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Advancing Global Women's Cause with Dedication

By QI Liming, LONG Yun & BI Weizi

With 2025 marking the 30th anniversary of the historic Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women was held in Beijing on October 13 and 14. It was also a tribute to women's contribution as creators of both material and spiritual civilization and providing the driving force for social development and progress.

Dedicated to women's well-being

Gertrude Mongella, secretary-general of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, has visited China many times. Besides witnessing the tremendous changes in China economically and socially, she also observed the significant achievements made in women's issues.

She said, "China is an important participant, promoter and leader in the global women's cause. China has carried out fruitful international cooperation in the women's field and has taken concrete actions to promote global women's well-being."

Christine Bernabeu, president of HERA (Humanité, Equilibre, Rencontre, Avenir) Transcontinentale said Chinese women's participation in grassroots governance and their influence have been increasing at a consistent and stable pace. Women's cause has become a crucial area for China to promote high-quality joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative and South-South cooperation.

A culture of flexibility

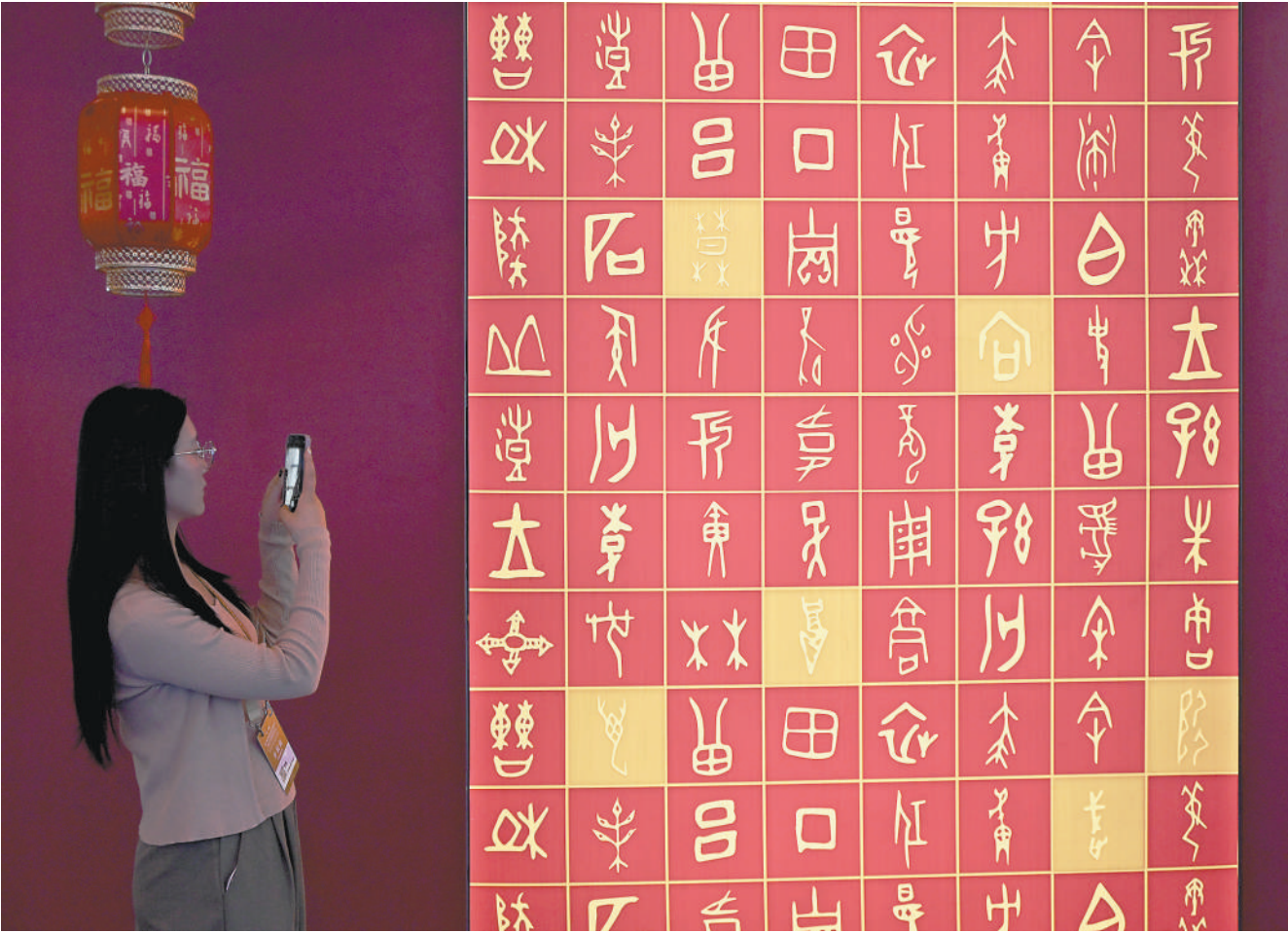
For many female scientists balancing professional ambitions with family life, China's evolving academic culture offers a refreshing model of work-life integration.

"Coming to China as a young scientist 13 years ago was a great opportunity," said Uromi Manage Goodale, an American plant ecology expert and professor at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University. "The environment here recognizes the unique challenges women face and provides the space to grow both personally and professionally."

Marie-Luce Chevalier, a French-Belgian geoscientist at the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences in Beijing, echoed her sentiment. "The flexible working environment allows me to maintain a healthy work-life balance, something especially important for women with family responsibilities," she said.

Sara Platto, an Italian professor of animal behavior and welfare at Jiangnan University in Wuhan, said she had found similar support. "Being a professional mother is made a little easier here," she remarked. "The academic environment respects personal time and allows women to pursue excellence without sacrificing their roles at home."

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An attendee takes photos of the exhibit "Hundred Family Surnames in Oracle Bone Script" at the tenth China International Copyright Expo in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province, October 16, 2025. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

STI Frontier

Torch Fire from Ice on Seafloor

By WANG Xiaoxia & YE Qing

The torch-lighting ceremony for the 15th National Games, the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games was held in Guangzhou, Guangdong province in south China on October 9, in preparation for the events in mid-November and mid-December.

The source of the flame used in the torch, made from material collected at a depth exceeding 1,500 meters in the South China Sea, has been officially revealed.

Relying on China's homegrown "Haima" deep-sea remotely operated vehicle (ROV), the aptly named "source flame" was extracted and ignited from combustible ice on the ultra-deep seabed in September, presenting an underwater spectacle of water and fire. This is

the first time in the history of global sports that green fuel obtained from a seabed has been used to light a major sports event torch, combining cutting-edge marine technology with sustainable principles.

Green "spark" from the deep sea

So, where did the creative idea of harvesting "fire" from the deep sea come from?

After multiple rounds of research and evaluation, the executive committee of the Games proposed the concept of "harvesting fire from the deep sea," which aims to implement the principles of "green, inclusive, open and clean," and to showcase the innovative elements, technological advancements, and cultural soft power of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

The organizers wanted to integrate elements such as strategic clean energy

and deep-sea exploration technologies and core equipment, and finally selected the Haima Cold Seep area in the northern South China Sea as the origin of the "source flame" for the Games.

At 14:26 on September 18, the Haima ROV descended to the seabed at a depth of 1,522 meters and reached the cold seep vents. Researchers remotely and precisely controlled the robotic arm to hold a collection chamber and gather combustible ice and gases. The combustible ice was triggered under depressurization, and the subsequent methane gas produced by decomposition became the fuel for the "source flame."

At 16:48, the photovoltaic power generation device on the ship converted solar energy into electricity and transmitted it to the seabed, successfully igniting the gas.

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Donghu Forum Promotes Innovation

By Staff Reporters

To cultivate fertile ground for popular science, encourage the young generation to participate in sci-tech innovation and pool the wisdom of the science community for development, the 2025 Donghu Forum was held in Wuhan, Hubei province, from October 14 to 15.

Li Dianxun, governor of Hubei, said the province, with its advantages in science, education resources and industries, will coordinate efforts in policies, platforms, atmosphere and services to better promote innovation, and shape innovation-driven development.

Hubei will pay more attention to quality and efficiency to make greater contributions to the transformation and

reform of China's economy and society, he said.

Special attention was paid to the cultivation of young scientific and technological talents. A national teen innovation competition, hosted by *Science and Technology Daily* (*S&T Daily*), was concluded at the opening ceremony. Eight academicians presented handwritten messages to the final winners of the competition.

Wu Jing, president of *S&T Daily*, also attended the forum. As the organizer of an important activity of popular science during the forum, *S&T Daily* will continue to innovate forms and promote the spirit of science.

This year's forum consisted of five major sections, including the opening

ceremony and main forum, two activities for matching talents, 13 parallel forums on science popularization and innovation, and five project roadshow and matching activities. More than 30 science popularization venues and innovation platforms in the province were roped in to hold a series of public science popularization activities.

The main forum presented a panoramic view of the cutting-edge achievements in science and technology. Four reports were released, namely the *Global Digital Economy Development Index Report 2025*, the *Wuhan Science and Technology Innovation Center Index Report 2025*, the *China Basic Research Competitiveness Report 2025*, and the *Global Enterprise Innovation Index 2025*.

G-STIC Brings Chinese Solutions for Africa's Energy Transition

International Cooperation

By SUN Jin & FENG Zhiwen

The eighth Global Sustainable Technology and Innovation Community Conference (G-STIC) held in Pretoria, South Africa, on October 8, addressed key challenges in climate change, energy and other global focus sectors.

The event was organized by the Guangzhou Institute of Energy Conversion of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Belgium's Flemish Institute for Technological Research, and eight other leading global research institutes. The Guangzhou Institute of Energy Conversion hosted an energy forum on technological innovation and building collaborative systems in global energy transformation.

Lv Jiancheng, director of the institute, pointed out that China-Africa cooperation holds vast potential in these fields. The forum therefore was an opportunity to integrate China's advanced experience in rapidly developing new energy sectors — such as wind and photovoltaic power — with the actual conditions and development needs of South Africa and other African countries, thereby providing forward-looking and practical solutions to Africa's clean energy transition.

Chen Ning, vice president of the Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute in China, introduced the "Jiangsu model" of technology transfer. He explained to the audience how China aligning the interests of scientists, universities and enterprises can effectively promote collaboration, accelerate technology transfer and drive social progress.

G-STIC is a high-level government-industry-academia dialogue mechanism. From this platform, Africa can gain access to important technologies and cooperation pathways to accelerate its deployment of clean energy and sustainable development. Chinese research institutions can also contribute their experience, wisdom and solutions for global sustainable development, sharing China's latest achievements in energy technology innovation through this platform.

Top 10 Global Engineering Accomplishments 2025 Announced

By LIN Yuchen

The Top Ten Engineering Achievements of 2025 were announced at the World Federation of Engineering Organizations General Assembly in Shanghai on October 13. The achievements were selected by *Engineering*, a journal of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

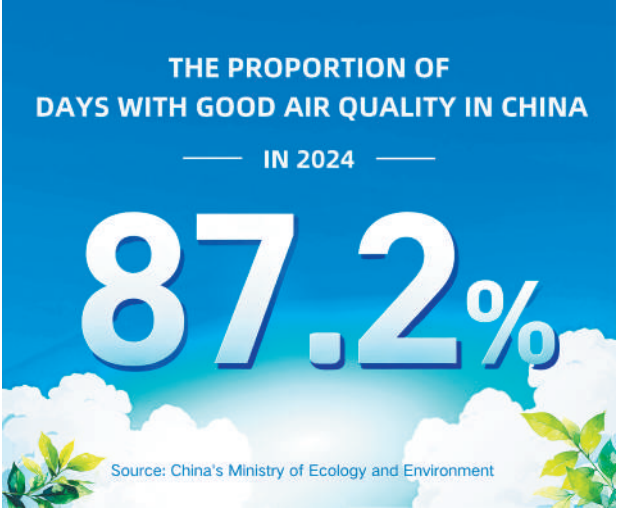
Launched in 2021, the annual selection of engineering achievements showcases the most influential recent engineering innovations — projects and technologies that have been completed, validated in practice, and have generated global impact.

The 2025 list features 10 milestones spanning aerospace exploration, deep-sea technology, environmental governance, AI, and biomedicine, illustrating how engineering continues to drive human progress and shape the future.

The 10 accomplishments are: the antibody-drug conjugate (ADC), Blackwell GPU architecture, DeepSeek open-source large language model, full-ocean-depth crewed submersible, high-performance carbon fiber composites, humanoid robots, Mars Perseverance rover, Euclid space telescope, the middle route of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project, and the encircling barrier project in the Taklamakan Desert.

They represent the highest levels of technological advancement and original innovation. For instance, the ADC marks a breakthrough in precision cancer therapy, transforming oncology from generalized treatment to targeted medicine. NVIDIA's Blackwell GPU architecture, with its record 208 billion transistors and hybrid-precision design, sets a new benchmark for AI computation, enabling trillion-parameter model training and reshaping the foundation of next-generation AI infrastructure. See page 4

New Graphic



WECHAT ACCOUNT



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