, 2025. (PHOTO: VCG)

an innovative powerhouse and self-sufficient in high-tech, said CNN.

Channel News Asia (CNA) echoed this sentiment, saying that China is pushing for new quality productive forces because high-tech innovations, such as artificial intelligence and quantum technology, are key to driving national development.

Providing more opportunities

China is doubling down on policy continuity to project an image of stability and unity, said Alexander Vuving, a professor at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu. He quoted from the *Book of Changes (Yi Jing)*, an ancient Chinese divination text, saying, "Use the constant to deal with the ever-changing" to describe how China is following this an-

cient dictum in its policy approach, according to CNA.

China's economy has shown strong resilience in a challenging international environment. Felix Valdivieso, director of IE China Center in Spain, said that he expects China to accelerate innovation-driven development and continue to expand high-level opening up in 2025.

Meanwhile, Dmitry Mayatsky, associate professor at Saint Petersburg State University in Russia, believes that against the background of a complex and turbulent international situation and weak global economic recovery, China's economy has maintained a sustained positive momentum, showing its resilience, vitality, and potential. China's expected GDP growth target set this year is "pragmatic, rational, and fully expected

to be achieved, which will further boost confidence in global economic growth," said Mayatsky.

And according to the government work report, China will remain steadfast in its commitment to opening up, regardless of changes in the external environment.

China's insistence on expanding high-level opening up will provide more opportunities for countries to achieve common development, mutual benefit and win-win results, said Koffi Kouakou, senior research fellow at the Centre for Africa-China Studies at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa.

China also plays an important role in promoting international trade and maintaining the stability and smooth flow of the global supply chain, ensuring the continued recovery of its economy will bring more opportunities to the global market.

That's according to Dr. Lina Alexandra, head of the Department of International Relations at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies based in Jakarta.

A regular visitor to China's major cities, she is confident that China will achieve its expected economic growth target in 2025.

Levying Fees Won't Address U.S. Shipbuilding Woes

Comment

By GONG Qian

The U.S. is planning to charge fees on Chinese-built or flagged ships docking at U.S. ports and has called on its allies to enact similar measures or risk retaliation, according to a draft executive order reported by Reuters in early March. However, the unilateral move, as part of efforts to curb China's economic advance, is ineffective in helping U.S. ambition to retake its position of top shipbuilder in the world from China.

The plan is sure to fuel global inflation, and ultimately backfire on the U.S. Reuters said the plan could inflict

significant costs on major container carriers as well as on operators of ships that carry bulk food, fuel and autos. The rising cost of shipping goods will then be transferred to local consumers, thus lowering demand and potentially slowing the U.S. economy.

In recent years, the U.S. has been trying to reform its shipbuilding industry and partly blaming China's global dominance for its own failures. But the U.S. should face the reality that its shipbuilding industry has been on the decline for a decade, a view that is repeatedly accepted by international analysts and media. For example, Bloomberg said the real culprit in the decline is the abominable Jones Act, which since 1920 has limited domestic shipping to vessels built, crewed and

registered by Americans.

According to the *Financial Times*, shrinkage in the U.S. shipbuilding industry is the result of several factors including the cancellation of most government subsidies starting in the 1980s, and reducing investment in technology, factory equipment and training for U.S. workers. This caused an overall decline in the competitiveness and capacity of U.S. shipbuilding, resulting in it falling behind the emerging Asian players, including China, Japan and South Korea.

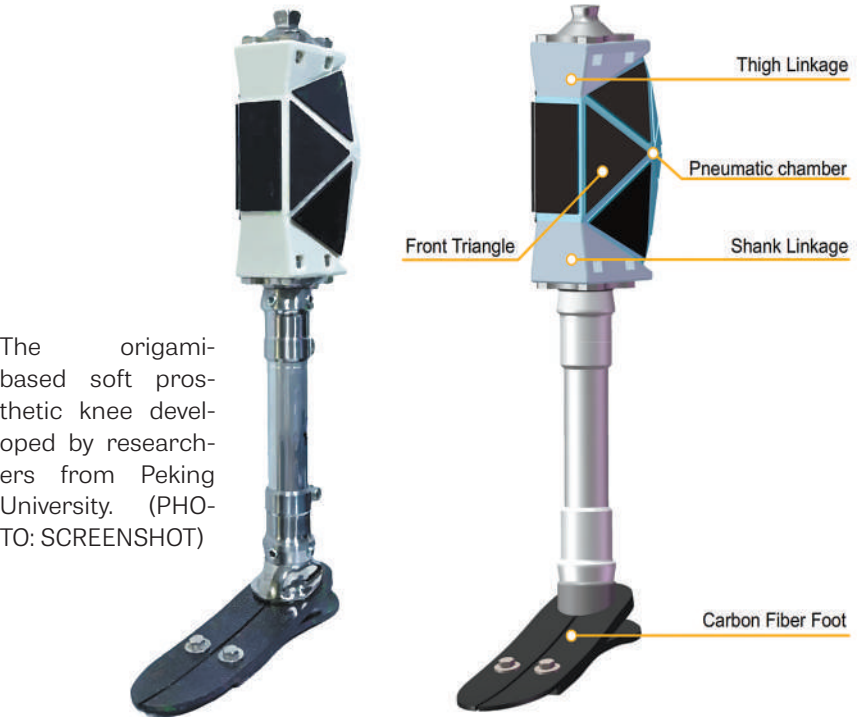
It is clear that the reasons behind the U.S. shipbuilding industry's decline have nothing to do with China. So then, why has China become the scapegoat? Peter Sand, chief analyst at Copenhagen-based shipping analytics firm Xeneta,

told DW, a German international broadcaster, that the plan "does align with the Trump administration's target to limit Chinese dominance here, there and everywhere, especially where it relates to American business."

Protectionist policies won't make American shipbuilding great again. But, as an ancient Navajo proverb says, "You can't wake a person who is pretending to be asleep." If the U.S. government refuses to accept its errant ways, the people will no doubt become victims of a trade conflict.

Rather than reviving defunct colonial tactics, the U.S. should heed its own corporations and dockworkers protesting this self-inflicted wound. Only cooperation, not coercion, can steady the ship of global prosperity.

Soft Prosthetic Knee Gives a Leg-up to Innovation



The origami-based soft prosthetic knee developed by researchers from Peking University. (PHOTO: SCREENSHOT)

Hi-Tech

By GONG Qian

Researchers from Peking University (PKU) have developed an innovative soft prosthetic knee. An account of the research was published in *Nature Communications*.

In contrast to the rigid, high-density metallic mechanics of knee prosthetics, this breakthrough represents a paradigm shift in lower-limb prosthetics with notable advantages, including lighter weight, a more compact structure, cost-effective production, and simplified manufacturing processes.

According to the PKU website, the highlight of the innovation is the integration of an origami-inspired design and horsetail-inspired weight-bearing

mechanism.

The soft prosthetic knee incorporates an origami-inspired structure, strengthened with polymer blocks and a connecting system for the thigh and calf. Its design enables an extensive motion range to accommodate the knee's dynamic movement requirements.

To improve its load-bearing capability, the back-fold structure forms a pneumatic chamber, mimicking the hydraulic pressure found in horsetail cells. Reinforced folds help minimize unnecessary deformation, enhancing motion control precision.

This device, which integrates advanced materials, actuators and sensors, alongside 3D printing and other modern manufacturing techniques, is expected to not only reduce costs but also accelerate the development of next-generation prosthetic devices.

Opinion

Developing Low-altitude Economy in Light of Local Conditions

By Staff Reporters

Wu Renbiao, vice president of the Civil Aviation University of China, recently said that the low-altitude economy should be developed in accordance with local conditions. A herd mentality, with everyone rushing headlong into action for now and dropping it in the future, should be avoided.

As an emerging strategic industry, the low-altitude economy is a typical example of new quality productive forces and a blue ocean market with a scale of trillions of RMB.

In recent years, local governments have emphasized it in planning their future industries, regarding it as a new track of economic development. According to incomplete statistics, at least 30 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities included low-altitude economy-related content in their 2025 government work reports.

However, different regions have distinct differences in terms of their sci-tech level, foundation of their low-altitude industries, natural climate and market demand. If every province rushes headlong to develop the same low-altitude economy industry following the same pattern, it will lead to a mismatch between the path to the industry and the actual conditions in the regions. This will mean low-efficiency development or waste of investment.

To act in accordance with local conditions, local governments in different regions need to find the point where low-altitude economy can be combined with local conditions, and plan their low-altitude industries rationally in order to develop industrial advantages with unique features and ensure high-quality development.

Low-altitude economy requires technological support, such as development of passenger drones with high-level safety, and integrated management of low-altitude transportation and urban transportation.

Therefore, it needs to be developed based on the level of local sci-tech development. For example, regions with abundant higher education resources and advanced science and technology can target frontier low-altitude technologies,

plan high-tech enterprises or research forces, and become an innovation highland and technology source of global low-altitude industries.

From raw material supply and core parts manufacturing, to the assembly and production of low-altitude aircraft and guaranteeing and scheduling low-altitude air routes, the low-altitude economy has a long industrial chain and covers many fields.

Different regions can start from their advantageous industries, find the point where the low-altitude industrial chain can be integrated, and take targeted action.

The city of Shenzhen in Guangdong, for example, has built a complete industrial chain for the development and manufacturing of low-altitude technological equipment based on the solid foundation of the local electronic information industry. Fujian province in the east, on the other hand, plans to make use of its advantage in possessing an entire industrial chain of new energy vehicles to develop new energy aircraft like electric planes. With existing industries as the foundation, the low-altitude economy will develop faster.

It has a broad application scale, and localities need to search for suitable application scenarios in accordance with conditions like the geological environment and market demand.

Regions with an advanced energy industry can use drones to patrol oil and gas wells and pipelines; remote areas or complex terrains can use low-altitude aircraft to transport supply and materials; agriculturally advanced regions can use drones to monitor crops and spray pesticide; regions with abundant tourism resources can develop low-altitude tourism. Traditional industries will develop better when empowered by the low-altitude economy.

As the world's largest drone manufacturer and source of technology for drones, China can develop the low-altitude economy with exceptional advantages. As long as its development is planned in accordance with local conditions, its low-altitude economy is sure to soar. In turn it will make people's work and lives more convenient, efficient and comfortable.



A trainee (R) takes part in a practical drone training session at a low-altitude science and technology innovation base located in Jiangbei district, Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Tech Progress Bolsters Energy Security

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China's advancements in oil and gas extraction technologies have been instrumental in helping access previously inaccessible reserves. The successful drilling of the Deep Earth Tarim-1 well to a depth of 10,910 meters is a testament to China's engineering prowess and determination to push the boundaries of resource exploration. Such achievements are crucial as the country

seeks to tap into its vast unconventional oil and gas resources, including shale gas and ultra-deep reservoirs.

The development of the Fuman Oil Area within the Tarim Oilfield exemplifies China's commitment to maximizing its domestic resources. With oil and gas reserves exceeding one billion tonnes, the Fuman Oil Area is poised to become a major contributor to China's energy supply.