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A NEW ATOMIC ERA

Chinese President advocates fresh thinking





An Africa-oriented English monthly covering China and Africa published by BEUING REVIEW, ChinAfrica is the leading publication in China featuring news, views and analysis for an African audience.

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Cover Photo: The Hague Nuclear Security Summit in session on March 24 (XNHUA/AFP)

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Dogged search for missing aircraft



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EDITOR'S DESK

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A New Nuclear Vision

Though often overshadowed by hotly contested current issues such as the Ukrainian crisis, the threat of nuclear terrorism is real. At the recent Hague Nuclear Security Summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping joined other world leaders in sounding the alarm once again as he spelled out the Chinese approach to nuclear security for the first time.

The leaders were not crying wolf. Currently, more than 430 commercial nuclear power reactors and about 240 research reactors are in operation around the globe. according to the World Nuclear Association. In 2013, 146 incidents involving nuclear and other radioactive materials were reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency. Luckily enough, most of them were related to nuclear materials that temporarily went missing. Had there been a chance of terrorists obtaining dangerous nuclear materials, the consequences could have been catastrophic.

While state-of-the-art nuclear technology has greatly benefited mankind, the underlying risks are not to be underestimated. Apart from nuclear accidents such as radiation leaks from a nuclear power plant in Fukushima, Japan, following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, nuclear terrorism stands out as the most overwhelming challenge.

China, a nuclear-capable country, shares the concerns of the international community. Notably, it has participated in all of the three summits on nuclear security, at which it compared notes with other countries in the hope of making a contribution to the global campaign. At the latest summit in The Hague, President Xi took an unprecedented step in unveiling a new vision of nuclear security—a strategic outlook that aims to provide the international community with ideas for tackling the issue. In China's view, nuclear security is essential to the sustainable development of nuclear energy, which it believes plays a pivotal role in meeting energy demands and coping with climate change. Also, it maintains countries should be allowed to act in keeping with their specific conditions instead of following uniform standards.

At the same time, conventions on nuclear material protection and the suppression of nuclear terrorism should be universally ratified and implemented to the letter. Attempts to pursue nuclear ambitions without international safeguards and stockpile excessively large quantities of nuclear materials must be brought under scrutiny.

In this context, Xi made a good point when he stated at the summit, "Although the starting line may be different for different countries, we should make sure that no one falls behind in this common endeavor." Only when all countries forge a synergy against nuclear terrorism can they make the world a safer place.

WRITETOUS



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RETURNING HOME

Soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army grasp coffins containing the remains of soldiers of the Chinese People's Volunteers who died in the 1950-53 Korean War, during a handover ceremony at the Incheon International Airport in South Korea on March 28.

South Korea found the bodies of 437 Chinese soldiers south of the military demarcation line of the Korean peninsula after the war. The handover was arranged according to an agreement between Chinese and South Korean leaders last year.



Suzhou Honored

Suzhou in east China was conferred with the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize for this year, standing out from 36 nominated cities worldwide, the nominating committee of the prize said on March 24.

The biennial prize aims to honor outstanding achievements and contributions to the creation of livable, vibrant and sustainable urban communities around the world. Spain's Bilbao and the U.S. New York City won the prize in 2010 and 2012, respectively.

Anti-Graft Inspections

The top discipline watchdog of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on March 25 started a new round of inspections of officials to expose corruption nationwide.

Inspectors will be sent to the provincial-level regions of Beijing, Tianjin, Liaoning, Fujian, Shandong, Henan, Hainan, Gansu, Ningxia, Xinjiang, and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the CPC said in a statement.

The commission will also send antigraft teams to the Ministry of Science and Technology, Fudan University and the China Oil and Foodstuffs Co., it added.

The inspection aims to uncover harmful behavior by officials, including trading power for money, abusing power, and bribery, as well as adverse work practices such as formalism, bureaucracy, hedonism and extravagance.

The CPC began routinely sending teams to oversee the performance of officials in 2003, and the practice was formally written into the Party's Constitution five years later.

Medical Reform

China will inject more funds and let the market play a bigger role in reforming its medical sector, according to an executive meeting of the State Council on March 25.

The country will work to establish a universal medical insurance system, speed up reform in public hospitals, and relax market entry requirements for the private sector to build health institutions in an orderly manner, said a statement issued after the meeting.

It was decided at the meeting that a national database will be set up to facilitate the reimbursement of medical costs

RARE SPECIES

An international forum on the protection of the Hainan Gibbon is held in Bo'ao, south China's Hainan Province, from March 18 to 20. The Hainan Gibbon, the rarest primate and one of the most endangered mammals, has a total population of only 23, all living in Hainan's Tropical Rainforest Reserve



for patients across different regions, and a public hospital reform program will be expanded to cover more than half of all county-level hospitals.

The scale of public hospitals, which provide 90 percent of China's medical services, will be controlled and medical resources will be optimized, according to the meeting.

Non-public hospitals and public hospitals will be treated equally in terms of access to medical insurance programs and other qualifications.

The State Council has also announced that it will raise the percentage of shares that foreigners may own in medical joint ventures and improve welfare for rural doctors.

Eco-Promotion

China has established a special committee to take part in the Future Earth program and strengthen international cooperation in the building of an ecocivilization.

The Chinese National Committee for Future Earth (CNC-FE) was founded on March 21 in Beijing and is sponsored by the China Association for Science and Technology.

The CNC-FE aims to organize Chinese scientists to participate in the Future Earth (2014-23) project and make full use of international resources to boost China's technological level and policy making in the construction of an eco-civilization, said Qin Dahe, Chairman of the CNC-FE.

The committee is made up of more than 40 experts from the fields of natural science, engineering, social science, and media.

Under the Future Earth project, the CNC-FE will focus on major subjects of public and government concern, including atmospheric pollution, urbanization's impact on the environment, energy supply and natural disaster warning in Asia.

The Future Earth (2014-23) program was jointly launched by the International Council of Scientific Unions, the International Social Science Council and the United Nations. It aims to gather global resources to try to find solutions for the sustainable development of the Earth.

Educational Equality

China is eyeing a 10-percent increase in the number of students from impoverished rural areas attending the country's top universities this year, according to a circular released by the Ministry of Education (MOE) on March 24.

The MOE said that the growth will be realized through expanding the three existing programs.

Under the first program, central government-affiliated universities and key universities at local levels will recruit 50,000 rural students, up from 30,000 last year.

This program will be carried out in 832 impoverished counties and 10 provinces with low rates of enrollment in key universities, said the circular.

Under the second program, MOEaffiliated universities and a handful of universities piloting discretionary enrollment should set aside 2 percent of their enrollment quota for students from underdeveloped regions.

The third program will see leading universities at local levels offer more seats to rural students of the same jurisdiction.

The MOE also stressed transparency in information disclosure and stern qualification assessment of candidates during enrollment so as to guarantee justice and equality.

Locoweed Remedies

Chinese scientists said on March 24 that they have "tamed" wild poisonous plants on the Tibetan Plateau, an achievement that can help protect **←**

"For long-term development, the country should create more supportive policies to upgrade education resources in less-developed regions, such as building more top-class universities."

Li Chang'an, a public policy professor at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing



Tough Competition

Candidates take part in the 2014 civil service exams in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, on March 23. More than 240,000 examinees competed in the exams to qualify for around 6,480 provincial civil service posts.

livestock and prevent desertification.

Researchers with Tibet's Academy of Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Sciences have developed both drugs against the effects of locoweed, a common name for any plant that produces swainsonine, a phytotoxin harmful to livestock.

Wang Baohai, a researcher with the Lhasa-based academy, said that the remedies included therapeutic liquid for oral administration and preventive pills based on Western medicine and traditional Chinese medicine, respectively.

"According to clinical tests, the liquid can cure 95 percent of livestock poisoned

by locoweed," said Wang Jinglong, another expert with the academy. "China has granted it a national patent."

The researchers have also discovered a comprehensive mechanism for locoweed prevention and treatment. They removed locoweed in a fenced area of grassland, where poisoned livestock can be isolated and recover.

Herdsmen call locoweed the enemy of grassland because livestock show symptoms of intoxication after eating the plant, which causes animal reproduction rates to drop or even death. Its rampant growth can also lead to grassland degradation.

Car Curb

Cars queue up to get licensed in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on March 25, after the local government announced its decision to restrict issuance of new car licenses from the next day.

In a bid to ease traffic congestion and combat air pollution, Hangzhou will restrict the number of plates issued every year to 80,000. Eighty percent of the quota will be decided by lottery and the remaining 20 percent will be auctioned with a starting price of 10,000 yuan (\$1,610) each.

Hangzhou had about 2.6 million motor vehicles registered by the end of February, with 276,000 added in 2013 alone.



THIS WEEK ECONOMY

New Reform Measures

Rules on the implementation of the free trade account system that enables full convertibility of the Chinese currency and allows offshore financing in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ) will be rolled out before the end of June, an official said on March 25.

The account will help Chinese companies, especially those engaged in foreign trade, secure cheaper yuandenominated funding from offshore, where financing costs have been lower than that on the Chinese mainland.

"We hope to have the account in place by the end of the first half of this year," said Dai Haibo, deputy director of the Shanghai FTZ administrative committee.

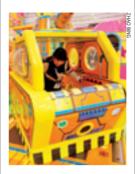
China's central bank previously eased restrictions on overseas investment by individuals by allowing those working in the zone to open an account for overseas investment.

Nearly six months after it was established last September, the Shanghai FTZ has launched pilot schemes to advance financial reforms. Key programs include easing the cross-border use of the Chinese yuan, liberalizing interest rates on foreign currency loans, and facilitating offshore financing and outbound investment.

Offshore RMB Trading

The Bank of England and the People's Bank of China (PBC) are to sign an agreement on renminbi clearing and settlement in London on March 31. A designated clearing bank will be named "soon," the UK Treasury said on March 26.

The change will allow investors to cut the risk from making overseas



A WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT

A visitor tries a game machine at the 2014 China International Amusement Facilities Equipment Exposition held in Beijing from March 26-28 payments in the Chinese currency. It also burnishes London's position as the global center for foreign exchange trading as China's rise shifts international financial flows.

Historically, economic links between China and Europe have been centered on trade, but as China's wealth grows, and its authorities move to liberalize currency and capital markets, financial centers in Europe are targeting investment. The UK is determined to defend its role as the main offshore renminbi trading center outside Asia.

Slower Growth

China International Capital Corp. (CICC) expects the nation's economic growth to slow to 7.3 percent in 2014 due to multiple downward factors.

The investment bank attributes the "weakened growth momentum" mainly to the restraining effects of economic restructuring and financial risk control on demand.

The figure was lower than the previous 7.6 percent forecast by the investment bank earlier this year.

CICC also cut the economic growth forecast for the first quarter from the previous 7.8 percent to 7.3 percent.

In the short term, it is difficult for macroeconomic policies to strike a balance between readjusting the economy and maintaining growth, leading to persistent downward pressure on the growth of demand, according to its quarterly report.

As GDP growth is no longer its top priority, the government would not adopt full-scale monetary easing policies, said the report. The authorities' determination to rein in financial risk will also dent investment, with the negative effects already emerging, said the report.

More Convenient Access

Shanghai Pudong New Area's approval process for foreign businesses has shortened to two days, following the government's call to streamline the administrative process and vitalize market forces.

Shanghai's Pudong New Area will halve the approval period to two days for the establishment and adjustment



Plugged In Directly

Workers patrol to check the normal operation of Maliantai Power Station at Ningdong Energy and Chemical Industrial Base, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

Since 2013, direct power trading between consumers and power generators has been promoted. By now, a total of 10 generators and 57 users have engaged in direct trading of electricity, accounting for roughly 10 percent of Ningxia's total power consumption.



Tower of Nutrition

Visitors tour around the Second Beijing Agricultural Carnival. More than 500 advanced agricultural varieties and 60 technologies are displayed at the event.

of projects backed by foreign capital, according to a report by Xinhua News Agency on March 26.

This will make Pudong, one of the country's earliest reform testing-grounds, the fastest hub to provide market access to multinational companies.

The policy will also beat the record of a minimum four days for a company to receive business licenses in the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, an initiative to open up the economy and attract foreign investment.

Overseas Venture

China's leading Internet company
Tencent Holdings Ltd. announced a plan
on March 26 to buy a 28-percent stake
in South Korea's CJ Games Corp. at
\$500 million, making it the third-largest
shareholder of CJ Games, a leading
online and mobile games developer and
publisher in South Korea.

REVIVING PAST GLORY

Farmers pick tea leaves in Xiushui County, east China's Jiangxi Province, the historical origin of the century-old Ninghong Black Tea



Through the strategic partnership with Tencent, CJ Games is expected to enable its growth in the global mobile games market.

As part of the restructuring, CJ Games will acquire and merge Netmarble, a game distribution division of its parent firm CJ E&M, to maximize the synergies among distribution platforms and development via the creation of a consolidated corporation tentatively named CJ Netmarble.

Martin Lau, President of Tencent, said in a statement that the partnership combines CJ Games' unrivalled game development skills and mobile game line-up together with Tencent's strong game publishing and operation capabilities in China.

The move is in line with Tencent's extensive history in the gaming industry in China. Online games contributed to nearly half of Tencent's revenue of

16.97 billion yuan (\$2.73 billion) in the fourth quarter of 2013, according to the company's financial report.

Rare Earth Dispute

The World Trade Organization (WTO) judged that some Chinese rawmaterial exporters had violated the global trade rules on export tariffs and quotas, according to a report released on March 26.

China's Ministry of Commerce reacted to the WTO ruling by saying that the ministry was evaluating the report and adopting measures in accordance with WTO dispute settlement protocols.

Rare earths are in great demand for their use in smartphones and other gadgets, and China is the biggest global supplier, providing over 90 percent of the world's rare earth production. However, there have been concerns that mining rare earths results in severe environmental damage.

The WTO report was a response to accusations made in March 2012 by the United States, European Union and Japan, and the organization formed a dispute settlement panel in July 2012.

Alleviating Jams

Beijing's neighboring Hebei Province is planning to step up development of Baoding, a local city, in preparation for the transfer of some functions from Beijing.

According to an urbanization document published on March 26, the province will enlarge the size of Baoding to be able to accommodate administrative organs, colleges and universities, research institutions, medical and nursing services transferring from Beijing.

With a hi-tech center and modern industrial bases to be built, Baoding will also develop the industries of high-end equipment manufacturing, new energy, energy-saving and environmental protection, and modern logistics as well as its airport economy from 2014 to 2020.

Another local city, Langfang, will also boost its service sector so as to serve as an ecological and recreational zone for Beijing, said the document.

THIS WEEK WORLD





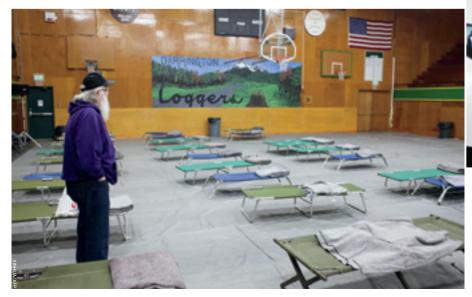
THE NETHERLANDS

Leaders from the Group of Seven countries—the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Canada, Italy and Japan—as well as the European Union hold a meeting in The Hague on March 24



THE UNITED STATES

A man who lost his home in a massive mudslide prepares to spend the night at a temporary Red Cross shelter in Darrington, Washington, on March 23







CANADA

A worker charges an electric car at the 2014 Vancouver International Auto Show on March 25, which highlighted eco-friendly cars, including hybrids and pure electric vehicles





MYANMAR

Census takers attend a training course at a school in Kangyidaunt in the Irrawaddy Delta region on March 20 prior to the nation's first nationwide census in three decades, set to begin on March 30









THAILAND

A participant attaches a bird cage to a cord so it can be hoisted to the top of a pole in a bird-singing contest in Rueso, south Thailand's Narathiwat Province, on March 23



KUWAIT

Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (center) and Arab League Secretary General Nabil Elaraby (right) talk during the opening of the 25th Arab League Summit in Kuwait City on March 25

THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

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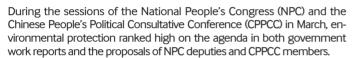
OFFICIAL UNDER PROBE



Yao Mugen, Vice Governor of east China's Jiangxi Province, has been under investigation for suspected serious disciplinary and legal violations.

Yao, 57, was promoted to the current position from the head of the provincial development and reform commission in 2011. He has become the fifth provincial-level official investigated this year and the 23rd investigated in a national anti-corruption campaign launched after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China held in November 2012.

Campaign to Curb Smog Oriental Outlook March 20



During the two-session period, Chinese President Xi Jinping asked for the PM 2.5 data of cities located in the Pearl River Delta when he attended a meeting of the Guangdong Province Delegation. Premier Li Keqiang also vowed in his government work report that the government will spare no efforts in curbing pollution.

Smog that has exasperated half of all Chinese cities, including the capital Beijing, in recent years has made environmental protection a political priority in China. Meanwhile, the Chinese Government has begun to change their ways of thinking on reducing environmental pollution. A number of heavy polluting and low energy efficient coal power plants across the country have been closed, and air quality has been made subject to an assessment standard for local governments. A regional coordination mechanism is to be set up.

However, the key to the environmental protection campaign is to share economic interests equally as well as distribute responsibility impartially to local governments. For example, Beijing cannot get rid of smog without the help of neighboring cities and provinces. For economic reasons, some local governments are not willing to shut down polluted plants that make major contributions to local GDP. Therefore, the battle on environmental pollution needs an effective mechanism as well as a strict legal framework.



Oil Monopolies Open for Private Capital

*Caixin*March 17

China launched the reform and restructuring of its state-owned oil industry in 1998. At that time, the entire oil business shared by three big state-owned enterprises: SINOPEC, CNPC and CNOOC. But the three oil giants did not advance market competition as much as policy makers had anticipated over the following years. Instead, China's oil industry and market are under a monopoly led by the big three. Now, the Central Government has moved to boost the reform of the industry.

In February, SINOPEC announced that it would attract investment from the private sector in a bid to build a mixed-ownership over the company. Around 30 percent of shares of SINOPEC's sales business—estimated to be over 100 billion yuan (\$16.16 billion)—will be sold. Meanwhile, CNPC also announced it would sell 49 percent of shares of its oil prospecting business to private capital.

The sales business of SINOPEC is recognized as a quality asset by the market. Among the 90,000 gas stations across China. SINOPEC owns one third of them.

"Studying abroad is about so much more than improving your own future. It's about shaping the future of your countries and of the world we all share."

U.S. First Lady **Michelle Obama**, in her speech at Peking University on March 22

"I hoped the publishing of *Decoded*'s English version would help Penguin Classics find more Chinese authors and publications."

Chairman of Penguin Random House **John Makinson**, whose company recently released the translated espionage novel by Chinese novelist Mai Jia



It is a stable profit source for the company. Many market observers are optimistic about the deal. In addition, a number of capital buyers have made contact with SINOPEC over the trade.

However, reforming the oil giants is not an easy process. These companies are faced with many problems. Management is one. They have to make adjustment in line with a new structure of shareholders. Selling business means employees could be laid off, and so how to deal with this problem is unclear.

Medicine Reform

Beijing Youth Daily March 24

It has been reported that quite a lot of cheap basic medicines have been disappearing from drugstores in provinces such as Hunan and Anhui. Once the cheap medicines are removed from shelves, consumers have to buy substitutes, which tend to be much more expensive than the original medicine, adding to patients' economic burdens.

However, pharmaceutical companies also have their reasons to stop producing cheap medicines. Cheap medicines mean small profit margins or even no profits at all, which is a blow to manufacturers' enthusiasm. In the past, pharmaceutical enterprises tended to rename the old medicine, get them registered and sell at a higher price. Later, due to stricter medicine supervision and regulation, this game can no longer be sustained. In some cases, pharmaceutical manufacturers have totally stopped the production of established inexpensive drugs, replacing them with newly-developed yet much

more expensive substitutes.

Medicines listed on the state's catalogue of national basic drugs are nowadays hard to locate. In 2009, the Central Government issued a document, explicitly pointing out that a basic medicine production and supply security system was required in order to reduce the cost of production and satisfy the public's demand for basic drugs.

However, the frequent disappearance of cheap drugs implies that loopholes in the basic medicine production and supply security system are being exploited. The biggest reason for this bottleneck is a lack of financial inputs into the production of basic medicine. Pharmaceutical companies that can't receive basic subsidies find it economically impossible to continue to produce cheap drugs.

Given the deep-rooted difficulties plaguing pharmaceutical companies, it's easy to see why so many cheap drugs are disappearing. To ensure reasonable profits for the production of basic drugs is necessary for the smooth supply of cheap medicine to the consumer, and this is something the government needs to take into immediate account.

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HISTORICAL TRUTH TELLER

Chinese netizens have expressed interest in a documentary about the Diaoyu Islands filmed by a Hollywood director, which made its debut in Beijing on March 23. Plans for more domestic screenings are underway.

The 40-minute film, *Diaoyu Islands: The Truth*, directed by Chris D. Nebe, a 76-year-old German, carried the message that the islands have been Chinese territory since ancient times and that Japan annexed them from China in 1895 after the First Sino-Japanese War. The film urged Japan to make apologies for the crimes it committed during World War II.

The documentary, premiered earlier in March in Los Angeles, is one of 12 documentaries in Nebe's *Mysterious China* series introducing Chinese history, culture and rapid development to the world.



"The protection of intangible cultural heritage should focus more on cultures that are forgotten and overlooked due to their lack of commercial value."

Tian Qing. Director of the National Center of Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection, the Chinese National Academy of Arts, criticizing a rise in applications for traditional food by some local governments "This suddenly released policy lacks the participation of public opinions and when public policies seem to be lacking in reasoning like this, they often meet with the public's strong disdain and complaints after coming out."

Wang Shichuan, a netizen commentator on People.com. cn, on Hangzhou government's announcement to impose an annual quota for the city's new car plates on March 25 evening, which went into effect the next day

http://www.bjreview.com

COVER STORY

NUCLEAR PHILOSOPHY

Greater efforts to promote world nuclear security cooperation highlight China's increasing sense of global responsibility By Yu Lintao





hinese President Xi Jinping recently spoke on the use of nuclear energy by raising the vivid analogy of Prometheus, the Greek god who brought fire to humanity. While nuclear technology has the power to generate a bright future for mankind, Xi warned that without effective safeguards for nuclear safety and an adequate response to potential security risks, that same power could be overshadowed by the darkness of disaster.

The Chinese leader's remarks were made on March 24 at the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, during which he also elaborated comprehensively on China's approach to nuclear security.

Observers said it is the first time China has proposed a systematic solution to world nuclear security, which will be of great constructive significance for strengthening nuclear security for a safe world. In the meantime, it embodies China's willingness to undertake its role as a responsible power.

A systematic approach

In his statement, President Xi suggested that to enhance nuclear security, the world should place equal emphasis on development and security, rights and obligations, independent and collaborative efforts, as well as on treating symptoms and addressing causes.

As for the four-point proposal, observers said it has included all the key elements that are needed to bring nuclear security onto a healthy track for sustainable development, such as how to understand the situation, find a solution and cooperate with each other.

Chen Kai, Secretary General of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, said the first two points of the proposal reflect the Chinese philosophy of balance in its nuclear security approach. "The balance of capacity and responsibility as well as of rights and obligations is practical as it is based on the uneven development of global nuclear capacity," he said.

"The levels of nuclear energy development are different in different countries, and their capacities, interests and responsibilities should therefore vary," said Chen. "But all in all, the

development of nuclear energy should be founded on the premise of security."

Liu Chong, a researcher with the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said Xi's proposal at the summit is strategic and instructive as it stresses both treating symptoms and addressing causes.

While offering suggestions to prevent nuclear security risks, Xi stressed the importance of tackling the root causes of nuclear security. He said the international community needs to foster a peaceful and stable international environment, encourage harmonious and friendly relations between countries, and conduct exchanges among different civilizations in an amicable and open-minded manner. This is the only way to address the root causes of nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation, and to achieve the lasting security and development of nuclear power.

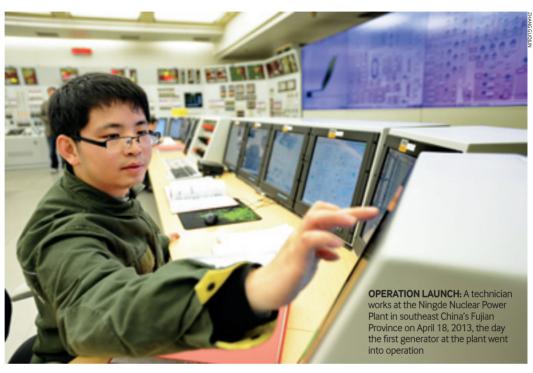
Chen said this idea is based on China's profound understanding of the underlying causes of global nuclear security threats.

"The efforts the international community has made on nuclear security including building security protection capacity, making and implementing international norms as well as carrying out international cooperation mainly focus on how to respond to nuclear security challenges. But what China is more concerned with is a solution to its fundamental causes," said Chen.

"What China advocates is to eliminate the scourge of terrorism—the source of nuclear security threats. It calls on all the countries to foster a peaceful regional and international environment, eliminate poverty and enhance dialogue among different civilizations for mutual understanding" Chen added. "The Chinese approach to nuclear security proposed by President Xi shows China's role as a responsible power in the world arena."

A good record

In his statement during the summit, Xi not only proposed to address international nuclear security challenges but also committed to firmly strengthening China's own nuclear security capability.



Chen said that in the last several decades, China has intensified its efforts to enhance the government's regulatory capacity. The country has also increased inputs in relevant device and technological development as well as human resources cultivation to enhance the security of its nuclear materials and facilities.

Since the 1950s, China has issued a series of regulations on nuclear security management and kept a sound record on nuclear security. To meet the new challenges as well as upgrade its technological capacity, China established the National Nuclear Security Technology Center under the China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA) in 2011 to provide technological support for the country's nuclear security, nuclear material control and nuclear export-import management as well as intergovernmental exchanges and cooperation.

The past years have seen a rapid improvement of China's comprehensive capability in ensuring nuclear security within its borders, said Sun Qin, Chairman of the China National Nuclear Corp. (CNNC), the country's leading nuclear plant operator, to Xinhua News Agency.

According to Sun, the CNNC has over the years stepped up efforts in nuclear material accounting in line with international standards,

and continued to strengthen the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities. In addition to applying new physical protection standards to new nuclear power projects, the company has continued to conduct overhauls of the physical protection level at its old facilities. Beyond investing a lot in infrastructure and hardware, it also has focused more on nuclear security mechanism and system building in a comprehensive manner that combines the serious implementation of protection arrangements, the advances of nuclear technological research, and the collection of feedbacks from industries.

Moreover, Sun added that the CNNC has been active in international research cooperation on the "down-blending" of highly enriched uranium to low enriched uranium in civilian nuclear uses, an effort that has been promoted by the Nuclear Security Summit to minimize the use of dangerous materials for preventing nuclear terrorism.

"As nuclear security is a real global matter, China has actively participated in all kinds of international cooperation on the issue," Liu told Beijing Review.

China has been represented by its head of state at all three nuclear security summits, the first of which was held in 2010. Since 2006,

China and the United States have cooperated with each other to conduct nuclear material protection drills.

The China-U.S. Center of Excellence in Nuclear Security, which is being built in the suburbs of Beijing with the joint efforts of the CAEA and its U.S. counterpart, is another good example in terms of international cooperation in nuclear security. Following its expected inauguration in 2015, the center will be the largest nuclear security international exchange, training and demonstration center in the Asia-Pacific region.

After its completion, the center will be able to carry out tasks such as nuclear material analysis and identification, training of nuclear security personnel and accounting of nuclear materials. It is estimated that it can provide 2,000 personnel with professional nuclear security training.

Wang Yiren, Deputy Director of the CAEA, said the center will not only help China to learn more advanced technology and attain management experience in nuclear security protection, but also promote technological development and exchanges worldwide.

Moreover, China has launched a number of cooperative projects with Russia and Kazakhstan to combat the illicit trafficking of nuclear materials and has been helping Ghana to convert a highly enriched uranium-fueled research reactor to using low enriched uranium within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). China has also made contributions to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund, and helped enhance the nuclear security capability of other Asia-Pacific countries through hosting training sessions and a variety of other ways.

China's work on nuclear protection has gained international recognition. A recent report titled Securing China's Nuclear Future jointly released by the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University and China shows that since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, China has greatly strengthened the security of its nuclear facilities. Zhang Hui, a senior researcher with Harvard University and an author of the report, said China possesses the smallest quantity of nuclear materials among the five nuclear powers, in keeping with its defensive nuclear policy under which the country minimizes its nuclear stock. Thus, it is much easier for China to maintain the security of its nuclear materials.

In an interview with China Central Television, David Santoro, a senior researcher with the Pacific Forum under the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, said over the past 10 years and even further back, China has done a lot to improve its nuclear security credentials. This is evidenced by the many efforts it has made internally and in cooperation with others at both the regional level and the global level.

International progress

In the final communique of The Hague Nuclear Security Summit, leaders and representatives from 53 countries and international organizations reaffirmed the fundamental responsibility of countries "to maintain at all times effective security" of all nuclear and other radioactive materials. Observers claimed that the summit represented a major step forward and a fitting follow-up to the agreements made at earlier summits in Washington, D.C. and Seoul.

"The summit has become an important platform for international nuclear security cooperation with remarkable achievements having been made," Liu said. "Since the 2010 summit, the international community has deepened their understanding on nuclear

security and expanded their consensus on the issue."

According to Liu, since the 2012 summit, 16 countries have ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its 2005 amendment; nine countries have approved the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism; 22 countries have enhanced measures on border control and combating nuclear material smuggling; 32 countries have improved nuclear security supervision and legislation; and seven countries have eliminated their highly enriched uranium.

Wang of the CAEA said the latest communique will promote the establishment of a global nuclear security system.

"The most important points of the communique include underlining the central position of the IAEA in the international nuclear security framework and supporting the UN's role in nuclear security and in promoting the ratification and implementation of international conventions on combating nuclear terrorism," Wang said.



♦ Previous Summits

The Nuclear Security Summit is a world forum aimed at advocating nuclear security and preventing nuclear terrorism around the globe.

Against the background of the existence of insecure elements and the risk of nuclear materials and technology being abused, U.S. President Barack Obama hosted the first summit in 2010 in Washington, D.C. after revealing in Prague his ambitious goal of a world without nuclear weapons in April 2009.

The Washington summit, with the participation of leaders and representatives from 47 countries, adopted a broad communique iterating the participating countries' commitment to the goal of securing nuclear materials in four years.

A more detailed work plan outlined specific steps, including how the broad goals and commitments of the communique will be implemented.

The second summit, held in the South Korean capital of Seoul in March 2012, saw the participation of leaders and representatives from 53 countries and international organizations such as the UN, the European Union, the IAEA and the International Criminal Police Organization.

The Seoul summit concluded with the release of a 13-point communique reiterating joint efforts toward nuclear security while backing the IAEA's essential role in international cooperation.

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)



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