

# TOP NEWS

## Anti-discharge protest



Children attend a rally on Sunday in Selangor state, Malaysia, against Japan's dumping of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean.

# Renewal of US-China science cooperation urged

Campaign gets support from over 1,000 faculty members, scholars

By LIA ZHU in San Francisco  
 liazhu@chinadailyusa.com

A campaign to urge the United States government to renew a deal with China on science and technology cooperation has quickly garnered the support of more than 1,000 faculty members and scholars in US universities.

The US-China Science and Technology Agreement, which was signed in 1979 and had been renewed every five years or so ever since, expired on Sunday.

A week before it expired, two physics professors at Stanford University — Steven Kivelson and Peter Michelson — launched the campaign to urge fellow researchers in the country to endorse their open letter to US President Joe Biden in the hope of keeping the agreement alive.

Within six days, the letter had been endorsed by over 1,000 academics, including several Nobel laureates, members of the National Academies, and members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

"It is highly significant that a substantial number of scientists and related experts from the American scientific community publicly endorsed the renewal and continuation of the Science and Technology Agreement," Denis Simon, a profes-

“There is no pressing global challenge issue whose meaningful solution will not require some appreciable level of US-China collaboration.”

Dennis Simon, professor of Global Business and Technology at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

sor of Global Business and Technology at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, told China Daily.

“The broad endorsement to remain engaged with China in science and technology reflects the high level of interdependence that has been built up over four decades of meaningful cooperation,” said Simon, who endorsed the letter and has been heavily involved in the efforts to renew the agreement.

The deal has become the subject of controversy as some Republican lawmakers raised “national security” concerns and opposed its renewal. The Biden administration on Wednesday told NBC News that

it was seeking a six-month extension to “undertake negotiations to amend and strengthen the terms” of the agreement.

“We certainly need to negotiate an agreement that can sustain bilateral collaboration for the next 40 years. That said, it is important for active scientists and other scholars to secure the endorsement of both governments that science and technology aspects of the relationship are important to both countries,” said Simon, who recently resigned the post at UNC-Chapel Hill because of differences between him and the university over the issue of engagement with China.

The renewal of the agreement would “help revitalize current levels of cooperation and hopefully provide the added trust and confidence needed to open up new areas for cooperation, especially regarding pressing global challenges”, he said.

“There is no pressing global challenge issue whose meaningful solution will not require some appreciable level of US-China collaboration,” he added.

As about the so-called national security concerns, Kivelson and Michelson noted in their letter that the results of fundamental research at US universities are intended to be openly published so they are neither proprietary nor do they deal with classified information.

In addition, the science and technology agreement itself is “a broad umbrella agreement” that commits the US to no specific activities because activities aren't even listed in it, said Deborah Seligsohn, former science counselor at the US embassy in China and an assistant professor of political science at Villanova University.

“We don't actually have to do anything to change which topics we're working on and what we do because all of that is done under sub agreements,” she said at a recent webinar on US-China research collaboration.

Secondly, almost no science and technology cooperation involves intellectual property creation, she said. “When we talk about things like working together on pollution abatement, we were using very old technologies; when we do public health, we're trying to generate public goods. When we do scientific research, most of what we're trying to do is produce peer reviewed publications that are open science,” she said.

“I think it's important to realize that an enormous amount of the outcomes of this agreement are not actually in these areas (national security) that people worry the most about,” she added.

The next six months will be pivotal to work out the provisions of a workable agreement, said Simon, calling on policymakers to focus on top priority issues.

“It is time to go beyond the legacy of the China Initiative, IP problems, and the lack of trust that has been engendered by the excessive politicization of science and technology ties so that we can take on the serious issues across the shared agenda of both countries, including climate change, clean energy, global health, cancer, Alzheimer's disease and food security,” he said.

## Lhasa, Harbin marathons draw running enthusiasts

By ZHOU HUIYING in Harbin and PALDEN NYIMA in Lhasa  
 zhouhuiying@chinadaily.com.cn

Thousands of runners hit the streets in two cities at two ends of China over the weekend, demonstrating the growing popularity of marathons. Harbin in Heilongjiang province, and Lhasa in the Tibet autonomous region were the hosts of the two thrilling events.

The 2023 Lhasa Half-Marathon took place in Tibet's capital on Sunday, challenging 4,000 runners into tackling the formidable high-altitude landscape. The largest sporting event in the region in terms of the number of participants comprised a half-marathon, a 10-kilometer run and a 5-km health run.

Held at an imposing 3,650 meters above sea level, China's highest-altitude marathon is particularly challenging due to the low oxygen levels in the atmosphere.

The Lhasa Half-Marathon Organizing Committee requires all runners to have experience in participating in sub-plateau or plateau competitions in the past two years.

“I had the courage and confidence to attempt the highest-altitude marathon before the race started, but there is really a big difference between running on the plateau and the plain areas,” said runner Li Guihua after finishing the 21-km half-marathon in 2 hours and 34 minutes.

The 70-year-old from Shanghai has run more than 10 marathons this year. “Usually I can finish the half-marathon within 1 hour and 52 minutes,” he said. “However, I am quite satisfied with my performance since I managed to finish the race before the cut-off time of 3 hours.”

During the competition, the organizing committee supplied oxygen at each aid station, and also arranged for cultural performances and intangible cultural heritage exhibitions at the starting and finishing lines.

Three service stations were set up along the route, providing performances such as traditional Tibetan circle dances, gymnastics, fitness exercises, tai chi and tai chi sword presentations for the athletes.

The route boasted post-race recovery areas, medical service stations and oxygen supplies, including post-race oxygen tanks, to assist athletes in their physical recovery.

After a fierce competition, Sonam Tsering won the men's half-marathon in 70 minutes and 3 seconds, and Tsering Tsomo won the women's half-marathon in 83 minutes and 48 seconds.

“I am very happy to win in my hometown today,” said Sonam Tsering. “I have also participated in a half-marathon in Shanghai and in the national marathon championship in the past, where my rankings were all within the top 10.

“Nowadays, more residents in Tibet are interested in sports and fitness, so we see many running groups and clubs.”

Meanwhile, in the far northeast, the city of Harbin hosted 30,000 runners on Sunday, marking the triumphant return of the Harbin Marathon after a three-year hiatus.

The event, comprising a full marathon, a half-marathon and a mini run, attracted participants from 20 countries and regions.

The well-designed route included the bridge across the Songhua River and other landmarks such as the Harbin Music Corridor, Sun Island Park, Harbin Government Square and Qunli Music Square.

The race impressed Kenyan runner Muhia Kennedy Njogu, who was crowned champion of the men's half-marathon.

“Harbin is a very beautiful city. I am blown away by the European-inspired architecture and picturesque routes,” Njogu told the local media after finishing in 64 minutes and 56 seconds. “The comfortable weather helped me maintain a good pace.”

Technology also played a significant role in the race, with each runner provided with a unique artificial intelligence-generated documentary capturing their marathon journey.

“I have been a marathon enthusiast for over 14 years and it was not easy to procure images or videos of myself during the competition,” said runner Zhao Yingkai. “I downloaded my own short video immediately after the competition.

“I can watch myself in the video among numerous competitors. I published it on my social media platform and received lots of praise, which gave me more encouragement to continue my running in the future.”

Contact the writers at  
 zhouhuiying@chinadaily.com.cn



Runners take part in a marathon in Harbin, Heilongjiang province, on Sunday. LIU YANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

## BRI: Initiative has been widely accepted despite West's hostile measures

From page 1

of the weakness of their respective economies — those countries considered by the West to be too high a risk for their investments.

That type of Western thinking was based solely on money. In fact, any assistance was usually premised on those countries giving up control of their economies to huge transnational corporations. In almost all the cases, investments only went toward the exploitation of natural resources. The leading Western powers used international financial institutions to impose economic policies that emasculated the borrowing countries' sovereignty.

China's cooperation with the developing countries has been qualitatively different. It never dictates to countries what they should do. Instead, it has worked with governments, which have identified their own priorities. It has never tried to subjugate any state for its sole benefit.

That is why much of the assistance given by China has been

This win-win diplomacy has paid great dividends for China and the other countries involved. Today, 152 countries have joined the Belt and Road Initiative.

aimed at creating the conditions for sustained growth. Its investment projects have mainly been physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, railways and ports as well as energy infrastructure such as hydroelectric plants. All these projects are intended to stimulate and facilitate economic growth.

A lot of assistance has gone toward building up social infrastructure, which has had a positive impact on the development of human capital and promoted sustainable growth. China has not only helped to build schools, hospitals

and world-class sporting and cultural facilities, but has also provided tens of thousands of scholarships to students from developing countries. All of this has been done without imposing conditions that affected any country's independence.

This win-win diplomacy has paid great dividends for China and the other countries involved. Today, 152 countries have joined the Belt and Road Initiative. It is this new type of relations that has allowed China to become the largest trading partner of most of the countries in the world.

However, not everyone is happy with China's high and growing prestige throughout the world, particularly the United States.

Such countries' basic concern is that China's assistance is lessening the dependence of developing countries, many of which are endowed with natural resources, on the West. They are afraid of losing their power to dictate to former colonies and semi-colonies and to use them as a source of raw materials for the West.

The imperialist states have therefore set themselves two tasks. One is slowing China's economic progress. The idea here is to make many of the big projects too expensive for China to finance, and the second is using all means to discourage developing countries from building and strengthening relations with China. They have employed a wide array of measures to attain these objectives, including a campaign of slander, economic sanctions, threats and provocations.

In their effort to discredit China's assistance, they have spun incredulous stories. One of the most persistent is that China wants to create a “debt trap” for poor countries in order to control them politically. They use this approach, because that is precisely what they have been doing since the end of World War II.

On the economic front, they are using sanctions against China and other developing countries. In the case of China, they are using frivolous excuses to put obstacles in the way of Chinese companies that are

operating abroad, accusing them of spying and other wild charges, none of which they ever back up with evidence.

On China itself, they are trying to prevent it from obtaining high-tech equipment and tools that these countries export. In this regard, they have banned the export of some microchips to China. They have also forced other countries to do the same. When China reacts by controlling some of its high-tech exports to the West, we hear a hue and cry complaining of China being unfair. All their measures are forcing China to become tech self-reliant.

Despite these concerted hostile measures, the Belt and Road Initiative has become widely accepted. All the countries, developed and developing, that are participating in it are experiencing positive results. The connectivity by road, rail and sea has stimulated individual and regional economies, as well as the international economy.

Another reason that the US is failing in its effort to roll back the Belt and Road has to do with the

economic situation in many Western countries. Many countries in the European Union are experiencing recessions or are close to being in that state.

In the US, many people are becoming worried by the fact that the dollar is losing ground in international commerce. The use of the dollar as a weapon to sanction the world has led to more countries turning their backs on the dollar and using their own currencies.

Over the past 10 years, the Belt and Road Initiative has contributed greatly to many of the positive changes in the world. Apart from the obvious and demonstrable progress that has been achieved by all countries and regions involved in the Belt and Road, we see some tangible spinoffs from this bold and innovative plan. The projects are forging closer people-to-people ties throughout the world, which has helped to promote friendship and solidarity among peoples from various countries and continents. No doubt this will lead to greater international solidarity.

The author is a former president of Guyana. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.