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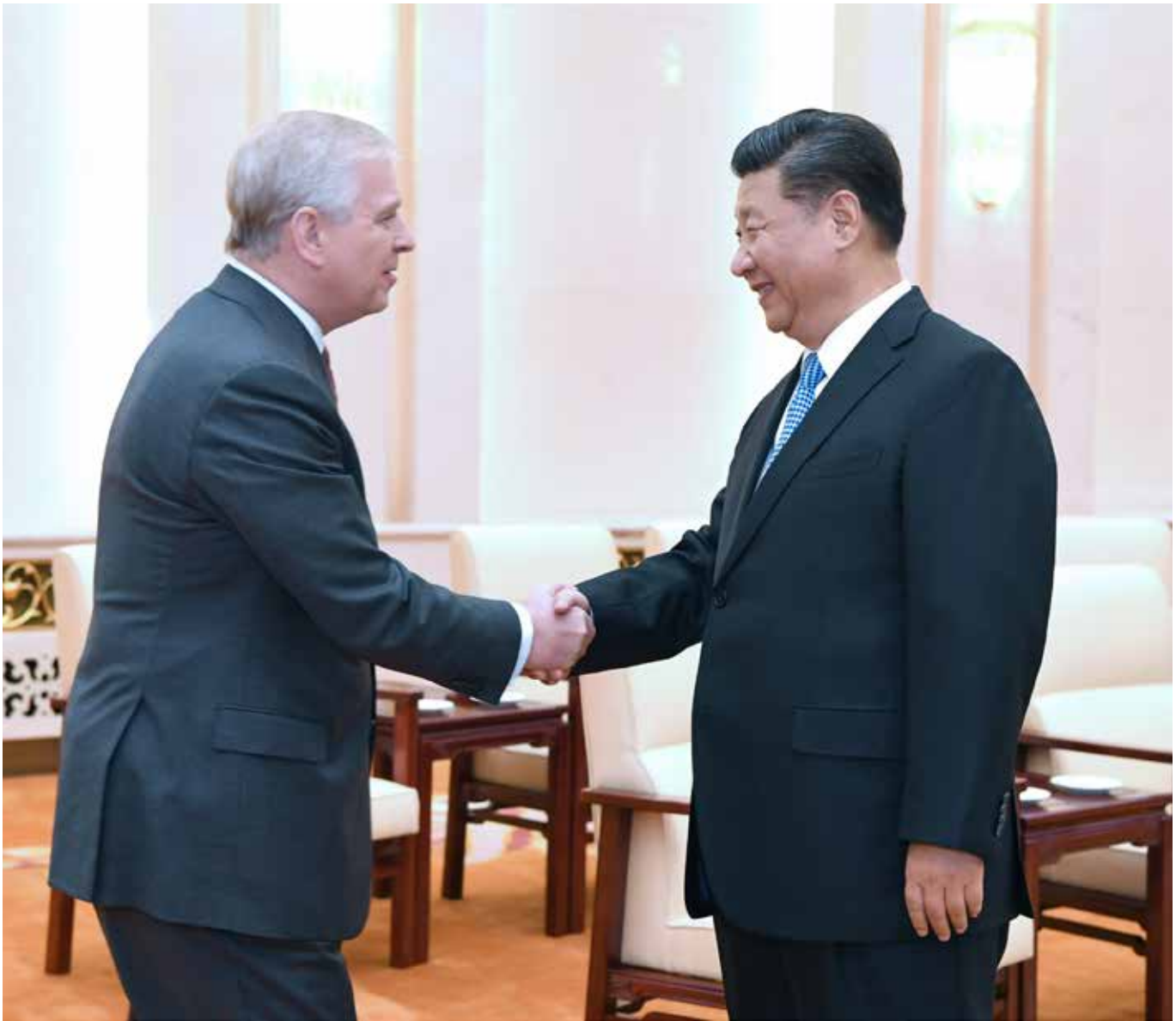
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by Rao Aimin/Xinhua

## Strengthening China-UK Cooperation in Scientific, Technological Innovation

May 29, Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with visiting British Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, at the Great Hall of the People.

Xi called on China and the UK to strengthen cooperation in scientific and technological innovation. He also said that he appreciates the royal family's contribution to China-UK friendship, and recalled his successful state visit to Britain in 2015, which opened up the "Golden Era" of bilateral ties. Although the current international situation has

changed a lot, the "Golden Era" of bilateral ties continues its steady development, Xi added.

Prince Andrew said that Britain pays high attention to China's economic transition from high-speed growth to high-quality development. And he is willing to continue to strengthen practical cooperation in science and technology, innovation and industry between the two countries, enhance mutual understanding between the two peoples, and promote even greater development of the UK-China "Golden Era."





by Yang Yi/CNS

## Carrier Concludes Sea Trials

May 18, Dalian, Liaoning Province: China's second aircraft carrier completed its sea trials and returned to port at Dalian Shipyard.

The aircraft carrier, which is the first one designed and built domestically, was launched in April last year.

The five-day sea trials started on May 13 to test the reliability and stability of the aircraft carrier's power system and other equipment. The People's Liberation Army Navy reported that the trials tested multiple facilities and reached the anticipated objectives.



by Ju Huanzong/Xinhua

## Longest Stay in Simulated Moon Lab

May 15, Beijing: Volunteer Liu Hui prepares to leave the Yuegong-1, or Lunar Palace 1, a simulated space lab, at Beihang University.

Chinese volunteers have completed a one-year test living in the simulated space lab in Beijing, setting a new record for the longest stay in a self-contained cabin. The total length of the test, which started on May 10 last year, reached 370 days, with the third stage accounting for 110 days.

Liu Hong, chief designer of the Yuegong-1, said that the test marks the longest stay in a bio-regenerative life support system (BLSS), in which humans, animals, plants and microorganisms coexist in a closed environment, simulating a lunar base.

The previous record was set in the former Soviet Union, where three people stayed for 180 days in a similar closed ecosystem in the early 1970s.





VCG

## ➤ Angels Over China

May 8, Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region: A doctor checks a child from Afghanistan in a hospital. The five-year-old, who has heart disease, received free treatment at the hospital and returned to Afghanistan with free medicine the next day.

A total of 25 Afghan children suffering from congenital heart disease have received free treatment

in China this year under the program of the Belt and Road Fraternity Fund (BRFF), called the “Angels Tour.”

Under the program, launched last year, the Chinese Red Cross foreign aid medical team aims to take 100 Afghan children suffering from congenital heart disease to China to receive free surgery by 2018.



# Digital Economy New Driver of the New Era

Text by Zhang Hui

*Swept up by the digital wave, every country in the world is joining the digital revolution and competing for a piece of the digital economy—the future industrial goldmine.*

As noted in the report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China's economy has shifted from a phase of high-speed growth to a stage of high-quality development and is now facing a critical period of transforming development mode, optimizing economic structure and shifting growth momentum.

In the process of the transformation from old to new driving forces, a number of emerging industries, such as the digital economy, high-end equipment manufacturing, bio-pharmaceuticals, and cultural and creative industries, are accelerating growth. Development of the digital economy has been particularly rapid, and it has become a new driving force for China's economic development in the new era and a new business card for foreign contacts.

According to the definition agreed upon at the G20 Hangzhou Summit, the digital economy refers to a broad range of economic activities that use digitized information and knowledge as the key factor of production, modern information networks as an important activity space, and information and communication technology (ICT) as an important driver of productivity growth and economic structural optimization.

The digital economy continues to expand, driven by new generations of information technologies such as

cloud computing, Internet of Things and artificial intelligence (AI), emerging from a narrow sense of digital industrialization to the more extensive digitization of industries.

In addition to traditional telecommunications and electronic product manufacturing, software services, and the internet, the digital economy has penetrated into many non-information industries, playing an increasingly important role in sectors such as intelligent manufacturing, modern agriculture and the "Internet Plus."

The digital economy is a technology- and talent-intensive sector with strong innovation dynamism and significant improvement in total factor productivity.

After an economic downturn, the digital economy is often a key driver for recovery. For example, statistics from the 2017 PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) released by the World Intellectual Property Organization show that computing technology and digital communications ranked top two in all technological fields in terms of the number of patents applied, while digital economy-related companies occupied six seats in the top ten enterprises.

Amid the digital wave, all countries in the world have joined the digital revolution and are competing for a piece of the digital economy—the future industrial goldmine.

By 2015, 27 of 34 OECD (Orga-

nization for Economic Cooperation and Development) member countries had formulated national strategies related to the digital economy.

Of the top 10 listed companies in the world in 2017, digital companies took seven seats, led by Apple, Google, and Microsoft.

According to Accenture's calculations, the GDP share of the digital economy in most countries is expected to increase by three percentage points from 2015 to 2020, equivalent to a 12.5-percent increase in global economic output value.

China is also seizing the opportunity to develop the digital economy by enacting a series of guidelines including the *Guidance on Actively Promoting the "Internet Plus" Initiative, Development Program for Intelligent Manufacturing (2016-2020)* and *New Generation of Artificial Intelligence Development Plan*.

Statistics from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology show that in 2017, China's digital economy reached 27.2 trillion yuan, accounting for 32.9 percent of its GDP, and contributed 55 percent to its GDP growth.

A group of outstanding internet companies have emerged. Tencent and Alibaba rank among the top 10 listed companies in the world. Of the 164 unicorn companies announced by the Ministry of Science and



Technology in 2017, 145 are digital economy-related companies, which captured nine of the top 10 spots.


Still, against the backdrop of the slowdown in the growth of the domestic market, digital economy-related companies have begun to explore overseas markets. The Digital Silk Road has become a highlight in the construction of the Belt and Road.

Chinese smartphone brands can be found across the world. Huawei has sold its products in 170 countries and regions around the world. Xiaomi has made impressive progress in the Indian market. Tecno cell phones have become popular in Africa.

Although China has become a big digital economy, it is yet to be a digital economic power, and still lags behind the United States, the world leader in this regard.

In the core technologies of the digital economy represented by integrated circuits and infrastructure software, China still depends on others. Independent innovation in China emphasizes innovation modes. The ZTE incident that emerged in April served as a wake-up call.

The intellectually intensive feature of the digital economy also makes it highly demanding in the industrial layout. Related companies are highly concentrated in four large cities in China: Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Shenzhen. Development of central and western regions is relatively lacking and primarily distributed at the low end of the value chain.

As a whole, the digital economy has become a new driver of China's economic growth in the new era and will do much to build a modern economic system. 

**The author is vice president and professor of the School of Economics at Peking University and head of the Beijing Philosophy and Social Science Research Center for China's Urban Economy.**

## 地下云图网

# Underground Seismic Monitoring Network

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

Earthquake forecasting is still extremely difficult despite a high demand for it globally. Its difficulty lies in the impenetrability of the earth and the complexity of earthquake gestation. To solve this problem, China will build its first underground "nephogram" network for earthquake monitoring in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces.

Construction will be led by the Sichuan Earthquake Early Warning Key Laboratory and the Chengdu-based Institute of Care-life. It will take two years to establish 2,000 monitoring stations in the two earthquake-prone provinces. The system

May 12, 2018 marks the 10th anniversary of the catastrophic Wenchuan earthquake. A commemorative sculpture at the ruins of Xuankou Middle School in Yingxiu Town, Wenchuan County, Sichuan Province is surrounded by flower baskets placed by mourners. IC



will be the first of its kind in the world.

Nephogram is a term from meteorology, which is commonly used in weather forecasting. By analyzing the visual characteristics of clouds, meteorologists can infer the meteorological conditions that formed the clouds and predict future weather changes.

An underground "nephogram" network is formed by connecting seismic monitoring stations that provide data through real-time monitoring of the underground stress and energy directly related to earthquakes. The data is then transmitted to a forecasting center where it is automatically processed to generate an underground earthquakes map similar to a satellite nephogram used for weather forecasting.

The depths of earthquakes that are most destructive to humans are almost all less than 20 kilometers, including the catastrophic earthquakes in Tangshan, Hebei Province and Wenchuan, Sichuan Province.

The main goal of the underground seismic monitoring network is to solve the problem hindering imminent prediction of devastating shallow-focus earthquakes (less than 20 kilometers deep).

According to the scientific research plan, the Sichuan Earthquake Early Warning Key Laboratory and the Institute of Care-life will complete the underground seismic monitoring network in one to two years. Then, they will spend three years testing the new network using data collected from about 10 destructive earthquakes.

Already, the first monitoring station and sensor equipment of the network have been deployed at the Yingxiu Seismological Station in Wenchuan County.

## 区块链产业

# Blockchain Sector

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

According to a white paper released by the Information Center of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on May 20, 2018, a complete industrial chain for the blockchain sector has emerged in China and developed rapidly.

Blockchain is a decentralized and distributed ledger database. In a transaction supported by the blockchain technology, buyers and sellers can make the deal directly without any intermediary platform. After the deal, the system broadcasts the transaction information, and all computers that received the information record the deal after confirmation, which means that all computers involved would backup for the deal. Therefore, this kind of data storage system is transparent, traceable, unhackable and safe.



April 9, 2018: An information collector and real-time camera system based on "blockchain plus internet of things" technology in a tea garden of the first-class West Lake Longjing tea protection area in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. IC

By the end of March 2018, the number of blockchain tech companies in China had reached 456. Most, as much as 80 percent of the total, are concentrated in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong and Zhejiang. Their operations range from hardware manufacturing, platform services and security services to technological application services, investment, media and human resources services. 



# Traveling China Forever

Text and photographs by Helena Villar Segura

*I would travel non-stop forever through China if I could.*

## China in My Eyes

China is a dish of exotic food, maybe spring rolls, a tall and symmetrical ancient pagoda, a lake covered with lotus flowers, the Forbidden City and, of course, the Great Wall. China is a woman wearing cheongsam, an impossible language, strokes of black ink forming characters and a convenience store in my hometown. It is economics, politics, proverbs and sayings, a page of the newspaper and, overall, an unknown place, so far away.

I have always believed that every country has something well worth visiting. However, before arriving in China three years ago, I considered China anything but a travel destination. I thought of it as a place to learn a new language or find better opportunities and per-

haps wander around. I now realize how mistaken I was. When people ask me where to go in China, my answer is always different. I can't say that the misty sunset from atop the Yellow Mountain is better than seeing it from the karst landscapes of Yangshuo. Are Tibetan monasteries more impressive than the paddy fields mirroring the sunrise? Sometimes I think nothing could rival drinking tea in the Wuyi Mountains while talking to local tea farmers, but when I stroll Beijing's alleys among the elderly playing Chinese chess, I don't want to be anywhere else. Go to Shanghai for skyscrapers and lights and to Hainan for islands and beaches or try Yunnan for elephants, Chengdu for pandas and the Himalayas for snow-capped peaks. The country

also has sand dunes and steppes with ethnic minorities and travelers riding horses, yurts, mosques and a 170-meter-tall Buddha. After all these experiences, if I were to travel one country indefinitely for the rest of my life, it would certainly be China.

## Lessons from the Train

Not only are the huge varieties of landscapes, cultures and buildings fascinating, so are all the different means of transportation to get around the country. From little tuk-tuks and electric motorbikes to airliners, from high-speed trains to buses with bunk beds, the country has options to suit all tastes and pockets.

Some prefer flying directly to the final destination to save time. However, traveling by a sleeper train in China is a unique experience. The environment along the way is very authentic. Sitting next to locals and chatting with them can enrich the trip. Along the route, no matter whether sleeping on a hard or soft bed, sitting or standing, people of all ages flood carriages and aisles with instant noodles and nuts. Some snore loudly, and others offer to share an uncommon snack and food they brought in their extensive luggage. Such a trip leaves nobody unmoved. It is part of the surprise of exploring China.

The first time I decided to take

Milk Lake in Yading Nature Reserve, Sichuan Province. Inspiring, solitary and quiet, this lake sits at an altitude of 4,480 meters. Breathing can be difficult up there.





the slow train, I was looking to travel from Beijing to Xi'an to see the terracotta warriors. My friends and I got to the station three hours in advance to buy the train tickets. I thought it would be plenty of time. After waiting in line for about an hour, there were no tickets left. We were so naive. Naturally, in a country with a population of over 1.4 billion you can't wait until the last minute to make any decision. First lesson learned! If you want to travel in China, book in advance.

We rescheduled everything three days later and then, finally, I experienced an overnight trip by train in China. By that time, sleeping on such a hard mattress with five roommates with the sound of the railway tracks was a challenge. That's why in the morning after 12 sleepless hours, every inch of my body ached. On top of everything, I was in desperate need of a shower. Clumsily, I sat up on my bed. Next to me was a middle-aged Chinese guy who smiled and offered some sort of snack. I smiled back and waved my hand to let him know I wasn't hungry. However, he insisted and since I didn't want to be impolite, I accepted. Everyone around was having breakfast, so I joined them. Shortly afterwards, I started looking for my comb. Maybe brushing my hair would help me feel cleaner, I thought. As I took it out of my backpack, the guy who had shared his food with me said something in Chinese. I nodded, smiling again, but not understanding what he was saying. Then, he took the comb from my hand and combed his hair to look perfect. Second lesson learned! If you pretend you understand the language, suffer the consequences.




Some people like to stroll around the Forbidden City. What I like most about it is the view from Jingshan Park at sunset.

### Spanish Parents in China

I had lived in China for about two years before I finally convinced my parents to visit me. They had never traveled to a different continent and had a lot of misconceptions about China. But after showing them tons of pictures and promising they wouldn't have to share their combs with anybody, they agreed.

After five days between Beijing's alleys and rooftops, the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace, we took a journey to Anhui Province. We stayed at a small hotel in one of the Anhui villages. My parents really liked the environment. They were curious about every single aspect of Chinese culture and took photos of everything. Moreover, my father, who is a cook, loved trying every

local specialty and asking about the ingredients. He doesn't speak English or Chinese, however. He would still try to communicate in Spanish as if anyone could understand him, which always caused laughs alongside confusion.

One day after a long walk around town, he said he felt like cooking. Despite my attempts to explain to him that it wasn't a good idea, he made me translate his intentions to the hotel owner, an extremely polite woman who couldn't say no. As a result, we all ended up in the kitchen with the hotel's chef helping my father cook some Spanish recipes with local products. Later, all of us, the hotel staff and my family, had dinner together. Actually, it was the best part of the trip. 

# Turning Gears of the Yangtze River Economic Belt

Text by Zhang Xue

*Promoting the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt by relying on the golden watercourse of the Yangtze River will let it drive China's economy once again.*

**T**he Yangtze River is considered the mother river of Chinese civilization, and it continues nourishing life along both banks to this day. With a total length of more than 6,300 kilometers, it is China's longest river, traversing from the west, through the central regions to the east coast. It has the greatest volume of water, the longest route and the richest water resources in Asia.

The Yangtze River Economic Belt covers 11 provinces and municipalities including Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Chongqing, Sichuan, Yunnan and Guizhou, spanning a total area of about 2.05 million square kilometers. The region, which accounts for more than 40 percent of both the country's population and GDP, is not only one of the most important

economic centers and growth engines in China, but also a key player in the Belt and Road Initiative.

In September 2014, the State Council released the *Guidelines on Promoting the Development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt by Relying on the Golden Watercourse of the Yangtze River*. On March 25, 2016, a development plan for the Yangtze River Economic Belt was deliberated



The Three Gorges Dam viewed from Sandouping Town in Yichang, Hubei Province. In May, the water level of the Three Gorges Reservoir was reduced to 145 meters to leave the storage capacity for the upcoming flood season. by Zheng Jiayu/Xinhua





On April 24, 2018, President Xi Jinping visited the new materials industrial park of Hubei Xingfa Chemicals Group on the bank of the Yangtze River to inspect the relocation and reform progress of chemical enterprises as well as the environmental protection work of the port. by Ju Peng/Xinhua

upon and adopted by the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

By then, the Yangtze River Economic Belt had been formally launched. It is one of China's three major development initiatives alongside coordinated development of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and the Belt and Road Initiative.

### **All-Out Efforts for Protection, No Large-scale Development**

"We must make restoring the ecological environment of the Yangtze River a top priority," stressed Presi-

dent Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, setting the tone for the further development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt.

On April 26, 2018, Xi chaired a symposium on promoting the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt in Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province.

There, he stressed that we must focus on the long-term interests of the Chinese nation, which means making restoration of the ecological environment of the Yangtze River a

top priority. He also called for all-out efforts to protect the Yangtze River, saying that there should be no large-scale development of the river.

The ultimate goal is to make the economic belt into a golden seam featuring a more beautiful ecology, smoother transport, a more coordinated economy, a more integrated market and more rational mechanisms. The mission is to explore a new path that puts ecology first while pursuing green development, Xi said.

The climate of the areas along the Yangtze River is warm and humid, with a wide range of rivers and

rich resources.

After the introduction of reform and opening up, the Yangtze River valley was listed as one of the earliest regions for development in China.

With the rapid economic growth and large-scale development of the region, a considerable volume of industrial wastewater and domestic sewage are directly discharged into the Yangtze River, causing serious pollution of the water in some parts and severe shrinkage of lake areas. Coordinating the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt to protect the river's ecosystem has become an urgent task.

Xi elaborated on that topic: "When we say there should be no large-scale development, it does not mean we cannot develop at all, but we should avoid development that is destructive to the river, and we should strive for green development that puts ecology first."

He called for stopping unplanned development and capping total pollution discharge by relentlessly and severely cracking down on the illegal sewage discharging, sand-mining and other

destructive activities that undermine the ecosystem along the river, and keeping such efforts high on the agenda.

By focusing on green development by promoting ecological improvement, the Yangtze River Economic Belt will achieve sustainable development in the future.

### **Leading the Chinese Economy for Centuries**

The Chinese civilization originated in the Yellow River valley. According to historical records, frequent flooding and wars along the Yellow River caused three large-scale population migrations southward.

During the Song Dynasty (960-1279), the Yangtze River valley supplanted the Yellow River valley as the economic nucleus of China.

Since then, the areas along the Yangtze River, especially the middle and lower reaches of the river, have remained the most prosperous regions in China for almost 1,000 years. As early as the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), a well-known saying claimed that if Huzhou and Suzhou (in the lower reaches of the river) had

a good harvest, they could feed the whole nation.

In modern times, the Yangtze River valley pioneered China's industrial development, constantly refreshing and advancing the industrial mode, political system and ideology of the nation.

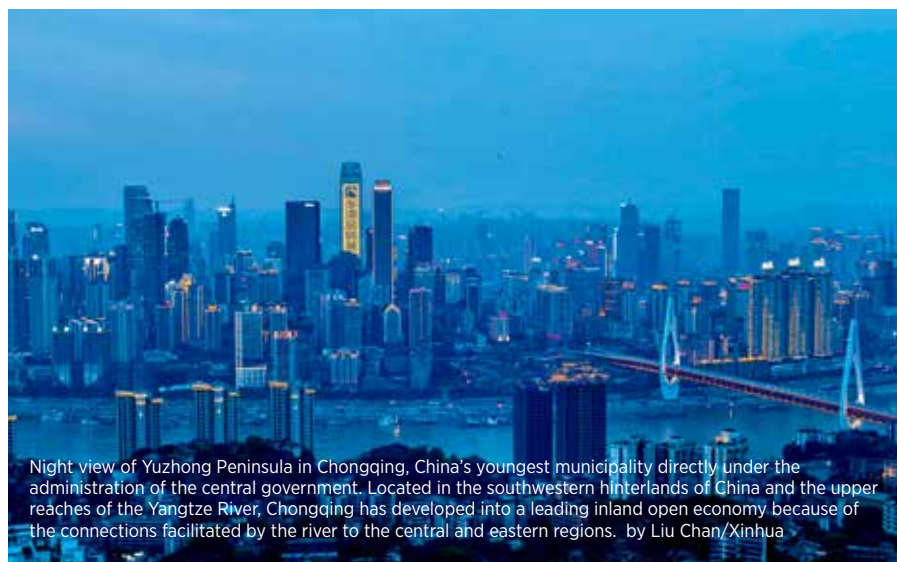
In 1865, Li Hongzhang, governor-general of Liangjiang (covering today's Jiangsu, Anhui and Jiangxi provinces and Shanghai Municipality) in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), opened the Jiangnan Machinery Manufacturing Bureau in Shanghai, marking the establishment of the largest westernization business in modern China which served as a prelude to the country's modern industrial revolution.

In 1899, Zhang Jian, noted for achieving the highest score in the 1894 imperial examination of the Qing Dynasty, founded the Dasheng Cotton Mill in Nantong, Jiangsu Province, in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, which was one of the earliest cotton mills in China.

Subsequently, more than 20 industrial and mining enterprises founded by Zhang Jian formed a complete light-industry chain, promoting the development of modern industry in China.

In the 20th century, Shanghai, located at the estuary of the Yangtze River, became the economic and financial capital of the Far East. As a paradise for adventurers and the largest exchange platform between China and Western civilization, it was the first place for European fashion and ideas to be imported and spread to other parts of China.

After 1949, cities along the Yangtze River such as Shanghai, Wuhan, Nanjing and Chongqing have continued occupied pivotal positions in China's economic map.



Night view of Yuzhong Peninsula in Chongqing, China's youngest municipality directly under the administration of the central government. Located in the southwestern hinterlands of China and the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, Chongqing has developed into a leading inland open economy because of the connections facilitated by the river to the central and eastern regions. by Liu Chan/Xinhua



In 1990, the CPC Central Committee decided to open and develop the Pudong District of Shanghai to promote the economic development of the Yangtze River Delta and the greater Yangtze River valley.

Since then, the Yangtze River Delta has remained at the forefront of China's reform and opening up. The development of Pudong has carried a torch for the comprehensive development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt.

Over more than 20 years of development and construction, the industrial development advantages of the region have been continuously strengthened, the strategic pattern of regional urbanization has taken shape, and its strategic position in China's development landscape has become increasingly important.

### Traversing East to West, Radiating North and South

The Yangtze River is a golden watercourse with the largest freight volume among the world's inland rivers, and the water channels of the river are the most important east-west axis for China's regional development.

The introduction of the Yangtze River Economic Belt has opened a new chapter for economic development of the region.

The Chinese people have long compared the Yangtze River to a huge dragon: The city cluster around Shanghai in the Yangtze River Delta is like the dragon's head, the city cluster around Wuhan in the middle reaches of the river its waist, and the Chengdu-Chongqing city cluster its tail.

The Yangtze River Economic Belt covers 110 cities at prefectural level and above. If they realize complementary development, optimal division of labor and coordination

of work, the economic belt would unleash tremendous economic potential. The launch of the Yangtze River Economic Belt will inject great vigor and vitality to the "dragon," bringing coordinated development to the whole region.

Located in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, Wuhan is an important city connecting the upper and lower reaches of the river. At the Wuhan New Port, the direct shipping route to Shanghai's Yangshan Port is the busiest, which enables cargos to be transported from Wuhan to Shanghai in 72 hours. The route is part of Wuhan's direct shipping route project linking the middle reaches of the Yangtze River to the sea, which has greatly cut the time it takes to reach the ocean.

The launch of the Wuhan-Europe freight train route, linking Wuhan to West Asia and Europe, connected the Yangtze River Economic Belt with countries along the Belt and Road.

Starting from Wuhan, the Wuhan-Europe freight train route runs through the Alataw Pass in northwestern China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and finally reaches Hamburg, Germany, with a total distance of 10,324 kilometers, traversing more than a dozen countries in Asia and Europe.

"It used to take about 45 days for sea freight to get to Europe, but now it only needs 12 days by freight train," beamed Lin Zhengpeng, general manager of the Wuhan AOC Display Technology Co., Ltd.

Only two years since the development plan for the Yangtze River Economic Belt was released, significant results have already emerged.

After the implementation of the Yangtze River Economic Belt development plan, the share of the region in the national economy increased from 41.2




An international freight train loaded with electronic products leaves Wuhan in Hubei Province for Fabryczna in Poland, and is expected to arrive at the destination 15 days later. Before the launch of the Wuhan-Europe freight train route, cargo going from Wuhan to Poland was normally transported by direct-to-sea shipping routes, with transportation time of about 44 days. by Xiao Yijiu/Xinhua

to 43.8 percent, up by 2.6 percentage points, noted Sun Changxue, director of the strategic planning office of the Macroeconomic Research Institute under the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). The guiding role of the national development plan is emerging, he said.

The Yangtze River Economic Belt is greatly significant in promoting cooperation between eastern, western and central China as well as coordinating the river's upper and lower reaches, providing important support for China to transform from a big country into a powerful country.

"We hope that the share of the Yangtze River Economic Belt will reach half of the national economy," said Zeng Gang, president of the Urban Development Research Institute at East China Normal University.

Compared to the coastal areas and other economic belts, the Yangtze River Economic Belt has the largest inland areas and the greatest development potential in China. With the support of the development plan, the region will surely become an engine for China's future economic development. 





# SCO

## A New Global Solution to International Relations

Text by Rashid Alimov

*As a new type of regional organization, the SCO has abandoned patterns of alliance, disagreements over ideology and frequent confrontation in favor of dedication to solving urgent regional and international issues.*

A bird's-eye view of Qingdao, which will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit from June 9 to 10. by Xu Xun









April 24, 2018: The Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is held in Beijing as a preparation for the upcoming SCO Qingdao summit in June. IC

The young and energetic Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has grown into the world's largest comprehensive regional organization for cooperation after the admission of India and Pakistan. The SCO has abandoned patterns of alliance, disagreements over ideology and frequent confrontation in favor of dedication to solving urgent regional and international issues. The SCO's past work has laid a solid

foundation for effective and development-oriented cooperation among member countries.

The Shanghai Spirit written in the SCO Charter demonstrates its members' determination to tackle challenges together and their will to develop a new type of international relations. Considered the soul of the SCO, the Shanghai Spirit values mutual trust and equality, respect for other countries' reality and mutual beneficial cooperation. According to the SCO

Charter and the *Treaty of Long-Term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation between the Member States of the SCO*, its member countries will seek consensus only on equal footing and with broad deliberation, a principle fueling extensive cooperation.

### Expanding Fields for Cooperation

War has been frequent throughout history on the Eurasian supercontinent. So when SCO member



states in the region consciously and responsibly implement cooperative programs in key fields of international politics, economics and culture, the value of the SCO and its prospects for future development become clear.

SCO members, observers and dialogue partners together hold rich energy, forest and fresh water resources, with three countries—Russia, Iran and China—ranking in the top ten of the world in terms of resource reserves. The combined GDP of its full members accounts for 21 percent of the world's total and their industries have great potential. In recent years, SCO member countries have paid greater attention to high-tech, innovative production and the development of the digital economy in realms like metallurgy, machinery, energy and transportation. The countries' outputs of products such as grain, maize, sunflower seeds, potatoes, soybeans, tea and cotton also top the world.

SCO member countries have acted as one to solve global economic problems, greatly promoting their own growth. For example, the SCO supports constantly improving the international trade system to make it more open and fair and forcefully opposes any form of trade protectionism. In recent years, the SCO has taken active measures in economics to enable smoother flow of commodities, capital, services and technology within the organization as well as better alignment of different economic initiatives from member countries.

SCO member countries have adopted their own effective foreign policies and played an active role in large-scale international organizations, especially the United Nations and its agencies like the Office on Drugs and Crime and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and

the Pacific (ESCAP). The SCO has also carried out direct or indirect collaboration with organizations and mechanisms like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Commonwealth of the Independent States, Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Economic Community, BRICS, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, which has helped the SCO develop external relations and foster more opportunities to promote cooperation among international organizations and high-level exchange between countries, maintain peace and security, and enhance sustainable development.

### Maintaining Peace and Security

Covering the most important geopolitical region in the world, the SCO faces almost every kind of threat and challenge including terrorism, drug trafficking, organized cybercrime and money laundering.

SCO member countries and its Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) have jointly taken active measures to fight such crime forcefully, con-

February 5, 2017: The first train loaded with 720 tons of wheat from Kazakhstan arrives at China-Kazakhstan Lianyungang Logistics Transit Base before heading to the Southeast Asian market, marking the opening of a safe grain passage from Kazakhstan through China. Xinhua



## MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF THE SCO

1

**June 15, 2001**

The first meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Shanghai, China. At the meeting, the six member states—the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan—signed the *Shanghai Declaration on the Establishment of the SCO*, marking the official founding of the organization. The *Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism* was also signed at the summit.

2

**September 14, 2001**

The first meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

3

**June 7, 2002**

The second meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in St. Petersburg, Russia. At the summit, the Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the *Agreement on Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure between the Member States of the SCO* were signed, which laid the foundation for the institutionalization and legal construction of the SCO.

4

**May 29, 2003**

The third meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Moscow, Russia. Participants signed an agreement on budget preparation and implementation of the SCO and passed regulations of permanent residences of representatives of SCO member states in the Secretariat and the rules for the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the SCO.

5

**September 23, 2003**

Premiers and prime ministers of SCO member states signed an outline of multilateral economic and trade cooperation of SCO member states in Beijing, China.

6

**June 17, 2004**

The fourth meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Participants officially launched the SCO RATS, signed the *Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Traffic of Narcotic Drugs Psychotropic Substances and Precursors between the Member States of the SCO* and approved the *Regulations on Observer Status at the SCO*. At the meeting, the Republic of Mongolia became an observer state of the SCO.

7

**July 5, 2005**

The fifth meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Astana, Kazakhstan. At the meeting, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of India became observer states of the SCO.

tributing greatly to the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism worldwide. The experience that the SCO gained can be adopted by other international or regional groups.

Deepening globalization has motivated regions and nations to pay more attention to national and regional distinctiveness. SCO members have also joined the trend. They are exploring channels for cultural exchange at different levels in hope of demystifying the spiritual, material and cultural worlds of their partners while maintaining their own civilization, culture and national characteristics.

Today it is more urgent than ever to stop the spread of terrorism and extremism and fight against behaviors that incite terrorism. This is an urgent mission for the SCO. Against this backdrop, SCO member countries are taking bolder action to combat extremism, ethnic prejudice and xenophobia. And their experiences are universally meaningful.

Considered the birth place of almost every major world civilization, religion and culture, the SCO

region is of strategic importance for maintaining the peace and security of Eurasia and even the world. The SCO's vast territory and great potential determine its status in global economics, politics and culture, and the group's stable growth will exert lasting influence on major sectors of global development.

In the future, by continuing to adhere to the principles of peace, common development and equal cooperation, the SCO will strengthen dialogue and collaboration with international organizations and contribute more to peace, safety and sustainable development of the region and even the world.

## Great Eight

The SCO remains open to all nations and international organizations, as evidenced by its expansion process. The organization will accept new members who respect its objectives and principles and comply with the provisions of relevant international treaties and instruments, which has been written in the SCO Charter,

June 27, 2017: A joint anti-terrorism drill by two SCO members, China and Kyrgyzstan, is carried out on the borders of the two countries. Xinhua





demonstrating the openness of the organization.

At the Astana summit in June 2017, heads of member states of the SCO determined to accept India and Pakistan as full members after they had served as observers for 12 years. A week later, the national flags of the two South Asian countries rose at SCO headquarters in Beijing. Since then, eight countries in Eurasia have been members of the group, making the SCO the largest cross-region coalition—a natural result of the world's dramatic changes in geopolitics at the turn of the century.

In the present global context, the will to pursue independence, progress and development unites members of the SCO. Two permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Russia and China, actively embed global strategies into their own foreign policies, a practice which has taken the SCO to the forefront of international relations.

Among the countries officially identified as having nuclear weapons, four are SCO members: Russia, China, India and Pakistan. The five Central Asian countries including Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are contracting parties of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (CANWFZ) treaty. And Russia, China and India have launched long-term space programs.

So, against the backdrop of an increasingly turbulent world, the eight countries in greater Eurasia, a new “G8,” will play an important role in assessing, addressing and determining global issues.

This year's SCO summit will be held in June in China's Qingdao City. It is expected that under the framework of the “eight member countries of the SCO,” they will identify new




May 18, 2016: Qianwan port of Qingdao. Within the Belt and Road Initiative, Qingdao is listed as an important hub of the new Eurasian land bridge. IC

cooperative fields and strengthen determination to maintain peace and security and promote common development in concert on the broad platform of the SCO.

The SCO Development Strategy until 2025 targets solving real problems faced by its member countries. These issues, threats and challenges cut across borders and demand collective wisdom. The admission of India and Pakistan not only increases the strength of the organization but also creates new possibilities for realizing its aims. With its increasing expansion and further cooperation with its observer countries and dialogue partners, the potential for the SCO will definitely grow. Obviously, the new group of eight countries will help address current challenges and threats more efficiently and take advantage

of current opportunities to deal with social and economic problems. In the SCO, the voices of all countries, big or small, rich or poor, are heard equally, an advantage of the group.

In this fast-changing world, regional organizations are playing a more important role in solving real problems. A new pattern of cooperation, the SCO is using practical action to raise its status as a prestigious multilateral coalition that enhances the peace and stability of the region, solves new threats and challenges, strengthens trade and cultural cooperation and taps into the potential of good-neighborly and friendly relations among peoples of member countries. 

The author is SCO Secretary-General and holds a Ph.D. degree in politics.

# 17 Years of Cooperation SCO's Profound Journey

Edited by Hu Zhoumeng Designed by Andrey Maleev

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), founded at the dawn of the 21st century, has grown into one of the most influential international and regional organizations. Across 17 years, it has become an active factor supporting the security, stability and sustainable development of the current international system.

The SCO has built more than 30 meeting mechanisms at different levels and signed more than 100 documents

for cooperation, laying a solid foundation for the organization to function effectively. SCO member states, with increasingly deepening partnership as friendly neighbors, have made joint efforts to preserve peace, security and stability and work together in politics, economics, culture and more areas.

The SCO is becoming a role model for a new type of international relations. 

## BASICS

### MAIN GOAL

The SCO aims to strengthen mutual trust and good-neighborliness among member states, promote effective cooperation in politics, trade, economics, research, technology and culture as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection and other areas, make joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region and move towards establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.



### SHANGHAI SPIRIT

The SCO follows the principles of mutual trust, mutual benefits, equality, mutual consultation, respect for cultural diversity, and a desire for common development.

The SCO's external policy follows the principles of non-alignment, non-targeting of any third country, and openness.

### 8 MEMBER STATES



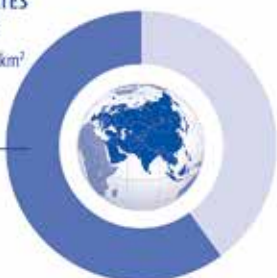
### 4 OBSERVER STATES



### MEMBER STATES' TERRITORIES

Over 34 million km<sup>2</sup>

60% of the Eurasian continent



### MEMBER STATES' CONTRIBUTION



### MEMBER STATES' COMBINED POPULATION

Over 3 billion,  
44% of the world's total

### 6 DIALOGUE PARTNERS



The SCO works closely with international and regional organizations and agencies including the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Economic Community, and the Economic Cooperation Organization.





## MECHANISM CONSTRUCTION

### SUPREME DECISION-MAKING BODY

The Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO convenes once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters concerning the organization.

The Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO convenes once a year to discuss multilateral cooperation strategy and priority areas under the SCO framework, decide on important issues in economic and other cooperation and approve the organization's annual budget.

### MEETINGS FOR VARIOUS SECTORS

Heads of parliament or congress, secretaries of security councils, ministers of foreign affairs, national defense and public security, chief justices, prosecutors general, heads of law enforcement, drug control, emergency relief, business and trade, ministers of finance, as well as central bankers, chief auditors, ministers of transport, science and technology, agriculture, culture, education, healthcare and tourism, etc. regularly meet to discuss relevant issues.

### SCO-AFGHANISTAN CONTACT GROUP

Established in 2005, the group acts as a platform for SCO member states to dialogue with Afghanistan and help improve conditions in the country, aiming to achieve peace, stability and prosperity, and eradicate terrorism, extremism and drug-related crimes.

### PERMANENT BODIES



SCO Secretariat  
based in Beijing,  
China



Executive Committee  
of the Regional Anti-  
Terrorist Structure (RATS)  
based in Tashkent,  
Uzbekistan

### NGOs

- SCO Business Council
- SCO Interbank Association

June 4, 2006: The SCO Business Council was set up in Shanghai, China.

October 26, 2005: The meeting of heads of SCO member states decided to found the SCO Interbank Association. The association was joined by the Development Bank of Kazakhstan, the China Development Bank, the Settlement and Savings Company of Kyrgyzstan, the State Corporation Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs of Russia (Vnesheconombank), the State Savings Bank of Tajikistan (Amonatbank) and the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



### COORDINATION MECHANISM

Council of National Coordinators of SCO Member States (CNC)

## LIST OF SCO SUMMITS

1	June 2001	Shanghai	
2	June 2002	Saint Petersburg	
3	May 2003	Moscow	
4	June 2004	Tashkent	
5	July 2005	Astana	
6	June 2006	Shanghai	
7	August 2007	Bishkek	
8	August 2008	Dushanbe	
9	June 2009	Yekaterinburg	

10	June 2010	Tashkent	
11	June 2011	Astana	
12	June 2012	Beijing	
13	September 2013	Bishkek	
14	September 2014	Dushanbe	
15	July 2015	Ufa	
16	June 2016	Tashkent	
17	June 2017	Astana	
18	June 2018	Qingdao	

## SECURITY COOPERATION

From originally combating the “three evil forces” of separatism, extremism and terrorism at home and abroad to gradually expanding to fields of strategic security, defense security, law enforcement security, information security, drug control, anti-money-laundering and the fight against transnational organized crime, the SCO has continuously enriched and diversified its security cooperation, playing a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

### ANTI-TERRORISM

- Border control
- Investigate persons suspected of terrorist activities
- Take joint actions to address terrorist threats
- Establish effective mechanisms to prevent and suppress terrorist activities
- Collaborate in obtaining information on terrorist organizations that threaten the security of SCO member states or Afghanistan
- Establish an expert consultation mechanism between the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO) and relevant Afghan departments
- Exchange information on terrorists and their organizational activities, as well as anti-terrorism experience
- Share the lists of persons involved in terrorism among SCO member states and Afghanistan
- Assist each other in arresting and transferring terrorists
- Identify and cut off financing sources and channels of terrorist organizations
- Invite relevant departments of Afghanistan to participate in joint exercises, seminars, training courses and other anti-terrorism activities organized by the law-enforcement departments of SCO member states
- Hold the Peace Mission, a series of joint anti-terror exercises under the SCO framework



### DRUG CONTROL

- Make a comparative analysis on relevant laws and regulations of SCO member states to improve the legal basis for cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals
- Exchange information among the drug-control departments of SCO member states
- Tighten supervision of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals
- Combat the money-laundering activities for illegal trading of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals
- Organize training of drug-control personnel
- Prevent drug abuse including taking measures to reduce drug demand, carry out research and use new methods to treat addicts and launch social and medical rehabilitation
- Carry out regular exchanges and effective cooperation on drug control between the Meeting of Officials of SCO Member States' Drug Control Departments and relevant Afghan authorities
- On March 13, 2017, a joint event of the SCO and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), “The United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the Fight Against Drugs: Common Threats and Joint Actions,” was held in Vienna, Austria.



### OUTER SPACE SECURITY

Safeguard the security of outer space, make peaceful use of outer space, prevent arm races in outer space or let it become a location for armed confrontation and push the international community to formulate plans and implement measures to increase transparency and build confidence in outer space activities



### NUCLEAR SECURITY

On the basis of equality and inseparable security, SCO member states should take into account all factors that affect global stability to promote the process of nuclear disarmament, strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation system and facilitate equal and mutually beneficial cooperation on peaceful use of nuclear energy.



### COMBATING CRIMES

- Cooperate with Afghanistan in combating illicit trafficking of arms, ammunition and explosives, as well as other cross-border organized crimes
- Conduct timely information and experience exchanges on combating organized crimes
- Assist each other in criminal investigation and evidence collection and transferring
- Study the possibility for joint actions to combat cross-border organized crimes and related mechanism and send law-enforcement personnel to assist in criminal case investigation
- Assist in the vocational training of law-enforcement personnel of Afghanistan and improve their professional skills





## ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION

Economic and trade exchange and investment cooperation of SCO member states have created great potential. Regional economic cooperation is developing with sound momentum and the cooperation mechanism has constantly improved. The SCO has formulated a plan for implementation of multilateral economic and trade cooperation among member states involving more than 100 specific projects, topics and directions for cooperation.



- Carry out customs cooperation to create favorable conditions for trade by improving customs management, information sharing and mutual assistance in law enforcement between customs, fast tracking customs clearance with modern technology and cracking down on smuggling and other illegal activities
- Actively promote the establishment of the SCO Development Bank to provide a financial guarantee and settlement platform for infrastructure and economic and trade cooperation projects within the organization and discuss the establishment of the SCO Development Fund (special account) to provide financial support for project research and exchange training within the framework of the organization
- In September 2014, the China-Eurasian Economic Cooperation Fund was launched. The fund has an initial size of US\$1 billion and an ultimate size target of US\$5 billion, to be implemented in phases.
- As of November 2016, total bilateral currency swap between China and other SCO member states had reached 160 billion yuan (US\$25 billion).
- From 2013 to 2017, China imported more than US\$340 billion worth of goods from other SCO member states. Direct investment of Chinese enterprises in countries in the region hit nearly US\$15 billion.

## CONNECTIVITY

- Improve transportation infrastructure, coordinate transit transport policies, establish international transport corridors and create convenient conditions to increase transit traffic
- Further strengthen cooperation in the fields of civil aviation, highway and railway transportation, actively develop and effectively utilize international multimodal transport logistics centers and adopt advanced and innovative transportation technology
- The successful commissioning of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan highway marks a major breakthrough in regional interconnectivity.



## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



- Promote cooperation in oil and gas exploitation, pipeline construction, petrochemical engineering, hydropower and mineral exploration
- Develop clean energy and technology, promote utilization of renewable energy and ensure energy safety

## CULTURAL EXCHANGE

By organizing international expositions and cultural and art festivals, the SCO has excavated historical documents and used library collections to promote cultural exchange and cooperation among countries. The SCO respects the traditional culture and customs of member states, encourages research on cultural diversity and protects the cultural and natural heritage of the region.



- The SCO University project gathered 82 colleges and universities from Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan. It offers seven majors including regional studies, ecology, energy, IT, nanotechnology, economics and education.
- In 2018, the first SCO Forum on Women was held in China.
- In 2016, the first SCO Youth Exchange Camp was held in China.
- In 2014, the first SCO military music festival of member states, "Peaceful Horn," was held in China.
- In 2008, the first "Education Without Borders" education week for SCO member states was held in Russia.
- In 2005, the first cultural and art festival for SCO member states was held in Kazakhstan.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Set up a working group on modern information and telecommunication technologies and an expert group on international information security for SCO member states
- Combat terrorism, separatism and extremism in cyberspace and practices to justify them
- Deepen cooperation on satellite navigation and satellite mobile communications
- Carry out demonstration projects:
  - The SCO adopts electronic digital signatures to carry out cross-border electronic cooperation.
  - The SCO has launched the building of an information highway.



# SCO and Qingdao

Text by Zhou Xin

*Economic vitality, competence and openness won Qingdao the opportunity to host the SCO summit.*

More than 17 years have passed since the founding of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in 2001. It has played a positive role in promoting good neighborly friendship among

member states, cooperation in many areas, regional peace, security and stability and building a new world political and economic order that is democratic, just and equitable.

The Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO

is the most important annual activity of this organization. This year will see the “Shanghai Spirit” celebrated on the shores of the Yellow Sea. In June, the 18th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO will be held in the eastern coastal



The Jiaozhou Bay Bridge in Qingdao is a cross-sea mega bridge that was domestically designed and built. by Zheng Liang



city of Qingdao in Shandong Province. During a recent news briefing, Zhang Jiangting, secretary of the Qingdao Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), revealed, “All preparation work is almost finished. The city is well equipped for the summit.”

### Why Qingdao?

On December 9, 2017, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced at the opening ceremony of the 2017 Symposium on International Developments and China’s Diplomacy that the SCO summit in 2018 would be held in Qingdao.

This is the first time for China to host the SCO summit since 2012, and Qingdao becomes the third Chinese city following Shanghai and Beijing to hold this summit.

Why was Qingdao chosen to host this summit? According to many observers, the city’s economic vitality, competence, and openness made it particularly attractive. Located in the coastal metropolitan area of the Shandong Peninsula, Qingdao is the core of Shandong Province’s economic development. Its pillar industries include the marine economy, manufacturing and port economy. In the *Global Urban Competitiveness Report 2017-2018* jointly issued by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Qingdao ranked 164th, and it was 14th among 21 Chinese cities in the top 200.

During preparations for the summit, Qingdao placed great attention on the combination of preparations and improvements to the city and meeting residents’ needs. Guided by this principle, all venues for the summit were renovated from existing buildings. With the original structure preserved, the space inside was upgraded. This practice not only meets the demands of the summit, but also lays a solid foundation for subsequent operation of those buildings after the meeting closes.

“The venue for the meeting, the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center, is an icon of Qingdao’s scenery, which is characterized by a combination of mountains, oceans, city and bays,” added Zhang. He explained that the shape of the venue implies “sailing to pursue a dream.”

As for security, Qingdao has implemented detailed measures on all procedures. It has formulated a



May 4, 2018: A foreign cargo ship at the automatic container terminal in Qingdao, Shandong Province. Xinhua

comprehensive emergency plan and conducted practical exercises. The city has also made great efforts in food safety. A pantry to hold all the food for the summit has been established. Ingredients will be bought, inspected, stored and delivered in a unified manner. They will be monitored at all times and in all places.

In 2017, “good air” days in Qingdao reached 342, an increase of 24 days compared to the previous year and the best number in the past three years. The forest coverage rate increased to 40 percent, which won the city the title of National Garden City. Qingdao’s endeavors in green development and environmental protection have laid the groundwork for the summit.

### Demonstration Zone: Promising Future

Staffers can hardly be found at the automatic container terminal in the Qingdao Port. Instead, various kinds of machines perform work in an orderly way. Piles of containers come from, and go to, countries



8

**October 26, 2005**

The fourth meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO was held in Moscow, Russia. The *Agreement on Disaster Relief Mutual Assistance between the Governments of the Member States of the SCO* was signed and the establishment of the SCO Interbank Consortium was announced.

9

**June 4, 2006**

The SCO Business Council was established in Shanghai, China.

10

**June 15, 2006**

The sixth meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Shanghai, China. At the meeting, the heads of SCO member states put forward a long-term development plan for the organization and signed the *Declaration on the Fifth Anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization*, themed around promoting the "Shanghai Spirit," deepening pragmatic cooperation and promoting peaceful development. An agreement on inter-governmental education cooperation was also signed during the meeting.

11

**August 16, 2007**

The seventh meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. During the meeting, participants signed the *Treaty on Long-term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation* to document their commitment to promoting everlasting friendship and make the concept of "permanent peace between member states" the law. An agreement on inter-governmental cultural cooperation was also signed during the meeting.

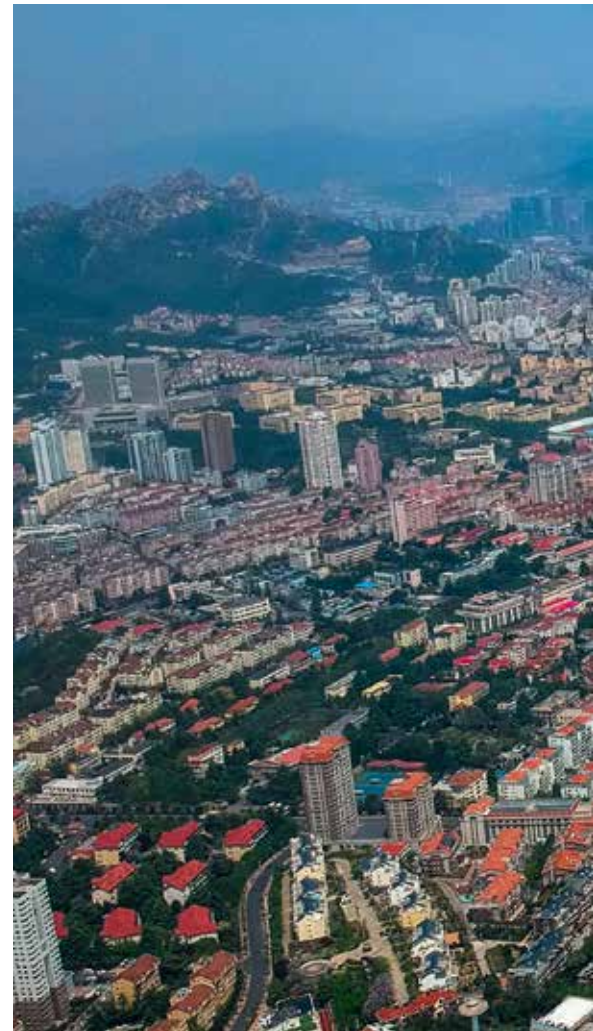
around the world.

Ma Weigang, director of Qingdao's Bureau of Commerce, noted that as a major Chinese city and one of the first to open to the world, openness is Qingdao's biggest feature and advantage.

Qingdao is a major pivot on the new Eurasian land bridge under the Belt and Road Initiative. It is also a strategic hub of marine cooperation. With support from China's Ministry of Commerce, the Eurasian Economic and Trade Cooperation Industrial Park was jointly built by Qingdao and the SCO Business Council. By the end of 2017, Qingdao has invested US\$500 million in 74 projects in countries involved with the SCO. Countries related to the SCO signed investment contracts valued at US\$475 million concerning 226 projects in Qingdao, of which Qingdao has used US\$157 million foreign investment in areas including household appliances, electronics, textiles, apparel, logistics and trade.

On April 3, 2018, China's Ministry of Commerce released a document supporting the construction of China's first demonstration zone for China-SCO local economic and trade cooperation in Qingdao. Upon completion of the demonstration zone, trade relations between Qingdao and

May 20, 2018: The family of artist Liu Shangyi show their paper-cutting work themed on the SCO summit at a community activity promoting traditional culture in Qingdao. VCG



countries involved with the SCO will become even tighter. And the effects of mutually beneficial partnerships will become even more apparent. It is expected that the Qingdao summit will serve as a magnificent start of a long relationship with the SCO.

### SCO Films: Another Story

On October 31, 2017, Qingdao was designated by the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) as a "City of Film," the first in China. The first SCO Film Festival will be held in the city from June 13 to 17, 2018. The





The landscape of Qingdao, a coastal city in eastern China's Shandong Province. by Xu Xun

festival will invite film delegations, artistes and representatives from the film industries of eight member states and four dialogue partners of the SCO. Over 30 activities will be held and nearly 60 outstanding films from those countries will be screened and compete for awards at the festival.

In 1898, a German cinematographer ventured to Qingdao and shot scenes of the city and the lives of the Chinese people. His work became one of the first documentaries made in China. Yuan Meilin, president of Qingdao West Coast Development Group, explained, "Qingdao's title as

a 'City of Film' did not come from nowhere. The city's relations with film can trace back to the era movies were first born." The festival will be held in the West Coast New Area of Qingdao. Over 30 world-class film studios have been set up there.

"The SCO Film Festival is for communication, interaction and exchange," said Yuan. "The cultures of participating countries will be on full display on this platform. Films produced by countries including Russia, India, Afghanistan and Iran are amazing."

When China's reform and opening up began four decades ago, Qingdao led

China's cities in opening to the world and embracing fast growth. In 2008, Qingdao hosted the Olympic Sailing Regatta. When the SCO summit opens, foreign guests will again be welcomed by the hospitable people of Qingdao.

"The summit will not only demonstrate through Shandong Province and Qingdao the achievements of China's reform and opening up and its modernization, but also fuel development of tourism and trade, further promoting Qingdao's high-quality growth," added Zhang.

Qingdao is indeed ready for the SCO summit. 

# SCO Security Cooperation Greater Challenges

Text by Yuan Shengyu

*Peaceful settlement of disputes among member states through negotiation and consultation is the key factor driving effective security cooperation in the SCO.*

The 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit will be held in Qingdao, a coastal city in China's eastern Shandong Province, this June. Against the backdrop of major challenges in the international landscape, the summit has drawn wide attention both at home and abroad as the first of its kind since the organization expanded last year, testifying to the global importance of the SCO as the world's largest regional cooperation organization. Security cooperation is the core mission of the organization. With India and Pakistan now admitted to the SCO, how should its member states work together to strengthen security cooperation and fight cross-border terrorism threatening the stability of the SCO region? The future of SCO security cooperation has become a hot topic within and beyond the region.

## Security Cooperation at the Heart of the SCO

Officially founded in 2001, the SCO originated with a bloc of five

countries (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan) that became known as the Shanghai Five after their first meeting in 1996. Initially, the Shanghai Five focused on demarcation negotiations and establishing mutual trust militarily in the border areas. Since 1998, the focus of the group has shifted to multilateral security cooperation and efforts to maintain regional stability. As the five countries began to prioritize the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism, the SCO was gradually incubated. The regional cooperation organization has since been hailed as an innovative model for post-Cold War international security.

Over the past 17 years since its inception, the SCO has made fruitful achievements and accumulated rich experience in security cooperation. The close, effective security cooperation between its member states over the years laid a solid foundation for the SCO.

The Shanghai Spirit of "mutual trust, mutual benefits, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of shared

May 22, 2018: China's Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi (right) and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretary-General Rashid Alimov attend a news conference after a plenary meeting of the SCO security secretary summit in Beijing, China. Reuters



development" is the core value and guidelines for the SCO to carry out cooperation in multiple areas including security. Unlike the Cold War mentality, it transcends the curse of zero-sum games by effectively solving the "prisoner's dilemma" threatening SCO member states in security cooperation. By doing so, the SCO has integrated regional stability with the national security of every member state and realized win-win cooperation and holistic security, setting a good example for building a new security concept for



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ДВНАДЦАТАЯ ВСТРЕЧА СЕКРЕТАРЕЙ СОВЕТОВ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ  
ДАРСТВ-ЧЛЕНОВ ШАНХАЙСКОЙ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА

北京 2018

ПЕКИН 2018



the post-Cold War world.

Peaceful settlement of disputes among member states through negotiation and consultation is a key factor driving the effective security cooperation of the SCO. History has shown that issues concerning the core interests of neighboring countries such as demarcation and border garrisons can be settled by peaceful means through equal-footed consultation. Such issues remain major obstacles hindering security cooperation.

Adhering to the principle that the interests of all member coun-

tries, big or small, are equally important, the SCO has effectively carried out military cooperation, information exchange and joint drills aiming to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism, realizing positive achievements in security cooperation. Regarding the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism, SCO member states have developed joint concepts and taken concerted action to make their security cooperation more pragmatic and safeguard the broad-er security of the region.

The SCO properly balances the relationship between security and development. Actually, security and development are not independent from each other—pursuing only one or the other will make both unsustainable. Over the past 17 years, the SCO has not only maintained regional stability and guaranteed shared development of all member countries through security cooperation, but also paved the way for eliminating security risks and forging a beneficial cooperation model based on common development.

12

**November 2, 2007**

Premiers and prime ministers of SCO member states signed an agreement on intergovernmental customs cooperation and mutual assistance in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

13

**August 28, 2008**

The eighth meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The *Regulations on the SCO Dialogue Partner Status* was approved during the meeting.

14

**October 30, 2008**

Representatives of customs agencies of SCO member states signed the *Agreement on the Exchange of Information on Customs Energy Supervision*.

15

**June 15-16, 2009**

The ninth meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia. Heads of SCO member states signed the *Convention on Combating Terrorism of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization*.

During the meeting, an intergovernmental cooperation agreement to enhance the information security of SCO member states was also signed.

In addition, Sri Lanka and Belarus were granted dialogue partner status in the SCO.

## Safeguarding Regional Stability and Prosperity

Development won't continue for long without security. Pursuing development while ignoring potential risks will leave it unsustainable. The stability and prosperity of the SCO region over the years could not have been achieved without long-term, effective security cooperation among relevant countries. Data has shown that wars, terrorism, separatism and extremism radically undermine and hinder development. Strengthening security cooperation to safeguard the development of the SCO region is a task that requires long-term, joint efforts of all SCO member states.

Over the years, the effective security cooperation among SCO member states has maintained the overall security and stability of the region, created a sound environment for domestic development in every relevant country, guaranteed the sustainability of various economic activities and helped foster a sense of security so work can move forward smoothly. Moreover, the overall safe environment of the SCO region provides a fundamental guarantee for international eco-

nomie cooperation, trade and investment in and beyond the region, thus effectively promoting regional prosperity and development.

The SCO is undergoing changes with time. Nevertheless, the role of security cooperation in promoting regional stability and prosperity will only become more crucial. Especially after the addition of India and Pakistan, the SCO's potential for regional economic cooperation has greatly expanded. The alignment of development strategies of different countries will become an important driver for future development of the region. Economic interaction in and beyond the region will become more frequent, and personnel exchange will see a substantial increase. At the same time, security risks will grow accordingly. Therefore, the SCO will face greater future challenges in building a sound regional environment and coping with the threats of terrorism, separatism and extremism. The mission and governing regulations of the SCO security cooperation mechanism will continue expanding. For instance, cooperation in information security will become more and more important.



November 28, 2016: Infantry forces from member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) kick off a seven-day joint training exercise in Korla in China's northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The exercise aimed to improve combat ability, boost military communication and improve troops' ability to deal with security threats. Xinhua



## New Day for Security Cooperation

In recent years, new problems have emerged in some Western countries, which have resulted in profound changes in international and regional landscapes. Isolationism and protectionism are intensifying, and anti-globalization sentiment and populism are on the rise, causing anxiety over instability and uncertainty. In this context, the traditional regional cooperation model is facing new challenges. Meanwhile, some Eastern countries represented by China have maintained steady development while striving to build a community with a shared future for mankind and a multi-polar world. In addition to the increasingly complicated international situation, the SCO also faces a severe threat from international terrorism. In particular, Afghanistan has been plagued by terrorism, separatism and extremism. Facing these new challenges, the SCO is embarking on a new journey in security cooperation.

Both long plagued by terrorism, separatism and extremism, India and Pakistan naturally took their concerns on such problems to the SCO when they joined the organization. SCO member states maintain different concepts and practices in security cooperation. The Shanghai Spirit remains the solution to bridging differences. As Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, the fundamental reason for the SCO's development and growth is that its member states have consistently and firmly upheld the Shanghai Spirit. Security cooperation is the foundation for the SCO's continual development, so its member states must further consolidate the foundation under the guidance of the Shanghai Spirit.


With the addition of new members, the SCO needs to adjust its



From September 15 to 21, 2016, the "Peace Mission-2016" joint anti-terrorism military exercise of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Kyrgyzstan, the first of its kind in the Central Asian country. The exercise aimed to improve training and cooperation of armed forces of SCO member states. IC

existing security cooperation mechanism to address changes through consultation to better safeguard the overall security interests of all member states and guarantee the effectiveness of its cooperation model. Now that India and Pakistan have been admitted to the SCO, a total of four of the organization's member states have nuclear weapons, so it is necessary for it to formulate plans and mechanisms concerning nuclear security cooperation. And considering the increasing numbers of maritime powers in the SCO, the organization must strengthen institutionalization of maritime security cooperation and formulate new cooperation plans.

As the largest country in South Asia, India has ambitions to become a great power while maintaining a certain amount of independence and influence in terms of international security cooperation.

Coordinating security cooperation within the SCO while optimizing the organization's influence in international security affairs is a mission that requires concerted efforts of all member states, old and new, through friendly consultation. In particular, SCO member states need to work together to explore solutions to the Afghanistan issue, a common security threat to all of them, while avoiding internal friction caused by different interests, which could prevent them from acting as a consolidated force. With the Afghanistan issue as a central focus, the SCO should continue reinforcing its regional and global influence in security. 

The author is a professor and president of the Institute of SCO Studies at Shanghai University of Political Science and Law.

# SCO

## A Tighter Community

Text by Pang Zhongying

*Aiming to forge a “community with a shared future for humanity,” the SCO is intended to be a regional community of common security, economic collaboration and social cooperation.*

Promoting construction of a community with a shared future for humanity was identified as a key goal and task of China’s diplomacy in both the report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in October 2017 and the *Amendment to the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China* passed at the first session of the 13th National People’s Congress in March 2018.

The rotating presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) currently rests with China, who will host the first SCO summit since the organization was expanded last year in Qingdao, a coastal city in the eastern province of Shandong. The addition of India and Pakistan to the SCO in 2017 marked a new chapter for the regional multilateral organization. It is meaningful to link the SCO to the goal

of building a community with a shared future for humanity. As an underlying principle forged by the SCO, the Shanghai Spirit calls for inclusiveness and openness. The enlarged SCO is striving to enhance multilateral cooperation, and China expects support from other SCO member states in building a community of shared future for humanity.

In terms of the relationship between the SCO and the concept of building a “community with a shared future for humanity,” some misconceptions should be avoided.

First, just because China first presented the idea of building a community with a shared future for humanity doesn’t mean it intends to impose the







December 14, 2014: National flags of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) fly high in front of Beijing Palace in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan. Xinhua

concept on other SCO member states, nor did it cause a fundamental change in the guidelines of China's foreign policy. While maintaining its previous diplomatic principles, China is becoming more active and enterprising in international affairs. Nevertheless, it still insists on developing state-to-state relations with partnerships or

even strategic partnership rather than alliances. China will never interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, but only contribute through "constructive involvement." Although China will never seek hegemony, it may still play a leading role in international affairs, abandoning the "never take the lead" principle that the country adopted just

after the end of the Cold War.

Second, building a community with a shared future for humanity doesn't mean that China is attempting to use the SCO to forge a new order to replace the current world order. China's attitude toward the current world order is clear: As part of the world order, China is a protector and reformer. The current world order doesn't belong to the U.S. nor does it involve "peace under the rule of the U.S.," but is represented by the United Nations and its system as well as other intergovernmental organizations, especially international financial institutions and multilateral trade mechanisms. Despite the fact that the system remains imperfect and has some major defects in terms of equality, representation, fairness and efficiency, the current world order still has the greatest degree of openness, inclusiveness, progress and freedom in human history.

Third, building a community with a shared future for humanity, simply speaking, embodies the realization of global governance. Global governance requires joint efforts from the international community as well as international cooperation based on multilateralism. This is the fundamental reason China proposed building a community with a shared future for humanity. Currently, China is playing an important role in global governance. Since the end of the Cold War, multiple international platforms and mechanisms have been established to address common challenges faced by humankind, and the SCO is one of them.

The concept of a "community with a shared future for humanity"

16

**June 11, 2010**

The 10th meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The meeting approved the procedure of admitting new members to the organization and organizational procedural rules.

17

**June 15, 2011**

The 11th meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Astana, Kazakhstan. Heads of SCO member states adopted the *Astana Declaration* in honor of the 10th anniversary of the SCO, drawing strategic plans for the development of the organization over the coming decade. An intergovernmental agreement on health cooperation among SCO member states was also signed during the summit.

18

**June 6-7, 2012**

The 12th meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Beijing, China. During the meeting, Afghanistan and Turkey were added as an observer country and a dialogue partner of the organization, respectively.

19

**September 13, 2013**

The 13th meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The meeting approved the *Plan of Action for 2013-2017 on Implementation of the Treaty on Long-term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation*. Representatives of member states signed an SCO intergovernmental agreement on scientific and technological cooperation.

consists of three key components: “community,” “shared future” and “for humanity.” By dissecting the phrase, we can better answer the following questions: What kind of community of shared future for humanity is the SCO? Why is the SCO a community with a shared future for humanity, and how should it perform as one?

First, “for humanity” means the SCO is people-centered. A free world order must be people-oriented. However, this doesn’t mean it should ignore differences between different people. Presently, humanity is a community of many individual nations which comprise many international organizations, including regional and interregional ones. Geographically, the SCO is a trans-regional organization, representing a new type of regional organization. In this sense, the SCO itself can be seen as a new “region.”

Second, SCO member states, as well as their societies and peoples, are interdependent, with a “shared future.” A result of globalization after the end of the Cold War, the SCO is a group of doers in the world in a region where all countries depend on each other. Interdependence between countries

was already a reality in Europe by the 19th century, but not until the second half of the 20th century did humans develop systematic knowledge about such interdependency. In the 1970s, American political scientists Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye both discussed “interdependence” from the angle of power. The SCO sets another important example for interdependence between countries and peoples.

Finally, the SCO is a new type of regional community. It sharply contrasts other regional organizations such as the European Union (EU), the African Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in terms of origin, aim, structure, institution and priorities, but at the same time shares some similarities with them from the perspective of regional community.

Over the past 17 years since its inception, the SCO has focused on security cooperation, forging an effective cooperative mechanism in the field. The SCO has emerged as a security community. Unlike either NATO based on U.S. hegemony or the EU with common security policy, it is a new type of security community.

What is the nature of the SCO as a

April 24, 2018: The 15th Defense Ministers’ Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States is held in Beijing, China. VCG





security community? In my opinion, the SCO represents a regional collaboration mechanism—an international congress system led by major countries such as Russia, China and India and featuring participation from many other smaller nations in Central Asia, South Asia and the Middle East. In particular, the admission of India and Pakistan to the SCO consolidated its nature as a regional collaboration mechanism.

Some often confuse “collaboration” with “coordination.” In fact, “collaboration” is far more complicated than “coordination” and can exert long-term effects on world peace. The first and most successful international collaboration system so far has been the Concert of Europe, which was the primary driver of a “Century of Peace” in 19th-century Europe. The essential component of the system was a European congress system, which was even acclaimed by some as a “civilizational achievement of the 19th century.” Austro-Hungarian economic historian and sociologist Karl Polanyi elaborated on the topic in his book *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*.

After the end of World War II, the United Nations, with an aim to eliminate wars globally, and the European Community that eyed preventing wars regionally, were founded and quickly became international collaboration systems that made the Concert of Europe obsolete. Then, the EU was formed on the basis of the European Community. It still inherited the nature of its predecessor: replacing war with peace and hostility with solidarity. The long-held dream of “lasting peace” in Europe eventually arrived under the framework of the EU. For this reason, the EU was awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize.

As global governance becomes a major topic in the research of interna-




August 9, 2015: Students from East China Normal University give a choral performance during an exchange event for college students from member states and observer countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Changning Library, Shanghai. IC

tional relations, some scholars argue that the Concert of Europe marked the origin of global governance in the 19th century. The expansion of SCO membership testifies to a boost in the organization’s sustainability and complexity. It is noteworthy that the enlarged SCO is also facing increasing internal conflict and instability. For instance, conflict between India and Pakistan remains, the U.S. army has yet to completely retreat from Afghanistan, the Iranian nuclear issue is one of the severest threats to global nuclear nonproliferation (second only to the Korean Peninsula nuclear crisis in terms of severity) and the world is still grasping for a fundamental solution to the long-term standoff between Iran and the U.S. In this context, some scholars believe that the legacy of the Concert of Europe should remain inspiring for the promotion of world peace in the 21st century, as a theory on global governance to avoid war and prevent conflict.

The SCO, whose role was once ignored, has also introduced new topics that demand attention such as international maritime issues. The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative integrates land and maritime issues concerning the SCO. Holding the SCO summit in the coastal city of Qingdao is intended to remind people of the importance of maritime issues in the SCO collaboration mechanism.

In addition, the SCO should serve as both an economic and social community. It still needs to do better at enhancing economic cooperation. The SCO will become a stronger organization when it becomes a real economic community. After all, economic growth is the foundation of development for all countries. SCO member states have also carried out cooperation in the exchange of nongovernmental organizations and on other social issues. For instance, these countries regularly participate in the SCO People’s Forum and think tank forums on public policy and engage in cooperation in areas like education, science, culture, health and sports. All of these are pushing the SCO towards a social community.

Positioned at a new starting point, the SCO needs to redefine itself. With the organization’s rotating chairmanship this year, China has provided a new definition for the SCO: a community with a shared future for humanity—namely, a regional community of common security, economic collaboration and social cooperation. 

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# Reconnection to Central Asia for India's Energy Security

Text by Yang Xiaoping

*Both being major emerging countries in Asia and SCO member countries, the two neighbors—China and India—need to focus on their strategic interests, cultivate new fuel for regional economic growth and explore new models for future interaction.*

Founded as a permanent intergovernmental organization focusing on anti-terrorism and building of a new security concept, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has evolved into a new historical phase. In June 2017, India and Pakistan became full members of the SCO, making the organization the most promising regional organization, accounting for 43 percent of the world's population and 24 percent of its GDP, with members from Central, East and South Asia.

The expansion of the SCO means it now includes three major emerging countries: China, Russia and India. In today's geopolitical context, the SCO demonstrates different thinking and demands for the current global governance mechanism. Clearly, since the U.S. troops withdrew from Afghanistan in 2011, the SCO, as a regional architecture, has played an important

role in maintaining regional stability and promoting regional development.

## Central Asia and South Asia: So Close Yet So Far

Central Asia is the core of the SCO. For a long time, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have maintained a complicated connection with Russia in term of history, territory, economy and trade. Since the 1990s, China has been strengthening economic relations and energy cooperation with Central Asian countries.

As a regional organization, the SCO must carefully handle historical, geographical and economic links between Central and South Asian countries. Historically, they were considered to hail from the same cultural origins and geographical plate and even experienced fierce cultural collision and fusion in Afghanistan. In the mid-19th century, Russia

conquered the Khanate of Bukhara and the Khanate of Khiva, resulting in the separation of Central Asia and South Asia geographically. Later, Afghanistan and Central Asia served as the bridge linking the core area of the Soviet Union and sub-region of South Asia. After the Soviet Union collapsed, even though they are still influenced by Russia, Central Asian countries chose their political systems according to their own national conditions. Again, Afghanistan has become a cut-off point between Central Asia and South Asia.

In 2015, India applied for membership in the SCO, making it possible for the country to connect Central Asia with South Asia at a strategic level. There is historical base for the connection between India and Central Asia—Afghanistan, Turkey, Greece and Mongolia all once reached the Indian plains. After the partition





March 11, 2013: In Chabahar City in southeastern Iran, Iranian workers weld a pipeline linking Iran and Pakistan at the inauguration ceremony of the Iran-Pakistan natural gas pipeline project. Xinhua

of India, its geographical link with Central Asia was cut off by Pakistan, leaving India disconnected from Central Asia. Except for cooperation in uranium mining with Kazakhstan, India has little interaction with Central Asian countries. As for security, India is plagued by terrorism in Afghanistan and longs to combat terrorism through international cooperation.

From a wider angle, as an emerging developing country, India has a voracious appetite for energy considering the Modi administration's "Make in India" and "Reindustrialization" programs. India has already become the fourth largest energy consumer in the world. *The Oil Market Report 2018* issued by the International Energy Agency forecast that by 2023, the world's oil demand would reach 104.7 million barrels per day, 6.9 million barrels more than that in 2017. China and India are expected

to contribute nearly 50 percent of the global growth in oil demand, with India's growth rate increasing slightly. Between 2012 and 2040, India's oil consumption is predicted to maintain a compound annual growth rate of three percent, the fastest in the world. Today, India still relies on the Middle East and Indonesia for its energy imports through marine transportation via the Persian Gulf and Malacca. If India can access energy in Central Asia via land routes, it could diversify its energy imports to prevent sea-borne risk while cutting the cost of energy importing.

As for Pakistan, its entry into the SCO was motivated by the domestic security situation and a "chain reaction" after India's application. Since 2001, the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan has kept Pakistan at the forefront of the fight against terrorism, which has proved quite costly for the country.

20

### November 29, 2013

Representatives of SCO member states signed the *Program for Informing on Epidemiological Situation Caused by Infectious Diseases in the Territory of the SCO Member States* in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

21

### September 11-12, 2014

The 14th meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Heads of SCO member states signed the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Creation of Beneficial Conditions for International Road Transportation of the SCO*.

22

### December 15, 2014

Representatives of SCO member states signed a plan for customs enforcement cooperation in Astana, Kazakhstan.

23

### July 10, 2015

The 15th meeting of Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Ufa, Russia. The meeting approved documents including an SCO Development Strategy lasting until 2025. An agreement on border defense cooperation was signed. The process of accepting India and Pakistan as member states was launched. Also at this meeting, Belarus became an observer state and Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia and Nepal became dialogue partners.

24

**August 18, 2015**

Ministers of justice of SCO member states signed an agreement on cooperation between ministries of justice of SCO member states in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

25

**June 24, 2016**

The 16th meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Participants approved the *Action Plan for 2016-2020 on Implementation of the SCO Development Strategy until 2025* and witnessed India and Pakistan signing the Memorandum of Obligations to join the SCO. Representatives of member states signed an outline for tourism cooperation among SCO member states.

26

**November 4, 2016**

The 15th meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the SCO was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The meeting approved the *List of Events for Further Development of Project Activities in the Framework of the SCO 2017-2021*.

27

**June 9, 2017**

The 17th meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO was held in Astana, Kazakhstan. Heads of SCO member states signed a convention on anti-extremism. Representatives of member states signed the joint action plan for 2017-2018 on implementing the outline of tourism cooperation among SCO member states. During the meeting, India and Pakistan became member states of the organization.

Pakistan believes that the situation in Central Asia is closely related to its anti-terrorism campaigns and security, so its admission into the SCO is justifiable. Additionally, with regards to the regional power balance, after over a decade of combating terrorism, Pakistan has lost many of its advantages over India. So it certainly cannot sit by and watch India harvest a greater strategic advantage by joining the regional mechanism.

Actually, the thinking of Central and South Asia as the same strategic unit was not new to 2017 when India and Pakistan became full members of the SCO. Before that, the Obama administration introduced the Afghanistan-Pakistan (AFPAK) Strategy focusing on Central and South Asia. When Hilary Clinton was U.S. Secretary of State, she greatly promoted a U.S.-led "New Silk Road" plan to link Central and South Asia. But all of these initiatives were aborted due to the troublesome Afghan issue. So Afghanistan has always played a critical role in linking Central Asia and South Asia, which are so close geographically but so far in spirit.

## Energy Corridor: More than Pipelines

India's demand for the energy of Central Asia was on its agenda long before its entry into the SCO. In May 2012, after years of negotiation, India, Pakistan and Turkmenistan signed an important agreement on constructing the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline. It is generally believed that breakthroughs in the TAPI project can be attributed to the great support from the Asian Development Bank over the past decade. Certainly, the improvement and reinforcement of U.S.-India strategic relations meant the U.S. greatly pushed the progress of TAPI.

If TAPI can move forward, the direct beneficiary should be Afghanistan. Just income from energy transit will produce a great deal of revenue, let alone infrastructure related to the pipeline and other measures that will spark local economic growth. Alongside its economic growth, Afghanistan is expected to restore stability. India will win strategically by connecting to Central Asia through TAPI, a move which not only guarantees India's ener-



February 23, 2018: Near the town of Serhetabat, Turkmenistan, workers stand near a gas pipe during the launch ceremony for construction work on the TAPI project in the Afghan section. The natural gas pipeline will link Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India. VCG



gy supply but also introduces it to Central Asia, making it an important player in the region. Certainly, considering the relations between India and Pakistan, the former can declare that the progress of TAPI could even alleviate old grudges between the two countries. And in Central Asia, Turkmenistan may be the biggest beneficiary because it will earn a fortune by adding another big buyer, India, following China, to diversify its exports and prevent the strategic risk of becoming too dependent on the Chinese market.

However, the development of TAPI does not look optimistic. In March 2013, the launch ceremony of the Iran-Pakistan natural gas pipeline was held at the border of Iran and Pakistan. After the ceremony, the two countries signed agreements to establish trading ports in their border cities of Gabd and Pishin and build an Iranian petroleum refinery in Pakistan's Gwadar City. Objectively, the advancement of Iran-Pakistan relations does not help TAPI's prospects. Running from north to south, TAPI is expected to transfer energy from Central Asia to South Asia and intersect with the east-west Iran-Pakistan pipeline. The two pipelines involve the direct interests of Iran, India and Pakistan, so the U.S. and Russia and even some Central Asian countries have interest. And in 2014, the substantial withdrawal of NATO from Afghanistan resulted in changes of the country's situation. All these factors make the prospects of the two pipelines more complicated.

Against this backdrop, in 2017, with the strong support of Russia, India became a full member of the SCO, which enables it to access Central Asian resources with an institutional guarantee. At present, Iran and Af-

ghanistan are observers of the SCO. After its entry into the SCO, India obtains the legal right to step into Central Asia and a green light to turn to Central Asia and Russia for energy security. Of course, as one of the founders of the organization, China welcomes India's admission and has shown sincerity and determination to eliminate the trust deficit and strategic gap between the two countries.

### **Connectivity: Exploring New Possibilities of the SCO**

With the addition of India and Pakistan into the SCO, Central Asia, the core region of the organization, has been closely connected to South Asia via China's western border areas and Afghanistan. And the vastness of Russia, along with China's large market, has made the SCO the most intact and promising regional architecture in Eurasia.


Connectivity between Central and South Asia has some basic infrastructure in place now. Since China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative, the eight full members of the SCO as well as many observers and dialogue partners have aligned with China's development strategy at various levels. For example, Kazakhstan proposed its "Bright Path" and "New Economy Policy" to align with China's Silk Road Economic Belt. Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan also have signed agreements on cooperation with China under the framework of the Silk Road Economic Belt. Additionally, China and Russia have enhanced strategic and practical cooperation in the realms of energy, high-speed trains, aerospace, infrastructure construction and the development of the Far East region.

Meanwhile, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has harvested early fruits, evidenced by

the construction of the Gwadar port and progress in infrastructure like energy and roads. The projects of CPEC are scattered across Pakistan, involving 60,000 local workers in their construction. In the next five to seven years, CPEC is expected to create 500,000 jobs in the country, whose economic growth and stability will bring positive impact to its neighboring country Afghanistan.

However, connectivity within the SCO still has some real problems. Despite becoming a member of the SCO, India still maintains a negative attitude towards the Belt and Road Initiative solely because CPEC passes through the controversial Kashmir region. In 2017, the Dong Lang standoff dragged relations between China and India to the lowest point in history, greatly raising the deficit of strategic mutual trust. In this context, in April 2018, the informal meeting between two countries' leaders can be seen as a resumption of bilateral relations.

In the new era, as major emerging countries in Asia and SCO member countries, China and India need to surpass traditional geopolitical logic marked by competition and represented by the "Asia-Pacific rebalancing strategy," fabricated "string of pearls" or "Indo-Pacific." The two Asian neighbors need to focus on their major strategic interests, cultivate new fuel for regional economic growth and explore new models for future interaction between them. At some specific points, the two countries may have to consider exchanging some interests in order to contribute to the SCO's innovative cooperation. 

 The author is executive researcher of the National Institute of International Strategy under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

# What Does the SCO Mean for Pakistan and India?

Text by Wali Zahid

*A new challenge for the SCO will be fostering peace between two conflicting countries to achieve a win-win outcome.*

At the Astana summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in 2017, India and Pakistan became full members of the organization. The development marked the SCO's first expansion since its establishment in 2001.

All eyes are on the eastern Chinese coastal city of Qingdao in Shandong Province, which will host this year's summit of the SCO, the world's most populous regional bloc, from June 9 to 10. This will be the first SCO summit since Pakistan and India became full members of the body at its Astana summit in Kazakhstan last year.

The SCO's eight member states now include China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan. The states host nearly half of the world's population and create over 20 percent of global GDP.

## Opportunity and Challenges

Relations between Pakistan and India have remained tense since their independence in 1947. After fighting three wars, they have come close to more wars several times in recent decades. Both countries are members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), but that regional bloc has failed to achieve

substantial progress, precisely because the pair can hardly share the stage at the forum.

With this baggage in tow, Pakistan and India have been admitted to the SCO, which is considered a cohesive body. A newfound challenge for the SCO is to calm two quarreling countries and foster a win-win outcome.

We have already seen modest progress by both countries to resolve their bilateral issues and contribute to SCO goals in regional development. The usual cross-border firing incidents along the Line of Control (LoC) and occasional exchange of harsh words continued last year. Usually, only after the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) get on the phone together are issues deescalated.

Some symbolic progress, however, has come to pass. While maintaining aggressive stances against each other on the surface, the two will participate in a joint military exercise to counter terrorism in Russia in September under the SCO's 2018 Peace Mission. However, real progress will be easing tensions and launching bilateral cooperation on all matters, trade in particular.

If we merge the SCO with the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, SCO member states will further improve cross-border logistics condi-

tions and increase capacity. Some major joint projects have been completed in the region, including highways, railways and power plants. According to official figures, China has built 21 economic and trade cooperation zones within SCO countries so far.

## Regional Cooperation

It is yet to be seen how India and Pakistan will behave as full members of the SCO.

This is an election year in Pakistan. When the SCO summit takes place, the tenure of Pakistan's current government led by Pakistan Muslim League-N will end and a provisional government will go into place before a new government takes charge in August. Election results will determine how ties with India take shape. Foreign and security policies in Pakistan are under the army's control which sees India as an enemy. A hung parliament may not tilt towards peace with India as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif did after he won the 2013 general election.

However, if Sharif's party returns to power with majority in parliament, the SCO banner will be a godsend to the civilian government to make peace with India and open bilateral or transit trade.

Regionally speaking, it is in China's interest to return peace to Afghani-



stan, which has observer status in the eight-member body. It is still plagued by bomb blasts that cause massive casualties on daily basis. But Pakistan and India distrust each other on their respective roles in Afghanistan. For instance, India's investment and development goals in Afghanistan are seen as strategic inroads by Pakistan's army.

Furthermore, neither the four-member Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) mechanism, which includes China, the U.S., Afghanistan and Pakistan, nor bilateral framework under the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS), has seen much progress.

### Will the SCO Bring Pakistan and India Closer?

In short, yes and no.

The civilian government and military in Pakistan are not on the

same page on how to deal with India. Some analysts believe that the army's India-centric strategy is an attempt to secure more budgetary resources in the poor country. Civilians largely want to deal with India as a neighbor with which they have issues but still carry on as other nations do, and give diplomacy a chance.

Both Pakistan and India are nuclear powers so war is not an option.

At the same time, both Pakistan and India are poor countries with much of their population living below the poverty line. They can learn a thing or two from the SCO's rotating presidency: China brought its extreme poverty rate from 88 percent in 1981 to less than 3 percent in 2018.

If a weak government returns to power, the army will maintain the status quo. A strong civilian government could deal with India with more confidence, and the region could finally see some peace.

If and when peace returns, tourism alone could become a big economic boost for the region. Alongside regional security and stability, another major priority of the SCO is tourism development. SCO member states have seen a major surge in tourism within the bloc, both inbound and outbound.

### The Way Forward

India will be a major beneficiary of the 18th SCO summit in Qingdao. China has been warming up to India after the Dong Lang (Doklam) standoff last year. So far China has failed to secure Indian support for the Belt and Road Initiative for two key reasons: One of the projects, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), passes through Pakistan-administered Kashmir, and India sees the Initiative as ambition for regional or global domination.


Despite India's reservations, both countries' foreign and defense ministers have visited each other's capitals to prepare for the Qingdao summit.

China's foreign ministry, however, is assuring Islamabad that closer cooperation with India will not be a detriment to Pakistan.

On the other hand, Pakistan's media and politics duo (coupled with militants wreaking havoc on fragile Pakistan) could be blamed for Pakistan's lost opportunities.

So, will Pakistan benefit from the SCO framework to increase economic opportunities for its millions of poor? How will relationships with neighbors like India, Iran and Afghanistan better shape Pakistan's SCO membership upgrade? And, will Pakistan's politicians and media behave differently now that they are part of a different league? The jury is still out.

However, a way forward is only possible if the media and politicians mend their ways. When it comes to international opportunities, politicians need to abandon petty politics. Instead of conspiring to time street agitations at every global opportunity that comes Pakistan's way, they need to appeal to voters based on respective performances in their governed provinces.

SCO membership should only help Pakistan open doors. It requires our own national effort across two pillars—media and politics—playing visionary and futuristic roles, to help Pakistan reap the benefits and, like China, lift our millions out of poverty. This is the only way. 

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Two soldiers, one from India and the other from Pakistan, shake hands at a flag-lowering ceremony on the border of the two countries. CNS





PEOPLE

# Zhong Yang Seeding the Future


Text by Hu Zhoumeng

*Exploring the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau year after year, the botanist enriched the world's germplasm resources to sow hope in many hearts.*





The news announced by Fudan University on September 25, 2017 broke the hearts of many Chinese academics. Botanist Zhong Yang, a professor who devoted his life to scientific research and education, was killed in a car accident on a business trip to Inner Mongolia at the age of 53. He left behind an unfinished career researching biological phenomena and traces of evolution in the plants of Tibet.



Botanist Zhong Yang devoted his life to scientific research and education. With his students, Zhong collected more than 40 million seeds from more than 1,000 species of plants, one-fifth of all the advanced plants in Tibet, which tremendously enriched China's national seed banks. courtesy of Fudan University

## A Botanist's Pilgrimage

Tibet is considered a holy destination by many travelers who venture there to find inner peace. For botanists, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, known as the “roof of the world,” is just as distinctive. The area is home to more than 6,000 advanced plant species that make up nearly one-fifth of the total in China. More importantly, at least 1,000 of them are endemic to the region, even by the most conservative estimates.

“A gene can save a country and a seed can bring hope and happiness to all,” explained Zhong about what his work meant. He believed that many seeds become extinct because of climate change and environmental damage caused by human activities before their scientific basis is learned and understood.

Though considered the largest gene database in China, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is explored by few botanists due to the extreme weather and often primitive living conditions. For most academics, collecting seeds in the wild is far less rewarding than laboratory experiments leading to cutting-edge studies.

Zhong was a notable exception. His scientific journey across Tibet began in 2001, a year after he became a professor of life sciences at Fudan University in Shanghai City on China's eastern coast.

He was inspired by overseas botanists who preserved germplasm resources in seed banks such as the renowned Svalbard Global Seed Vault. And when he worked with scientists of the Kew Royal Botanic Garden in London, one of the world's richest seed reserves, Zhong found that nothing in their collection came from Tibet. He realized that seed collection on the Qinghai-Tibet



Professor Zhong Yang reads an exhibition display board at the Shanghai Natural History Museum. He spent considerable time composing illustrated text for the museum. courtesy of Fudan University

Plateau was particularly urgent.

The mission came at a price. Working at high altitudes for long and intense periods took a toll on him. Zhong found it hard to control his weight and suffered from gout and high blood pressure.

Lhachung, a professor at Tibet University, is a student of Zhong's. He recalls a scientific expedition on Mount Qomolangma, known as Mount Everest in the West, in 2013 when Zhong was struck by severe altitude sickness.

“I told him to stay in the camp and that we would collect seeds for him,” Lhachung recounted. “Being young and local, we are used to the extreme weather. But he said, ‘If you can do it, I have no excuse to stay.’”

That trip proved worth the pains when the team secured seed samples of a rare plant, *Saussurea gnaphalodes*, at an altitude of more than 6,000 meters. It was the highest altitude ever at which Chinese botanists managed to collect plant seeds.

Zhong planned to collect at least 600 plant species a year and secure 5,000 seed samples of each. The team followed strict rules requiring different samples of each species to be found at least 50 kilometers away from each other. The task is not easy on the

plateau where the average altitude exceeds 4,000 meters above sea level.

Zhong traveled more than 500,000 kilometers with his students over 16 years, leaving footprints in the most remote areas on the plateau. They survived on the simplest of foods such as flat cakes, ham sausage and pickles to save room for tools and seeds.

They collected more than 40 million seeds from more than 1,000 species of plants, one fifth of all of the advanced plants in Tibet, which tremendously enriched China's

national seed banks. The seed bank in Kunming, capital of southwestern China's Yunnan Province, has become one of the three largest of its kind in the world.

Some discoveries were inspiring. Medical research institutes have proven that the seeds of cedarwood that Zhong gathered from the plateau are highly effective in combating cancer. Some others were even monumental. Zhong and two of his students, Xu Min and Zhao Ning, discovered a new type of *Arabidop-*

Professor Zhong Yang traveled more than 500,000 kilometers with his students across 16 years to collect seeds, leaving footprints in the most remote areas of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. courtesy of Fudan University





sis at 4,150 meters above sea level. The model organism, equivalent to guinea pigs in animal research, can be widely used in botanical experiments. The brand new species can survive across China with care from scientists. Zhong called it a “gift from Tibet and nature.”

### Gift for Future Generations

Sowing seeds for scientific research in the hearts of Tibetan students was crucial to Zhong. He could have never explored the treasure trove of the plateau alone. Over the years, Zhong had always been assisted by young Tibetan scholars.

Zhong launched the first master's and doctoral programs for ecological studies at Tibet University in 2011 and 2013, respectively. He led the biology department in a rise to the top in China. Over 16 years, Zhong tutored six doctors and eight master's students there. Most of them joined Zhong's research team after graduation. In 2011, they obtained funding from China's National Natural Science Foundation for a project, the first-ever in Tibet.

As a botanist and educator, Zhong was enthusiastic about spreading knowledge about nature. He spent considerable time composing illustrated text for the Shanghai Natural History Museum on diverse subjects ranging from astronomy, geology and biology to humanities.

Bao Qijiong oversees the work of preparing for all the background information for items on display in the museum. When she brought the intense task to Zhong, he accepted without hesitation. “He was always so busy traveling between Shanghai and Tibet, but Zhong would visit us even when he had half a day off,” Bao recalls. “He never missed a detail, be it a single word or a punctuation mark.”



Professor Zhong Yang tutored six doctors and eight master's students at Tibet University. Most of them joined Zhong's research team after graduation. courtesy of Fudan University




Over the past decade, the Germplasm Bank of Wild Species in Kunming, Yunnan Province has preserved more than 9,000 plant species, which account for 32 percent of the total in China. VCG

According to Bao, the professor also provided rare snake samples and helped transport frog samples from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau to the museum. These samples help illustrate the formation of the very plateau itself.

At the museum, Zhong delivered public lectures to elementary and middle school students. He always had a way to explain biology in simple language and arouse interest among children. The botanist was always

full of hope for future generations. Zhong named his twin sons after plants, Yunshan (spruce) and Yunshi (Mysore thorn), one is gymnosperm and the other angiosperm.

“All life comes to an end eventually,” Zhong once declared. “I am fearless because my students will continue our scientific exploration. The seeds we gathered could take root and germinate several hundred years later to realize the dreams of many.” 

# No, Thanks

## China Bans the Import of Certain Classes of Waste

Text by Zi Mei

*China's ban on foreign waste is the right choice for the country. China has the full right to protect its people from the plague of foreign trash.*

On June 17, 2017, China declared to the World Trade Organization (WTO) that by the end of the year, it would no longer accept imports of 24 categories of solid waste. And by the end of 2019, it will gradually stop importing the solid waste that can be replaced by domestic resources.

Due to China's ban on foreign waste import, many countries including the U.S., Britain and South Korea could face a garbage crisis. In March 2018, a U.S. official even raised concerns at the WTO, declaring that "China's import restrictions on recycled commodities have caused a fundamental disruption in global supply chains for scrap materials."

"Restricting and banning the import of solid waste is an important measure China is taking to shift to a new development concept, improve environmental quality and safeguard the people's health," explained Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### Biggest Importer

In the 1990s, when China's economy shifted into high gear, its demand

for raw materials greatly increased. Compounded by indifference about the environmental cost and weak oversight, China's annual scrap imports multiplied tenfold from 4.5 million tons to 45 million tons in the two decades from 1995 to 2016.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has been an eager exporter. According to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), in 2016, China imported US\$5.6 billion worth of scrap metal, US\$1.9 billion worth of waste paper (13.2 million tons) and US\$495 million of waste plastic (1.42 million tons). The big market fueled development of a large industrial chain. Robin Wiener, president of the ISRI, estimated that 155,000 jobs in the U.S. involve waste exporting to China.

And 27 countries in the European Union directly or indirectly shipped 87 percent of their recycled plastic to China. British newspaper *The Guardian* reported that the U.K. exported 2.7 million tons of waste plastic to China annually, accounting for two thirds of the country's total volume.

"The U.S. is the world's largest exporter of waste," said Dong Zhanfeng,

vice director of the Department for Environmental Policy at the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning. "Before the ban, China was the largest receiver of American waste—as much as 40 percent of its total exports. The U.S. blamed China at the WTO because it hopes to continue transferring its trash to alleviate its burden with dangerous domestic waste and a massive volume of regular trash. Also, the U.S. wants to shirk its responsibilities in global environmental governance."

Of course, scrap trade does have its benefits. "For developed countries, trash can become cash," Dong noted. "And China did not have to cut its trees and dig its oil for some raw materials it needs. Actually, in the early period of China's reform and opening up, the import of waste had some positive impacts on China's social development and lowered production costs. But this process was at great environmental sacrifice."

### Environmental Costs

Along with authorized imported waste, a great deal of foreign garbage was smuggled into China annually. Behind the 400-percent profit rate of some in the recycling industry were huge costs to the environment and public health.

Last July, China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment carried out a one-month campaign to check 1,792 companies engaged in processing and utilization of waste and found that 1,074 of them, as high as 60 percent, violated environmental protection regulations. "Solid waste importing just creates more and more problems, especially when imported waste is mixed with banned rubbish and even hazardous substances," said Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment Li Ganjie. "Furthermore, the reprocessing and uti-





Kunming Customs destroys 2.36 million smuggled discs, which amounted to 35.5 tons of foreign solid waste, in an environmentally friendly way. VCG

lization of imported waste leads to great damage to the environment.”

Once dubbed the “Global Electronic Waste Town,” Guiyu in Guangdong Province recycled old electronic products by crudely dismantling imported electronic trash, which caused serious pollution to the local air, water and soil. Back in the mid-1990s, Guiyu’s underground water was too polluted to drink. In 2009, a physical check of the villagers under Guiyu’s jurisdiction showed that 80 percent of primary and junior high school students suffered from respiratory diseases. And a survey in 2011 showed that 25 percent of local newborns had too much chromium in their bodies.

“We have spent nearly a decade upgrading the industrial structure, curbing pollution and aiding the victims, so Guiyu’s situation is improving,” said Professor Du Huanzheng, founder of the environmental improvement project for Guiyu and director of the Institute of Recycled Economics at Tongji University in Shanghai. “But some damage to both people and the environment is irreversible.”

“Banning hazardous waste and restricting solid waste imports are

important measures China is taking to improve its environment and protect public health,” said Dong Zhanfeng. And according to the *Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal*, every country has the right to ban the entry of foreign hazardous waste and other sorts of waste. China is a party to the convention.

Erik Solheim, under-secretary-general of the United Nations and executive director of the United Nations Environment Program, believes the ban on foreign garbage is the right choice for China. He stressed that China has the full right to protect its people from the plague of foreign rubbish.

### Opportunities Behind Challenges

Many countries dropped into trash pandemonium after China’s announcement of the ban, as did some of China’s domestic enterprises. For example, in the recycled plastic market, domestic suppliers could hardly fill the gap of several million tons, which drove the price of used plastic per ton in China to 8,000 yuan, 50 percent up compared to 2015.

But the ban will force both the domestic and international recycling industry to upgrade.

“After the ban, related companies will have to turn their eyes to the domestic market,” Dong predicted. “But Chinese companies vary in terms of scale and level, and their techniques lag far behind some of their foreign counterparts. Consequently, enterprises using high technology and innovative techniques will enjoy a better future and those without such advantages will shut down or transform. So, in the short term, the ban will cause a negative impact on some companies, but in the long run, it will be good for the whole industry and facilitate a technological upgrade.”

“We need to improve our skills in recycling and utilizing our own waste, while banning imported waste,” notes Professor Liu Jianguo with the School of Environment at Tsinghua University. “A key reason that developed countries have formed an extensive industry involving solid waste exports is that they use very strict systems for waste sorting. This export-oriented solid garbage classification enhances the scale and effectiveness of efforts to recycle waste paper and plastic. So strict waste sorting can enhance environmental protection and economic growth as well. We need to promote it actively with greater efforts.”

Michael J. Schneider, spokesperson from Remondis, Germany’s largest environmental services provider, noted that China’s ban has exerted great pressure on related enterprises in Germany and other European countries, but at the same time, put them on the alert. He believes that this will push the economic decision-makers of Germany and the Eurozone to reassess their own recycling industries and take the necessary measures to adapt. 



# Miracle of a Town

## Lessons for Developing Countries

Text by Zhou Xin

*Kunshan's miraculous transformation and smart and green development serve as a role model for developing countries.*

A stroll through Tianfu Ecological Park on a weekend is a relaxing activity for families in Kunshan, a city in eastern China's Jiangsu Province. But while walking through the seemingly virgin forest, one may hear the roar of a passing bullet train. This is not a coincidence—the park was built right on a gravel pit left by construction of high-speed rails.

Situated at the Yangtze River Delta, Kunshan serves as the eastern gate to Jiangsu Province from Suzhou to the west and is bordered by Shanghai to the east. The county-level city has managed to realize fast development while preserving its environment at the same time, which awed international students from Beijing Normal University when they visited in April.

"This place is wonderful," exclaimed Mahgoub Fahmi Ahmed Abdelraheam, a student in the MBA program of the Emerging Market Institute of Beijing Normal University. He was a banker in Sudan. "Its GDP ranks high, it has groves of trees everywhere and the air is really clean. I want my whole family to visit this city in the future."

### Miraculous Transformation

"In 2017, Kunshan became China's first county-level city with GDP over 300 billion yuan and financial revenue over 30 billion yuan," said Zhang Yuelin, deputy secretary of the Kunshan Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) while briefing the students on the city's development. "It topped the list of China's small and medium-sized cities in terms of comprehensive strength, investment potential, quality of new urbanization, innovation and entrepreneurship."

In 1983, Kunshan's GDP from industry first surpassed that of agriculture, a milestone in its transformation from an agricultural society to an industrial one, which was the first of the six major transformations the town has achieved since China's reform and opening-up policy was launched four decades ago.

Since then, Kunshan has witnessed the transformations from an agricultural town to an industrial hub, from closed development to open development, from a town with scattered factories to a city of orderly industrial parks. All of these trans-



December 12, 2017: A bullet train runs through Kunshan, Jiangsu Province. IC









Jinxi Town, part of Kunshan, is famous for its environment. IC

formations contributed to Kunshan's miraculous growth, which has left the city with a GDP larger than many developing countries.

"I think the transformations that Kunshan has undergone were very significant and that we should learn from its technological innovation," said Philip Mapak Maker Makoi, another student from Beijing Normal University and once a teaching assistant from the University of Bahr El Ghazal in South Sudan.

Kunshan created a modern economy supported by emerging and hi-tech industries, advanced manufacturing, a modern service sector and urban agriculture.

"Generally, unless it has extremely good conditions for agricultural development, the first mission for a developing country is to develop industry," opined Hu Biliang, dean of the Emerging Market Institute. "Kunshan's GDP is double or triple that of some of the students' home countries. Its experience in transformations can be used by developing countries for their own growth."

### Smart and Green Development

Tianfu Ecological Park, built in 2013 over a gravel pit, has developed into a national wetland park, which evidences the city's persistent efforts in protecting the environment during

its fast economic growth.

As one of the country's few wetland parks with a permanent rice field, the park also places special attention on balancing the rice field and the wetland.

In the "Intelligent Kunshan" special class, students become acquainted with the city's smart system that monitors traffic, river conditions, network connection, security, government administration and more throughout the city in a real-time manner. Screens will display the information of a car that has just been in an accident, facilitating the handling of traffic accidents.

"Kunshan's endeavors to develop a smart city are a great example





Students from the Emerging Market Institute of Beijing Normal University pose for a group photo in Zhouzhuang, an ancient town in Kunshan, Jiangsu Province. by Zhou Xin

of using big data to enhance public services,” said Beksultan Mametibraimov from Kyrgyzstan. “Data can sometimes open a door to the future and enable forecasting so you can move forward more confidently.

Students from the Emerging Market Institute of Beijing Normal University visit a distribution center of ZARA in Kunshan, Jiangsu Province. by Zhou Xin



Awareness about patterns of the traffic congestion and criminal activities will help the government develop more effective policies. One of the reasons I chose this MBA program was data analysis, which is part of my job. It is quite impressive how they have used the data.”

### A Special MBA Program


In contrast to traditional MBA programs, this program offers in-depth teaching about China’s experience in economic and social development in addition to high-quality lectures delivered by celebrated economists and politicians.

“I’m going to tell everyone back home to use WeChat,” said Mahgoub. “They would consider it crazy to pay for something by scanning with your phone.”

Certainly, this MBA program is

like no other. “We teach things that cannot be learned at Harvard,” declared Hu. “Of course universities in other countries are going to introduce curriculum about China, but the Chinese people know China the best. Foreign students learned how some rural areas in China eliminated poverty during a visit to Shaanxi Province. In Kunshan, they have got an idea of how China got rich.”

Hu was inspired by a master’s program in which he enrolled in 1989 in Germany alongside 45 other students from 43 developing countries in Asia and Africa. That program laid a solid foundation for his subsequent study and career.

This is part of the reason Hu is so enthusiastic about this program. “I’m excited to take the baton,” he said. “These students will definitely reap big-time benefits.” 

# Wenchuan a Decade On

Text and photographs by Guo Shasha

Ten years have passed since the devastating Wenchuan Earthquake.

At 14:28:04 on May 12, 2008, an 8.0-magnitude earthquake rocked Wenchuan County in southwestern China's Sichuan Province, shaking mountains and toppling buildings. Nearly 70,000 people lost their lives and millions lost their homes. The disaster was the most destructive earthquake

since 1949 and the deadliest quake since the 1976 Tangshan earthquake.

A decade later, the deep pain has been numbed by the years, but the warm, swift support received not only from across China, but from around the world, remains cemented in the hearts of many people.

Recently, *China Pictorial* reporters visited Qingchuan County in Guangyuan City, Beichuan County

in Mianyang City and Mianzhu in Deyang City, and Wenchuan County in the Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, all in Sichuan Province, to document the lives of local people today.

The reporters met countless people who experienced the earthquake, but when recounting the past, many stressed similar sentiments: "accept help, learn how to be thankful and give back to society."



**1** In Yingxiu Town, Wenchuan County of the Abba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province, a family from Qinghai Province poses for a picture in front of the site of Xuankou Middle School. Behind them are the huge white clock sculpture and the ruins of the collapsed building. The "clock" points at the moment when the earthquake struck.



**2** The reconstructed Yingxiu Town after the Wenchuan Earthquake integrates the architectural features of the Tibetan, Yi and Han ethnic groups.

Ten years ago, Yingxiu was the epicenter and the hardest-hit area in the earthquake. Today, it has become a model for post-earthquake reconstruction in Wenchuan County.



**3** Yang Yungang (2nd right), owner of Bo'ai (Universal Love) New Village Restaurant in Yingxiu Town, Wenchuan County,

and his family. Ten years ago, Yang was working as a driving instructor and his wife cooked at Yingxiu Primary School. The earthquake demolished their home, and both lost their jobs. Fortunately, they didn't lose any family members. Ten years later, Yang's children are married and have their own children: The family of five has expanded to 11. Yang opened a restaurant thanks to the government's supportive policies. Now business is booming so much that the family hired seven new employees. During peak season, daily revenues of the restaurant exceed 10,000 yuan. Last year, it earned a net profit of over 100,000 yuan.





- 4** Students at Bayi (August 1) Elementary School in Shuimo Town, Wenchuan County ready to go home after school. The century-old school was reconstructed with the aid from the Second Artillery Corps of the Chinese People's Liberation Army after the May 12 earthquake. It evolved from the Chuxiu Academy, which was founded in 1828, the 8th year of Emperor Daoguang's reign of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). It was one of the toughest reconstruction projects due to its geographical

location right at the epicenter. After reconstruction, the new school covers 34,000 square meters, with total floor space of 17,800 square meters.



- 5** Liu Hongshu (3rd right) runs a farmhouse restaurant on Bailonghu Happy Island in Qingchuan County, Guangyuan City. When the disaster struck, Liu was working elsewhere, but her house was destroyed. Today, her family runs a restaurant featuring rural flavors, which brings a net profit of 140,000 yuan annually. "The government invited a chef to give us vocational training," Liu reveals. "Now my son-in-law serves as the chef in my restaurant."



- 6** A mother works at a fungus cultivation base in Qingchuan County, Guangyuan City. The agriculture-oriented county suffered heavy losses in the earthquake 10 years ago but is now back on track after complete reconstruction. Its advantageous natural environment and large-scale breeding industry have hastened the development of ecological agriculture which has in turn accelerated improvements in local farmers' living standards.



- 7** Suo Guifang (right) with her mother and daughter in front of their new house in Zaoshu Village, Huangping Township of Qingchuan County, Guangyuan City. In 2009, Suo opened a farmhouse restaurant, which has become the main source of income for her family. "If not for the earthquake, we might still be working far away in major cities," says Suo. "But the earthquake made us realize that the most important thing we could do is to stay with our family."



- 8** Li Cheng, head of Kongxi Tea Plantation in Qingchuan County, Guangyuan City. According to him, assistance from Zhejiang Province enabled his tea plantation to help more than 1,200 farmers grasp skills that have lifted 173 families out of poverty. By the end of 2017, Qingchuan County's tea plantation base covered 18,200 hectares, involving 32 townships and 31,100 households, benefiting nearly 125,000 people. The development of tea plantation has injected vigor and vitality into the economic growth of Qingchuan.



- 9** Zuo Qin, who was buried in rubble for 72 hours during the Wenchuan Earthquake, presents flowers at a memorial in Beichuan Qiang Autonomous County, Mianyang City. "On May 12 every year, I get uncomfortable and it feels like yesterday," Zuo gasps while recalling the day of the earthquake 10 years ago. "It's still scary just thinking about it. I was so lucky to survive."



- 10** He Jiang (right) and his father He Sanmao in the car shop they own in Beichuan Qiang Autonomous County, Mianyang City. He Jiang, now

26, was then a student who survived by climbing out of the ruins of Beichuan High School. He suffered a fractured clavicle. Due to the earthquake, the family's motorcycle shop suffered heavy losses. Today, with support from the government's two-year interest-free startup loan, He Jiang and his father are back in the auto trade. He was emotional when tracing the psychological process of recovering from the injury after the earthquake: "In face of a natural catastrophe, humans are weak. Because of this I deeply feel how important it is for people to help each other. Since the earthquake, I have been devoted to public welfare causes. When I have more power, I will do more. If I don't have much strength, I will do less. Nevertheless, I will still do something."



- 11** Yongchang Primary School in Beichuan Qiang Autonomous County was reconstructed with the aid from Zibo City, Shandong Province, becoming the first restored primary school after the earthquake in the county. Its reconstruction started on December 21,


2009 and completed on July 21, 2010. Today, the school has a teaching building, a dormitory, a student cafeteria and a 2,000-seat stadium.



- 12** A wall painting provides an enchanting background for visitors to Penghua Village, Zundao Town, Mianzhu City. The village is famous for producing Mianzhu New Year pictures, which have played a central role in fueling the development of local tourism. Many farmers have opened farmhouse restaurants.



- 13** New Year pictures are featured in embroideries from Penghua Village in Zundao Town, Mianzhu City. Ten years ago, the earthquake caused severe damage to the village—98 percent of its houses were razed, and local rural tourism suffered heavy

losses. May 2009 saw the completion of the New Year Picture Training Center, the first post-quake cultural industry project to be put into operation in Sichuan Province. 





Children's Fun World, a newly-refurbished book mall in Shanghai, draws many young readers from across the city. VCG



# Reading Is Growing

Text by Zhang Xue

*The shift to a two-child policy throughout China will fuel the growth of the children's book market in the country.*

With the approach of International Children's Day on June 1, promotional campaigns for various children's books have been launched on major online book sales platforms in China.

In recent years, children's books have become a highlight of China's publishing industry. Statistics show that in 2016, more than 520 out of 581 publishers in the country collectively presented more than 40,000 children's books, ranking first in the world.

China's children's book publishing industry has maintained an average double-digit growth for 17 consecutive years. Alongside the rise of local writers and increasingly active international exchange and cooperation, Chinese children's literary masterpieces continue to emerge.

## Children, Major Readers

Every Saturday morning, 8-year-old Zhang Shiqi appears at the section for children at the National

Library of China in Beijing. Since the age of four, Zhang has come to read there every week.

"On our first visit, I accompanied her when she read a picture book," grins Zhang's mother. "She can now choose her own books to read. Her growth makes me happy." Unlike many children of the same age who shuttle between booster classes on weekends, Zhang's mother places greater value on independent reading.

"The new generation of parents is different from our parents," notes Wang Feifei, a children's book publisher with China CITIC Press. "They have more education and a better understanding of children's reading. They are also pickier about children's publications. This makes it hard to win the market." In Wang's eyes, competition in children's books has become tougher.

The report of the 15th National Reading Survey published by the Chinese Academy of Press and Publication shows that China has seen a growth of book reading rate and quantity



among its school-age children. Last year, children under 17 years old read an average of 8.81 books in China, an increase of 0.47 year-on-year.

It should be noted that among the families with children aged at 8 or younger, 70 percent regularly read with their children, and parent-child reading is being embraced by more and more parents.

“Reading enables children’s hearts to bloom, gifts them freedom and comfort and helps cultivate global citizens with Chinese roots,” declared Xu Dongmei, organizer of “Close to Mother Tongue,” a children’s reading promotion campaign. She shared her insights on children’s books at the 14th China Children’s Reading Forum in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province before this year’s World Book Day on April 23.

Analyzing the reasons why China’s children’s book market is growing so fast, Liu Haiqi, member of the Children’s Literature Committee under the Chinese Writers’ Association, opined that four main factors have boosted the market including promotion by the government and society, improvements in works of children’s literature writers, continuous

reading promotion campaigns, and upgraded market promotion capacity of publishing houses.

### Active International Exchange

This March, China attended the 55th Bologna International Children’s Book Fair in Italy as the Guest of Honor, where China launched a series of campaigns featuring original Chinese children’s books and illustrations.

At the Chinese Original Illustration Exhibition during the book fair, 150 works by 30 representative Chinese painters such as Cai Gao, Xiong Liang, Hei Mi and Zhu Chengliang were displayed for the first time for authors and publishers from around the world.

In recent years, the introduction of foreign children’s books resulted in them becoming a large segment of the children’s book market in China. Meanwhile, original Chinese works have “gone global” and proven successful in the international market, radiating the essence of outstanding traditional Chinese culture and providing rich cultural nourishment for children all over the world.

At the book fair, Dolphin Books signed copyright agreements for *The 24 Solar Terms*, a book about traditional Chinese culture, to publish Albanian and English editions and reached agreements on overseas copyright cooperation with publishing houses from Germany, Lebanon, Japan and Nepal.

According to statistics from the book fair, Chinese publishers reached a total of 800-plus agreements to export Chinese children’s books.

“China currently has many cutting-edge picture book authors with fairly high standard,” asserted Wang Feifei. “However, children’s book publishing is a monolithic project. Our publishing of children’s books is

November 18, 2016:  
The three-day China Shanghai International Children’s Book Fair kicks off in Shanghai, where more than 60,000 new Chinese and foreign children’s books were displayed, attracting over 300 domestic and international children’s book publishing houses. More than 1,000 children’s book writers, illustrators and publishers from around the world gathered to turn the page on China’s children’s book market, injecting fresh knowledge and vitality. VCG



still in its infancy, and we need more opportunities like this fair to exchange ideas on the international stage.”

The trip marked Wang’s first participation in the Bologna Book Fair. Despite witnessing original Chinese children’s books attract international attention, Wang also soberly realized the gap between Chinese children’s book publishers and their world-renowned counterparts.

### Translation or Original

Over the past decade, the trend of young children learning English and the popularity of imported international copyrights have resulted in foreign children’s books occupying

The Picture Book Reading Hall in the Guangzhou Library is the most popular part of the institution. It is often overcrowded during holidays and on weekends. Many children and parents sit directly on the floor to read, and a long line can frequently be found outside the door. VCG







half of the domestic market. The most popular are original illustrated books, children's literature and popular science books from Europe, Japan, South Korea, and the United States.

Faced with worries about foreign children's books dominating the market, San Chuanling, an educator specializing in children's book publishing, believes that original Chinese children's books will follow the same path as Chinese films and engage in the process of imitating and learning before ultimately blazing a trail featuring Chinese characteristics.


In recent years, a large number of fine-quality children's books reflecting the essence of traditional

Chinese culture while meeting modern children's reading tastes have become popular.

Atop lists of outstanding original works are *Illustrated Chinese History for Children*, *Historical Readings for Teenagers*, *Chinese Children*, *Fairy Tales of Words*, and *Fairy Tales of the Twelve Chinese Zodiac Animals*. One of the best-sellers in the country is *Historical Readings for Teenagers* published by New World Press, with a total sales volume of nearly 10 million copies.

Moreover, a number of Chinese original picture books that meet international standards have emerged, such as *The 24 Solar Terms* by Xiong

Liang and *The Seedling of An* by Huang Li. Some authors received international awards including nomination for the Hans Christian Andersen Prize for Xiong Liang and awarding of the Bologna Gold Apple to Hei Mi. Stand-out Chinese authors are cutting a striking figure in the international arena.

With the introduction of the two-child policy in China, Chinese children's books can find increasing numbers of readers. The mother tongue is the most profound cultural link in a country. In San Chuanling's opinion, original works will be the heart of China's children's book market within 10 years. 



# Painting China

100th Birthday of the Central Academy of Fine Arts

Text by Xu Baicheng





June 1927: Lin Fengmian, president of the National Beijing Art School, poses for a photo with teachers and students before leaving office.

*This year marks the 100th birthday of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. Over the past century, the academy has always played an active role in the major historical developments of the Chinese nation.*

The Chinese nation experienced several magnificent moments in the 20th century such as national liberation, the founding of the People's Republic of China and implementation of the reform and opening-up policy, alongside the constant pursuit for prosperity and strength.

In 2018, the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), a prestigious art college in China, celebrated its 100th anniversary. Over the past century, the school has always played an active role in the major historical developments of the Chinese nation, contributing artistic fuel to national rejuvenation and development through many outstanding works that preserve the cultural context of Chinese

civilization while fusing with modern features.

### Intellectual and Aesthetic Enlightenment

At the turn of the 20th century, China was in desperate need of reform after overthrowing the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Elites turned their sights overseas and hoped that by learning advanced knowledge and culture from the West, China could embark on a road to democracy and prosperity.

Cai Yuanpei (1868-1940), hailed as the “father of modern Chinese education,” was one such elite. He visited Europe several times to study and placed particular emphasis on the role of aesthetic education in shaping the personality.

In 1916, he proposed the idea of “replacing religion with aesthetic education,” with a hope to use art to prevent any religion from imprisoning the mind of Chinese people.

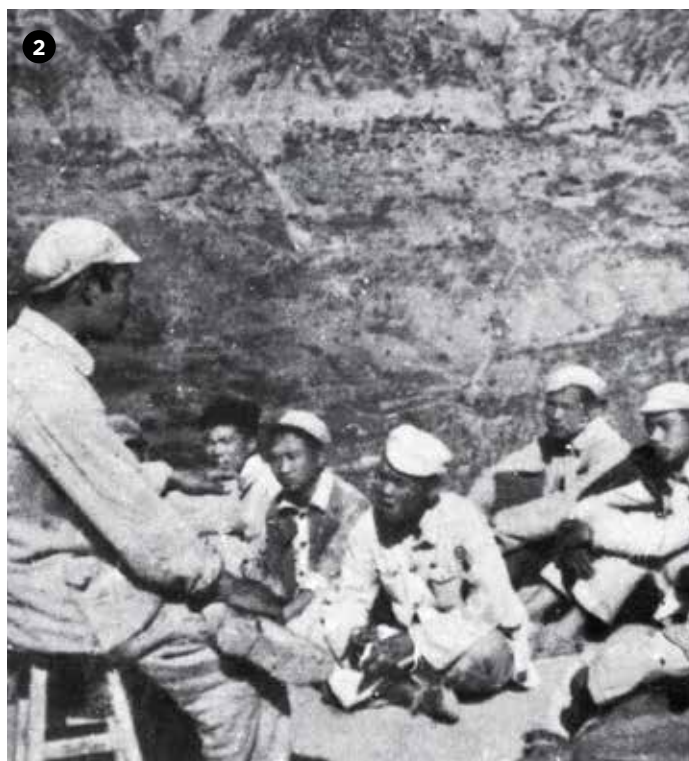
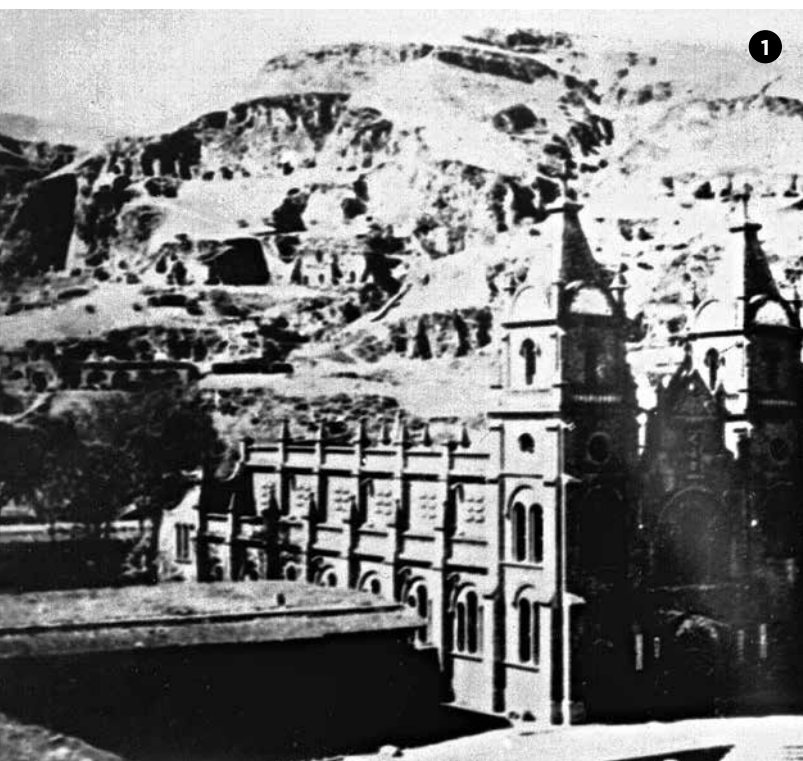
He proposed several times that the Ministry of Education should establish an institution of higher learning specializing in training artistic talents. On April 15, 1918, with the approval of the Ministry of Education, the first national art school of China was formerly inaugurated. It was a predecessor of today's CAFA, known then as National Beijing Art School (NBAS).

Over the next nearly 20 years, the social situation in China was turbulent. The NBAS also faced numerous difficulties. Its name and system changed repeatedly and



1934: A class in the Western Painting Department of the National Beijing Art School.





1. The site of Lu Xun Art School at Qiao'ergou in Yan'an. The school was first built outside the northern city gate of Yan'an and moved there in 1939. It had served as a center for art education and artistic creation in the liberated regions until the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression in 1945.
2. A class at Lu Xun Art School in Yan'an. The conditions were difficult at the time, but the vision of the trainees was inspired.
3. Students learn wood carving at Lu Xun Art School in Yan'an.

experienced several reforms, but it continued developing tenaciously.

In 1937 after Japanese invaders launched the July 7th Incident, the NBAS's teachers and students were forced to move south. In 1938, they arrived in Yuanling, Hunan Province, and merged with National Hangzhou Art School to form a national academy of arts.

### Weapon of Art in Wartime

When the teachers and students

of the NBAS headed south to escape warfare, another predecessor of the CAFA, Lu Xun Art School, emerged in Yan'an, a revolutionary base in inland China.

At the time, Yan'an suffered extremely difficult material living conditions. The school lacked canvases, paint and even *xuan* paper for traditional Chinese painting. What could they do?

Artists turned to locally available wood on the Loess Plateau. A cut-

ting knife and a wooden board created a genre of revolutionary woodcut print that earned an important position in the history of Chinese art in the 20th century.

After some time, every young art student who came to Yan'an to study at Lu Xun Art School learned to wield the cutting knife as a weapon. Merging the arts with the demands of the Chinese revolution, they depicted heroic and anti-Japanese images of Chinese soldiers and



The national emblem of the People's Republic of China.



The emblem of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.



The emblem of the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.



The logos of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympic Games.

civilians. These woodcut works were widely embraced by the public and achieved a high level of artistry.

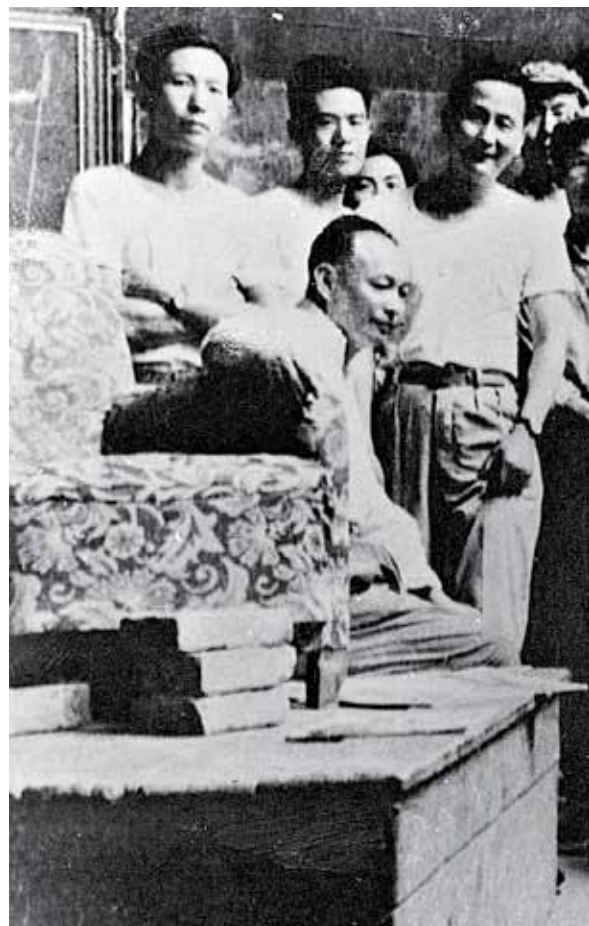
In 1945, the U.S.-based *Life* magazine published some woodcuts by artist Yan Han with the article "Woodcuts Help Fight China's Battles" to encourage American soldiers in the Pacific Theater through inspiration from heroic Chinese soldiers.

Combining the destiny of individuals with that of the Chinese nation as a whole and linking independent works of art with the reality of the Chinese revolution, this method of creation and style greatly affected the CAFA in later years and remained the core principle for the school's progress.

### Designing China's Icons

October 1, 1949 brought the founding of the People's Republic of China. Before that, the design of the national flag and the national anthem were announced one after another, but conspicuously absent was a design for the national emblem: No satisfactory design was found during the process of open solicitations from home and abroad.

Eventually, a plan from the CAFA, featuring patterns of the national flag, Tian'anmen Rostrum, a wheel gear and ears of wheat, was chosen. Tian'anmen Rostrum is located at the center, symbolizing the long history of the Chinese nation and the founding of New China.



The CAFA also won the bid to design the emblem of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and the art visual design of the founding ceremony of the People's Republic of China.

The academy has won many honors over the years. Its design of the jade-plated gold medal for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games won rave reviews from around the world.





Measuring 292×30 centimeters, the silk scroll painting, *Eighty-seven Immortals*, exhibited at the centennial celebrations of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, is the most famous classic Taoist painting in history. It depicts 87 graceful immortals descending from heaven in formation.



In the summer of 1953, Xu Beihong tutored his last teacher training group at the Central Academy of Fine Arts and the Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts. Pictured are Xu and his students in the training group.


### Cradle of Artistic Talent

The teachers of the CAFA are considered pioneers of Chinese art. Standouts include Lin Fengmian (1900-1991) and Xu Beihong (1895-1953), who introduced Western oil painting techniques to China, and Pan Tianshou (1891-1971), who was committed to establishing a Chinese painting teaching system and innovating traditional Chinese painting.

The students of the CAFA, on the other hand, are now heavyweights in the Chinese art circles as well as stars on the world stage. Atop the list are Wu Hong, the Harrie A. Vanderstappen Distinguished Service Professor in Chinese Art History at the University of Chicago, who also founded the East Asian Art Research Center at the university, and Xu Bing, an artist who won the MacArthur Fellowship.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the CAFA, the school launched a series of campaigns including an exhibition of works created and collected by Xu Beihong, the first president of the CAFA.

The exhibition features many artifacts, art collectibles and historical documents that have not been widely shown, such as a painting of 87 immortals from the Tang Dynasty (618-907), which Xu claimed to be as valuable as his life and had risked all of his property to protect.

These exhibitions are the most convincing evidence for the CAFA's central role in the development of China's art education. 

Jade has thousands of years of iconic use in China and symbolizes the Chinese pursuit of virtue. The jade-plated gold design was a first for the Olympics after a long history of usage of a single material for Olympic medals, and it was highly praised as a perfect combination of Chinese civilization and the Olympic spirit.

In more recent news, the winning designer for both the emblems

of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games and the Winter Paralympic Games was Professor Lin Cunzhen from the CAFA.

Those designs feature traditional Chinese cultural elements such as calligraphy and seal carving, presenting an image of the great Eastern civilization, which is modern, innovative and inclusive, combined with the spirit of the Olympics.

# The Famous Photo Shop

Text by Zhou Chenliang

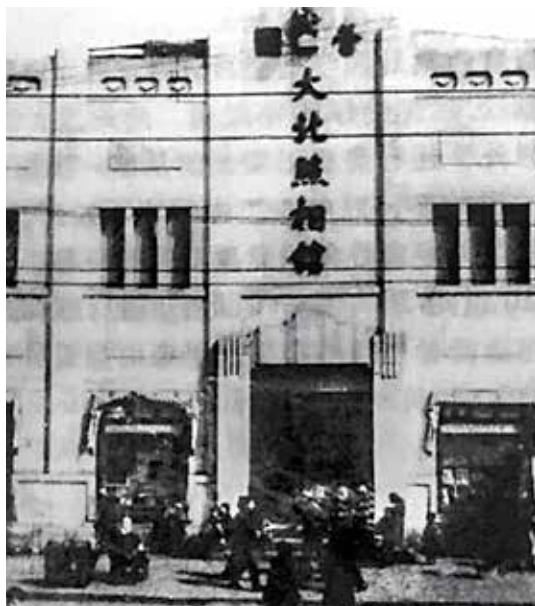
*Da Bei Photo, a nearly century-old photo studio, has preserved precious memories for thousands of households with vivid pictures and a valuable visual record of China's development.*

Taking photos not only freezes images, but captures timeless moments. Da Bei Photo, a nearly century-old photo studio, has preserved precious memories for thousands of households with vivid pictures, which are also valuable visual records of China's development.

## Old Glory

"For quite a long time, people living in southern Beijing would go to Da Bei to take a photo after saving up some money," says Wang Dongru, president of Da Bei Photo, expounding on the past popularity of the photo studio.

Da Bei Photo in the 1950s. courtesy of Da Bei Photo



Da Bei Photo opened in 1921 in Shitou Hutong near Qianmen Street in Beijing. It was founded by Zhao Yanchen, an apprentice of Hong Ji Photo Shop on Longfu Temple Street.

Surrounded by theaters and teahouses, Shitou Hutong was a bustling lane at that time, attracting many Peking Opera fans and amateur performers. Zhao Yanchen came up with the idea of offering a special service to shoot pictures of people wearing Peking Opera costumes. Da Bei also prepared various other costumes such as the Chinese and Western wedding dresses and doctoral academic dresses, many of which couldn't be found in regular photo studios. Da Bei became a sensation across town. The six dressing rooms in Da Bei were usually all full on any given day.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Da Bei was transformed into a state-owned enterprise and moved to the prosperous Qianmen Street. During the "cultural revolution" period (1966-1976), the costume photography of Da Bei was banned, but the other services such as portrait and ID photography kept it among Beijing's top photo studios even then.

After the implementation of China's reform and opening-up policy in the late 1970s, taking pictures changed from a luxury into a basic activity of daily life. Color photography for children, family and artistic portraits even became fashionable, as continues to this day. Before or during holidays, so many people streamed into Da Bei that customers had to get a token.

Located on Beijing's Qianmen Street, Da Bei Photo, founded in 1921, is one of the oldest photo studios in the city.  
by Wang Zhendang







### Witnessing China's Development

Since 1954, group photos of many central organs and major ministries and commissions of the State Council have been taken by Da Bei, so it witnessed many important historical events of the country such as Chairman Mao Zedong meeting the cast members of *The East Is Red*, an epic musical dance production debuting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. The photo studio also captured Premier Zhou Enlai meeting athletes of the Asian-African-Latin American Table Tennis Friendship Invitational Tournament.

Since the 1950s, Da Bei has maintained a special department to provide photography services to the central organs of the country. Today it still shoulders the responsibility of taking group photos for the central leadership



Da Bei staff rehearse in the Great Hall of the People before taking the group photos of delegates to the 19th CPC National Congress. courtesy of Da Bei Photo



when they meet delegates to the National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the National People's Congress (NPC) and members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Wang Dongru was left with a deep impression of the photography mission her team completed recently for more than 2,000 delegates to the 19th CPC National Congress.

As early as September 2017, more than a month before the congress, Da Bei organized a 14-person team composed of three generations. To ensure the high quality of their photography mission, the studio drafted a shooting plan with more than 20 pages and prepared four Swiss-made Seitz Roundshot panoramic cameras with image quality of one-billion pixels.

The studio also worked with the Administrative Bureau of the Great Hall of the People to jointly design a five-meter-high lighting system with 27 sets of lamps that is easy to assemble and doesn't emit that much heat so delegates would not get uncomfortable under the lighting.

"After two on-site rehearsals, the real event was a total success," Wang exclaimed.

After working for so many years, Wang still feels nervous when leading a team to take a group photo on such an important occasion. "In the center of a 35-meter-diameter circle, I see only five Da Bei staffers busy shooting, with more than 2,000 pairs of eyes staring at us," she grins. "How can one avoid feeling nervous?" Still, her nerves are totally different from those of a novice. "Experienced workers know that the longer you work, the more careful you are, which requires years of caution and humility."

"Over the decades, I've been lucky to witness every important historical moment of the country with Da Bei, which is our great honor," she added.

### Strong Skills

A top-notch product sells itself. Over the past century, Da Bei has provided customers with diversified and qualified services through constant technological innovation. In 2006, it was awarded the title of China Time-honored Brand by the Ministry of Commerce.

Wang believes that the major advantage of Da Bei lies in the finesse, vividness and exquisiteness of the photos it took. "According to the subject's characteristics in age and complexion,

Da Bei workers took a group photo with panoramic cameras in the Great Hall of the People in the 1990s. courtesy of Da Bei Photo





our photographers capture his or her best side by adjusting postures and styling as well as highlighting his or her most attractive traits.”

Some of the veteran technicians of Da Bei have mastered unbelievable skills in negative repair and restoration. Traditional negatives are developed with chemicals on photographic paper.

To repair damaged film, technicians remove the chemical skin of the unnecessary part from the film and replace it with better material, similar to the lasso and cut function in Photoshop. However, the whole process is not as easy as working on the computer and more like performing a complicated surgery according to Wang.

Colorizing negatives is another traditional skill that few can perform today due to the proliferation of digital cameras. However, the technicians of Da Bei have made some new attempts to enrich modern portrait work by making good use of the old skill.

“Oil paints were used for coloring in the traditional process, but it’s hard to be done well on modern photographic paper,” Wang explains. “The whole process is just like creating an actual oil painting, challenging the technician’s abilities in color control.”

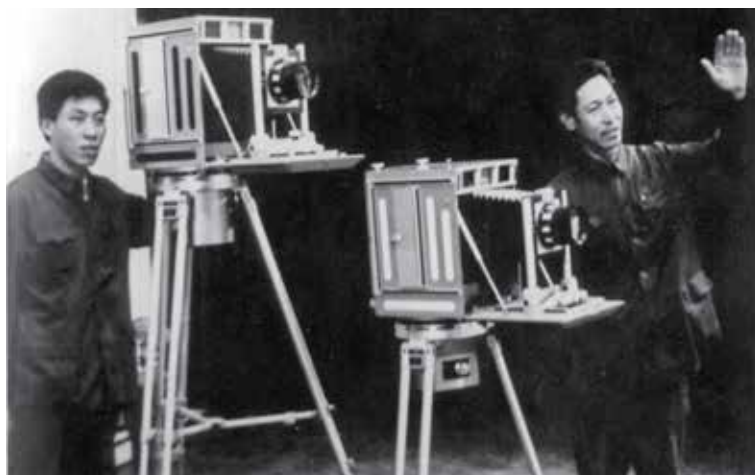
Using these skills, the technicians recently completed some artistic portraits with traditional coloring techniques, which appear more exquisite and artistic than color photos of the 1970s and more realistic and vivid than oil paintings.

## Old Brand with New Vigor

How did the studio preserve the precious skills and major selling points of the time-honored brand for nearly 100 years? Sticking to the old rules and ways would have hurt its chances for survival and development, but too much change can result in the loss of the soul of the brand.

In the long process, Da Bei has attached great importance to making optimal use of both young and elderly employees to get better production. Veterans have honed skills, while the younger generations are more sensitive to fashion trends.

By using this model, as the times change




In the 1980s, photographers from Da Bei Photo coached customers on how to pose for a picture. courtesy of Da Bei Photo



On New Year's Day 2018, a photographer from Da Bei Photo took pictures for customers. An assistant used toys to get a giggle from the kid. Some traditional photography skills of Da Bei have been inherited consistently over the decades. by Chen Jian

and the equipment improves, the style and essence of Da Bei are preserved.

Wang considers the charm of the old brand its accumulation of tradition and features over the times—exquisite and irreplaceable craftsmanship and emotional attachment.

“Our future work will be more challenging in the new era,” Wang admits. “We need to keep pace with the times and maintain a sense of mission, so fostering and developing a creative and persistent team with dreams and faith ready to serve the public is the top priority of our work. After years of exploration and practice, the team we have now is amazing.” 



# The Craftsmen of Longzhong

By Yan Haijun, Published by Peking University Press, April 2018

*This heart-touching book documents the daily life of contemporary Chinese village craftspeople.*



A fragment of a decorative wood carving. The ornamental vases created by rural carpenters were all assembled from smaller parts.





Shadow puppetry is a form of traditional art in China.

Longzhong literally refers to the central region of China's Gansu Province. At an altitude ranging from 1,200 to 2,500 meters, its landform is a typical Loess Plateau. The region is home to an early Chinese culture known as Majiayao (literally, "horse home kiln"), which originated there 4,000 to 5,000 years ago.

As a junction between farming and nomadic civilizations and a vital node along the Silk Road, the Longzhong region has been richly endowed with cultural relics and various folk crafts.

Over the past few years, Yan Haijun, a Chinese contemporary non-fiction writer, has been investigating the state of the arts and crafts in rural Gansu. He interviewed more than 200 craftsmen and selected 25 crafts including straw plaiting, embroidery, paper-cutting, masonry, blacksmithing, shadow play, carpentry and *suona* (a woodwind instrument) playing, in search of





stories for this book.

Yan declared that these crafts are indispensable in terms of the production and daily life of the local people in Longzhong. Some are related to daily public needs while others concern rituals and spiritual beliefs.

He explained that there were two major criteria for selecting these crafts: First, he looked for craftsmen who were ordinary farmers doing exquisite workmanship, and second, he wanted to find craftspeople serving ordinary farmers.

“Everyone deserves a biography,” Yan asserted. “This book is not only about craftsmanship,

Workers at a hookah tobacco workshop in Lanzhou, capital of northwestern China's Gansu Province.



A retired felting artisan (left) shows a big bow used to fluff fleece. Now in his 90s and enjoying his retirement, he has left the big bow sitting dormant for more than 30 years.







Artist Liu Shengyu demonstrates unique paper-cut art of Tongwei County, Gansu Province.



Shadow puppet artist Yang Yongzhong performs a play.


but also the life stories of craftsmen. It is about the relationship between individual craftsmen and society and about the social connection between them and their clients as well as the social structure embodied in these ties.”

“Since the turn of the 21st century, China has been enthusiastic about telling the world the stories of Chinese farmers, and Yan Haijun is one of such storytellers,” noted Qiao Xiaoguang, a professor and doctoral tutor at the Central Academy of Fine Arts. “The book touches hearts by providing a record of the daily life of today’s Chinese village craftsmen.”

Famous Chinese contemporary writer Han Shaogong commented: “Every occupation has its wits, which could be knowledge, aesthetics,

and civilization. The author sees the person through the works and reads his or her mind through the personality. His exposure of the billowy creativity embedded in the silent grass-roots is amazing and inspires great respect—he has brought to light the abundance and profundity of the vast base of civilization.”

Born in Gansu Province, Yan Haijun has long worked on surveying and researching Chinese issues related to agriculture, rural areas, farmers and the excavation of indigenous culture.

Over the past few years, Yan has published books including *China in Yabian* and *Guanqiangli: A Person’s Journey from Village to City*, some of which have won provincial and national awards. 

# The Power of Marxism

Text by Yi Mei

*To commemorate the 200th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth, the National Museum of China in Beijing is presenting an exhibition titled "The Power of Truth," which runs through August 5.*

**O**n May 5, 1818, Karl Marx was born to a middle-class family in Trier, Germany. He couldn't have imagined that 200 years later, his philosophy would still hold such heavy influence in China, on the other side of the world.

To commemorate the bicentennial of Karl Marx's birth, the National Museum of China in Beijing is presenting an exhibition titled "The Power of Truth," which runs through August 5.

When Marx was 17 years old, he wrote in a graduation essay titled *Youths' Considerations in Choosing Occupations* that if one chose a lofty career to best serve mankind, his soul would be enriched by making sacrifices to benefit all people. Marx lived up to his words, and his ideas on communism have been put into practice around the world and served as the ideological foundation of several communist states in the 20th century.

The exhibition presents illustrated narratives of various stories to form a comprehensive timeline of the life and work of the German philosopher, as well as how his ideas

inspired the Chinese to build a communist nation. Visitors can find many books, documents, letters and photos, as well as 24 works of art produced by renowned Chinese painters.

"Marxism has not only profoundly changed the world, but also profoundly changed China," declared President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, at a conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to honor the 200th anniversary of Marx's birth. "History has shown that the fate of Marxism is tightly connected to the fate of our Party and the fate of the Chinese nation."

The exhibition echoed Xi's words, showcasing how Marxism took root, sprouted and blossomed in China. Reverberations from the October Revolution in Russia helped introduce Marxism-Leninism to China and kindle new hope in the eternal Chinese struggle for survival, setting the stage for the birth of the CPC.

Since then, the CPC has combined the fundamental principles of Marxism with the

*Writing Capital* by Sun Lixin, oil painting, 300cm×350cm, 2018.









A Revolutionary Family by Sun Jingbo, oil painting, 250cm×380cm, 2018.



realities of Chinese revolution and construction, transforming the Chinese nation from the “sick man of East Asia” to one who has stood up by uniting and leading the people through long-term struggle.

One exhibit is a copy of an issue of *Wan Guo Gong Bao* (*Review of the Times*) from 1899, which was one of the first introductions of the names of Marx and Engels in Chinese media. One section of the exhibition displays copies of the *Communist Manifesto* published in different languages and countries over the years, evidencing the far-reaching influence of Marx and Engels. Among them is a Chinese version published in 1938, with hand-written notations by late Premier Zhou Enlai in 1943






*Learning Marxism  
Prevails in Yan'an*  
by Wang Ke,  
200cm×500cm,  
2018.

in Yan'an, China's revolutionary cradle, in Shaanxi Province.

The exhibition also explores Marx's family life and the deep love between him and his wife, Jenny von Westphalen, with whom he had seven children.

An oil painting titled *A Revolutionary Family* by 74-year-old Sun Jingbo, a retired professor from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, depicts a sweet family scene in which Marx is reading Shakespeare to his wife and three daughters. The youngest artist involved in the exhibition was 45-year-old Jin Rui, who contributed an ink drawing portraying an ambitious teenage Marx surrounded by his friends at middle school.

"My generation grew up with firm belief in Marxism," says Sun, the eldest of the featured painters. "We admire and follow his philosophies. But in this painting I tried to focus on his other side as a caring husband and father. The close family relationship and his love for his children greatly influenced his personality."

"Marxism is an open theory that is constantly developing and always stays at the frontier of the times," says Feng Yuan, vice chairman of China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, a sponsor of the exhibition. "As President Xi said, we must base our work in China and embrace modernization, the world, and the future while consolidating Marxism as our guiding ideology. I hope the exhibition conveys this message." 

## Lois Conner A Long View

March 25 – June 10

Shanghai Center of Photography, Shanghai

The exhibition features works by famous American photographer Lois Conner over the past 30 years in China. It is divided into three sections: “Landscape,” “Cities” and “The Lotus,” starting from her first visit to Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, in 1984, and weaving through various cities that have experienced unprecedented changes for decades.

Displays include series such as “Guilin and the Li River,” “Beijing: Contemporary and Imperial” and “The Lotus.” Her photographs present China’s unique cultural landscape with a long-term vision that spans time and space.

Born in 1951, Lois Conner is a famous American contemporary photographer who taught at Yale University for more than 10 years. Over the years, she has held more than 50 solo exhibitions, and her works have been awarded prizes such as the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship and acquired by top art institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



*Triangle Lotus*, inkjet printed on Hahnemühle paper, 23×60 inches (58.42×152.4 cm), Hangzhou, Zhejiang, 1998.



*Beihai Park*, Beijing, inkjet printed on Hahnemühle paper, 60×23 inches (152.4×58.42 cm), 1984.



*The Photographers*, inkjet printed on Hahnemühle paper, 34×95 inches (86.36×241.3 cm), Guangzhou, Guangdong, 1993.



## Bai Di and A.R. Penck— A Dialogue Over Half a Century

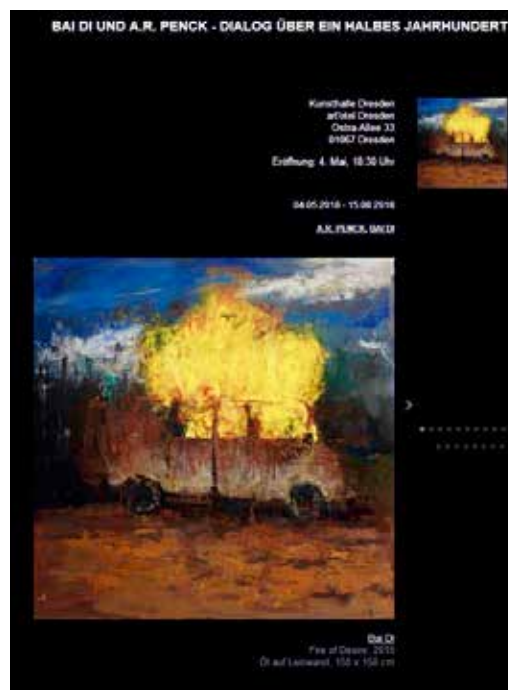
May 4 – August 15

Kunsthalle Dresden, Art'otel Dresden, Germany

The exhibition features paintings by two artists with an age difference of nearly 50 years and contrasting backgrounds from opposite sides of the world: China and Germany.

A.R. Penck was born in 1939 and emerged as a master of German New Expressionism by highlighting graphic symbols and abbreviations to create works reminiscent of cave paintings and calligraphy from thousands of years ago.

A graduate of China's Central Academy of Fine Arts, Bai Di is a young Chinese artist who has been residing in Germany and working on oil painting. In recent years, Bai has successively held solo exhibitions and contributed to group exhibitions in both China and Europe.



Poster for "Bai Di and A.R. Penck – A Dialogue Over Half a Century."

## From the Canglang Pavilion

May 19 – August 29

Jinji Lake Art Museum, Suzhou

The beauty of Chinese classical gardens can be found in the poetic space behind the materialization of two different Chinese ancient thoughts: "standing aloof from worldly affairs" and "getting involved in worldly affairs." The Canglang Pavilion, the oldest classical garden in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, inspired the concept of this exhibition.

The show features works from more than 40 artists from home and abroad. With contrasting cultural backgrounds and artistic expressions, the exhibits all relate connotations of the garden from different dimensions, each of which can be considered a reinterpretation of garden space from each creator and for each patron.

Poster for "From the Canglang Pavilion."



## Zhang Lei: Floating Down a River at Night

May 17 – July 1

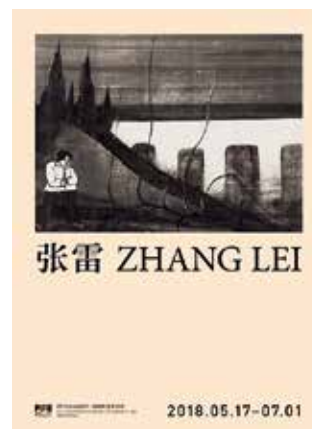
PIFO Gallery, Beijing

On display are nearly 200 monotype pieces completed by young Chinese artist Zhang Lei from 2010 to 2018, as well as watercolor and acrylic works on paper. This is Zhang's first solo exhibition since his artistic career evolved from early practice to maturity and finally the establishment of his own system with distinct personal characteristics.

Born in Tangshan, Hebei Province in 1988, Zhang

Lei now lives and works in Nanjing, the provincial seat of Jiangsu. He graduated from the Printmaking Department of Nanjing Art Institute in 2012. Now he is famous for his blend of painting and printmaking techniques and mysterious and surrealistic expression.

Poster for "Zhang Lei: Floating Down a River at Night."





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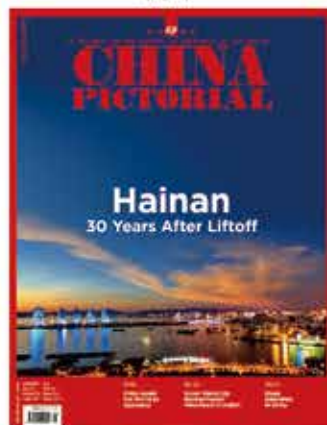
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