

TOP NEWS

Political Lens

Xi's discourses on people's congress system published

A compilation of discourses by Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, on upholding and improving the system of people's congresses has been published by the Central Party Literature Press and is available nationwide.

Compiled by the Institute of Party History and Literature of the CPC Central Committee, the book features a collection of 37 important works by Xi expounding on the theme between December 2012 and October 2024. Some of these works are made public for the first time.

Xi has integrated the basic tenets of Marxism with China's specific realities and fine traditional culture, systematically summarized the practical experience of the CPC in strengthening socialist democracy, continuously advanced theoretical and practical innovations of the system of people's congresses, and put forward a series of new thinking, new ideas and new requirements, thus providing the fundamental guidance for upholding, improving and running well the system of people's congresses.

XINHUA

Macao taps advantages to help TCM go global

Macao's unique advantage in Chinese medicine research and its close connection with the international market are helping traditional Chinese medicine go global, according to officials and industry insiders.

Ho Iat-seng, chief executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, said that Macao is facilitating the global outreach of Chinese medicine products, because medicines recognized in Macao are more easily acknowledged in Portuguese-speaking countries due to "certain legal similarities".

With the objective of strengthening the TCM industry, and thereby reducing its dependence on the casino industry, the Macao SAR government established the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau in 2022. The same year, it implemented a regulation on the registration of proprietary Chinese medicine products.

Ho said that TCM products registered with the bureau have already been recognized in countries such as Brazil, with several approved for registration overseas.

As of September, Macao had received 314 applications for the registration of proprietary Chinese medicine products, 78 of which have already been approved. The approvals have facilitated the registration of 24 Chinese medicine products in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Chan Kam-tat, founder of Healthy Life, a pharmacy chain in Macao, said: "Macao is a great platform to help TCM go global. The SAR government has brought Chinese medicine to Brazil, and I believe it will enter more countries."

The University of Macau's Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences has completed around 20 studies on the quality standards of TCM products. Many of the standards have been incorporated into pharmacopoeias in countries in Europe and the Americas.

Li Peng, deputy director of the institute, said the internationalization of TCM can drive development of the industry, and selling Chinese medicine products overseas can also become one of the key reasons for mainland companies to register new drugs in Macao.

The Southeast Asian market is another promising choice due to its large population of Chinese people, who inherently trust Chinese medicine, Li added.

Contact the writers at zhangyil@chinadaily.com.cn

Marathon gathering



Contestants in the Guangzhou Marathon begin their 42.195-kilometer run from Tianhe Sports Center in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, on Sunday. Around 26,000 enthusiasts participated in the event. Gebise Lelisa Debele of Ethiopia reached the finish line in 2:06:28 to win the race, achieving his personal best and setting a Guangzhou Marathon record. CHEN JIMIN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Brazilian envoy hails growing ties with China

Partnership is built on mutual respect, 'high complementarity' of economies

By SHAO XINYING
shaoxinying@chinadaily.com.cn

Noting that China and Brazil are committed to deepening their ties, Marcos Galvao, Brazil's ambassador to China, highlighted the strong trade ties and mutual respect that have defined the partnership, calling for more investments from China.

As this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Brazil, "President Xi Jinping's visit (to Brazil) was the culmination of the celebrations that have been preceded by the visit of Brazil's Vice-President Geraldo Alckmin (to China) in June and by the holding of the high-level committee that we have between the two countries", Galvao said.

"China and Brazil are both major countries," he told a forum last week organized by Renmin University of China's Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies. "We need to work together to push for further reforms in global governance on the G20 platform, making the G20 more effective, inclusive and equitable."

One of the key focuses of the just-concluded G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro was tackling poverty.

"Poverty reduction is something that both our countries have managed to do successfully," Galvao told China Daily.

He referred to Brazil's successful poverty reduction programs, such as the Zero Hunger initiative, which was launched by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during his first term, with the goal of eradicating hunger and extreme poverty.

In 2023 alone, 8.7 million people



Marcos Galvao

were lifted out of poverty in Brazil, while extreme poverty dropped from 5.9 percent to 4.4 percent, Brazil's Institute of Geography and Statistics said in a statement on Wednesday.

China has lifted 800 million people out of poverty over the past few decades, achieving the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goal on poverty reduction ahead of schedule.

"However, we still have a long way to go, in terms of providing the living standards that our people legitimately aspire to," Galvao said of the two countries.

Reflecting on his more than two years as ambassador to China, Galvao shared his admiration for China's development. "I am impressed with the diversity of China's provinces, the dynamism of its cities," he said. "What I've seen in China is similar to what we have in Brazil."

He emphasized the "high complementarity" between the two economies, which he said are "highly relevant" to each other.

China is Brazil's largest trading partner, and Brazil is China's ninth-largest trading partner. In 2023, bilateral trade between China and Brazil reached more than \$180 billion, up 6.1 percent year-on-year, according to Chinese customs statistics.

Chinese foreign direct investment stock in Brazil stands at about \$72 billion, with energy accounting for about three-fourths of this investment, Galvao noted.

"One visible aspect of this is the arrival of Chinese electric vehicle companies in Brazil," he said.

Chinese EV maker BYD has had a presence in Brazil for over 10 years, and today, Brazil is BYD's largest market abroad. Another Chinese automaker, GWM, will open a factory in Iracemapolis, Sao Paulo state, in May.

Beyond the automotive sector, China's involvement in Brazil's energy infrastructure is also expanding.

Brazil's electricity consumption is concentrated in its southern and southeastern regions, while the north is rich in hydropower resources. This requires long-distance electricity transmission with minimal power loss.

"We have areas with excess generation capacity, and China has ultra-high-voltage transmission technology," Galvao said.

The Belo Monte phase II transmission project in Brazil — invested, constructed and operated by State Grid Corp of China — is the first overseas project to use Chinese ultra-high-voltage transmission technology, which enables power transmission from the north to heavy electricity usage areas.

Looking back on 50 years of bilateral ties, Galvao said the relationship is built on mutual respect, a result of both "political determination and the efforts of both sides."

"In this world of near-shoring and friend-shoring, in our case, it's a story of trust-shoring — we trust each other," he added.

"We want China to play a role in our re-industrialization, particularly in energy transition and technology development, as we want a stronger, more competitive industry with more value-added products," he said, calling for increased investment from Chinese companies to enhance Brazil's industrial capabilities.

BRI, e-commerce boom lift world air cargo market

By ZHU WENQIAN
zhuwenqian@chinadaily.com.cn

The boom of cross-border e-commerce has unprecedentedly lifted the global air cargo market, with China leading the way, boosted by the "Air Silk Road" that connects economies participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.

Ethiopian Airlines, the largest African carrier and the largest air carrier between China and Africa, operates cargo routes connecting Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, and nine Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Zhengzhou in Henan province and Guangzhou in Guangdong province.

The airline said adequate flight capacity has ensured that economic exchanges between China and Africa remain active, and has promoted cooperation and development between the two sides in a wide range of sectors.

Aman Wole Gurmu, Ethiopian Airlines' country director for China, said, "Particularly in Guangzhou, in the first seven months of this year, the cross-border e-commerce transportation volume between China and Africa exceeded 13,000 metric tons, achieving a leapfrog growth over the same period of 2019, or before COVID-19."

"This year, the annual air cargo transportation volumes between China and Africa are expected to jump by 46 percent over the pre-pandemic levels," Gurmu said.

Since 2020, Ethiopian Airlines' cargo business has continued to thrive, with a cumulative export volume to China exceeding 532,000 tons and import volume approaching 200,000 tons, the carrier said.

The air cargo exports from China to Africa have primarily been cross-border e-commerce products such as mechanical and electrical products, textiles, building materials and household appliances.

The goods transported from Africa to China have been mineral products, agricultural products such as coffee beans, cocoa beans, wood and cotton, as well as handicrafts, the carrier said.

Peter Gao, Boeing's vice-president for China of commercial sales and marketing, said, "The

air cargo transportation market globally has been undergoing constant changes, and cross-border e-commerce business has driven the rapid growth of demand for air cargo transportation."

Meanwhile, Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways, further strengthened its cooperation with China with a newly established joint venture with SF Airlines, a subsidiary of Shenzhen-based logistics company SF Holding. This is an unprecedented milestone in the 40-year history of diplomatic relations between the United Arab Emirates and China.

The joint venture, which builds on the already successful partnership between Etihad Cargo and SF Airlines, has significantly enhanced connectivity and capacity between China, the UAE and global markets. The collaboration has seen both airlines sharing capacity to improve global trade routes, a relationship that has been mutually beneficial, Etihad Cargo said.

Mohammed Ali Al Shorafa, chairman of Etihad Airways, said: "This historic joint venture is a true testament to the robust and growing relationship between the UAE and China. It will enable both airlines to provide even more connectivity, flexibility and speed to customers."

Wang Wei, chairman of SF Holding, said: "This joint venture is a pioneering development in air cargo logistics between China and the UAE. By joining forces with Etihad Cargo, we are setting new standards for the industry, particularly in response to the rising demand for e-commerce, airmail and parcel delivery."

In addition, the International Air Transport Association recently released data for the global air cargo market's performance in October, showing continuously growing demand.

Total demand, measured in cargo ton-kilometers, rose 9.8 percent compared with the October 2023 levels, showing growth for the 15th consecutive month. Capacity, measured in available cargo ton-kilometers, increased 5.9 percent year-on-year, largely driven by an 8.5 percent increase in international belly capacity, the IATA said.



A logistics worker handles cargo at a warehouse for e-commerce air freight in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, in February. The warehouse was built by a Chinese company. XINHUA

Diplomacy: Efforts on economic, subnational, cultural fronts involved

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"So my hope is that this model of development offers lessons for the rest of the world, particularly developing countries — not necessarily to copy, but to adapt to their own situations," Kargbo said.

Endorsing China's continued support for multilateralism and exchanges among nations, he added: "The future of the world rests on open, consistent dialogue between nations. Nobody has one formula that can solve all problems, but if we come together, discuss openly and fairly with mutual respect, the future is bright."

Wang Huiyao, founder and president of the think tank Center for China and Globalization in Beijing, said: "the major country

diplomacy with Chinese characteristics is now way richer at different levels, and the country's diplomacy does not rely solely on governmental efforts, but also on efforts in economic, cultural, sub-national and think tank realms. I think this progress is noteworthy."

When reviewing China's diplomacy over the past 10 years, its wide-ranging cooperation with various regions and with Global South countries has stood out, spanning from neighboring regions such as Central Asia and Southeast Asia to Africa and Latin America, Wang noted.

"China is an important pillar supporting a multipolar world, and its major-country diplomacy should play an even greater role in the future," he added.

COP16: Cooperation requests pour in

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The system can provide precise recommendations for policymakers based on the type of degradation, whether it is wind erosion, water erosion or erosion caused by salinization, Li said.

"In August, Saudi Arabia invited us to conduct a training session to discuss how to use China's sand management experience and its science and technology," he said.

Now, in approximately one-third of Saudi Arabia's southwestern region, the system will be introduced, along with Chinese machinery and automation technology, among other things, to carry out land management and afforestation, he added.

The Chinese solution developed by Li and his team has been warmly received at COP16.

Amos T. Kabo-Bah, from the University of Energy and Natural Resources in Ghana, wrote in an email sent to Li that the innovative system for achieving land degrada-

tion neutrality in the Arab region has made a strong impression on him.

"We are reaching out to propose a detailed discussion on potential areas for collaboration," Kabo-Bah wrote.

Cesar Luis Garcia, an innovation technologist from Argentina, said in a separate email sent to Li that he and his team are "deeply impressed" by the system and the comprehensive report on achieving land degradation neutrality in the Arab region.

"Your initiative demonstrates an inspiring commitment to tackling land degradation challenges, and we believe it has tremendous potential for broader impact," Garcia wrote.

Li said he has received numerous such emails requesting cooperation.

Hussein Nasrallah, an official at Lebanon's Ministry of Agriculture, said in an interview with China Daily on the sidelines of COP16 that people in his country want to transform almost desert-like and once-barren areas into green spaces.

"We have witnessed how China has addressed land degradation and other global environmental

issues. China is showing the world how to effectively tackle these problems, and we can learn from its approach," he said.

In 1978, China initiated the Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program in 13 northern provinces and regions, implementing tailored afforestation, sand fixation and ecosystem restoration methods. Currently, the forest coverage in the project area has increased from around 5 percent in the 1980s to nearly 14 percent.

Nasrallah said he hopes that more countries, Lebanon in particular, can cooperate with China to address the issue of desertification.

"China came to us and showed us how these technologies can help solve problems. In dry areas with little water, they use plants that can survive with almost no water. Some of these plants even produce flowers and fruits, bringing profits for the locals, which is amazing. These are very important and brilliant solutions," he added.

Shi Yudie contributed to this story.