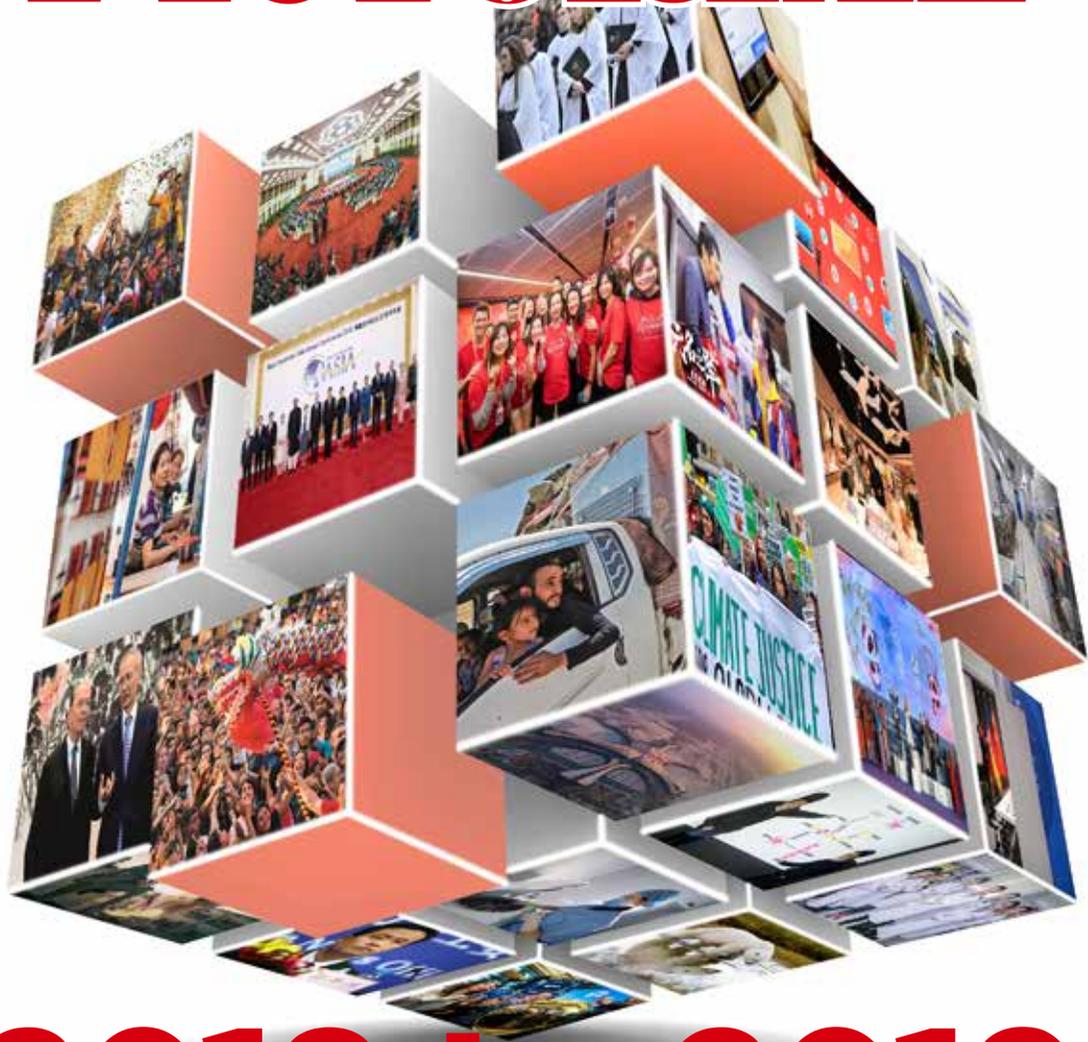


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Haidian, Beijing 100048 邮编: 100048
Email: imagechina@chinapictorial.com.cn 邮箱: imagechina@chinapictorial.com.cn

President: 社长:
Yu Tao 于涛

Editorial Board: 编委会:
Yu Tao, Li Xia, He Peng 于涛、李霞、贺鹏
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Scott Huntsman, Mithila Phadke 苏格、弥萨罗

Editors and Translators: 编辑、翻译:
Gong Haiying, Yin Xing 龚海莹、殷星
Zhao Yue, Wang Shuyun 赵月、王舒雅
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Li Yiqi, Lu Anqi 李艺琦、鲁安琪
Operation: Zhang Yingjie 编务: 张英杰

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Climate Rulebook Adopted

December 15, Katowice, Poland: COP24 President Michal Kurtyka reacts after adopting the final agreement during the closing session of the UN Climate Change Conference 2018 (COP24). After two weeks of intensive talks, negotiators from nearly 200 countries agreed on the implementation guidelines for the landmark Paris Agreement. Xie Zhenhua, China's special representative on climate change affairs, remarked that the comprehensive, balanced and strong package of guidelines adopted by the conference laid a strong policy foundation for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.



VCG

Airport on Pace for 2019 Launch

December 19, Beijing: The roof of the terminal building of Beijing Daxing International Airport is completed. A "Golden Phoenix" has emerged in the south of the capital. The interior decoration of the

terminal is progressing smoothly. With four runways and a 700,000-square-meter terminal area, the airport is expected to become the world's largest of its kind upon completion in 2019.

VCG



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New Lunar Exploration

December 8, Xichang, Sichuan Province: China launches the Chang'e-4 lunar probe from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center. The probe is expected to make the first-ever soft landing on the far side of the moon. The probe, including a lander and a rover, was carried by a Long March-3B rocket into space, opening a new chapter for China's lunar exploration.



IC

19th Anniversary of Macao's Return

December 16, Macao: Performers attend the Macao International Parade, held by the government of China's Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) to celebrate the 19th anniversary of Macao's return to the motherland. The parade attracted more than 70 groups from the Chinese mainland, Macao SAR and Hong Kong SAR as well as from foreign countries including Japan, Brazil, Spain, Italy, Portugal, France, Mozambique and Malaysia, among others.



VCG

Boost for Cultural Exchange

December 4, Chengdu, Sichuan Province: Performers at the opening ceremony of the 13th Confucius Institute Conference. Nearly 1,500 representatives from more than 150 countries and regions, including university presidents, scholars, Confucius Institute directors and educational personnel, attended the two-day conference. China has been developing the non-profit education organization since 2004 with an aim to promote cross-cultural exchange.

China's Economic Outlook 2019 Eyes on Both Speed and Quality

Text by Huang Hanquan

China will further enhance the service industry and consumption's contributions to economic growth, attach greater importance to high-quality development driven by innovation and transform the past growth mode excessively reliant on investment and detrimental to the environment.

In 2018, despite uncertainty in both domestic and international situations, China's economy still maintained stable growth at an average rate of 6.7 percent in the first three quarters of the year and an overall yearly growth rate of 6.6 percent.

The year 2019 marks the 70th birthday of the People's Republic of China as well as a crucial year for achieving the first of the country's 'Two Centenary Goals, namely, building China into a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Following the general principle of seeking progress while maintaining stability, the Chinese government will continue efforts to stabilize employment, finance, foreign trade, foreign capital, investment and expectations, fight "three critical battles" against major potential risks, poverty and pollution, and realize steady economic growth. China's economy is expected to grow by 6.2 to 6.5 percent in 2019, a rate slightly lower than that of 2018.

In terms of consumption, although the growth rate of consumer goods retail sales dropped slightly in 2018, the figure is expected to stabilize in 2019. China has a middle-income population of 400 million and a huge market of 1.4 billion people with strong consumption willingness



October 16, 2018: Customers purchase at a shopping mall in Yantai, eastern China's Shandong Province. The service industry and consumption have made increasingly important contributions to China's economic growth. by Tang Ke/Xinhua

and capacity. In 2017, retail sales of consumer goods reached 3.6 trillion yuan (US\$522 billion), an increase of nearly 10 percent over the previous year. However, in October 2018, the Chinese government raised the minimum threshold for paying personal income tax, and more substantive measures to cut corporate taxes and boost consumption are projected to be taken in 2019, which are expected to greatly bolster growth in consumption.

In terms of investment, the introduction of the "six stabilities" policy has been predicted to help the finance sector maintain steady growth. China's fixed asset investments are roughly categorized into

infrastructure investment, real estate investment and manufacturing investment, which together account for 80 percent of the total. Now, the central government's deficit ratio remains at 2.6 percent, leaving some space to rise. In 2019, China will maintain active fiscal policy and expand investment in sectors such as agriculture, transport infrastructure, energy conservation, ecological protection, living standards and technological innovation. This allocation will ensure steady growth in the country's infrastructure investment.

In terms of exporting, despite the negative impact of the global economic slowdown and China-U.S. trade friction, China's exports still maintained

growth in 2018. The driving forces of world economic growth are estimated to weaken in 2019, increasing downward pressure on the global economy. According to the *World Economic Outlook* released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in October 2018, global growth in 2019 is projected at 3.7 percent, 0.2 percentage points lower than the IMF's April forecast. Moreover, international trade friction provoked by the United States since the beginning of 2018 has broken the confidence of global traders. All these factors exerted negative influence on China's exports. Nevertheless, China will remain "the world's factory" for some time. China and the United States are actively carrying out negotiations to resolve their trade friction, which is likely to be settled soon. Analysis of these factors has produced consensus that China's foreign trade will maintain single-digit growth in 2019 despite the downturn pressure it faces.

The Chinese government and society prioritize quality development over fast economic expansion. China will further enhance the service industry and consumption's contributions to economic growth, attach greater importance to high-quality development driven by innovation and transform the past growth mode excessively reliant on investment and detrimental to the environment. In addition, China will continue advancing supply-side structural reform, eliminate backward and excessive production capacity, upgrade traditional industries by introducing new technologies and business modes, foster and expand emerging industries and replace old growth drivers with new ones to rise to the middle-to-high end of the global value chain. 

The author is a researcher and director of the Institute of Industrial and Technological Economics under the Academy of Macroeconomic Research.

互联网保险

Online Insurance

Edited by Li Zhuoxi

Online insurance refers to web-based insurance services ranging from payment and verification to claims settlement. Unlike traditional insurance, most online insurance providers offer scenario-based, fragmented mobile insurance services with a high frequency of occurrence, such as return-freight insurance, delivery delay insurance, personal fund security insurance and mobile phone screen insurance. These products feature simple insurance clauses and offer customized service, low prices, convenient transactions and direct online claims settlement. Online insurance is significant for the establishment of a sound social security system.

Young people have become the primary buyers of online insurance. The young generation likes simple, convenient and interesting insurance products and seeks an uninterrupted shopping experience.

According to a recent report, 80 percent of online insurance applicants were born in the 1980s and 1990s, and 36.4 percent were under 24 years old. Young consumers are expected to become the main driving force in the development of online insurance.



In recent years, scenario-based online insurance products such as personal fund security insurance, high-end medical insurance and flight delay insurance have gained popularity among young people. IC

新职业人群

New Occupation Population

Edited by Li Zhuoxi



February 27, 2018: Wu Fangyuan (right), a veterinarian at Aidian Animal Hospital in Urumqi, capital of northwestern China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, plays with a dog. VCG

An emerging group, the new occupation population refers to those who are engaged in new service professions which have been created in response to recent social development trends in China's big cities.

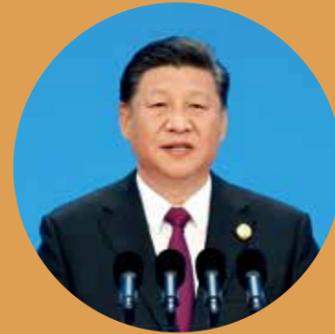
A 2018 survey on working and living conditions of those people showed that the academic background of the new occupation population is generally high, with more than 60 percent of them holding a college degree or above. However, nearly 35 percent of those in new types of occupations earn more than 8,000 yuan (about US\$1,160) a month. The top three new professions by revenue were veterinarians, fitness coaches and bartenders. Nearly 29 percent of veterinarians earn a monthly income of more than 20,000 yuan (US\$2,905).

Many highly skilled employees are devoted to these new occupations, which has improved the social status and identity of the new occupation population. As a result, workers tend to stay longer in the new occupations. Meanwhile, thanks to the development and progress of social concepts, young people's attitudes toward employment are gradually contrasting traditional public perspectives. For example, a large number of women are involved in occupations such as veterinary medicine, interior design and automobile customization, while more men have started becoming nurses, early childhood educators, beauticians, cosmeticians and other traditionally "feminine" occupations. In the future, the gender labels of new occupations will continue to fade. 

China's Voice Resounding in the World

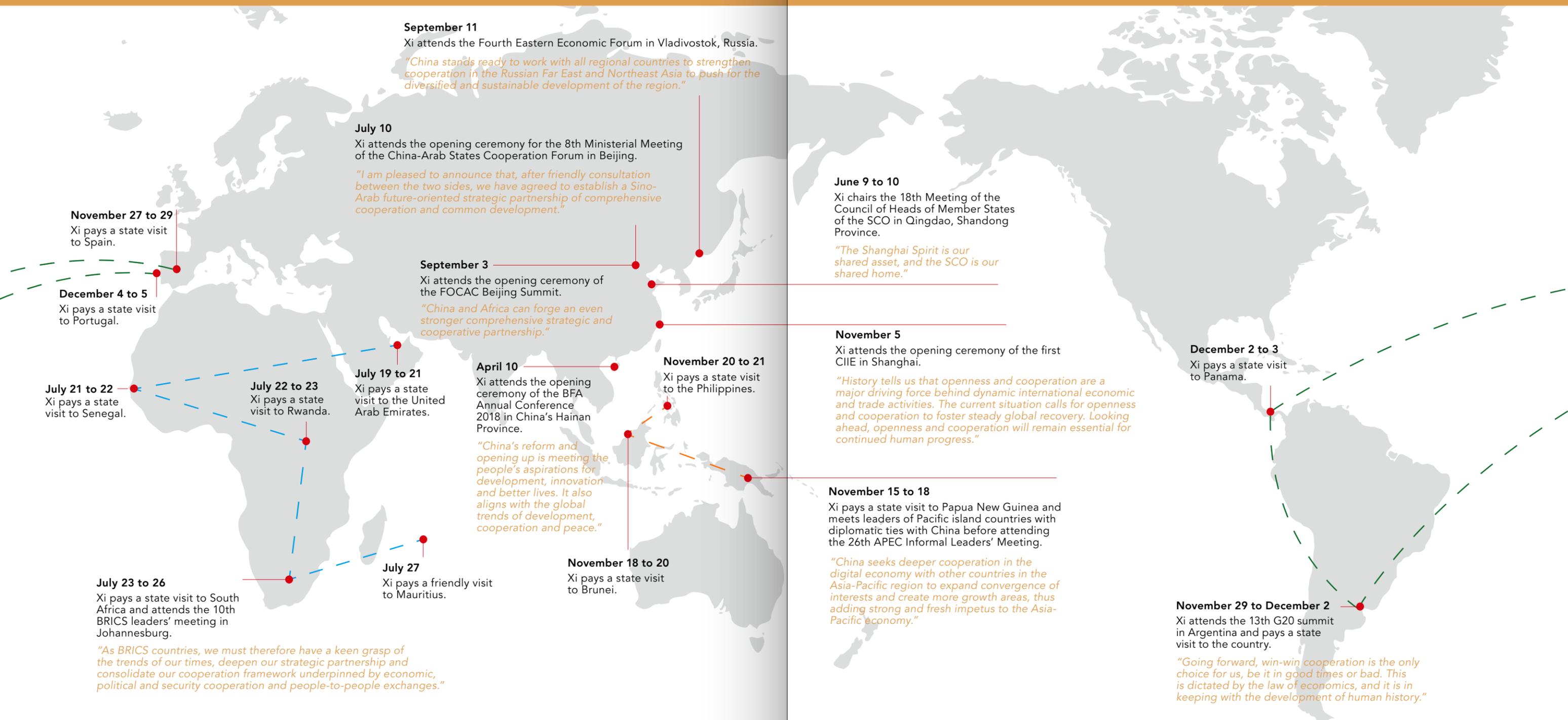
—Xi Jinping's Diplomatic Activities in 2018

Edited by Hu Zhoumeng



In 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping went abroad four times to visit countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Oceania and attended many international events such as BRICS, APEC and G20 summits. The same year, China also hosted the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2018, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

summit in Qingdao, the Beijing summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the first China International Import Expo (CIIE). On these occasions, Xi delivered important speeches, stressing China's efforts to establish a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for humanity.



May the Next 40 Years Be Even Greater

A great revolution, China's reform and opening up over the past four decades has changed the destiny of the Chinese nation and influenced the world.

On December 18, 2018, China hosted a grand gathering to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the country's reform and opening up, which has changed the destiny of the Chinese nation while influencing the world. President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders attended the event at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, at which the president delivered a speech summarizing China's achievements over the past four decades.

During the speech, Xi declared China's reform and opening up a great revolution that propelled a quantum leap forward in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. He called the pursuit of reform and opening up and socialism with Chinese characteristics a milestone in realizing the Chinese

nation's rejuvenation. Over the past 40 years, China has continued improving its people's well-being. The country has lifted 740 million people out of poverty in

just 40 years, reducing the poverty headcount ratio by 94.4 percentage points. The country's development over the past four decades has effectively served the cause of world

December 18, 2018: Chinese President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders applaud reform pioneers during the grand gathering to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the country's reform and opening up. by Yan Yan/Xinhua



December 18, 2018: Chinese President Xi Jinping at a grand gathering to celebrate the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up. The reform and opening up serves as a milestone in realizing the Chinese nation's rejuvenation and promotes world peace and development. by Xie Huanchi/Xinhua

peace and development.

Xi noted the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) backing all the work while calling for constant enhancement and improvement of the Party's way of leadership. He called for continuous efforts to deliver on the people's aspirations for a better life. The practices over the past 40 years have solidified the CPC's founding aspiration and mission as seeking happiness for the Chinese people and striving for rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, which has also been the aim of reform and opening-up endeavors. The president stressed upholding Marxism and advancing theory. The practices over the past 40 years have shown that innovation is the pulse of reform and opening up. Furthermore, continued efforts

are requested to ensure development remains the top priority and to enhance China's composite national strength.

Xi called for continued efforts to improve and develop the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. As the reform and opening up over the past four decades has shown, the system is of fundamental and overarching significance for the long-term stability and development of all endeavors of the Party and the country. He stressed adhering to a path of socialism with Chinese characteristics and finding balance between reform, development and stability.

Xi underlined China's commitment to opening up wider to the world and promoting joint efforts to build a community with a shared future for humanity. China cannot

develop in isolation from the world, and the world needs China for global prosperity. Xi pointed out that since ancient times, China has seen numerous movements aimed at strengthening the nation through reform, and the Chinese nation has engaged in interactions and cultural exchanges with foreign nations in a confident and broad-minded manner. Such profound historical and cultural heritage is fueling the Chinese nation's drive to continue embracing the future through reform and opening up.

During the celebratory event, according to the decision made by the CPC Central Committee and China's State Council, 100 Chinese were awarded the medals of reform pioneers and 10 foreigners were honored with China reform friendship medals. 

Boosting Economic Growth with a Better Business Environment

Text by Liu Ying

China's improved business environment is benefitting the world at large.

Since China's historic reform and opening up began in 1978, foreign-invested enterprises have played an important role in driving technological progress, promoting economic growth and creating more jobs in China. During these 40 years, China's high-speed and healthy economic development has also offered foreign-invested enterprises gorgeous returns, and the country has been one of the most attractive destinations for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the world.

Improving the business environment is a key step to attract and stabilize FDI. And China's high-quality economic development also requires a sound business environment.

Widely Recognized Efforts

A good business environment is conducive to lowering transaction costs, improving operating efficiency and attracting FDI. According to the World Bank, if the time it takes for investors to start a business is cut by 10 days, it would increase investment by 0.3 percent and enhance GDP growth by 0.36 percent.

Since it began the reform and opening up in 1978, China's

consistent efforts to improve its business environment have been recognized by the world at large. Since the inception of the World Bank flagship publication *Doing Business* in 2003, China has made notable improvements to its business environment. China's global ranking on ease of doing business measured

by *Doing Business* annual reports advanced from 108th at first to 96th by 2013 and then up to 46th in 2018 as the country finally broke into the top 50. This evidences that the country's business environment has undergone qualitative changes and realized notable improvements.

Improvements in China's

In 1982, the Shenzhen-based Happiness Soft Drink Factory, the first China-U.S. cooperative enterprise in China to produce Pepsi, was put into operation. China's business environment has witnessed consistent improvement over the past four decades. CFB



business environment have enabled substantial growth of foreign-invested enterprises. Global cross-border investment dropped by 41 percent in the first half of 2018, but foreign investments have increased in China. In 2018, foreign investment projects in China exceeding 10 billion yuan (US\$1.44 billion) each included German chemical giant BASF's Verbund chemical production site in Guangdong Province as its largest investment project to date, BMW's global production base for new energy vehicles in Shenyang City, and Tesla's first-ever wholly owned super factory outside the United States, which is located in Shanghai.

Accelerated Optimization

Since China began to implement its reform and opening-up policy, the gradual improvements to the country's market economy enabled foreign investors to enjoy increasingly equal treatment to domestic investors. In 1979, *Law of the People's Republic of China*

on Chinese-Foreign Equity Joint Ventures was passed. As China's first legal document dealing with foreign investment, this law secured protections for foreign investment in China. In 1986, to address long-standing problems and reduce administrative intervention, China promulgated *Provisions of the State Council for the Encouragement of Foreign Investment* and 22 rules for its implementation. Beginning in 1995, to better examine and approve foreign investment projects in China, the country classified foreign investments into the four categories of encouraged, permitted, restricted and prohibited projects. And classifications could be altered and revised based on social and economic development. From then on, China's guidance on foreign investments became routine.

Since China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, it has been actively fulfilling its WTO commitments to provide a better internal and external environment for foreign-invested enterprises operating in China. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2012, reform on China's attraction and usage of FDI has been driven to a deeper level. China has been committed to implementing a management system based on pre-establishment national treatment and a negative list and broadening its market access with an eye on advancing its opening up to a wider scale and higher level.

In recent years, China has attached great importance to reforms to streamline administration, delegate powers and improve regulation and services. It fully opened its manufacturing sector, eased market access to the service industry and opened some fields such as finance and insurance to unprecedented levels.

The improvement of China's business environment and the country's reforms to streamline administration, delegate powers, and improve regulation and services cover two key realms. First, much less paperwork is required to streamline administration. In 2019, a nationwide reform to simplify the approval system for construction projects will be carried out in China. A unified procedure will be established. This reform is expected to stimulate the dynamics of market players, enhance the performance of foreign investment and foster high-quality growth of the Chinese economy. Additionally, the reform of the production license system for industrial products has been driven to a deeper level in recent years, which has effectively reduced institutional transaction costs and unlocked market vitality. Second, governments at all levels have taken positive actions and drawn clear roadmaps and timetables to eliminate unreasonable barriers and restrictions. A plethora of measures have been taken to improve China's business environment.

By improving its business environment, China will better merge its high administrative efficiency with its mature infrastructure facilities, rich human resources, and huge market with great potential. In the process, not only will China create more advantages in terms of attracting FDI, improving trade structure, seizing high-quality development and optimizing the global industrial chain, but at the same time, it will also create benefits that the whole world will enjoy. 

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

Africa and China Sharing Paths of Common Development

Text by Hodan Osman Abdi

Since the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Africa has been receiving an increasingly large share of the benefits reaped by China's reform and opening up.

The pace and scale of China's growth since the adoption of the reform and opening-up policy is one of the most significant and most widely discussed development stories of the century. At the same time, the tragedy of growing poverty on the African continent despite its vast reserves of resources has been one of the most frustrating problems in recent history. However, since the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2000 and increased South-South cooperation, real GDP growth in Africa has risen by 4.9 percent annually from 2000 to 2008 and continued to rise at a similar pace with more robust growth in certain African countries in recent years.

Similar Struggles and Effects of Investment

Before examining the spillover effects of China's development on the African continent, it is wise to revisit the development journeys undertaken by both China and Africa over the last four decades.

When Deng Xiaoping, the chief architect of China's reform and opening up, began the push for economic development, the poverty rate in China stood much higher

than the majority of countries on the African continent. While China's per capita GDP measured merely US\$156 in 1978, in the 40 years that followed, and with the influence of the reform and opening-up policy, China's GDP grew at an annual average rate of 9.5 percent to reach US\$8,827. Most significantly, this rapid growth lifted more than 700 million people out of poverty in China alone, slashing the country's poverty rate from nearly 90 percent in 1981 to under two percent in less than four decades. Meanwhile, the growth performance in Africa in the period from 1974 to the mid-1990s was negative, reaching -1.5 percent in 1990. As a consequence, hundreds of millions of African people—almost half of the continent's population—were forced into conditions of extreme poverty. In 1970, one in 10 poor people in the world lived in Africa, but by the year 2000, the number rose to one in two, as the number of extremely poor people on the continent increased from 140 million in 1975 to 360 million in 2000.

As numerous academic investigations indicate, investment was likely a defining factor in the disparity in growth between China and Africa. During the same period of time, the two economies developed

in almost completely opposite directions. Thanks to the reform and opening-up policy, China allowed increased foreign direct investment (FDI) in productive and manufacturing sectors since 1978 that proved to be a crucial means to kickstart rapid development in a wide range of areas and sectors, especially hard and soft infrastructure, with positive spillover effects on human capital in terms of higher education and health levels nationwide. Meanwhile, the investment rate in Africa since 1975 declined by 8.5 percent, having negative impact on growth and especially poor performance in crucial determinants of human capital, education and health on the continent. To this day, despite vast inflows of aid initiatives targeting these sectors specifically, most African governments still lack the basic resources and expertise to effectively tackle many crucial issues, remaining highly dependent on outside assistance, as evidenced by the most recent outbreak of Ebola in West Africa.

The fact that China's development occurred in a country that is home to a fifth of the world's population has had major implications for the global economy. The reform implemented



September 20, 2015: Ethiopia's first modern tram begins operation in Addis Ababa, marking the full completion of this China-aided infrastructure project. Boasting a carrying capacity of 60,000 passengers per day, the tram cost US\$475 million, with 85 percent of the money provided by the Export-Import Bank of China. VCG

a series of measures aimed at easing the process of "opening up," which meant exactly what the name implied: creating stronger links between China and the rest of the world through trade. And since the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Africa has been seeing an increasingly large share of the benefits reaped by China's development and growth. China has been the continent's largest trading partner for the past nine years consecutively. Since more than two thirds of Chinese investment in Africa is in hard infrastructure, Chinese investment and aid on the continent are not only changing its face with visible improvements in infrastructure but also lighting up African countries. Two decades ago, the most common routes of travel between cities in Africa were long and dangerous dirt roads that were easily affected by rains and floods. Now, newly paved highways and high-speed trains link cities and countries across the continent, cutting the cost of travel and boosting connectivity and trade. At the same time, investment in clean energy production such as solar plants

is creating affordable and sustainable options for energy. These factors, combined with a relative increase in security and political stability on the continent, are transforming it into one of the world's most attractive destinations for investment.

Human Capital Creating Growth

As many developing countries in Africa look to China in awe of the miraculous results achieved in such a short span of time, the recurring question is how a country transformed its fate so successfully. Although China's development can be attributed to numerous intertwining factors, significant investment in health and education services since the beginning of the reform agenda is one of the most important factors leading to the results witnessed today. While China was able to generate significant income through attracting FDI and participating in world trade, the improving quality of life for its people and the increased strength of its demographic advantage of skilled, healthy labor are powering both national and global growth.

Investment in human capital has been pivotal in the success of China's reform and opening-up policy that leads to unprecedented socio-economic growth in a nation that has a population near Africa's 54 nations. In my opinion, this should be the most important lesson African countries learn from China's experience. At the same time, development of Africa's human capital should be the core of China-Africa cooperation over the next two decades.

Education is one of the most important factors fueling innovation and development. If the African continent is to ever escape the reputation of least-developed continent with the poorest population in the world despite impressive reserves of natural and demographic resources, countries on the continent must learn from China's experience and optimize investments in health and education to create conditions for a vibrant innovative society that can contribute to national and global growth. As such, African governments are urged to research and study development models of different nations including China to draft a development strategy that best suits their individual circumstances. 

The author is executive director of the Center for East African Studies at Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University.

Goodbye
2018

Hello
2019

In this issue, *China Pictorial* looks back at China in 2018 through the stories of those who influenced the nation and even the world, as well as the most creative technologies, art trends, and ideas that emerged in the past year, so as to showcase China's social transformation.

China-U.S. relations are now poised at a new starting point. Now more than ever, China and the United States need to focus on seeking mutually beneficial relations characterized by equality, inclusiveness, mutual respect, mutual learning, win-win cooperation, mutual trust and positive interactions.

Over the past few decades, humans have invented several technologies that could lead to our total destruction such as gene editing, nuclear energy, nanotechnology and synthetic biology, just to name a few. We can never be too cautious when developing more of them.

The year 2019 has arrived. Looking back upon the past year, the international community remained restless. The year 2018 had escalating economic friction, upgraded cooperation, data crises and technological challenges. In fast-changing conditions, the world is still vigorously moving forward, seeking stability despite uncertainties and creating opportunities for development.

Achieving high-quality poverty alleviation, solving profound poverty problems and integrating with rural vitalization are the primary goals of China's poverty alleviation efforts over the next two years.

Art has transcended the "materialization" setting and its boundaries continue to expand, resulting in the emergence of uncontained museums.

In 2019, China will continue to promote peaceful cooperation and win-win development despite an increasingly complicated international situation.

2018

Opportunity and Risk Around the World

Edited by Li Yiqi & Xu Shuyuan

The year 2019 has arrived. Looking back upon the past year, the international community remained restless. The year 2018 had escalating economic friction, upgraded cooperation, data crises and technological challenges. In fast-changing conditions, the world is still vigorously moving forward, seeking stability despite uncertainties and creating opportunities for development.

Tesla in Space

On February 6, 2018, the world's most powerful rocket, SpaceX's Falcon Heavy, conducted a successful debut test launch. The jumbo rocket carried a payload of a red Tesla Roadster automobile. According to more recent news, however, the car has already passed its intended target as it drifts toward the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, which could disrupt its intended purpose of "floating in space for billions of years." Still, the successful launch of the Falcon Heavy rocket marked another milestone in the history of space travel.



February 6, 2018: The world's most powerful rocket, SpaceX's Falcon Heavy, blasts off on its highly anticipated maiden test flight, carrying a red Tesla roadster into orbit near Mars. VCG



March 31, 2018: The funeral of British scientist Stephen Hawking at the Church of St. Mary in Cambridge. Around 500 friends, relatives and colleagues gathered to pay respects at his private funeral. Xinhua

Stephen Hawking Dies

On March 14, 2018, Stephen Hawking died at the age of 76. The Cambridge-educated British physicist was the most renowned contemporary researcher on general relativity and cosmology. He was born exactly 300 years after the death of Galileo Galilei and died on the 139th birth anniversary of Albert Einstein. He fought amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) his entire adult life but never gave up his passion for physics and left countless precious scientific legacies for mankind. In a statement, Hawking's children, Lucy, Robert and Tim, said: "We are deeply saddened that our beloved father passed away today. He was a great scientist and an extraordinary man whose work and legacy will live on for many years. We will miss him forever."

Facebook Data Scandal

On March 18, 2018, news broke that Cambridge Analytica, a British political consulting firm, had used data improperly obtained from roughly 50 million Facebook users to precisely deliver advertising content to sway Trump's 2016 election. The company had been hired by the campaign. By April, Cambridge Analytica was accused of illegally harvesting the data of more than 87 million Facebook users to target political advertising. Since then, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has testified two separate times before the U.S. Congress. Data security in the internet era has attracted worldwide attention.



April 10, 2018: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg arrives to testify before a joint hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and the US Senate Committee on the Judiciary at Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. VCG

China Opens Up Further to the World

On April 10, 2018, at the Boao Forum for Asia, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced measures that would allow China to open up further. In September, the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation was successfully held, and in November, the first China International Import Expo was held in Shanghai. It was the first state-level import-themed expo and a pioneering move in international trade. In December, addressing a conference marking the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up in Beijing, Xi urged sustained efforts to open up further and push for a community with a shared future for humanity. The repeated message of China's further opening up injected great energy into international efforts to build an open global economy. It was consistent with Xi's call for efforts to build an open regional economy at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting in November, and to stay committed to openness, cooperation and trade multilateralism at the G20 summit held from November 30 to December 1 in Argentina.



April 10, 2018: Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan pose for a photo with foreign leaders and their spouses before the opening of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018 in Boao, Hainan Province. Xinhua

U.S. Withdrawal from Iran Nuclear Deal

On May 8, 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump signed a proclamation declaring his intention to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal and impose the highest level of economic sanctions on Tehran at the White House.

After years of hard negotiations, Iran and six world powers, namely China, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and the United States, struck a 2015 deal over Iran's nuclear program. Under the accord, Iran agreed to limit its sensitive nuclear activities and allow monitoring by international inspectors in return for the lifting of crippling economic sanctions. However, within three years of its implementation, Trump's statement brought the Iranian nuclear issue back into uncertainty. On May 11, thousands of Iranians protested against the withdrawal of the United States in Tehran.



December 21, 2018: U.S. aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis sails into the Persian Gulf, the first since America's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal. The Iranian military dispatched 30 ships to track and monitor the aircraft carrier. IC



June 12, 2018: U.S. President Donald Trump shakes hands with Kim Jong Un, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), during their first meeting at the Capella resort on Sentosa Island in Singapore. VCG

Historic Trump-Kim Meeting

History was made when U.S. President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un, the top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), met at the Capella Hotel on Singapore's Sentosa Island on June 12, 2018, an important step toward the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue. The heads of the two countries discussed the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the establishment of a peaceful mechanism. After decades of political isolation and military confrontation, the DPRK and the United States finally sat down at the negotiating table, another sign of easing tension on the Korean Peninsula.

France Lifts World Cup Trophy

France won the World Cup for the second time after two decades of short-comings by beating Croatia 4-2 on July 16, 2018. Croatian midfielder Luka Modric won the World Cup Golden Ball award, and French teenager Kylian Mbappe was named the best young player. Thibaut Courtois was awarded the Golden Glove as the leading goalkeeper. The mostly young French team fulfilled a career goal early, and French soccer looks promising these days.



July 15, 2018: French players celebrate at the trophy ceremony after the Russia 2018 World Cup final between France and Croatia at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow. Xinhua



October 24, 2018: Riot police take position during clashes with demonstrators outside the Congress while Argentinian deputies begin discussion of the government's 2019 budget in Buenos Aires, Argentina. VCG

Currency Crisis in Turkey and Argentina

Affected by the continued appreciation of the U.S. dollar, the interest rate increase of the Federal Reserve and Trump's tough trade policy, the exchange rate of the Turkish lira against the U.S. dollar continued to fall in 2018. After Trump announced that the United States would double tariffs on steel and aluminum imported from Turkey, the lira tumbled as much as 18 percent on August 10, battering Turkey's consumption, investment and economic growth. This development threw the global emerging markets into chaos. Many emerging market countries have experienced currency collapse. In the first eight months of 2018, the Argentinian peso has lost half its value against the U.S. dollar, becoming a severely weak currency.

Brexit Continues

After the Brexit procedure began in 2017, Britain struck a draft divorce deal with the European Union (EU) on November 20, 2018, according to which Britain will remain in the EU until the end of 2020. During this transitional period, the Brexit plan became the focus of controversy between Britain's opposition Labour Party and the government led by the Conservative Party. On July 6, 2018, British Prime Minister Theresa May announced that members of the British Cabinet had agreed to establish a comprehensive "free trade area for goods" with the EU.



December 11, 2018: British Prime Minister Theresa May (left) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel (right) meet at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany. On December 10, May announced that the vote on the Brexit plan had been delayed. She flew to see Merkel in a bid to save her plans for Britain's exit. VCG

China-U.S. Trade Dispute

In 2018, the United States repeatedly imposed tariffs on imports from China, and China slapped necessary countermeasures on imports from the United States. The value of tariff-added products involved in the China-U.S. trade war has reached hundreds of billions of U.S. dollars. Since the outbreak of the trade war, the two countries have held several bilateral talks. On the evening of December 1, 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping was invited to have dinner and meet with his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The two leaders discussed economic and trade issues between the two countries and reached consensus to stop imposing additional tariffs.



June 3, 2018: Chinese Vice Premier Liu He (right) chats with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross during a press conference after their meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. VCG



November 9, 2018: Yang Jiechi (second right), member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, and Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe (right) meet with U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis (left) and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (second left) during the China-U.S. Diplomatic and Security Dialogue at the State Department in Washington, DC. VCG

China-U.S. Relations Start a New Lap

Text by Ni Shixiong

Now more than ever, China and the United States need to focus on seeking mutually beneficial relations characterized by equality, inclusiveness, mutual respect, mutual learning, win-win cooperation, mutual trust and positive interactions.

The year 2018 marked the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up as well as the 40th anniversary of the establishment of China-U.S. diplomatic ties. Forty years ago, the two milestone events changed

China, its relations with the United States and even the international landscape simultaneously. More than coincidence, the historical inevitability evidences that China-U.S. relations have been closely associated with China's reform

and opening up since the very beginning.

China-U.S. Ties at a Crossroads

Over the past four decades, various developments have shown



November 8, 2018: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) greets the media beside former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. VCG

that China-U.S. relations are important not only to the two countries, but also to the global landscape at large. At the same time, the difficulties, complexities and uncertainties characterizing their relations have resulted in frequent ups and downs in bilateral ties.

In recent years, China-U.S. relations seem to have reached a difficult stretch which has become particularly tense. This has primarily been attributed to three reasons: First, the two countries' political systems, ideologies and values are fundamentally different. This factor has been highlighted by the disappointment and sense of failure rising in the United States as it comes to terms with the remarkable achievements of China's reform and opening up. Second, their conflicting core national interests are central to the relationship. Currently, the two countries wrestle over irreconcilable differences in core interests

that have caused repeated friction and conflict on issues concerning Taiwan, Tibet, the Diaoyu Islands, the Korean Peninsula, the South China Sea, trade, human rights and cyber security, among others. Third, the structural connection between China as a rising power and the United States as an established power is a direct cause. The rapid rise of China has generated anxiety and a sense of crisis in the hearts of some Americans as it threatens the United States' status as the world's sole super power. The so-called Thucydides Trap has become an inevitable reference for China-U.S. relations.

New Model of Major-Country Relations Based on Win-win Cooperation

In February 2012 during his visit to the United States, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed construction of a new model of major-country relations between China and the United States based on win-win cooperation. However, there is a lack of precedence in building such major-country relations. Considering their remarkable differences in terms of political systems, social models, ideology, values and core interests, it is understandable that the two countries still face headwinds on the road to a new model of major-country relations.

After sharp twists and turns from 2017 through 2018, bilateral ties have gradually stabilized. How can China and the United States march steadily toward win-win cooperation? Their relations are now poised at a new starting point. Of course, the two countries must overcome many obstacles and challenges awaiting on the road ahead. China and the United States now need to pay more attention than ever to seeking mutually beneficial relations characterized by equality,

inclusiveness, mutual respect, mutual learning, win-win cooperation, mutual trust and positive interactions. First, the two countries need to respect each other, which is a basic prerequisite. Second, the two sides need to complement and learn from each other with an inclusive attitude while setting aside differences in political system and ideology. Third, the two sides need to seek common ground while shelving and narrowing differences and promoting cooperation through deepening mutual trust. Fourth, the two countries should avoid falling into the trap of historical determinism, which dictates that a rising power and an established power must inevitably fall into conflict, while discarding the mentality of zero-sum games and exploring new avenues and models to control disputes and avoid confrontation. Fifth, the two sides should respect each other's core and fundamental interests and endure thick and thin together rather than confront each other.

During the G20 summit in Argentina from November 30 to December 1, 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump met in a friendly, candid atmosphere. The meeting created positive, constructive outcomes. The two leaders agreed to stop imposing new tariffs by January 1, 2019, effectively hitting the brakes on the escalating China-U.S. trade war. The two sides also agreed to seek avenues for coordinated, cooperative and stable China-U.S. relations, charting a course for the development of bilateral ties in the years to come. 

The author is director of Shanghai Shixiong Center for International Studies and a professor at the School of International Relations and Public Affairs at Fudan University.

International Security Prospects Expectations and Variables

Text by Wei Zongyou

How China-U.S. relations evolve will fundamentally impact the world security situation in 2019.

The world endured great uncertainty and turbulence in 2018. While hot spots in the Korean Peninsula, Syria, and the Middle East continued to draw attention, the escalating tit-for-tat trade war between China and the United States and the growing strategic competition dominated the headlines of the past year. In 2019, what can we expect from the global security landscape?

First, how China-U.S. relations evolve will fundamentally impact the world security situation. As the two major countries on the planet, relations between them will not only impact those two countries but also the whole world at large. Among the many issues that complicate China-U.S. relations, three are particularly important and worthy of closer observation. The first is the trade issue. If China and the United States can reach a deal within 90 days as leaders of the two countries agreed during their meeting in Argentina, they may find the requisite breathing space to continue to work on other thorny issues affecting

bilateral trade relations. But given the unpredictability of the Trump administration and the complicated and structurally imbalanced trade relations between China and the United States, whether the two sides can fundamentally resolve the trade quarrels soon remains up for debate.

How China and the United States will coexist in the South China Sea is also a big concern. Frankly speaking, the security situation in the South China Sea has improved greatly in recent years, especially since an agreement on the single draft of the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea in August and the signing of an MOU of the joint oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea between China and the Philippines in November 2018. However, despite all the positive developments, the United States continued and even expanded its freedom of navigation (FON) operations in the South China Sea. Looking ahead, the Trump administration will likely continue its FONs in the South China Sea, which will only aggravate mutual strategic



June 28, 2018: A group of Syrian refugees return to their homeland from Arsal, Lebanon. On July 3, the Syrian government, through the official media, called on citizens who had left Syria due to the war to return to their motherland and stressed that the government would protect their safety. According to statistics from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the seven-year civil war in Syria has driven more than 10 million Syrians to flee their homes, of which more than 5.6 million fled the country. Xinhua

suspicion and increase the risk of unforeseen accidents that would only raise the chance of military engagement.

The Taiwan issue is another obstacle that China and the United States must overcome to improve their relations. With the passage of the Taiwan Travel Act in 2018, the Trump administration is moving toward expanding official and military relations with Taiwan. Given the sensitivity of the Taiwan issue in terms of national sovereignty, any overtures involving elevating official and military relations will be seen by China as an affront to its sovereignty that

demands strong recourse which would drop China-U.S. relations to a new low. If China and the United States sneeze, the world will quiver.

Second, the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula remains clouded in uncertainty. Since the summit meeting between Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump in Singapore in June, the tension in the Korean Peninsula has abated greatly. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) not only ceased missile launches and nuclear tests, but also dismantled some of its test sites and showed willingness and determination for serious denuclearization in favor of development of

its economy. However, denuclearization is doomed to require a gradual and long process, which demands patience, mutual understanding, and even positive economic stimulus from the United States.

Third, the situation in the Middle East and Afghanistan is far from stable. The Syrian civil war has dragged on for more than eight years, with still no end in sight. Given that many regional powers like Israel, Turkey, and Iran are involved and that the United States and Russia seem to be engaging in a new kind of proxy war, the situation on the ground could turn ugly at any time in 2019. Besides, with the Trump

administration's abandonment of the Iran nuclear deal coupled with deterioration of Iran-Israel relations, Iran has become one of the biggest variables in the regional security situation. In Afghanistan, even though President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani urged the Taliban to cease acts of violence and join the peace process, car bombs and explosions persist as tactics used by the Taliban to express defiance and complaints. The Taliban poses a serious challenge to the rule and legitimacy of the Afghanistan government and the stability of the country.

Fourth, refugees from the Middle East and Latin America could cause even more controversy in Europe and the United States. Over the past few years, refugees from the Middle East and Latin America have become a lightning rod fueling populism in Europe and the United States, which have regressed in their refugee and immigration policies. With the civil war raging in Syria and the situation throughout the Middle East and Afghanistan shrouded in choking uncertainty, more and more refugees are likely to flee their homelands seeking safety in Turkey and Europe, which will arouse even greater anti-refugee sentiments and xenophobia in Europe. In the United States, even though the Trump administration deployed troops and threatened to use "lethal force" against caravan refugees and immigrants, they continued flowing up to the border between Mexico and the United States. With more caravan immigrants seeking shelter and jobs meeting increased security measures and stricter anti-refugee and immigration policies, a humanitarian disaster along the U.S.-Mexico border seems not unlikely. 

The author is a professor with the Center for American Studies at Fudan University.

Climate Crisis

A Chilling Fate

Text by Kely

The international community has paid close attention to China's actions, in the hope that the country can contribute Chinese experience, wisdom and fresh approaches to tackling global climate change.

On December 12, 2015, the Paris Agreement was adopted by consensus of nearly 200 state parties showing great willingness to work together to protect the common home of humankind. Just three years later, however, the ninth *Emission*

Gap Report released by the UN Environment delivered a jarring wake-up call: Current national emission reduction commitments are far from enough to meet the climate target of 2030. The report also stressed that to achieve the Paris Agreement's target of limiting

the increase in average global temperature to well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, commitments to emission reduction need to be quadrupled from current levels. To limit the rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, efforts would need to increase five-fold.

December 1, 2018: Climate change protesters demonstrate in London before the United Nations climate change conference is held in Poland. VCG



A polar bear prowls a barren landscape on the shores of Hudson Bay, Canada. As the Arctic and sub-Arctic sea ice melts due to global warming, polar bears face long summers without fat reserves from seals. VCG

Global carbon emissions continue to increase year by year, and in 2018 the annual growth rate reached an all-time high of 2.7 percent. Global warming is no longer a theoretical prediction by scientists, but a harsh reality. Unusually high temperatures in the Arctic Circle above 30 degrees Celsius have led to the thawing of the permafrost. Near Greenland, the Arctic's thickest sheet of sea ice broke up for the first time in thousands of years. And the California wildfires in the United States consumed vast swaths of forests and pastures, resulting in heavy casualties and economic losses.

Regardless of how long U.S. President Donald Trump continues to deny the consequences of rising carbon emissions, the irreversible damage to the planet will continue. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that the impacts of global warming of

more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels will lead to devastating climate consequences after 2030. Only 12 years remain for decisive preventative action before the planet becomes a greenhouse by 2030.

Another noteworthy development is that although countries that had looked to Washington to promote strong climate agreements remain hesitant, China has shown strong determination to step up to the challenge, emphasizing the cost of carbon emissions and using carbon pricing as an important method of reducing emissions. China has successfully reduced coal consumption for three consecutive years. Through supportive policies, sales of electric vehicles in the country are also growing steadily.

In recent years, China has constantly stressed "green development" by reducing demand for coal-fired power, expanding the clean energy market and improving

the national carbon trading system. Examining root causes and seeking effective solutions, China's commitment to promoting global green and low-carbon development and building a community with a shared future for humanity has been recognized by many countries. China will continue to play an important role in South-South cooperation in the field of climate change. In the future, the international community will closely monitor China's actions, in the hope that it will contribute Chinese experience, wisdom and fresh approaches to tackling global climate change.

But we must keep in mind that the road to green development remains arduous and long. Under the Paris Agreement, no mechanism forces any country to set a specific target by a specific date. As severe consequences of climate change continue to emerge, how to allocate emission reduction tasks and achieve a balance between climate governance and national development is still an important issue that urgently needs to be discussed by all countries. In any case, reduction of carbon emissions has become urgent and imminent.

"This new report makes it clearer than ever that we're in the race of our lives," declared Nathaniel Keohane, senior vice president of the Environmental Defense Fund. "Our fate—and the fate of our children—is in our hands. We can make decisions that protect our communities, our children and future generations, or we can pass on a world far different and more damaged than the one we inherited." 

Kely is a freelance writer and environmentalist.

Genuinely Smart AI

Text by Huang Tiejun

For China, the evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) should focus on developing intelligent chips and new-generation open-source AI platforms, accelerating the development of key generic theories and technologies for new-generation AI and building new intelligent machines such as brain-like machines.

The development of AI in China will proceed from three levels: intelligence as use, machinery as the body and learning as the soul.

Intelligence as use emphasizes the functions, applications and impact of AI. The key feature of

the current wave of AI development is to achieve real applications such as face, speech and image recognition, which have been widely applied in many fields. In 2017, the State Council of China issued a new-generation AI development plan, proposing to promote large-scale

application of AI in key industries and fields such as manufacturing, agriculture, logistics, finance, commerce and home appliances, accelerate innovative application of AI according to people's needs for education, medical care, senior care and other public

December 26, 2018: An electric vehicle runs in the 350-meter-long tubenet transit system during a test run in Xiaoshan District of Hangzhou City, eastern China's Zhejiang Province. IC



services and promote application of AI technology in public administration, judicial management, urban management, environmental protection and other key sectors and areas in social governance. Responding to strong demands of economic and social development, China will capitalize on its advantages in massive data support and huge market application scale, actively innovate AI products and services and create a virtuous circle wherein scientific and technological innovation and industrial application motivate each other. This is an opportunity for China to use its advantages to develop AI.

Machinery is the body, which determines the level and performance of intelligence. The current



December 12, 2018: Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group unveils its first "future hotel" — Fly Zoo Hotel. The hotel is loaded with artificial intelligence, automating a series of procedures including check-in. IC

wave of AI would not have occurred without significant improvements in computer performance. The rapid growth of intelligent applications has created massive demand for smart chips. Chinese unicorn company Cambricon and tech giant Huawei both released neural network processors in 2018, and more chips are expected to be unveiled soon. Unlike existing artificial neural networks, neuromorphic computing is a precise simulation of biological neural networks, which is key to developing the "real eBrain"—a brain-like machine. In the spring of 2018, Peking University developed a retina-like chip that was 1,000 times faster than the human eye. Intel held a Neuro Inspired Computational Elements Workshop to systematically lay out neuromorphic computing. For China, the evolution of AI should focus on developing intelligent chips and new-generation open-source AI platforms, accelerating the development of key generic theories and technologies for new-generation AI and building new intelligent machines such as brain-like machines.

Learning as the soul reminds

us that the origin of intelligence is learning, especially interactions between the intelligent agent and the environment and other agents. Through such a process, organisms develop natural intelligence, and deep learning uses big data to train artificial neural networks to form computational intelligence. At the end of 2018, Google released a large-scale pre-training language model, the Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers, or BERT, which set performance records on 11 natural language processing tasks. In the future, after the successful development of brain-like machines, it is also necessary to train AI in virtual or real environments to improve its intelligence and even upgrade to Strong AI. As we break new ground, China should and will make greater contributions to the development of AI worldwide. 

■ The author is the chair of the Department of Computer Science and Technology at the School of Electronics Engineering and Computer Science at Peking University and the secretary-general of the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Industry Technology Innovation Strategic Alliance of China.

The Power of Reform

Edited by Hu Zhoumeng & Wang Shuya

Harnessing the change brought by reform and innovation may be the best strategy to address the problems of our times.

Last year marked the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up. Throughout 2018, the Chinese people continued carrying out political and economic reforms with an enterprising and innovative spirit to ride the wave of the times, with an aim to create a sound political landscape and a favorable economic environment. Facing changes in the market and the impact of digitalization, Chinese enterprises worked hard to restructure and transform.

China's Top Legislative Body



by Xu Xun

1 Rule of Law

In March 2018, the first session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislative body, adopted an amendment to the country's Constitution. The first amendment to the Constitution in 14 years marked a significant measure taken by China to comprehensively promote rule of law and advance the modernization of its governance system and capacity. The session also adopted the *Supervision Law of the People's Republic of China*, a move which greatly deepened the reform of China's national supervision system and accelerated legalization and standardization of the country's anti-corruption efforts.

Guo Shuqing

Chairman of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission



“ We must resolutely combat all illegal financial activities trampling the law, constantly enhance the public credibility of financial regulators and endeavor to foster a sound financial ecosystem. ”

2 Promoting Financial Reform

In April 2018, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission was launched in Beijing, rendering obsolete the 15-year-old banking regulatory commission and the 20-year-old insurance regulatory commission. Guo Shuqing was appointed chairman of China's new regulator of banking and insurance sectors. Previously, he had served as head of China Securities Regulatory Commission and the former banking regulatory commission. He is noted for determination to reform. Today, the banking and insurance sectors are showing greater tendency to engage in deeper cooperation and integrated development. Integrated oversight on the banking and insurance sectors became all but inevitable considering the global trend of integrated operation of the financial industry.

Wang Shumao

Member of Discipline Inspection Committee of the Party Branch of Tanmen Village



by Song Guoqiang

“ In recent years, China has attached great importance to ocean fishery, an integral facet of the maritime economy. The production environment and living conditions of fishermen have substantially improved. ”

3 Reform Pioneer

Wang Shumao is a senior fisherman in Tanmen Village of Qionghai City, Hainan Province. He first started fishing at the age of 18, accompanying his father. Later, he led villagers in constructing their own sea-worthy fishing boats, which ultimately made them wealthy. He has also contributed to fostering non-governmental forces to safeguard China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights on the South China Sea. The year 2018 marked the 30th birthday of Hainan Province as a special economic zone. Wang was the only representative from Hainan among the 100 Chinese “reform pioneers” nominated by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Pony Ma

Chairman and CEO of Tencent



“ The central battlefield of the mobile internet is shifting from the consumer internet to the industrial internet. ”

4 A New Start

In November 2018, Chinese internet giant Tencent celebrated its 20th birthday. The company not only operates WeChat and QQ, the country's leading social networking and messaging portals, but is also China's most successful gaming producer. Tencent was once ranked as Asia's most valuable company, and Pony Ma once topped the *Forbes* magazine's list of the richest people in China. In 2018, facing a slowdown of Tencent's expansion, Ma launched a “strategy upgrade” rooted in the consumer internet but reaching out to the industrial internet while adjusting the company's organizational structure.

Zhang Yaqin

President of Baidu Inc.



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Alongside the accelerated integration of the physical world and the digital world, AI will provide more services for mankind. ㄥㄥ

5 All in AI

Baidu's automatic driving open-source platform, Apollo, was named a "leading scientific and technological achievement of the global internet industry" at the World Internet Conference in November 2018. According to Zhang Yaqin, a total of 133 automobile-related companies including Daimler, Ford and Volvo are working with the Apollo platform. Already, Baidu Inc. has set up a clear-cut development framework for artificial intelligence (AI) comprised of the Apollo platform and the family-oriented operating system DuerOS, among others. The framework is backed by the company's hybrid cloud platform ABC-STACK, with the Baidu Brain as the core.

Daniel Zhang

CEO of Alibaba



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Doing any kind of business should be easy in the era of the digital economy. ㄥㄥ

6 Taking the Helm

In September 2018, Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba Group, China's leading e-commerce giant, announced that the group's CEO Daniel Zhang would be appointed the new chairman of Alibaba. The annual Singles' Day shopping festival, overseen by Zhang for years, has become a global phenomenal online shopping frenzy. During the 2018 Singles' Day shopping spree, the 10th installment of the event, Alibaba achieved record sales of 213.5 billion yuan (US\$30.8 billion). The photo shows Daniel Zhang (center) interacting with Alibaba workers at the media center in Shanghai on November 12, 2018.

Li Bin

Founder and Chairman of NIO



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The intersection of automatic driving and electric vehicles presents the most promising development for the future of the automobile industry. ㄥㄥ

7 Future Cars

In September 2018, Chinese intelligent electric vehicle maker NIO was listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Established four years ago, NIO has emerged as a frontrunner in China's intelligent electric vehicle market. It has released two mass-produced models: ES8 and ES6. Both the in-car intelligent AI system NOMI and onboard NIO Pilot automatic driving system are poised to redefine the driving experience. Li announced that NIO would become more of a user-oriented company seeking not only innovation in products and services, but also aiming to create a user community connected by the "internet of cars."

Wang Wei

Founder and President of SF Express



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When exploring a new realm, one must be prepared to start over from scratch. ㄥㄥ

8 Transforming Logistics

In February 2018, Chinese logistics giant SF Express was approved to build an airport in Ezhou City, Hubei Province, becoming the first private express delivery company authorized to build a civil airport in the country. When completed, the airport is expected to become Asia's largest air cargo logistics hub and the world's fourth largest. In August 2018, SF Express formed a cold-chain logistics joint venture with U.S.-based HAVI Group. In addition to cold-chain logistics, SF Express has also delved into fields like intra-city delivery and storage and shifted toward integrated logistics, offering solutions for every step of the supply chain.

Wang Dongsheng

Founder and Chairman of BOE



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Convenience, cost performance and safety are the three major values of the IoT. ㄥㄥ

9 Internet of Things Champion

Statistics from the market research company IHS show that in the first three quarters of 2018, BOE Technology Group Co., Ltd. ranked first in the world in the shipment of display products used heavily in a broad spectrum of applications such as mobile phones, tablets, notebooks, monitors and television sets. With the gradual saturation of the display market, Wang Dongsheng led BOE into the internet of things (IoT) industry, and its core business shifted toward display and sensor products. It now focuses on all sorts of intelligent interfaces for IoT systems used in scenarios like retail, transport, daily life and healthcare.

Liang Wengen

Chairman of SANY Group



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Facing the digitalization tide of engineering machinery and manufacturing, SANY Group will either fall or rise. ㄥㄥ

10 Accelerated Digitalization

The predecessor of SANY Group was a private township enterprise founded 30 years ago. Today, the group has grown into China's largest engineering machinery manufacturer. In the first three quarters of 2018, its subsidiary, SANY Heavy Industry Co., Ltd., achieved revenues totaling 41.08 billion yuan (US\$5.94 billion). Liang Wengen, the group's chairman, has endeavored to upgrade SANY's traditional business model. Through research and application of technologies concerning the industrial internet, the group's intelligent workshops have designed smart assembly lines featuring high-degree flexible production and discrete manufacturing, with per capita working efficiency increasing by 400 percent and per capita output increasing by 24 percent.

Since the establishment of the Nyima rug-processing cooperative in Nyangdoi Township, southwestern China's Tibet Autonomous Region in August 2017, it has evolved toward the goal of facilitating long-term development for both the cooperative and impoverished farmers. by Guo Shasha



Alleviation Becomes Vitalization

Text by Wang Xiaoyi

Achieving high-quality poverty alleviation, solving profound poverty problems and integrating with rural vitalization are the primary goals of China's poverty alleviation efforts over the next two years.

The goal of helping the entire impoverished population escape poverty according to the current standard by 2020 has reached its final two years. With more and more impoverished people rising out of poverty and many poverty-stricken counties

and villages falling off the list, the focus of targeted poverty alleviation in China has gradually shifted to ensuring high-quality growth, eradicating absolute poverty and realizing sound integration between targeted poverty alleviation and rural vitalization.

Since 2018, targeted poverty alleviation has reached a period in which large numbers of poor households, villages and counties are being removed from the country's poverty list. The delisting mechanism includes a strict evaluation system, and all poor households,

villages or counties undergo this evaluation before being taken off the list to ensure the quality of the poverty eradication program. However, during the process of fighting poverty, manipulation of data and false reporting still exist, and even when people are successfully lifted out of poverty, they may fall back again.

To prevent the proliferation of fraudulent poverty alleviation, a strict responsibility system has been adopted for poverty delisting evaluation. Governments at all levels are held to the strictest standards during evaluations and assessments of poverty delisting. Furthermore, social supervision and third-party evaluation mechanisms have also greatly reduced the incidence of faked poverty alleviation reports.

To effectively prevent relapse into poverty, the Chinese government has clearly announced that support policies for impoverished people remain unchanged even after they escape poverty. The government must ensure that the income growth rate of impoverished households is higher than the average level of local farmers.

Poverty evaluation mechanisms involve not only delisting impoverished households, villages and counties, but also the systematic inspection and promotion of the quality of poverty alleviation.

Since the implementation of targeted poverty alleviation in China in 2013, the number of poverty-stricken people in rural areas has decreased dramatically, leaving only about 20 million in need of help over the next two years.

Although the remaining impoverished are relatively few, they are some of the hardest to be lifted out of poverty because so many live in deeply impoverished areas, namely the "three geographical areas and three autonomous prefectures" as the Chinese government has noted. These areas are primarily located in minority areas of Tibet and Xinjiang Uygur autonomous regions as well as Sichuan and Yunnan provinces.

These areas are mostly cold, remote mountainous regions or drought-stricken areas with poor geographical conditions and limited natural resources, making industrial development particularly difficult. Furthermore, most of these places are heavily inhabited by people from ethnic minorities with lower education levels, and their long-term struggles with poverty have exacerbated their available resources and diminished their confidence.

Therefore, over the next two years, the central battlefield of China's poverty alleviation efforts will shift to the deeply impoverished areas, which require not only greater resources but also

updated mechanisms of poverty alleviation. To reach its goal, the Chinese government will develop new tools for poverty eradication by promoting ecological conservation, exploring assets income and improving the employment situation.

Although absolute poverty has been eliminated in many areas through targeted poverty alleviation, some areas are still developing slowly, and local people are still struggling with poverty even when basic needs like food, clothing, compulsory education, basic medical care and housing have been met. Thus, following the targeted poverty alleviation drive, the Chinese government introduced the rural vitalization strategy and outlined an aim to promote sound integration of the two strategies.

Vitalization of impoverished rural areas should continue the policy of promoting industrial development to further consolidate local industrial bases while protecting the ecological environment to improve living conditions and enhance rural social governance. Thus, in a sense, the rural vitalization strategy involves institutionalizing the most effective and successful mechanisms for targeted poverty alleviation.

In the next two years, China will focus on poverty delisting, poverty alleviation of deeply impoverished areas and vitalization of poverty-stricken rural areas, which will be advanced and integrated to achieve more coordinated and sustainable development in poverty-stricken regions. 



Thanks to the targeted poverty alleviation policy, many new houses have been built in Luohandong Township of Jingchuan County, Gansu Province. The exterior wall of this house bears a painted slogan, which says that targeted poverty alleviation addresses the root causes of poverty and boosts construction of a moderately prosperous society in all respects. VCG

The author is a research fellow at the Institute of Sociology and director of the Center for Rural Environmental Social Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

China Sticks to Win-Win Cooperation Despite Uncertainty

Text by Yang Chenxi

In 2019, China will continue to promote peaceful cooperation and win-win development despite an increasingly complicated international situation.

The People's Republic of China will celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding in 2019. Although peaceful cooperation has dominated the global trend, the international situation and major-country relations are becoming increasingly complicated. China will work with all

parties to promote construction of a community with a shared future for humanity and a new type of international relations to make greater contributions to world peace, development, prosperity and progress.

China will adhere to opening up and cooperation for mutual benefits and win-win development. The

second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) and the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) are key diplomatic events on China's 2019 calendar. The events are expected to accelerate China's pace of further opening up and contribute to the world's peaceful development. Over the past five years, the Belt and Road Initiative has given birth to abundant fruits. From the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, from the China-Laos railway to China-Europe freight trains and from Piraeus Port in Greece to Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka, key projects under the Belt and Road Initiative are advancing steadily. The BRF will deepen strategic coordination between China and other countries and regions, and the CIIE will demonstrate China's commitment to further opening up and building an open world economy.

China will promote a fairer and more reasonable global governance system. In the face of chaos in global governance, China has upheld the banner of globalization and resisted all forms of protectionism



From November 5 to 10, 2018, the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) was held at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai. The CIIE attracted more than 400,000 purchasers and 3,600 companies from around the world. by Chen Jian



September 4, 2018: The roundtable meeting of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China. The Beijing Declaration — Toward an Even Stronger China-Africa Community with a Shared Future and the FOCAC Beijing Action Plan (2019-2021) were adopted at the forum. by Wan Quan

and unilateralism, strengthening the international order and system with the United Nations at the core and a rule-based multilateral free trade system. China will safeguard the authority of the World Trade Organization (WTO) while properly addressing WTO reforms and protecting the rights of developing countries.

China will actively develop friendly relations with other countries and regions. In 2018, trade friction between China and the United States increased. On this issue, China will firmly defend its national dignity, core interests and right to development. China will work to improve China-U.S. relations on the basis of mutual respect, mutual trust and finding equal footing. As for the China-Russia relationship, practical cooperation has been enhanced

through stronger trade and people-to-people exchange. Their bilateral ties will remain strong. China-Europe relations have also shown good signs of progress in negotiations on their investment agreement as cooperation has prevailed. In 2019, China will also seek deeper cooperation with neighboring and developing countries. China aims to ease Korean Peninsula tensions and deepen cooperation in Northeast Asia. The China-ASEAN strategic partnership is maturing as peace, development and cooperation dominate the regional agenda. China will actively implement outcomes of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Qingdao Summit and strengthen its ties with Central Asian countries. China-India relations are moving along the paths paved by leaders of the two countries toward peaceful

cooperation, mutual benefits, win-win development and divergence control. We have seen plenty of room in third-party markets for the two countries to expand cooperation. Consensus reached at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the Forum of China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum will soon transform into joint actions. Dialogue and joint efforts of China and other developing countries create benefits across Asia, Africa and Latin America. 

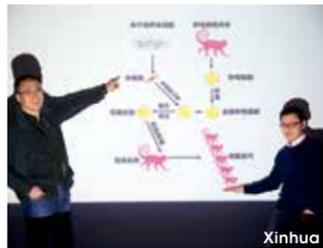
The author is an assistant research fellow at the Department for International and Strategic Studies, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS).

Innovation Pioneers

Edited by Zhao Yue & Zhou Xin

The year 2018 witnessed remarkable Chinese achievements and innovation breakthroughs in various realms. From completion of the longest bridge in the world to automatic driving, from the world's first cloned macaques to regenerating human lung tissue, many world-class innovators have spared every effort as of late to create for the development of the country and the world at large.

Sun Qiang & Liu Zhen



“ We overcame many failures. We knew that each failure helped rule out a wrong method and kept moving to find the solution. ”
—Liu Zhen

1 Cloned Macaques

In January 2018, China announced the first successful cloning of macaques from somatic cells. The macaques were created by a team led by Sun Qiang (left), director of China's non-human-primate research facility under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and Liu Zhen, a postdoctoral fellow. They spent three years overcoming biological difficulties and optimizing procedures and practices. Cloning non-human primates has long been regarded as impossible based on existing technologies. This victory positions China as a pioneer of medical research using cloned macaques as animal models.

Mee-Mann Chang



“ My work explores fundamental questions about who we are and where we came from. ”

2 Discovering Life

On March 22, 82-year-old Chinese scientist Mee-Mann Chang was awarded the 2018 UNESCO Women in Science Award in Paris. Chang, a paleontologist at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology under the CAS, was nominated for “her pioneering work on fossil records leading to insights on how aquatic vertebrates adapted to life and land,” according to the UNESCO statement. During the professor's long career examining fish fossils, she discovered some of mankind's earliest ancestors. She is the fifth female Chinese scientist to receive this award in its 20-year history of celebrating the achievements of female scientists around the world.

Chen Yunji



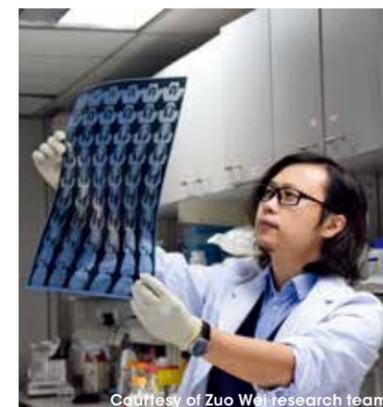
“ Comparing tailor-made AI chips to generic chips is like comparing kitchen knives to Swiss Army knives. Although Swiss Army knives have many functions, they are terrible for the task of chopping meat. ”

3 Blue Chips

On May 3, 2018, Cambricon Technologies and its 35-year-old co-founder, Professor Chen Yunji of the CAS, unveiled China's first cloud AI chip—MLU100—in Shanghai. The MLU100 is noted for its accurate and fast big data processing ability, especially in image and voice search methods. According to the CAS, this cloud AI chip is capable of completing complicated cloud intelligence tasks and also supports “deep learning”—neural networks that mimic human learning.

In 2016, Chen's company released its Cambricon-1A chip, the world's first commercial-use processor for advanced learning, which is now widely deployed in robotics, drones, autonomous vehicles and consumer electronics. The release of MLU100 is expected to solidify the unicorn's leading position in a niche segment of the capital-intensive chip sector.

Zuo Wei



“ Both patients and researchers need great courage to step up and test new therapeutic strategies. The good news now is that the strategy looks quite promising. ”

4 Regenerative Genius

On February 8, 2018, 34-year-old Professor Zuo Wei from the School of Medicine of Shanghai-based Tongji University announced that his research team had regenerated human lung tissue in a patient using that patient's own stem cells in a clinical trial, the first time the strategy had been successfully deployed worldwide. After obtaining dozens of stem cells by brushing the patient's lungs, researchers multiplied the cells into tens of millions in a lab, and then transplanted them into the damaged part of the patient's lungs. Although such transplants are not suitable for all kinds of lung diseases, Zuo's research brought the revival of human organs out of the lab and into clinical application.

Hou Yi



Courtesy of Hema

“ I believe that with the help of the internet and new technologies, every industry will give birth to new commercial values and lifestyles to meet various new social demands. ”

5 Powering New Retail
In late March of 2018, Hema CEO and founder Hou Yi announced that his company, which serves as the prototype for Alibaba Group’s New Retail concept, would launch 24-hour delivery service in Beijing and Shanghai since April. The new service aligns closely with Hema’s efforts to realize its new “three-kilometer ideal community” goal, which includes integration of technologies and other services to pinpoint consumer needs. Representing a new consumption trend in China, Hema allows both in-store and online shopping experiences. It benefits from huge online traffic derived from Alibaba’s 500 million-plus monthly active users as well as data analytics necessary to determine customers’ shopping preferences, making marketing more precise and effective.

James Peng



IC

“ Today, making machines drive for people is already easy. However, as we transform automatic driving technology into products, ensuring passengers’ safety should be the top priority. ”

6 Navigating Automatic Driving
Self-driving vehicle company Pony.ai, co-founded by its CEO James Peng, announced in July 2018 that it had secured Beijing’s T3 autonomous vehicle testing license, making it the first startup to do so. The T3 license is the highest-level road test license that China has issued so far. Qualifying for a T3 license resembles getting a driver’s license because they both require a series of tests. The year 2018 witnessed accelerated development of AI in China. Automatic driving is a key field for AI projects. Since Pony.ai was established in 2016, R&D centers have already been organized in Silicon Valley, Beijing, and Guangzhou so far, manned by a team of more than 130 top skilled professionals from China and beyond.

Frank Wang Tao



Xinhua

“ Pursuing fame is not on my agenda or my company’s. I want my company to keep a low profile in most circumstances and only communicate with the media through our products. ”

7 Flying High
In early July of 2018, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world’s largest technical professional society, announced that it would award Frank Wang Tao, founder and CEO of Chinese drone manufacturer DJI Innovations, the IEEE Robotics and Automation Award, one of the world’s most important awards in the field of engineering technology. DJI Innovations received the award for its outstanding contributions to the development and commercialization of consumer drones, imaging technology and robotics technology.

Huang Lingcai



VCG

“ We are still far behind the leading countries. We have to forgo sleep, so we can work harder to catch up with them. ”

8 Amphibious Aircraft
China’s independently developed large amphibious aircraft, the AG600, completed its first high-speed water taxiing on October 1, 2018. Designed to be the world’s largest amphibious aircraft, the AG600 is powered by four domestically built turboprop engines and has a range of 12 hours. Huang Lingcai is the chief designer of the aircraft. Huang’s family moved around with him several times due to the project’s requirements. During his busiest stretches, Huang worked for nearly 20 hours per day.

Su Quanke



Xinhua

“ The quantity of experiments we carried out in the process of building HZMB is definitely the most in Chinese bridge engineering history. And this was a remarkable feat of engineering globally. ”

9 Connecting Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao
On October 23, 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) at a launch ceremony in the city of Zhuhai, Guangdong Province. The 55-kilometer bridge, built by a team led by Su Quanke, chief engineer of the HZMB Authority, is the first of its kind in the world and a game-changer for Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao—a project to jointly build supergiant cross-sea traffic infrastructure under the principle of “one country, two systems.” Born in 1962, Su has been working on the bridge project since 2004. During the long development process, the chief engineer led a grand team of 50,000 construction workers and engineers and convened nearly 1,000 meetings to discuss technical feasibility.

Sun Zezhou



VCG

“ The more difficult the path ahead, the more I want to try it. ”

10 Mission to the Far Side of the Moon
China’s Chang’e-4 lunar probe was launched in the early hours of December 8, 2018, bound for what is expected to be the first soft landing on the far side of the moon. The launch is a key step for China in realizing its goal of becoming the first country to send a probe to soft-land on and explore the far side of the moon. Born in 1970, Sun Zezhou is the chief designer of the Chang’e-4 probe. Due to his outstanding knowledge and coordinating abilities, Sun was appointed chief designer of Chang’e-3 probe in 2008 while he was still in his 30s. He was then the youngest chief designer in China’s space program. He has his unique management style. According to his policy, the results of inspections should all be documented. No tiny problems or confusions can be neglected.

China's Amazing Deep Space Exploration

Text by Pang Zhihao

In the not-so-distant future, casually visiting the moon or Mars may no longer be the stuff of science fiction.

Humans are born explorers. The moment we began walking upright, we started working hard to understand the world around us, which enabled us to build civilizations. Aside from practical reasons, mankind's innate exploratory nature has propelled the development of deep space exploration.

Deep space exploration involves both exploration of the solar system and outer space. In China, all space exploration activities on celestial bodies outside Earth are collectively called deep space exploration. At present, China is developing its moon and Mars missions and starting to prove feasibility of follow-up deep space exploration missions. In 2019, China will continue to accelerate its space exploration in various aspects.

China's space exploration began with a lunar mission. The closest celestial body to Earth, the moon is rich in resources and energy, and has a special environment. Furthermore,

it could serve as an ideal base and outpost for human development in deep space. When China launched its lunar program in 2004, it was named Chang'e after the Chinese goddess of the moon. The project adopted a three-step development strategy: reaching lunar orbit, landing and roving on the moon and a lunar sample return mission. Each step builds on the outcomes of the previous, compiling a deeper foundation for future work. China has already completed the first and second steps. Around 2020, the Chang'e-5, China's first sample return mission, is expected to bring at least two kilograms of lunar soil and rock samples back to Earth. The program aims to lay the foundation for a future manned lunar landing.

Mars is the most similar and the second closest planet to Earth in the solar system. It is now also the most studied planet by humans aside from Earth. In 2019, China will continue its Mars exploration activities at a



A diagram of the lander (bottom right), rover (bottom left), and a relay satellite named Queqiao (Magpie Bridge) for Chang'e-4 lunar probe. In August 2018, China unveiled its moon lander and rover for the Chang'e-4 lunar mission. courtesy of Shenzhen Media

deeper level and promote improved understanding of the climate, geology and resources of Mars to further study the origin and evolution of life on Earth. China will launch its first Mars probe in 2020, which is expected to orbit, land and release a rover on Mars after it reaches the Red Planet in 2021. Completing the three tasks of orbiting, landing, and releasing a rover in just one launch is unprecedented in the history of Mars exploration.

Asteroid exploration is another hot spot in 2019 for China's deep space exploration. Asteroids are minor celestial bodies. Many are thought to be remnants of the substances created during the formation of the solar system. Thus, exploring the asteroids may provide more information on the formation of the solar system and help humans find new resources and energy. Currently, Chinese scientists have already developed a plan for asteroid exploration. The strategy is to fly a probe near an asteroid, move alongside it for a period, and finally land on one to conduct sampling analysis of the surface and take samples back to Earth. Scientists aim to conduct research on near-Earth asteroids as a whole and analyze some designated areas.

China cannot and will not stop deep space exploration. Aerospace experts have predicted that the country will conduct its first manned lunar landing around 2030 and its first manned Mars landing around 2050. One day in the future, casually visiting the moon or Mars may no longer be the stuff of science fiction.

The author is chief science popularization expert on space exploration technology at the China Association for Science and Technology and a former researcher with the China Academy of Space Technology.

Gene Editing with an Abundance of Caution

Text by Han Song

Too many “horrible” technologies already exist in the world. We can never be too cautious when unleashing new technologies.

A big story broke at the end of 2018 when He Jiankui, a biological researcher and associate professor at Shenzhen-based Southern University of Science and Technology, announced that he was the first person in the world to edit the genes of embryos that became live babies. Voicing strong opposition and condemnation alongside experts from many other realms, professionals from science fiction circles were hardly surprised: Gene-edited humans have been a popular topic in science fiction for quite some time.

Dong Renwei, a renowned sci-fi writer with a master’s degree in cytology from Sichuan University

and an honorary council member of the China Science Writers Association, published a book series titled *Trilogy of Life* in 2016. By authoring the three books, *Natural Evolution*, *Artificial Evolution* and *Biosynthesis*, Dong reached at least three conclusions.

First, manipulating life seems an inevitable trend. The evolution of early life forms occurred naturally in the wild. Early on, human beings began to interfere with the natural evolution process. A deeper understanding of cells enabled people to clone animals and plants, and even create test-tube babies. After decoding the secrets of DNA, the development of gene-editing technology has given humans the ability to “synthesize”

new life forms which had never before existed on the planet. In 2010, U.S. scientists created a new species of bacteria in labs. Since then, theoretically speaking, artificial life has already been a reality.

Second, the manipulation of Earth life has been realized even sooner than many expected. Before Dolly the Sheep—the first mammal cloned from an adult somatic cell using the process of nuclear transfer—was born in 1996, worldwide biologists considered cloning impossible in the scientific and technological conditions of the time. They believed that relevant breakthroughs wouldn’t come until the mid-21st century. Once again, the birth of genetically edited Chinese babies at the end of 2018

happened much earlier than most scientists expected.

Third, users of gene-editing technology can never be too cautious. Life science presents humans with risks as well as opportunities. The unknowns far outnumber the knowns. Satisfactory answers have yet to emerge for many questions related to gene editing. This is the key reason people need to handle the technology with great care.

I was outraged when I saw the news about the genetically edited babies. But at the same time, I was struck with complex emotions. I have been plagued and tortured by hereditary asthma since childhood. If the gene-editing technology had

existed when I was born, I might have been able to benefit from it—even if technology could cause other unforeseeable changes.

But those feelings are purely personal. Considering that edited genes may be passed along into the human gene pool, deploying gene editing without constraints seems like a horrible idea. However, there are many people with medical concerns like mine. Many are consumed by deadly genetic diseases that are much more serious than asthma. Where there is a need, there is a market. And a market creates motivating forces. With this in mind, one can see how gene editing could become safer in the future, and worries about unintended

effects might be minimized.

Over the past few decades, humans have invented several technologies that could lead to our total destruction such as nuclear energy, nanotechnology and synthetic biology, just to name a few. In the eyes of science fiction writers, gene editing is just another entry on a constantly expanding blacklist. A lot of “horrible” technologies already exist in the world. We can never be too cautious when developing more of them. 

■ A well-known science fiction writer, the author serves as the deputy director of the foreign news editorial department and the central news center of Xinhua News Agency.



March 28, 2018: A group photo of Chinese scientists at Jinan University in Guangzhou who established a pig model of Huntington’s disease (HD), an inherited neurodegenerative disease, using genetic engineering technology. Xinhua



July 11, 2018: A researcher at the Hefei-based National Gene Center. Gene technologies have witnessed impressive development in China in recent years. VCG

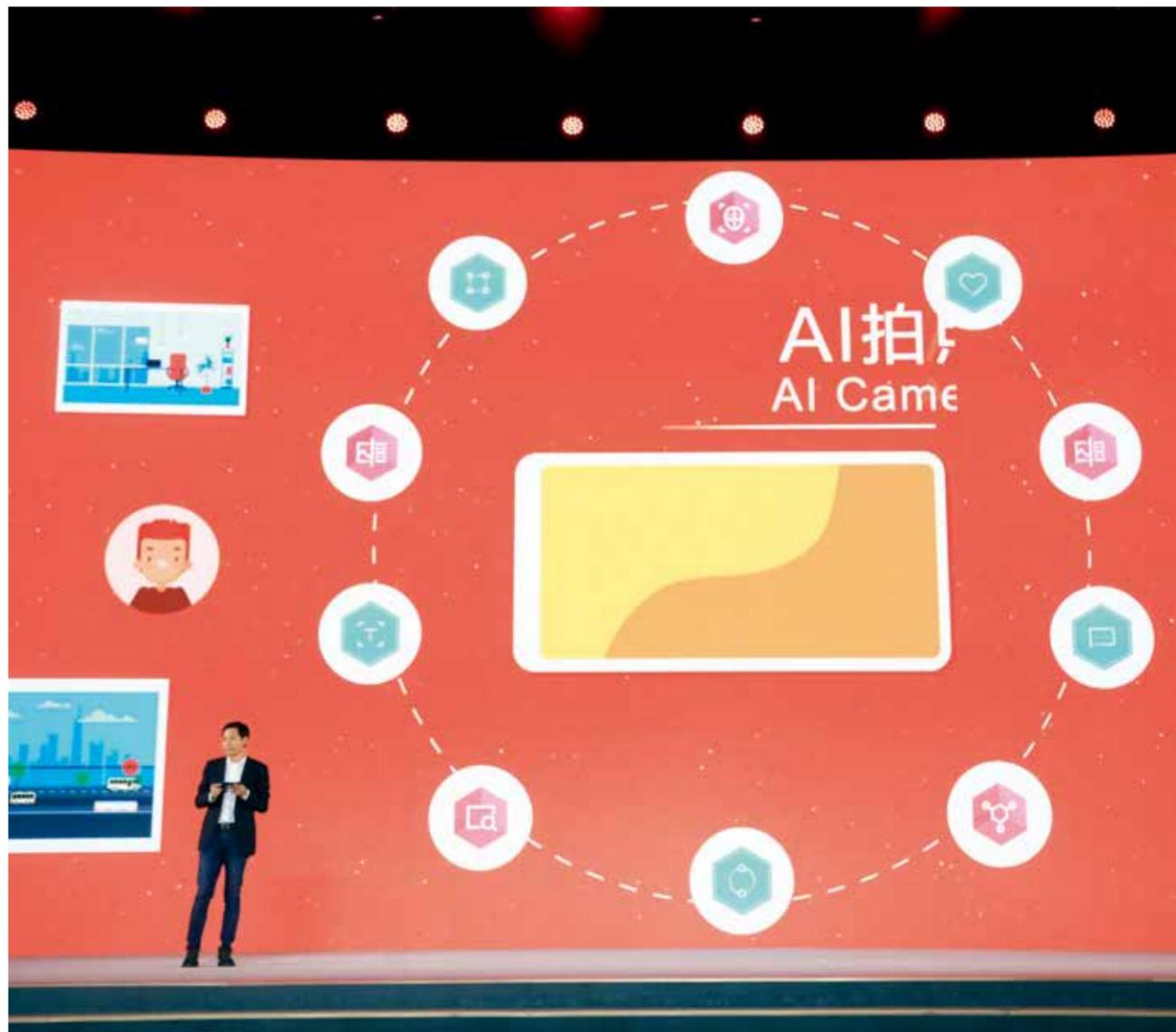


November 29, 2018: A medical professional works on cultivating embryos for test-tube babies at Shanxi Provincial Reproductive Institute. With great care, gene editing could become safer in the future. IC

Smarter Homes for the Intelligent Age

Text by Zhu Liang

As big data continues expanding and new technologies emerge, China's smart home industry is moving toward the IoT era based on AI technology.



November 7, 2018: Chairman and CEO of Xiaomi Technology Lei Jun introduces Xiaomi AI Open Platform for smart homes at the 5th World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Zhejiang Province. IC

Although the concept of a smart home has long existed in Europe and the United States, most Chinese people knew nothing about the idea until the early 21st century. In general, a smart home is a system that connects various devices in a house through Internet of Things (IoT) technology to achieve efficient management of both residential facilities and household maintenance.

After nearly two decades of development, the current Chinese industrial chain for smart homes has matured. As big data continues producing more and more benefits and new technologies emerge one after another, China's smart home industry is moving toward the IoT era based on artificial intelligence (AI) technology. Looking to 2019, the development of smart homes in China is expected to exhibit the following features:

AI will become the new backbone of smart homes. Many in the industry expect 2019 to be the year of AI technology. Research and development of increasing numbers of products will harness AI technology. Supported by technologies including big data and cloud computing, products will become smarter and serve people more



October 9, 2018: During the 2018 Mass Entrepreneurship and Innovation Week in Chengdu, a family robot receives a warm welcome from kids. IC



September 5, 2018: Intelligent sound boxes on display at the Shanghai International Smart Home Exhibition 2018 attract many spectators. by Fang Zhe/Xinhua

intelligently. Smart household appliances are just the start: A mopping robot can collect information on the indoor environment and air quality to formulate and update cleaning plans. Smart refrigerators can monitor the shelf life of foods in them and automatically generate menus. Intelligent air-conditioners can connect to smart watches and adjust their output according to users' health conditions. These products, which sound as if they came from sci-fi movies, are becoming realities in labs, on production lines, and on online and offline sales platforms in China and around the world.

"Full smart homes" are expected to enjoy explosive development in China in 2019. A "full smart home" refers to a package of smart solutions for the whole house, which will be realized through the application of AI technology. A full smart home should be the digital equivalent of a housekeeper. Through the connectivity of various smart products, it learns the habits of the people living in the house and gets to know their daily routines in order to better serve. For example, it automatically turns on and off

appliances based on the residents' schedules without remote control or fixed-point control by humans. When a security problem occurs, a full smart home will alert the home owners, identify the intruder, turn off the lights, lock the door, and call the police automatically.

The consumer market will embrace an impressive growth in 2019. The future of smart homes depends on the consumer market, not the originally targeted corporate customers. This trend will gain more steam in 2019. In recent years, smart products such as intelligent locks and smart sound boxes have witnessed rising usage among Chinese customers, which has increased confidence throughout the industry. The true reason behind the rise of smart products in the consumer market is the surge of consumer demand as China welcomes a major consumption upgrade. 

The author is executive editor-in-chief of the journal *Smart Home*, which focuses on market research of the industry.

2019: A New Link for Blockchain

Text by Zhao Sheng & Chen Yun

The tokenization or encryption of global assets presents a massive opportunity. This is a completely untapped realm wherein blockchain and tokens could ignite the real economy.

Last year was dramatic for blockchain. Many companies and industries became enthusiastic about applying the technology. And the exchange of tokens is regarded as a major evolution that could overturn the corporate system. But a lot of bubbles burst as well. Regulation was strengthened, investors

retreated, and the value of digital coins plummeted. We should reflect on what the blockchain technology brought and what to expect for it in 2019.

After visiting Wall Street and Silicon Valley to discuss blockchain trends with many professionals, we believe that the security token offering (STO) will be the major

application of blockchain in 2019. STO is the concept of financing through securitization of tokens. An equity security refers to ownership of assets such as stock shares, real estate, funds and works of art. Securities usually offer various kinds of financial rights including sharing profits, stock shares, stock dividend, right to vote, right for redemption,



November 1, 2018: Visitors take a photo with a board promoting the blockchain sector at the Beijing International Finance Expo 2018. IC



A panel discussion at the Blockshow Europe 2018, held from May 28 to 29 in Berlin, Germany. Professionals from around the world discuss the application and future of blockchain. by Yan Feng/Xinhua

and so on. Tokens are certificates for such rights. Equity securities must be recorded in a certain form. Certificates have now been transformed from paper to digital form, rendering obsolete the account books of traditional exchange brokers. The technology seems to be headed to a higher-level digital form like encrypted digital books based on the blockchain technology.

The total value of global stock shares is about US\$70 trillion, debt over US\$100 trillion, and real estate around US\$230 trillion. The tokenization or encryption of global assets presents a huge opportunity. This is an untapped realm wherein blockchain and tokens can empower the real economy.

Asset securitization is traditionally a slow process during which detailed auditing of the asset pool and agreements is required. Despite information asymmetry, input from all parties is needed. Preparation for the whole transaction can last from six months to as long as a year. And the cost of the transaction can be very high, which dampens enthusiasm for organizing. Meanwhile, a lack of transparency during the process of asset securitization influences the accuracy of risk evaluation and generates loopholes for fraud such as multiple mortgages on a single asset or leveraging assets

that do not exist. Weak control of the asset pool can trigger bond defaults. And bad auditing and ratings aggravate the situation. We saw the consequences with the American subprime mortgage crisis in 2007 and subsequent global financial crisis of 2008. Although regulators around the world tightened control and transparency has increased, ultimately the change has led to a more complicated process of securitization.

Security tokens will make asset offering smarter. Generally, the process of making an initial public offering (IPO) includes company restructuring and establishment of a joint stock company, due diligence and counseling, financial auditing,



June 25, 2018: Chinese online payment company Ant Financial launches the world's first blockchain-based e-wallet cross-border remittance service in Hong Kong. by Qin Qing/Xinhua

preparation of legal opinion, pricing and issuing, and other measures. With the development of blockchain technology and smart contracts, the process could be streamlined and far more economical if smart technology is employed, thus cutting the costs of IPO, clearing, settlement and management of a listed company. For example, some processes of financial auditing can be deployed on a blockchain through a smart contract. Reports can be generated automatically onto the smart contract from uploaded data which were previously not on the blockchain. This enables investors to check the authentic financial status of the company in real time.

Moreover, security tokens are easier to regulate and conducive to faster flow of capital around the world. It can help improve assets and facilitate access to capital worldwide. Security tokens can also go public for a considerably lower price.

Today, there are over 20,000 distributors waiting for STO. When will the hero of the digital financial market arrive? Let's wait and see. 

Zhao Sheng is the founder of the Singapore-based World Blockchain Forum (WBF) Exchange and the New York-based Digital USD, and Chen Yun is dean of the Institute of Token of WBF and the founder of Juxiang Capital.

Chinese Cultural Torchbearers

Edited by Li Zhuoxi & Yin Xing

Culture nourishes hearts and minds. A handful of people stood out as Chinese cultural icons of 2018 through their achievements in various realms that shared the nation's cultural landscape, philosophy and athletic spirit with the world.

Li Yunhe



by Li Cheng/Dunhuang Academy

“Cultural relics can't talk, but they have life. Without love and awe for the relics, one will never be a great restorer.”

1 Restorative Art

Li Yunhe, 86, is one of the most experienced fresco restorers in Dunhuang, in western China's Gansu Province. Li has been devoted to protecting cultural relics in the Mogao Caves since 1956 and once served as deputy director of the Preservation Institute at Dunhuang Academy. Over more than six decades, Li restored over 4,000 square meters of murals and more than 500 statues. His research achievement in fresco preservation laid the foundation for the Dunhuang Academy to become one of the most authoritative organizations in fresco restoration in China.

Wu Weishan



Courtesy of National Art Museum of China

“Contemporary art plays a critical role in easing cross-cultural conflict through its advantages in strengthening mutual understanding of cultural differences, promoting communication and enhancing coordination. We should actively seize the opportunity to bring contemporary Chinese art to the global stage.”

2 Master Sculptor

Wu Weishan, curator of the National Art Museum of China, is considered one of the world's most influential sculptors. Wu initiated modern Chinese expressive sculpture with the “Theory of Expressive Sculpture” and “Theory of Eight Major Styles of Traditional Chinese Sculpture,” which have become scripture for modern Chinese sculptors. His works are displayed in 20 countries and regions including Brazil, Germany and Belarus. In 2018, Wu became an academician with the French Academy of Fine Arts, one of the world's most renowned and time-honored art institutes.

Sun Zhouxing



Courtesy of Tongji University

“Philosophy is one of the most helpful disciplines for China to cultivate independent, unconstrained and imaginative thinking. Such abilities are what young Chinese need most.”

3 Philosophy for Today

Born in 1963, Sun Zhouxing is a philosopher and translator. He served as editor-in-chief of the 30-volume *Heidegger Anthologie*, which was published in June 2018. The series heavily supplemented Chinese-language literature on German philosopher Martin Heidegger. Sun has been devoted to translating Heidegger's works in a unique style since the 1990s, and his translations have deeply impacted Chinese intellectuals. He promotes academic dignity by creating works considered spiritual treasures of the era.

Xi Zhinong



Courtesy of Wild China Film

“In China today, nobody starves without the flesh of wild animals, and nobody needs fur to avoid freezing. We have no excuse to consume wild animals.”

4 Photographing Nature

Over more than three decades, Chinese photographer Xi Zhinong has focused his lens on the wild animals of China such as the Yunnan snub-nosed monkey and the Tibetan antelope to promote the protection of their habitats by showing the hardships the endangered species endure. Xi won the Gerald Durrell Award for Endangered Wildlife with an image of a Yunnan snub-nosed monkey at the annual Wildlife Photography Contest. He was listed as one of the world's 40 most influential nature photographers by Britain's *Outdoor Photography* magazine in 2010. Xi is also the only Chinese member of the International League of Conservation Photographers. At the end of 2018, he was elected a jury member for the World Press Photo Contest.

Liu Qing



“

The past century has deeply shaped the personality and culture of northerners in China. The relics of history across the century remind us where we come from and where we should go, bridging the past and the present. ”

5 Epic Northeastern China Stories

Born in the late 1960s, Liu Qing won the “Dream of the Red Chamber Award: The World’s Distinguished Novel in Chinese” in 2018 for his lengthy novel *History Through Words*. Liu spent 15 years authoring the 540,000-word book that patches together a century of memories of China’s northeasterners from the perspective of shamans to weave a tapestry of social norms and conduct in north-eastern China.

Pema Tsenden



“

The texture, detail and atmosphere of a movie can only be felt on cinema screens. Tibetan-language films still have a long way to go. ”

6 Pioneer of Tibetan-language Film

In 2018, Pema Tsenden’s feature film *Jinpa* won the Orizzonti Award for Best Screenplay at the 75th Venice International Film Festival. Pema Tsenden is known as a representative figure of the new generation of Tibetan filmmakers and a pioneer of Tibetan-language film. His work details Tibetan life and enhances public awareness of Tibetan culture and the lives of Tibetans.

Eric Yang



“

I hope someday Confucius’ vision from 2,500 years ago will finally come true: Educational access for all and students taught according to their abilities. ”

7 Founder of iTutor Group

A pioneer and reformer of online education, Eric Yang, founder, chairman and CEO of iTutor Group, established the unicorn company with a new online education system. He advocates distributing high-quality courses to third- and fourth-tier cities to give students in less-developed regions access to high-quality educational resources with the help of technology. In 2018, Yang was honored as a “Leader in China’s Online Education.”

Wen Muye



“

I want to make warm and touching movies so that people have the courage to face difficulties in life with hope in their hearts. ”

8 Director of *Dying to Survive*

In 2018, the movie *Dying to Survive*, Wen Muye’s directorial debut, swept through China’s movie theaters. The film amassed box office revenues of over three billion yuan (US\$435 million) and earned more than nine out of 10 points on the film rating site Douban.com. The film depicting leukemia patients is considered a trendsetter for realistic Chinese movies. It won the award for best screenplay at the 14th Changchun Film Festival and Best New Director and Best Original Screenplay at the 55th Golden Horse Awards. Wen is “born to be a director” in the eyes of many film industry veterans.

Chen Shaojie



“

A public live broadcast platform like Douyu TV should shoulder the responsibility of spreading Chinese culture, communicating China’s voice and exhibiting China’s image. ”

9 Founder of Douyu TV

Chen Shaojie, founder and CEO of Douyu TV, a public live broadcast platform, has explored new patterns of content generation by launching “live+” and introducing a “Positive Energy” sector covering topics ranging from public welfare, poverty alleviation and healthcare to police and government service. Douyu TV was honored as the “Most Innovative Program for Public Welfare” at the 2018 Corporate Social Responsibility Annual Meeting.

Wu Dajing



“

The golden days for China to develop winter sports arrived after Beijing won the bid to host the 2022 Winter Olympics. This is also what Chinese winter sports athletes have been dreaming about. ”

10 Spokesman for Winter Sports

Wu Dajing won China’s first Olympic gold medal in men’s short track speed skating when he broke the record in men’s 500-meter short track speed skating at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games. At the 2018-19 Short Track Speed Skating World Cup in Salt Lake City, Wu took the crown again with a new world record. As one of the winter sports ambassadors for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, he has spared no efforts to promote winter sports and wants to ensure their popularity continues.

Down-to-Earth Movies

Text by Sun Jiashan



A still from the movie *Dying to Survive*. Based on the true story of a leukemia patient, the film turned the spotlight on cancer drug prices. IC

We are not only encouraged by the success of *Dying to Survive* but also gratified by the accumulation of Chinese films—even if they do form the submerged part of the iceberg—because from a wide angle, the future looks bright.

In 2018, many phenomenal Chinese films were released, including *Dying to Survive* and *Operation Red Sea*. These domestic blockbusters gained remarkable reputations and grossed huge box office revenues, making them standouts of Chinese movies since the marketization and industrialization of the country's film industry. Beyond the praise lurks a question: Are realistic films a fad or a landmark breakthrough in methods of making big-time domestic movies in China?

Contemporary Audience and "Socially Realistic" Films

Unlike Western audiences who seem to prefer other-worldly science fictions and fantasies these days, realism has been a mainstay of Chinese culture and art since the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Even as movies and television grew in popularity, Chinese viewers had always maintained a fondness for eye-catching content close to real life. But for some time, Chinese film investors preferred projects involving

special effects, established intellectual property, stars and fantastic scenes. Most realistic works were relegated to small arthouse theaters and independent film festivals, from which they seldom reached mainstream viewers or turned profits.

In 2002, the Chinese mainland film market launched a major reform by introducing the "cinema chain system." In subsequent years, the size of China's cinema market boomed. Movie theaters spread from top-tier cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and

Guangzhou to third- and fourth-tier cities and even rural counties. Reports have calculated that about 200 million new moviegoers bought movie tickets in 2017.

The features of these new viewers are also very distinct. They are known as the "7966 group" because 70 percent are under 45 years old, 90 percent lack higher education, 60 percent don't have permanent jobs, and 60 percent survive on monthly income below 3,000 yuan (US\$436).

These are working-class people to be sure. They endure the pain inflicted by social changes and practical problems in their daily lives. In the past, these people were the "silent majority" who were neglected by mainstream culture and lacked a channel to voice themselves. Today, they are rising to become the target customers of the Chinese movie industry and even the Chinese cultural industry.

The young working-class demographic is changing film aesthetics once imperceptibly dominated by the middle class of top-tier cities as they change the structure of the audience and influence the creation of culture and art.

This premise has been the inspiration for many socially realistic films such as *Dying to Survive* and *Operation Red Sea*. They were born with the cultural genes of the Chinese audience and the accumulation of producers, responding to huge demand for domestic realistic films in the contemporary era. Along with the works, a new generation of filmmakers is emerging after growing up under the existing market mechanism. They will be likely to become the A-list Chinese directors in the near future.

Coming-of-Age of Next-Gen Directors

Dying to Survive is a 2018 Chinese comedy-drama directed by Wen

Muye as his feature film debut. Along with other post-80s directors, Wen is part of a new generation of directors cultivated by market competition after the reform of the cinema chain system. Wen's commercial success will inspire more young directors to grow up from small and medium-budget movies. The spiritual temperament of the new generation has begun to take shape and their creations are maturing.

Today, young directors in China

industry rookies: It proved that new directors can be trusted by producers to flex their talents by directing commercially viable films with a decent budget.

The success of so many down-to-earth feature films in 2018 was driven not only by the accumulation of realistic works over the years, but also by the evolving demands of the new generation of moviegoers who yearn for social realistic works and the new generation of young directors who are



A still from *A Cool Fish*, which hit cinemas on November 20, 2018. The Chinese black comedy, with a story that was amusing as well as moving, gained a wide audience. VCG

generally receive academic art training, which equips them with high artistic skills and knowledge. They also grew up watching Hong Kong and Hollywood films, and do not rule out genre-confined and commercialized works. But at the same time, the biggest roadblock for these young directors is how to take the first step. Since they have little experience, it is very difficult to get a debut financed. Even if they are recognized, they still can only direct small-scale art films. To gain a bigger reputation in the market, they have to seek opportunities at independent film festivals and by winning various awards.

Dying to Survive enlightened many

well-prepared to meet these demands. We have reason to believe that this trend will continue, but the ideal balance of commerce, art and industry still needs to be pinpointed before a massive wave is released.

We are not only encouraged by the success of *Dying to Survive* but also gratified by the accumulated iceberg of Chinese films under the surface and the bright future it represents. Only when the entire piece of ice is exposed can we be sure that the future of Chinese movies is promising. 

The author is an expert at the Marxist Institute of Literature and Art Studies at the Chinese National Academy of Arts.



Peng Ou (center), founder of Sunlands Online Education Group, rings a ceremonial bell during the company's initial public offering (IPO) on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in the United States. by Michael Nagle/Bloomberg via Getty Images/VCG

Knowledge Is Data

Online Education Making Learning Fairer

Text by Xu Zhe

Online education can provide new and feasible solutions for global allocation of educational resources and promote equality in education worldwide.

Twenty years ago, Peter Drucker, father of modern management, launched a paid course on an internet platform called “Corpedia.” Every time after a student answered a question, Drucker, from another computer, commented with the words “very correct” or “very good” in a strong Vienna accent.

At that time, the concept of “online education” had not yet taken shape, and Drucker’s platform was more of an experiment. But the then 90-year-old Peter Drucker firmly believed that remote education would be the future of education, which, in his opinion, broke time and space constraints. “Imagine

if young people in developing countries could access educational resources in developed countries through the internet—it would alleviate the problem of uneven distribution of educational resources and narrow the educational gap.”

In 2010, the successful operation of the Khan Academy, founded by Bangladeshi-American Salman Khan, attracted widespread attention around the world. Subsequently, with the strong impact of the large-scale financing of the three major U.S. MOOC platforms, the investment boom of global online education intensified. In 2013, considered the first year of China’s online education, Chinese internet giants began leveraging their traffic advantages to snatch a share of the online education industry. Meanwhile, traditional education institutions began setting up online education companies through mergers and joint ventures to penetrate the online education market.

Over the past five years, product upgrades and capital operations have happened simultaneously. As

a result, according to data released by iResearch, the total online education market in China reached 191.7 billion yuan (US\$27.9 billion) in 2017, to which the K-12 (from kindergarten to the 12th grade) online education market contributed 63.26 billion yuan (US\$9.2 billion). The penetration rate of K-12 hit 33 percent of the total market of online education and is still on the rise. The online education market in China is expected to reach 371.8 billion yuan (US\$54.1 billion) in 2019.

Today, internet technology has reached a stage of rapid development. The 4G revolution has hardly arrived and yet 5G is just around the corner. Smartphones and tablets, as conduits to online education, have become more popular and portable. All of these factors provide more favorable conditions for the development of online education. Characterized by high efficiency, convenience, resource interoperability, low threshold and low cost, online education breaks the time and space limits of traditional education, making it an inevitable trend of future education.

Today, as the internet emerges as a powerful medium for cross-cultural communication, online education may provide new and feasible solutions for global allocation of educational resources, enabling people from different countries and regions to enjoy the world’s best education and promoting the sharing of global educational resources. With the continuous deepening and expansion of the global scientific and technological revolution, the upgrading of technology is heralding a new education era, which will not only make knowledge more accessible, but also reshape ways of learning and thinking. The profound energy released by the integration of education and technologies such as cloud computing and big data will permit technology to better empower education.

In the future, resources afforded by online education must be tilted toward underdeveloped regions. Education is at the top of the Chinese government’s poverty reduction agenda. In recent years, China has invested considerably in poverty-stricken areas, which has greatly improved rural education conditions. How to provide more quality teachers and lesson content to students in poor areas in the future to improve their prospects has become a new and important topic. Education is an important weapon to break intergenerational transmission of poverty, which can be accelerated and guaranteed by sharing quality educational resources through online education. The internet enables full alignment of demand and supply of educational resources, and it also shines light on new ways to acquire and distribute quality educational resources. 

Students from Xiangjinzhong Primary School in Gaozhuang Village of Huixian County, Xinxiang City, Henan Province interact with one of Beijing’s best teachers conducting a class online. Through online education, quality teaching resources can benefit less-developed areas. VCG



The author is special assistant to the CEO of VIPKID, an online K-12 English-teaching platform.

Vlog

Sharing My Video Diary

Text by Hu Lei Photographs courtesy of Bilibili

Chinese vlogs are turning heads and winning hearts.

Once known for remaining hidden under lock and key, many diaries today are far from private affairs. Numerous people post their feelings on a social media platform or even record short videos, which is relatively easy considering that even the most economical phone models today wield a video camera. One step past a blog, a short video diary is known as a vlog. Such homemade videos are quickly emerging as a major trend in China.

The Beginning of Vlog

With the popularization of 4G technology and the proliferation of smartphones since 2011, the audience for conveniently fragmented reading and viewing has expanded rapidly in China. From 2016 to 2018, many creators of short videos emerged on small screens in big ways. Many quality vlogs focusing on specific fields such as makeup, knowledge, and travel attracted legions of fans. Short videos are evolving from a novelty to the primary method of content consumption. And the industry is enjoying full bloom.

Just as youngsters born after 1995 were reaching the age of 20,

they became the major consumers of content on the internet. Those people came of age alongside the emergence and popularity of short video products. And content has shifted as each new class of producers and consumers matures. Personalized needs and ways of expression and more intimate styles have driven the evolution of short videos.

Exceptionally personal content production such as vlogs has become popular with Chinese people, especially youngsters. Once exotic to the Chinese market, such styles are now becoming more and more mainstream in the East. Vloggers document their daily lives with smartphones or digital video recorders instead of writing or taking photos, unlike bloggers.

The first-person perspective to record personal life meets the demands of youngsters in the 21st century, who would like to share all kinds of content. For young viewers, traditional large productions have been replaced by individual providers. Viewers empathize with the vlogger and feel as if they were walking along with the creator. This facilitates deeper interaction and a closer connection between the



- 1: The vlogger describes buying a new electric bicycle in his vlog.
- 2: "Taiger" is an expert on fitness. She records her experience of being invited to make a video on fitness as a vlog.
- 3: "Junco842" shares his experience of snowboarding during Spring Festival on a vlog.
- 4: "I have a cat named Small Tiger." "LXJisnotBad" is very enthusiastic about life with her cat.
- 5: This popular vlogger is passionate about sharing her experience of eating huge portions of food.



audience and the creator.

For vloggers, they can shoot with their cell phones any time they want and upload a vlog with a mobile app. Vlogs are not only authentic, but also artistic and capable of maintaining a certain degree of privacy. Contrasting live broadcast, which is a 360-degree display of oneself, the vlog has the advantage of "proper authenticity," which aligns with standard social contact of the young generation: Love but don't get lost in social circles.

Evolution on Recording Life

The way to record life always changes.

The popularity of the mobile internet has not only created higher demand for content, but also made recording and sharing everyday life easy and convenient. Facilitated by the upgrade of mobile equipment and the pending 5G communication technology, short videos that combine images, text and music are now used by millions of ordinary people to express themselves. For recording everyday life, vlogs are clearly the best choice.

Although the vlog had become popular abroad long before, it is still relatively new to China. Creating a more immersive experience in a video as long as 10 to 20 minutes

to cater to Chinese preferences for fragmented content and developing easier ways of recording and editing content are two major challenges for this industry.

In late 2018, the viral spread of the 21-Day Vlog Challenge marked the onset of the localization of vlogs in China. Popular series that focused on sterilizing stray cats, teaching parents how to use mobile apps and discovering lost Beijing have shown possible trends for Chinese-style vlogs.

A new wave of short videos could sweep across China in 2019 when 5G arrives and the cost of mobile internet services drops. Behind the

development of novel short videos are Chinese people's huge demand for quality content, a pioneering spirit across many platforms and the enthusiasm of ordinary people to record the details of their lives more actively and comprehensively than with written words.

The growth of the short video industry enables Chinese users to record their lives and cherish every memory. 

The author is a journalist from Caijing.com.cn.

Art Museums of Tomorrow

Text by Gao Peng · Photographs courtesy of Today Art Museum

Art has transcended the “materialization” setting, and its boundaries continue to expand, resulting in the emergence of uncontained museums.

The future could be a specific year or an unknown dream, and the future of art could feature Utopian colors or be sated with indefinite imagination. To better display works of art, future art museums should be able to display the freest minds. The internet and the virtual world have transformed public spaces, resulting in the emergence of uncontained museums.

As early as 1974, the International Council of Museums defined “museum” as a permanent non-profit

organization opened to the public that aims to serve society and its development. It pointed to missions of research, education and appreciation, designating museums responsible for collecting, preserving, studying, spreading and displaying the fruits of human civilization. Thanks to digitalization and cloud technology, future museums can easily preserve the structure of physical works of art as they are merged into virtual space, where more of the public can be afforded the time and space

to enjoy these fruits. The function and duty of future museums cannot change greatly, but the works exhibited as well as the audience will be completely different. Future museums will combine reality and the virtual world, enhancing the functions related to research, display and education.

After entering the era of digitization and virtualization, discussions of future art have become more confusing. “Art is becoming more and more scientific, and science is becoming more and more artistic,”

declared French writer Gustave Flaubert in the 19th century. “The two depart at the mountain’s foot, and one day they will reunite on the top of the mountain.” With the application of digital language and new methods to spread information, the popularity of the internet and the emergence of new media art, traditional lifestyles and modes of artistic creation have changed dramatically. Due to tremendous developments in science and technology, methods of displaying and spreading art creations are certain to evolve. Since the turn of the 20th century, art theory has been evolving steadily along with progress in scientific development, resulting in constantly renovated public understanding of art. Continuous technological innovation feeds artists a steady stream of inspiration and creativity. Traditional art forms and artistic creation methods have been impacted in an unprecedented manner, and new art categories and artistic styles are emerging almost with each passing day. From performance art to audio art, video art, lighting art and even virtual art employing cutting-edge technology, art has already transcended the

“materialization” age, and its boundaries continue to expand.

The “virtual experience” approach will be the biggest challenge for museums of the future. The new technological revolution will herald a huge transformation in the way people read and experience the physical space. As the audience gradually adapts to the changing modes of new media, artists are looking for new ways to express ideas and establish communication through new media. Greater interaction with the audience seems inevitable. The first movers have deployed technologies such as AR and VR, but regardless of technology, the purpose remains to free the audience from a one-way viewing relationship between them and the art. Artists are endeavoring to have their works felt from three perspectives—physical, virtual and interactive—to enable each patron to gain a deeper understanding.

The uniqueness of “virtual experience” is that it presents known experience alongside unknown experience in an invisible public domain woven by the internet and mobile terminals. By focusing on the habits of users in the virtual environment, operators will improve the exhibitions, educational abilities, entertainment value and research power of brick-and-mortar art museums as they promote physical, virtual and interactive relationships with the audience to move past the old curating and displaying system. The emerging advantage of “virtual experience” has already achieved wide acceptance, but there remains a long way to go for affected artists and galleries alike. 

Spectators experience an immersive multimedia art work. The internet and the virtual world have transformed public spaces, leading to the emergence of uncontained museums.



The work of Niki de Saint Phalle, one of the most legendary female artists of the 20th century, is exhibited at Today Art Museum in Beijing. As art’s boundaries continue to expand, uncontained museums have emerged.

The author is a postdoctoral fellow at Peking University and curator of Today Art Museum.

In Remembrance of the Passed



In 2018, many people left us forever, including not only famous scholars, researchers and artists, but also ordinary people working on the front lines. Let us remember them, share their stories and commemorate the time we shared with them.

Rao Zongyi

(August 9, 1917 – February 6, 2018)



Rao Zongyi was one of China's classical scholars of encyclopedic style in contemporary times. He mastered many languages and also made remarkable research achievements in a wide range of fields including Dunhuang studies, oracle bones studies, historiography, music and Sanskrit. He was honored by the academic circles as a "world-renowned master of Sinology." He also made great artistic achievements in painting, calligraphy and poetry. He died at the age of 101.

Zhong Yiming

(November 1930 – March 4, 2018)



Zhong Yiming was an outstanding leader of China's offshore oil industry. In the 1950s and 1960s, Zhong and other first-generation Chinese offshore oil workers successfully drilled China's first oil well for commercial use in the South China Sea, laying a foundation for further oil exploration and development of the region.

After China adopted the reform and opening-up policy in 1978, Zhong, the second general manager of China National Offshore Oil Corporation, fully embraced the concept of reform and opening up, leveraging it to promote great development of the country's offshore oil industry.

Luo Haocai

(March 1934 – February 12, 2018)



As an outstanding leader of the China Zhigong Party, Luo Haocai made important contributions to upholding and improving the multi-party cooperation and political consultation system led by the Communist Party of China.

A well-known figure among returned overseas Chinese, he led and promoted the development of overseas Chinese affairs since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Moreover, as a renowned jurist and educator in China, he actively explored improving the administrative trial system with Chinese characteristics and trained many outstanding legal professionals. He passed away at the age of 84.

Wang Yiping

(February 15, 1963 – April 11, 2018)



As a research fellow at the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wang Yiping led a team to successfully develop salvianolate, a modern Chinese medicine, which is used to treat coronary heart disease and other ailments, and became a model for the modernization of traditional Chinese medicine. He also built a complete cardiovascular drug research and development platform to systematically promote the research of a variety of new cardiovascular drugs. Wang, who died at the age of 55, was posthumously honored as a "national role model of the times" in November 2018.

Photo courtesy of Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica

Wang Jicai

(August 1960 – July 27, 2018)



Wang Jicai was the former head of the militia post on Kaishan Island in eastern China's Jiangsu Province. An offshore outpost in the Yellow Sea, Kaishan Island is strategically important but known for harsh conditions due to a lack of drinking water and electricity. Since 1986, Wang Jicai and his wife, Wang Shihua, had overcome various difficulties and spent 32 years guarding the island post. In 2014, they were both honored as the "national role models of the times." On July 27, 2018, Wang died of a sudden illness on duty at the age of 58.

Zhu Xu

(April 15, 1930 – September 15, 2018)



Zhu Xu, a renowned Chinese theatrical artist, had been dedicated to the performing arts for more than 60 years. He not only brought to life many unique and impressive characters on stage, but also left a lasting impression on the Chinese public with his film and television roles. His unique performance style often involved comic interpretation of tragic characters which resulted in an even more powerful dramatic effect when it followed laughter.

Zhu won many awards in China and beyond such as the Best Actor Award at the Tokyo International Film Festival, the Special Jury Prize of the 28th Golden Rooster Awards and the Golden Lion Award for Chinese Drama. He died at the age of 88.

Sheng Zhongguo

(1941 – September 7, 2018)



As a state-class violin soloist of the China National Symphony Orchestra, Sheng Zhongguo performed various musical masterpieces such as "Butterfly Lovers" with his fascinating skills, exerting a deep influence on Chinese music circles for more than half a century.

Sheng was among the first Chinese violinists to win honors on international stages. He was invited to perform solo concerts in many countries around the world. Sheng was listed as one of the "world's greatest artists" by Australian Broadcasting Corporation in 1980. He died of heart disease at the age of 77.

Jin Yong

(March 10, 1924 – October 30, 2018)



A famous Chinese martial arts novelist and prominent media figure, Jin Yong, born Louis Cha Leung-yung, created 15 extremely popular martial arts novels including *Legends of the Condor Heroes* and *The Return of the Condor Heroes*.

His works inherited the tradition of Chinese classics while integrating history and culture and remain very popular among Chinese in various parts of the world. A saying goes that "where there are Chinese, there are readers of Jin Yong." He died in Hong Kong at the age of 94.

Shan Tianfang

(December 17, 1934 – September 11, 2018)



As one of China's top *pingshu* (story-telling) masters and inheritors of national intangible cultural heritage, Shan Tianfang devoted his entire life to the creation and spread of the traditional Chinese art form *pingshu*. He has recorded more than 100 *pingshu* works including over 15,000 episodes covering a wide range of themes over the past 50 years. Today, *pingshu* performed by Shan Tianfang has become an icon of traditional Chinese culture and has cast great influence on the Chinese community around the world. Shan died at the age of 84.

Raymond Chow Man-wai

(October 8, 1927 – November 2, 2018)



Raymond Chow Man-wai was a famous Hong Kong film entrepreneur and founder of the movie studio Golden Harvest. As a pioneering independent producer in Hong Kong, he not only discovered many Chinese movie stars such as Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan, but also diversified film categories such as action and comedy. He started an unprecedentedly prosperous era of Hong Kong movies, which won him respect and status in the international film industry.

In 1979, the U.S. Film Association voted him the most outstanding international filmmaker. He died at the age of 91.

G20 World's Consensus and China's Action

Text by Ma Bin

Xi's speech conveys China's determination to deepen reform and opening up and extend goodwill to improve global governance.

On November 30, 2018, President Xi Jinping delivered a speech titled "Look Beyond the Horizon and Steer the World Economy in the Right Direction" at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His speech conveyed China's determination to deepen reform and opening up as well as its goodwill to improve global governance, showing a positive sign to the international community in which consensus and cooperation

are urgently needed to provide solutions to economic development difficulties.

In his speech, Xi said the global economy faces a history-making choice—a judgement which indicates that China has a lucid perspective on the current scenario. At present, despite the constant growth of the world economy as a whole, it also faces many challenges and potential risks, especially with certain countries practicing protectionism and unilateralism,



December 1, 2018: An official prepares a room for a bilateral meeting on the second day of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The leaders of G20 members representing four-fifths of the global economy attended the two-day meeting in Argentina as they faced the deepest fractures since the first G20 summit convened 10 years ago in the throes of the 2008 international financial crisis. by Ludovic Marin /VCG

which has a negative impact on world economic recovery and increases the uncertainties of global economic development. Against this backdrop, Xi's speech demonstrated China's stance and policies while facing challenges, calling on G20 members to stay committed to openness and cooperation, uphold the multilateral trading system, forge strong partnerships, step up macro policy coordination, and adhere to innovation to create new momentum for growth and win-win cooperation to promote inclusive global development. When coping with the global economic dilemma, China accepts and advocates that the United Nations, the G20, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral mechanisms play active roles. At the same time, China also insists that developed countries, emerging economies and major developing countries play key roles. That is to say, China is willing to cooperate with other parties to improve global governance which can benefit all, consolidating and guarding the community with a shared interest, responsibility and future. Xi's speech also displayed that China will steadfastly promote reform and opening up. China's development over the past 40 years has proved that the reform and opening up is the decisive choice for the country's destiny in contemporary times and an important way to guarantee the cause of the Communist Party of China and have the people stride forward with the times.

At present, the world economy faces great challenges and the global governance system has certain defects, leading to developing countries being unable to fully enjoy their deserved rights. This situation has become even worse due to some countries building

barriers to prevent the free flow of production factors worldwide. So, according to Xi's speech, as a responsible and rational country, China appeals for the international community to build consensus, fulfill their responsibility and steer the global economy in the right direction, while adjusting domestic policies by furthering reform, expanding market opening and improving business environment. Xi's declaration serves not only as a response to some countries' misunderstanding and misinterpretation of China, but also as a promise China made to the international community, echoing the principle of achieving shared growth through discussion and collaboration proposed by China. For the world economy standing at a crossroads, China's attitude is of great significance, setting a good example for the international community to work together through difficulties.

Focusing on the summit's theme "Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development," Xi's speech responds to the expectation of the international community from China. On the global scale, China needs to take active responsibility to promote world economic recovery and development as well as fair and just global governance; at home, China needs to deepen reform and opening up, raise people's living standards by poverty reduction and eradication, and enhance inclusive development along with other countries by expanding its market, realizing high-quality opening up and fostering equal and mutually beneficial partnership. 

The author is an associate research fellow with the Institute of International Studies at Fudan University.

G20

The Use of the “Useless”

Text by Ye Yu

Providing an open, flexible platform for stakeholders with contrasting values and interests to reach important consensus is the most significant role of the G20 today.

The 13th Group of 20 (G20) summit was held in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, from November 30 to December 1, 2018. At present, populism and protectionism are on the rise globally, President Donald Trump has continued withdrawing the United States from a series of international organizations and agreements, and doubts are mounting on the value of multilateralism and global governance. In this context, despite being a dialogue platform for leaders of the world's major economies, which together contribute 85 percent of the global GDP, 75 percent of international trade, 80 percent of world investment and 66 percent of global population, the G20 is still seen by some as an eye-catching but otherwise a useless “talking shop.” Therefore, it is understandable that people pay greater attention to bilateral meetings and temporary discussions on the sidelines than the main event.

So, is the G20 useful or not? Looking back at the past decade

since the 2008 global financial crisis, people have reached wide consensus on the remarkable achievements of the G20 in uniting emerging and developed economies to address global crises together, enhancing global banking regulation, and combating tax evasion. Today, the G20 has become less sought-after than before. Perhaps this is just because the world isn't facing a global crisis as it did 10 years ago.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted that the world economy will grow by 3.7 percent in 2018 and 2019, a record high since the 2008 global financial crisis. However, at the same time, global debt also hits a new record. In 2018, Argentina, the host country of the G20 summit, fell into economic turmoil and is receiving emergency bailout loans from the IMF. Trade conflicts are becoming worse and worse around the world. All of these pose major threats to the future development of the world economy. In the coming years, perhaps coping with crises will remain the major function of the G20, but this

shouldn't be its only job. Many argue that the group is becoming “useless” because its agenda has been over-expanded, resulting in low efficiency. In the long run, however, this will become a reason that the G20 will definitely play an important role in international affairs.

Against the backdrop of anti-globalization threatening long-term sustainable development of the global economy, it isn't enough for advocates of multilateralism to only make vows. It requires the G20 to play its unique role as the center of the global governance network. While uniting and mobilizing forces supporting multilateralism across the world, it needs to be more open and inclusive, provide more direct and effective channels for vulnerable groups to express their interest demands, and facilitate the reconciliation between globalization and anti-globalization, so as to achieve

the widest consensus on fairer and more sustainable global development. This is a fundamental connotation of the concept of “global governance” that took shape at the end of the 20th century. In this sense, behind the expansion of the G20 agenda is a higher-level need. That is, the G20 is supposed to provide an open, flexible platform for various values and interest appeals such as innovation, growth, efficiency, fairness, green development and inclusiveness to reach important consensus while mitigating the damage from unilateralism and extremism.

It requires long-term, painstaking efforts to achieve this goal, but no other mechanisms can provide the facilitation as much as the G20. First, this is because of the G20's wide representation. Nowadays, the G7, a bloc representing the interests of developed economies, has become a secondary group

equivalent to BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and MIKTA (Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, and Australia) under the framework of the G20. Second, this is because of the G20's multilevel institutionalization. Today, the G20 has developed into a trans-governmental, multi-layered international exchange mechanism, backed by strong intellectual support from a variety of international organizations including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the IMF, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Energy Agency (IEA). Third, this is because of the G20's openness. More than just a dialogue platform for governments of its 20 members, the G20 has formed a wide array of communication



The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from July 21 to 22, 2018. Since President Donald Trump took office, the United States has provoked trade friction and jeopardized fair trade principles worldwide, which became a hotly discussed topic at the meeting. Xinhua

mechanisms targeting non-member states and other regional organizations as well as different social groups like businesspeople, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, youth and women.

Currently, the G20 hasn't been and shouldn't be “hijacked” by trade wars. Rather, people need to look into its role with greater patience and from a long-term perspective. In the tide of the new round of technological revolution, the digital economy became a highlight at the 2018 G20 summit. Participants discussed the opportunities and challenges brought by technological innovation and automation. This is conducive to shaping a medium and long-term agenda for the inclusive, sustainable development of the world economy.

In a time when the global economic landscape is undergoing profound changes, what kind of multilateralism and global governance does the world need? China will work together with all other countries to gradually turn their common vision into reality through candid communication and pragmatic cooperation. 

A cyclist passes Costa Salguero Exhibition Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the venue of the 13th G20 summit held from November 30 to December 1, 2018. Xinhua



The author is an associate research fellow with Shanghai Institutes for International Studies.



November 8, 2018: Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela (center, rear) poses for a photo with employees of China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited at the first China International Import Expo in Shanghai. Two years ago, COSCO Shipping Panama was established, facilitating China to participate in and promote global trade and solidifying the connectivity and mutual understanding of Chinese and Panamanian people. by Chen Jian

China-Latin America Cooperation A Deeper Shared Future

Text by Niu Haibin

Building a China-Latin America community with a shared future is a vital step for human society to overcome temporary difficulties impeding further development of globalization and achieve global prosperity, security and development.

Building a China-Latin America community with a shared future is a historically significant proposal offered by Chinese President Xi Jinping. It would represent a vital step for human society in overcoming temporary difficulties impeding

further development of globalization to achieve global prosperity, security and development.

Xi's recent state visits to Argentina and Panama resulted in positive outcomes. Firstly, those visits created a better external environment for further

development of China-Latin America relations. Even though Latin American countries such as Brazil and Argentina have benefited from a bump in agricultural exports to China due to trade friction between China and the United States, they are concerned that

the uncertainty caused by escalating China-U.S. trade disputes could undermine the world economy. As the host country of the 2018 G20 summit, Argentina hopes that China and the United States will continue maintaining cooperation to safeguard the leadership of the G20.

President Xi and President Donald Trump met on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Argentina and agreed to stop imposing new tariffs and solve their trade friction through more negotiations. Through bilateral and multilateral meetings with leaders of other countries, President Xi conveyed China's stance on upholding multilateralism and opposing protectionism, which received applause from various parties including the United Nations and BRICS countries. Moreover, the joint declaration signed by all G20 nations endorsed "necessary reform" of the World Trade Organization (WTO). China contributed its efforts to the success of the 2018 G20 summit, injecting stability into the world economy.

Secondly, Xi's visits lifted China-Latin America pragmatic cooperation to a new level. Although

Argentina is suffering spiraling financial turmoil, China still has confidence in the development prospects of Latin American countries including Argentina, evidenced by its pragmatic cooperation with those countries. China's investment in Argentina in areas such as energy and infrastructure as well as a bilateral currency swap agreement, extensive financial cooperation and trade deals to import Argentinian cherries and other products has proved a boon for the Latin American country during tough times. At a press conference, Argentinian President Mauricio Macri declared that China's presence is not a threat but an opportunity. This evidenced Latin American countries' recognition of China's positive influence in the region.

Finally, China and Latin America have both demonstrated commitment to improving their people's lives. President Xi and his Panamanian counterpart Juan Carlos Varela stressed an important consensus during their meeting: upholding the concept of people-centered development. In recent years, to better boost

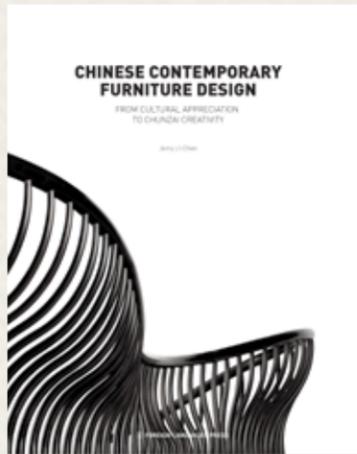
their respective countries' development, the new generation of Latin American leaders has attached greater importance to building infrastructure, expanding trade with China and promoting exchange of governance experience. These moves have provided a favorable political environment for building a China-Latin America community with a shared future and achieving substantive results in the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative in Latin America.

Recognizing the importance of the relations with China, Panama moved to establish diplomatic ties with China in June 2017. In the year and a half since, the two countries have signed a memorandum of understanding on jointly promoting the Belt and Road Initiative and 19 cooperation documents while striving to reach a bilateral free trade agreement. Their bilateral relations have been improving significantly. During his visit to Panama, President Xi expressed China's willingness to promote the alignment of the Belt and Road Initiative with Panama's National Logistics Strategy 2030. The Chinese government also encouraged China's financial institutions to set up RMB clearance centers in Panama, and acknowledged that the Panama Canal is a permanent international shipping waterway. President Xi expressed hopes to reach a comprehensive, high-level and mutually beneficial free trade agreement through negotiations with Panama as soon as possible. All of these factors are laying a solid foundation for China-Panama relations to become a model for China-Latin America cooperation. 

February 10, 2018: Tourists enjoy a dragon dance performance at a temple fair celebrating the Chinese New Year in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Xinhua



The author is vice director of the Center for American Studies under Shanghai Institutes for International Studies.



The English version of *Chinese Contemporary Furniture Design – From Cultural Appreciation to Chunzai Creativity*, a book by Jerry J.I. Chen, published by Foreign Languages Press in November 2018.

Eyes on the Past and Future

Text by Gong Haiying

Photographs courtesy of *Chinese Contemporary Furniture Design – From Cultural Appreciation to Chunzai Creativity*

It is absolutely possible for contemporary creative designers in China to eclipse both Western and classical Chinese furniture as they construct new living aesthetics and new cultural tastes for a new era.

Furniture, an essential part of human living space, has a history nearly as long as human civilization. Today, numerous creative furniture designs emerge every year, forming new popular trends and leading lifestyles.

In October 2016, the Chinese version of the book *Chinese*



A southern elm five-leg basin stand from the Qing Dynasty. The fluidity of the form and lines expresses an elegant attitude for life. Chen believes there are close ties between traditional and modern Chinese furniture.

Contemporary Furniture Design – From Cultural Appreciation to Chunzai Creativity was published by the Forbidden City Publishing House. It was authored by Jerry J.I. Chen, an internationally renowned artwork connoisseur and founder of the Chinese furniture brand “Chunzai.” The book is dubbed the cornerstone of design aesthetics for contemporary Chinese furniture. Its English version, published by Foreign Languages Press, was released in November 2018.

Chunzai furniture designed by Chen represents a successful example of China’s modern cultural and creative industry. The cultural and creative industry, with creativity as the core, first emerged as an idea in Britain in the 1990s. This idea gradually evolved into a developmental concept that realized enormous economic benefits during the process of merging with other industries. In his book *The Creative Economy: How People Make Money from Ideas*, British economist John Howkins pointed out that creative industries around the world produce around US\$22 billion every day, a figure which is growing by five percent year-on-year. In its 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), China made the cultural and creative industry a development priority for



A huanghuali horseshoe-back folding armchair from the Ming Dynasty. Made with the rare and exquisite huanghuali wood and featuring splendid craftsmanship, this armchair is a wonderful example of Ming-style furniture.

the future.

Born in Taiwan, Jerry J.I. Chen began working in the field of cultural relic appraisal in Hong Kong in 1985. Over the past three decades, he has appraised numerous world-class and exceptional artworks. In 1999, he became a member of the Vetting Committee for New York-based International



A large huanghuali standing screen with marbled paneling from the Ming Dynasty. This screen was formerly held by the Museum of Classical Chinese Furniture in California and is now part of the collection of the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Asian Art Fair – the only Chinese person in the committee back then. Also in the 1990s, he shifted towards contemporary furniture design from artwork appraisal. In 2004, he established the furniture brand “Chunzai” in Shanghai. By establishing a brand name of contemporary Chinese furniture with a strong personal style,

Chen aimed to show the world new Chinese aesthetics, a refined taste of contemporary Chinese consumers, and new cultural ideals of the country.

Chen believes that contemporary and classical Chinese furniture share an inextricable lineage. The evolution of furniture embodies the historical development of human

wisdom, from simple to profound. China’s furniture culture is colorful yet sated with wisdom. Chen’s contemporary furniture innovation realized with Chunzai was established around his deep and multi-faceted understanding of traditional Chinese furniture.

The furniture in the style of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) has been



As an internationally renowned art connoisseur, Chen has appraised and collected numerous world-class and exceptional artworks over past decades. Pictured are ancient Chinese art treasures such as "Remnant Sounds of the Great Sages" (*Dasheng yiyin*, top right), a time-honored zither dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

globally recognized as a representative of China's furniture culture. Using a new cultural perspective and a contemporary expression that better suits creative design, Chen uses the book to elaborate on the eight core values of the Ming Dynasty furniture, analyzes the 10

critical aspects of Chinese furniture design and investigates the creative possibilities of contemporary furniture. He asserts that it is absolutely possible for contemporary creative designers to eclipse both Western and classical Chinese furniture as they construct new

living aesthetics and new cultural tastes for a new era. Accomplishing innovation in the contemporary era by learning from tradition is the innovative path for the furniture industry promoted by Chen in this book. Chou Kung-shin, former director

of the Taipei-based National Palace Museum wrote the preface for Chen's book. "It is most commendable that Chen has published the fruits of his three decades of research on furniture as a book, which will be an indispensable source for future furniture design students," Chou wrote. "These students will in turn use their knowledge of cultures and creativity to generate a richer variety of culturally creative products."

This mission also conforms to Chen's original intention in writing the book. He hopes this book will be useful for practitioners in the furniture industry as well as people engaged in the cultural and creative industry. He expects the book to help China form new cultural features in the new era and usher in a golden era of cultural prosperity.

A space designed by Chen in 2008 in Jing'an District, Shanghai, which exhibits his understanding of space design for creative brands.



The Feuerle Collection, a contemporary German art museum, was established in 2016. In this museum full of contemporary Western designs, exquisite Chinese furniture pieces are exhibited. Chen was invited to consult on its design for an incense room, where he incorporated Chinese incense culture into the modern space.



Reviving the Golden Era

—Exclusive Interview with Jerry J.I. Chen

China Pictorial (CP): What was the reasoning behind your shift from art collection to furniture design? And what was the inspiration for your book *Chinese Contemporary Furniture Design – From Cultural Appreciation to Chunzai Creativity*?

Chen: This book was the first in a series on culture and creativity published by the Forbidden City

Publishing House. When the idea of the cultural and creative industry first emerged in the West, I was already working in artwork appraisal and collection, so I knew the West highly valued the art in Chinese museums. However, these pieces belonged to the “good old days.” Today’s Chinese art has failed to maintain the glory of the “good old days,” and we can hardly compete with the West by learning and imitating their techniques.

Artifacts evidencing Chinese lifestyles during past dynasties, such as the lacquerware of the Song Dynasty (960-1279), pottery of



Jerry J.I. Chen in Beijing. Chen is an internationally renowned art connoisseur and founder of the Chinese furniture brand “Chunzai.” by Chen Jian

the Ming Dynasty, and furniture of the Ming and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, are all of great practicality in daily life. Furniture connects people and residences. Nowadays, the relationship between furniture design and everyday life is even closer, which demonstrates the progress of the era. It was natural for me to shift from artwork appraisal and collection to contemporary furniture design.

I believe furniture designers should start by learning and imitating the past and tradition before producing new creations based on Chinese people’s spiritual needs. We should create beauty of our own times using our own hands. I hope that this book will be useful for practitioners in the furniture industry as well as people engaged in the cultural and creative industry as it helps establish China’s cultural features of the new era and revive the golden era of cultural prosperity.

CP: What innovations has new Chinese-style furniture represented by Chunzai made?



Starting from furniture design, Chen expects to usher in a golden era of cultural prosperity. Chunzai furniture optimally combines traditional Chinese craftsmanship and modern design.



Chunzai furniture strives to capture Chinese-style elegance and comfort. For this purpose, Chunzai has employed different materials, proportions, designs and joints.

Chen: I believe the cultural essence of every nation is important. Before defining what new Chinese-style furniture is, we must first pinpoint our spiritual and cultural roots to determine our most accurate cultural tastes.

Chunzai has been grasping for Chinese-style elegance and comfort. To achieve this goal, Chunzai has employed different materials, proportions, designs and joints such as mortises and tenons. For example, ancient Chinese people loved natural materials such as wood, bamboo, rattan and lacquer.

We attempt to bring this natural elegance into full play. For example, our designs maintain the texture of materials that grew from nature, and we repurpose other materials.

CP: During your 30 years in contemporary furniture design, what changes do you think have taken place in China’s furniture industry and even the country’s contemporary design? How do you see the future of China’s contemporary design?

Chen: From the late 1990s until now, China has been playing an extremely important role in global

economic development. Now, after meeting the basic needs of the Chinese people, China’s furniture industry is attaching greater importance to creative design and brand value.

In this fast-developing era, we should concentrate on building a brand with its own personality that offers our own unique perspective on contemporary life. More people should devote themselves to creating the beauty of today. I hope that when future generations look back at our work, they will consider our era both refined and beautiful.

Beijing: Eternal Home

Text by Rachana Gupta

I hope Beijing will welcome me again when we meet the next time, with open arms as it did before.

Last month, my husband and I moved to Shanghai from Beijing after living there for almost five years. I didn't expect to be affected much by the move, but I was so wrong. The moment we landed in Shanghai, I was already missing the place I left behind.

Beijing became my close friend the day I first set foot in China. It held my hand when I was completely new to the country and taught me how to see the positive side of life. It facilitated my transformation from student to logistics manager and

finally, writer.

It hosted my struggles when first learning Chinese. My teacher led with the pronunciation of 'Ni hao' (hello) followed by several more complicated words. I used to take the subway every morning from Huangqu Station on Line 6, where our first apartment was located, to Beijing Mandarin School at Guomao Station on Line 10. Being claustrophobic, I did my best to avoid packed trains and often let several pass before boarding. Although it was challenging to make a daily commute as such, the happiness I



February 4, 2017: Kids and their parents enjoy riding on the frozen Shichahai Lake in Beijing. VCG

derived from spending time with my peers and my teacher while learning Chinese was worth it. Overcoming challenges like this helped me evolve as a person and realize I can overcome my worst fears.

My remarkable experiences in Beijing were also born of the plethora of choices available from the breathtaking scenery of the Great Wall to lakeside views from the bars and restaurants in Houhai. Spending weekend nights at Sanlitun's restaurants and bars with live music and watching the mushrooming skyscrapers sculpt the ever-changing skyline of the Central Business District left beautiful imprints on my memory.

Beijing is an amalgamation of modern and traditional architecture with historic monuments such as the Forbidden City, Summer Palace and



The Summer Palace, located in the northwestern suburbs of Beijing, is one of the finest examples of garden architecture in China. Covering an area of about 300 hectares, the Summer Palace includes a vast ensemble of hills, lakes and palaces. The photo shows the Summer Palace blanketed with snow in winter. VCG

Yonghegong Lama Temple, which is sated with spiritual energy. Although Beijing is extremely cold in winter, it is quite fascinating to see a white layer of snow blanketing the ancient monuments. It might not be such a big deal if you come from a place where snowfall is common in winter, but as someone from Bangalore in southern India—a very hot place without a hint of snow—the sight is simply breathtaking.

The residents of this city are even more warm and friendly than the structures. I still distinctly remember my Chinese colleagues and boss going out of their way to help me with even the most routine work when I first joined the company in Beijing. In spite of my very poor Mandarin at the time, they made me feel like part of a big family. Once, I attended driving school with my boss, who was helping me get a license. The person at reception asked for my Chinese name, but I didn't have one then. My boss, with no second thought, offered me his daughter's name. And every time I went to driving lessons, one of my



January 1, 2014: The Place, a shopping mall featuring a striking projection screen in the Central Business District of eastern Beijing, attracts a huge crowd to celebrate the New Year. VCG

colleagues accompanied me to translate lessons.

There are also many cultural aspects that I learned from my Chinese colleagues. For instance,

I learned about the strong sense of commitment and belongingness within Chinese families which is pretty much similar to that of Indian culture.

And now, while sitting at the General Consulate of India in Shanghai, I feel that the reminiscence of the past is lingering in my thoughts and heart. We often don't appreciate a place or its people until we leave and nostalgia sets in.

Some say that "old is gold," and Beijing will always remain dear to me. I have no idea if I will ever get a chance to live in Beijing again, but I like to think that my "first friend" in China will welcome me once again when we meet the next time, with open arms as it did before. 



June 14, 2018: The neighborhood of the Houhai Lake in Beijing, known for its nightlife, draws huge crowds of tourists and locals as the 2018 FIFA World Cup opens. Many residences by the lake have been converted into restaurants, cafés and bars with live music performances. VCG

The author is a *China Focus* columnist, poet and active blogger. She has served in a variety of managerial positions for Chinese companies.

New Ink Art in China 1978-2018

December 18, 2018 - February 23, 2019
Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing

Ink art is an important symbol and element of traditional Chinese culture. Since China launched its reform and opening up in 1978, Chinese ink art practitioners have made great progress by inheriting historical and cultural traditions and infusing them with Western modernist elements, which has attracted great attention from both the East and the West.

By systematically cataloguing Chinese ink art over the past 40 years for the first time, the exhibition created two sections of New Chinese Painting and New Chinese Ink, presenting 200 works from more than 180 Chinese ink artists.



1997 NO.2 by Wang Chuan, 97x179cm, 1997.

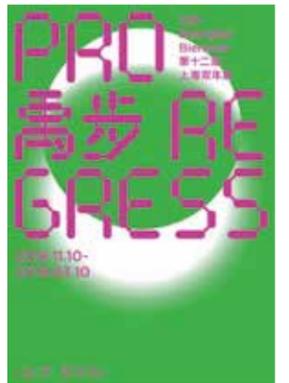


Singing on the Way Home by Zhu Licun, 112x90cm, Chinese painting.

12th Shanghai Biennale: Proregress—Art in an Age of Historical Ambivalence

November 10, 2018 - March 10, 2019
Power Station of Art, Shanghai

The 12th Shanghai Biennale presents the latest works from nearly 70 individual and group contemporary artists from 26 countries, including 20 Chinese artists or groups. Through these works, the exhibition aims to convey the idea that contemporary art should actively address complex social problems and strive to develop new ways of thinking.



Poster for the 12th Shanghai Biennale.

Su-Mei Tse: Nested

December 18, 2018 - March 24, 2019
Yuz Museum, Shanghai

The exhibition features a multitude of works created by Su-Mei Tse, a famous Chinese-Luxembourgish artist, who has worked in Italy and Asia over the years. Exhibits cover sculpture, video, photography and various other art forms, including the installation work *Tibetan Stone II* she created in Shanghai.

An internationally renowned artist, Su-Mei Tse won the Golden Lion award at the Venice Biennale for best national submission in 2003. She has held several solo exhibitions and participated in group exhibitions in many world-famous art institutions.



Poster for the exhibition "Su-Mei Tse: Nested."

Border: Contemporary Art Exhibition

December 15, 2018 - February 20, 2019
No.1 Zhongguancun, Beijing

Known as the "Silicon Valley of China," Zhongguancun Science Park is the first national-level high-tech industrial development zone in China. As the first large-scale and high-level art event held in the park, the exhibition aims to present the vitality of Zhongguancun's reform, development and cultural innovation in recent years.

Covering a total area of more than 4,000 square meters, the exhibition is divided into individual and comprehensive exhibition areas. Within the individual exhibition area is *Poet of Scenery* presenting nearly 120 works by famous Chinese theorist and landscape oil painter Yi Ying over the past 30 years. The *Words · Silence* area displays contemporary calligraphy by Qiu Zhenzhong, professor at the Central Academy of Fine Arts and dean of the Lanting Calligraphy Academy. And the *Snow over Kunlun Mountains* area features jade carving by Professor Zhuo Fan of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. The comprehensive exhibition area includes collections of works from dozens of contemporary Chinese artists.



Poster for "Border: Contemporary Art Exhibition."

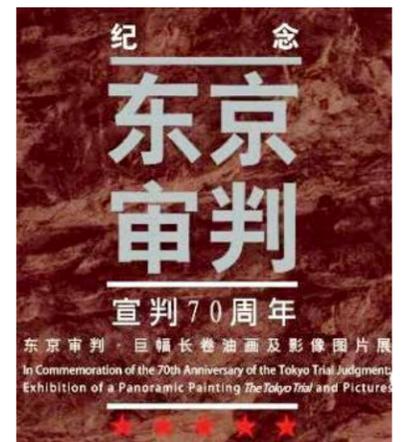
Exhibition of Panoramic Painting *The Tokyo Trial* and Pictures

December 13, 2018 - January 8, 2019
China Art Museum, Shanghai

The exhibition commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Tokyo Judgment in two parts: Display of the panoramic painting *The Tokyo Trial* and a photo exhibition. The Tokyo trial was the military trial of Japanese Class-A war criminals of World War II by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East in Tokyo, Japan from May 3, 1946 to November 12, 1948.

Measuring 168 meters in length and four meters in height, *The Tokyo Trial* depicts more than 400 people including judges, prosecutors, defendants and court staff participating in the trial.

The photo exhibition features more than 100 historical pictures related to the Tokyo trial gathered from the National Archives and Records Administration of the United States, the National Archives of Japan and other public and private collection organizations. A series of historical documentaries about the trial, produced by Shanghai Radio and Television Station, are being screened simultaneously at the exhibition.



Poster for the "Exhibition of Panoramic Painting The Tokyo Trial and Pictures."



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