

Two Sessions Special

Foreign Experts: China's Innovation Ecosystem to Benefit the World

By LONG Yun & BI Weizi

As China's 2026 Two Sessions approach, the global community is looking not just for economic targets, but for insights into China's unique development path, a path defined by people-centered development, open scientific collaboration, sustainable green transitions, and the harmonious coexistence of deep cultural roots with frontier technology.

"How can a civilization honor Liangzhu while racing ahead in quantum computing, microchips and AI?" asked Shahbaz Khan, director and UNESCO representative to the Regional Office for East Asia.

For Khan, who has been visiting China since 1999, the answer lies in a unique coexistence that defines the nation's modernization. Recalling a time when "China was still catching up with the rest of the world," Khan said he is struck by the "consistency of effort" seen today. "People work hard and they also cherish family, tradition and festivals," he said. "There's a balance between ambition and humanity."

For Khan, China is a living model where "science serves society, innovation lifts communities, and progress is measured not just in patents or GDP, but in human dignity." "That's the beauty of China," he remarked.

Foreign experts framed their expectations for the upcoming Two Sessions within this broader context of balanced and human-centric development. They anticipate that the policies discussed will not only drive technological breakthroughs but also institutionalize the open ecosystems and sustainable practices that allow this unique "Chinese model" to flourish and contribute globally.



The Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope in southwest China's Guizhou province on January 25, 2026. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Francesco Faiola, an Italian researcher at the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, has spent 12 years in China, witnessing its transformation from "a phase of rapid catch-up to one characterized by systematic innovation."

His expectations are built upon this solid foundation. He said recent policies focus on regional integration initiatives like the coordinated development of the "Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei" region and "Yangtze River Delta," signaling China's clear intention to build collaborative innovation ecosystems rather than isolated "peaks" of scientific excellence.

He welcomed the ongoing establishment of an open governance framework grounded in clear rules. "Clear rules inspire far greater confidence for long-

term collaboration than ambiguous discretion," Faiola said.

Regarding the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), Faiola observed that China's commitment to international collaboration is evolving from "one-way introduction" to a deeper model of "two-way exchange" and "joint ecosystem building." Chinese scientists are already taking a leading role in global discussions on ethical standards for stem cell research, marking a shift from "participant" to "contributor."

Building on this positive momentum, Faiola anticipates continued empowerment for major international scientific programs jointly led by Chinese and foreign teams. Citing global research on emerging pollutants as a prime example, he said such collaborations will

significantly enhance China's growing influence in shaping the global scientific agenda.

Confident in the ecosystem's current vitality, Faiola highlighted its proven ability to provide a complete pathway "from curiosity-driven research to real-world impact," empowering global talent to translate discoveries into solutions for shared human challenges.

Extending this vision of systemic strength to the critical field of sustainability, Muhammad Salman Nasir, a 37-year-old Pakistani scholar and associate professor at Tianjin University, said China is already "playing a pivotal role in advancing global carbon neutrality."

Nasir highlighted China's key strength: its ability to "integrate national policy with academic and industrial innovation, enabling rapid scaling of technologies like green hydrogen, solar fuels, and carbon capture." He described China's research system, marked by strategic funding, interdisciplinary collaboration, and effective pilot-to-industry pathways, as a valuable model for other nations.

Regarding the 15th Five-Year Plan, Nasir expressed confidence that proposals for building a new energy system and developing a circular economy will further reinforce these strengths, enabling China to continue leading global efforts in sustainable technological innovations and offering a replicable blueprint for the world's green transition.

The perspectives of the three experts illustrate a comprehensive expectation that the Two Sessions will not only refine the mechanisms of scientific collaboration and green development but also continue to foster the unique harmony that makes China's path to modernization so distinct.

Tech+Culture

Chinese New Year:

Tradition Meets Tech in Year of Horse

By Staff Reporters

The celebrations across China at the start of the New Year of the Horse showcased a festival that honored ancient customs while embracing modern innovation and welcoming the world.

From the tropical shores of Hainan in south China to Beijing's historical temple fairs, this Spring Festival demonstrated how the Chinese New Year continues to evolve while maintaining its cultural core of family reunion and harmony.

Traditional customs meet modern flair

Liakhova Albina, a Russian social media influencer based in Hainan, decorated her apartment with traditional couplets on paper, shopped for festive goods, and prepared a grand reunion dinner.

She shared these experiences online, introducing her international followers to Chinese traditions.

"This Spring Festival, I felt warmth that crosses borders," she said and her sentiment echoed across the country.

Celebrations have become creative nationwide. The China-chic market at Journey to the West Paradise in Huai'an, Jiangsu province in east China, a theme park dedicated to the classic Chinese novel *Journey to the West*, was an illuminating example of that. So was water town Wuzhen's popular tech-powered light show in Zhejiang province, also in east China.

The horse zodiac has inspired a wave of cultural and creative products. In Gansu province in the northwest, artisans made embroidered horse paintings, seal carvings, and cloisonné ornaments based on local horse culture.

"The zodiac culture is an important carrier connecting public emotions," said Diao Jinuo, vice dean of the Culture and Tourism Integration Innovation Research Institute at the Communication University of China. "The popularity of Horse Year products reflects the maturing of festival derivative markets."

Technology enhances festival experience

Technology has added new dimensions to traditional celebrations. In Xiamen, Fujian in southeast China, a digital intangible cultural heritage event along the century-old Qilou arcade regaled visitors with overseas Chinese remittance history, lacquer line carving, and Gezai opera through AR and VR technologies.

A "human-robot dance" performance streamed online to over 100,000 viewers.

"We add technological elements to intangible heritage to innovate the presentation and inheritance of traditional culture," said Lin Gonghua from Zhixing Mozu Artificial Intelligence Technology Co.

Humanoid robots appeared in multiple Spring Festival celebrations, including

the CMG Spring Festival Gala.

Technology has empowered cultural tourism: Beijing's Haidian Science Temple Fair featured robot storytellers; thousands of drones painted horse images in the night sky over the majestic Hengshan Mountain in Hunan in central China, while the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum collaborated with the Palace Museum in Beijing to produce a Horse Year exhibition using naked-eye 3D and AI.

Many people used AI to create personalized couplets, custom greeting videos, and even digitally include departed loved ones in family photos.

Chinese New Year goes global

International interest in experiencing the Chinese New Year firsthand continues to grow. Renata, a Mexican visitor, traveled to Beijing with her family during the holiday. At a traditional courtyard house, she tried making dumplings, writing "fu" or good luck characters, and creating a sugar-painting horse after learning she was born in a year of the horse.

"The charm of Chinese New Year lies in different meaningful activities each day, completed together with family — joyful and warm," Renata said.

As a super intellectual property of Chinese culture, the Spring Festival is boosting China's appeal as a global tourism destination. According to the National Immigration Administration, optimized visa-free policies and consumption stimulus measures are expected to drive bidirectional growth in outbound and inbound tourism, with daily border crossings exceeding 2.05 million passengers, up 14.1 percent from last year.

In 2024, "Spring Festival — Social Practice of Chinese People Celebrating Traditional New Year" was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The festival's core values of reunion and harmony resonate globally, becoming a shared cultural carnival.

Nearly 20 countries have designated the Spring Festival as an official public holiday, with approximately one-fifth of the world's population celebrating in various forms.

To welcome the Year of the Horse, themed galas and temple fairs were held at the UN headquarters in New York, and other primary UN campuses such as Frankfurt in Germany, and across Brazil, where the annual carnival coincided with Chinese New Year.

Foreign social media users shared videos of posting fu characters and making dumplings.

Shahbaz Khan, director and UNESCO representative to the Regional Office for East Asia, said Spring Festival celebrations invite people worldwide to share joy with an open and inclusive attitude. The intangible heritage of the Chinese New Year builds bridges for cross-cultural dialogue and conveys the concept of common prosperity.

Traditional Eastern Wisdom

Siku Quanshu: Largest Collection of Chinese Books

By BI Weizi

The *Siku Quanshu* or the "Complete Library in the Four Branches of Literature," is a Chinese encyclopedia commissioned during the Qing dynasty by the Qianlong Emperor. Commissioned in 1772 and completed in 1782, the *Siku Quanshu* is the largest collection of books in imperial Chinese history, comprising 36,381 volumes, 79,337 manuscript rolls, 2.3 million pages, and about 997 million words.

The initial compilation of the *Siku Quanshu* began with the *Siku Quanshu Zongmu* bibliography, which was completed by 1773. The first workable drafts were completed in 1781. These included bibliographical information on all

the works included in the *Siku Quanshu* in full, as well as a large number of works that are mentioned only by title.

As indicated by its title, the *Siku Quanshu* has four categories, which reference the divisions of the imperial library: "Classics or Jing(经)" is the canon ramified by Confucius since the Han dynasty (202 BC-220 AD); "Histories or Shi(史)" is the collection of works related to history, geography, official positions, political affairs, and biographies; "Masters or Zi(子)" are texts focusing on philosophy, arts, and sciences; "Letters or Ji(集)" contains literature such as poetry and personal letters, and writings meant for the masses.

In the course of editing, a large number of corrections were made to local re-

ords. Personal documents, often describing the actions of noteworthy local people, were often included in the Annotated Bibliography of the Four Treasuries if their contents could be verified through central government records. In the *Siku Quanshu* itself, documents that could not be verified were often included by title only. Even officially sponsored writings, such as local gazetteers, were not safe from the scrutiny of the compilers.

Medical knowledge was often documented through case studies, on the model of 25 instances in Sima Qian's Records of the Grand Historian, which combined narrative with analysis.

Similarly, works on philosophy took Huang Zongxi's writings as their model, though they came to be divided

into two types: "archival," meaning scholarly articles, and "cultural," meaning Buddhist koans. Because authors and previous compilers had not considered philosophical works to form part of historical records, the compilers of the *Siku Quanshu* redefined the classifications in several compilations and set boundaries based on authors' biographies and the purposes of their writings.

The *Siku Quanshu* was the largest cultural project in ancient China, providing the most systematic and comprehensive summary of classical Chinese culture. It exerted tremendous influence on later academic circles, both in terms of methods for collating ancient books, recovering lost texts, textual criticism, and bibliography.

Development of 4th Gen OLED Screens

From page 1

Since the red light is hard, Duan resolutely switched the direction of R&D to green light material. The turning point came in 2019, when the team developed narrowband green fluorescent materials, a world first, solving the core compatibility problem of "bright color" and "high exciton utilization rate," making pTSP technology feasible in manufacturing, Duan said.

To promote a technology from labs to industry requires in-depth cooperation among multiple parties. The Tsinghua research team, in collaboration with material manufacturers such as Jiangsu Sunera Technology Co., Ltd. and Eternal Material Technology, developed narrowband green fluorescent materials that

can be mass-produced and meet commercial specifications. Visionox was responsible for the optimization of device structure and process, to realize the mass production of the new generation of OLED screens.

Through over three years of collaboration, the research team has continuously adjusted the material combinations and formulation plans, making screens equipped with high PE pTSP devices reduce power consumption by over 12 percent and increase lifespan by 15 percent, and expanding the color gamut from the conventional DCI-P3 standard to the broader BT.2020 standard.

Industrialization of pTSP technology

However, mass production was con-

fronted with the challenges of equipment adaptation and process optimization.

The emitting layer of the previous generation of devices was composed of two components and could be produced by a dual-source evaporation process. Li Guomeng, an expert in devices from Visionox, said that the new pTSP device consists of three components and a three-source co-evaporation process is needed.

The change of production process requires a large number of meticulous adjustments and optimizations. For example, internal layout adjustments, temperature and humidity control, and airflow parameter settings could all directly affect the stability, yield and cost of the process.

"Even though we have made a lot

of preparations, the performance of mass produced pTSP devices remains unknown. Many new technologies often perform well in the laboratory, but problems arise during mass production," Li said.

After hundreds of adjustments and optimizations, Visionox completed the technology verification process in 2023. In 2024, the company further upgraded the pTSP technology, continuously improving the quality. In the fourth quarter of 2025, OLED screens based on pTSP technology had entered mass production and began to be applied to the latest domestic flagship models.

The industrialization of pTSP technology has driven the collaboration of the upstream and downstream enterprises in the fields of organic materials and evaporation equipment, an overall improvement of the domestic display industry supply chain.



Humanoid robots dance at the Chinese New Year gala at the UN headquarters in New York. (PHOTO: XINHUA)