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寒来暑往，  
塞罕坝机械林场的森林覆盖率  
已达80%，  
栽种树木按二米株距排开，  
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Saihanba is a cold alpine area in northern Hebei Province bordering the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. It was once a barren land but is now home to 75,000 hectares of forest, thanks to the labor of generations of forestry workers in the past 55 years. Every year the forest purifies 137 million cubic meters of water and absorbs 747,000 tons of carbon dioxide. The forest produces 12 billion yuan (around US\$1.8 billion) of ecological value annually, according to the Chinese Academy of Forestry.



**Administrative Agency:** 主管：中国外文出版发行事业局  
China International Publishing Group (中国国际出版集团)

**Publisher:** China Pictorial Publications 主办：人民摄影社

**Address:** 社址：  
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Qiu Mingli 邱明丽  
**Telephone:** 86-10-68412660 电话：010-68412660

**Remittance to:** 邮购收款人：  
Publishing and Distribution Department, 人民画报社出版  
China Pictorial 发行部

**Legal Adviser:** Yue Cheng 法律顾问：岳成

**Printing:** Toppan Leefung Changcheng 印刷：北京利丰雅高长城  
Printing (Beijing) Co., Ltd. 印刷有限公司

**Overseas Distribution:**  
China International Book Trading Corporation (Guoji Shudian),  
35 Chegongzhuang Xilu,  
P.O. Box 399, Beijing 100044, China  
**Telephone:** 86-10-68413849  
**Fax:** 86-10-68412166  
China Book Trading (Canada) Inc.  
**Telephone:** 1-416-497-8096

出版日期 每月1日  
国内刊号：CN11-1429/Z  
国际刊号：ISSN0009-4420  
京海工商广字第0121号

In China, subscriptions are available at any post office.

Subscription and distribution agency in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan:  
Hong Kong Peace Book Company, Ltd.  
17/F., Paramount Building, 12 Ka Yip Street, Chai Wan, Hong Kong

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[www.china-pictorial.com.cn](http://www.china-pictorial.com.cn)

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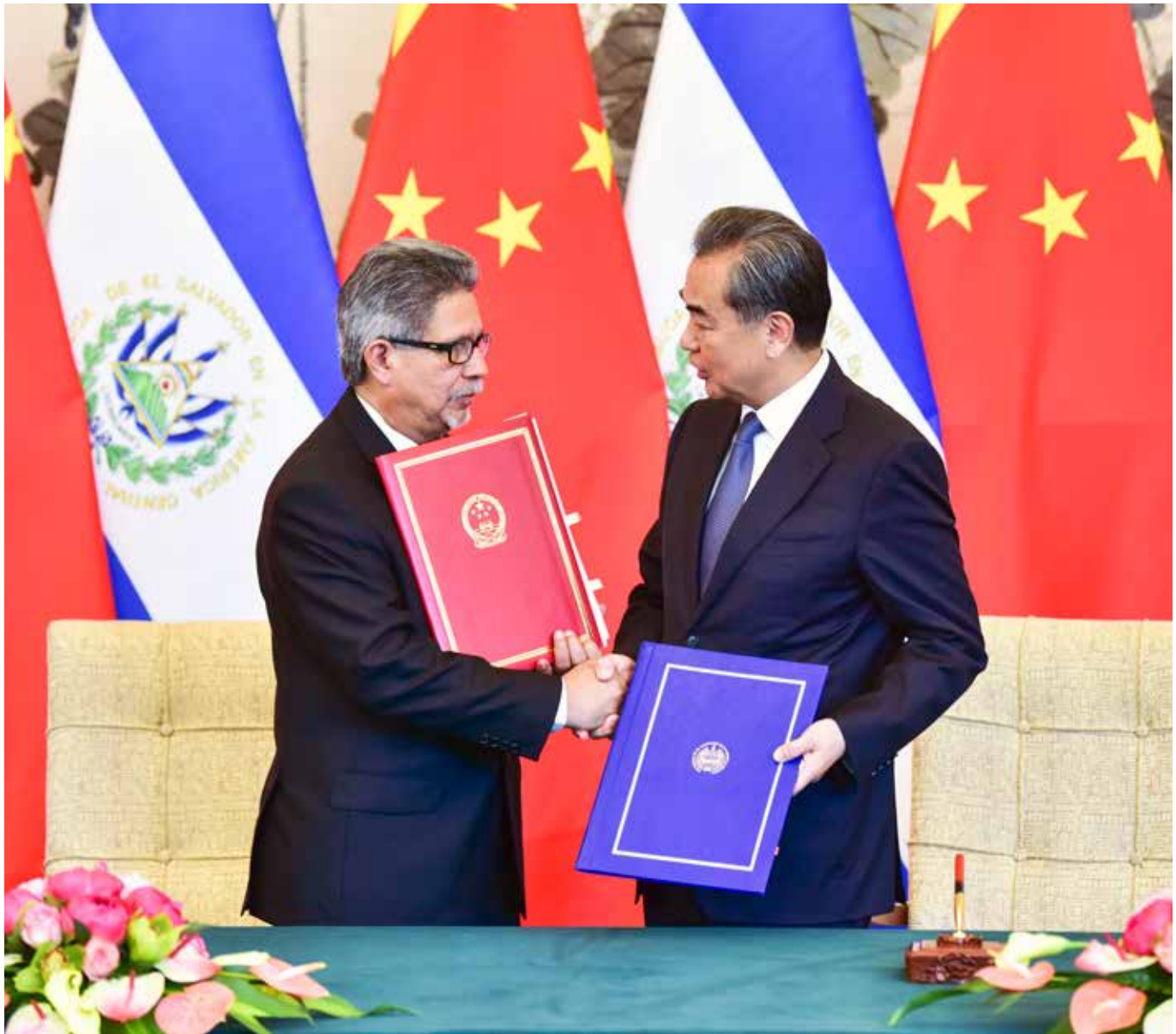
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by Yin Bogu/Xinhua

## ➤ China-El Salvador Diplomatic Ties

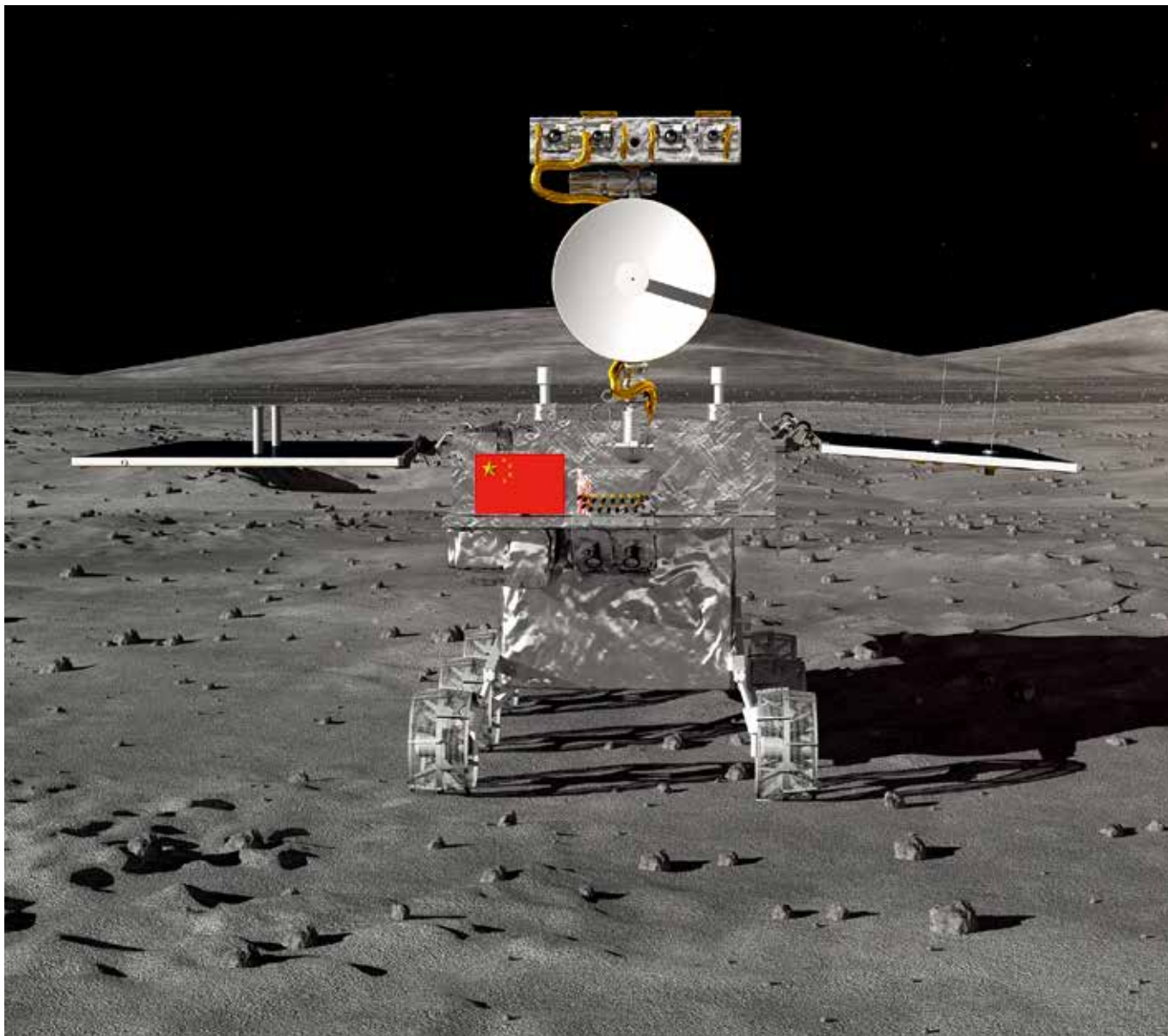
August 21, Beijing: Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and El Salvador's Foreign Minister Carlos Castaneda sign a joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations in Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

China and El Salvador established diplomatic relations the same day after the Central American country severed its "diplomatic ties" with Taiwan. Wang declared that China has added a new friend in Latin

America and the Caribbean region as well as a partner in promoting the Belt and Road Initiative and building a community with a shared future for mankind. China is willing to join hands with El Salvador to achieve joint development, expand China-Latin America cooperation and contribute to the collective rejuvenation of developing countries.

So far, 178 countries have established diplomatic ties with China, according to Wang.





Xinhua

## ➤ Chang'e-4 Rover Unveiled

August 15, Beijing: An image of China's Chang'e-4 lunar probe rover. China's moon lander and rover for the Chang'e-4 lunar probe, which is expected to land on the far side of the moon this year, were unveiled the same day.

Wu Weiren, chief designer of China's lunar probe program, noted that the Chang'e-4 rover largely kept the shape and conditions of its predecessor, the Yutu (Jade Rabbit), China's first lunar rover for the 2013

Chang'e-3 lunar probe. However, it also has adaptable parts and an adjustable payload configuration to deal with the complex terrain on the far side of the moon, the demand of relay communication and the actual needs to complete scientific objectives, according to space scientists.

The Chang'e-4 lunar probe will land in the Aitken Basin in the lunar south pole region on the far side of the moon—a hot spot for scientific and space exploration.



VCG

## Walking on Wings

August 3, Anshun, Guizhou Province: An aerobatic team from Britain performs at the Huangguoshu Waterfalls Flight Conference.

The event, held from August 3 to 5, featured a total of 18 world-famous aerobatic teams from China, Britain, Italy, Turkey, New Zealand and the

United States, providing a visual feast for audiences with a series of aerobatic performances that included formation flying, wing walking at a height of 300 meters and somersault flights.

A variety of activities revolving around air tourism and culture were also held during the event.





by Guo Cheng/Xinhua

## ➤ Escaping Summer Heat

August 4, Sanya, Hainan Province: Tourists enjoy water activities near Wuzhizhou Island. Sanya attracted countless tourists during summer vacation.

A report by China Tourism Academy and Ctrip.com, a leading travel website, estimated that Chinese tourists spent more than 300 billion yuan (US\$45 billion) this

summer on traveling to escape the heat and about 500 million trips were made in July and August.

Seniors, teachers and students on summer break, as well as residents of some Chinese cities with extremely hot weather, were the central contributors to the “summer economy,” said the report.

# After UK Compromises on Brexit, What's Next for the U.S.?

Text by Pang Zhongying

*Both Britain's "soft Brexit" tactic and the United States' escalating disputes with its major global trading partners are changing globalization trends. The Trump administration's trade fights may, like Brexit, ultimately produce results that are opposite to what was desired.*

Soon after the Cold War ended, the World Trade Organization (WTO) was founded in April 1994, and the United Kingdom and the United States became leaders of globalization. A mere 24 years later, the situation has changed dramatically: Britain and the United States have become leaders of de-globalization.

What exactly is de-globalization?

Britain's current policy, popularly known as Brexit, is the process of leaving the European Union (EU). The United States, on the other hand, is stirring up trade disputes with its largest trading partners and even launching a "trade war."

De-globalization does not refer to complete rejection of globalization, but advocacy for adjustment of its relationship with the existing and previous globalization trends.

Chinese and U.S. teams, led by Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, held economic and trade consultations in Beijing on June 3, 2018. by Ding Haitao/Xinhua



This adjustment will undoubtedly affect domestic and international economies, leading to "trade (investment) diversion" and "trade (investment) creation."

Two options for de-globalization have emerged so far: soft de-globalization and hard de-globalization.

For Britain, the white paper published by the British cabinet on July 12 shows that Britain has made a great compromise in the process of Brexit, the main symbol of de-globalization: it has chosen to adopt a "soft Brexit." The white paper proposed to create a "free trade area for goods" with the EU, so that Britain can continue to align commodity rules and standards and establish close customs arrangements with the remaining 27 EU member countries. The British government hopes to participate in EU institutions including the European Aviation Safety Agency and European drug agencies and will accept the rules and costs of these institutions.

The hope is that as Britain firmly leaves the EU, it will establish a new partnership with the EU at the same time.

The white paper sets out a blueprint for the so-called "soft Brexit." Britain may formally leave the EU, but in essence will still maintain most of the substantive relations with the EU, especially in

trade and economic fields.

What enlightenment does the Brexit white paper provide for the understanding of the "trade war" launched by the Trump administration? First of all, "soft Brexit" is a big compromise on "de-globalization," which suggests that British politicians are aware of the high cost of "economic nationalism" and, to a certain extent, have given up the policy of "throwing the baby out with the bathwater."

Like Brexit, the United States' trade war is actually just a break from the existing international governance system and arrangements. By contrast, Britain has already compromised on the issue of Brexit. Will the United States follow with compromise in the trade war?

The answer depends on how many people in the United States support the Trump administration's "trade war" proposal. America will hold its mid-term elections in November this year, which will test how much domestic support there is for Trump's "trade war." Before the elections, unfortunately, the Trump administration is betting with the livelihoods of people across the United States and around the world, hoping to win American voters by attacking its trading partners.


If most people in the United States end up supporting the "trade



war” of the Trump administration, the United States will likely refuse to compromise with China and the EU and continue to wage the “trade war” until its trading partners make concessions.

If Trump’s Republican Party makes no breakthroughs or even fails in the mid-term elections, although the Trump administration is dissatisfied with Britain’s soft retreat, its “trade war” strategy will gradually move towards compromise.

Presently, the Trump administration has failed to resume trade negotiations with other trading partners such as China, but continues to intensify the “trade war.” However, because American producers and consumers are already feeling adverse effects of the “trade war,” some members of the Trump administration have shown new signs of willingness to compromise. For example, at a hearing of the Financial Service Forum on July 13, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin stated that the additional tariffs imposed by the United States on Chinese goods was only a trade dispute, not a “trade war.” He predicted China and the United States will resume trade negotiations, but only on the prerequisite that the Chinese government is willing to make major adjustments.

Of course, the situation is not so simple that Britain’s “soft Brexit” could inspire the end of the U.S. trade war. If trade disputes are not worth the gain or “economic patriotism” is not applauded, the Trump administration will return to the negotiating table. Before that time, China needs to prepare for future negotiations with the Trump administration. 

The author is a professor of international relations at the Ocean University of China.

## 超算皇冠

### Computing Champion

Edited by Li Zhuoxi



August 5, 2018: The Sunway E-class prototype begins operation at China’s National Supercomputer Center in Jinan, capital of Shandong Province. Xinhua

An E-class computer capable of making tens of billions of calculations per second will become the “next reigning supercomputer.” Countries including the United States and Japan have proposed development of such a computer, and China has listed it as a major technology development strategy.

On August 5, 2018, after more than two years of painstaking efforts, China’s independently

developed Sunway E-class prototype computer officially began operation at the National Supercomputer Center in Jinan, capital of Shandong Province.

Core devices such as processors, network chipsets, storage and management systems are all made in China. Six applications of the prototype were selected for the Gordon Bell Award, the “Nobel Prize of supercomputing.”

For the first time, the Sunway E-class prototype computer established an artificial intelligence (AI) software ecological chain on a Chinese-made supercomputer. Based on Sunway deep learning library and framework, it features a large-scale AI application for game systems, medical image recognition and machine translation—in which it leads the world in terms of data size, parallel computing and training speed.

So far, the Sunway E-class prototype computer has completed 35 major computing tasks in 12 fields including global climate change, oceanic numerical simulation, biomedical simulation, big data processing and brain-like intelligence.

Future application prospects are broad. For example, it could upgrade the accuracy of weather forecasting from kilometers to meters to even predict the weather conditions of a specific stadium. In the field of medical R&D, it can help shorten the development cycle for new drugs to a few weeks from a few years, which would minimize the cost of new drugs.

## 国际商事法庭

### International Commercial Court

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

In late June, the Supreme People’s Court of China (SPCC) officially established two international commercial courts, one in Shenzhen and the other in Xi’an, to handle cross-border commercial disputes.

Over the past five years, more than 140 countries and regions have actively responded to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road programs, or the Belt and Road Initiative, introduced by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Construction of the Belt and Road Initiative involves a large number of multinational commercial activities. Consequently, it is important to create a stable and predictable business environment based on rule of law.


Recently, the SPCC and the Central Leading Group for Deepening Overall Reform jointly held a meeting to review and pass the *Opinions on Establishing the Belt and Road International Commercial Dispute Settlement Mechanism and Institutions*, which set basic principles, specific



June 29, 2018: The Supreme People’s Court of China officially launches international commercial courts—one in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, and the other in Xi’an, Shaanxi Province—to handle cross-border commercial disputes. Xinhua

programs and organizational guarantees including the establishment of international commercial courts.

The SPCC will also organize an Experts Committee for International Commercial Affairs featuring experts and scholars from China and countries along the Belt and Road.

Currently, the SPCC is drafting the standards and procedures for the Experts Committee and clarifying operational mechanisms of the committee. The new mechanism does not conflict with the existing institutions, but only provides more options. 



# Home Sweet Homes

Text by Michael C. Hilliard

*Parts of my heart belong to both countries. I want to see both places continue to develop and overcome their respective challenges.*

**R**ecently I took a trip back home to the United States.

For almost four years, I had been living and working in Xi'an in western China, only taking short trips to other locations in China or sometimes other places in Southeast Asia. Why so long without a trip home? Well, during my first two years in China I worked as a teacher at a high school. Working there gave me plenty of time off during summer holidays, but not much of a budget for travel. After I switched to my current job at a software company, where I do English language and Western culture training, I had more money, but less time off to use it. When I heard that one of my nephews was starting to wonder whether I might have died, I realized I had been away for too long. Besides, I had been dating my Chinese girlfriend for about a year and a half, so we figured it was time for her and my family to meet and spend some time

together on the same continent.

So, with money saved, plans made and tickets purchased, we packed our bags and took a whirlwind, two-week trip to the other side of the world.

I was curious about how it would feel to finally return home. Would it be familiar or strange? I had heard stories of reverse culture shock, where people who have lived abroad for many years return home and find it difficult to adjust, so I wondered what it would be like for me. After all, living in a different culture can give you a new sense of normalcy.

As it turned out, the thing that felt most strange was speaking English in public! After years of using Chinese to order food, excuse myself and ask for directions, it felt odd to use English and hear everyone around me doing the same. Often I would open my mouth, find Chinese words on the tip of my tongue and have to mentally switch

languages.

But aside from minor linguistic whiplash, the trip got me thinking a lot about what's similar and different between life in China and the U.S. Because my girlfriend went with me, she was able to add her perspective.

Any sort of comprehensive or in-depth comparison of life in China and the U.S. would take years of research. Instead, I took a quick snapshot of a few things that stood out during our trip.

## More Trees in the U.S.

One thing we couldn't help but notice was the air and water quality in the U.S. Everywhere we went was filled with blue skies in the daytime and a clear view of the stars at night. The waters of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior were impossibly blue and crystal clear. Every sunset was spectacular.

We were impressed by the sheer number and diversity of trees and plants we saw. My girlfriend said everywhere we went felt like a park or a garden. We couldn't say for sure, but it felt to us like the U.S. has a lot more trees than China. When we got back, I looked up some statistics on forestation. A study published in the journal *Nature* confirmed our suspicions: While both countries have a lot of trees (well over 100 billion each), the U.S. is estimated to have about 90 billion more trees than China, and is much more tree-dense, with about 10,000



The author and his girlfriend enjoy wine tasting at a vineyard on Old Mission Peninsula near the author's hometown in Michigan, U.S.A. courtesy of the author





August 27, 2018: A train for the Line 9 and Line 10 of the metro in northeastern China's Shenyang City. VCG

more trees per square kilometer. So, in terms of trees at least, it seems the views really are greener in many parts of the U.S. With that said, China has been making big strides to plant trees and find ways to fight pollution, so the country may be on its way to a much greener future.

### Better Public Transportation in China

In the U.S. we did a lot of driving.

Kayakers on Lake Huron in Michigan, U.S.A. courtesy of the author



In fact, after picking up our rental car in Chicago, we put over 2,000 miles on it—nearly enough to drive from one coast of the U.S. to the other. All the time spent on the road got us thinking about the ways people get around in China and the U.S.

In recent years, a tsunami of competing dockless bike-sharing services has swept across China, bringing a new wave of convenient commuting to millions of urban dwellers. Bike-sharing services have helped reduce congestion on other forms of public transportation in Chinese metropolises, not to mention reducing vehicle emissions and promoting exercise. The bike-sharing start-up trend becomes so popular that many cities are currently drowning in a surplus of bikes from different companies waging war with each other—so much so that bikes are occasionally found piled up on sidewalks and street corners. Municipal governments in China are working hard on the issue and will likely be able to find better


equilibrium in the near future.

Although some U.S. cities such as Chicago have excellent public transportation options, much of America is built for driving. As a result, people and places are more spread out, and many cities tend to offer poorer public transportation and are much less “walkable” than is often the case in China. In much of China, it’s easy to go to work, buy groceries, take a trip to the mall or go out to eat simply by walking or using public transportation. Though at times the buses and trains can be crowded, it’s still a cheap and effective way to get around. In the U.S., all those things tend to be harder to do unless you have a car to drive yourself.

For me, driving generally felt a little less cutthroat in the U.S., and traffic rules seemed more strictly enforced than in China. At the same time, I would say China’s public transportation options are often better and cheaper, and its cities tend to be more pedestrian-friendly. Ultimately, we felt that both countries have pluses and minuses in terms of getting around.

When my girlfriend and I talk about these and other issues to try to see past our differences, we often found more in common than we thought, even if the methods we use to try to reach them sometimes look quite different.

Parts of my heart belong to both countries. I want to see both places continue to develop and overcome their respective challenges. China and the U.S. have a lot to offer to each other and the world, and there’s a lot we can learn from each other if we try.

We each have a lot to share, so let’s keep the conversations going. 

The author is a senior training specialist at Objectiva Software Solutions.

# Deeper into Financial Reform

Text by Wang Chaoyang

*China is reforming its financial sector to better serve the real economy.*

China's economy is transforming from high-speed growth to high-quality development. The financial sector needs corresponding adjustment. To build a modern economy, synergetic development of the real economy, scientific and technological innovation, modern finance and human resources are required. Modern financial systems are a necessary facet of any modern economy. Today, China is reforming its financial sector for better development of the real economy and tighter control of financial risks.

## Serving the Real Economy

Finance is a lifeline for the real economy, and the two are tightly intermingled. Past experience shows that if development of the financial industry diverges from that of the real economy in the long term and to a great extent, development won't be sustainable, and the result will always be large accumulations of risks that ultimately explode into a crisis. Over the last two years, financial problems of "distraction from the real economy," "idle funds" and "internal circulation" have emerged in China's economy. The most outstanding problem is a startling contrast between the high-speed growth in the financial sector and the contraction in manufacturing. A large volume of funds circulating within the financial system remain reluctant to get into the real economy, which stretches the



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Visitors in an exhibition hall of Ant Financial in Hangzhou in southeastern China. On June 8, 2018, Ant Financial announced another round of financing of US\$14 billion, which will mainly be used to improve Alipay and its partners' ability to provide inclusive financial services for global customers and small and micro businesses. VCG



credit chain of finance to serve the real economy, raises the financing cost of manufacturing enterprises and makes financial services less available.

To make finance better serve the real economy, improvements should be made in methods of macro control, patterns of financial services, and strategies for finance to better fulfil its function. One major task is handling the relationship between direct financing and indirect financing. Direct financing should be given greater priority. A couple of years ago, the proportion of direct financing by non-financial enterprises increased considerably. Direct financing in aggregate financing to the real economy accounted for 24 percent in 2015 and 23.82 percent in 2016. Influenced by changes in the financial market, however, the proportion of direct financing plummeted in 2017. Bond financing and non-financial corporations' domestic equity financing accounted for only 2.3 percent and

4.5 percent, respectively. Promoting direct financing aims not only to de-leverage and lower corporate costs, but also to promote innovation-driven development. Regulatory authorities have implemented new measures such as releasing innovation bonds and green bonds, urging National Equities Exchange and Quotations (NEEQ) and ChiNext to offer more services for emerging industries and businesses, and enacting regulations encouraging equity incentive.

### Promoting Financial Regulation

In recent years, considerable financial innovations such as internet finance have swept across China. Due to past restrictions on regulation, issues such as loopholes, conflicts of interest and arbitrage have been chronic and persistent. Financial risks in small scale have repeatedly broken out. In response, the Financial Stability and Development Committee under the State Council of China was organized in

July 2017 to strengthen planning and coordination of regulation and provide institutional guarantee for preventing systemic financial risks. In April 2018, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission was founded, ending the old regulatory system comprised of the People's Bank of China and three regulatory commissions respectively for banking, insurance and securities. This measure has eliminated considerable conflicts of interest in regulation. It is conducive to better preventing and eliminating financial risks, protecting the legitimate rights of financial customers and safeguarding the stability of the financial sector.

In the future, regulation on financial function and conduct will be highlighted. Regulation on function focuses on the activities of finance instead of on financial

institutions, which means that financial services, regardless of the form or institution providing them, so long as they have the same function, will follow the same rules. Although names of financial institutions vary, functions of those organizations are relatively stable and mainly consist of payment and settlement, collecting money, allocating resources across time, space and industries, risk management, price discovery and reducing information asymmetry. Conduct regulation is supplementary financial regulation from another perspective. It focuses on whether a specific conduct of an organization or individual involved in financial activities complies with the rules. In practice, factors such as fraud, exorbitant interest rates, highly complex financial derivatives, ignorant and fearless customers and lack of effective regulation all

contribute to faster accumulation of risks. Implementation of conduct regulation can greatly ease the situation.

### **Deepening Financial Reform**

Presently, China's financial reform on the macro level focuses on financial organizations, and the goal is to improve the structure of modern financial enterprises and corporate governance structure. Modern enterprise structure features transparent ownerships, clear rights and responsibilities, separation of government functions from enterprise management and scientific management, among which the principle of transparent ownerships is core. Consequently, optimizing shareholder structure in financial institutions has become a fundamental task of financial reform. Typical corporate governance

On April 8, 2018, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission was founded in Beijing, ending the old regulatory system comprised of the People's Bank of China and three regulatory commissions respectively for banking, insurance and securities. VCG








On July 12, 2017, Hunan GOKE Micro-electronics Joint Stock Co., Ltd. went public at ChiNext of Shenzhen Stock Exchange. It was the 2,000th company to be listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange. VCG

structure demands a sound relationship between shareholders, board of directors, managers and other stakeholders. It also requires effective incentive and restraint mechanisms, internal control mechanisms, risk management mechanisms and external supervision mechanisms.

At the macro level, the core of financial reform is streamlining institutions and systems including the interest rate liberalization mechanism, the RMB exchange rate formation mechanism and the goal and sequence of opening up of the financial sector. The removal

of restrictions on RMB deposit rates symbolized that interest rate marketization has completed nominally. But full interest rate liberalization needs to be built on a benchmark interest rate mechanism and an interest rate transmission and regulation mechanism, through which the price of funds can be determined by the market, ensuring the market plays the decisive role in allocation of resources. Momentum for reform is always created through opening up, which is a core experience of China's development. The RMB exchange rate formation

mechanism, capital account convertibility and RMB internationalization are three major targets for China's financial opening up. What are the relations between them? There is no established precedent for a big developing nation like China. So, China needs to continue its careful exploration and move forward steadily. 

The author is an associate research fellow with the National Academy of Economic Strategy under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.





FEATURES

# A New Day for China-Africa Cooperation

Concept by China Pictorial

*The 2018 Beijing Summit  
of the FOCAC is expected  
to draw a new blueprint for  
future cooperation between  
China and Africa.*






The Brazzaville Sports Center in the Republic of the Congo was built by China State Construction Engineering Corporation. It covers an area of 350,000 square meters, with 60,055 seats in its main stadium. by Wang Teng/Xinhua

The 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will be held from September 3 to 4. Themed “China and Africa: Toward an Even Stronger Community with a Shared Future through Win-Win Cooperation,” the summit will gather Chinese and African leaders in Beijing to discuss new plans for cooperation in the new era.

On the morning of September 3, the High-level Dialogue of China-Africa Leaders and Business Representatives and the opening ceremony of the 6th Conference of the Chinese and African Entrepreneurs will be held. In the afternoon, Chinese President Xi Jinping will deliver a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 2018 FOCAC Beijing Summit, where he is expected to announce new ideas and proposals to strengthen China-Africa relations and new plans and measures to expand China-Africa cooperation.

On September 4, President Xi and his South African counterpart Cyril Ramaphosa will preside over the Chinese-African leaders’ roundtable meeting. The summit is expected to adopt a Beijing Declaration on building even stronger ties between China and Africa to create a shared future. It will also feature a three-year action plan for 2019 to 2021.

Since its inception in 2000, the FOCAC has evolved into a model of South-South cooperation and a banner of international cooperation with Africa. Amid drastic changes in the global situation, how China and Africa seize opportunities and stride together towards win-win cooperation and common development is worth pondering over and noticing. The 2018 Beijing Summit of the FOCAC is expected to draw a new blueprint for future cooperation between China and Africa. 

# The New Face of China-Africa Relations

Text by Zhang Chun

*Africa ranks first among China's "sincere partners and reliable friends."*

The Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) scheduled for September will be the third summit of the forum since its inception in 2000. It will mark the first time that two FOCAC summits are held consecutively, following the Johannesburg Summit in 2015. Even before its opening, the Beijing Summit has drawn global attention and in particular, inspired African countries.

Expectations for FOCAC, to a large extent, stem from three major factors.

The foremost factor, which is also most frequently cited, is that FOCAC has driven the rapid development of China-Africa relations since its inception. Over the past 18 years, the annual trade volume between China and Africa multiplied 17 times, from US\$10 billion in 2000 to US\$170 billion in 2017, while China's investment in Africa rose to US\$40 billion from almost nothing. Alongside such directly visible achievements, China-Africa

cooperation has also created significant and far-reaching strategic and theoretical results.

To a large extent, FOCAC can promote rapid development of China-Africa cooperation because of its stability and predictability—the most important assets in a world full of uncertainties. Of all cooperation mechanisms related to Africa globally, FOCAC is one of only a few to operate on schedule for nearly 20 years. For instance, the EU-Africa Summit, launched in 2000, didn't convene its second meeting until 2007 and missed one in-between. The latest Korea-Africa Forum, which was planned for May 2014, was postponed more than two years to December 2016. The latest India-Africa Forum Summit and Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forum were both delayed more than a year. Despite the multiple cooperation mechanisms between the United States and Africa, the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit was only held once in 2014. Since its inception in 2000, FOCAC has been

held once every three years in addition to relevant meetings of foreign ministers and other high-ranking officials and coordination conferences on action plans implementation. FOCAC's high-degree stability and predictability have provided a sound strategic and policy environment for cooperation.

The second factor driving FOCAC's success is that China provides an alternative option for African countries to solve their practical problems. In the first half of the 20th century, China's national liberation movement set an example for the national independence of African countries. For this reason, founding leaders of the People's Republic of China such as Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai







September 6, 1963: Chairman Mao Zedong meets with members of the visiting Kenya African National Union (KANU) delegation.  
by Liu Qingrui/Xinhua



1969: A Chinese medical team provides medical services for local herders in the Sahara in Algeria. Since China dispatched its first medical aid team to Africa in 1963, Chinese medical aid workers have treated millions of patients and trained tens of thousands of medical workers in over 50 African countries and regions. Xinhua



December 19, 1967: Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai meets a delegation from the Tanganyika African National Union from Tanzania.  
by Liu Jianguo/Xinhua





September 18, 1974: Then-Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and other officials inspect the Chambishi River Bridge of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway. The 1,860-kilometer-long Tanzania-Zambia Railway was one of the major projects aided by China in Africa during the 1970s. Xinhua

established profound and intimate friendships with African leaders like Kwame Nkrumah, Kenneth Kaunda and Julius Nyerere. Such historical connections laid a solid cornerstone for contemporary China-Africa cooperation. As a rule, more interactions trigger more frictions. However, it is such emotional connection that puts the brakes on the negative factors of China-Africa cooperation and prevents frictions from escalating. Statistics released by the Pew Research Center show that most African countries' favorability towards China remained above 60 percent throughout the entire decade from 2007 to 2017.

Today, China has set a new example for Africa with its development experience and achievements;

#### African Countries' Favorability towards China 2007-2017

							
	Nigeria	Senegal	Tanzania	Tunisia	Kenya	Ghana	South Africa
2007			70%		81%	75%	
2008			71%				37%
2009					73%		
2010	76%				86%		
2011					71%		
2012				69%			
2013	76%	77%		63%	78%	67%	48%
2014	70%	71%	77%	64%	74%	61%	45%
2015	70%	70%	74%		70%	80%	52%
2016	63%				57%		41%
2017	72%	64%	63%	63%	54%	49%	45%

Source: Pew Research Center, "Opinion of China," Global Indicator Database, 2002-2017; designed by Andrey Mailev

a “great reversal” has been happening between China and Africa since the adoption of the reforming and opening-up policy. In 1978, China’s nominal GDP was about US\$149.5 billion, and that of Sub-Saharan Africa was US\$180.6 billion, including US\$46.7 billion of South Africa, US\$36.5 billion of Nigeria and US\$5.3 billion of Kenya. China’s GDP had multiplied 81 times since to reach US\$12 trillion by the end of 2017, much more than that of the entire African continent, let alone any single African country.

The same happened in terms of per capita GDP. In 1978, China’s per capita GDP was only US\$156.4, much lower than US\$1,651.6 of South Africa, US\$527.1 of Nigeria and US\$351.6 of Kenya. The Chinese figure was less than one-third of the average of Sub-Saharan Africa (which stayed at US\$495.4). But now, China has overtaken all African countries, with its per capita GDP increasing to US\$8,827 by the end of 2017, while the figure is US\$6,160.7 in South Africa, US\$1,968.6 in Nigeria, US\$1,507.8 in Kenya, and US\$1,553.8 on average in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This change verified the report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China: As socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, China is blazing a “new trail for other developing countries to achieve modernization” and offers a “new option for other countries and nations who want to speed up their development while preserving their independence.”

The third major factor driving FOCAC is that Africa is a top priority of China’s diplomacy and has become strategically important for China. From the perspective of China-Africa relations, China’s diplomacy has roughly undergone

three stages in which Africa’s role evolved in ties between China and other parts of the world. Africa occupied a core position in the first stage and is playing a key role in the current third stage. The first stage extended from the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949 until the adoption of the reform and opening-up policy in the late 1970s. During the period, the Cold War set the main tone of the world order, and China chose to stand on the side of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, adopting a diplomatic policy of “cleaning up the house before inviting guests” (meaning it needed to clear out the remnants of imperialist forces in the country to pave the way for building equal diplomatic relations with countries around the world). After Sino-Soviet relations

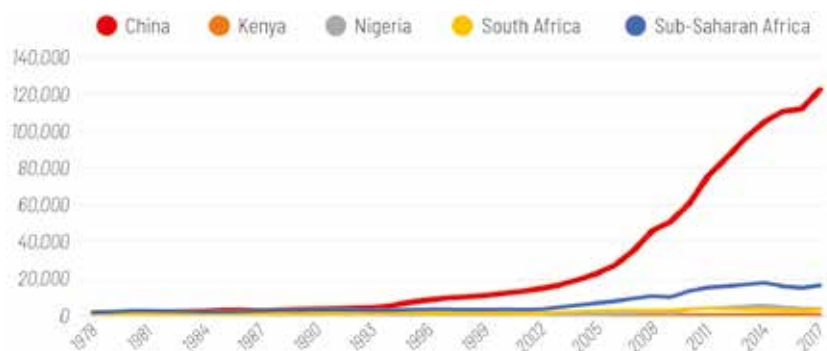


Figure 1: GDP Growth of China and African Countries, 1978-2017

Source: World Bank Database; designed by Andrey Maleev

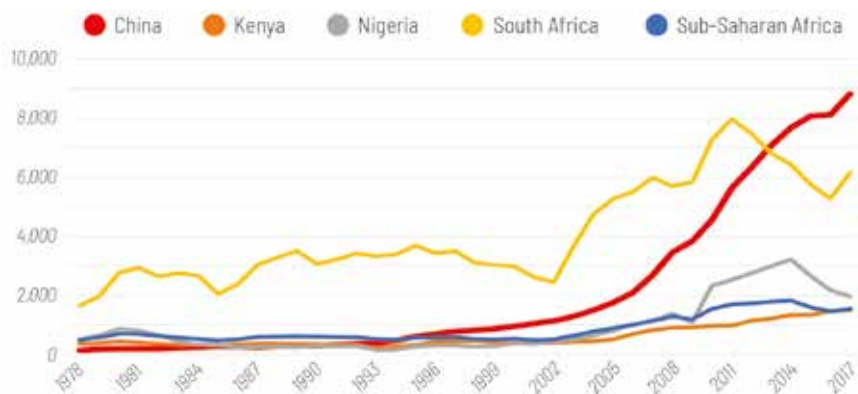


Figure 2: Per Capita GDP Growth of China and African Countries, 1978-2017

Source: World Bank Database; designed by Andrey Maleev





1 The Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway linking Ethiopia and Djibouti is the first modern electrified railway in Africa. Built by Chinese enterprises, it officially began operation on January 1, 2018. by Sun Ruibo/Xinhua

2 December 10, 2014: Chinese doctors teach local medical workers infusion techniques at the China-Sierra Leone Friendship Hospital in Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone. by Dai Xin/Xinhua

3 July 24, 2018: Ma Xu, a railway worker from China Railway Jinan Group, instructs a Kenyan student on installing bolts. by Zhu Zheng/Xinhua



soured, Africa became the top priority for China's diplomacy. The second stage started from the late 1970s and lasted until 2000, during which China placed priority on its relations with developed countries, in a bid to achieve a "rise through imitating" under the framework of international system. As China's development entered a higher level, imitating developed economies could not solve emerging challenges to realize sustainable development. Meanwhile, developed countries became highly skeptical of China's "rise through innovation" under the

framework of international system. In this context, China's diplomacy entered the third stage, during which the strategic importance of developing countries rebounded. At the 2018 central conference on diplomatic work, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that developing countries are China's natural partners in international affairs and that China should take the moral high ground by working to benefit and promote solidarity and cooperation among developing countries. Undoubtedly, Africa ranks first among China's "sincere partners and

reliable friends." It is needless to say that Africa and FOCAC are of great importance to China's diplomacy.

These three factors have not only guaranteed the successful operation of FOCAC over the past 18 years, but also laid a solid foundation for its future sustainable development. As China's development enters a new era, China-Africa cooperation is also reaching a higher level. The key to China-Africa cooperation in this new era is to seize on the three factors fueling FOCAC. We must earnestly provide a new option for Africa while deeply understanding Africa's strategic importance to China. 

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# Win-win Cooperation: Sincerity, Real Results, Affinity and Good Faith

## Ten Major China-Africa Cooperation Plans for 2016-2018

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

Designed by Andrey Maleev

China is the largest developing country and Africa is the continent with the largest number of developing countries—a dynamic which promotes a natural closeness and attraction between the two sides. In March 2013, Xi Jinping paid his first visit to Africa as the president of China. He called for building relations with Africa based on sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith while upholding justice and pursuing shared interests, which charted the course for the development of Sino-African ties in the new era.

In December 2015, the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) co-chaired by President Xi Jinping and his South African counterpart Jacob Zuma deliberated on and adopted the *Johannesburg Action Plan (2016-2018)*, announcing that in the next three years, China would focus on promoting Africa's industrialization and agricultural modernization. Over the following three years, most of the ten cooperation plans between China and Africa have been completed ahead of schedule. [EP](#)

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM CHINA

To ensure smooth implementation of its ten cooperation plans with Africa, China has committed to providing a total of **US\$60 billion** of financial support, through which it will:

Set up a China-Africa production capacity cooperation fund with an initial pledge of **US\$10 billion**.

Expand the China-Africa Development Fund and the Special Loans to Support Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in Africa by **US\$5 billion each**.

Provide **US\$5 billion** of free assistance and interest-free loans.

Offer African countries **US\$35 billion** of loans of concessional nature on more favorable terms and export credit lines.

**US\$60 billion**



# TEN MAJOR COOPERATION PLANS FOR 2016-2018

## INFRASTRUCTURE COOPERATION



Strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in infrastructure planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance.

Encourage Chinese businesses and financial institutions to expand investment to support African countries in their efforts to build railroads, highways, regional airports, seaports, electrical infrastructure, water supply, information and communication and other projects.

Support African countries in establishing five transportation universities.

## FINANCIAL COOPERATION

Enhance cooperation in currency exchange and encourage both Chinese and African enterprises to invest and trade in local currencies.

Encourage and support Chinese and African financial institutions to open more branches in respective countries.

Enhance cooperation in financial services to provide financial support for the industrialization and modernization of Africa.



## GREEN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



China supports Africa in enhancing green, low-carbon and sustainable development, while never sacrificing long-term interests and the environments of their host countries for short-term gains.

China will support Africa in implementing 100 clean energy and wildlife protection projects, environmentally friendly agricultural projects and smart city construction projects.

## POVERTY ALLEVIATION COOPERATION

Mobilize resources including non-governmental organizations to implement 200 "Happy Life" projects and poverty reduction programs focusing on women and children in Africa.

Exempt outstanding intergovernmental interest-free loans due by the end of 2015 owed by least-developed countries in Africa.



## INDUSTRIAL PARTNERING AND COOPERATION



Actively promote industrial partnering and capacity cooperation between China and Africa and encourage Chinese enterprises to invest in Africa.

Jointly establish or upgrade a number of industrial parks.

China will send senior government experts and consultants to African countries.



Establish a number of regional vocational education centers and colleges for capacity building in Africa, train 200,000 local African vocational and technical personnel and provide Africa with 40,000 training opportunities in China.

## AGRICULTURE MODERNIZATION

China is willing to share its experience in agricultural development with Africa and conduct a technology transfer.

China will encourage and support Chinese enterprises to invest in agriculture in Africa and implement cooperation projects focusing on technical support in grain planting, animal husbandry, storage and agro-processing capacity while assisting Africa to increase employment and income.

China will help African countries implement the project "Agriculture Leads to Prosperity" in 100 African villages, send 30 teams of senior agriculture experts and teachers to provide vocational education to African countries and establish the "10+10" cooperative mechanism among China-Africa agro-science research institutions.

China is highly concerned about African countries suffering from the impact of the El Niño effect which results in poor grain harvest, so it will provide African countries with 1 billion yuan of emergency food assistance.



## TRADE AND INVESTMENT FACILITATION COOPERATION

China will implement 50 trade-promotion assistant programs.

China is willing to discuss free trade agreements including trade, services and investment cooperation to expand the scale of African products exported to China, with African countries and regional organizations.

Alongside African countries, China will establish cooperation mechanisms on customs, inspection and quarantine standards as well as verification, certification and administration of imports and exports to promote bilateral trade facilitation, enhance law-enforcement cooperation and conduct e-commerce cooperation.





## PUBLIC HEALTH COOPERATION



China will assist Africa in developing public health systems and policies, including the construction of an African Union Disease Control Center and regional medical research centers.



China will support cooperation between 20 hospitals in China and Africa from each side on demonstration projects to upgrade hospital departments.



China will continue to send medical teams to Africa, including short-term medical teams consisting of clinical experts, and conduct "Brightness Action" surgeries and other short-term free medical services in Africa.

China will provide Africa with doses of anti-malaria compound artemisinin.

## CULTURAL COOPERATION

Help build five cultural centers in Africa.

Help implement satellite TV projects in 10,000 villages in Africa.

Offer 2,000 degree education opportunities in China and 30,000 government scholarships to African countries.

Invite 200 African scholars to visit China each year and 500 young Africans to China on study trips each year.

Train 1,000 African media professionals each year.

Expand cooperation in tourism to encourage the opening of more direct air routes and tourism investment.



## PEACE AND SECURITY COOPERATION



China will provide the African Union with US\$60 million of free military assistance over the next three years and support the operationalization of the African Capacity for the Immediate Response to Crisis and the African Standby Force.



China will continue to play an active role in UN peacekeeping missions in Africa.


China will support African countries to strengthen capacity in national defense, anti-terrorism, riot prevention, customs supervision and immigration control.

*Note: Data in this article was compiled from the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Johannesburg Action Plan (2016-2018) in 2015.*

# Belt and Road Initiative Driving China-Africa Cooperation

Edited by Li Yiqi

Under their existing cooperation framework, China and Africa ushered in a golden period of accelerated cooperation after the inception of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2000. After the Belt and Road Initiative was introduced in 2013, China-Africa cooperation was transformed and upgraded simultaneously. In 2018, China-Africa cooperation has once again reached a critical period for future development.

As more and more African countries have reached agreements with China to jointly promote the Belt and Road Initiative, an increasing number of cooperation projects are steadily advancing and expanding. China-Africa cooperation in the new era. This not only injects new impetus into Africa's future development, but also expands possibilities for close coordination between the Belt and Road Initiative and the African Union's Agenda 2063. 

## ETHIOPIA & DJIBOUTI



**The Addis Ababa Light Rail**, which opened to traffic in the second half of 2015, is the first modern urban light railroad in East Africa. It alleviates traffic congestion, enables residents to travel more efficiently and enriches the city's function, making the rail a national "calling card" of Ethiopia.

**The Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway** is the first electric railway in Africa. It was constructed according to Chinese standards and design, using Chinese funding, equipment and engineering supervision. It has been praised as a "transportation lifeline" connecting Ethiopia and Djibouti. The railway has a total length of 752.7 kilometers, and the designed speed for passenger transport is up to 120 kilometers per hour. With a total investment of about US\$4 billion, the railway began operation in October 2016.

## NIGERIA

**The Abuja-Kaduna Railway** spans 186.5 kilometers, with nine stations along the route and a maximum designed speed of 150 kilometers per hour. The railway started operation in July 2016. It is the first modern railway in Africa to be financed by preferential loans from the Export-Import Bank of China and built according to the technical standards of the Chinese railway.



## KENYA



**The Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway** has opened to traffic since June 2017 and links Mombasa, the largest port in East Africa, to Nairobi, capital of Kenya. With a total length of 480 kilometers, it was the first overseas railway built by China that adopted comprehensive Chinese standards, as well as a demonstration project under the Belt and Road Initiative in Africa.





## UGANDA

The **Entebbe-Kampala Expressway** opened to traffic in June 2018 as the first toll expressway in Uganda, which was designed and constructed according to Chinese standards.



## EGYPT



The **Egyptian EETC 500 KV Transmission Line project** was the first project under a China-Egypt industrial capacity agreement. It is also Egypt's largest and highest-voltage electricity transmission line project. Construction of the project started in February 2017 and continues today.



## SOUTH AFRICA

China has been the biggest trading partner and major source of foreign investment and tourists for South Africa for nine consecutive years, while South Africa is the largest African trading partner of China. China has invested in and cooperated with over 100 South African companies with cumulative direct investments exceeding **US\$15 billion**.

In 2017, China invested nearly **US\$1.83 billion** in South Africa and bilateral trading volume reached **US\$39 billion**. China-funded enterprises have created over 100,000 jobs in South Africa in sectors like mining, steel, cement, automobiles and household appliances.

The **Johannesburg branch of the Bank of China** is the first China-funded financial institution to settle in South Africa.

On May 28, the 2018 China-South Africa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Investment Roadshow was held in Shanghai. As a platform designed to help Chinese enterprises invest in South Africa, it further promoted mutual investment and business cooperation between China and South Africa.



## SENEGAL



Senegal was the first West African country to sign a Belt and Road cooperation document with China. Both nations will strengthen communication and cooperation in fields like infrastructure, water conservancy, industrialization, agricultural product processing, tourism, culture and sports.

China has pledged 884.9 billion FCFA for the **Plan Senegal Emergent**, becoming the biggest funding source for the plan.



## RWANDA

China is one of Rwanda's largest sources of direct foreign investment. Over the past 12 years, China has invested in **61** projects in Rwanda, involving over **US\$400 million**, of which **US\$352.6 million** are direct investments.

From July 22 to 23, 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping signed 15 bilateral agreements during his state visit to Rwanda, including an agreement on visa-free access for diplomatic passports, cooperation agreements under the Belt and Road Initiative and a cooperation agreement on e-commerce. China and Rwanda also agreed to conduct joint geological exploration and carry out a series of infrastructure construction projects.



# China-Africa Cooperation Pushes Forward Industrialization in Africa

Text by He Wenping

*Production capacity cooperation between China and Africa conforms to the developmental needs of both sides.*

At the recently concluded 10th BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, the theme “BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution” was produced. This makes references to key words including “industrial revolution” and “Africa’s industrialization.” Can Africa become the world’s future factory? Can Africa transform its resource endowment into “made in Africa” developmental advantages? What role will China-Africa cooperation play in the continent’s industrialization? These are vital questions related to Africa’s future development.

## Vision and Action

Clearly, industrialization is an important foundation for a country’s modernization as well as the inevitable course a country must take to promote economic development. Africa, home to abundant natural resources and gifted with a demographic advantage, is undergoing a long industrialization process full of twists and turns. After suffering chronic colonial rule and a lack of

economic structural diversity, industrialization in most African countries continues to lag and remains at basic levels. Africa’s industrial output accounts for less than 3 percent of the world’s total. Although the continent is still in the early stages of industrialization, many African countries set industrialization as an important economic goal when they first achieved independence. African leaders aspire to escape economic dependency on their former colonial masters, shift away from highly dependent economic structures and seize economic independence and autonomous development in the real sense.

In the 21st century, against the backdrop of economic globalization, African countries are taking actions to embrace and promote industrialization even more enthusiastically. In succession, African countries and the African Union have issued important documents on development strategies including *The New Partnership for Africa’s Development* (2001), *Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa* (2008), *Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa* (2013) and *African Agenda*

2063 (2013). Africa aims to realize major development during the 21st century through industrialization and economic integration.

## Fueling Development

Production capacity cooperation between China and Africa conforms to the developmental needs of both sides. A solid foundation for such cooperation has already been laid. After four decades since China started its reform and opening up, the country has entered the middle and late stages of industrialization, so it possesses development capital, appropriate technologies and equipment and abundant experience in transforming an agricultural country into a global factory. Because China is driving economic restructuring and upgrading to a deeper level, a large amount of production capacity and technology needs to be migrated. Most African countries, still at the initial stage of industrialization, are in great demand of products such as steel and cement. However, most of these products need to be imported. Consequently, these African countries would benefit greatly from taking production capacity from China to accelerate their respective industrialization processes. Conditions for historic China-Africa production capacity cooperation are ripe.

Governments and enterprises from both sides also strongly support and promote China-Africa production capacity cooperation. During their visits to Africa in 2013 and 2014, respectively, both Chinese President Xi Jinping and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang proposed development goals of “building three networks and promoting industrialization” for Africa. China will aid Africa’s construction of “three networks,” namely railway, highway and regional aviation networks, and help drive industrialization in Africa. African countries also expect to strengthen





The Mombasa-Nairobi railway connecting the Kenyan capital of Nairobi with the port city Mombasa began operation on May 31, 2017. Constructed by China Road and Bridge Corporation with a total investment of US\$3.8 billion, the 480-kilometer-long railway is the largest infrastructure project since Kenya gained independence in 1963. VCG

industrial cooperation with China as the latter has launched a new round of industrial restructuring. They hope to promote industrial development and realize technological progress by absorbing China's production capacity.

At the 2015 Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Chinese President Xi Jinping announced ten major cooperation plans with Africa, totaling US\$60 billion in funding support. The plans covered cooperation on industrialization, agricultural modernization, infrastructure, finance, green development, trade and investment facilitation, poverty reduction, public health, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, peace and security. Of these plans, China-Africa industrial cooperation, especially production capacity cooperation between China and Africa and the promotion of industrialization in Africa, was itemized most prominently. To ensure a successful implementation of the industrial cooperation plan, an initial contribution of US\$10 billion was designated for the China-Africa production capacity cooperation fund. An increase of US\$5 billion went to both the China-Africa Development Fund and the Special Loans to Support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Africa.

### Early Harvests

Thanks to tireless efforts in recent years, China-Africa

production capacity cooperation has already produced fruits. Since the 2006 Beijing Summit of FOCAC, China has established six economic and trade cooperation zones in five African countries: the Ethiopia-based Eastern Industry Zone, Lekki Free Trade Zone in Nigeria, Zambia-China Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone, Nigeria Ogun Guangdong Free Trade Zone, Mauritius Jinfei Economic Trade and Cooperation Zone and Suez Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone. Nearly 100 industrial parks jointly built by China and African countries are now either under construction or in operation in Africa. By the end of 2017, the total stock of Chinese investment in Africa exceeded US\$100 billion and 3,500-plus Chinese enterprises were investing and operating in Africa. These Chinese enterprises launched new projects in Africa, providing new space for the continent's development as well as for their own business transformation.

On January 27, 2015, China signed a memorandum of understanding with the African Union on infrastructure construction cooperation. According to the document, China would, within the framework of *African Agenda 2063*, enhance cooperation with African countries in fields such as railways, highways, regional aviation and industrialization as part of a bid to accelerate the

economic integration of Africa. Early progress has already been achieved in the first group of African countries including Tanzania and Ethiopia, which have carried out production capacity cooperation with China.

Tanzania presents a prime example. One of the first African countries to carry out production capacity cooperation with China, Tanzania signed a framework agreement with China on April 28, 2015. The core of Tanzania's current five-year development plan targets industrialization, with an eye on accomplishing connectivity on production capacity cooperation with China. In 2009, Tanzania began constructing export processing zones to attract foreign investment, expand exports, create jobs and enhance production technologies and economic management level by developing export-oriented industries. So far, 12 Chinese enterprises have settled in these export processing zones.

Two important sectors of China-Africa production capacity cooperation — infrastructure cooperation and industrial park construction — are rolling full-speed ahead in Africa today. China has helped Africa build many railways, including the Mombasa-Nairobi railway that connects the Kenyan capital of Nairobi with the port city Mombasa and the Ethiopia-Djibouti railway which links Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to the port of Djibouti, in addition to more railways now under construction in Angola and Nigeria. "The foundations we lay today will lead us to a new chapter of industrialization," declared Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta at the opening ceremony for the Mombasa-Nairobi railway on May 31, 2017. 

The author is a researcher with the Institute of West-Asian and African Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

# China-Africa Relations

## New and Improved “All-Weather Friendship”

Text by Xu Shuyuan

Uncredited photographs courtesy of Cheng Tao



Rainbow over Cape Town, South Africa. South Africa is one of the most industrialized countries in Africa and an upper-middle-income economy according to the World Bank. VCG

From director-general of the Department of African Affairs in China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Chinese ambassador to Mali and Morocco, Cheng Tao has dedicated over 30 years of his career to Africa. After his retirement, he opted out of the easy life in favor of continued engagement with diplomatic work. Consecutively, he served as vice president of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs,

director of the China International Studies Foundation, director of the African Research Center, and standing director of the Roundtable Conference on China-Africa Cooperation. He believes all his efforts work in concert with Chinese and African government diplomacy, strengthening people-to-people exchange between the two sides. In addition, such positions provide a stage for Cheng to express his affection for Africa and make his

contributions to China-Africa cooperation.

Today, he remains an active propeller for China-Africa communication. From time to time, Cheng Tao receives phone calls to discuss new Africa-related meetings, projects and lectures with various agencies. “I just work earnestly and diligently,” he says. “There is nothing magnificent about me. I did not write a very bold period, but I wrote it neatly.”



### “Ambassador to Africa”

In 1981, Cheng was working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China when he was dispatched to Gabon. This was the first time that he set foot on the African continent.

In those days, most Chinese people were still unfamiliar with Africa, and considered it a remote, mysterious and even undeveloped continent. When Africa was mentioned, people thought of negative traits such as “hot climate, rampant mosquitoes and flies, and diseases.” In fact, as early as 1982, Gabon’s per capita annual income exceeded US\$3,000, much higher than that of China, which stayed at only US\$194 back then. People in Gabon lived in comfort and happiness. Therefore, Cheng’s first impression of Africa was very positive.

In his subsequent days as a

diplomat, Cheng visited more than 40 African countries. Because he dealt with African affairs year-round, he became known as the “ambassador to Africa.” Over the years, he found Africa not entirely consistent with his original impression. Africa, he saw, is rich in resources and has a promising future. He was most impressed by five African countries: South Africa in the south of the continent, Morocco in the north, Mauritius in the east, Senegal in the west and Gabon in the middle.

Cheng noted that no one can forget South Africa. “South Africa’s economic output was the highest in Africa for quite a long time,” he explained. “The main reasons are that its policies align with its national conditions, and political stability and peaceful coexistence of all ethnic groups add to its charm.

Cheng Tao with local children in Morocco. The Moroccan children show great affection for China.



South Africa is also rich in natural resources and diverse in external relations.”

“One time, during President Xi Jinping’s visit to Africa, I led a delegation of 60 Chinese entrepreneurs to South Africa,” he recalled. “Unlike what most of those entrepreneurs expected of Africa, we didn’t see trash or graffiti anywhere in the streets. One day, pouring rain and lightning knocked out the traffic lights. But even without signals, traffic still flowed smoothly. We were all stunned by the scene.”

Morocco is a colorful country. Cheng likens it to a big tree. “It is deeply rooted in the land of Africa and absorbs its nutrients,” he illustrated. “However, its branches and leaves are bathed in the Arab sunshine and it breathes fresh air from Europe. It rests in Africa, but unlike a typical African country. It doesn’t grow in Europe, but is similar to a European country.” Morocco is an Arab country, but more open and democratic than its

peers. About 90 percent of Morocco’s nationals are Muslims, but they live in harmony with Jews and Christians. During foreign National Day receptions in Morocco, pork products and sausages can be served. “But they must add a picture of a pig on pork products to warn Muslims.”

Mark Twain once said, “Mauritius was made first, and then heaven; and heaven was copied after Mauritius.” Mauritius is often referred to as “Paradise Island.” Senegal is a small country with an area of about 200,000 square kilometers, but it is highly civilized. The World Bank’s *World Development Report 2018* ranked Senegal as one of the most successful reform models in Africa.

#### **China-Africa Relations: Stable and Growing**

Sino-African cooperation has a long history and a solid foundation. In the 1960s, many African countries sought independence from European colonialism. Nations

were becoming liberated and the people demanded revolution. In response to this trend, China chose to support African countries. “The Chinese people who stood up never forgot the African people who had yet to stand.” Cheng said. “China wanted to help pull them up, and that is exactly what we did.” China has provided a great deal of assistance to Africa in political, economic and even military realms, helping many countries on the continent achieve national independence and shake off the chains of colonization.

“Through its aid to the continent, China has won trust from African countries and consolidated its friendship with Africa. It is precisely because of the unity of developing countries that China was freed from imperialist blockade, embargo and isolation. On October 25, 1971, the African people ‘carried’ China into the United Nations. Since then, Africa has also strongly supported China in many

A beach near Tamarin Bay, Mauritius. Over the past 30 years, Mauritius has developed from a low-income economy based on agriculture to a middle-income diversified economy. Much of its economic growth has been the result of the expansion of the luxury tourism sector. VCG





relevant international affairs.”

Over the years, China-Africa cooperation has developed rapidly and achieved remarkable results. Cheng remarked that in recent years, if the relationship between the two sides changes, it will always be for the better. China has been Africa's largest trading partner for eight consecutive years. In 2000, Sino-African trade amounted to more than US\$10 billion, and the figure jumped to US\$170 billion in 2017, an increase of nearly 20 times in 18 years. In 2000, China's investment in Africa amounted to US\$1 billion, and the latest data shows that the number is now over US\$100 billion and has increased more than 100 fold.

At the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2015, China-Africa relations were further upgraded by proposals declaring that China and Africa should seek “equality and mutual trust in politics, win-win cooperation in economy, mutual learning in civilization, mutual assistance in security and unity and coordination in international affairs.” This is a comprehensive

Then-Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi (left) awards Cheng Tao for his outstanding work as a diplomat.



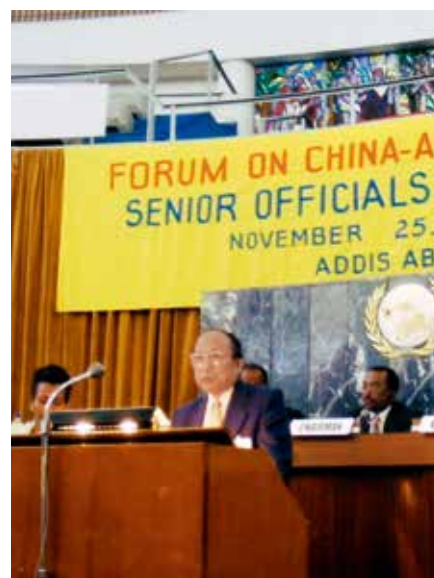
strategic partnership. “We are not only a community of shared interests—we must closely establish a community of shared future between China and Africa,” insisted Cheng. “That’s the way it used to be and how it will be in the future.”

### New Era, New Demands

Among various development concepts around the world, China and Africa share similar views and aspirations. Cheng cited the African proverb that “it is better to teach man to fish than to give him a fish.” This is exactly the same as the Chinese saying: “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” Africa now yearns for industrialization and agricultural modernization. African countries hope to learn from China's development experience and jointly explore development paths in line with national conditions. Cheng believes that in this regard, Sino-African cooperation will become a new highlight.

Cheng opined that the development experience gained by any country should be wealth shared by human society. “The Chinese people who have stood up should pull up their brothers and help Africa stand up. We are getting rich and are willing to help Africa get rich. We are getting stronger, and we hope that African countries will also become stronger. This is the real heart of building a community of shared future.”

Xi Jinping's report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that “the basic dimension of the Chinese context—that our country is still and will long remain in the primary stage of socialism—has not changed” and that “China's international status as the world's largest developing country has not changed.” Cheng Tao remarked,



Cheng Tao speaking at the First Senior Officials Meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation on November 25, 2002.

“China is still a developing country, and we are a community of shared interests with Africa. Internationally, we need to speak with one voice. Although a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China remains a developing country. China is still firmly committed to safeguarding the interests of developing countries as it emerges as a major power, and Africa's support has played an irreplaceable and positive role in amplifying voices from developing countries in the international community.”

The current international situation has undergone profound changes, and trade protectionism and unilateralism are prevailing. In this context, Africa is an indispensable partner of China. “Not everyone in the world is self-centered and pursuing a zero-sum game,” Cheng asserted. “China and Africa are promoting the concept of win-win cooperation, and slowly winning understanding and acceptance from the world. Our common goal is to build a harmonious and beautiful society.” 



Tang Xiaoyang, associate professor at the department of international relations of Tsinghua University, takes a photo with a teacher with CITIC BN Vocational School (Angola) at the school's gate, courtesy of Tang Xiaoyang

# Tang Xiaoyang Witness to Africa's Rise

Text by Hu Zhoumeng

*Rather than by providing aid, China has made a big contribution to Africa's development through even-handed trade benefiting both sides, helping African countries build internal development capabilities.*

Tang Xiaoyang, associate professor at the department of international relations of Tsinghua University, is an experienced scholar on African development and China-Africa relations. Thanks to his travels to nearly 20 African countries over the past decade, Tang published more than 30 academic papers and a book titled *China-Africa Economic Diplomacy and Its Implication to the Global Value Chain*. Recently, he talked to *China Pictorial* (CP) about the fast-growing continent and the characteristics of China-Africa cooperation.

**CP: What led you to academic research on Africa?**

**Tang Xiaoyang:** I began researching Africa in 2006. At the time, Asian countries such as South Korea and India, and especially China, were looking to invest in Africa. I was living in the United States. Some American consulting firms were interested in why American companies were holding back





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while Asian businesses were rushing to invest in Africa. So they asked me to do research.

During my research, I found that investment was flowing into Africa because of its rapid development. And the development is comprehensive and complicated, involving multiple facets including politics, economics, culture and society. I studied economics and history as an undergraduate and philosophy

in graduate school, so I had special interest in researching such a comprehensive issue with far-reaching influence. The development of Africa is connected to the livelihood of more than a billion people, so I continued focusing on academic research in this area.

**CP: You have visited Africa many times for research. Which countries have you been to? Who**

- 1 April 4, 2018: A harvester works at Wanbao rice farm in Gaza, Mozambique. The rice farm is a key project of China-Mozambique cooperation. Xinhua
- 2 Workers at a sisal hemp processing factory in Tanzania. courtesy of Tang Xiaoyang
- 3 A worker introduces cow breeding at an academy of agricultural sciences in Ethiopia. courtesy of Tang Xiaoyang





December 13, 2017: A Chinese businessman shows products to visitors at the first Exhibition of the China-Africa Production Capacity Cooperation in Nairobi, Kenya. Xinhua



July 28, 2016: Qian Keming, China's vice minister of commerce, addresses the Seminar on China-Africa Business Cooperation in Beijing. IC

## have you met? What did you research?

**Tang:** Since 2007, I have visited Africa almost every year and traveled to nearly 20 countries including Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Zambia, Botswana and Mozambique. Most of the people I met there are government officials and businessmen. My research focuses on economic development in Africa and related social issues and environmental protection.

## CP: What is the most prominent change in Africa since your first visit?

**Tang:** In general, African countries have seen fast growth in the past decade, marked by industrialization. This is illustrated by the increasing numbers of local factories. Many products that used to be imported from overseas can be made locally

now. As a result, workers' wages are rising, infrastructure is improving and urbanization is accelerating.

## CP: What differentiates Chinese support to African development from that provided by other countries?

**Tang:** As early as in the 1960s and 1970s, China launched several aid projects such as construction of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway in Africa. China has also made similar efforts in recent years to help build hospitals and schools on the continent. However, not through

aid, but through even-handed trade that benefits both sides, has China made its biggest contribution to the development of Africa. Such methods have seldom been attempted by other countries. Equal trade between China and Africa boosts the proactivity of both sides and promotes better allocation of resources, while straight aid only fuels passive "receiving" from the African side. Equal trade between China and Africa helps African countries better understand modern economic modes, accumulate more industrialization experience, actively



January 11, 2017: In Mombasa, Kenya, locals celebrate the first batch of diesel trains manufactured by Chinese enterprises for the 480-kilometer-long Mombasa-Nairobi railway. Xinhua





participate in the international division of labor, learn more about management, improve commerce and trade and realize sustainable growth.


**CP:** Some Chinese enterprises have had trouble adapting to local laws and culture after entering the African market. Are they doing better now?

**Tang:** These problems frequently happen to new arrivals. I did learn that some Chinese companies in Kenya and Ethiopia were having troubles with

employment and environment issues. Thanks to the efforts of Chinese embassies and consulates, chambers of commerce and non-governmental organizations in spreading knowledge of local laws, the situation has improved today. However, Africa is transforming rapidly in many aspects, so it is hard to avoid conflict completely. New business entrants in Africa certainly need time to adapt to the local context.

**CP:** How does rising anti-globalization and protectionism

around the world threaten Africa? How can Africa and China jointly address this challenge?

**Tang:** Trade protectionism does impact Africa. For instance, Rwanda banned the import of second-hand clothes, and the United States cut its tariff preference for the country in response. In this context, China and African countries should all develop their own markets as much as possible and enhance trade between developing countries. But I believe trade protectionism won't last long. The situation will improve in the near future. 


# Liu Hongwu: Africa Needs Cultural Rejuvenation

Text by Yin Xing

*It is important for African countries to rejuvenate their social values and cultural systems.*







“An Egyptian saying dating back two millennia goes that those who drink the water of the Nile always come back,” declares Liu Hongwu. “American writer Ernest Hemingway said that before he left Africa, he had already begun to miss it. I think these two thoughts mirror my attachment to Africa.”

Professor Liu's WeChat account is “returnhometown@Africa.” Considering Africa his second homeland, Liu maintains great affection for the continent. Born in 1958 in Xishuangbanna in China's Yunnan Province, Liu didn't leave the mountainous city until he was admitted to Wuhan University in 1979. In the 1990s, Liu studied in Africa as one of the first batch of Chinese scholars to study on the continent. In 2007, he founded the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University, which has become one of China's most reputed research institutions and think tanks for African studies. And Liu himself has become a Chinese fore-runner in studying Africa.

**China Pictorial (CP): Before your first visit to Africa, what did you think it was like? And what changed your perception there?**

**Liu:** Initially, my knowledge about Africa was similar to other Chinese people: I thought it poor, backward and plagued by wars and diseases. But when I stepped on the land of Africa, studied there and began traveling back and forth between China and Africa, my understanding about the continent was continuously corrected, upgraded and expanded.

Africa has more than 50 countries with contrasting development levels. Most countries are stable and some enjoy moderate economic prosperity. At least one-third of African countries have per capita

incomes close to or higher than that of China. Like China and other regions in the world, Africa is also the birthplace of some ancient civilizations like the Nile civilization. As for climate and ecology, along with rainforests and deserts, one-third of the continent (about 10 million square kilometers) is agreeable and cool like my hometown in Yunnan. And Africa also has many of the world's top scholars.

All in all, Africa is a continent full of potential and vitality.

**CP: You even contracted malaria in Nigeria. Was it worth all your studying gains there?**

**Liu:** Yes, of course. That experience helped me better understand Africa while evolving my attitude and methods on studying the continent over the next three decades. During my early years of field work in Nigeria, the conditions were hard, and I contracted malaria. After several bed-ridden days with a high fever, I recovered and rose out of bed to take in the rainforest under the scorching sun. I recalled a classic line from a film: “Only after you've had malaria can you understand Africa.”

Africa's culture, music and living habits are closely related to its environment. For example, African people don't live in rainforests, but on dry highlands because lush forests breed mosquitoes which spread malaria. So contrasting Asia's river civilizations, Africa's civilizations mostly emerged on highlands like the Cameroon Highlands or on savannas at the edge of deserts. So only by being there and living there can understand the land more profoundly.

**CP: What connects China and Africa that are so far apart from each other geographically?**

**Liu:** In 2003 when I went to

2018: Professor Liu Hongwu visits a desert in Namibia.



2012: Professor Liu Hongwu poses for a picture with students from the University of Nyala in South Darfur, Sudan.

study in Africa the second time, I visited Zanzibar Island in Tanzania, where I saw a navigation map from Zheng He (1371-1433), a Chinese navigator, in an imperial palace. The six-century-old map clearly marks the Cape of Good Hope and Mount Kilimanjaro, evidencing that so long ago, Chinese people already knew about landforms in Africa. I also saw ancient Chinese ceramics, books and coins in other places on the continent.

In modern times, China and Africa both suffered from Western invasion and colonial rule and gained independence and freedom only after heroic and painstaking efforts. So, China and Africa forged a tight-knit friendship in the 20th century, despite their geographical distance.

Today, China and Africa both still need to develop, so they have become reliable friends in the

course of pursuing national revival. Despite their starkly contrasting cultures, the two sides share similar spiritual beliefs based on nature and rooted in land, with respect for nature and desire to live in harmony with nature.

**CP: What made you decide to establish the Institute of African Studies? What do you think is the goal of studying Africa?**

**Liu:** One year, I went to study at the University of Dar es Salaam in East Africa. I visited local ancient towns dubbed “stone towns” or “spice towns.” Walking on the stone slab streets there reminded me of visiting Lijiang Town as a child. Swahili culture in East Africa is a typical fruit of Asian and African cultures. In these towns, I realized that long before European expansion, there was a long-standing





2018: Professor Liu Hongwu leads a group of Chinese scholars to visit Hausa Cultural Center in northern Nigeria after participating in the Sino-African Relationship Seminar in the country.



2015: Professor Liu Hongwu with local children at Lalibela World Cultural Center in northern Ethiopia.




2009: Professor Liu Hongwu poses for a picture before China's first African Museum he set up at Zhejiang Normal University, in hopes of spreading African culture among the Chinese public.

cultural circle around the Indian Ocean linking Africa, the Middle East and East Asia's China.

But you hardly get such knowledge in history textbooks, which are filled with information about history dominated by Europe and the United States over the past four centuries. The world is now facing increasingly complicated problems. But we usually apply Western knowledge to solve local problems and consider it universal methodology. Obviously, this doesn't always work. So we need to establish a disciplinary system covering every region in the world, compiling the wisdom of all nations and forming a knowledge system shared by all mankind. Certainly, African wisdom and experience offer an important piece for the jigsaw puzzle.

**CP: You argue that in addition to economic cooperation, China and Africa need more cultural exchange. Why?**

**Liu:** Culture is so comprehensive that it covers all aspects of daily life including food, clothes, housing and transportation. I liken cultural exchange to water, economic cooperation to fish and mutual trust to a fishpond. When the fishpond is built, growth of the fish requires sound water. Moreover, one hindrance for Africa's development is a lack of cultural identity. Centuries of Western colonization and the slave trade devastated the traditional cultures of Africa. Although African countries gained independence, they still have not escaped the shadow cast by Western colonization completely. It is important for African countries to reestablish their own social values and cultural systems. Doing so requires both investment and cultural revival as well. So, the cultural exchange between China and Africa is very important. 





A panoramic view of Kigali, capital of Rwanda. In the distance is Vision City, a housing development project in the Rwandan capital built by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation. The name of the housing project hearkens to the Rwandan government's great expectations for national development. VCG

# Holding Hands with Rwanda

Text by Wang Lei

*Chinese enterprises have won trust by achieving win-win development in Rwanda.*

In Rwanda, quality roads and city landmarks constructed with the assistance of China or built by Chinese enterprises can be seen everywhere. Chinese enterprises have elevated the local infrastructure, improved the urban environment and living conditions, created jobs for locals, cultivated a

group of professionals and spear-headed scientific management modes in the African country.

## Construction Aid to New Vision

Li Jianbo, general manager of the Rwanda office of China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), has lived in Rwanda for more than

20 years. He calls himself a “Rwandan local” and has developed great attachment to this land.

In Kigali, the capital and largest city of Rwanda, Li is most proud of the CRBC-built roads. Over the past four decades, his company has been contracted to build 26 projects. The cumulative length of roads





June 28, 2018: Locals perform a dance at the launch ceremony of a digital satellite TV project from China to aid Africa in Musanze, northern Rwanda. This project, mainly implemented by StarTimes, has provided digital television signal to 10,112 villages in 25 African countries since it kicked off in August 2017. courtesy of StarTimes Group

constructed by CRBC exceeds 1,200 kilometers, accounting for nearly 70 percent of Rwanda's total.

A prime example is the 160-kilometer Kigali-Rusumo road, which was built in 1974. Today, the road remains in good condition and has maintained its reputation as a "Model African Road." CRBC also received Rwanda's Engineering Quality Award and Distinguished Contribution to the Beautification of Kigali City award for a 36-kilometer-long urban road upgrade project in Kigali.

China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) arrived in Rwanda in 1983 with a

project to build Amahoro National Stadium, a major sports venue. Today, this stadium remains the top choice in the country to host important sporting and other major events. Abundant advanced technologies from China have been employed by CCECC in its work. For example, the 20-story Kigali City Tower, a city landmark in which the locals take pride, was completed with a number of advanced technologies. Wang Lei, general manager of CCECC Rwanda office, tallies 30 projects undertaken since the company entered the Rwandan market.

#### Arrival to Integration

Gifted with excellent public

security, good management, and a pleasant environment, Rwanda has attracted an increasing number of Chinese enterprises, including STECOL Corporation.

Chen Wuqing was dispatched to Africa by STECOL in 2004 to oversee the corporation's engineering projects in Kenya. In 2013, the corporation began working on the second-phase of an infrastructure project in Kigali Special Economic Zone and has since been active in Rwanda.

"Because most parts of Rwanda are mountainous, the locals are used to meeting their own needs," explains Chen. "Almost everyone is a mason, and they build their own houses.

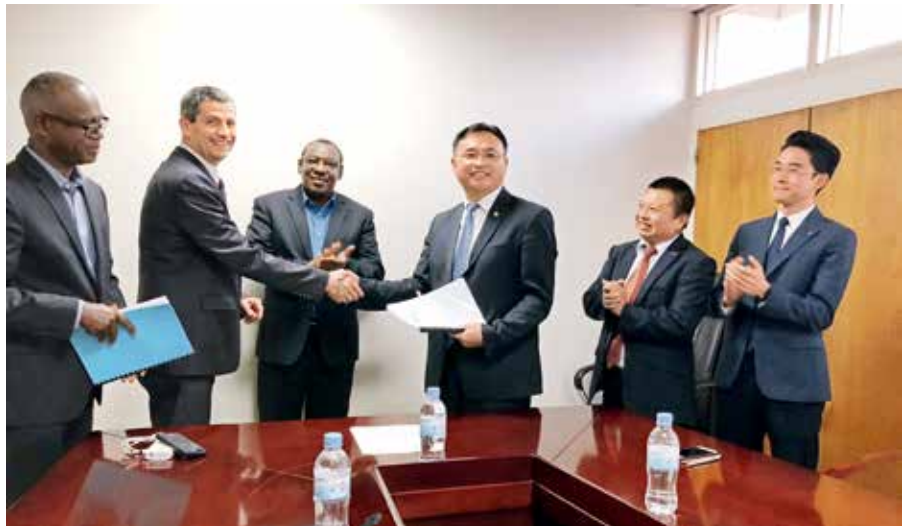


## ● FEATURES

The locals are also very friendly. The conditions for labor recruitment are quite good. We trained local workers and taught them advanced technical operations. Chinese standards are adopted in our projects, and our high-quality construction has won trust from the locals.”

STECOL is now working on seven projects in Rwanda, covering fields like municipal engineering, water conservation, highways and hydroelectric projects. These projects created many jobs and cultivated a large number of local equipment operators and technical workers.

Denise Ingabire, a local who was hired as an executive manager by STECOL Corporation, says that she studied civil engineering in China. After graduation, she returned to Kigali and was eventually hired by STECOL. Ingabire said she was happy to get the job so she could use the knowledge learned in China in her everyday work. The ambitious girl aims to gain wider experience in the company and make greater



June 6, 2018: STECOL signs a commercial contract to construct the Nyabarongo II Power Station. It is the largest project in terms of contract amount in Rwanda since the country gained independence in 1962. courtesy of STECOL Corporation

contributions to her own country. At present, around 870 local employees work for STECOL Corporation, and that figure may jump as high as 3,000 during construction.

According to Duan Shengwei, deputy general manager of the corporation's East Africa branch, alongside road construction, his

company also sends technicians to perform road maintenance after completion and even help locals repair roads that were built by other companies. The company committed to an expansion and upgrade project on the Nyagatare-Gabiro road, a major international artery connecting Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. In

A section of the Rwanda-Burundi transnational highway project constructed by STECOL Corporation in western Rwanda. courtesy of STECOL Corporation





May 2018, a mudslide triggered by a rainstorm destroyed a road 50 kilometers away from the project base. The company quickly responded and cleared the road known as a “life passage” by locals. Local government, residents, and media were extremely grateful for this endeavor.

On June 6, 2018, the corporation signed a commercial contract to construct the Nyabarongo II Power Station. The dam will serve flood control and irrigation functions once completed, and 20,000 hectares of farmland will be developed at the lower reaches of the Nyabarongo River. This is the largest project in terms of contract amount in Rwanda since the country gained independence in 1962. Completion of the power station will ease power shortages, prevent floods and improve irrigation of farmland.

### Sharing the Wins

In Rwanda, Chinese enterprises co-exist and develop harmoniously with locals, and actively fulfill their social responsibilities.

In 2015, Chinese entrepreneur Ma Xiaomei came to Rwanda to establish a garment factory upon an invitation from the local government. Her very first recruitment drive attracted more than 200 applicants. Textile is a labor-intensive industry, and the local government expected to create more jobs. Governmental support and good public security inspired a lot of confidence in Ma.

Rwanda's textile industry suffers from a weak foundation and inadequate technical personnel. Ma invited senior Chinese and Kenyan trainers to teach her Rwandan workers clothing manufacturing. After a three-month training program, products by Rwandan workers were up to quality check standard.

Ma's investment in Rwanda established the C&H garment factory, the first of its kind in




Local workers at the C&H garment factory in Rwanda. by Wang Xinjun

Rwanda. The ambitious Chinese entrepreneur set her sights on the bigger goal of “Made in Rwanda.” In the past, Rwanda had relied on importing second-hand clothes. Thus, the government was determined to produce domestically made clothes, showing great enthusiasm for developing the textile industry, which is the primary reason they invited international textile trade professionals like Ma. With 25 years of experience in textile and garment manufacturing, Ma loves Africa and hopes that more Chinese textile enterprises will come to Rwanda to boost its burgeoning textile industry.

StarTimes Group, with a mission to “share the beauty of digital television with Africa,” is highly influential on the continent. The group now provides 16 million African households with inexpensive and captivating digital television programs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The group has opened a new window for African people to

understand the world and quickly become a conduit of China-Africa cultural exchange and friendship, driving Africa's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative.

On August 26, 2008, the launch ceremony of StarTimes Rwanda was held. Rwandan President Paul Kagame, Rwandan government officials and Sun Shuzhong, then Chinese ambassador to Rwanda, attended the ceremony. President Kagame delivered an important speech at the site, praising the project and expounding on its significance to his country.

StarTimes Africa employs 90 percent local employees across all of its projects. These employees are active in posts such as administration, business affairs, legal affairs and marketing. Cultivation of local professionals has set a solid foundation for promoting development of digital television as well as the radio and television industry in Africa. 

# Chinese Doctors in Zambia

Text and photographs by Qin Bin

*In the remote and beautiful African country of Zambia, Chinese doctors at the China-Zambia Friendship Hospital are affectionately called “envoys of China-Zambia friendship” by the local people and their Chinese compatriots alike.*

On June 23, 2018, Sari Ma, a 30-year-old Zambian mother, brought her fourth child to the China-Zambia Friendship Hospital for a follow-up checkup six weeks after delivery.

She was examined by Chinese doctor Li Hailian, director of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the hospital.

Li came to the China-Zambia Friendship Hospital in 2005 with her husband Qin Xisheng, deputy general manager of the China-Zambia Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone and president of the hospital.

Before their arrival, the region lacked any local gynecologist and obstetrician, and the maternal mortality rate was painfully high due to meager medical conditions.

However, since Li Hailian arrived, the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics has transformed into a leading department of the hospital. Not only do they strictly screen pregnant women with HIV

and treat them for free to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission, but her team also diagnoses and treats local women for high-risk pregnancy.

Liu Yueqin came to Zambia in 2015 after retiring from the China Nonferrous Metal Mining (Group) Co., Ltd., known as CNMC for short. Now, she serves as administrative manager of the China-Zambia Friendship Hospital. “Our hospital is the only one in Zambia with zero maternal death, and we also have the lowest infant mortality rate,” she said proudly.

Located in the city of Kitwe, the China-Zambia Friendship Hospital sprouted from Nkana Mining Hospital, which was established in the 1930s.

After closing for many years due to mismanagement, the hospital was acquired by NFC Africa Mining, a subsidiary of CNMC in Africa, in 2000 and renamed China-Zambia Friendship Hospital.

For its long-term development, the hospital was transferred to a medical institution under the management of the China-Zambia Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone in November 2009.

Medical resources in Zambia are quite limited. The China-Zambia Friendship Hospital has played an important role in improving local medical services capacity.

The hospital not only provides medical services for Chinese employees of China-funded enterprises in Zambia, but also offers free treatment to local employees and their families. Thanks to the impressive development of the hospital, increasing numbers of locals come there when in need of medical treatment.

Chinese doctor Li Hailian, director of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the China-Zambia Friendship Hospital, gave Sari Ma, a 30-year-old Zambian mother, a follow-up checkup six weeks after delivery.



Zambian women wait for doctors' calling for reexamination outside of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, the busiest department of the China-Zambia Friendship Hospital.











Chinese doctors perform surgery on a Zambian patient in the operating room at the China-Zambia Friendship Hospital.

However, the development of the hospital only progresses through efforts of the whole medical team. A total of seven Chinese doctors at the hospital work with more than 10 Zambian doctors and nurses.

Major operations and diagnoses still depend on Chinese doctors. Although there is a basic division of labor, some situations require anyone available to help out from time to time. Gradually, every doctor was certified as a general practitioner.

Su Zhibing, director of the Department of Anesthesiology and assistant to the president of the hospital, came to Zambia in

2010. Not only is he an anesthesiologist, but he also oversees management of the hospital's wards and pharmacy.

Many places in Zambia have a high rate of HIV infection, and hospitals certainly have them. "When we arrived, I realized that of 20 inpatients in one ward, 19 were AIDS patients suffering various complications, which was really depressing," revealed Qin Xisheng. "Saving lives is a doctor's duty, which we all need to take seriously, so you have to stay calm and protect yourself."

Once, when Li and Qin were performing a surgery on an HIV-infected patient, Li





Some medical workers play basketball at the living area of the China-Zambia Friendship Hospital.

accidentally knocked a pair of scissors from Qin's hand, which fell through Qin's shoe and stabbed his foot.

"When it happened, we didn't care much about it and went on with the operation," she recalled. "When the procedure was completed, I realized he should rush for an injection." Fortunately, Qin wasn't infected. But since then, surgeons are all required to wear hard-rubber shoes in the operating room.

For Chinese employees in Zambia, the hospital is their harbor and shelter in the foreign country. On May 19, 2005, a Chinese employee of a Chinese-funded enterprise was injured severely during construction work. An injury to his head led to an intracranial hemorrhage and coma.


Qin immediately organized an emergency rescue. After the operation, he worried that the patient's difficulty in speaking would make nursing more difficult and negatively impact treatment, so he personally took care of the patient for more than 20 days until he was out of danger.

Many local people can't afford the bills,



A Zambian doctor at the China-Zambia Friendship Hospital gives a physical examination to a local man.

but Qin always gives them a steep discount or free treatment. In fact, of all the medical institutions in Zambia, the China-Zambia Friendship Hospital charges the lowest for medical services.

"Most Zambian people are not rich, and we're not operating a hospital here to make money," declared Qin. "We want to serve Chinese enterprises well and do great things for the local people so we can earn a good reputation for Chinese people and enterprises overseas. The work we're doing here is about things that are much more important than money." 





June 5, 2018: An ecologically restored fluorite mine in Jiaojiazhuang Township, Jinchang City, Gansu Province, in the Qilian Mountains National Nature Reserve. by Fan Peishen/Xinhua

# Ecological Tightrope in the **Qilian Mountains**

Text by Li Zhiqing

*The environmental problems plaguing the Qilian Mountains are fueled by the local government's thirst for economic growth.*





**T**he Qilian Mountains serve as an important ecological shelter for northwestern China as well as the main water conservation area for Gansu and Qinghai provinces and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. However, after decades of extensive, disordered development, the local ecosystem has fallen into crisis. Human activities such as mining, tourism development, agriculture

and animal husbandry have exerted an unbearable burden on the region's fragile ecosystem. Moreover, worsening global warming has caused the snow lines of the Qilian Mountains to continue rising and the glaciers deep in the mountains to melt faster and faster, resulting in an exacerbation of the ecological crisis in the lower reaches.

In July 2017, the Chinese government issued a circular on

ecological degradation of the Qilian Mountains National Nature Reserve, which lists prominent problems causing the devastation of local ecosystem such as illegal mining, illegal hydroelectric development, illicit waste discharge and inadequate environmental protection measures.

Essentially, the ecological crisis in the Qilian Mountains is a result of "market dysfunction" and "government dysfunction." Either mining enterprises or hydroelectric projects will continue to cause more environmental pollution. From the perspective of market law, enterprises naturally must continue expanding their production scales. Without effective external regulation and the market interaction, disorderly development will only cause severe environmental problems over time.

Government dysfunction is a significant factor in the ecological crisis of the Qilian Mountains. According to the July 2017 circular, environmental problems plaguing the region are caused by operations and projects that received illicit approval. For instance, of more than 150 hydroelectric stations along the Heihe, Shiyang and Shule rivers in the Qilian Mountains region, 42 are located in protected areas of the nature reserve. Common illegal practices include improper approval, construction before approval and incomplete procedures. Most illegally approved and constructed projects neglect the importance of ecological protection. Compared to the damage a single private enterprise can cause, governmental malpractice in approving construction that lacks environmental awareness causes even greater damage to the ecosystem.

To a large extent, the environmental problems plaguing the Qilian Mountains are fueled by the local government's thirst for economic growth. Due to a strong preference

for extensive economic growth, the local government lacks the motivation to prioritize environmental problems. In fact, such preference has been the single greatest cause of ecological degradation of the Qilian Mountains, even greater than local enterprises and market factors. The local government's error lies in sacrificing the local ecosystem for the sake of developing the economy.

The environmental crisis plaguing the Qilian Mountains must be solved by adjusting the economic growth mode. However, decision-making mechanisms of local government and policymakers are usually more complicated than the economy, resulting in delays in policy formulation and intervention.

What is the best way to solve the ecological crisis in the Qilian Mountains? According to traditional environmental economics, enterprises' impact on the environment grows day by day with their operational activities. Due to dysfunction of both the government and the market, damage to resources and the environment has reached a tipping point after long-term accumulation, resulting in resource and ecological crises. Dysfunction of the market and the government needs to be overcome in earnest before it is too late. This should be the primary concern in policy designs to address the ecological crisis of the Qilian Mountains.

From the perspective of macro environmental economics, imbalance between the environment and economics is the primary reason for current severe ecological degradation. Only by addressing the imbalanced relationship and correcting the improper resource allocation between environmental protection and economic growth can we realize the simultaneous advancement of the environment and the economy and achieve "green development."

Based on such logic, three major solutions could treat the ecological crisis of the Qilian Mountains: rectifying the market, regulating the government and promoting green development.

Rectifying the market refers to measures to strengthen environmental regulation of market behaviors such as production and consumption and formulate environmental standards in line with the environment carrying capacity of the Qilian Mountains. As a national nature reserve, the Qilian Mountains should set stricter thresholds for environmental protection than other regions. In fact, tightening environmental standards protects the economy from the threat of ecological degradation and improves it by promoting the development of better production and consumption means. To this end, diverse policy tools including laws, economic incentives and financial policies as well as public

education on environmental protection should be employed to balance social costs and returns in ecological resource utilization, optimally correct improper resource allocation and maximize the efficiency of resource utilization.

Regulating the government refers to the eradication of government dysfunction. Currently, due to a preference for economic growth, local governments don't do enough or even overtly harm the environment, which has become the heart of environmental problems. Not only should local governments perform their duties within the framework of laws to ensure they properly fulfill their responsibilities in environmental protection, but also local leaders should be assessed by a system that underlines the importance of ecological improvement so that local governments will be motivated to shoulder their obligations in environmental protection

June 5, 2018: Workers check water discharge conditions at Longshou Hydroelectric Station in the Qilian Mountains National Nature Reserve. The hydroelectric station adopts a self-controlled sluice module to ensure natural water discharge to the lower reaches of the river.  
by Fan Peishen/Xinhua








May 8, 2018: Workers plant spruces in an ecological restoration zone in Sunan County, Gansu Province, in the Qilian Mountains National Nature Reserve. Since 2017, the Qilian Mountains region has steadily promoted ecological restoration, with early results having already been achieved. VCG

and properly play their role as “gatekeepers” of the market.

Promoting green development requires integrating economic growth and ecological improvement to better protect the environment while developing the economy. Both theory and practice have shown that economic development can bolster environmental protection because the latter cannot be achieved without the support of necessary manpower and resources. Economic development can enhance the capacity building for environmental protection and constantly inject “fresh blood” into the cause of ecological improvement. Of course, economic development must be eco-friendly. The Qilian Mountains National Nature Reserve presents a pristine example: The region’s economic development

and environmental protection, in fact, do not conflict each other. The region can continue carrying out production and operating activities while adhering to relevant national environmental protection standards, and at the same time it can use its advantages as a nature reserve to develop specialized industries such as high-value-added forestry, high-tech animal husbandry and the “Internet Plus” economy to expand the market and increase revenues.

Since 2017, the provincial government of Gansu has taken action to address the ecological crisis of the Qilian Mountains. It formulated and enacted the strictest environmental protection standards, dismantled and closed enterprises violating relevant environmental regulations, shut down or renovated 42 hydroelectric

stations and deployed video and data monitoring equipment to ensure adequate water discharge to the lower reaches of the rivers. In the upgrade from a nature reserve to Qilian Mountains National Park, the local government doubled the space of protected area. Gansu unveiled a blueprint for future development of 10 major green industries including energy conservation, environmental protection and cultural tourism to further promote green development. These measures are expected to balance economic growth and environmental protection and achieve green development in the Qilian Mountains. 

The author is deputy director of the Research Center for Environmental Economics at Fudan University.





SOCIETY

# Jiangyin Manufacturing the Future

Text by Mo Qian

*Since the dawn of China's reform and opening up, the Jiangyin government has been providing rain-or-shine, unrestricted and comprehensive services for enterprises.*







Jiangyin, located in southern Jiangsu Province, is a standout manufacturing city. Riding the tide of China's reform and opening up, Jiangyin has amassed wide-ranging real-economy industries and excellent entrepreneurs, which remain the city's most precious treasures. About 21,000 of 58,000 enterprises in the city are manufacturers. In the rankings of China's county-level economies and their basic competitiveness, Jiangyin topped the list for 15 consecutive years. More than 100 enterprises in the city have become leaders in their respective market segments in China, with more than 20 types of products grabbing the largest market share nationwide. Due to such factors, Jiangyin has long ranked first on the list of China's Top 100 Industrial Counties (or County-level Cities).

### Rooted in the Real Economy

When the reform and opening up brought China's manufacturing industry into a golden era for development in the 1980s, Jiangyin welcomed its own manufacturing boom. Several top 500 Chinese companies took off from Jiangyin such as rope maker Fasten Group, bromine refrigerator manufacturer Shuangliang Group and textile maker Jiangsu Sunshine Group.

In 1983, renowned Chinese sociologist Fei Xiaotong coined the term "Sunan model" in reference to the business mode in the southern area of Jiangsu Province in the early years of the reform and opening up in his book *Rediscovery of Small Towns*. The area focused on developing the collective economy directly led by township governments, which relied on key cities with market adjustment. This model benefited Jiangyin with fast-growing manufacturing capabilities and increasing economic strength.

After Deng Xiaoping, chief

Jiangyin, located in southern Jiangsu Province, is a standout manufacturing city. The city's manufacturing industry took off in the 1980s and is now driven by innovation. by Qin Bin



In the 1970s, a worker arranged finished products in a porcelain factory in Jiangyin. courtesy of the publicity department of the Party committee of Jiangyin

architect of China's reform and opening up, made his famous remarks during the 1992 inspection tour of southern China, the country's market economy system and modern corporate system were established and improved. At that time, the Jiangyin government promoted shareholding reform of local enterprises. It introduced the ideas of asset reorganization and capital operation as well as

incentive and supporting measures to encourage companies to enter stock markets. In February 1997, Jiangyin Xingcheng Special Steel Works was listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, becoming the first company in Jiangyin to do so. More companies soon followed suit. By the end of 1999, eight companies in Jiangyin had been listed in stock exchange markets. The companies, including Jiangsu Sunshine Group, Huaxi Holding and Fasten Group, raised a total of 2.16 billion yuan, forming the unique "Jiangyin sector" in China's capital market.

In recent years, financial capital has flooded into real estate and the stock market, and the real economy represented by manufacturing industries is facing great challenges. But manufacturing still plays a key supportive role in Jiangyin's development. Data shows that in 1978, the secondary industry accounted for 55 percent of Jiangyin's economy, and in 2017, the share of the secondary industry remained at a similar level at 54.4 percent.

Chen Jinhu, secretary of the Party committee of Jiangyin, declared: "Jiangyin's development is rooted in the real economy."

### Growing Modern Industries

Today, innovation has become the new driver for Jiangyin's manufacturing industry. Alongside moving to middle and high end of industry, local enterprises are also promoting the development of strategic emerging industries.

Lu Jie of Shuangliang Group recalled the company introducing a strategy of "transforming development concept" in 2006. "We have been upgrading our business ever since then." The group, initially specializing in bromine refrigerator production, has embraced comprehensive energy-saving and eco-friendly business including



system integration, contract energy management and service trusteeship. With the application of technologies such as the Internet of Things, big data and cloud platforms, it has introduced interactive online and offline service and product life cycle management. Rather than simply making products, the company is providing manufacturing services for clients.

In recent years, Jiangyin has made great efforts to build a national high-tech industrial park—Jiangyin High-tech Industrial Development Zone, as well as two provincial economic development zones: Jiangyin Lingang Economic Development Zone and Jiangyin-Jingjiang Industrial Park. The industrial zones are considered strong drivers for industrial growth in the city.

Based on its existing industrial infrastructure, Jiangyin is fostering four strategic emerging industries including new energy, electronics, biomedicine, and graphene production and application. The city has also reinforced four dominant industries, namely, new materials, equipment manufacturing, high-quality textile and clothing, and shipbuilding and marine equipment. Moreover, Jiangyin is upgrading four traditional industries that fuel its economic growth: metallurgy, metal products, light industrial and building materials, and electricity.

Many companies are transforming from traditional manufacturers to system integrators, investment operators and service providers. They have created new space for development and earned higher profits by selling services rather than solely by selling products, extending industrial chains and increasing additional value.

### Serving Enterprises

The sustainable growth of manufacturing in Jiangyin can be

attributed to a combination of good timing, advantageous geographical features and abundant human resources. The city is located downstream of the Yangtze River, which is known as the “throat” of the river. It has been a transport hub since ancient times. Thanks to its unique geographical location,

Jiangyin has developed a strong capacity for resource exchange and accumulation. The spirit to “stay resilient and spare no efforts to fight for the best” is widely acknowledged among locals, which inspires new businesses in the city.

For newly arrived entrepreneurs and talent in Jiangyin, the high

A spinning workshop at the textile factory of Huaxi Village in Jiangyin. by Qin Bin



Several Ethiopian college students were trained by Jiangsu Sunshine Group in Jiangyin in July 2018. by Qin Bin





A worker of Fasten Group makes optical fiber perform with Modified Chemical Vapor Deposition facilities. by Chen Ye

efficiency and pragmatic service of the local government make them feel at home.

In 2007, Chen Yuxin returned to China from the United States to start a business. He traveled to several cities and ultimately decided to settle in Jiangyin. There, he founded ProteLight, a biomedicine company, in 2009. “At that time, Jiangyin was transforming its traditional industries and offering big incentives to the biomedicine industry,” Chen recalled. “Local government officials are bold and pragmatic. They fulfill their promises fast.”

“The efficiency and honesty of the government are key to attracting and keeping talent,” declared Tao Zhengxian, deputy director of the

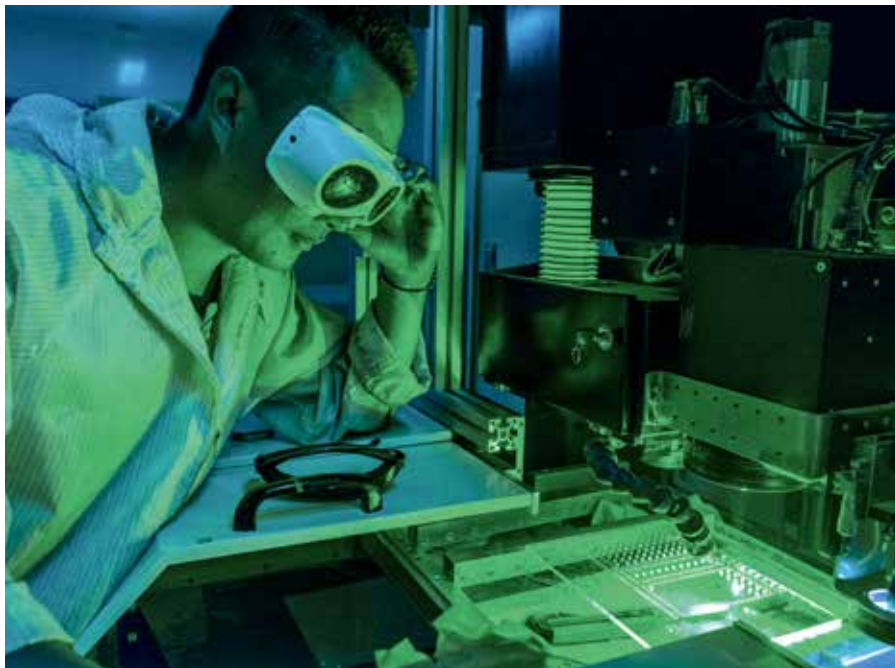
A group of workers from SJsemi, a semiconductor foundry in Jiangyin, check facilities in a wet processing zone. by Gu Qiang







In a laboratory of Usunbio, a biomedical company based in Jiangyin, researchers discuss experimental data. by Qin Bin




At the research workshop of Deli Laser Solutions in Jiangyin, a worker performs a glass drilling experiment. by Pang Zhijian

managing committee of the Jiangyin High-tech Industrial Development Zone. The city's government officials value their promises and show great efficiency. They visit

enterprises frequently to learn their concerns, identify problems and devise solutions.

In fact, since the dawn of China's reform and opening up,

the Jiangyin government has been providing rain-or-shine, unrestricted and comprehensive services for enterprises.

In the 1980s, governments at all levels in Jiangyin worked with enterprises to attract projects, investment and resources and expand market shares. Such measures helped local township businesses survive. In the 1990s, the Jiangyin government shifted its function, separated government management from enterprise operation and reduced its intervention in economic affairs as much as possible. At the same time, the government advocated the concept that "entrepreneurs invest, and the government serves; businessmen make fortunes, and the city develops." This philosophy made Jiangyin a hotbed for foreign investment. At the turn of the 21st century, the Jiangyin government established an administrative service center to provide one-stop services for enterprises, another move to increase efficiency. 



# Border Patrol of Southern Xinjiang

Text by Liu Min

Photographs by Chen Jie

*Shaking off poverty while safeguarding the border, locals living in the border areas of southern Xinjiang are seizing their dreams of building a beautiful village.*

**A**fter performing a routine four-hour patrol, 42-year-old Mehmet Kasim takes a break. A few years ago, the man from the Kirgiz ethnic group made a living by grazing sheep. Like many of his neighbors in Tugurmiti Village of Tugurmiti Township in Atux City of China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Kasim now works as a border patroller. Dressing in a camouflage suit, he rides a horse to patrol the border almost every day.

## A New Profession

Many areas like Tugurmiti in southern Xinjiang are home to a variety of Chinese ethnic groups. They are situated near the border, and many are poverty-stricken. In recent years, a policy of recruiting border protection staff has become a new means for locals to escape poverty. According to statistics from the Border Defense Corps of Xinjiang Armed Police Force, the population in the 205,000 square

kilometers of border areas in Xinjiang is only about 1.2 million, with a density of less than six people per square kilometer. In order to monitor various situations along the border in real-time, locals must be mobilized to supplement troops and border guards. In recent years, large-scale recruitment of border protection staff from local populations has rolled out. Duties of patrol workers along the border vary in different areas but generally





consist of patrols and cooperation with local police forces on crime prevention and control.

According to Duan Hongming, first Party secretary of Tugurmiti Village, his village is the largest in the township. Already, 405 residents from 243 poverty-stricken households in the village were hired as border protection workers, so almost every poverty-stricken family has benefited. “If one member of a poverty-stricken household of four

people is hired as a border protection worker, the whole family will be lifted out of poverty,” says Duan.

Located in a mountainous area on the plateau, Tugurmiti Township features a ridged landform. Its border with the Kyrgyz Republic stretches more than 80 kilometers. Now, about 2,000 border protection workers reside in the township, accounting for 20 percent of the total population. These people, mostly aged 20 to 50 years, have

The border between Tugurmiti Township and the Kyrgyz Republic stretches more than 80 kilometers. Now, about 2,000 border protection workers reside in the township.





In Tugurmiti Township, border protection workers brave the cold to chisel blocks of ice to melt for water for cooking and washing in winter.

lived there for generations. They are familiar with the local environment, nearby mountainous roads and various surrounding villages.

In Tugurmiti Township, checkpoints are set up at 30 kilometers, 10 kilometers and five kilometers from the border. Border protection personnel live in specially built dorms. Every 15 people work as a group and shifts change every six to eight days. After completing their daily patrols, Mehmet Kasim and his co-workers brave the cold to chisel blocks of ice to melt for water for cooking and washing, perform drills or chat around a fire.

In recent years, border protection workers have gained respect as their work becomes increasingly important. Government subsidies for border protection workers have also witnessed a rapid rise. The monthly subsidy has risen from

210 yuan in 2010 to 1,000 yuan in 2016 and then 2,600 yuan in 2017. Kasim's wife is employed as a forest ranger for which she earns a monthly income of 800 yuan. The couple also raises sheep, which earns revenues of about 20,000 yuan annually. Kasim expects life to "be quite good this year."

#### As Far as the Border Stretches

Today, the profession of border protection is quite common in southern Xinjiang. In the Kashgar area, the narrow Wakhan Corridor traverses the Pamir Mountains and extends into Afghanistan. This narrow strip of land connects to Pakistan to the south and Tajikistan to the north. The section of the corridor in China is less than 20 kilometers wide and nearly 80 kilometers long, but features more than 10 mountain passes directly leading

to foreign lands.

Atgayli is the only village inside the Wakhan Corridor in Chinese territory. Local resident Kenjebay of the Kirgiz ethnic group, now working as a border protection worker, is taking a holiday. "We have more than 80 households and more than 300 people living on Chinese land in the corridor," he estimates. "Because this place serves as the summer pasture for surrounding areas, around 1,300 herders come here every summer. Our border protection work is complicated."

Border protection workers venture as deep and far as the border stretches. Since the region encounters extreme weather patterns and features complicated landforms, wading through icy rivers and climbing snow-capped mountains above 5,000 or even 6,000 meters are common. About



80 kilometers from Atgayli is Xindie Village in Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous County, hometown of border protection worker Niye Mollamet. Xindie Village now has a total of 76 border protection workers who rotate through 20-day shifts. Their dorms are located deep in the Wakhan Corridor, up to several dozen kilometers from the nearest village. In winter, the snow can get more than a meter deep. When Mollamet was caught in a heavy snow storm during a patrol, he held tight to his yak and continued trudging through the snow. "You need to fulfill your duties wholeheartedly against all difficulties," he insists.

### Guarding to Escape Poverty

Kashgar, Hotan and the Kizilsu Kyrgyz Autonomous Prefecture in southern Xinjiang are together listed as a whole among the 14 Chinese

exceptional poverty areas across vast and contiguous stretches. Although the region is home to a comparatively small impoverished population, it covers a large geographical area inhabited mainly by ethnic minorities. Furthermore, most parts of the region are border areas. In recent years, the number of border protection workers has begun to multiply. Working in concert with other poverty reduction policies, the drive is beginning to help the region escape poverty.

Locals have been encouraged to rise from poverty through multiple means. Xindie Village is a prime example. In 2017, the village's per capita net income exceeded 8,200 yuan, and it had officially been lifted out of poverty. But locals were not content and still desired to expand their road to prosperity. That year, villagers planted 80


hectares of common sea buckthorn. They planted another 80 hectares in 2018, which are now flourishing. The village is already receiving orders from processing factories. Ripe sea buckthorn berries will be shipped to these factories within a couple of years.

In Tugurmiti Village, support of the local government facilitated the establishment of cattle care centers to help border workers look after their livestock while they are away at work.

Remahun Alim and his two brothers joined several impoverished families in the village in opening a shop to bake *nang*, a kind of crusty bread popular in Xinjiang. They earned a monthly income of 20,000-plus yuan and ended the tradition of locals traveling far to the city proper to purchase it. They voluntarily quit their jobs as border protection workers to give other villagers a chance for employment. "I think I can escape poverty on my own," says Remahun Alim.

The Kirgiz people are proud of their horse riding tradition. The village built a race track and developed a recreational area where entertainment projects such as off-road motorcycling, dining, folk cultural activities, and valley tourism are offered. Mehmet Kasim and his fellow villagers feel their quality of life improving.

"After shaking off poverty, we focus on building a beautiful village," explains Duan Hongming. "We want our villagers to live a moderately prosperous life, both materially and spiritually." Although a number of young people have relocated to bigger cities to work and study, many locals who have lived in border areas for generations remain committed to guard their homeland and national borders.

"It is our honor," says Mehmet Kasim. 

Locals plant sea buckthorn in Xindie Village. The village had officially been lifted out of poverty by 2017. But locals were not content and still desired to expand their road to prosperity.





March 14, 2018, Beijing: A press conference on the debut of Season 3 of *A Bite of China*, a food documentary that swept the country. VCG

# Chinese Documentary Capturing an Era

Text by Gong Haiying

*As Chinese documentaries enter an era of accelerated growth, not only should they be marketed, but cultural brands should be created.*

Since 2012, following the immense popularity of the food documentary *A Bite of China* across the country, more and more domestic Chinese documentaries have been released.

In April 2018, the Documentary Research Center of Beijing Normal University released the *Research Report on China's Documentary Development 2018* (hereinafter referred to as Report), which stated that the development of the Chinese

documentary industry is accelerating and has entered an “era of accelerated growth.”

The Report provided a comprehensive summary of the development of Chinese documentaries in 2017.

It mentioned a Chinese documentary that received a theatrical release last year: *Twenty Two* directed by Guo Ke, who was born in the 1980s. It is a lengthy documentary recounting the stories of former “comfort women” still living in China.



Instead of piling up historical archives, it objectively recorded the current living conditions of the remaining survivors. Its 170-million-yuan box office earnings broke the record for a Chinese documentary film.

Production of historical and cultural documentaries is maturing, as evidenced by Season 3 of *Around China—Homesickness*, which depicts lives in traditional Chinese villages, and Season 2 of *The Tales of Chinese Medicine*, which focuses on traditional Chinese medicine. The quantity of national themed documentaries has also risen, with standouts such as *Ariel China*, using big budgets and advanced production techniques to capture grand spectacles.

Another prime example is *Born in China*, a Sino-U.S. co-production on rare wild animals. American film critic Owen Gleiberman noted that the documentary movie's "most progressive effect is to unveil the majestic diversity of Chinese landscapes." Moreover, *Born in China* beat every other documentary in box office earnings in the United States in 2017 with US\$13.87 million.

Statistics show that the annual revenue of Chinese documentaries in 2017 exceeded 6 billion yuan, an increase of 15 percent over the previous year.

The Report determined that from the perspective of the sources of creation and the channels of broadcast, Chinese documentaries have formed a basic pattern of broadcast mainly on specialized documentary channels and satellite TV channels, with online platforms and cinema chains as supplements. Many satellite TV documentaries, such as *The Tales of Chinese Medicine*, have gone into syndication and become strong brands.

China has seen great progress in its new media documentaries. Chinese video websites are vying to cultivate the market, and they have invested in the development of original "home-made" documentaries. Documentary short videos are also emerging.

With the advent of the new media era, the Chinese documentary industry is embracing attractive opportunities for development.

Zhang Tongdao, an expert who worked on the Report and director of Beijing Normal University's Documentary Research



October 29, 2014: Crew of *Around China—Homesickness*, a 100-episode documentary series produced by China Central Television (CCTV), while they shoot in Exiang County in Heihe City, Heilongjiang Province. IC

Center, believes that not only should documentaries capture a solid market share, but more importantly, they should create a Chinese documentary culture brand.

"Last year, the global documentary industry witnessed an unprecedented prosperity, evidenced by the emergence of a number of masterpieces," said Zhang. "However, only a handful of phenomenal works ever made an impact big enough to become symbolic of the times. At a new historical precipice, Chinese documentary workers should seize the opportunity to consolidate their expertise and help more outstanding Chinese documentaries go global and win international recognition."

## China Needs Documentaries to Record the Era

—Interview with Zhang Tongdao, director of the Documentary Research Center of Beijing Normal University

**China Pictorial (CP):** As a documentary film director and researcher, how do you define a good documentary?

**Zhang:** A good documentary, first of all, must provide a unique humanistic discovery. Second, it needs to explore new expressive ways to form unfamiliar expressions of aesthetics and create a visual feast for the audience. Third, it must be well-made to give viewers a thrilling viewing experience.



A poster for the TV documentary *The Tales of Chinese Medicine*, which has been syndicated and become a brand name. IC



A poster for *Twenty Two*, a lengthy documentary that recounts the stories of surviving “comfort women” still living in China. Released in 2017 on the Chinese mainland, its 170-million-yuan box office earnings broke the record for a Chinese documentary film. IC

**CP:** In recent years, what breakthroughs have Chinese documentaries made in content?

**Zhang:** The content of Chinese documentary films has expanded considerably in recent years.

First, cultural themes have expanded significantly, both in breadth and depth. We have seen many new and interesting expressions of traditional Chinese culture. For example, the production designs of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) series such as *Herbal China*, *The Tales of Chinese Medicine* and *Young TCM Practitioners* are very market-oriented and meet the demands of their target demographic. Another example is the program *Follow the Trace of the Tang-Dynasty Poetry* (2017) by CCTV, which found new ways to express the legacy of ancient Chinese poetry.

Second, documentaries are cutting deeper into their subjects' lives and emotions. For example, *The Mirror* (2017) explores emotional issues such as parent-child relationships and how Chinese



families function in the current era. *Life Matters* (2016) takes a deep look at the meaning of life.

Moreover, breakthroughs have been made on historical subjects in works such as *The Turning Points of History* (2016). Instead of simply telling stories of Chinese history, the documentary TV series interprets it from various perspectives and recreates scenes to illuminate the inherent motivating factors of Chinese historical changes.

It's worth mentioning that the character configuration of heroes and leaders, who are often flatly depicted in traditional Chinese documentaries as heroic figures, has undergone tremendous changes. The best example might be *The Chinese Mayor* (2015) by Zhou Hao, which paints a complex portrait of a local politician.

**CP: How does China create a cultural brand for documentaries?**

**Zhang:** Cultural brands need stable quality, aesthetic style and strong values.

The Chinese documentary brand is prominent in the *A Bite of China* series, but works that reinforce it are few and the subject matter is weak compared to productions from Britain and the United States.

We cannot just rely on documentary filmmakers to create a Chinese documentary culture brand. The industry must integrate with finance and marketing to create a cultural brand with real market value and social influence.

**CP: The Chinese government advocates the idea of “telling Chinese stories in an international way.” How can Chinese documentaries go global and help enhance China’s international influence?**

**Zhang:** To build Chinese documentaries into a bridge for cross-cultural communication, the fundamental requirement is cultivating people with cross-cultural thinking and sensibilities.

International communication doesn't mean much without market performance. Unfortunately, China has not yet produced anything very naturally attractive to




April 8, 2017, New York, U.S.A.: The premiere of *Born in China*, featuring rare species of wild animals in China. A Sino-U.S. co-production, *Born in China* beat every other documentary in box office earnings in 2017 with US\$13.87 million in the United States. VCG

foreign markets.

China still has relatively limited talent with cross-cultural sensibilities, not to mention a lack of minds with the ability, vision and awareness to tell stories properly.

**CP: What is the value of documentaries for China today?**

**Zhang:** Today, China needs documentaries to do what they do: document the era. The documentary not only uses images to truly record current cultural, educational and other social conditions, but it also deeply reflects society through an artist's observation, thinking and artistic refinement. A good documentary captures a clear picture that viewers want to see. 



# The Classics of Chinese Traditional Villages

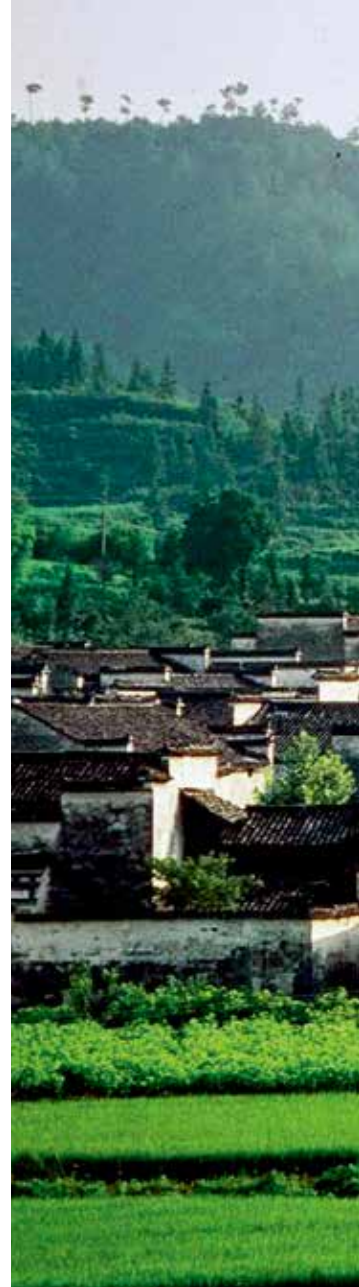
Photographs and editing by Xiao Jia, text by Wang Luxiang, published by Zhejiang University Press, February 2018

*The book provides inspiration on how to better protect precious cultural heritage found in China's traditional villages.*

Vast territory, diverse natural environments and wide-ranging social and economic conditions have contributed to China's multiple styles of dwellings across the country's long history. Structures in traditional villages are marked with their respective geographical conditions and showcase rich characteristics of different ethnic groups. This magnificent photo book is the first in China to compile a relatively comprehensive collection of traditional structures from villages of different ethnic

groups as well as living conditions around China.

Three decades ago, photographer Xiao Jia spent five years working with a production unit filming a large-scale TV documentary titled *Dwellings in China*. He took pictures of countless structures in traditional villages and recorded folk cultures in a dozen of cities and regions including Beijing, Zhejiang Province, and Anhui Province. While filming the documentary, he exposed countless rolls of film. This book collects these precious photos. Wang Luxiang, a renowned scholar



Stone Village of the Bouyei ethnic group in Guizhou Province.





Xidi Village in Anhui Province.

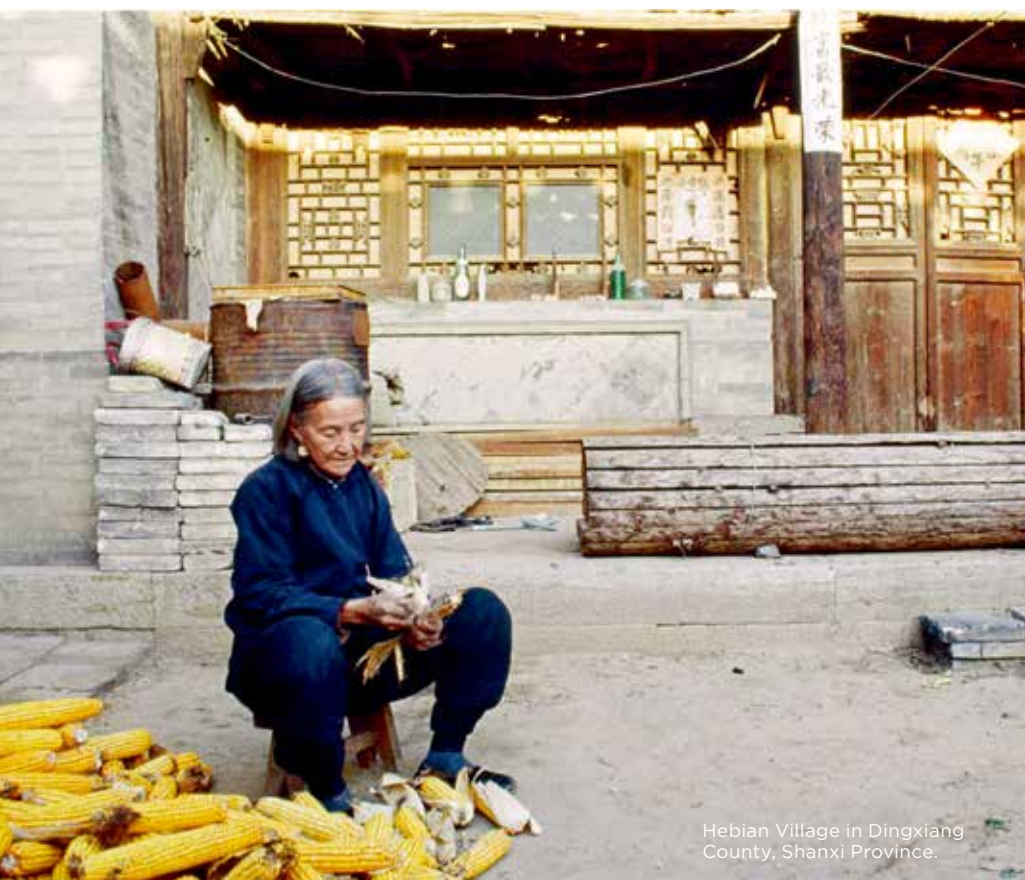


Eryi Tower in Hua'an County, Fujian Province.





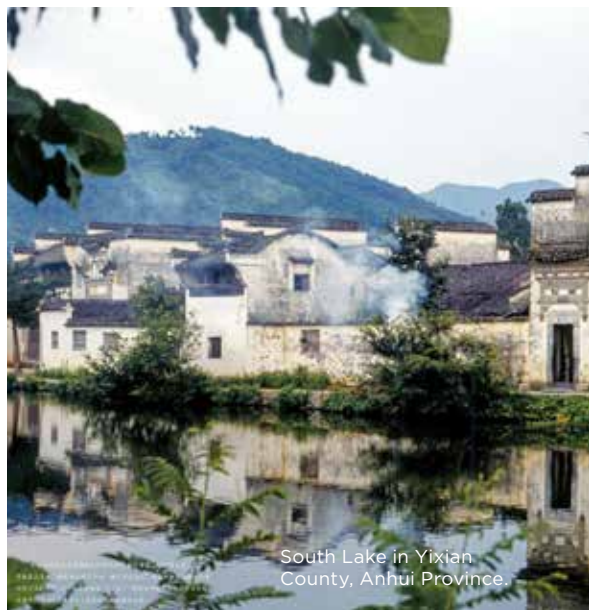
A huge thangka Buddha portrait is exhibited during the Shoton Festival.



Hebian Village in Dingxiang County, Shanxi Province.



Maogusi Dance of the Tujia ethnic group from western Hunan Province.



South Lake in Yixian County, Anhui Province.






and author, was invited to give an aesthetic view on the brilliant cultural heritage as part of Chinese civilization. Wang's notes document the real conditions of traditional villages in China at the time without a hint of bias.

The beautiful and profound descriptions and pictures reflecting excellent traditional architecture in China as well as culture found in this book paint a clear picture of Chinese villages embraced by green mountains and clear waters. Most are home to villagers who

enjoy happy and harmonious lives. Traditional structures that have been disappearing due to urbanization and modernization are also recorded. Han Meilin, a famous Chinese artist, penned an introduction for this book, in which he wrote: "The author's observations and arrangement enable us to enjoy the beauty of dwellings scattered across many places. We are also moved by the love and persistence behind those works. Culture needs to be passed down from one generation to another to become

everlasting. The spirit of voluntarily taking the responsibility to carry out this job is necessary for the development of modern culture."

This book offers rich images and text on the development of ethnic culture in China's villages and the evolution of traditional architecture, which could also serve as references for the research of ethnonyms, sociology and architectonics. In the author's preface, he argued: "A comparison between China's traditional villages three decades ago and those villages today manifests radical change. This should inspire deeper reflection on how to better protect precious cultural heritage preserved in China's traditional villages."

Xiao Jia graduated from the School of Humanities of Hangzhou University (now Zhejiang University). He then studied at the University of Trier in Germany. As a Class-I director, he now serves as art director of Hangzhou Opera and Dance Theatre. He created dozens of films and television programs including *Sister Drum*. His works have won several major domestic and international awards. He also wrote *To Meet the Grand Canal*, a book on literary theory, and *Rural Structures in China*, a collection of photos, in addition to others. Wang Luxiang is a famous Chinese commentator, senior planning director and host of Phoenix Television, and a research fellow with the China National Academy of Painting. 



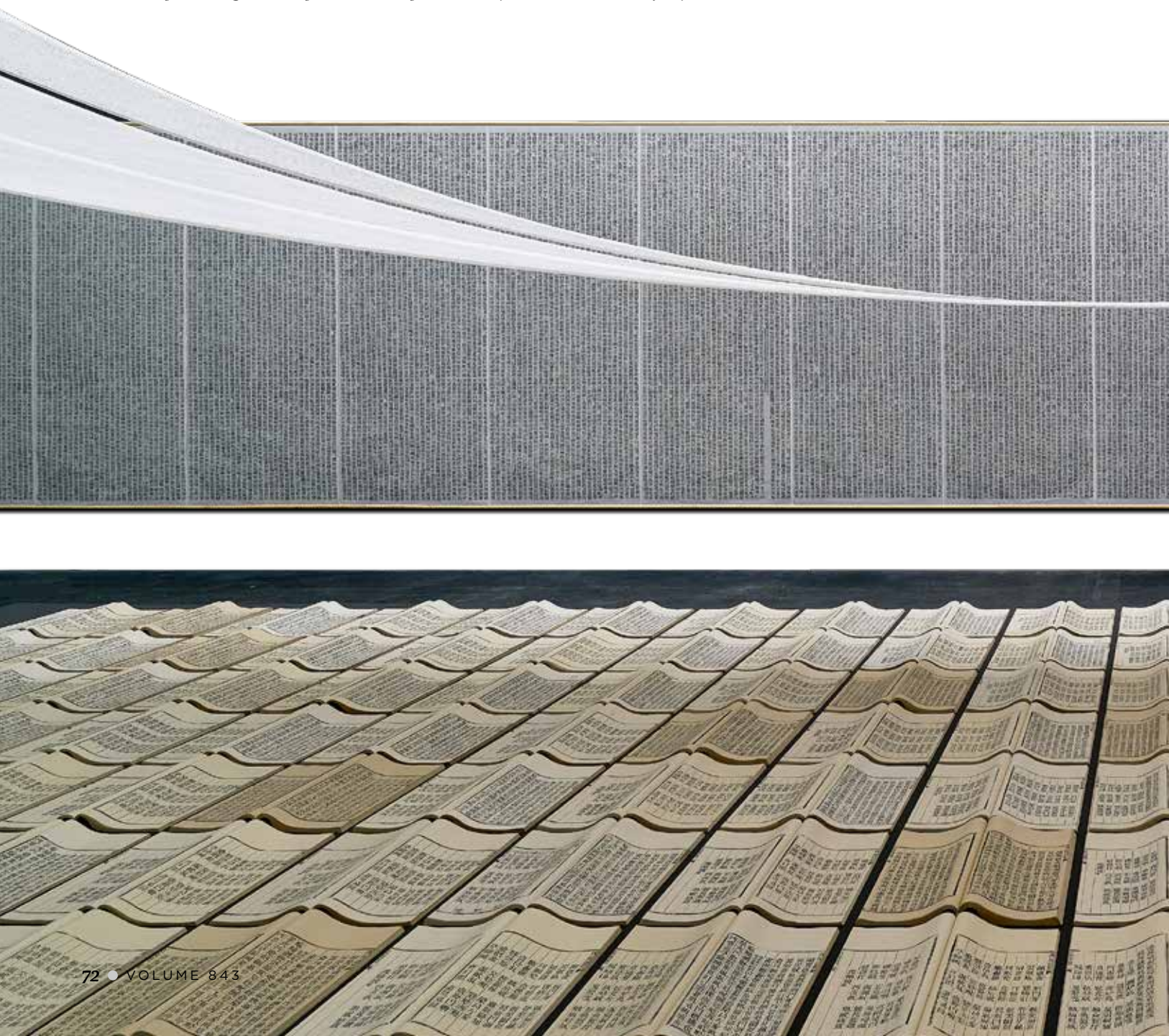
# Reflection in the Mirror

## Xu Bing: Thought and Method

Text by Gong Haiying

Photographs courtesy of UCCA

*The exhibition gives Xu Bing a chance to review his works over the past four decades, painting a comprehensive portrait of the artist's body of work.*





From July 21 to October 18, 2018, the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) presents an exhibition titled “Xu Bing: Thought and Method.” This exhibition marks the most comprehensive retrospective solo show of Xu Bing, a Beijing-based renowned Chinese contemporary artist. It is the culmination of his artistic career spanning more than four decades, featuring more than 60 works including prints,

drawings, installations and films as well as documentary footage and archival material.

One of the most influential Chinese artists on the international stage, Xu Bing has made a profound impact on the history of Chinese contemporary art with his avant-garde works and wide-ranging practice. UCCA Director and CEO Philip Tinari believes Xu is not only the most representative icon of Chinese contemporary art but also a

key figure for global contemporary artistic interlocation over the past half a century.

According to Tinari, the title “Thought and Method” expresses UCCA’s desire to provide a systemic overview of Xu’s notions and methodology in art creation, as well as the motivation behind his unceasing inquiry.

Xu’s works at the exhibition have been divided into three sections. The first section features Xu’s works

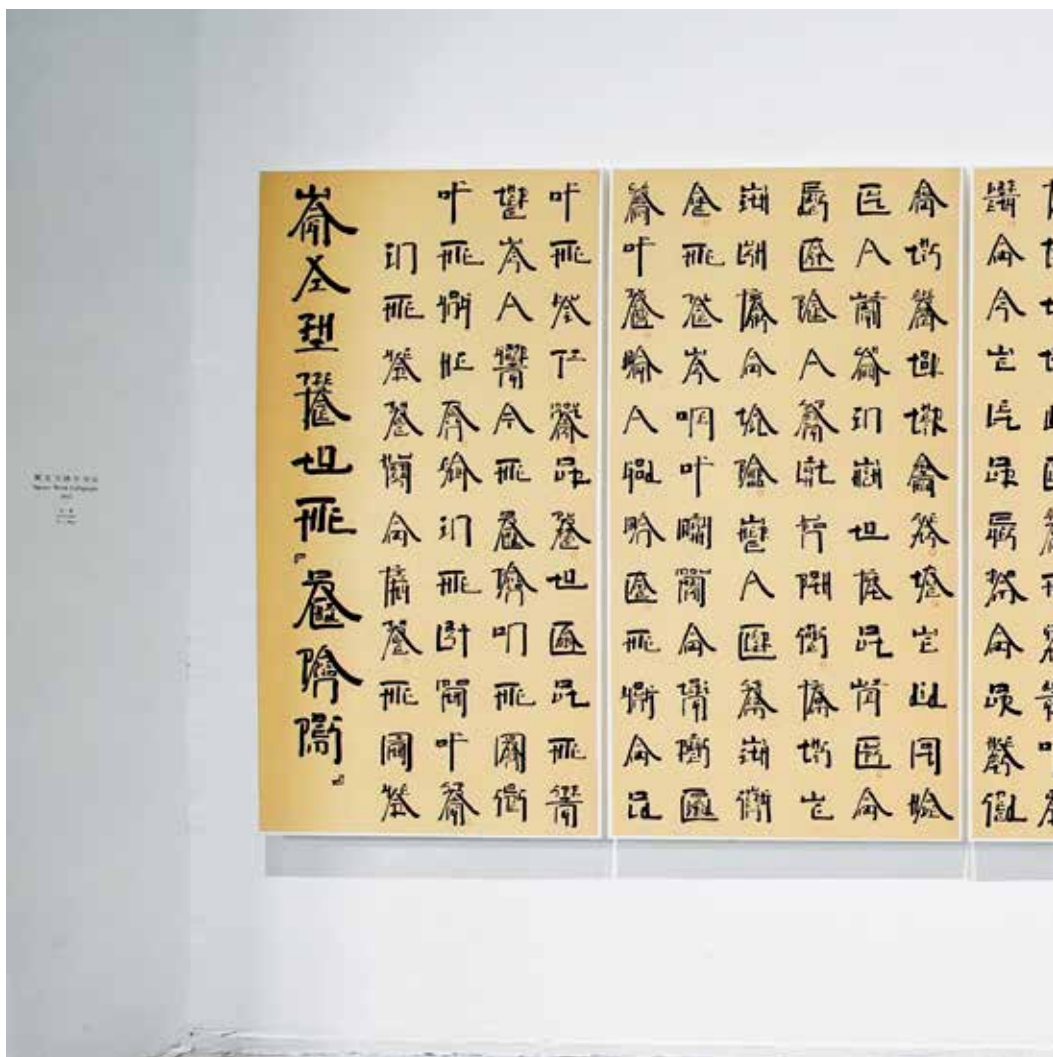
*Book from the Sky* by Xu Bing, mixed media installation, dimensions variable, 1987-1991. In 2007, the work joined the opening exhibition of UCCA. Eleven years later, it is exhibited at the same place.







*Monkeys Grasp for the Moon* by Xu Bing, 2001. In 2001, Xu Bing was invited to hold an exhibition at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington D.C. *Monkeys Grasp for the Moon* spanned the entire height of the gallery's atrium, where it eventually became a permanent installation. This exhibition displays part of the work.



*Square Word Calligraphy* by Xu Bing, 2017. Back in the early 1990s when Xu first moved to the United States, he began creating the *Square Word Calligraphy* series (1994-present), a refashioning of the English alphabet according to the structural logic of Chinese characters.

dating back to the period from the 1970s to early 1990s, when he studied and worked in China. The second section highlights his works from the 1990s to 2008 when Xu was living in the United States. The third section focuses on Xu's works after he returned to China in 2008. "For me, the exhibition provides a chance for retrospection," Xu said. "Showing all the works together makes a mirror reflecting myself."

#### Early Production Based on Writing Systems

The exhibition starts with

Xu's early masterpiece *Book from the Sky* (1987-1991) which took four years to complete. The piece is a four-volume treatise carved with thousands of meaningless Chinese characters, each designed by the artist in a kind of type-face font originating in the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and standardized by artisans of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The volumes are manually bound like ancient Chinese books.

This work serves as the introduction to Xu's "Thought and Method." Text is normally used for





*Square Word Calligraphy Classroom* by Xu Bing, mixed media installation, dimensions variable, 1997. As visitors enter the “calligraphy classroom,” writing and watching videos create a more immersive experience.



reading and conveying literal meanings, but Xu's *Book from the Sky* is marked by illegible character-esque writing. Xu Bing wanted these “fake Chinese characters” to challenge people's inert thoughts and drive them to doubt their available knowledge system.

*Book from the Sky* debuted at the National Art Museum of China in October 1988 and quickly caused a sensation at home and abroad, consolidating Xu's reputation and academic status in the international art circle. Returning the work to UCCA is especially meaningful



*Square Word Calligraphy Sign: Men, Toddlers, Women* by Xu Bing, silkscreen prints, 150.8 x 102.4 cm, 2003.

because it was displayed at UCCA's opening exhibition "85 New Wave: The Birth of Chinese Contemporary Art" in 2007 in the exact same space.

### Exploration in Cross-cultural Context

Exploration based on writing systems has remained a central theme of Xu's production. Back in the early 1990s when Xu first moved to the United States, his greatest challenge was communication. During his experience of the cultural collision between the East and the West, he began creating *Square Word Calligraphy* (1994-present), a refashioning of the English alphabet according to the structural logic of *hanzi*

(Chinese characters).

Contrasting his "fake Chinese characters," Xu's *Square Word Calligraphy* can be read, combining Chinese calligraphic art with English writing to create a new "species" that poses questions for people from both cultures. In 1999, Xu Bing was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, popularly called the "Genius Grant," for his work. In 2015, Xu collaborated with Foundertype, a Chinese font developer, to release "Foundertype Xu Bing," a conceptual art-deco font that reorganizes the *pinyin* system (romanization of Chinese) into characters themselves. This work brought Xu Bing's aesthetic ideas into the lives of the general public.

For the exhibition, Xu Bing created an installation piece modeled as an "adult literacy class" to serve the exhibition space with textbooks, an instructional video and calligraphy tracing books used in classrooms. As visitors enter the gallery, they also enter a "classroom." Writing and watching videos create a more immersive experience.

Xu also embarked on a series of "cooperative endeavors" with non-human actors such as animals. Works like *American Silkworm Series* (1994-present), *Panda Zoo* (1998) and *Wild Zebra* (2002) all fuse Western form with traditional Chinese elements to address the frustration and excitement of trans-cultural contact.





Out of the exhibition hall, UCCA provides a rich literature of Xu Bing's work for audience to read. Words on the wall briefly comb through Xu's works in a timed sequence.



Art for the People by Xu Bing, ink on canvas, 1,040 × 307 cm, 1999.


### Attention to Social Issues

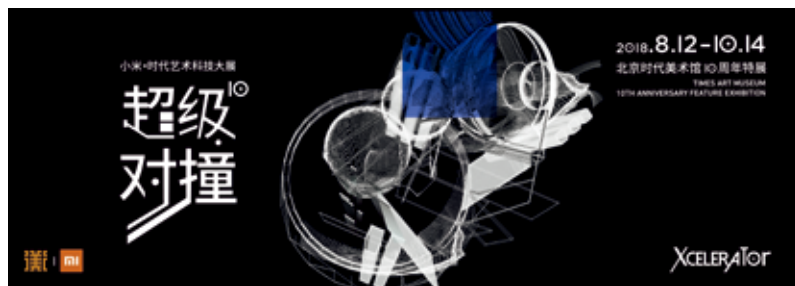
In 2008, Xu returned to China and became vice president of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. The country's rapid development inspired him to create a number of works including *Background Story* (2004-present) and *Phoenix* (2008-2013). Against a wider social and cultural background, these works review social phenomena and the cultural identity of contemporary China.

A large-scale installation, *Phoenix* measures 28 meters in length and six tons in weight, making it too large to be placed in the exhibiting hall. So the exhibition only displays manuscripts and video materials of the work. Made of construction waste and

abandoned tools, the work looks to a future built of recycled materials and their accompanying spirit, a familiar trope in both China and the world at large.

Xu's close scrutiny of society has helped him produce a new work every a few years as he works to break traditional boundaries of art.

"An artist is actually devoted to building a closed circle in terms of his or her own artistic methods," remarked Xu after reviewing his works over the past four decades. As for his future plans, he had no answer. "My works are not planned out," he explained. "All I can say is as long as I have energy, I will continue to focus on social issues or Chinese themes. If I have something new to say, I will find a new way to speak." 



Poster for the exhibition "Xcelerator."

## Xcelerator

August 12 – October 14  
Times Art Museum, Beijing

In recent years, art has been integrated with science and technology with injections of mathematics, physics and computer technology to create the new media art in forms of VR, artificial intelligence, AR and biological genes. The development has made contemporary art increasingly diversified and the art boundaries more blurred.

This exhibition displays 10 groups of new media art works from eight countries and regions including China, Britain, Japan and the United States. They explore the integration of art and science in multiple ways, use various materials and employ wide-ranging media.



Once Upon a Time, 2017.

## Franklin Chow: Zigzagging My Way Home

August 4 – October 17  
Power Station of Art, Shanghai



Poster for the exhibition "Franklin Chow: Zigzagging My Way Home."

life over the past 20 years. Also on display are four ancient Chinese artifacts from the Shanghai Museum's collection which greatly inspired his art.

This is Chinese-Swiss artist Franklin Chow's debut solo exhibition in China.

The title of the exhibition, "Zigzagging My Way Home," was inspired by the diverse experiences and confluences of cultures that Chow has known in his life and art as he eventually meandered home to his roots in Shanghai.

The exhibition brings together Chow's representative works including paintings, installations and videos from different stages of his career, alongside *Journal*, a series of ink drawings and writings from his daily

## Parallelisms: Lu Junzhou

August 19 – October 21  
Suzhou Museum, Suzhou

This exhibition displays more than 30 works that Chinese calligrapher Lu Junzhou has completed in recent years.

Lu's works focus on the transformation from traditional aesthetics to contemporary aesthetics. Through his handwritings, Lu has been expanding the boundaries of art. His works follow his own ideas, emphasizing the spatial composition of Chinese characters and the rhythm of writing.

Born in the southeastern Chinese province of Zhejiang in 1974, Lu Junzhou now lives and works in Beijing.







*As the Land Sleeps, 2017.*



*Everywhere Nowhere, 2017.*

## The Room: Du Meng Solo Exhibition

April 29 – October 29  
Shanghai Museum of Glass, Shanghai

In a scenic and storytelling manner, this exhibition showcases more than 80 glass works by Chinese artist Du Meng over the past two years, sorted into seven groups. The pieces offer a dramatic interpretation of the pervasiveness of “limitations” and “boundaries.”

Du Meng was born in Beijing. In 2008, she completed a BFA in Graphic Design at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) in Beijing. In 2013, Du received her MFA from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Glass Program. She had been an Artist in Residence as well as Adjunct Faculty at RIT for years before she returned to China in 2016.

Her works have continued to be exhibited and honored at venues in the United States, China and Europe. She now lives and works in Beijing and Shanghai, China.



Poster for the exhibition  
“Parallelisms: Lu Junzhou.”

## A Century of Fashion: Hong Kong Cheongsam Story

April 17 – November 11  
Guangdong Museum, Guangzhou



Collections of fine Hong Kong cheongsams from the past century.

The cheongsam, or *qipao*, is considered one of the most representative female Chinese garments in contemporary history. “Cheongsam” is the Hong Kong Cantonese word for what the majority of Chinese people would call “*qipao*,” and either way the dresses feature strong local culture.

Themed around the Hong Kong cheongsam, the exhibition gathers 205 pieces of collections including fine cheongsams, cheongsam-making tools and promotional materials featuring cheongsam elements from the past century in Hong Kong, as well as a large number of valuable historical videos and images. It traces the evolution of Hong Kong women’s clothing, changes in the industry, the production process and fascinating stories of Hong Kong women and cheongsams.

Through the exhibition, the audience can absorb the charm of Hong Kong fashion over the past century and learn about the changes in Hong Kong society and women’s status.



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