

WORLD: HOPES FOR APEC P.18 | NATION: CHINA'S RULE OF LAW P.22

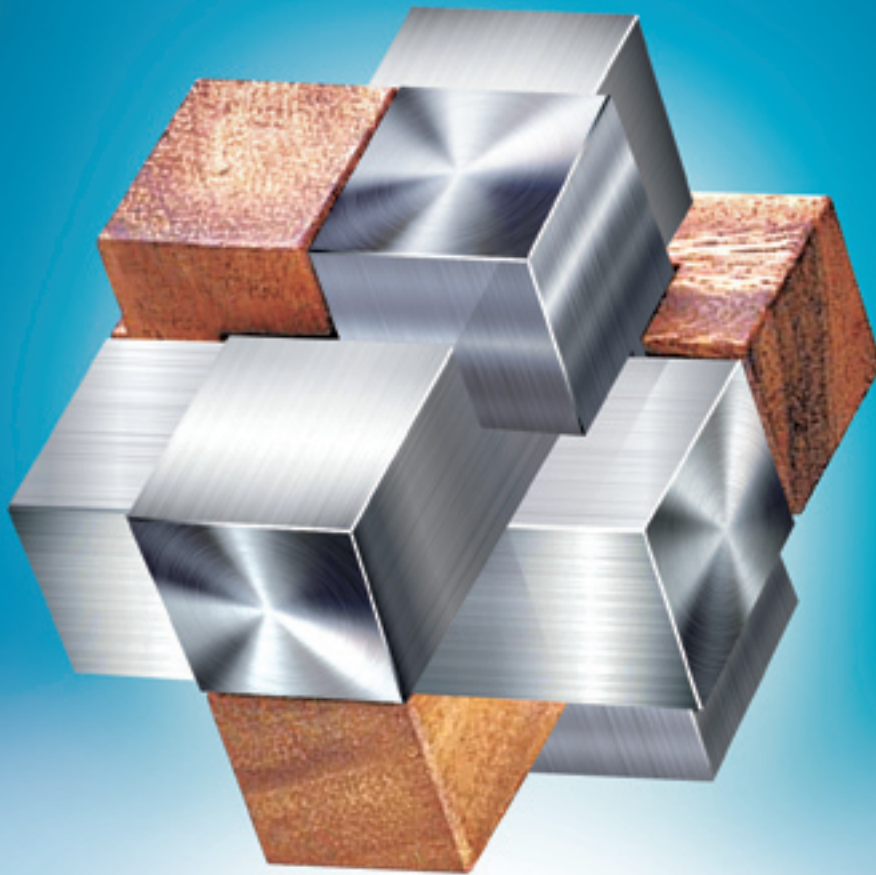
BEIJING REVIEW

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INNOVATION³

Premier's Europe tour interlocks
traditional wisdom with modern engineering



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Loosening up restrictions on home buying



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EDITOR'S DESK

Eurasian Innovation

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's recent trip to Europe was a fruitful one. Apart from signing a series of agreements on economic and trade cooperation, its biggest highlight was the laying of the practical foundations of the new China-Europe innovative partnership.

When President Xi Jinping visited Germany in March, an innovative partnership was featured as the theme of bilateral relations. During his visit, Premier Li filled in important details. The innovative partnership, which covers areas ranging from politics and the economy to culture, health and social security, has now entered the stage of comprehensive implementation.

China and Germany enjoy a high level of political mutual trust as well as close business ties. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has paid seven official visits to China, outnumbering all other incumbent state leaders. Moreover, Germany is the only Western country that has set up an inter-governmental consultation mechanism with China, in addition to being the first Western country to propose "Industry 4.0" cooperation with China.

The China-Germany relationship is an experimental field of the China-Europe innovative partnership. While in Russia, Li attended the opening ceremony of the Moscow International Forum for Innovative Development. During his visit to Italy, he took part in the China-Italy "innovation week." All of these activities demonstrate that innovation was the core of Li's Europe tour.

Efforts to develop an innovative part-

nership will contribute to the deepening of China-Europe relations, presenting precious opportunities for collaboration.

China and Europe are both at a key period of development as they face the common missions of stabilizing growth, adjusting structures and promoting employment. After undergoing more than 30 years of rapid growth, the Chinese economy has now entered a "new normal" period. The Chinese Government hopes to maintain moderately high economic growth through reform and innovation. The experience of developed European countries is worth drawing a lesson from. As for Europe, its economic recovery and growth require greater capital and bigger markets—requirements that China just so happens to meet.

China and Europe are now major partners in coping with global challenges. The two sides have made joint efforts to prevent conflicts and address international issues, with significant achievements on issues concerning Iran and North Korea.

The China-proposed Silk Road Economic Belt connects China and Europe together. Both sides have expressed a strong willingness to build up this belt and have already taken action. This program appears poised to help them forge even closer connections.

Now is an opportune moment for China and Europe to develop a new innovative partnership. The Action Outline for China-Germany Cooperation issued during Li's visit will spearhead the stable, healthy and smooth development of this partnership. ■

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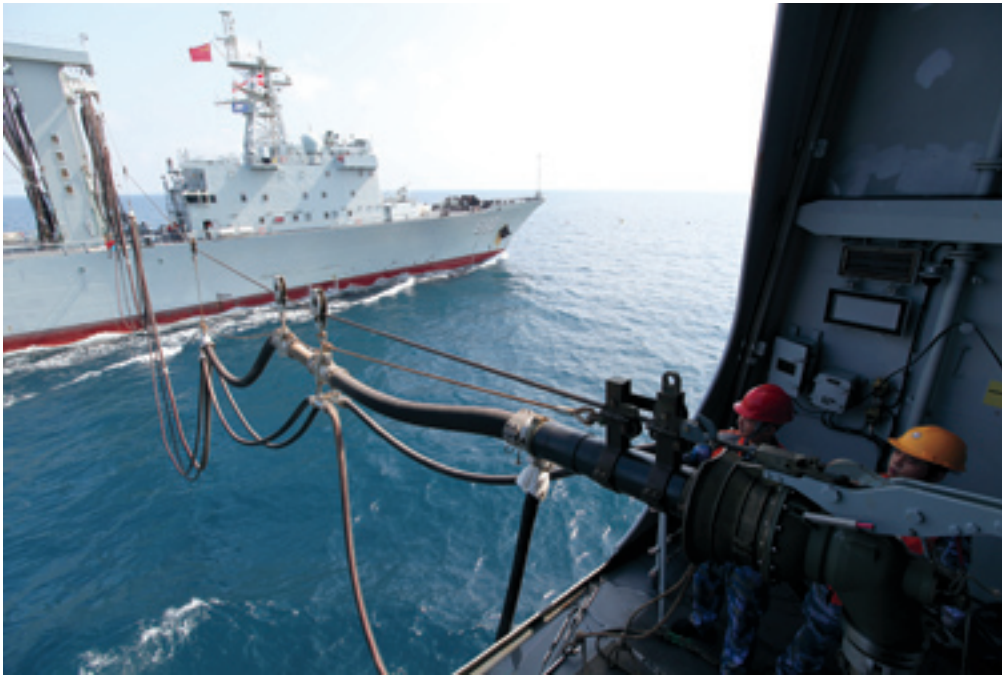


OFFERING A HELPING HAND

Chinese medical workers take a boy suspected to have contracted Ebola to the ward for observation in a hospital in Freetown, capital of Sierra Leone, on October 11.

A group of 30 doctors and nurses from the Beijing-based 302 Military Hospital, which specializes in treating infectious diseases, arrived there about a month earlier to help fight the deadly virus.

China has sent nearly 200 medical personnel to Ebola-affected Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea since the virus' outbreak in March. According to the World Health Organization, the epidemic had infected 8,997 and killed 4,493 by October 15 and is still spreading across West Africa.



Conveying on the Ocean

Sailors on the Chinese amphibious dock landing ship *Changbaishan* work during an abeam replenishment from the supply ship *Chaohu* in the Gulf of Aden on October 14.

The *Changbaishan* is part of the 18th convoy fleet sent by the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy for escort missions in the Gulf of Aden.

Food Waste

Senior officials have warned of the toll excessive food consumption is taking on the nation's scarce water and farm resources as they reveal almost 200 billion yuan (\$32.6 billion) worth of food is discarded from Chinese dining tables every year.

The wasted food could potentially feed more than 200 million people, said Wu Zidan, Deputy Director of the State Administration of Grain, citing industry expert estimates.

In addition to the wasted food, roughly 35 billion kg of grain is wasted each year during storage, transportation and processing, Wu revealed on October 13 at a ceremony kicking off a one-week educational event aimed at raising people's awareness for saving food.

Food security is a major issue in China, one of the world's most heavily

farmed countries, where problems including limited land and water resources as well as rising pollution put a strain on agriculture.

Civil Servant Exam

China's national-level government agencies, their affiliated public institutions and local branches will recruit over 22,000 civil servants in 2015, up from the more than 19,000 in 2014.

The 2015 public service exam for national-level governments will open to applications from October 15 to 24, the Organization Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the State Administration of Civil Service announced on October 13.

According to authorities, the 2015 public service selection will continue to favor candidates who have worked at

grassroots levels.

Most positions in government agencies above provincial level require two years of community-level working experience. About 10 percent of all vacancies will be set aside for college graduates.

Water Plant

A water plant in Beijing announced that it is ready for water diverted from the country's south in a move to combat water scarcity in the capital.

The water plant, located in south Beijing, is the first major water plant built by the city in the downtown area for the project since 2000.

It is expected to provide 500,000 cubic meters of water a day to meet the demand of nearly 5 million residents in the capital, Zhang said.

Beijing has arranged five water plants to serve the water diversion project. Its water supply capacity has also increased to 3.72 million cubic meters a day.

The middle route of China's south-to-north water diversion project will see a massive 9.5 billion cubic meters of water per year pumped through canals and pipes from the Danjiangkou reservoir in central Hubei Province to the northern provinces of Henan and Hebei and to Beijing.

Ocean Science Index

China published its first ocean science and technology innovation index on October 15, which evaluates the ocean-related science and technology development level of Chinese cities.

The index was launched at the Qingdao International Ocean Summit Forum in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on October 15.

According to the first evaluation, Qingdao, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Tianjin and Dalian topped the index's ranking. Organizers said the ranking was based on data of innovation investments, output, application and the environment.

The index also provides detailed readings on ocean industry distribution in the cities, pointing out advantages and weakness.

The index is aimed at making scientific evaluation of the ocean science innovation ability and the standard of materializing the technology to spur the

TIME-HONORED SKILL

A woman of the Li ethnic group shows the skill of weaving silk at the Third Intangible Heritage Expo, which kicked off in Jinan, Shandong Province, on October 10



marine economy and surveillance and provide reference to policymakers.

Air Quality Inspections

The Ministry of Environmental Protection has announced that it will run a campaign of unannounced and drone-based inspections of air quality from October to next March.

Unlike regular checks, in which companies and authorities targeted are usually notified beforehand, the upcoming inspections will be conducted at random, and violators will be immediately named and shamed, according to a ministry statement made on October 15.

The inspections will look at a wide range of issues including emissions of key polluting companies, automobiles, emergency responses in periods of severe smog, small companies that haven't met state standards and the enforcement of various environmental rules in government departments and service industries.

Drone inspections in Tianjin Municipality and the provinces of Hebei, Shanxi, Shandong and Henan—regions plagued by relatively severe air pollution, are already under way.

Local governments will be informed of violations of environmental law within their jurisdictions and will be responsible for punishing violators and ensuring the matter is rectified, the statement said.

Cancer-Killing Virus

Chinese scientists have extracted a virus known as M1 that could kill cancer cells without harming normal cells, giving

“The haze in the region in recent years is not only a problem for the region itself, but one related to all northern and eastern regions”

Zhang Gui, Deputy Director for Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Development Center at Hebei University of Technology



DENG LONGHUA

Field Class

On October 14, pupils from Wanzai County of Jiangxi Province work in farmland to learn about growing grain to commemorate World Food Day, which fell on October 16.

hope for the future research and development of cancer therapies.

A research team led by Yan Guangmei, a professor from the Zhongshan School of Medicine under the Sun Yat-sen University in Guangdong Province, found the virus. They extracted it from a certain kind of mosquito in the tropical Hainan Province.

The discovery was published in the October edition of the *Proceedings of*

the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

Animal tests found that the M1 virus worked well on cancer cells of the liver, bladder, colon and rectum.

Cancer is a growing threat to health in China due to unhealthy lifestyles and a deteriorating environment. China reports 3.5 million new cases of cancer each year and that 2.5 million people, nearly the population of Kuwait, die of cancers each year in China.

Ready for the Wild

A 55.8-kg female panda, Xue Xue, is released into the wild on October 14 and has become the fourth giant panda to be bred in captivity and released into the wild in China.

Xue Xue had been trained in a wild training base in southwest China's Sichuan Province for two years before her release.

China first started sending captive-bred pandas into the wild in 2006 when a five-year-old male, Xiang Xiang, was released. Giant pandas are one of the world's most endangered species. Only an estimated 1,600 of the animals live in the wild, mostly in the mountains of Sichuan, while more than 300 live in captivity.



XUE YUJIN

Trade Rebound

China's foreign trade saw a stronger-than-expected rebound in September, indicating improved external demand and stabilization of the sharp growth deceleration in previous months, customs data showed on October 13.

Exports saw the fastest growth in 19 months, expanding 15.3 percent from a year ago to \$213.7 billion in September. The growth rate was the highest monthly reading since March 2013.

Imports increased 7 percent year on year to \$182.7 billion in the month, and total foreign trade volume rose 11.3 percent to \$396.4 billion, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) said.

September's growth rate in imports also marked the best performance since December 2013, according to the GAC.

Trade surplus in September more

than doubled from last year to \$31 billion, compared with \$49.8 billion in August.

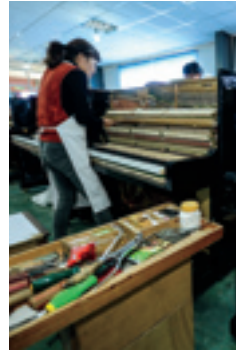
Analysts dubbed the latest trade data "the big upside surprise," saying that the significant rebound in trade will help ease concerns about an economic slowdown in China.

Zheng Yuesheng, GAC spokesman, attributed September's strong growth to a string of government measures adopted in May to stabilize foreign trade, as well as rebounding global demand.

"We expect the strong momentum to continue in the fourth quarter," Zheng said, adding export pressure will lift in the last three months of this year.

Inflation Eases

Growth in China's consumer price index (CPI) slowed to 1.6 percent in



TUNED IN

A worker tunes the tone of a newly produced piano in a factory in Luoshe Township, Zhejiang Province, on October 15. Pianos manufactured in Luoshe are exported to over 20 countries and regions worldwide

September, the lowest since January 2010, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on October 15.

In August, the CPI registered an increase of 2 percent.

On a monthly basis, the index inflated 0.5 percent in September, faster than the previous month's 0.2-percent growth.

The CPI grew 2.1 percent year on year in the first nine months, well below the 3.5-percent full-year control target set by the government.

China's producer price index (PPI), which measures inflation at wholesale level, dropped 1.8 percent year on year in September, the NBS said.

The PPI declined for the 31st straight month and at a faster pace than the previous month, indicating shrinking demand and rising production overcapacity amid slowing economic growth.

In the first nine months, the country's PPI dropped 1.6 percent year on year, the data showed.

"The PPI rate drop continues to expand, indicating that the task of digesting production overcapacity is huge," said Wang Jun, a researcher with the China Center for International Economic Exchange, adding that the downward pressure on China's economy has not been relieved and the foundation for economic recovery is fragile.

Global Ambition

On October 13, Tmall International, a B2C platform launched by China's e-commerce giant Alibaba Group for overseas shoppers, announced that it will offer free delivery worldwide for products ordered on November 11, an annual day of online shopping promotions in China.

The move is part of Alibaba's overseas business expansion strategy after its New York initial public offering on September 19, which raised \$25 billion and made Alibaba the world's second-largest Internet company in market value.

The only goods not included in the free delivery deal for the Double 11 Shopping Festival will be very large items.



Electrifying the Market

People take pictures of all-electric taxis produced by Chinese auto manufacturer BYD on October 15 in Brussels, Belgium.

BYD introduced 35 of its all-electric model, the e6, to the taxi market in Brussels two months ago and thus far, they have received a warm welcome.



High Performing

A worker from a local grid company checks an electricity transmission line in Huzhou, Zhejiang Province, on October 14.

The line is part of the 1,000-volt power network connecting Zhejiang and neighboring Fujian Province.

Tmall International, launched on February 19, has attracted thousands of global brands to set up stores on it.

Online marketplaces Tmall and Taobao, both owned by Alibaba, saw transactions totaling 35 billion yuan (\$5.7 billion) during last year's Double 11 Shopping Spree, the Chinese equivalent of Cyber Monday.

Investment Fund

China has established an investment fund aiming to boost development of the integrated circuit (IC) industry, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said on October 14.

The fund will invest in chip making, boost industrial production and promote mergers and acquisitions in the

PAVING THE WAY

A machine lays bitumen on the Quanzhou Bay Cross-Sea Bridge in Quanzhou, Fujian Province, on October 13. Construction of the bridge will be completed in the first half of 2015.



ZHANG JIULIANG

sector, the ministry said in a statement on its website.

It will also cover chip design, equipment and raw materials, the statement said.

The statement said that the investment fund will operate under a corporate system, but did not provide details on the specific value of the fund.

Government data show sales revenues of China's IC industry stood at 251 billion yuan (\$41 billion) in 2013. A national guideline for the sector aims to boost revenue to more than 350 billion yuan (\$57 billion) in 2015.

Trademark Regulation

China is considering elimination of trademarks that copy the names of

well-known brands or figures in a bid to curb copyright infringement.

The courts will uphold the Patent Review Committee's decision to nullify trademarks that are the same or similar to well-known places and trademarks already in use, according to a judicial interpretation released on October 15 by the Supreme People's Court to solicit public opinion.

The courts will also reject individual applications for a large number of trademarks, said the document, which is also aimed at unifying trial standards for the courts when dealing with trademark disputes.

The behavior of using public figure's names as trademarks without their permission cannot be allowed, nor can the behavior of using the names of the dead without getting approval from their inheritors, according to the document.

Trademarks that are the same as, or similar to, the Chinese name of China will also be banned, and those including the nation's name will not be approved either if their registration may lead to "abuse of the national name," it said.

RMB Sovereign Bond

On October 9, the British Treasury announced it has begun the process of issuing the world's first non-Chinese sovereign bond in the Chinese currency, the renminbi (RMB).

Three major banks, including Bank of China, HSBC and Standard Chartered, have been appointed by the government following a fair and rigorous process to help deliver the planned sale of Britain's RMB bond, said the Treasury in a statement. The proceeds of the bond will be used to finance the nation's reserves.

British RMB sovereign bond signals the RMB's potential as a future reserve currency, said the Treasury. Currently, Britain only holds reserves in the U.S. dollar, euro, Japanese yen and Canadian dollar.

The announcement represents a "decisive step" toward issuing the first RMB-denominated bond by a Western country, and follows the Chancellor's announcement at the recent annual economic summit between Britain and China in London, said the British Treasury.



BRITAIN

Workers in England's state-run National Health Service strike outside University College Hospital in central London on October 13, in the first such action taken since 1982, following the government's refusal to hike their pay



FRANCE

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (left) speaks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the Chief of Mission Residence in Paris on October 14, where they discussed the Ukrainian crisis and bilateral relations between the United States and Russia

XINHUA/AP



CAMBODIA

Buddhist monks walk into the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh on October 15, during the second anniversary of the death of former King Norodom Sihanouk





SIERRA LEONE

Funeral agents specialized in the burial of victims of the Ebola virus lay a body to rest at the Fing Tom cemetery in Freetown on October 10



BOLIVIA

President Evo Morales shows his ballot prior to voting at a polling station in Chapare province on October 12. Morales was elected to a third consecutive term with more than 60 percent of the vote



AFGHANISTAN

A couple talk during a mass wedding ceremony in which 100 couples were married on the outskirts of Kabul on October 10

↓ MAGIC COACH

Lang Ping, head coach of the Chinese Women's Volleyball Team, guided her players to a second-place victory in the FIVB (International Federation of Volleyball) World Championship on October 11, after a 1-3 loss to the United States in Milan, Italy. The result provided a much-needed morale boost for the team, which had been through a string of poor performances.

Lang, 54, played a central role in the Chinese team's winning of its first three world titles: at the World Cup tournament in Japan in 1981, the World Championship in Peru in 1982 and the Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games in the United States in 1984. Nicknamed the "Iron Hammer," she is regarded as one of the most respected athletes in modern Chinese sports history.

Lang coached the Chinese team to win an Olympic silver medal in Atlanta, the United States, in 1996. She also led the U.S. women's team to a silver at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. Lang started her second tenure as head coach of the Chinese team in April 2013.



Beijing's Waste Headache

Oriental Outlook
October 16

According to a report by local environmental protection authorities, Beijing generated more than 6 million tons of waste in 2013, the highest in the previous five years.

As Beijing's population grows rapidly, people in the city are throwing away more and more expensive items, such as household electrical appliances. In 2013, the weight of TV sets discarded by Beijingers reached 24,000 tons.

Currently, both private companies and environmental protection departments are involved in waste transportation and processing in Beijing.

Beijing built its first landfill in 1994, marking the start of modern waste disposal in the city. After 20 years, Beijing has entered the second and third stages of waste disposal according to international standards, with the former featuring burying and electricity generation through burning the waste and the latter focusing on resource regeneration and recycling.

Reducing the garbage storage, which has been increasing for many years, will be a big challenge for Beijing. More modern and larger disposal facilities will be built. However, such problems as the low classification rate of rubbish needs not only the government's efforts but residents' heightened awareness of the low-carbon lifestyle.



Pursuing Corruption Abroad

China Newsweek
September 29

A campaign code-named Fox Hunting was launched by the Ministry of Public Security on July 22 in an effort to bring justice to economic crime suspects who have fled overseas, indicating that China's anti-corruption efforts have extended their reach abroad.

According to a study by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, which was cited in a report of the People's Bank of China in June 2008, the number of corrupt officials who were on the run overseas was estimated between 16,000 to 18,000, and these people had taken assets worth 800 billion yuan (\$131 billion) with them. The destinations for fled officials are mainly Canada, the United States, Australia, as well as some European and Southeast Asian countries. In particular, Canada and the United States are regarded as a safe haven by corrupt officials for being developed countries that haven't signed an extradition agreement with China.

The Economic Crime Investigation Department of the Ministry of Public Security was established in 1998, with hunting down economic crime suspects who have fled overseas being one of its missions. However, as the mission also involves procuratorial organs,

"I am confident we can achieve the annual growth target [of around 7.5 percent]."

Li Pumin, spokesman for the National Development and Reform Commission, China's top economic planner, stressing at a press conference on October 14 that the country's economic growth will remain within a proper range in the fourth quarter as government policies to stimulate consumption and stabilize investment gradually filter through

"A market economy should not be a corrupt economy, and China's economic growth is not achieved through opportunities created by corruption."

Xin Ming, a professor at the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China



foreign affairs departments, banks, customs authorities and several other government agencies, it had been ineffectively executed due to poor coordination between the aforementioned parties. In the course of the Fox Hunting campaign, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of China acts as a leader, which coordinates the efforts of concerned parties.

As extradition and repatriation both require complicated legal procedures, persuading suspects to come back on their own is a preferred option among the three main measures utilized during the campaign.

Care at Home Deserves Support

Xinhua Daily Telegraph
October 14

The capital city of east China's Jiangsu Province, Nanjing, which has 1.2 million senior residents but only 43,000 certified nurse aides for the elderly, has taken an incentive approach to filling the gap. According to a new regulation, the government will pay grown-up children of five categories of senior citizens, including the disabled and half-disabled, up to 400 yuan (\$65.32) a month for looking after their parents at home.

The Nanjing Municipal Government has rolled out the measure in order to solve the elderly care problem. At present, many

people struggling with high living and working pressures have little time to take care of their parents. They would rather send senior family members to nursing homes, which are often high-priced and scarce in number, than look after them themselves. Many elderly people choose to live in a nursing home in spite of their dislike for such institutions, so that their children can be fully devoted to their work.

Nanjing's policy gives children extra income and reduces their financial burden of providing care for their parents, which benefits both children and the elderly.

Additionally, relevant government departments in Nanjing have pledged to establish a supervisory system to ensure that children who receive the pay fulfill their duties.

However, to meet elderly care challenge, such a measure alone is far from adequate. More innovative methods need to be tried.



DECORATED POET

Jidi Majia, a famous poet from the Yi ethnic group, won the 2014 Nkiva Humanitarian Award on October 10 in Cape Town, South Africa. The award, which was created in 1999 and named after famous South African human rights leader Richard Nkiva, commends leaders and cultural celebrities who have maintained active connections with the people. Jidi Majia is the first Asian to win the award.

Jidi Majia, 53, started writing poetry in 1982. Many of his poems take inspiration from culture and history of the Yi people, who—numbering more than 11 million—mostly inhabit southwest China. Over 20 of his poetry collections have been published at home and abroad. His most famous collection, *Rhapsody in Black*, is available in English, French, Russian, Japanese, Spanish and Romanian, and has been distributed in over 30 countries and regions.



Jidi Majia is also an initiator and leader of various cultural activities, such as the Qinghai Lake International Poetry Festival and China (Qinghai) World Mountain Documentary Festival.

“We hope that people in rural areas can enjoy the same consumption choices as in cities and that entrepreneurs can set up businesses in rural areas.”

Zhang Yong, Chief Operating Officer of New York-listed Alibaba Group, China's leading e-commerce platform provider, announcing a new business expansion plan on October 14

“Violators have to pay a much higher price than before.”

Zhong Chonglei, chief of the Beijing Environmental Monitoring Team, on local authorities' plan to adopt a special and strict air pollution control plan for APEC meetings scheduled for next month in the city

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COVER STORY

INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY

PM's visit enriches China's cooperation
with European partners By Bai Shi

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang paid an official visit to three European countries—Germany, Russia and Italy—between October 9 and 18.

In addition to a good number of diplomatic talks during the visit, Li attended the third round of China-Germany Governmental Consultations in Berlin, the 19th China-Russia Prime Ministers' Regular Meeting in Moscow and the 10th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Milan in that order.

"Various regular meeting mechanisms have played an important role in Chinese diplomacy. Regular high-level meetings can make sure consensus and agreements reached by leaders are implemented on schedule," said Xiong Wei, an associate professor at the China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing.

Compared with other forms of consultation, the regular meeting mechanism has a strong advantage, according to Cui Hongjian,

MEETING AGAIN:
German Chancellor
Angela Merkel hosts
a welcome ceremony
for visiting Chinese
Premier Li Keqiang in
Berlin on October 10

Director of the Department for European Studies under the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS). "At a regular meeting, both sides will not only engage in discussion to resolve issues but also map out a plan for the future. If the two sides reach consensus on many issues, they are then willing to make efforts to realize their objective," he said.

"Furthermore, the prime ministers' regular meetings have always been characterized by a high degree of efficiency. Co-chaired by two prime ministers, departments of the two cabinets talk to each other directly. Both sides can find a solution to a problem or resolve a difference promptly at such a meeting," Cui said.

Innovative partnership

On October 10, Li and German Chancellor Angela Merkel jointly announced plans to build an innovative partnership of mutual benefit with emphasis on innovation cooperation at a press conference in Berlin.

An action plan was issued following the Li-Merkel meeting, which sets out the main areas of China-Germany innovative cooperation, including a Germany-initiated strategic hi-tech project dubbed "Industry 4.0," as well as urbanization, industrialization, information technology and agricultural modernization, which are among China's policy priorities.

Major Achievements of Premier Li's European Tour



Germany, October 9-12

China and Germany signed trade, investment and technological cooperation deals worth \$18.1 billion.

The two sides jointly issued an action plan for innovation cooperation, which includes over 200 proposals, items and measures in 20 fields.

China and Germany have agreed to join hands in the cross-border pursuit of fugitives and recovery of booty.

Russia, October 12-14

Thirty-nine agreements were signed between China and Russia.

The documents, including governmental accords and business contracts, cover trade, finance, investment, energy and high-speed railways, people-to-people exchanges, advanced technology, satellite navigation, currency swap and customs.

A local currency swap deal worth 150 billion yuan (\$24.4 billion) between the central banks of China and Russia was among the documents signed.

Italy, October 14-18

China and Italy agreed to strengthen cooperation in infrastructure construction, energy and financial services, high-end manufacturing, creative design and aerospace, and to expand bilateral trade, enhance industrial connections and increase two-way investment.

Companies of the two countries signed deals worth 8 billion euro (\$10 billion) in various sectors including energy, aeronautics, transportation, environment and shipbuilding.

Li announced that China will donate \$50 million in the next five years to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization during a visit to the UN body's headquarters in Rome on October 15.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

According to Chinese Ambassador to Germany Shi Mingde, Germany will be the first country to develop all-round innovation cooperation with China.

At the seventh Sino-German Forum for Economic and Technological Cooperation on October 10, Li presented a small gift to Merkel—the Lu Ban Lock—which is a traditional Chinese puzzle.

The metal Lu Ban Lock was made by three Chinese students of Tianjin Sino-German Vocational and Technical College with a German-brand machine tool. Lu Ban was the originator of the handicraft industry and a great inventor in ancient China.

The gift symbolizes Li's wish to combine Chinese wisdom with German technologies and advance the common development of the two giant manufacturing countries, Xinhua News Agency commented.

Feng Zhongping, Deputy Dean of the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, said that the emphasis on innovation cooperation and the new

action plan shows the strong willingness for cooperation by Chinese and German leaderships as well as the broad common interests of the two countries.

Innovation was also highlighted during Li's visit to Russia and Italy. The Chinese premier attended an international forum themed open innovation in Moscow on October 14. In Italy, he attended the "innovation week" meeting with Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

The innovation partnership is not exclusive to Germany, Cui said. He added that China's call to building innovative bilateral relations covers a broad space and other European countries can benefit from the new partnership.

Since he assumed office as Chinese premier, Li has continually emphasized the crucial role of innovation in China's development.

In May, Li vowed to make innovation the strong impetus for driving the Chinese economy to upgrade, in his speech at the

INNOVATION SHOW: Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev visit the exhibition of an international forum themed open innovation in Moscow on October 14



opening ceremony of the third annual meeting of the Global Research Council in Beijing.

Diversified cooperation

Li's visit to Russia saw the signing of 39 cooperation agreements in broad fields between the two countries, including natural gas supply, high-speed railway construction, currency swap, high technology and finance.

Chen Yurong, Director of the Department of Eura-Asia Research under the CIIS, told Xinhua News Agency that China-Russia cooperation is not limited to energy.

China's central bank has signed a currency swap agreement worth 150 billion yuan (\$24 billion) with the Russian central bank, which will facilitate bilateral trade and investment between China and Russia.

Deepening cooperation on finance and currency is a major direction for China and Russia at present. With this agreement, enterprises of the two countries are able to complete transactions more conveniently, Chen said.

Today, China is recovering the prosperity of its old industrial base in the northeast and Russia is making efforts to develop its Far East region. The two neighboring regions have a strong thirst to do business. As a

result, the demand for currency swaps is increasing, Chen said.

She added that a planned Eurasian high-speed transport corridor linking Beijing and Moscow which will promote people-to-people exchanges for the two giant neighbors.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Italy comprehensive strategic partnership.

During Li's visit, the two countries also inked a slew of new cooperation documents on trade, investment, infrastructure construction, energy, finance and innovation.

Speaking at a joint press conference on October 14 with his Italian counterpart Renzi, Li stressed that China and Italy, both heirs to great ancient civilizations, enjoy inborn advantages in people-to-people exchanges, and the two sides should continue to deepen cooperation in culture, education and tourism.

China-EU ties

The 10th ASEM Summit in Milan on October 16-17 was an important multilateral diplomatic event for China this year. And it was the first



Premier Li's Proposals at ASEM Summit

- Asian and European countries should jointly safeguard regional peace, security and development.

Key objectives include consolidating unity, continuing their participation in and support for multi-polarization and multilateral cooperation, and properly addressing conflicts and disputes through political and peaceful means.

- Asia-Europe interconnectivity should be strengthened, and trade and investment further liberated, so as to accelerate the establishment of a single Eurasian market.

China is willing to work with regional countries to build an interconnected

Eurasian infrastructure network. The ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting mechanism should be recommenced. A Eurasian center for scientific and technological innovation cooperation should be established.

- Joint efforts should be made to promote people-to-people exchanges and encourage social development.

All parties should support multi-channel and multi-level exchanges and shore up experience sharing in areas including urbanization and public health. Disability affairs should be included in the Asia-Europe cooperation framework.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



REACHING CONSENSUS: Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and his Italian counterpart Matteo Renzi attend a joint press conference in Rome on October 14

of the Chinese market will benefit not only China but also the rest of the world. Li's speech will enhance the confidence of EU entrepreneurs, said Mei Zhaorong, former Chinese Ambassador to Germany.

According to China's Ministry of Commerce, China is the second largest trading partner of the EU, which in turn has been the largest trading partner of China for 10 consecu-

time that Li has attended this biennial meeting.

The first ASEM Summit was held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1996. It currently serves as the highest-level dialogue mechanism existent between Asia and Europe. Today, the meeting mechanism consists of 20 Asian states and 31 European states, which account for over half of the world economy and 60 percent of the global population.

As an original member state, China attaches importance to ASEM and has made a valuable contribution to the development of the mechanism. China regards it as an important platform for cementing diplomacy with neighboring countries, expanding cooperation space and maintaining good ties with both Asian and European countries.

The Chinese premier attended every ASEM summit. The country has put forward a good many practical proposals in successive meetings and it has held the most ministerial meetings of any member country.

Cui said that China hopes ASEM will not remain solely a multilateral forum and suggests it grow to be a permanent mechanism, playing a bigger role in promoting coopera-

tion between Asia and Europe.

Li promoted China's proposal for building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road with other countries at this year's ASEM Summit. China hopes the proposal can facilitate international cooperation, boost mutual trust, lift communication and transport conditions and promote an inclusive and sustainable development for Asian and European countries.

At the sixth Hamburg Summit of the China-Europe Forum on October 11, Li expounded on the Chinese Government's policies and views on domestic economic development, opening up and China-EU ties, which will encourage more EU investment in the Chinese market.

Li stressed that China will continue to open its doors to the outside world, providing more market opportunities. China will strive to lower market access thresholds, strengthen intellectual property rights protection, and create a fair, transparent and orderly market environment for foreign companies operating in the country.

Opening up is a foundation of cooperation and China's state policy. The opening up

of the Chinese market will benefit not only China but also the rest of the world. Li's speech will enhance the confidence of EU entrepreneurs, said Mei Zhaorong, former Chinese Ambassador to Germany.

China and the EU set a goal to reach \$1 trillion in trade by 2020. The two sides issued the China-EU 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation and launched negotiations on an investment agreement covering nearly 100 fields last year.

The EU plans to invest 50 billion euro (\$64 billion) in transportation, energy and digital networks. China has a comparative advantage in high-speed railways and nuclear power technology, which could facilitate innovation cooperation between the two sides, Mei said.

When meeting with Prime Minister of Luxembourg Xavier Bettel prior to the Hamburg summit, Li said that China supports the establishment of an offshore RMB market in Luxembourg and the use of national currencies in the two-way trade and investment. ■

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