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A Window to the Nation A Welcome to the World

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by Li Tao/Xinhua

China-ROK Relations Renewed

December 14, Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping welcomes President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea (ROK) with a ceremony before their talks at the Great Hall of the People. During the meeting, the two leaders agreed to advance bilateral relations to ensure the long-term stability of China-ROK ties. Considering that the two countries have important common interests in maintaining the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula, Xi said China will continue to strengthen communication and

coordination with the ROK in maintaining stability and preventing the outbreak of war on the peninsula through the promotion of peace and talks.

Moon's visit evidences that China-ROK relations are "entering a new phase" as the two countries become closer through exchanging strategic views in the face of increasing pressure on the stability of the Korean Peninsula.

Moon made a state visit to China from December 13 to 16. This was his fifth trip to China and first as president of the ROK.



by Wan Quan

➤ First Domestic Large Amphibious Aircraft

December 24, Zhuhai, Guangdong Province: China's first homegrown large amphibious aircraft AG600 makes a smooth landing after its maiden flight at the Jinwan Civil Aviation Airport.

Code named "Kunlong," the plane completed its maiden flight on the same day. "The maiden flight makes China among the few countries capable of developing a large amphibious aircraft," said Huang

Lingcai, chief designer of the AG600.

Designed to be the world's largest amphibious aircraft, the AG600 will be mainly used for maritime rescue, fighting forest fires and marine monitoring. It is the third member of China's "large aircraft family" following the large freighter Y-20 and the large passenger aircraft C919, which made maiden flights in 2013 and 2017, respectively.



IC

Macao Anniversary Parade

December 17, Macao: Performers in the Macao International Parade. The parade was held by the government of China's Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) to celebrate the 18th anniversary of Macao's return to China on December 20, 1999.

The parade, one of Macao's major cultural events since 2011, started at the renowned Ruins of St. Paul's and ended at Sai Van Lake Square. Attracting over 60 participating groups from both home and abroad, the

parade featured a series of performances such as folk dances, acrobatics, stilt walking, Chinese martial arts and puppet shows.

On December 20, Macao SAR Chief Executive Chui Sai On declared at a flag-raising ceremony that the government was cautiously optimistic about Macao's economic outlook and highlighted the SAR's stable economy, healthy public finances and low unemployment rate.



VCG

➤ Digital Economy Hyperspeed

December 4, Wuzhen, Zhejiang Province: Visitors test a lip-reading system at the Light of the Internet Exposition during the fourth World Internet Conference (WIC).

During the conference, government representatives, heads of international organizations, experts, scholars, and entrepreneurs attended 20 forums, displaying achievements in innovation and discussing means of cooperation. Well-known global tech companies including Apple, Alibaba and Huawei released new products at the

conference. According to reports issued at the conference on December 4, China's digital economy reached 22.58 trillion yuan (about US\$3.4 trillion) in 2016, ranking second globally and accounting for 30.3 percent of the country's GDP.

Running from December 3 to 5, the fourth WIC is themed "Developing Digital Economy for Openness and Shared Benefits—Building a Community of Common Future in Cyberspace."

Steadily Upwards

Keys to China's 2018 Economic Work

Text by Bian Yongzu

China's 2017 Central Economic Work Conference concluded in late December. This annual meeting summarized the country's economic development in the past year, and set economic plans for the coming year. Considering China's elevated economic status in the world, the meeting has also become important for analysts to project how China's economic plans will influence the world in 2018.

Nowadays, the world economy is at a transitional and rebalancing stage. Monetary policies of Western developed countries need to return to normalcy while developing countries including China face grave challenges on enterprise transformation and industrial upgrading. In today's highly globalized world, international economic development will not necessarily be smooth. At the Central Economic Work Conference, steady progress was once again emphasized. It will remain the guiding principle for the country's economic work in 2018.

The most important realm to ensure "steadiness" is risk control. As China is eliminating its backward production capacity featuring high pollution, high energy consumption and low efficiency, the country's economic growth rate will inevitably be affected. Financial risks previously concealed by high economic growth rates as well as governmental supplementary and complementary policies could possibly emerge. Problems such as a real estate bubble and related bad loans, risks on local government

debt default, capital flight, and devaluation pressure on RMB, as well as dislocations in internet finance and shadow banking, will also put enormous pressure on the liquidity of China's financial system. Exacerbation of any above-mentioned risks could jeopardize the overall stability of the country's financial system.

The report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) pointed out that stabilizing housing prices and preventing excessive real estate bubbles are important tasks to avert systematic risks. The Chinese government issued a series of policies in 2017 to curb the precipitous rise of housing prices. However, housing price rises in some regions of China were still big. Consequently, the task of promoting the principle of "houses for living, not speculation" and speeding up housing system reform, as well as the construction of a related long-term mechanism, has become even more urgent. Some regions in China including Beijing and Zhejiang Province have begun testing new housing policies. At the same time, tackling property speculation at its root would require China to improve its taxation system and promote legislation as well as enforcement of real estate taxes.


"Progress" should mainly be reflected in the cultivation of new economic momentum. The Chinese government has deepened supply-side structural reform, accelerated transformation and upgrade of enterprises and made real progress in

cultivating new economic momentum. Economic data released by the National Bureau of Statistics of China testify to these points. In the first three quarters of 2017, the total value added of industrial enterprises above designated size rose by 6.7 percent year-on-year after deducting the price factor. High-tech industries and equipment manufacturing rose by 13.4 percent and 11.6 percent year-on-year, respectively. These numbers indicate that China's manufacturing sector is shifting toward middle-to-high-end faster. Moreover, in the same period, exports of mechanical and electrical products rose by 13 percent, accounting for 57.5 percent in China's total exports. China's manufacturing industry is becoming more competitive on the global stage. In the first three quarters of 2017, China's retail sales amounted to about 26.3 trillion yuan (US\$4 trillion), up by 10.4 percent year-on-year. Online retail sales totaled about 4.9 trillion yuan (US\$747 billion), up by 34.2 percent year-on-year. New businesses such as those involving the sharing economy are emerging in China, and consumption has become the leading force to drive the Chinese economy forward.

The rural economy is another key sector for progress. The rural vitalization strategy, first mentioned in the report to the 19th CPC National Congress, will create new momentum and room for China's economic growth. Imbalanced development between urban and rural areas has been a persisting problem for China. At present, urban-rural ratio in per capita income sits at 2.8:1, which indicates a big income gap. More than 60 million people in the country remain under poverty line, and most of them reside in rural areas. Pacing up the rural vitalization strategy is essential to completing the goal of building a moderately prosperous

society in all respects by 2020.

The ultimate goal of accelerating rural reforms is to bring prosperity to the rural population. This requires not only coordinated development of urban-rural areas through bolstering agriculture with industrial development and transferring support from urban to rural areas, but also internal momentum for development in rural areas derived from promotion of deep processing of agricultural products and growth of service industries, which will expand channels to increase income. As Chinese consumers elevate their standards for agricultural products, agricultural technology will also advance rapidly. Huge capital demand for infrastructure in rural areas will create new room for investment. As farmers' livelihood improves, rural areas in China will become promising markets for consumption of electric home appliances, cars and more.

Complex situations at home and abroad have confronted China with both challenges and opportunities. Facing thorny problems in reform, China needs to take innovative measures and make breakthroughs in key sectors. The country needs to build a moderately prosperous society with reduced wealth gap, leaving no one behind, while at the same time leading global economic trends, building a community of a shared future for mankind and making greater contributions to the world. A stable environment for economic growth is critical for the Chinese economy to maintain vitality and competence. With a fine-tuned combination of "steadiness" and "progress," the Chinese economy will enjoy healthy development in 2018. 

The author is a researcher with Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies with Renmin University of China.

网络综合治理体系

Integrated Internet Management

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

On October 18, 2017, in his report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping called on Party members to give priority to improving means of communication and to creating new ones, and strengthen the penetration, guidance, influence, and credibility of the media. He noted that China will "provide more and better online content and develop a system for integrated internet management to ensure a clean cyberspace."

As an important part of social management, the system for integrated internet management covers network

protection, risk control and harmful information processing with internet sovereignty as the legal foundation for system construction.

Internet management is the direct action of a state safeguarding its cyber sovereignty. At the second World Internet Conference in 2015, Xi proposed the principle of "respecting cyber sovereignty." Marking the establishment of Chinese rules on cyber sovereignty, the move matched the global trend of pursuing cyber security and development in the internet era and provided an important legal basis for international cyberspace governance.



The system for integrated internet management is an important part of social management, covering network protection, risk control and harmful information processing. VCG

健康中国战略

Healthy China Initiative

Edited by Li Zhuoxi



October 10, 2016: Dr. Ye Zilong, a Chinese expert in cataract and intraocular refractive surgery, performs free procedures for cataract sufferers with a medical team from the Yan'an University Affiliated Hospital in Yan'an, Shaanxi Province. Xinhua

General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping emphasized in his report to the 19th CPC National Congress that China will implement the Healthy China Initiative by improving national health policy and ensuring the delivery of comprehensive lifecycle health services for the people.

According to the *Outline of the Plan for Healthy China 2030*, issued by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council in October 2016, four core principles were proposed to facilitate the development of the Healthy China Initiative: Health is a priority; Reform and innovation are key; Scientific development is crucial; Justice and equity are the ultimate goals.



Beijing

Past and Present

Text by Ragnar Baldursson

After a glance at Beijing's skyline today, it would be hard to imagine its appearance in the 1970s, when the Beijing Hotel was the tallest building in downtown Beijing. Today, it is dwarfed by dozens of concrete giants flanking Chang'an Avenue. Instead of bicycles, the streets are jammed with cars. The simple uniforms of the 1970s—unisex blue, green or gray outfits—are long gone. People are individually dressed in colorful clothing and modern fashion, set off by massive billboards and screens along the shopping streets.

However, many reminders and relics of the past are still clearly visible. The portrait of Chairman Mao still watches over Tian'anmen Square. Recently, rental bikes became

popular on roadside paths where car traffic is restricted.

Some old districts full of narrow alleys have been preserved, and the layout of the city still hearkens to the time Beijing could be described as the biggest village in the world.

Long Journey to Red China

I first arrived in Beijing in the autumn of 1975. The Ministry of Education announced that China would grant scholarships to two Icelandic students to return the favor after an Icelandic high school accepted two Chinese students. I applied as soon as I heard. The slogans of China's "cultural revolution" had echoed down the hallways of my high school. I was young, adventurous and keen on learning languages.

In those days, plane tickets to Beijing were never affordable, and direct flights were near impossible to find. It was not exactly open for international travelers. We flew to Luxembourg, where we hitched a flight to Hong Kong with an Icelandic air-cargo company, Cargoloux.

It was a long flight with many stops to load and unload cargo. After almost 40 hours, we arrived in Hong Kong, which was a British colony at the time. I found it chaotic and noisy.

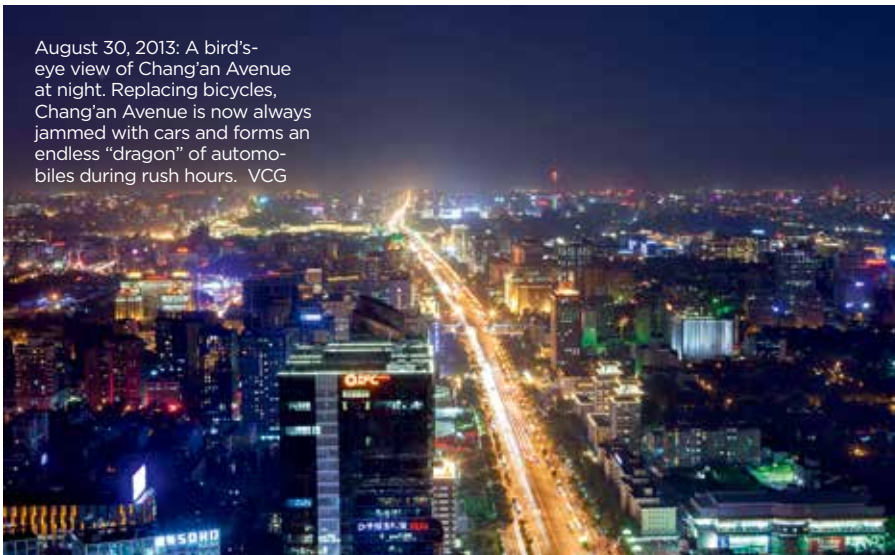
The Chinese Embassy in Iceland had given us the address of the state-run China Travel Service in Hong Kong. A young lady carefully inspected our passports and read a letter we brought from the embassy. She was surprised that we didn't know the name of the school we were to attend.

The next morning, we overcame aggressive porters and dragged our own luggage onto a train bound for Guangzhou, a southern coastal city near Hong Kong. We were relieved when we finally reached the border.

Only a handful of other foreigners could be found on the train, who were all headed to a fair in Guangzhou.

Border inspection took a long time. The border officials had never seen Icelandic passports before. They seemed puzzled that we did not know which school we were to attend. But thanks to our valid visas and awaiting contact at the Beijing Train Station, we

August 30, 2013: A bird's-eye view of Chang'an Avenue at night. Replacing bicycles, Chang'an Avenue is now always jammed with cars and forms an endless "dragon" of automobiles during rush hours. VCG



were admitted into the country.

Customs inspection was also time-consuming. There weren't any English-speaking officials available at that time and the customs authorities wanted to find someone who could communicate with us.

In fact, no one was familiar with any of the Nordic languages, or even Esperanto. When I noted that I had studied some German in high school, the roadblock was finally overcome. We were introduced to a young official who could speak enough German to help us. The officer was friendly despite his many questions. We were his only case of that whole day.

Finally, the journey continued, and in Guangzhou we boarded a different train bound for Beijing. I sat by the window to catch glimpses of the Chinese countryside and cities as we passed. Everything starkly contrasted with the scenery I saw in Iceland. It felt like a whole different world.

First Impression of Beijing

A teacher at Beijing Language Institute (later renamed Beijing Culture and Language University) was waiting for us at the Beijing Train Station when we arrived early on the morning of October 25, 1975. He helped carry our luggage to a locally produced minivan, of which he seemed proud. He oversaw the Western students at the school and told us to call him Teacher Bi.

We drove down a wide street, Chang'an Avenue, which translates to "Street of Long Lasting Peace," he said. It was the central thoroughfare of Beijing and steady streams of bicycles zipped around the buses and a few cars.

The Beijing Hotel was on the right. We drove past Tian'anmen Square, the biggest square in China, if not the world. A large painting of

Chairman Mao graced the gate of the Forbidden City, and I could see the Great Hall of the People on the left.

I thought he might be making a tour of Beijing before heading to our school. I would eventually realize that the train station was at the city center and that it was actually the shortest route. We turned right onto a narrow street flanked with low brick houses and alleys.

So began my first day in Beijing, dubbed the biggest village in the world at that time. The large municipality was home to a total population of around seven million back then. Later I realized that two to three million of them were essentially farmers living in peripheral counties relatively far from the downtown area. Urban residents numbered only about four million at that time.

The city had vast districts of traditional one-story brick houses or "rooms" built in a square around small courtyards that serve as a common area. Each courtyard had an imposing gate, opening into a maze of narrow lanes called "hutong." Many families had lived there for generations.

A growing piece of the Beijing population lived in enclosed compounds of multi-storied buildings furnished by the employing institution or labor unit. High walls surrounded them with guarded gates to intimidate unwanted guests. Gradually, I came to realize that these compounds functioned as villages within the city, both structurally and socially. Each unit provided specialized services like many of the villages in the countryside.

The Modern Beijing


After four decades of reform and construction, I find it amazing that the layout of Beijing has still



The river of bicycles on Chang'an Avenue in the late 1970s testifies to the prominence of bicycles in Chinese cities in the past. China was once known as the "kingdom of bicycles". CFB

retained features of an overpopulated countryside, where ten thousand blocks and skyscrapers are jammed into limited space linked with a few traffic-jammed highways and ring roads. Today, the population has exploded to over twenty million. Fortunately, some remnants of traditional "hutong" districts have been preserved and renovated and still hide in the shadows of high-rises.

Only in recent years have city administrators adopted a comprehensive approach to urban planning. Considering the characteristics of Beijing as a traditional nucleus of China's society and civilization, it is now being extended as a modern metropolis as it integrates with neighboring areas of Tianjin and Hebei Province.

New centers of governance and development are planned in Tongzhou District of Beijing, two dozen kilometers east of Beijing's Central Business District, and Xiong'an New Area, southwest of the Chinese capital, in Hebei Province. I hope that after all these changes, some parts of Beijing will preserve the village charm—hopefully without traffic jams. 

■ The author is an Icelandic diplomat who studied in China in the 1970s. He is also the author of the book *Nineteen Seventy-Six*.

Digital Economics of Tomorrow

Text by Zhang Xue

Currently, 22 percent of global GDP is closely linked to the digital economy.

Developing the digital economy has become a common goal of many countries to enhance global competitiveness, according to the *World Internet Development Report 2017*, issued at the 4th World Internet Conference (WIC).

A new technological and industrial revolution dominated by information technology is in full force, and the digital economy is becoming the new driving force of global economic growth.

From December 3 to 5, 2017, the 4th WIC was held in Wuzhen, a water town in eastern China's Zhejiang Province.

During the event, heads of international organizations, leading internet entrepreneurs, experts and scholars focused their minds on the theme of “Developing Digital Economy for Openness and Shared Benefits—Building a Community of Common Future in Cyberspace” and shared ideas on the future development of the digital economy.

Building a Community of Shared Future in Cyberspace

The idea of “building a community of shared future in cyberspace” was first proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in December 2015, when he addressed the opening ceremony of the 2nd WIC.

It was stressed again by Xi in his congratulatory letter to the 4th WIC, with “four principles” and “five propositions”

on internet governance.

Today, global internet governance reform has reached a key turning point. A new round of technological and industrial revolution led by information technology is booming, injecting strong impetus into social and economic development.

Meanwhile, the development of the internet has posed many new challenges for the sovereignty, security and developmental interests of many countries. Building a community of shared future in cyberspace has increasingly become the common goal of international society.

In his congratulatory letter, President Xi noted that China hopes to work with the international community to respect cyberspace sovereignty and foster the spirit of partnership to jointly advance development, safeguard security, participate in governance and share benefits.

By doing so, the international community can better seize opportunities and minimize harm brought by the development of the internet, so that it can benefit people of all countries.

Cutting-Edge Tech on Display

During a release ceremony for the world's leading internet scientific and technological achievements on December 3, 18 cutting-edge products and technologies wowed spectators, such as the 3GPP 5G pre-commercial system from Chinese telecom giant Huawei, the Xiaoice, Microsoft's emotion computing-based chatbot, the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, Mobike's dockless smart bike sharing



December 2, 2017: Visitors interact with a doctor through a smart home terminal at the Light of Internet Exposition in Wuzhen, eastern China's Zhejiang Province. The expo, featuring 411 renowned internet enterprises from home and abroad, witnessed the launch of 118 new products and 10 meetings on internet project cooperation. Xinhua

system and Apple's AR Kit, over 60 percent of which were developed by Chinese teams.

It should be noted that most of the state-of-the-art products and technologies are based on the development of artificial intelligence (AI), which has undoubtedly become a driving force of internet development and is sure to remain so in the near future.

Thus, discussion of AI became a major highlight of the conference. For example, will AI take away jobs? Will it intensify imbalanced economic development in some countries? And how would AI help humankind?

Jack Ma, founder and chairman of Alibaba Group, posited that via AI development over the last three decades, humans have managed to replace a considerable volume of manual labor with machines, and predicted that in the next three decades, machines would become far more intelligent. But he hopes that eventually we make machines act more like machines and humans more human.

Apple CEO Tim Cook, who also attended the conference, stressed that technology is the most powerful driving force of innovation, but it is the task of every human being to make it more humane. "We all have to work to infuse technology with humanity, with our values," he said.


Internet-Driven Poverty Alleviation

Poverty reduction is a global concern. The rise of the internet has enhanced traditional poverty alleviation efforts with the power of modern science and technology, facilitating many new models.

At the "Sharing of Dividends: Internet-Driven Poverty Alleviation" Forum, held on December 4 as part of the 4th WIC, representatives from international organizations and countries around the world exchanged ideas on poverty alleviation.

Many real stories about poverty alleviation were shared and new strategies proposed, including improving internet access for people in rural areas, establishing a national big data platform for poverty alleviation and developing rural e-commerce.

Presently, broadband coverage in China's rural areas has expanded to 86 percent and the poverty rate shrunk to four percent. The remaining poor are gaining increasing access to the internet, through which they are lifting themselves out of poverty by selling agricultural products at higher prices and better educating their children.

By sharing Chinese experiences and solutions, China is contributing wisdom to the global cause of poverty reduction. 



Goodbye

2017

Hello 2018

In this issue, *China Pictorial* looks back at China in 2017 through the stories of those who influenced the nation and even the world, as well as the most creative technologies, art trends, and ideas that emerged in the past year, so as to showcase China's social transformation.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics entering a new era is heralding a new chapter for the Chinese economy as it transitions from high-speed growth to high-quality development. The Chinese economy is expected to show new vitality and maintain stable growth in 2018.

The year 2017 was highlighted by a variety of cultural phenomena involving museums, sensational TV dramas and movies, mobile gaming, digital reading and paid content. In 2017, every realm of culture bloomed.

In the past year, we lost some great yet low-profile, familiar and sincere people. Their outstanding contributions and remarkable achievements, as well as their noble and sincere character, have touched our hearts. They are immortal legends and monuments of the times.

In 2018, China's innovation-driven development is expected to reach new heights, and breakthroughs are expected in myriad realms.

2017 A Good Year for China

Text by Li Xia

The world witnessed increasing uncertainty and many emerging challenges in 2017. Many are pondering in which direction humankind should steer its future development. After decades of unprecedented growth followed by landmark successes in the past year, perhaps China has some answers that would be universally beneficial.

China and the World

In 2017, problems such as terrorism, increasing refugee flow, regional conflict, poverty, unemployment and isolationism still plagued the world.

In this context, Chinese President Xi Jinping launched an initiative to build a community with a shared future for all mankind and proposed Chinese solutions to drive global economic growth and balance globalization—contributing Chinese wisdom to the whole world with an eye on solving common challenges.

On January 17, 2017, the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting commenced in Davos, Switzerland. In a context of mounting uncertainty arising from political changes in the United States and Europe amid surging anti-globalization sentiment and isolationism, President Xi's speech at the meeting drew particular interest from participants from around the world. In the speech, Xi remarked, "World history shows

that human civilization's road has never been smooth and that mankind has accelerated progress by overcoming difficulties. No difficulty, however daunting, will stop mankind from advancing. When encountering difficulties, we should not complain about things that cannot be controlled, blame others, lose confidence or run away from responsibility. We should join hands and rise to the challenge."

During the G20 summit in Hamburg on July 7 and 8, China's role and influence in the world became front-page news in Western media. German newspaper *Der Tagesspiegel* commented that President Xi Jinping made a big statement as the leader of a responsible world power at the Hamburg summit. *The New York Times* remarked that President Xi Jinping's attendance at the G20 summit in Hamburg positioned Beijing as "the globe's newest, biggest defender of a multilateral, rules-based system."

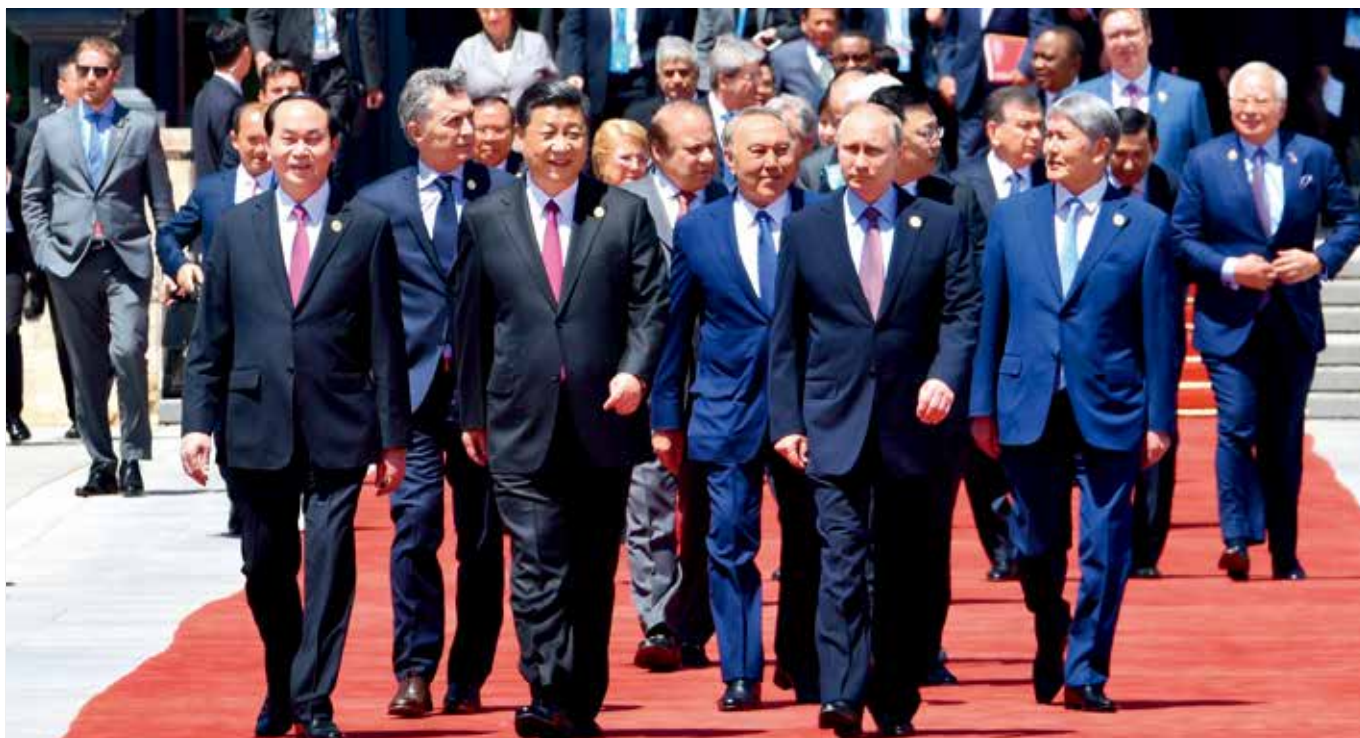
President Xi also attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting held from November 10 to 14 in Da Nang, Vietnam. In sharp contrast to U.S. President Donald Trump's "America First" philosophy, Xi called for a defense of globalization and construction of more multilateral trade mechanisms and free trade areas, which won applause at the meeting. *The Diplomat*

commented that Xi's speeches in favor of globalization, free trade and multilateral organizations are more attractive to the world than any of the alternates.

"From Davos to Geneva, from Hamburg to Da Nang, President Xi delivered a series of important speeches, laying out China's clear position on a range of issues and suggesting the way forward for the world economy while making major contributions to global governance," noted Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. "China is emerging as the most positive factor in the evolution of the international system and the most dynamic force for improving global governance. The Chinese Dream is increasingly linked with the dreams of the world."

The approach of pursuing shared benefits through consultation and collaboration opens new pathways for eliminating deficits in global development and governance, achieving sustainable development and balancing globalization. The three upgraded pillars of economic, trade and financial cooperation, political and security cooperation, and people-to-people exchange have created brighter prospects for cooperation between BRICS countries.

From May 14 to 15, 2017, the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held in Beijing. Over the four years since President Xi proposed the Belt and



May 15, 2017: Chinese President Xi Jinping, foreign delegation heads and guests exit the Yanqi Lake International Convention Center after the first session of the Leaders' Roundtable Summit at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing. by Rao Aimin/Xinhua



January 17, 2017: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), during the opening plenary of the 2017 WEF annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, at which President Xi delivered a keynote speech titled "Jointly Shoulder Responsibility of Our Times, Promote Global Growth." by Lan Hongguang/Xinhua



September 5, 2017: Chinese President Xi Jinping meets the media at the Xiamen International Conference Center during the 9th BRICS Summit. The summit was another important international event hosted by China in 2017. by Pang Xinglei/Xinhua

Road Initiative, China has signed Belt and Road cooperation agreements with 80 countries and organizations, conducted institutionalized cooperation on industrial capacity with over 30 countries and built

75 overseas economic and trade cooperation zones in 24 countries under the Belt and Road framework. Chinese businesses have invested over US\$50 billion and created nearly 200,000 local jobs in countries along

the Belt and Road.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a successful example of China innovating solutions to help the entire world. The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

September 10, 2017: A girl watches a high-speed train model in the China Pavilion at the Thessaloniki International Fair. According to a June 2017 survey, youths from countries along the Belt and Road listed high-speed rail, online shopping, Alipay and bike sharing as China's "new four great inventions." Xinhua



attracted enthusiastic attention from around the globe. France's AFP reported that the forum not only strengthened China's economic and trade connectivity with the outside world, but also showcased its efforts to oppose trade protectionism and defend economic globalization.

The 9th BRICS Summit, held in Xiamen from September 3 to 5, was another important international event hosted by China in 2017. President Xi Jinping delivered a series of significant speeches during the summit. *The Washington Post* quoted President Xi saying that "protectionism and inward-looking mentality are on the rise... Only openness delivers progress, and only inclusiveness sustains such progress."

As a rising great power, China is committed to building a new type of major-country relationship with rationality and wisdom, safeguarding

regional stability with honesty and responsibility and deepening cooperation and friendship with neighboring countries through pragmatism and communication.

In January 2017, Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States, stirring up concern for the future of China-U.S. relations. Later, a series of high-level interactions between the two countries drew worldwide attention, including President Trump's Lunar New Year message to President Xi, a phone call between the two presidents, Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi's visit to the U.S., the meeting between Chinese and U.S. foreign ministers on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bonn, and the first in-person meeting between President Xi and President Trump at the Mar-a-Largo estate in South Florida. China and the U.S.

announced four-pronged high-level dialogue mechanisms covering topics such as diplomacy and security. The two countries agreed to launch a 100-day action plan to improve bilateral trade ties. Bloomberg quoted experts as saying that "the meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping was a constructive step toward stronger ties."

Soon after the conclusion of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), U.S. President Donald Trump made a state visit to China. *The New York Times* commented, "One tangible gain from Mr. Trump's trip—US\$250 billion worth of business agreements between American and Chinese companies—was viewed as a token of Chinese good will."

In 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart



① October 31, 2017: Renato Guimaraes, head of the Department of Physics at Brazil's Fluminense Federal University, displays a reusable coffee capsule he bought via AliExpress, a global e-commerce platform under China's Alibaba Group. by Li Ming/Xinhua



② September 18, 2017: Alipay, China's leading online third-party payment platform, signs a memorandum of understanding with the National Investment and Trade Promotion Agency of Finland in Helsinki to promote usage of Alipay in Finland. by Li Jizhi/Xinhua

③ June 29, 2017: Locals ride Mobike's shared bikes in Manchester, Britain. A leading Chinese bicycle-sharing company, Mobike launched service in the Greater Manchester area in June 2017. Xinhua

Vladimir Putin exchanged visits and met five times. The two sides agreed to maintain consistent, close coordination on major issues concerning global strategic stability, forge greater synergy in development strategies that will revitalize Eurasia, and steer China-Russia strategic coordination toward higher levels and into more areas at greater depths. The China-Russia relationship has become a cornerstone of world peace and stability, fairness and justice and win-win cooperation.

In June 2017, Indian border troops trespassed into China's Dong Lang area, arousing concerns that the two countries could fall into military conflict. However, the Chinese kept national interests in mind and maintained restraint throughout the ordeal. The event demonstrated not only the value and emphasis China places on its relationship with India

but also its sincerity and sense of responsibility in maintaining regional peace and stability.

Last year, relations between China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) encountered headwinds due to deployment of the THAAD missile system. Since President Moon Jae-in took office, he placed greater focus on maintaining friendship and cooperation with China. The two sides reached agreement on handling the THAAD issue for the time being. On December 13, 2017, President Moon Jae-in paid a state visit to China. During his meeting with President Moon Jae-in, President Xi Jinping pointed out that China and the ROK are close neighbors and strategic cooperation partners. The two countries have made remarkable progress in exchange and cooperation in various fields, producing tremendous benefits for both sides

since the establishment of diplomatic relations 25 years ago. There have been recent twists and turns in China-ROK relations which have only served to provide enlightenment for both sides on how to better create a future for bilateral relations on the basis of mutual respect for each other's core interests.

In 2017, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducted a total of six nuclear tests, and the Korean nuclear issue escalated tension in the region. On the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, China has firmly stood by goals of upholding the international non-proliferation regime, safeguarding peace and stability of and denuclearizing the Peninsula, while remaining committed to resolving the issue through dialogue and negotiation. The international community has noticed that China

has fully and strictly concurred on DPRK-related resolutions of the UN Security Council. While taking concrete actions to curb the DPRK's nuclear and missile development, China has proposed a "suspension for suspension" strategy with the aim of creating conditions for resuming dialogue and negotiation.

China in the New Era

In his report to the 19th CPC National Congress, President Xi Jinping declared, "Chinese socialism's entrance into a new era is, in the history of the development of the People's Republic of China and the history of the development of the Chinese nation, of tremendous importance. In the history of the development of international socialism and the history of the development of human society it is of tremendous importance."

Last year witnessed the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China and the 90th anniversary

of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). Such celebrations not only kindled pride and patriotism in the hearts of the Chinese people, but also drew global attention.

July 1, 2017 marked the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to her motherland. From June 29 to July 1, President Xi Jinping visited Hong Kong to attend a celebration gala and the inaugural ceremony of the fifth-term government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He noted that the practice of "One Country, Two Systems" in Hong Kong is a success recognized by all.

Forbes commented that "The growth of the city [Hong Kong] was spectacular; the GDP almost doubling in the 20 years since." Japan's *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* quoted a Hong Kong businessman as saying that the prosperity of Hong Kong can be attributed to the implementation of "One Country, Two Systems," and the Belt and Road Initiative presents a huge opportunity

for the city's future development.

On July 30, a military parade celebrating the 90th anniversary of the founding of the PLA attracted attention both at home and abroad. In his speech at the rally, President Xi declared that China's army will resolutely safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, a quote that was grabbed by many foreign media organizations. Results of China's military reform and modernization also drew worldwide interest. The Singapore-based newspaper *Lianhe Zaobao* commented that the appearance of more new military equipment at the parade evidenced China's increasing transparency in military affairs.

On December 31, 2016, President Xi Jinping said in his New Year speech that when the 19th CPC National Congress convened in 2017, participants would draw a blueprint to build socialism with Chinese characteristics. The 19th CPC National Congress was a greatly important meeting that took place during the decisive stage of construction of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and at the critical moment as socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era. It was also a meeting of global significance as China strides closer to center stage in the world. The global media opined that in a time when international situations are undergoing profound changes, the 19th CPC National Congress is not only crucial to China's future development, but also heavily influential on the world.

Foreign media organizations interpreted the important meaning and influence of the report made by President Xi at the congress

April 26, 2017: China launches its first domestically developed aircraft carrier in Dalian, Liaoning Province. Last year, China realized outstanding scientific and technological achievements, which has raised eyebrows around the world when coupled with the country's economic growth. by Li Gang/Xinhua



from a variety of perspectives. They surmised that the report outlines a roadmap for China's development in the decades to come and sets a detailed blueprint for the realization of the Chinese Dream, as well as that Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era will lead China to new achievements. *U.S. News & World Report* published an article titled "What China's National Congress Means for the U.S.," in which it printed: "The results could influence whether Beijing will become more willing to cooperate on critical but contentious issues that matter a lot to the United States." The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) commented that since China is Australia's largest trade partner, the economic policies determined at the 19th CPC National Congress will undoubtedly influence the country.

In 2017, China's economy realized moderate but sound growth as various reforms were pushed deeper and broader. In particular, supply-side structural reform has produced promising early results.

China's remarkable achievements in economic growth last year inspired confidence. Data from research group Euromonitor International showed that the average wages in China's manufacturing sector have surpassed that of Latin America. *The Financial Times* opined that this development testifies to the progress China has made in improving the living standards of its people. *The Economist* pointed out in an article that China has become a financial tech leader and witnessed especially impressive rapid development in mobile payments, online lending and internet investment. Bloomberg reported

that statistics released by the Center for European Economic Research, Standard Chartered Bank and other international financial institutions show China's economy is becoming stronger and more promising.

On December 14, the National Bureau of Statistics of China released data on the country's macro economy in the first 11 months of 2017. Mao Shengyong, spokesperson of the bureau, summarized the current situations of China's economy as follows: First, the stable operation of China's economy is showing strong tenacity. Second, the optimization of China's economic structure has produced many highlights. Third, China is soundly improving the quality and efficiency of its economic growth. This is not only demonstrated by favorable outlooks for China's economy, but also reinforced by its move to build a modernized economic system and achieve high-quality development, which has deepened supply-side structural reform, promoting stable growth, economic restructuring, livelihood improvement and risk prevention while accelerating healthy economic and social development for the long-term.

In 2017, China realized outstanding scientific and technological achievements in fields such as expeditions to space and into the ocean, high-speed rails, and supercomputing, which has raised eyebrows around the world when coupled with China's economic growth.

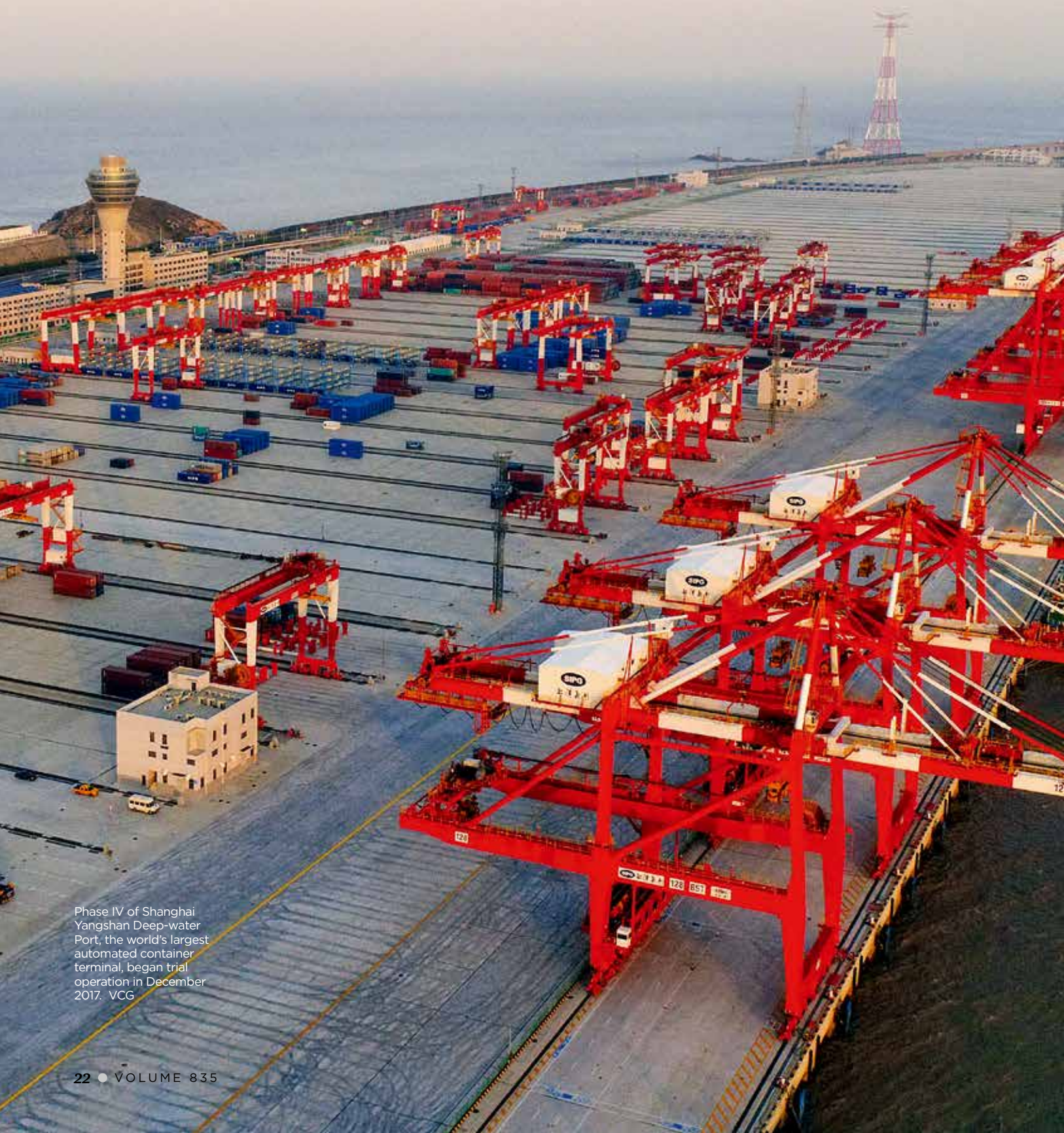
On April 20, 2017, China's first cargo spacecraft, Tianzhou-1, blasted into space from the Wenchang Space Launch Center. "China has launched its first domestically-engineered cargo

spacecraft, a crucial step in Beijing's goal to launch and resupply a manned space station by 2022," reported *The Financial Times*. A few days later, on April 26, China launched its first domestically-made aircraft carrier, which was described by *The Wall Street Journal* as "a demonstration of the growing technical sophistication of its defense industries and determination to safeguard its maritime territorial claims and crucial trade routes." On May 5, 2017, the C919, China's first homegrown large passenger jet to meet world-class standards, completed its maiden flight at Shanghai Pudong International Airport. Many foreign media organizations believed that the development testified to China's ambitious commitment to develop a high-tech economy and a crucial step toward great capabilities in aviation.

On June 15, 2017, China's first X-ray astronomy satellite, Huiyan, was sent into space atop a Long March-4B rocket. On September 29, China launched three remote sensing satellites on a Long March-2C rocket. On November 5, China launched two BeiDou-3 satellites into space via a single carrier rocket to support its global navigation and positioning network. On November 13, the TOP500 supercomputers list was officially released. China's Sunway TaihuLight and Milky Way-2 maintained the first and second places, respectively, for the fourth time.

In 2017, China accomplished remarkable achievements in realms of politics, economics, diplomacy and science and technology while playing a major role in regional and global affairs by contributing Chinese wisdom and solutions. 

 The author is editor-in-chief of *China Pictorial*.



Phase IV of Shanghai Yangshan Deep-water Port, the world's largest automated container terminal, began trial operation in December 2017. VCG

The Chinese Economy

A Bullish Outlook for 2018

The World Bank raised its China 2017 economic growth forecast from a projected 6.7 percent in October to 6.8 percent in its *China Economic Update* on December 19, 2017. The past year also saw the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank raising their outlook for China's economic growth several times, which indicates global optimism about the Chinese economy.

In 2017, by deepening supply-side structural reform, China achieved impressive results in cutting industrial overcapacity, de-stocking, de-leveraging, lowering corporate costs, and bolstering areas of weakness: China's annual targets for cutting capacity in steel and coal industries were surpassed, commercial housing for sale and corporate debt ratio continued to decrease, taxes and fees were cut by more than one trillion yuan (US\$152.1 billion), and investment in weak sectors increased heavily.

The continuing reform helps the Chinese economy remain stable and generates greater momentum for growth. In 2017, the Chinese economy improved its quality and effectiveness and became more vigorous, as new businesses and new industries became stronger. These changes laid a solid groundwork for China's long-term growth.

With its massive scale as the world's second largest economy, China achieved steady growth in 2017 despite pressure brought by economic structure transformation and upgradation. In the first three quarters of 2017, the Chinese economy grew by 6.9 percent year-on-year, about 0.4 percentage points higher than its target. The third quarter saw China's GDP grow by 6.8 percent. The growth rate has remained between 6.7 percent and 6.9 percent for nine consecutive quarters.


From January to November 2017, 12.8 million new urban jobs were created in China, 310,000 more than the same period in 2016. Meanwhile, the Consumer Price Index rose 1.5 percent year-

on-year, within the target of about 3 percent. For the first three quarters in 2017, per capita disposable income in China rose by 7.5 percent year-on-year after deducting the price factor, which is higher than GDP growth rate.

China's imports and exports both maintained double-digit growth, realizing a basic balance in international payments. From January to November 2017, goods trade rose by 15.6 percent compared to the same period in 2016, of which imports rose by 11.6 percent and exports 20.9 percent. China's foreign exchange reserves exceeded US\$3.1 trillion at the end of November after rising for ten straight months.

The global economic recovery since the beginning of 2017 provided a favorable external environment for China to develop its economy, while China has lived up to its reputation as the engine and stabilizer of world economic growth. The United Nations recently reported that China contributed about one third of global economic growth in 2017. Over the past five years, China has contributed over 30 percent of world economic growth, topping all other countries.

The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China has gained extensive support from the international community. An increasing number of countries and regions are taking part in the construction of the Belt and Road to develop their own economy. Over the next 15 years, China will continue to enlarge its market. Analysts estimate that China will import goods worth US\$24 trillion, absorb foreign direct investment of US\$2 trillion and invest US\$2 trillion abroad.

The annual Central Economic Work Conference held in Beijing from December 18 to 20, 2017 drew a blueprint for China's economic work for 2018 based on the current economic situation. Socialism with Chinese characteristics entering a new era is heralding a new chapter for the Chinese economy as it transitions from high-speed growth to high-quality development. The Chinese economy is expected to show new vitality and maintain stable growth in 2018. 



China Law Society Leading Group for Drafting Civil Code

In March 2017, the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, passed the *General Provisions of the Civil Law* that took effect on October 1. It signaled that China has completed the first step of a two-step approach to develop its civil code. The remaining chapters of the civil code are planned to be submitted to the NPC for deliberation in 2018. The development of the comprehensive civil code is expected to be completed by 2020.

In 2015, China launched the drafting of the civil code, which was headed by the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC and supplemented by the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Legal Affairs Office of the State Council, the Chinese Academy

of Social Sciences, the China Law Society and other organizations. The China Law Society, the official organization of the Chinese legal academic profession, founded the Leading Group for Drafting Civil Code, and submitted drafts of the *General Provisions of the Civil Law* to the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC for reference. The group is headed by Zhang Mingqi, vice president of the China Law Society. According to Zhang, the *General Provisions of the Civil Law* functions as the guidelines of the civil code, and development of the civil code is a critical step for China to comprehensively advance the rule of law and build a country of socialist rule of law.

March 12, 2016:
Liu Shiyu,
president of the
China Securities
Regulatory
Commission,
speaks at
a news
conference.
IC



“Reform, stability and development must be comprehensively coordinated.”

Liu Shiyu

President of China Securities Regulatory Commission

Following the principle of strict governance based on law in 2017, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) made efforts to prevent systemic risks and lead the capital market to better serve the real economy. With the capital market stabilized and risk averted, the CSRC promoted normalization of initial public offerings (IPOs) to build a multi-tiered capital market. As a result, China led most countries around the world in IPO numbers and financing scale in 2017. So far, the Shanghai and Shenzhen Stock Exchanges have listed nearly 3,500 enterprises, and the New Three Board (China's share transfer system for small and medium-

sized companies) facilitates trading of more than 11,600 companies. In addition, shares of 21,000-plus enterprises are traded on 40 regional equity markets.

In 2018, Chinese regulators will continue to facilitate the regulatory system that ensures the country's capital market will remain healthy and orderly. The capital market is expected to expand, improve in quality and promote bilateral opening. According to Liu, the CSRC aims to better integrate China's capital market into national development strategies and better serve the real economy, with increased direct financing and healthy growth of the multi-tiered capital market.

October 11, 2017:
Lam Cheng
Yuet-ngor, Chief
Executive of
China's Hong
Kong Special
Administrative
Region, delivers her
first policy address
in Hong Kong since
assuming office.
IC



“My vision is that everyone living in Hong Kong feels hopeful, happy and confident that Hong Kong is home to justice, law-based governance and fine manners, and Hong Kong is a safe, prosperous, merciful, well-governed and promising international metropolis.”

Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor

Hong Kong's First Female Leader

Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor took office as the fifth Chief Executive and the first female head of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on July 1, 2017 as Hong Kong marked the 20th anniversary of its return to China. At the inaugural ceremony, Lam declared, “I will fulfill my responsibilities as a Chief Executive and resolutely do everything within my ability to implement the ‘One Country, Two Systems’

principle, uphold the Basic Law of the HKSAR and defend the rule of law.”

Lam also noted that she would promote industries in which Hong Kong maintains traditional advantages, strengthen innovation and development of technological and creative industries, inject vitality into the economy, and create quality job opportunities for citizens, especially young people.

March 12, 2015:
Jin Qi, chair of
the Silk Road
Fund, speaks
at a news
conference.
VCG



“ We should employ developmental finance, make better use of equity investment and explore innovative mechanisms for complementary and win-win financing. ”

Jin Qi

Silk Road Funder

Launched at the end of 2014 with an initial capital injection of US\$10 billion, the Silk Road Fund has supported infrastructure construction, resource development and industrial and financial cooperation along the Belt and Road routes. Among various forms of the investments, equity investment is the most prominent. The Fund attaches particular importance to middle- and long-term projects that can produce economic profits, social benefits and industrial value.

Chinese President Xi Jinping declared that China

would contribute an additional 100 billion yuan (US\$15.3 billion) to the Fund at the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in May 2017. So far, the Fund has committed investments of about US\$7 billion to the 17 signed projects that cumulatively have total investments of US\$80 billion. Jin Qi, chair of the Silk Road Fund, said she hoped to strengthen cooperation with multiple international funding bodies and mobilize international capital to construct the Belt and Road.

March 15, 2017: Wang Xiaochu, chairman of China Unicom, speaks at the company's 2016 Annual Performance Announcement.



The change may seem small, but it is in fact a huge leap forward for centrally-administered state-owned enterprises.



Wang Xiaochu

Mixed-ownership Reformer

China Unicom disclosed a plan to raise 78 billion yuan (US\$12 billion) from strategic investors in August 2017, becoming the first centrally-administered state-owned enterprise to carry out mixed-ownership reform at the group level. The state-owned parent company saw its stake in China Unicom's arm listed in the Shanghai Stock Exchange shrink from 62.7 percent to 36.7 percent, and strategic investors including China Life Insurance, Tencent Holdings Ltd., Baidu Inc., JD.com and Alibaba Group Holdings Ltd. gained 35.2 percent combined. Additionally, core employees, about three percent of China Unicom's

staff, are expected to hold shares.

This is a critical breakthrough for China's state-owned enterprise reform. China Unicom has become a pilot project for transition from partial reform to integral reform. According to Wang Xiaochu, chairman of China Unicom, the reform has diversified state-owned shares of the company and the corporate governance structure is no longer dominated by a single party, which ensures the benefits for small shareholders. Wang believes that through the moves the company has become more market-oriented.



January 18, 2017:
Jack Ma, founder
and executive
chairman of Alibaba
Group, speaks at the
annual meeting of
the World Economic
Forum in Davos,
Switzerland.
VCG

“ We want to enable more developing countries, small and medium-sized enterprises and young people to share the fruits of free trade and globalization and enjoy business creation, innovation and technological advancement. ”

Jack Ma

Building the Alibaba Economy

Jack Ma founded Alibaba 18 years ago, which integrated offline retail sales into e-commerce in a big way. In 2017, Ma promoted his “new retail” model featuring artificial intelligence, aiming to restructure China’s entire retail market. Moreover, through expansions involving Ant Financial, Alibaba Cloud, Cainiao Network and others, Alibaba has evolved into an ecological system more than simply an e-commerce platform. It is also expanding overseas via the electronic World Trade Platform. In October 2017, Ma announced the founding

of the Academy for Discovery, Adventure, Momentum and Outlook (DAMO Academy), in which he has planned to invest an estimated 100 billion yuan (US\$15.3 billion) over the next three years to foster fundamental scientific research and disruptive technology.

Aiming to expand to the size equal to that of the world’s fifth largest economy by 2036, according to Ma, Alibaba hopes to create 100 million new jobs, serve two billion consumers and use its platform to help ten million small and medium-sized enterprises generate profits.



Liu Qiangdong,
founder,
chairman and
CEO of JD.com.
VCG

“ I hope more businesspeople will get engaged in poverty relief after seeing the fruits of my efforts. We can work together to improve the livelihood of more people. This is how to fulfill entrepreneurs’ social responsibility and pay back our nation and society. ”

Liu Qiangdong

Relieving Poverty with E-commerce

Liu Qiangdong, chairman and CEO of JD.com, became honorary chief of Pingshitou Village in northern China’s Hebei Province in November 2017. Of all the 655 villagers, 123 were documented as living under the poverty line. Liu declared that he would help lift them out of poverty within three years.

Under his leadership, JD.com, China’s second largest e-commerce platform, has taken targeted measures to alleviate poverty through e-commerce in

recent years. Leveraging its heavy traffic, well-built distribution channels and financing power, the company aims to industrialize sales of agricultural products from poverty-stricken rural areas. JD.com sells local products directly, helps villagers launch online stores on its platform and facilitates crowdfunding for them. The company has worked with over 6,000 enterprises in 832 state-level poor counties, generating sales of agricultural goods of 20 billion yuan (US\$3.1 billion).



February 28, 2017: Lei Jun, founder, chairman and CEO of Xiaomi Inc., speaks at the release conference for its first smartphone chip Surge S1. VCG

“ No mobile phone maker had ever reversed plummeting sales, except for Xiaomi. ”

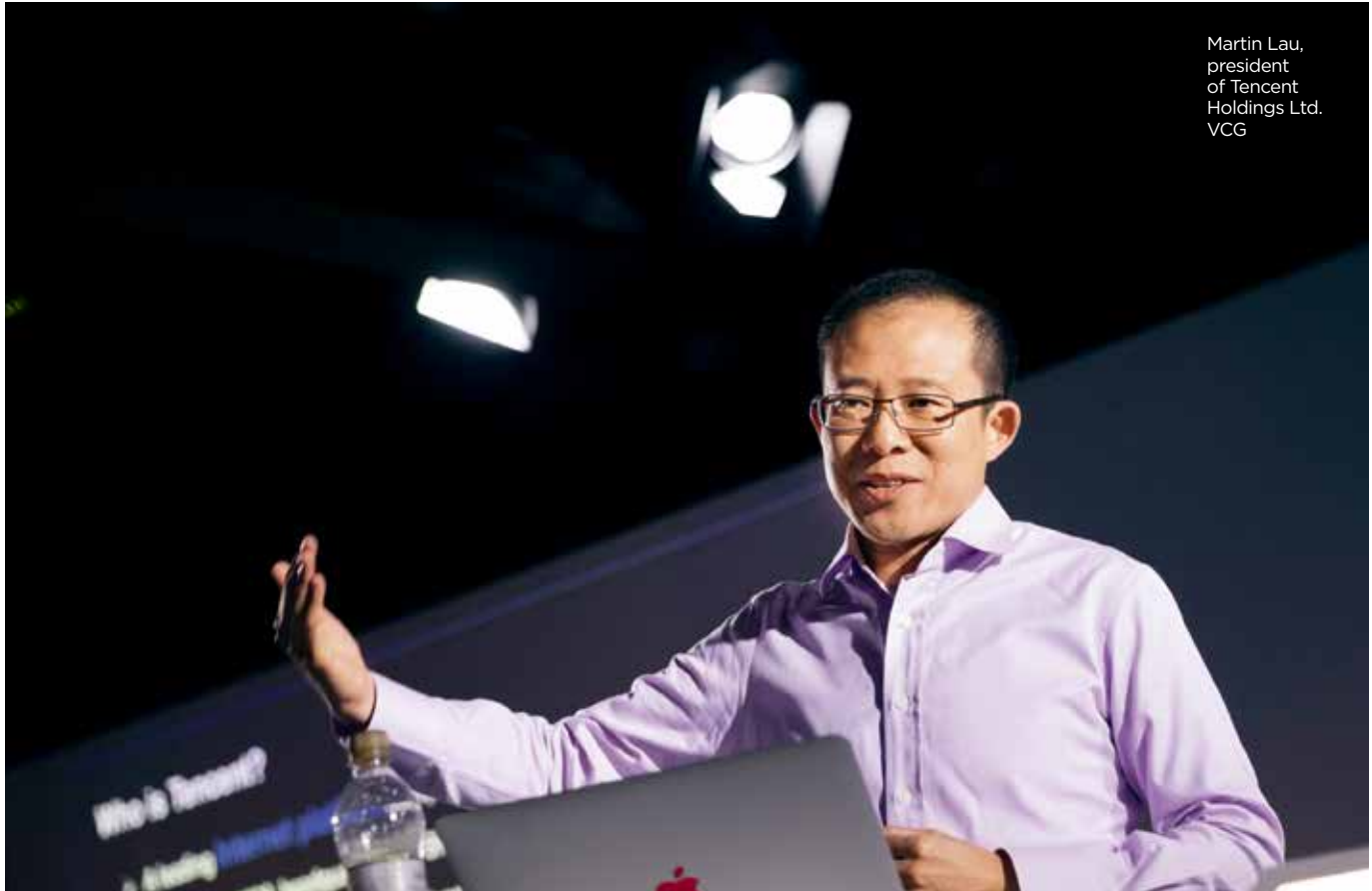
Lei Jun

Bouncing Back

As its sales slumped in 2016, Xiaomi was elbowed out of the world's top five smartphone makers by OPPO and VIVO. To turn his ship around, Lei Jun, founder, chairman and CEO of Xiaomi Inc., took direct charge of product development and supply chain management to integrate manufacturing, distributing and marketing of Xiaomi smartphones. The company picked up the pace in 2017 and completed its goal of shipping 70 million smartphones ahead of schedule. The company's revenue exceeded 100 billion

yuan (US\$15.3 billion) from January to October 2017, as its retail outlets and ecological chain grew. Besides smartphones, portable batteries, electronic cookers, and smart wristbands were also among Xiaomi's best sellers.

Xiaomi also tapped into overseas markets. For instance, it became the most popular smartphone brand in India in the third quarter of 2017, with its market share rising to 23.5 percent. According to Lei, Xiaomi has entered 60 countries and now targets Western Europe and North America.



“Going global is no easy task for any Chinese enterprise.”

Martin Lau

Top CEO of a Public Company

Topping Forbes China's list of Best Chief Executive Officers of Chinese listed companies published in July 2017 and ranked among the world's 50 most influential people by Bloomberg in December, Martin Lau is becoming well-known throughout the world. At Chinese internet giant Tencent, Pony Ma, chairman of the Board of Directors, oversees the general direction of the company while Lau, the chief strategist, manages daily operations.

Tencent's core product WeChat, a mobile app that

integrates multiple functions including messaging and payments, has gained more than 900 million daily active users. Other Tencent products have also found room in everyday Chinese life. To fulfill Tencent's ambitions for overseas markets, Lau has made impressive investments such as buying a five percent stake in U.S. electric car maker Tesla with US\$1.8 billion, acquiring a 12 percent stake in Snap, the parent company of Snapchat, and purchasing an 84 percent stake in the Finnish mobile game maker Supercell.



June 30, 2017:
Liu Qingfeng,
chairman
and CEO of
iFLYTEK, speaks
at the World
Intelligence
Conference
in northern
China's Tianjin
Municipality. IC

“In five to ten years, AI will be as common as water and electricity and used in almost every industry.”

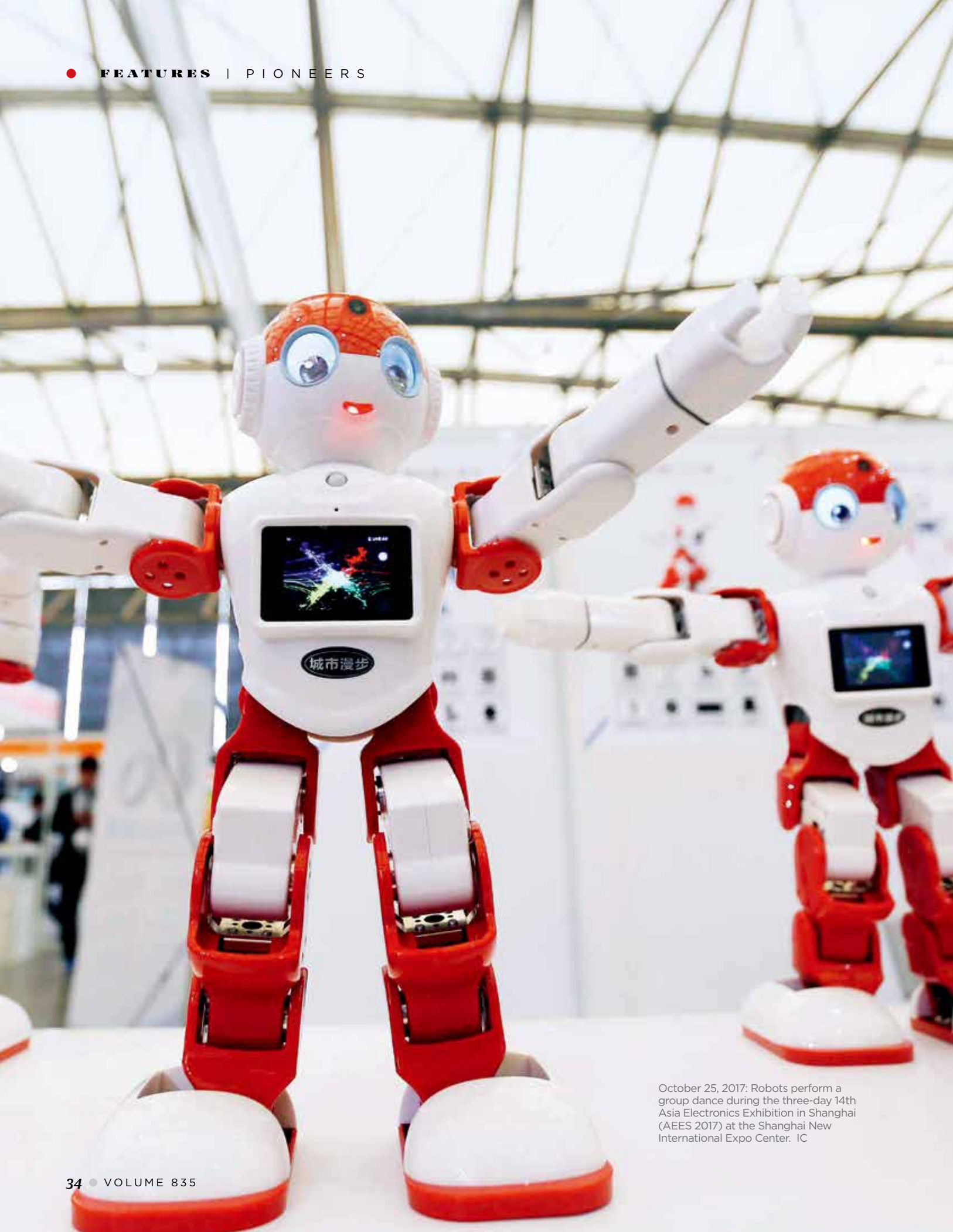
Liu Qingfeng

Brain Builder

For 17 years, Liu Qingfeng, chairman and CEO of iFLYTEK, has continued his mission to “let machines hear, speak, understand and predict,” leading the company to promote the research and industrialization of speech and artificial intelligence (AI) core technology. The speech synthesis system developed by iFLYTEK has won 12 consecutive championships at the Blizzard Challenge, the most influential international speech synthesis contest.

In 2017, iFLYTEK’s ecological system for AI took

shape as its business expanded through sectors including education, finance, medical services, electric home appliances and smartphones. So far, the company has occupied 70 percent of the Chinese voice recognition market, and the number of users of the iFLYTEK voice cloud has exceeded 890 million. More than 460,000 startup teams have utilized its AIUI open platform, which was launched in 2015 to provide developers with technical support in voice recognition, voice synthesis and voiceprints.



October 25, 2017: Robots perform a group dance during the three-day 14th Asia Electronics Exhibition in Shanghai (AEES 2017) at the Shanghai New International Expo Center. IC

Chinese Innovation Time

In 2017, the leading and supporting roles of innovation in China's economic and social development came into full force. For example, China's first self-developed and constructed aircraft carrier was transferred from dry dock into the water. The C919, China's homegrown large passenger plane, took off over Shanghai. And a team of Chinese scientists built the world's first quantum computing machine that far transcends the abilities of classical and conventional computers. All these achievements testify to China's growing scientific and technological strength and innovative capabilities. In 2018, China's innovation-driven development is expected to reach new heights, and breakthroughs are expected in myriad realms, including the innovation environment, modes and subjects.

For starters, in terms of the innovation environment, China is presently evolving from a national innovation system to social innovation ecosystem. The concept of an innovation ecosystem is intended to optimally meet the requirements for fostering innovation. The international community believes that such a concept should be a basic tenet of a country's innovation system.

Second, in terms of innovation modes, China is expanding from industry-university-research cooperation to collaborative innovation in a broader sense. Presently, China's industry-university-research innovation cooperation is carried out primarily at the micro level. Greater innovation resources in some key areas remain in the hands of the government. Thus, cooperation and coordination among various

governmental agencies and institutions are especially important. In 2018, China will take greater efforts to establish and improve its innovation coordination mechanism.

Third, innovation subjects have changed dramatically in China over the past few years, expanding from exclusive innovation conducted by scientific research institutions to enterprise-led innovation and then to mass entrepreneurship and innovation. This trend will continue in 2018.

Fourth, in terms of innovation types, China will continue to focus on radical and disruptive innovation rather than standard innovation in 2018. Radical and disruptive innovation cannot be realized by a single agency, institution or small group of people—it requires nationwide efforts and governmental support.

Fifth, China will attach greater importance to the cultivation and training of innovative professionals in 2018. As early as 2016, China issued a guideline on deepening reform of professional development mechanisms. It pointed out that the country needed to improve its methods of supporting and cultivating strategic scientists and innovative research professionals. A strategic scientist is defined by whether his or her work could lead a specific field and whether he or she can identify the next major breakthroughs for the field. If a team has such a scientist or a leading sci-tech professional, it has a fair chance to reach the world's top tier. Conversely, a good team can effectively support and help its leading scientists to better organize major projects and complete major research programs. 



After several years of efforts, residents in Shibadong Village have been lifted out of poverty and now lead promising lives. VCG

“Without active local participation, the project couldn’t be considered successful even if the village overcame poverty,” remarked Gong Haihua, Party chief of Shibadong Village. “Work performed by outsiders alone can only produce narrower poverty alleviation. We are aiming at broad poverty alleviation, and we want our people to shake off both spiritual and material poverty.”

Shibadong Village

Poverty Elimination Miracle

In February 2017, the Hunan Provincial Office for Poverty Alleviation and Development announced that all villagers in Shibadong, a mountain village in Huayuan County, had surpassed the poverty line set by the province, becoming one of the first once poverty-stricken villages to completely escape poverty. More than half of the population of Shibadong, primarily of the Miao ethnic group, used to suffer from poverty due to a

severe shortage of arable land and poor transportation. In recent years, by developing five pillar industries, namely agriculture, ranching, Miao ethnic embroidery, labor services and rural tourism, the people of Shibadong are climbing together toward development and prosperity. In November 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited the village where he proposed targeted poverty alleviation measures for the first time.



Du Jiangfeng has led his team to conduct a considerable volume of cutting-edge quantum research.

“Scientific research is the key to innovation. Scientists are often facing an unknown world and seeking knowledge. Self-learning and independent-thinking abilities are particularly important.”

Du Jiangfeng

A Quantum Leap

In April 2017, Professor Du Jiangfeng from the University of Science and Technology of China led his team to realize quantum algorithms for prime factorization based on solid-state single spin system at room temperature for the first time, using spinning diamonds as the quantum processor. In recent years, quantum research

has witnessed rapid development in China, making the country a global top player in this field. The achievements of Du and his team represent a significant step in China's quest to build solid-state quantum computers that operate at room temperature, and a major breakthrough for China's overall high-tech capabilities.



Wu Guanghui believes that 5,000 to 6,000 airplanes like the C919 will be needed in the next 20 years, which will boost China's economy and aircraft manufacturing technologies. VCG

“ We did utilize global resources to build the C919, but the systemic technologies are in our own hands. Comprehensive intellectual property rights are held by China. ”

Wu Guanghui

Taking Off

On May 5, 2017, the C919, China's independently-developed large passenger plane, took off in Shanghai, thanks in no small part to the efforts of its chief designer Wu Guanghui. The aircraft's successful maiden flight made China one of only a handful of jumbo jet producers worldwide, alongside the United States, Europe, and Russia.

This medium/short-range commercial plane meets the latest international airworthiness standards, and China owns all of its intellectual property rights. The C919 not only catapulted China into the global aviation market as a strong competitor, but reinforced the country's manufacturing and innovation sectors as well.



The work of Dai Jianwu and his team has inspired high hopes for new breakthroughs in treating spinal cord injuries. by Yin Gang/Xinhua

“ People cannot live forever. But regenerative medicine can replace ‘broken parts’ with new tissues inside the human body, which will not only enable longer lives, but also higher-quality living. ”

Dai Jianwu

Medical Pioneer

In May 2017, renowned Chinese regenerative medicine specialist Dai Jianwu and his team announced that they developed a type of smart biological material that can specifically bind with growth factors or stem cells. They also pioneered never-before-seen clinical research on treating spinal cord injuries. The treatment of spinal cord

injuries has challenged medical professionals around the world for decades, and effective treatment has yet to be developed. Dai’s research on biological materials for tissue regeneration and damaged tissue repair has produced amazing clinical results. His work is expected to bring new hope for victims of spinal cord injuries around the world.



Guo Xiaoping believes that although discrimination still exists, society has progressed and become more tolerant towards those infected with HIV/AIDS. —Xinhua

“ I studied medicine and used to work in a hospital. I hope that the young HIV-positive patients today can play a bigger role in stopping the spread of HIV. They have to know and accept themselves first. Only by being at peace with themselves will they protect others better. ”

Guo Xiaoping

AIDS Fighter

At the end of May 2017, Linfen Red Ribbon School in Shanxi Province was designated as the first site in the country for HIV students to take the *gaokao*, China's college entrance exam. Guo Xiaoping, former president of Linfen No. 3 People's Hospital, established Linfen Red Ribbon School in September 2006 and assumed the role

of principal. China's only school for children with HIV/AIDS, the red ribbon school was admitted to the national education system in 2011. There, kids receive both education and treatment. Through the work done at the school, more people have gained awareness about HIV/AIDS and those suffering from the virus.



Under Lu Qi's leadership, Baidu now builds AI ecosystems and has around 60 different types of AI services in its suite.

“China has the ability to embrace AI and use opportunities brought by the AI technological revolution to enhance its national strength. I firmly believe that we have both the opportunity and ability to become an innovative power and lead the world in this aspect.”

Lu Qi

All-in on AI

On July 5, 2017, Lu Qi, president and chief operating officer of China's top internet search engine Baidu, announced that the company would open access to its autonomous driving platform Apollo. In this way, its partners in the auto industry would be able to use the platform to develop their own autonomous driving systems. The year 2017 brought rapid artificial

intelligence (AI) development to China. Since Lu joined Baidu in early 2017, he has been accelerating the process of Baidu's overall vision in its AI ecosystem, and made the Apollo platform one of Baidu's key AI projects. For Baidu, opening up the autonomous driving platform to partners is a move to promote innovation and produce win-win results.

Yuan Longping has devoted most of his life to hybrid rice research. He began theoretical research on hybrid rice projects decades ago and made great contributions to safeguarding China's food security. VCG



“People who engage in agricultural research need courage to tackle the problems concerning food security. We should constantly innovate, explore, and make breakthroughs while staying down to earth and concentrating on concrete scientific research.”

Yuan Longping

Cleaner Rice

In September 2017, Yuan Longping, known as China's “father of hybrid rice,” announced that he and his team developed a new kind of rice that stays free from cadmium pollution. To accomplish this goal, they removed the rice gene that absorbs cadmium. In recent

years, rapid agricultural development in China has fueled huge demand for cleaner domestic agricultural products. This technology will largely solve heavy metal pollution problems plaguing some Chinese agricultural products.



“ We successfully launched 14 BeiDou satellites from 2010 to 2012. By 2020, we’ll have more than 30 BeiDou satellites in space. It feels like we are now running a marathon at a sprinter’s speed. ”

Xie Jun

Starry Skies

On November 5, 2017, China launched two BeiDou-3 satellites into space via a Long March-3B carrier rocket to support its global navigation and positioning network. Since then, China’s self-developed BeiDou Navigation Satellite

System, on which Xie Jun served as the chief engineer, officially began to expand into the global network. China plans to launch 35 BeiDou navigation satellites by 2020 to support its global navigation and positioning network.



The Chinese robotics market witnessed prosperous development around 2013, and Qian Dongqi grasped this opportunity. VCG

“For robotics companies, AI development can be compared to a 100-meter race in three stages: warm-up, start and race for the finish line. Today, most companies are still warming up or just reaching the starting blocks, and the real race is yet to come.”

Qian Dongqi

Robot Maker

In 2017, Ecovacs Robotics held its position as the industry leader in China's personal and household robotics market. On Singles' Day (November 11), Chinese consumers purchased 528 million yuan (US\$80 million) of Ecovacs domestic robots online, breaking the industrial record again. Due to China's growing population of elderly

people, market demand for domestic robots is expected to undergo explosive growth in the next few years. In terms of intelligent household robots, Ecovacs is one of the most popular Chinese brands and already has branch offices in the United States and Germany. Qian Dongqi, chairman of Ecovacs Robotics, founded the company in 1998.

December 5, 2017: Representatives Liu Haiying, Chen Yanxian and Yu Shitao (left to right) from the Saihanba afforestation community pose for a photo outside the UN Environment headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The afforestation community received the Champions of the Earth Award. by Chen Cheng/Xinhua



As long as we continue to promote the construction of ecological civilization,” says Liu Haiying, head of Saihanba forest farm management office, “China will create more green miracles like Saihanba, and realize the peaceful coexistence of man and nature.



Saihanba

Desert to Forest

On December 5, 2017, China's Saihanba afforestation community was honored with the annual United Nations (UN) Champions of the Earth Award, a top UN environmental distinction, for its outstanding contribution to the restoration of degraded landscapes. In February 1962, the Saihanba forest farm was officially established in Hebei Province, marking the dawn of China's afforestation efforts. Thanks to the efforts of

three generations across more than 50 years, Saihanba has become the benchmark of harmonious coexistence between man and nature in China. There, deserts have been transformed into forests, which has received worldwide acclaim. Today, forest coverage in Saihanba sits at nearly 80 percent, and the restored ecosystem supplies nearly 140 million cubic meters of clean water to Beijing and Tianjin in addition to 545,000 tons of oxygen.



October 1, 2017: Binhai Library at Tianjin Binhai Cultural Center officially opens to the public, offering a collection of 1.2 million books and a daily handling capacity of 4,000 readers. IC

Golden Age of the Chinese Cultural Industry

Over the past several years, the Chinese government has multiplied its efforts to boost cultural prosperity.

All across the country, public cultural facilities have been built into functional cultural landmarks, from the eastern coast to the western border. From central cities to rural areas, cultural services have become basic public resources and conveniences enjoyed by local residents. Public readings, popular art shows, inheritance of intangible cultural heritage, and rich, colorful cultural events have become important facets of daily life.

The year 2017 was highlighted by a variety of cultural phenomena involving museums, sensational TV dramas and movies, mobile gaming, digital reading and paid content.

In 2017, every realm of culture bloomed.

Many cultural variety shows were huge hits in 2017. Cultural programs such as “Chinese Poetry Conference,” “The Reader” and “National Treasure” kept viewers glued to TV screens and social networks. Derivative books remain bestsellers. The beauty of Tang- and Song-Dynasty poems as well as the revivals of several famous literary works ignited the poetic hearts of the Chinese people and gentle memories of literature and history, provoking a strong emotional response, widely.

Pay-for-knowledge has become a new trend and is expected to develop into a growth point of cultural consumption in 2018.

Thanks to the support of mobile payments, internet technology, and consumption upgrading, more and more people are choosing paid self-improvement via online platforms.


For instance, in September 2017 a valuation of a Peking University professor’s online lecture at 30 million yuan (US\$4.6 million) went viral after making its way on WeChat, one of the most popular social networking platforms in China.

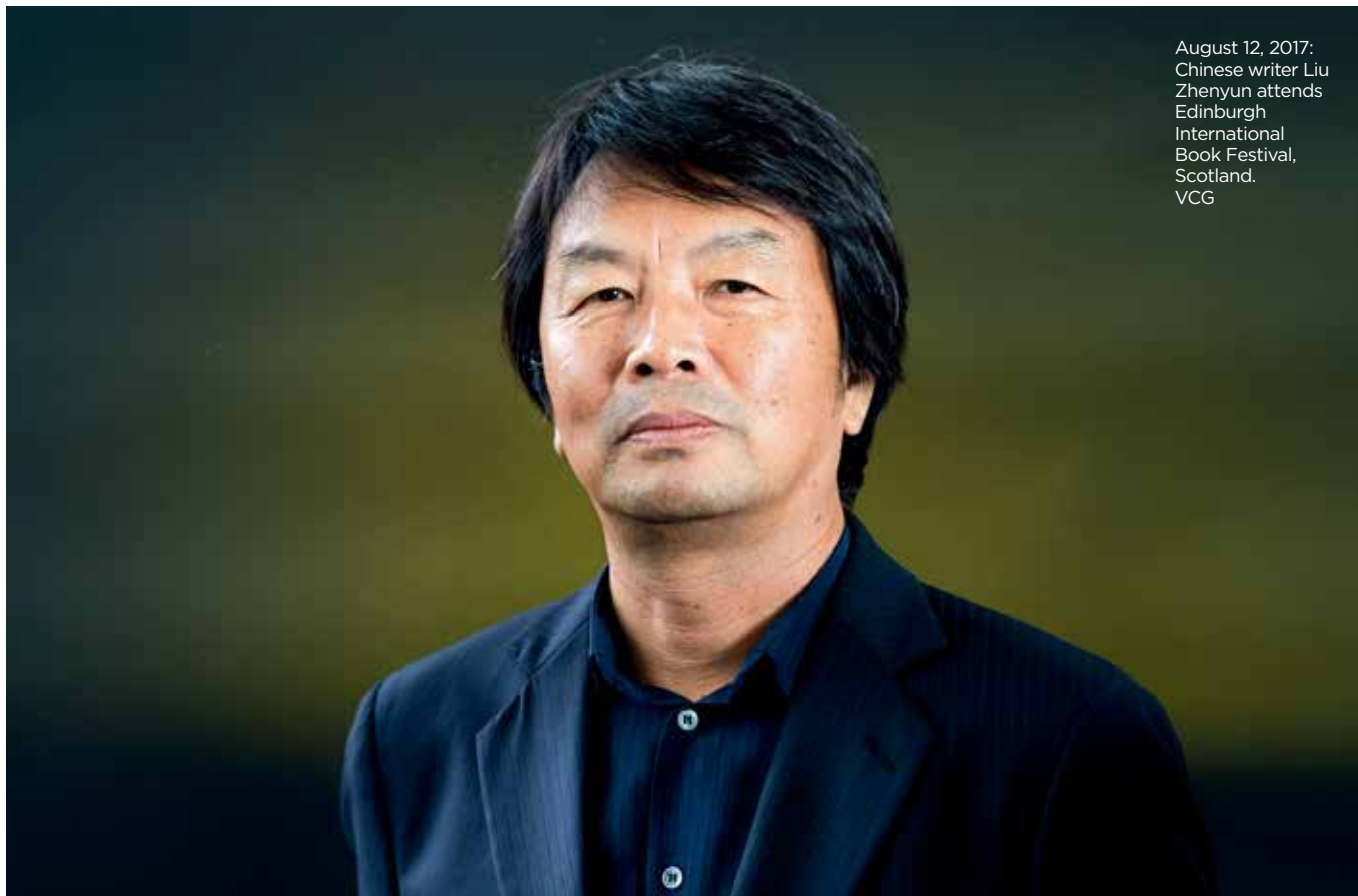
The Himalaya FM knowledge carnival’s daily turnover broke 50 million yuan (US\$7.6 million). Knowledge sharing platforms such as Fenda, Zhihu Live, and Igetget emerged one after another. The fields of paid content expanded from commercial finance, skills training and other popular areas to more diversified, specific knowledge segments. More and more netizens are willing to pay for knowledge.

Additionally, more and more Chinese film and television products have “gone global,” not only selling at good prices in the international market, but also gaining solid reputations.

For example, overseas publishing rights for Youku’s homemade drama *Day and Night* and iQiyi’s *Tientsin Mystic* and *Burning Ice* have all been bought by Netflix, the largest streaming media platform in the United States, becoming China’s first group of network television series to be officially broadcast abroad at such a scale. Previously, Netflix had also bought two-year exclusive rights to globally broadcast the Chinese animated film *H2O: Mermaid Adventures*.

The new year will see a continuation of the rise of China’s cultural industry, which has become an important economic growth point under the new normal of the country. Integrated development and upgrade of innovation-driven cultural and creative industries has been gradually becoming a national strategy.

In 2018, the cultural industry will be developed with focus on the upgrade of quality and efficiency, and cultural consumption will become a new impetus for China’s economic transformation. Moreover, culture and capital will cooperate deeper, and culture, science and technology will become more integrated as innovation unfolds. The internet will continue to boost mechanism optimization and upgrades of the cultural industry. 



August 12, 2017:
Chinese writer Liu
Zhenyun attends
Edinburgh
International
Book Festival,
Scotland.
VCG

“The most important duty of literature is to show the people who are most easily neglected, and their emotions, to the world. This is the function of literature and the mission of a writer.”

Liu Zhenyun

Man of Letters

In 2017, two of Liu Zhenyun's books, *I'm Not Pan Jinlian* and *One Sentence Worth Thousands*, were adapted into movies, which won awards at many film festivals around the world. Humorous and sarcastic, his novels discuss topics concerning serious social issues and

human nature. His words are funny but acute, sublimely depicting emotions such as desire, perplexity and anxiety. Liu is one of a few Chinese writers to show the ability to excel at both commercial writing and serious literature.



December 16, 2016: Yeh Chia-ying attends the scholarship awards ceremony of Nankai University, Tianjin Municipality. VCG

“ I’m so old but I’m still teaching because there are so many treasures in Chinese culture. If I had a future life, I would choose to be a teacher again, to again teach traditional Chinese poetry. ”

Yeh Chia-ying

Torchbearer of Classical Chinese Literature

Yeh Chia-ying is considered one of the most influential Chinese-origin female scholars of classical Chinese literature: She spent over half of a century teaching it abroad. In March 2017, 93-year-old Yeh attended *The Reader*, a Chinese culture and literature talk

show, which drew big attention from the public. In June, she launched an online class on Douban.com to teach classical poem chanting. Since the early 1950s, Yeh has been engaged in promoting traditional Chinese poems in hopes of passing down this precious cultural legacy.



Former member of the Chinese National Paraglider Team, Gu Ying is a senior wildlife photographer for EPNF, VCG

“ China has rich wildlife resources. I hope more photographers will focus on them and use images to promote protection. ”

Gu Ying

Photographer of Wildlife

The only Chinese winner of the 2017 Nature's Best Photography Windland Smith Rice Awards, Gu Ying harvested two prizes from the event. Gu's footprints can be found across the world. She spent most of the past three years at the South

and North Poles as well as the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, which is considered a third pole. Gu focuses on photographing wild animals especially birds in hopes of arousing public awareness about wildlife protection in those regions.

September 4,
2017: Sun Yang
wins gold in the
men's 800m
freestyle at the
National Games
of China. IC



“ I want to be the torchbearer of my predecessors' sportsmanship and pass it down to the younger generation. I hope my experience can help them better face difficulties, mature more quickly and excel in national, Asian and world sports events. ”

Sun Yang

Swimming Legend

On July 24, 2017, at the 2017 FINA World Championships in Budapest, Chinese swimmer Sun Yang won the gold medal with his season best time in the men's 400m freestyle and 200m freestyle, breaking

his own Asian record. This made Sun the only freestyle swimmer in the world to collect gold medals in 200m, 400m, 800m and 1,500m events at the FINA World Championships.

November 28, 2017: Shan Jixiang, head of the Palace Museum, delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of an international forum titled Traditional Culture × Future Imagination held in the Palace Museum. VCG



“Only by allowing culture into people’s lives can cultural relics, the physical renderings of culture, regain their vitality and drive the cultural industry to produce highly beneficial social and economic effects. We need to allow more people to hear the ‘Chinese voice’ and enjoy Chinese culture.”

Shan Jixiang

Gatekeeper of the Palace Museum

On September 15, 2017, an exhibition titled “Blue-green Landscape Paintings from across Chinese History” attracted a global spotlight to the Palace Museum. Then, on December 3, the cultural variety show *National Treasures* hit the air, which evoked a great deal more attention. Production of the large-scale treasure discovery show was spearheaded by Shan Jixiang, head of the Palace Museum, with joint efforts

of eight other prestigious Chinese museums. After Shan took office, he promoted a digital Palace Museum and encouraged his team to produce mobile apps as well as novel cultural products. A Chinese cultural guru, Shan endeavors to inject Chinese cultural essences back into daily life and pass them on to future generations. And he wants to see more Chinese people gain cultural confidence.



Gong Yu,
founder
and CEO of
the video
website iQiyi.
IC

“China’s per capita GDP is still growing rapidly. In terms of technological and economic history, this is the time for continuous explosive development of China’s entertainment industry in the coming years.”

Gong Yu

Founder of iQiyi

The overseas publishing rights for *Tientsin Mystic* and *Burning Ice*, both iQiyi’s homegrown drama series, were bought by Netflix, a leading streaming media platform in the United States. Gong Yu, CEO of iQiyi, has the calmness of an engineer and the vision of an

entrepreneur. Under his leadership, iQiyi has dominated the competitive Chinese online video market and driven industry trends with technological innovation, content development and business model reform.

June 30, 2017:
Zhu Ting, captain
of Chinese
National Women's
Volleyball Team, is
interviewed. VCG



“ I attribute my achievements to the sportsmanship of the Chinese women’s volleyball team, which built me up. ”

Zhu Ting

Star Spiker

In September 2017, the Chinese National Women’s Volleyball Team won the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Champions Cup again after a 16-year drought. Team captain Zhu Ting won the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award. Zhu was also honored as the 2017 sportswoman

of the year at the CCTV Sports Awards, one of the Top 10 Chinese Athletes of Big Ben Award and one on the Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list. Official media of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) praised Zhu as a hard-working genius.



“China’s ancient textile products, especially clothing, are an important legacy of traditional Chinese culture and a symbol of the country’s soft strength.”

Wang Yarong

National Craftswoman

Wang Yarong is considered a Chinese pioneer of textile archaeology. Since 1973, Wang has been engaged in ancient textile recovery. She has restored many silk products dating back from the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770-256 B.C.) to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), spanning a 3,000-year history of Chinese silk.

In November 2017, the Archives of Suzhou Silk from Modern and Contemporary Times, a project led by Wang, was listed on UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register. Wang has saved numerous silk pieces, through which people can glimpse the tip of the Chinese cultural iceberg.



“Chinese network literature is popular with overseas readers, dubbed one of the ‘four world cultural wonders’ along with Hollywood movies, Japanese comic books and South Korean romantic dramas.”

Wu Wenhui

CEO of China Literature

A rising pillar of Chinese economic growth, network literature has shown great commercial potential after impressive successes. China Literature Limited led by Wu Wenhui is one of the driving forces in the field. Over the past 15 years, Wu’s company has organized a massive circle of writers and explored

intellectual property rights globally, promoting cyber literature to new heights. In November 2017, China Literature Limited was listed in Hong Kong, and its market value doubled on its first day of trading, evidencing the great commercial value of the company and the industry.

Xue Zhaofeng,
professor of
economics at the
National School
of Development
at Peking
University, VCG



“Economics may not change the world but can definitely change the way you look at the world.”

Xue Zhaofeng

Pioneer of Knowledge Economy

By November 10, 2017, an audio class opened by Xue Zhaofeng, a professor of economics at Peking University, on the knowledge sharing platform Igetget, had drawn

over 200,000 subscribers. The figure set a world record in terms of online economics lectures, heralding the dawn of the era of the knowledge economy.

2017 They Left Us

Remembrance is a way to keep the deceased in our hearts. It also represents hope for the future.


In the past year, we lost some great yet low-profile, familiar and sincere people.

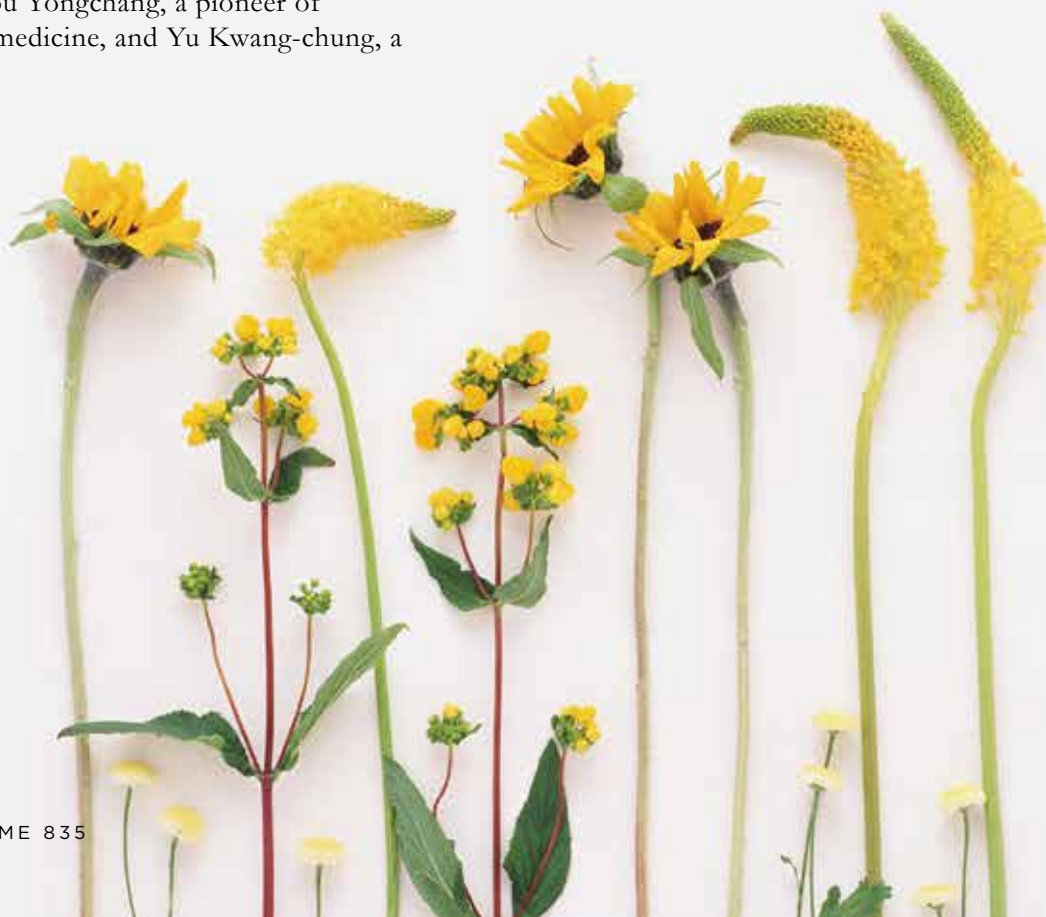
Some of the most memorable include Huang Danian, a famous geophysicist, Zhou Youguang, hailed as the “father of pinyin,” Ren Xinmin, one of the four Chinese aerospace pioneers, Yang Jie, director of the influential television series *Journey to the West*, Wu Wenjun, a mathematician and one of the founders of topology in China, Qian Qichen, former vice premier of the State Council who established the country’s diplomatic spokesperson system, Zhang Yuhua, one of the eight founding generals who saluted veterans at the September 3 military parade, Nan Rendong, a scientist who built the first Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) for China, Zhou Yongchang, a pioneer of ultrasonic medicine, and Yu Kwang-chung, a

“nostalgic poet” in Taiwan.

Although they were committed to different fields, they all enjoyed what they were doing and contributed years of unremitting, painstaking efforts. They contributed tremendously to world civilization by painting Chinese civilization with unique colors, with their written language, words, formulas and images.

Nobody knows for sure how many days and nights they worked to free their minds. Some seized the opportunity to return to their homeland, giving up fame and riches for a chance to give back to the motherland. Their outstanding contributions and remarkable achievements, as well as their noble and sincere character, have touched our hearts. They are immortal legends and monuments of the times.

We lose people, but love is long. At the dawn of the new year, let us follow their noble examples and move forward as better people. 





December 5, 2011: Famous Chinese geophysicist Huang Danian attends an academic seminar at Stanford University in the U.S. Xinhua

Huang Danian

(August 28, 1958-January 8, 2017)

Professor Huang Danian, a famous Chinese geophysicist, coordinated China's cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary technical resources and teams in a first-time bid to accelerate the country's research and development of fast-moving platform detection technology and equipment to tackle technical bottlenecks. He was hailed a "model of a new era" in science and technology for those who returned from overseas to serve the motherland.

“We cannot waste a single moment that could be spent on the project our country urgently needs.”



January 15, 2012: Zhou Youguang reads in his study. VCG

Zhou Youguang

(January 13, 1906-January 14, 2017)

Zhou Youguang was a famous Chinese linguist fluent in four languages—Chinese, English, French and Japanese. His participation in the design of the Chinese phonetic alphabet won him the reputation as the “father of pinyin,” a system that became the standard romanization of Mandarin Chinese. In 1955, he served as head of a committee to reform the Chinese language, later known as the State Language Commission. Over the years, he published more than 20 linguistic monographs such as *On the Reform of Chinese Characters* and *History of the Worldwide Development of Writing*.

“The whole world as one united community has always been an ideal cherished by the Chinese nation. We have strived for it for generations.”



September 2, 2005: Ren Xinmin, a Chinese specialist in missile systems and liquid rocket engine technology, at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Gansu Province. VCG

Ren Xinmin

(December 5, 1915-February 12, 2017)

A Chinese specialist in missile systems and liquid rocket engine technology, Ren Xinmin was a key pioneer of China's missile and space technology and one of the founding fathers of the country's indigenous atomic and hydrogen bomb programs and man-made satellite systems, cementing him as one of the "Four Elders of China's Aerospace Program" and recipient of the "Two Bombs and One Satellite" Merit Medal, the highest honor of the aerospace industry, for his fifty-year contribution. He served as the chief engineer of six large-scale aerospace projects, including the FY-1 Meteorological Satellite.

“ I’ve only done one thing, aerospace, all my life. ”



2008: Yang Jie, one of the first-generation Chinese TV directors and producers, shares behind-the-scenes stories of filming *Journey to the West*, which remained popular for over 30 years, during an interview.

Yang Jie

(April 7, 1929-April 15, 2017)

A first-generation Chinese TV director and producer, Yang Jie was the chief director of the country's first mythological TV series *Journey to the West* (1986 edition). She ranked first on the Top 10 TV Directors list issued by the China Television Directors Committee, which also honored her with its Award for Outstanding Achievements. Since it premiered in 1986, her *Journey to the West* has been repeatedly broadcast for 30 years.

“ Even people in insignificant supporting roles must be invested in the character to achieve vivid, colorful artistic pursuit. ”



A well-known Chinese mathematician and academician with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wu Wenjun devoted his life to topology. by Jin Liwang/Xinhua

Wu Wenjun

(May 12, 1919-May 7, 2017)

A well-known Chinese mathematician and academician with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wu Wenjun made remarkable contributions to two fields: topology and mathematical mechanization, laying the groundwork for the development of topology in China. His research produced the eponymous “Wu formula,” which is still widely cited by international colleagues.

“In mathematics, being proud of publishing a paper is far from enough. We need to create things on our own. We shouldn’t follow the lead of foreign colleagues; rather, we should be followed.”



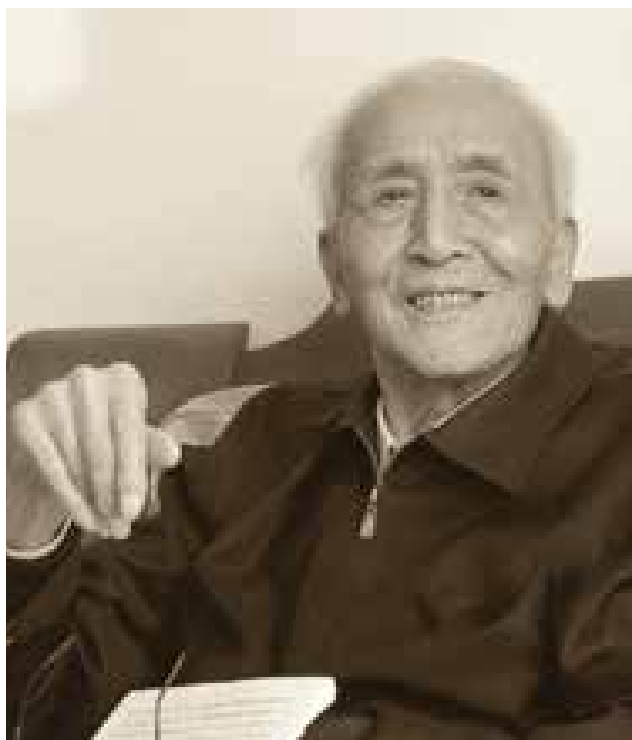
March 14, 2006: Former Chinese Vice Premier Qian Qichen addresses the launch ceremony for the English-version of his *Ten Episodes in China's Diplomacy* at the Chinese Consulate General in New York. Xinhua

Qian Qichen

(January 1928-May 9, 2017)

Widely popular in the international political arena as a diplomat and statesman, Qian Qichen served as state councilor and vice premier of China’s State Council during his political career. Based on his own experience, Qian summed up complex diplomacy as two important events: seeking peace for mankind; and making friends all over the world on equal terms to create a favorable environment for the development of the motherland. After retiring in 2003, he documented the most important diplomatic events he witnessed in a memoir, *Ten Episodes in China’s Diplomacy*, which was published in 2004.

“Only by getting the past right can the future open up.”



One of the founding generals of China and former deputy political commissar of the PLA Nanjing Military Region, Zhang Yuhua became better known for his charity work after retirement. He served in many social work positions and helped students in a variety of ways.

Zhang Yuhua

(1916-September 10, 2017)

Zhang Yuhua was one of the founding generals of China and former deputy political commissar of the Nanjing Military Region of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA). After retiring in 1986, he remained devoted to charity for more than 20 years. He donated 400,000 yuan (about US\$61,000) out of his own income to poverty-stricken people and schools across the country, winning him the title of "Honored Philanthropist" in 2012. On September 3, 2015, he was honored to return to Tian'anmen Square to participate in the military parade to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.



I have three mothers: the one who gave birth to me, the people who raised me and the Party who cultivated me.



December 31, 2013: Nan Rendong, chief scientist and chief engineer of the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) project, dons a hardhat at the construction site of the FAST in Kedu Town, Pingtang County, Qiannan Prefecture, Guizhou Province. Xinhua

Nan Rendong

(February 1945-September 15, 2017)

Nan Rendong was the chief scientist and chief engineer of the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) project. In May 2017, he won the National Innovation Award.



We should show concern for great and eternal causes and stand in awe of things that we do not know so that we escape mediocrity in favor of the boundlessness of life.





Zhou Yongchang, one of China's first-generation scientists devoted to ultrasound medicine, performing an ultrasound. He was known to help the patient apply the coupling agent and sometimes assisted them with shoes.

Zhou Yongchang

(November 1922–October 24, 2017)

Zhou Yongchang was one of China's first-generation scientists devoted to ultrasound medicine. In 1964, he published an essay on the application of ultrasound in the diagnosis of early pregnancy, which was considered the first of its kind worldwide. He won the "medical ultrasound pioneer" award from the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine and the Chinese Association of Ultrasound in Medicine and Engineering.

“Don't say my eyes are exceptionally sharp. I am just an ordinary doctor trying to avoid mistakes. I work with greater care and more seriously.”



October 7, 2008: Outstanding poet, essayist, critic and translator Yu Kwang-chung celebrates his 80th birthday with students of his alma mater, Moling Road Primary School in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province. VCG

Yu Kwang-chung

(October 21, 1928–December 14, 2017)

Yu Kwang-chung was an outstanding poet, essayist, critic and translator, who had taught at many universities and colleges. Over more than half a century, Yu published over 40 books including poems and translations. Liang Shih-chiu (1903-1987), a renowned Chinese educator, writer, translator, literary theorist and lexicographer, once praised him as "writing poems with his right hand and prose with his left hand—unparalleled for some time."

“Nostalgia is a shallow strait; I am here, and the mainland is on the other side.”



Punching Back Against Poaching

Text by Ruan Yuan Photographs by Cheng Xueli

On an early morning in July 2017, just before dawn, Xu Zhefeng, head of Ili detachment of Xinjiang forest division under China's armed police forces, was already fully-clad in combat dress and prepared to set off. That day, he and his fellow officers participated into a large-scale armed anti-poaching operation in Kul Durning National Nature Reserve, Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The operation was code-named "mountain clearing."

Clearing the Mountain

Kul Durning, which means "transverse valley" in the local dialect, is located in the eastern mountainous area of Gongliu County in Ili. Known as a treasure trove of wildlife in Eurasia, the national nature reserve is home to the largest virgin spruce forest in China as well as abundant and diverse species of wild animals. Since so few people visit the area throughout the year and dense forest is blanketed with moss, shrubs and trees growing on top of each other, mountain paths often "disappear" in the thick vegetation and

travelers may get lost.

Soon after the operation began, the detachment received a tip from a local herder that some people were conducting suspicious activities on a nearby hill in a white tent. Xu, a seasoned anti-poaching officer, immediately ordered his tactical team to surround and lock down the nearby area before nearing the target. At the same time, other officers, soldiers and forest police participating in the operation quickly took positions in the area and closed off all possible escape routes for the poachers.

Closing in quickly, Xu and his fellow officers neared the targeted tent. Alongside Xu at the front was Imam Roza. Locally born and raised at the foot of Tianshan Mountains, Imam was recruited by the detachment only a year ago. Previously, he was not included in this particular operation. But the local native has a special passion for wildlife and requested to help such efforts. Eventually, he was allowed to participate.

On the count of three, they stormed into the tent, but found no one there. Embers from a fire near the tent indicated that those people had been there recently. The team combed the area and soon found beat-up bedding, leftover *nang* (a local style of bread), a handful of rusty





A pair of large, curved horns from an Alpine ibex confiscated by the Ili detachment. A species of wild goat that lives in the mountains, the endangered animal has been hunted ruthlessly for its magnificent horns.



steel traps and nets and a pair of large, backwards-curving horns from an Alpine ibex. They also found a pool of dried blood on the ground. It was clear that this tent had served as a base for poachers.

It couldn't conclusively be determined whether the Alpine ibex was killed by poachers or died naturally just based on its horns. "But even the animal died a natural death, they cannot just pick up these things and have them in their possession," explained Xu, "because the Alpine ibex is under first-class state protection in China."

Good news soon arrived: A few kilometers from the tent, several fleeing young men were stopped by officers. In their bulging bags were young greater spotted eagles, which are under second-class state protection in China.

Black Market Chain

For armed police officers in the Ili detachment, anti-poaching operations like "mountain clearing" have long been routine

tasks. They shoulder the responsibility of protecting the ecological security in all of the forested areas of Ili, which boasts rich biodiversity, with around 1,000 species of plants and 350 species of wild animals calling it home.

However, precisely because of this rich biodiversity, poaching was once rampant in Ili.

In the late 1990s, poaching was so widespread that a complete trading chain had formed including poachers, local dealers, smugglers, processors and end customers. At the bottom of the chain were the poachers who took the biggest risk. Most were locals and survived on meager incomes, but were familiar with local topography. They were of all ages. One deal would net them several thousand or even several hundred yuan, sometimes less than a

thousandth of the end sale. But some were still willing to take such a "job" because a payout from a single deal was attractive compared to the equivalent six months of salaried labor. Buyers usually came from neighboring provinces. They either hired locals to hunt for them or purchased directly on the black

Ili detachment of Xinjiang forest division under China's armed police forces during an anti-poaching operation. The detachment shoulders the responsibility of protecting the ecological security of all of the forestry areas in Ili.

“Through our work, we hope more people will truly understand the importance of peaceful coexistence between man, nature and wildlife.”



A local child holds his cat in Kul Durning, Ili. The fact that not many people inhabit around or even visit this area throughout year is a reason it can sustain such lush vegetation and rich biodiversity.

market. The “goods” they spent several hundred yuan to purchase could sell for tens of thousands of yuan.

“Thus, our long-term focus remains to strengthen public awareness about ecological protection in local communities alongside anti-poaching operations,” said Xu. “We regularly send publicity personnel to different places and set up platforms to receive locals and answer their questions. We also use mass media including newspaper, radio, TV and the internet to better publicize pertinent information and policies.”


Heavy Responsibility

Since the late 1980s, illegal wildlife trading has become another black market problem alongside drugs, weapons and human trafficking. Poachers in China began to be active around the same period. Thus, when *The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Wildlife* was passed in 1988, Ili began to organize anti-poaching operations. Later, the forest division under China's armed police forces began to launch armed anti-poaching projects in Xinjiang and many other places in the country.

Along with anti-poaching operations and crackdowns on theft of forest resources, the Ili

detachment sends brigades year-round into key forest zones under its administration to patrol and to protect wildlife. In recent years, alongside other local agencies and institutions, they carried out around 30 joint operations on ecological protection, arrested 140 lawbreakers and saved 30 wild animals under state protection.

In 2016, China issued a revised law on wildlife protection. Together with related clauses in the country's criminal law, China increased punishments for poaching and other related crimes such as smuggling and purchasing contraband. Although Xinjiang has witnessed steady growth of forest resources in recent years, the autonomous region's total forest resources remain insufficient due to its far distance from ocean and frequent sandstorms, among other reasons. If certain wildlife and plants are threatened, the entire ecology can easily become unbalanced. Xu Zhefeng, Imam and their colleagues are now doing their best to maintain natural harmony and improve the ecological environment of the land on which they live.

“Through our work, we hope more people will truly understand the importance of peaceful coexistence between man, nature and wildlife,” added Xu. 



Paid Knowledge Revolution or Racket?

Text by Zhang Xue

On May 14, 2016, Zhihu, an online question-and-answer platform in China, launched a program for paid answers. In a year and a half, the emergence of many paid knowledge sharing platforms has changed Chinese netizens' idea of free sharing, and knowledge has become a new product Chinese people are willing to purchase.

Who Are Paying for Knowledge?

Angel investor Li Xiaolai's column "The Way to Financial Independence" is among the most popular ones on the app Igetget. Over 180,000 people have subscribed to the column since it was launched in July 2016. Its subscriber count ranks second only to that of "Xue Zhaofeng's Economics Lessons." Li's column boasts that "the billionaire himself teaches you in person how to make yourself more valuable," attracting many subscribers eager for financial independence. Luring slogans like "A map for fortune accumulation" and "Find the way to financial independence" outline a vision to get rich.

The popularity of such programs fueled the development of paid knowledge sharing platforms. Paid knowledge has ascended to new promising heights in the internet economy. According to the *2017 Report on China's Sharing Economy*, the Chinese



On August 20, 2015, Himalaya FM released millions of audio books at a book fair in Shanghai. Considering modern fragmented lives and the trend of paid knowledge, listening is gradually becoming the new reading. VCG





market for knowledge sharing has already taken shape. It is estimated that the trading volume for knowledge in 2016 reached 61 billion yuan (US\$9.3 billion), 205 percent higher than the previous year, and around 300 million people have now become users of knowledge sharing platforms.

From December 1 to 3, 2017, users of Himalaya FM, the largest online audio content platform in China, spent 170 million yuan (US\$26 million) during the three-day knowledge carnival launched by the platform. Of all the courses, “Kevin Tsai’s 201 Lessons on EQ,” “Guo Degang’s First Audio Talk Show” and “Super Brain Camp” were among the most popular. Some lessons designed for young people also proved very attractive. According to statistics provided by the platform, people born in the 1990s contributed nearly 70 percent of the total sales volume during the carnival. Their favorites are lessons on personal development and business.

According to an online survey of 1,736 netizens, 55 percent had paid for knowledge at least once, 38 percent of whom were satisfied with the transactions. As for why they are willing to buy knowledge, 74 percent want professional knowledge and insight, 51 percent want to save time and energy, and 47

percent seek more experience to improve themselves. In particular, 63 percent expressed willingness to pay for knowledge or experience that could help them improve work efficiency or increase their incomes.

It remains unknown what percentage of learners have achieved “financial independence,” but it is clear that famous online teachers like Li Xiaolai have struck gold. “The Way to Financial Independence,” for example, charges an annual subscription fee of 199 yuan (about US\$30). Multiplying that by 180,000 subscriptions generates more than 35 million yuan (US\$5.4 million) a year, a sum that certainly guarantees financial independence for Mr. Li.

Distance between “Know” and “Knowledge”

No doubt the emergence of paid knowledge has given the public more channels to learn, and has helped find market value for knowledge. But the quality of such paid programs has started to be questioned.

Can we get knowledge just by paying for it? An author of WeChat subscription articles shared his experience. From January 2016 to June 2017, he bought 67 lectures and classes and attended a writing training program. After

On November 10, 2017, Zhihu presented an experience museum called “Clinic for the Unknown.” In this clinic, spectators were asked for questions at registration. “Patients” talked with experienced “doctors,” namely dozens of outstanding answerers on Zhihu, and then went to a “pharmacy,” finalizing the diagnosis and treatment progress.
VCG



paying 5,000 yuan (US\$764) in total for such “knowledge,” he felt he didn’t acquire much.

It is easy to identify promotional tricks of paid knowledge products: fast, quick, and certain success is promised if the purchaser just follows the teacher’s guide. However, instead of nutritious “food” for the mind, beautifully packaged products are more like fast food. A netizen noted: “What you buy is ‘know,’ not knowledge.”

One expert pointed out that people who receive fragmented knowledge for a long period of time will suffer from memory loss. They are inclined to form simple and biased thinking and narrow views, and will be unable to think about complex things and think independently.

Placebo for Knowledge Anxiety


The trend that adult professionals continuously seek learning reflects the uncertainty resulting from rapid economic growth and social transformation. Uncertainty about the future leads to anxiety about knowledge.

As the economy flourishes and new technologies erupt, people feel nervous and get afraid of being left behind by fast-changing society. The slogan of the app Igetget is “Build a university for lifelong study,” which acts like

a whip lashing people’s nerves, scaring them of being left behind by the times.

Knowledge anxiety and skills panic now gain popularity among modern people. An increasing number of people feel they lack knowledge and information and need to feel a sense of change. They worry about being left behind. As one netizen put it, “To avoid being left behind, all I can do is learn fast and efficiently to stay abreast with the pace of the times.”

This anxiety provides a hotbed for the incubation of a paid knowledge industry, and every platform offers philosophies and theories of famous gurus while promising fast improvement by riding the coattails of the giants to leap into the elite class. Such programs make it seem as though all that is separating the students from the elites is the reasonable cost of several knowledge programs. And people feel like they are staying caught up by soaking up knowledge.

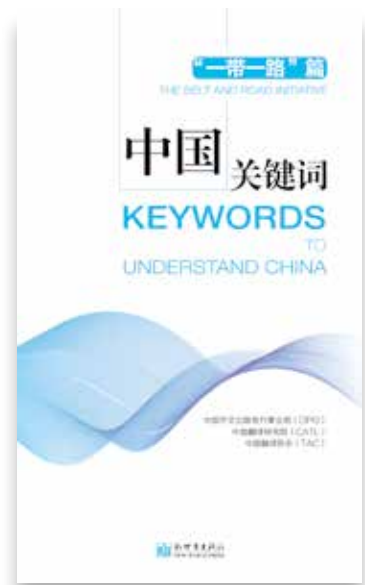
However, paid knowledge is just the first step of the long journey of learning. Acquisition of knowledge has always demanded painstaking learning day and night. No matter how greatly society changes, the acquisition of knowledge and wisdom always requires lots of time and energy. Paying money to buy knowledge still isn’t an option. 

In October 2017, Igetget launched an audio book house on Beijing’s subway line 4. Passengers can scan the QR code on the special subway train “Listen to a Book Everyday” to get a free seven-day VIP app subscription. VCG



Keywords to Understand China

「The Belt and Road Initiative」




Published by New World Press, May 2017

Keywords to Understand China: The Belt and Road Initiative is a selection of “China Keywords” entries included in an eponymous multilingual platform.

The “China Keywords” platform offers an authoritative guide to understanding contemporary China, a window into China’s political thinking, policies, and approach to development, including its governance philosophy and the vision of the current Communist Party of China (CPC) central leadership with Xi Jinping at its core.

A major national project implemented by the China International Publishing Group, the China Academy of Translation and the Translators Association of China, the multilingual platform can be accessed online and on mobile social media platforms.

This booklet is compiled to help readers better understand China’s Belt and Road Initiative. During the compilation process, the “China Keywords” project team worked closely with experts from relevant government departments, news outlets, research institutes and institutions of higher learning. Entries are grouped under thematic headings and presented in Arabic, English, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kazak, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Vietnamese, as well as the original Chinese.

Keywords are key to telling a story. “China Keywords” are key to telling the story of China. We hope that our project will help build a bridge of understanding between China and the rest of the world. 

EXCERPTS

Five-Pronged Approach

In his speech at Kazakhstan’s Nazarbayev University on September 7, 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed building a Silk Road Economic Belt by promoting policy coordination, road connectivity, unimpeded trade, currency convertibility, and closer people-to-people ties.

At the Boao Forum for Asia on March 28, 2015, the Chinese government issued a white paper entitled *Joining Hands to Build a Silk Road Economic Belt and a 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road—Vision and Actions*. This document also calls for policy coordination, connectivity of infrastructure and facilities, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and closer people-to-people ties (a five-pronged approach), so as to build a community of shared interests, of shared responsibility and of a shared future on the basis of mutual trust, economic integration and cultural inclusiveness.

While the five components of this approach are distinct from one another and will have a shifting focus at different stages in building the Belt and Road, they form an integrated whole, and are inseparable and mutually reinforcing.

Community of a Shared Future

The idea of building a community of a shared future was first discussed in a report to the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012. It was seen as contributing to China’s engagement with the rest of the world in pursuit of win-win results. This idea has since become a core element of China’s foreign policy. It also underpins the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The concept of a community of a shared future emphasizes the virtue of holistic thinking, cosmopolitan ideals, and the pursuit of lasting peace and shared prosperity. The destiny of a country should be in the hands of its people, and the future of the world must be shaped jointly by the peoples of the world. A country’s national interests are to be pursued with other countries’ interests in mind. The implementation of any national development strategy should be accompanied by careful consideration of the development needs of others.

Underlying the Belt and Road Initiative is the understanding that we all share one world. Under the Belt and Road Initiative, a community of a shared future can be built only on the basis of shared interests and responsibility. Sustained efforts should thus be made to expand our cooperation in the fields of trade and investment, where convergence of interests occurs, and to transform economic complementarity into new drivers of development. At the same time, all countries should join hands in dealing with international challenges and building a cooperative framework that benefits all.

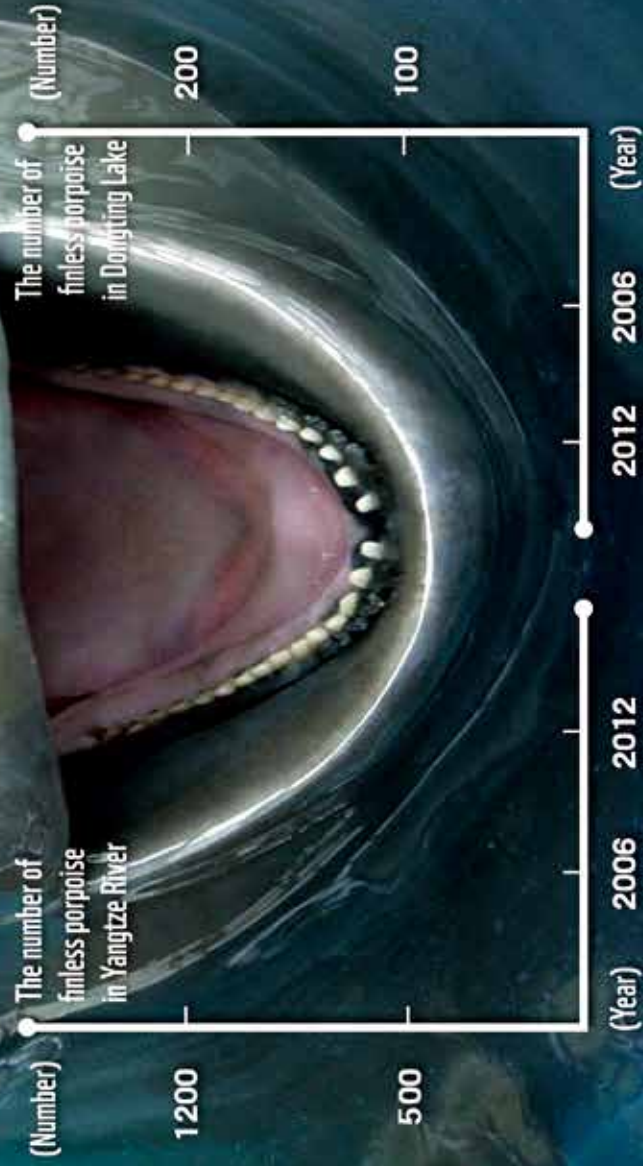


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A Panorama of Rivers and Mountains **Blue-green Landscape Paintings Across Chinese History**

Text by Gong Haiying

Photographs courtesy of the Palace Museum

The blue-green landscape painting is an important subset of traditional Chinese paintings of rivers and mountains. Literati enthusiasts of ink wash paintings have fully sent the genre mainstream since the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), yet the historical significance and value of blue-green landscape paintings have consistently been neglected and seldom researched ever since.

From September 15 to December 14, 2017, the Palace Museum held one of the most important exhibitions of the year: “Blue-green Landscape Paintings from across Chinese History,” at which 86 cultural relics were put on display. It marked the museum’s first exhibition of blue-green landscape paintings.

According to Dr. Shan Jixiang, director of the Palace Museum, the exhibition systematically displayed the development of blue-green landscape paintings across Chinese history, with *A Panorama of Rivers and Mountains* by Wang Ximeng (1096-unknown) from the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) as the core. It was complemented by other works housed in the Palace Museum such as *Spring Excursion* by Zhan Ziqian (545-618) from the Sui Dynasty (581-618) and *The*



Landscape in Autumn by Zhao Boju (1120-1182) and *Golden Halls in Pine Forest* by Zhao Bosu (1124-1182) from the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279).

Wang Zhongxu, an associate research fellow of the Palace Museum, planned the exhibition. He noted that the exhibition was organized based on research conducted on exhibits housed primarily in the Palace Museum, with additional contributions borrowed from Shanghai Museum, Liaoning Provincial Museum, Dunhuang Research Academy and the National Art Museum of China. Together, a comprehensive survey of the history of blue-green landscape paintings was presented.

Development of Blue-green Landscape Paintings

This exhibition was divided into five parts based on the history of the paintings. The first section, “Dazzling Splendors,” displayed how blue-green landscape paintings originated and developed into a complete form from the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420) to the Song Dynasty (960-1279). This section not only demonstrated the origins of blue-green landscape paintings with four duplicates of murals from Dunhuang Research Academy, but also displayed the most outstanding works of blue-green landscape paintings held by the court, including *Spring Excursion* by Zhan Ziqian, *The Landscape*

Spring Excursion (part) by Zhan Ziqian (545-618) from the Sui Dynasty, housed in the Palace Museum.





in *Autumn* by Zhao Boju and *Golden Halls in Pine Forest* by Zhao Bosu.

The second part, “Dark Ink and Pure Tastes,” displayed the confluence of blue-green landscape paintings and literati paintings during the period from the Yuan Dynasty to the middle of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Blue-green landscape paintings broke out of the court during the Yuan Dynasty and became popular among the literati. Zhao Mengfu (1254-1322), who pioneered new trends in literati paintings, explored myriad styles of blue-green landscape paintings. In this part, *Tea Party in Huishan* by Wen Zhengming (1470-1559) and *Lonely Mountain* by Qian Xuan (1239-1299) were displayed.

The third section, “Featured Item,” displayed the central work of the entire exhibition, *A Panorama of Rivers and Mountains* by Wang Ximeng, a court painter in the Northern Song Dynasty. This part also displayed replicated works by Wang Bing and Fang Cong, both court painters of

the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

The fourth part, “Imitations Surpassing the Originals,” showed how blue-green landscape paintings changed dramatically under the influence of Dong Qichang’s theory of the division of landscape paintings into southern and northern schools and the trend of imitating ancient masters’ skills. This section focused on works by Dong Qichang (1555-1636) and “Four Wangs of the Early Qing” (four painters who shared the surname Wang during the early Qing Dynasty).

The fifth part, “The New from the Old,” displayed the transformation of this type of painting under the shock wave of the arrival of Western culture and paintings. However, the quality of the paintings in this period could never rival those of previous times.

Featured Work: *A Panorama of Rivers and Mountains*

In this exhibition, *A Panorama of Rivers and Mountains* was regarded as the most important work and was most highlighted




A Panorama of Rivers and Mountains (part) by Wang Ximeng (1096-unknown) from the Northern Song Dynasty, housed in the Palace Museum.

among a range of famous exhibits. This immense painting and *Along the River during the Qingming Festival*, which was finished a bit earlier by Zhang Zeduan of the Northern Song Dynasty, both consistently rank among the ten greatest existing ancient Chinese paintings. These two paintings represent the peaks of two different styles of painting of the Northern Song Dynasty.

The blue-green landscape painting, *A Panorama of Rivers and Mountains*, stretches 11.9 meters long and 51.5 centimeters wide and is housed in the Palace Museum. For this exhibition, the Palace Museum constructed a special showcase to display the painting, which enables it to be exhibited at full length for the first time. As spectators moved along the showcase, they could gradually take in the endless mountain ranges of southern China in early summer, pavilions and temples peppered among the beautiful scenery and fishermen tossing out nets. Every detail is an indispensable piece of a magnificent landscape. This painting is considered the best representation of the aesthetic philosophy of prosperity and harmony

proposed by Emperor Huizong of the Northern Song Dynasty.

In Wang Zhongxu's opinion, the fact that *A Panorama of Rivers and Mountains* colors such a large area with high saturation makes it unique among all existing blue-green landscape paintings. The pigment has maintained a high level of saturation after nearly one thousand years, so the general appearance is still very bright. This is highlighted by the tiny parts that peeled off showing the complexity of the pigment, which differs significantly from ink and wash paintings.

Aside from beautiful paintings, another factor that attracted public attention was the mysterious life of Wang Ximeng. He finished the masterpiece at the age of 18 and died not long after. How did he become a student of Emperor Huizong? Why did he die at such a young age? Many questions about him linger today. Wang Zhongxu pointed out the uniqueness of Wang Ximeng: He is renowned today just for a single painting, not for his life as a painter. 

Lumen Matrix International Digital Art Exhibition

November 25, 2017 – January 7, 2018
Today Art Museum, Beijing

The Lumen Prize for Digital Art is a British award enjoying its sixth successive year of operation.

This exhibition is the first stop of the award's Asian tour. The show features more than 20 pieces by artists from China, Holland, the United States and other parts of the world in different forms such as videos, images, interactive installations, sculptures, and VR films. Works cover myriad practical issues such as super intelligent life and marine pollution. Alongside award-winning pieces, the exhibition also includes other categories of works, such as nominees, the previously featured works and a special screening of VR films.



▲
Reading Plan by Wang Liansheng,
installation, 23 pieces, each around
60x40x140cm, 2016.



▲
Poster for "Intuition: Sino-German
Contemporary Art Exhibition."

Intuition Sino-German Contemporary Art

December 12, 2017–February 28, 2018
ART23 Contemporary Art Museum, Guangzhou

Last year marked the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Germany. To mark the occasion, the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Guangzhou and the ART23 Contemporary Art Museum jointly sponsored an exhibition of works by nine outstanding contemporary artists from Germany and China.

The exhibition aims to use visual art to construct the field of space and time and explore the relationship between the individual and time and space. Artists rely on "intuition" to carry out artistic practice by presenting different interpretations of time and space in forms of installations, images, sculptures, paintings and performance art.

Simultaneous Eidos Guangzhou Image Triennial 2017

December 15, 2017–March 8, 2018
Guangdong Art Museum, Guangzhou



◀
Old Look 2
by Jiang Zhi,
photography
(micro jet),
200x150cm,
2016-2017.

The show consists of two parts: the theme exhibition and the featured exhibition. The theme exhibition shows photographic works by more than 40 artists from China and other parts of the world, including Japan, France, and the United States.

The featured exhibition displays works by 15 artists spanning over a century, from the perspective of the history of photography in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, and its relationship with the history of globalization, as well as that between photography and history, photography and society, and photography and our times. Important exhibits include *Illustrations of China and Its People* by British photographer John Thompson (1837-1921) in the late 19th Century.

From Vincent Willem van Gogh to Chinese Contemporary Art

December 6, 2017 - January 24, 2018
Song Art Museum, Beijing



▲ *Vase with Red Poppies and Daisies by Vincent Van Gogh, oil on canvas, 66×51cm, 1890.*

The exhibition showcases 79 works in three parts. The first section features masterpieces by Western artists of impressionism and modern art, such as Van Gogh's *Vase with Daisies and Poppies* and Picasso's *Femme au chignon dans un fauteuil*. The second part presents oil paintings by representative artists in the early 20th Century and contemporary China. The third part displays oil paintings by Wang Zhongjun, founder of Song Art Museum and a well-known contemporary art collector, illustrating his understanding and interpretation of art.

HUGO BOSS Asia Art Finalists

October 27, 2017 - February 11, 2018
Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai



▲ *Hello, Finale! by Tao Hui, installation, video, color, 39'00", 2017.*

A biennial event first established in 2013, HUGO BOSS Asia Art Award for Emerging Asian Artists is regarded as a high-profile award that honors emerging contemporary artists in the early stages of their artistic creation and exhibition practices. This year's nominees include Li Ming (China), Tao Hui (China), Yu Ji (China) and Robert Zhao Renhui (Singapore).

In forms such as sculptures, videos, photography and installations, the exhibition presents newly-commissioned works by the four finalists as well as the latest collections held by the Rockbund Art Museum in Shanghai, probing developmental potential and new trends of contemporary art.



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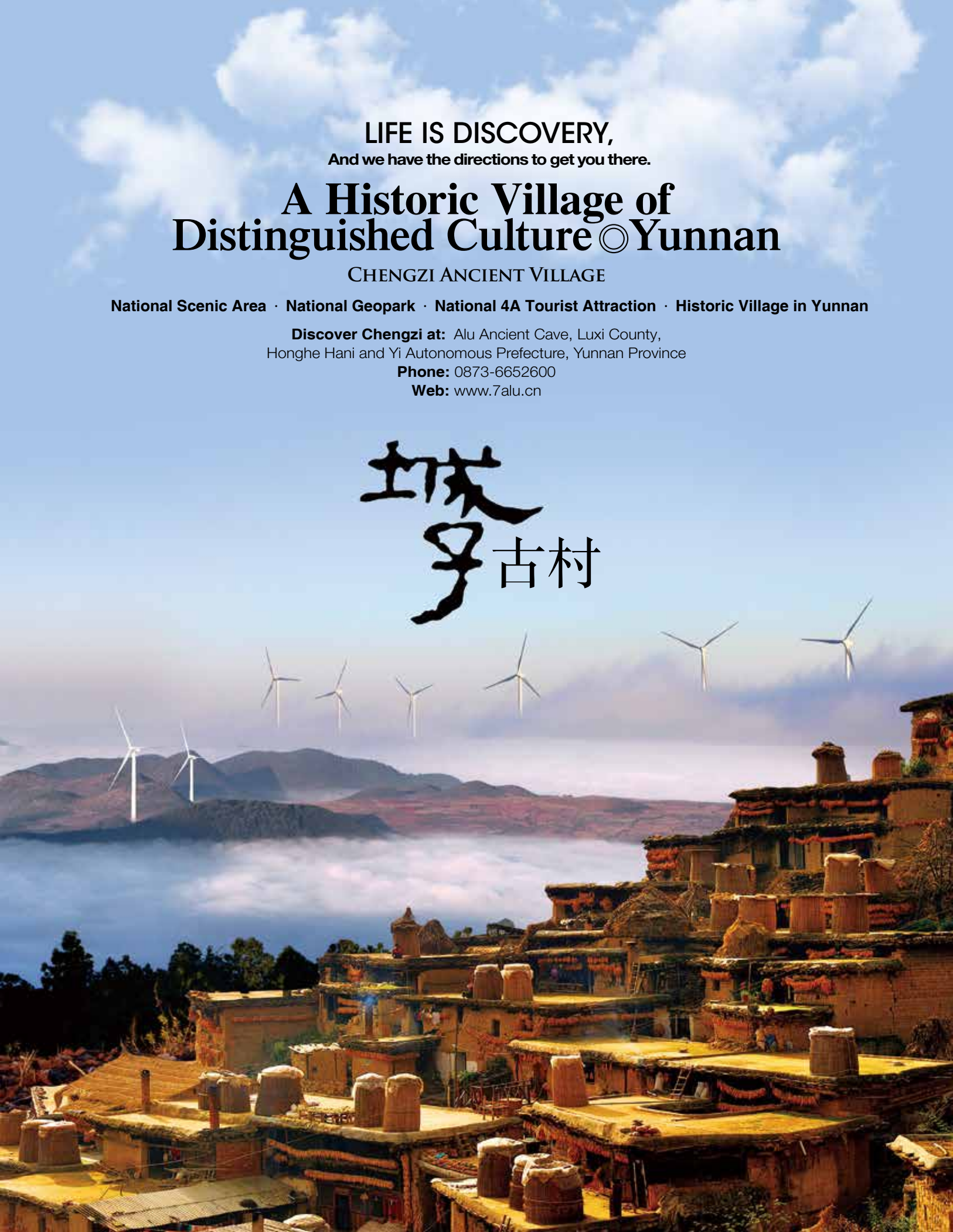
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Saihanba is a cold alpine area in northern Hebei Province bordering the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. It was once a barren land but is now home to 75,000 hectares of forest, thanks to the labor of generations of forestry workers in the past 55 years. Every year the forest purifies 137 million cubic meters of water and absorbs 747,000 tons of carbon dioxide. The forest produces 12 billion yuan (around US\$1.8 billion) of ecological value annually, according to the Chinese Academy of Forestry.