

Reaffirming Commitment to Global Health Cause

Voice of the World

By LI Linxu

China reaffirmed its support for the World Health Organization (WHO) and multilateralism, saying it stands ready to build a global community of health for all, at the 78th session of the World Health Assembly that opened in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 19.

Themed "One World for Health," the assembly has brought together delegations from 194 member states and will run through May 27.

One of the achievements of this year's assembly is the adoption of a landmark agreement on how to prepare for future pandemics. After three years of intense negotiations, the legally binding pact was formally adopted by consensus on May 20.

"China has been actively participating in the negotiations of the pandemic agreement," Hu Guang, director of the Emergency Response Division at China's National Disease Control and Prevention Administration, said.

Guided by the vision of building a global community of health for all, China has practiced true multilateralism and advocated strengthening solidarity and co-operation during the talks, according to Hu.

"The world is safer today thanks to the leadership, collaboration and



World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus speaks during the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, which kicked off on May 19. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

commitment of our member states to adopt the historic WHO pandemic agreement," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. "The agreement is a victory for public health, science and multilateral action. It will ensure we, collectively, can better protect the world from future pandemic threats."

Another important agenda of this year's assembly was a high-level pledging event where leaders reaffirmed their support for multilateral cooperation through contributions to WHO's Investment Round, raising funds for WHO's strategy for global health. It featured

pledges from China, Angola, Cambodia and other countries as well as philanthropic foundations.

"I am grateful to every member state and partner that has pledged towards the investment round. In a challenging climate for global health, these funds will help us to preserve and extend our life-saving work," Tedros said. "They show that multilateralism is alive and well."

"The efforts deliver a strong signal of China's support to WHO during this reform process," Lei Haichao, head of China's National Health Commission

(NHC), said.

China welcomes WHO's internal reforms to improve efficiency and better serve its member states, and stands ready to participate in the process through both financial and personnel support, according to Lei.

In addition to engaging in the main event, China hosted a series of side events during the assembly.

China attaches great importance to the health and well-being of its people and is harnessing emerging technologies to improve primary healthcare, Lei said at a side event on the digital and intelligent empowerment of primary healthcare.

At another side event on traditional medicine, Yu Yanhong, director of China's National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, highlighted the country's longstanding commitment to the development of traditional medicine and reiterated commitment to supporting the integration of traditional medicine into health systems worldwide.

Saia Piukala, WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, called traditional medicine a vital pillar of health systems and a significant contributor to global health.

At yet another side event on mental health, Jiao Yahui, an official from the NHC, outlined China's transformative mental health strategy, shifting the focus from treating manifested diseases to preventive treatment, and called for strengthening international collaboration in psychological and mental health.

Comment

China Riding a Growth Path Powered by Sci-tech

By YU Haoyuan

In Q1 2025, China's GDP grew by 5.4 percent year-on-year, exceeding the annual growth rate of five percent recorded in 2024 and reinforcing its trajectory of stability and improvement. Facing multiple pressure, including geopolitical conflicts and trade conflicts, this achievement was backed up by technological innovation and industrial upgrading, entwined with technological breakthroughs, industrial upgrades, and global cooperation.

High-tech manufacturing emerged as the defining feature this year. The "AI +" initiative has gained stronger momentum, fueling rapid expansion in the digital industry. Official data shows that the added value of high-tech manufacturing rose 9.8 percent from January to April year-on-year. The production volumes of new energy vehicles (NEVs) and industrial robots respectively increased by 43.7 percent and 34.1 percent.

These figures reflect sustained R&D investments by Chinese enterprises and systematic upgrades across the national industrial chain. For example, China now dominates over 60 percent of the global NEV market, having built formidable competitive advantages through integrated advancements in battery technology, autonomous driving algorithms, and charging infrastructure. This "hard tech + ecosystem chain" model has positioned China as a leader in emerging technological sectors.

Simultaneously, domestic demand for technology product upgrades remains robust. The data from January to April shows that the government-backed trade-in scheme stimulated a 25.4 percent and 23.9 percent year-on-year increase in retail sales of communication equipment and household appliances (including audio-visual equipments) respectively. Significant growth in shareholder net profits within these sectors underscores the effectiveness of policy-driven demand stimulation. This policy-market synergy not only activates consumer potential but also compels enterprises to accelerate innovation, fostering a dual-engine dynamic.

Breakthroughs in green technology

are also important. In Q1 2025, the country's newly installed capacity of renewable energy reached 76.75 million kW, increasing by 21 percent year-on-year. Its cost advantages and technological iteration capabilities are reshaping the global energy structure. Progress in cutting-edge fields such as photovoltaic panels, hydrogen fuel cells and carbon capture technologies further solidifies China's leading position in the green transition. Amid the global environmental crisis, this ability to transform environmental challenges into innovation momentum exemplifies its economic resilience.

Notably, in the face of widespread global conflict, China is reconstructing global sci-tech cooperation with a more open attitude. In late 2024 and early 2025, China open-sourced codes of globally influential products such as DeepSeek and the Tien Kung humanoid robot. This technology spillover effect provides developing countries with Chinese solutions for digital transformation. Actively engaging in global governance such as the AI ethics framework, China advocates for equitable international cooperation mechanisms. This balance of openness and self-reliance offers fresh perspectives for global technological development.

Looking ahead, with ongoing breakthroughs in fields such as semiconductors and AI, China's technological innovation will play a more critical role in the global industrial chain. This presents more opportunities. For the world, the Chinese model demonstrates that technological autonomy and open cooperation are not mutually exclusive.

China's latest economic performance not only showcases how sci-tech innovation is driving growth but also highlights how technology-driven industrial upgrades consolidate economic resilience. Amidst the intertwining trends of globalization and deglobalization, China's choice indicates that only by adhering to innovation-driven development and deepening international cooperation, can certainty be found amid uncertainties, injecting more positive energy into global economic recovery.

Hi-Tech

The inauguration ceremony of the Beijing Assistive Technology Innovation Showcase exhibition was held on May 18 as China marked the 35th national day of assisting persons with disabilities.



◀ A guest interacts with a smart guide dog. It leverages AI models to provide daily companionship, emotional support, and features like path planning, autonomous navigation, and voice interaction.



▶ A viewer experiences a brain-machine AI-powered wheelchair. It uses multimodal brain-computer interface technology to accurately detect the control intentions of the user's brain.

(PHOTO: HONG Xing / Science and Technology Daily)

TCM Goes Global: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Health

Opinion

By YU Haoyuan

Gansu province in northwest China is one of the nation's key native medicinal material production bases. During the first quarter of 2025, it witnessed an impressive 24.8 percent year-on-year increase in the export of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

It is not the only province to see an upsurge in the demand for TCM. In Heilongjiang province in the northeast, which shares a border with Russia, there has been a notable rise in the number of Russian patients. Since the implementation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), TCM service export institutions in Heilongjiang have provided treatment to over 30,000 foreign patients.

All these signs suggest that TCM is transcending boundaries, gaining widespread recognition and application across countries around the world. It is playing an increasingly important role in the global healthcare industry.

Why is TCM gradually gaining recognition? A prime reason is that the

theoretical framework and diagnostic methods of TCM have been shaped by thousands of years of cultural inheritance. It integrates intergenerational clinical practice with the approach of "syndrome differentiation and treatment," which has given rise to a distinct system for understanding diseases and treating them holistically. This accumulation of experience is essentially the outcome of centuries of repeated clinical validation, continuously refining and optimizing practices.

In addition, in the context of modern scientific frameworks, the mechanisms behind the efficacy of TCM are being systematically decoded and standardized, using internationally recognized technologies such as molecular biology and systems pharmacology.

Compared to Western medicine, TCM demonstrates a distinct advantage in the long-term management of chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension through its holistic regulation and personalized treatment strategies.

The traditional wisdom of TCM underscores the concept that food and medicine share a common source. Many ingredients in TCM are commonly found in daily lives. For example, goji berries

or wolfberries are known to nourish the liver and kidneys, Chinese yams are effective in strengthening the spleen and stomach. The use of these "medicine and food homology" substances in daily diets is implementing the philosophy of "using food as medicine."

TCM is meeting global health needs through technological empowerment and localized innovation. For instance, products are customized according to regional physiological traits.

In the European and American markets, low-dose herbal supplements are offered, while in Africa, anti-malaria herbal formulations are provided. Simultaneously, advancements in AI-based meridian detection and tongue/surface imaging have revolutionized the "four diagnostic methods (inspection, auscultation and olfaction, inquiry, and palpation)" into data-driven metrics. This transformation has turned traditional experiential knowledge into quantifiable indicators. Such innovation is narrowing the cognitive gap between Eastern and Western medical systems.

TCM is now practiced in 196 countries and regions worldwide. In 2019, the 72nd World Health Assembly revised a document, which incorporated

China-LAC Cooperation Boasts Remarkable Results

From page 1

"China has been a very good and reliable partner for the Global South countries, including Grenada and other countries in the Caribbean," Grenada's Foreign Affairs, Trade and Export Development Minister Joseph Andall said. "We value our relationship with China because it is based on mutual respect... It

is something that we should all continue and deepen."

Infrastructure development

There is strong demand for infrastructure construction in LAC countries, and China has advantages in capital, technology and products in the field.

More than 200 infrastructure projects and multiple industrial capacity

cooperation projects built by China have generated more than one million jobs for the local people, according to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

In Jamaica, the North-South Expressway, a 65-meter road network connecting capital Kingston with port town Ocho Rios on the north coast, was invested in and constructed by China Harbor

Stronger China-Croatia Sci-tech Ties to Protect Biodiversity

From page 1

Gao Xiang, director-general of China Science and Technology Exchange Center, called for more people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, joint cultivation of more young talent, as well

as including more countries into the collaboration on biodiversity protection.

We hope to take the joint lab as a hub to expand the biodiversity conservation network in Eurasia and promote data sharing and joint R&D, and make

breakthroughs in the restoration of degraded ecosystems, intelligent monitoring technologies, and sustainable utilization of biological resources, said Li Jiatang, director general of the CIB.

As the first event of China-CEEC

innoshare 2025, it has witnessed the signing of an MoU on cooperation in biodiversity conservation and green development between both ministries. Researchers and practitioners from both countries shared their insights and discoveries both online and offline, ranging from karst ecology and soil carbon to crop improvement, species conservation and innovative monitoring techniques.